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PCS Special:	23 April
23A	Ex-A.P. CM Bhaskara Rao, who revolted against NTR, passes away पूर्व आंध्र प्रदेश मुख्यमंत्री भास्कर राव, जिन्होंने NTR के खिलाफ विद्रोह किया था, का निधन



Ex-A.P. CM Bhaskara Rao, who revolted against NTR, passes away

Ravi Reddy

HVNERABAD
PCS

Nadendla Bhaskara Rao, 90, former Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, whose turbulent 31-day tenure in 1984 left a lasting imprint on Indian politics, passed away on Wednesday.

Though his tenure was the shortest in the State's history, he remains a central figure in Andhra Pradesh's political narrative for engineering the dramatic intra-party revolt that briefly unseated actor-turned-politician N.T. Rama Rao (NTR), then away in the U.S. for treatment.

Anti-defection law

The episode in August 1984, widely described as the first coup-style takeover in the erstwhile State since its formation in 1956, triggered protests, reshaped Centre-State relations, and ultimately led to a landmark constitutional reform.

The crisis helped pave the way for the 52nd Constitutional Amendment in 1985, introducing the anti-defection law to curb defections of the kind that enabled Bhaskara Rao's brief ascent to power.

23A. Ex-A.P. CM Bhaskara Rao, who revolted against NTR, passes away

पूर्व आंध्र प्रदेश मुख्यमंत्री भास्कर राव, जिन्होंने NTR के खिलाफ विद्रोह किया था, का निधन

- **Nadendla Bhaskara Rao**, 90, former Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, whose turbulent **31-day tenure in 1984** left lasting imprint on Indian politics, passed away on Wednesday.

नादेडला भास्कर राव, 90 वर्ष, अविभाजित आंध्र प्रदेश के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री, जिनका 1984 का उथल-पुथल भरा **31 दिनों का कार्यकाल** भारतीय राजनीति पर गहरा प्रभाव छोड़ गया, का बुधवार को निधन हो गया।

- Though his tenure was the shortest in the State's history, he remains a central figure in Andhra Pradesh's political narrative for

engineering the dramatic intra-party revolt that briefly unseated actor-turned-politician N.T. Rama Rao (NTR), then away in the U.S. for treatment.

हालांकि उनका कार्यकाल राज्य के इतिहास में सबसे छोटा था, फिर भी वे आंध्र प्रदेश की राजनीतिक कहानी में एक केंद्रीय व्यक्ति बने रहे क्योंकि उन्होंने उस नाटकीय आंतरिक पार्टी विद्रोह की योजना बनाई थी जिसने अभिनेता से नेता बने **N.T. रामाराव (NTR)** को अस्थायी रूप से सत्ता से हटा दिया था, जो उस समय इलाज के लिए अमेरिका में थे।

Anti-defection law

दल-बदल विरोधी कानून

- The episode in August 1984, widely described as the **first coup-style takeover in the erstwhile State since its formation in 1956**, triggered protests, reshaped Centre-State relations, and ultimately led to a landmark constitutional reform.

अगस्त 1984 की यह घटना, जिसे 1956 में राज्य के गठन के बाद पहली **तख्तापलट जैसी सत्ता**

परिवर्तन की घटना कहा गया, ने विरोध प्रदर्शनों को जन्म दिया, केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों को बदला और अंततः

एक ऐतिहासिक संवैधानिक सुधार की ओर ले गई।

- The **crisis helped pave the way for the 52nd Constitutional Amendment in 1985**, introducing the **anti-defection law** to curb defections of the kind that enabled Bhaskara Rao's brief ascent to power.

इस संकट ने 1985 के **52वें संविधान संशोधन** का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया, जिसमें **दल-बदल विरोधी कानून** लाया गया ताकि उन प्रकार के दल-बदल को रोका जा सके जिसने भास्कर राव के संक्षिप्त सत्ता में आने को संभव बनाया था।



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GS Paper 1: History		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	Emulate Hanuman हनुमान का अनुकरण	



FAITH

GS I: History

Emulate Hanuman

How we approach our problems defines us. Our elders are wont to say, "Unburden yourself at the feet of Rama and do your duty like Hanuman." Like Hanuman, one should gain mastery over the senses and remain steadfast, said Damal S Ramakrishnan.

The singular feature of Hanuman is his unwavering devotion to Rama, from the very moment he sees him, walking in the **Rishyamukha hills, accompanied by Lakshmana**. In his Ramayana, Kamban says that even the ferocious tigers looked upon them tenderly, as they would look at their own cubs. The poet says peacocks and birds flew over in order to shield their heads from the sun's rays, while the earth softened and cooled the stones as their feet touched them. Greatly affected by their upright bearing, Hanuman asks, 'Are they Dharma himself? Are these gods in fact, who wipe off their sorrows and offer them salvation after burning away the fruits of their sins? There is an endless surge of affection surging through me now,' he said before approaching them and addressing them with chaste words, offering to take them to Sugriva who could aid them in their search for Rama's abducted wife, Sita. Valmiki, in his Ramayana, says Rama was very impressed with Hanuman's skillful oration and conduct. Rama tells Lakshmana, 'How could the affairs of a king prosper if he had not an envoy like this to promote them? He who employs in his mission men that are endowed with such admirable qualities will gain all objectives.'

Hanuman, whose heart is filled with Rama (bhakti) soon adds one more armament to his arsenal of devotion: the Rama nama.

23A. Emulate Hanuman

हनुमान का अनुकरण

• How we approach our problems defines us.

हम अपनी समस्याओं को कैसे देखते हैं, यह हमें परिभाषित करता है।

• Our elders are wont to say, "Unburden yourself at the feet of Rama and do your duty like Hanuman."

हमारे बुजुर्ग कहते हैं, "अपने भार को राम के चरणों में रखो और अपना कर्तव्य हनुमान की तरह निभाओ।"

• Like Hanuman, one should gain mastery over the senses and remain steadfast, said Damal S Ramakrishnan.

हनुमान की तरह, व्यक्ति को इंद्रियों पर नियंत्रण प्राप्त करना चाहिए और दृढ़ रहना चाहिए, ऐसा डमल एस रामकृष्णन ने कहा।

• The singular feature of Hanuman is his unwavering devotion to Rama, from the very moment he sees him, walking in the **Rishyamukha hills, accompanied by Lakshmana**.

हनुमान की विशेष पहचान उनकी राम के प्रति अटूट

भक्ति है, जो उस क्षण से शुरू होती है जब वे उन्हें ऋष्यमूक पर्वतों में लक्ष्मण के साथ चलते हुए देखते हैं।

- In his Ramayana, **Kamban** says that even the ferocious tigers looked upon them tenderly, as they would look at their own cubs.

अपने रामायण में कंबन कहते हैं कि भयानक बाघ भी उन्हें अपने बच्चों की तरह स्नेहपूर्वक देखते थे।

- The poet says peacocks and birds flew over in order to shield their heads from the sun's rays, while the earth softened and cooled the stones as their feet touched them.

कवि कहते हैं कि मोर और पक्षी सूर्य की किरणों से अपने सिर को बचाने के लिए उड़ गए, जबकि पृथ्वी उनके चरणों के स्पर्श से नरम और ठंडी हो गई।

- Greatly affected by their upright bearing, **Hanuman** asks, 'Are they **Dharma** himself? Are these gods in fact, who wipe off their sorrows and offer them salvation after burning away the fruits of their sins?'

उनके दिव्य आचरण से अत्यंत प्रभावित होकर हनुमान पूछते हैं, 'क्या वे स्वयं धर्म हैं? क्या ये देवता हैं, जो उनके दुखों को मिटाकर उनके पापों के फल को जलाकर उन्हें मोक्ष देते हैं?'

- There is an endless surge of affection surging through me now,' he said before approaching them and addressing them with chaste words, offering to take them to **Sugriva** who could aid them in their search for **Rama's abducted wife, Sita**.

"अब मेरे भीतर प्रेम की एक अनंत धारा बह रही है," उन्होंने कहा, और फिर उनके पास जाकर शुद्ध शब्दों में बात की तथा उन्हें सुग्रीव के पास ले जाने की पेशकश की, जो उन्हें राम की अपहृत पत्नी सीता की खोज में सहायता कर सकते थे।

- **Valmiki**, in his Ramayana, says **Rama** was very impressed with **Hanuman's skillful oration and conduct**.

वाल्मीकि अपने रामायण में कहते हैं कि राम हनुमान की कुशल वाणी और व्यवहार से अत्यंत प्रभावित हुए।

- **Rama** tells **Lakshmana**, 'How could the affairs of a king prosper if he had not an envoy like this to promote them?'

राम लक्ष्मण से कहते हैं, 'यदि किसी राजा के पास ऐसे दूत न हों, तो उसके कार्य कैसे सफल हो सकते हैं?'



- He who employs in his mission men that are endowed with such admirable qualities will gain all objectives.
जो व्यक्ति अपने कार्य में ऐसे श्रेष्ठ गुणों वाले लोगों को नियुक्त करता है, वह अपने सभी उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करता है।
- **Hanuman**, whose heart is filled with **Rama (bhakti)** soon adds one more armament to his arsenal of devotion: the **Rama nama**.
हनुमान, जिनका हृदय **राम (भक्ति)** से भरा हुआ है, जल्द ही अपनी भक्ति के शस्त्रागार में एक और हथियार जोड़ते हैं: **राम नाम**।

Ramayana

- The composition of the **Ramayana is generally dated between 500 BCE to 100 BCE**, though oral traditions are older.
- It narrates the life of Rama, the prince of Ayodhya, and his ideals of **dharma (righteousness), duty, and kingship**.

Structure and Content of the Ramayana

- The **Valmiki Ramayana consists of 7 Kandas (books) and approximately 24,000 verses**.
- The major Kandas include **Bala Kanda, Ayodhya Kanda, Aranya Kanda, Kishkindha Kanda, Sundara Kanda, Yuddha Kanda, and Uttara Kanda**.
- Key narrative elements:
 - Exile of Rama for **14 years**.
 - Abduction of Sita by Ravana.
 - Alliance with Hanuman and the Vanara army.
 - War in Lanka and eventual victory of dharma over adharma.

Historical and Cultural Significance

- The Ramayana reflects **early Indian social structure, polity, ethics, and cultural values**.
- It emphasizes **ideal kingship (Rama Rajya)**, family values, and moral conduct.
- It influenced art, literature, temple architecture, and performing arts across India and Southeast Asia.
- Versions of the Ramayana exist in **Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos**, showing its global cultural diffusion.

Kamban and Kamba Ramayanam

- Kamban was a **12th century CE Tamil poet** from Tamil Nadu.
- He composed the **Kamba Ramayanam**, a Tamil adaptation of the Ramayana.
- His work is considered one of the greatest literary achievements in **Tamil literature**.

Kamba Ramayanam (Ramavataram)

- Kamban's version is called **Ramavataram**, popularly known as **Kamba Ramayanam**.
- It was composed during the reign of the **Chola dynasty, particularly under Kulothunga III (12th century CE)**.
- Written in **Tamil language**, using rich poetic forms and classical Tamil grammar.

Key Features of Kamba Ramayanam

- It is not a direct translation but a **creative retelling** of Valmiki's Ramayana.
- Strong influence of **Bhakti movement**, especially devotion to Vishnu.
- Rama is portrayed more as a **divine incarnation (God)** rather than just an ideal human king.
- Greater emphasis on **emotion (bhava), devotion (bhakti), and poetic beauty**.

Differences between Valmiki Ramayana and Kamba Ramayanam

- Valmiki presents Rama as an **ideal human (Maryada Purushottam)**, whereas Kamban presents him as a **supreme divine being**.
- Kamban uses **Tamil cultural elements and regional imagery**, making it relatable to South Indian society.



- Kamba Ramayanam reflects **medieval Bhakti ideology**, unlike the more **classical and ethical tone** of Valmiki.

Historical Context

- Kamba Ramayanam emerged during the **Bhakti movement (7th–12th century CE)**, which emphasized **personal devotion over rituals**.
- It reflects the socio-religious transformation of South India under the **Cholas**, where temple culture and devotional literature flourished.

GS Paper 1: Society		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	Why quotas alone won't increase women's representation केवल आरक्षण से महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व क्यों नहीं बढ़ेगा	

Why quotas alone won't increase women's representation

While reservation can address the issue of underrepresentation, its impact is likely to be shaped by existing inequalities related to class, caste etc

GS I: Society

MOB

DATA POINT

Krishangi Sinha
Sanjay Kumar

As debate around the Women's Reservation Bill resurfaces, the central question is no longer whether quotas will increase representation, but whether they can overcome the deeper structural barriers that limit women's participation in politics. Evidence from a Lokniti-CSDS study suggests that while reservation may expand opportunities, it does not by itself ensure that more women are able to sustain political careers. Over the past decades, Indian women have become a significant electoral force. However, this rise in participation has not translated into representation. Women remain underrepresented as candidates and elected representatives, highlighting a gap between voting and political presence.

The Lokniti-CSDS study shows that while women vote in large numbers, their involvement in more active forms of political engagement remains low (Table 1). Across categories such as locality, education, caste, class, and age, a large majority of women (74%-84%) report being "not at all active" in electoral processes beyond voting. This pattern cuts across socio-economic groups, suggesting that limited political engagement is not confined to specific sections. While voting has become more inclusive, deeper forms of political participation remain restricted.

The limited presence of women in politics is also shaped by party-level decisions. Candidate selection remains a critical barrier (Table 2). Around 44% of women respondents agree that even when a man and a woman are equally qualified, political parties prefer male candidates. These perceptions point to a structural bias in candidate selection processes, where "winnability" is often invoked to justify the preference for

male candidates. When asked whether there is a lesser possibility for a woman to win against a man therefore women should not contest against men, 17% agreed. Table 3 indicates that women's political participation is shaped by a combination of structural, social, and individual constraints. About 22% of women identify patriarchal structures as the biggest obstacle, followed by household responsibilities and barriers such as lack of awareness or interest.

Nearly two-thirds of women report some degree of patriarchal dominance within their households (Table 4). At the same time, about 66% report having no freedom at all to participate in political activities such as attending meetings or rallies (Table 5). The overlap between household dominance and limited political autonomy suggests that the private sphere remains a key site of electoral exclusion. Even before institutional barriers come into play, many women face restrictions within their own homes. These structural and social barriers also influence how women perceive politics as a career. Only about 28% of women expressed willingness to enter politics (Table 6).

Low willingness reflects not simply a lack of interest, but the cumulative effect of restricted autonomy, limited access, and exclusionary political structures.

Data suggests that women's political participation in India is marked by a paradox: high electoral participation alongside limited political engagement and representation. While reservation can address the issue of numerical underrepresentation, its impact is likely to be shaped by existing inequalities related to class, caste, education, and access to resources. Without parallel changes, including greater inclusion in party candidate selection and enhanced autonomy within households, quotas alone may not substantially broaden the pool of women entering politics.

Existing setbacks

The data for the tables were sourced from Lokniti-CSDS study

TABLE 1: Women's electoral participation across socio-economic groups. All figures in %

	Active electoral participation		
	Not at all active	Somewhat active	Highly active
Locality			
Rural	76	16	8
Urban	80	15	5
Level of education			
Non-literate	84	12	4
Upto primary	75	19	6
Upto matriculation	75	17	8
12th pass/intermediate	75	17	8
College and above'	78	15	7
Age groups			
18 to 25 years	83	13	4
26 to 35 years	78	17	6
36 to 45 years	75	18	7
46 to 55 years	75	17	9
55 years and above	75	16	9
Caste/communities			
Upper castes	78	15	7
OBC	75	18	7
SC	81	14	5
ST	81	15	5
Muslims	70	22	8
Others	81	12	6
Economic class			
Poor	83	13	4
Lower	78	16	6
Middle	74	19	7
Upper class	78	14	9

TABLE 2: Public perceptions of gender bias in candidate selection and electoral success

Statement	Agree	Somewhat agree/somewhat disagree	Disagree
Even when a man and a woman are equally good candidates, political parties always prefer a man over a woman while giving tickets	44	30	15
Lesser winning probability of women compared to men	17	31	41

Note: All figures are in percentage. Others did not know



TABLE 3: Perceived barriers to women's political participation

Type of barrier	(%)
Patriarchal structure	22
Household responsibility	13
Individual barriers	12
Cultural norms	7
Constraints related to finance or political structure	6
Negative image of politics	3
Other barriers	1

TABLE 4: Extent of patriarchal dominance within households

Level of dominance	(%)
Strong dominance	12
Some dominance	23
Low dominance	31
No dominance at all	28

TABLE 5: Women's autonomy in participating in political activities

Level of freedom	(%)
No freedom at all	66
Very little freedom	12
Some freedom	12
A lot of freedom	10

TABLE 6: The willingness of women to enter politics

Willingness	(%)
No	61
Yes	28
No opinion	12

Krishangi is a researcher with Lokniti-CSDS. Sanjay Kumar is a Professor, Psephologist and Election Analyst. Views expressed by the authors are their own independent views, it does not reflect the views of the institution

23A. Why quotas alone won't increase women's representation

केवल आरक्षण से महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व क्यों नहीं बढ़ेगा



- While reservation can address the issue of underrepresentation, its impact is likely to be shaped by existing inequalities related to class, caste etc
हालाँकि आरक्षण कम प्रतिनिधित्व की समस्या का समाधान कर सकता है, लेकिन इसका प्रभाव वर्ग, जाति आदि से संबंधित मौजूदा असमानताओं द्वारा निर्धारित होगा

Debate around the Women's Reservation Bill / महिला आरक्षण विधेयक पर बहस

- As debate around the **Women's Reservation Bill** resurfaces, the central question is no longer whether **quotas** will increase **representation**, but whether they can overcome the deeper **structural barriers** that limit women's participation in politics.
महिला आरक्षण विधेयक पर बहस के पुनः उभरने के साथ, केंद्रीय प्रश्न अब यह नहीं है कि आरक्षण से प्रतिनिधित्व बढ़ेगा या नहीं, बल्कि यह है कि क्या वे उन गहरे संरचनात्मक बाधाओं को पार कर सकते हैं जो राजनीति में महिलाओं की भागीदारी को सीमित करती हैं।
- Evidence from a **Lokniti-CSDS study** suggests that while reservation may expand opportunities, it does not by itself ensure that more women are able to sustain **political careers**.
लोकनीति-CSDS अध्ययन से प्राप्त साक्ष्य बताते हैं कि यद्यपि आरक्षण अवसरों का विस्तार कर सकता है, यह अपने आप में यह सुनिश्चित नहीं करता कि अधिक महिलाएँ राजनीतिक करियर को बनाए रख सकें।
- Over the past decades, Indian women have become a significant **electoral force**.
पिछले दशकों में, भारतीय महिलाएँ एक महत्वपूर्ण निर्वाचन शक्ति बन गई हैं।
- However, this rise in participation has not translated into **representation**.
हालाँकि, इस भागीदारी में वृद्धि का प्रतिनिधित्व में रूपांतरण नहीं हुआ है।
- **Women remain underrepresented as candidates and elected representatives, highlighting a gap between voting and political presence.**
महिलाएँ उम्मीदवारों और निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों के रूप में कम प्रतिनिधित्व रखती हैं, जो मतदान और राजनीतिक उपस्थिति के बीच अंतर को दर्शाता है।
- The **Lokniti-CSDS study** shows that while women vote in large numbers, their involvement in more active forms of **political engagement** remains low.
लोकनीति-CSDS अध्ययन दर्शाता है कि जहाँ महिलाएँ बड़ी संख्या में मतदान करती हैं, वहीं उनकी अधिक सक्रिय राजनीतिक सहभागिता में भागीदारी कम रहती है।
- **Across categories such as locality, education, caste, class, and age, a large majority of women (74%-84%) report being "not at all active" in electoral processes beyond voting.**
स्थान, शिक्षा, जाति, वर्ग और आयु जैसी श्रेणियों में, महिलाओं का बड़ा बहुमत (74%-84%) मतदान से परे चुनावी प्रक्रियाओं में स्वयं को "बिल्कुल भी सक्रिय नहीं" बताता है।
- This pattern cuts across **socio-economic groups**, suggesting that limited political engagement is not confined to specific sections.
यह प्रवृत्ति सामाजिक-आर्थिक समूहों में समान रूप से पाई जाती है, जिससे स्पष्ट होता है कि सीमित राजनीतिक भागीदारी किसी विशेष वर्ग तक सीमित नहीं है।
- **While voting has become more inclusive, deeper forms of political participation remain restricted.**
जहाँ मतदान अधिक समावेशी हुआ है, वहीं राजनीतिक भागीदारी के गहरे रूप अभी भी सीमित हैं।
- **The limited presence of women in politics is also shaped by party-level decisions.**
राजनीति में महिलाओं की सीमित उपस्थिति दलगत निर्णयों से भी प्रभावित होती है।
- **Candidate selection** remains a critical barrier.
उम्मीदवार चयन एक महत्वपूर्ण बाधा बना हुआ है।
- **Around 44% of women respondents agree that even when a man and a woman are equally qualified, political parties prefer male candidates.**
लगभग 44% महिला उत्तरदाताओं का मानना है कि जब पुरुष और महिला समान रूप से योग्य हों, तब भी राजनीतिक दल पुरुष उम्मीदवारों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।



- These perceptions point to a **structural bias** in candidate selection processes.
ये धारणाएँ उम्मीदवार चयन प्रक्रिया में **संरचनात्मक पक्षपात** की ओर संकेत करती हैं।
- When asked whether there is a lesser possibility for a woman to win against a man therefore women should not contest against men, 17% agreed.
जब यह पूछा गया कि क्या महिला के पुरुष के विरुद्ध जीतने की संभावना कम होती है, इसलिए उसे चुनाव नहीं लड़ना चाहिए, तो 17% ने सहमति व्यक्त की।
- **Women's political participation is shaped by a combination of structural, social, and individual constraints.**
महिलाओं की राजनीतिक भागीदारी **संरचनात्मक, सामाजिक और व्यक्तिगत बाधाओं** के संयोजन से प्रभावित होती है।
- About 22% of women identify **patriarchal structures** as the biggest obstacle.
लगभग 22% महिलाएँ **पितृसत्तात्मक संरचनाओं** को सबसे बड़ी बाधा मानती हैं।
- This is followed by **household responsibilities** and barriers such as lack of awareness or interest.
इसके बाद **घरेलू जिम्मेदारियाँ** तथा जागरूकता या रुचि की कमी जैसी बाधाएँ आती हैं।
- Nearly two-thirds of women report some degree of **patriarchal dominance** within their households.
लगभग दो-तिहाई महिलाएँ अपने घरों में किसी न किसी स्तर पर **पितृसत्तात्मक प्रभुत्व** की बात करती हैं।
- At the same time, about 66% report having no freedom at all to participate in **political activities** such as meetings or rallies.
साथ ही लगभग 66% महिलाएँ बताती हैं कि उन्हें **राजनीतिक गतिविधियाँ** जैसे बैठकों या रैलियों में भाग लेने की कोई स्वतंत्रता नहीं है।
- The overlap between household dominance and limited political autonomy suggests that the **private sphere** remains a key site of political exclusion.
घरेलू प्रभुत्व और सीमित राजनीतिक स्वायत्तता के बीच यह संबंध दर्शाता है कि **निजी क्षेत्र** राजनीतिक बहिष्कार का एक प्रमुख स्थान बना हुआ है।
- Even before institutional barriers come into play, many women face restrictions within their own homes.
संस्थागत बाधाओं से पहले ही कई महिलाएँ अपने ही घरों में प्रतिबंधों का सामना करती हैं।
- These barriers also influence how women perceive politics as a **career**.
ये बाधाएँ इस बात को भी प्रभावित करती हैं कि महिलाएँ राजनीति को एक **करियर** के रूप में कैसे देखती हैं।
- **Only about 28% of women expressed willingness to enter politics.**
केवल लगभग 28% महिलाओं ने राजनीति में आने की इच्छा व्यक्त की।
- Low willingness reflects not simply a lack of interest, but the cumulative effect of **restricted autonomy, limited access, and exclusionary structures.**
कम इच्छा केवल रुचि की कमी नहीं दर्शाती, बल्कि यह **सीमित स्वायत्तता, सीमित पहुँच और बहिष्करणकारी संरचनाओं** के सम्मिलित प्रभाव को दर्शाती है।
- Data suggests that women's political participation in India is marked by a **paradox**: high electoral participation alongside limited engagement and representation.
आंकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि भारत में महिलाओं की राजनीतिक भागीदारी एक **विरोधाभास** से चिह्नित है: उच्च मतदान भागीदारी के साथ सीमित सहभागिता और प्रतिनिधित्व।
- **While reservation can address numerical underrepresentation, its impact is shaped by inequalities related to class, caste, education, and access to resources.**
जहाँ आरक्षण **संख्यात्मक अल्प-प्रतिनिधित्व** को संबोधित कर सकता है, वहीं इसका प्रभाव **वर्ग, जाति, शिक्षा और संसाधनों तक पहुँच** से जुड़ी असमानताओं से प्रभावित होता है।
- Without parallel changes, including greater inclusion in **candidate selection** and enhanced autonomy within households, quotas alone may not substantially broaden the pool of women entering politics.



समानांतर परिवर्तन के बिना, जैसे **उम्मीदवार चयन** में अधिक समावेशन और घरों में अधिक स्वायत्तता, केवल आरक्षण से राजनीति में आने वाली महिलाओं का दायरा व्यापक रूप से नहीं बढ़ेगा।

GS Paper 1: Geography		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	Tribunal gives last opportunity to Odisha, Chhattisgarh to settle Mahanadi dispute महानदी विवाद सुलझाने के लिए ओडिशा, छत्तीसगढ़ को ट्रिब्यूनल ने अंतिम अवसर दिया	
23A	Court stays action against KCR in Kaleshwaram case कालेश्वरम मामले में KCR के खिलाफ कार्रवाई पर अदालत ने रोक लगाई	
23A	Centre plans new rail link to 'controversial' bauxite hills in Odisha केंद्र ने ओडिशा के 'विवादित' बॉक्साइट पहाड़ियों के लिए नई रेल लाइन की योजना बनाई	
23A	Tuti: the tiny, defiant Nile island caught in the heart of Sudan's war टूटी: सूडान के युद्ध के केंद्र में फंसा छोटा लेकिन दृढ़ नील द्वीप	

Sheep sale



In business: Sheep merchants and customers trade at the **Souk Larbia Guffaf livestock market** in **Khouribga Province**, some 150km south of **Rabat**, in **Morocco** on **Wednesday**. **Souk Larbia Guffaf** is one of the largest local markets and is known for the quality of its livestock.

In business: Sheep merchants and customers trade at the Souk Larbia Guffaf livestock market in Khouribga Province, some 150km south of Rabat, in Morocco on Wednesday. Souk Larbia Guffaf is one of the largest local markets and is known for the quality of its livestock. AFP

Tribunal gives last opportunity to **Odisha**, **Chhattisgarh** to settle **Mahanadi** dispute

GS I: Geography
Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) may soon deliver its judgment on the water-sharing formula between Odisha and Chhattisgarh with both States failing to place a concrete proposal for mutual settlement. The tribunal has given a last opportunity to the two States to come up with a formula by May 2, the next date of hearing.

An order passed by the MWDT, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Bela M. Trivedi, noted that though both States had jointly submitted on April 11 that the annual water availability would be finalised by the next date of hearing on April 20, Advocates General of Odisha and Chhattisgarh again sought more time to submit a concrete proposal.

"They have also not been able to place on record the suggestions with



The Mahanadi river, which originates in Chhattisgarh, flows for 494 km in Odisha before meeting with the Bay of Bengal. FILE PHOTO

regard to the recasting of issues already framed in both the reference proceedings to narrow down the disputes between the party States," the tribunal observed.

Panel unhappy
The three-member MWDT - comprising Justice Trivedi, Justice Ravi Ranjan, and Justice Indermeeet Kaur - expressed unhappiness over the manner in which the proceedings are being conducted. "We make it clear

that if they are not able to finalise the same or place on record any consensus on any of the issues by the next date, the tribunal will proceed with the proceedings on merits," the tribunal said.

The 851-km-long Mahanadi river, which originates from the Amarkantak hills in the Bastar plateau of Chhattisgarh, flows for 494 km in Odisha before meeting with the Bay of Bengal.

Following its formation as a separate State, Chhat-

tisgarh's demand for water skyrocketed, which led it to create major, medium, and minor irrigation projects, including industrial barrages. When Odisha found out there was considerable reduction in Mahanadi water in its territory, it noticed Chhattisgarh's extensive upstream construction and increased water usage.

According to the Odisha government, Chhattisgarh has built more than 500 anicuts and 30 barrages, many primarily for industrial use.

No headway

The then Naveen Patnaik-led government had moved the Supreme Court in 2018 for river-water sharing. With the case dragging on, the MWDT's formation was subsequently announced.

With BJP governments in both States after 2024, they submitted before the tribunal about settling the dispute amicably but haven't made much headway.

23A. Tribunal gives last opportunity to Odisha, Chhattisgarh to settle Mahanadi dispute

महानदी विवाद सुलझाने के लिए ओडिशा, छत्तीसगढ़ को ट्रिब्यूनल ने अंतिम अवसर दिया

• The **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT)** may soon deliver its judgment on the water-sharing formula between Odisha and Chhattisgarh with both States failing to place a concrete proposal for mutual settlement.

महानदी जल विवाद ट्रिब्यूनल (MWDT) जल्द ही ओडिशा और छत्तीसगढ़ के बीच जल-बंटवारे के फॉर्मूले पर अपना निर्णय दे सकता है, क्योंकि दोनों राज्यों ने आपसी समझौते के लिए



कोई ठोस प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत नहीं किया है।

- The tribunal has given a **last opportunity** to the two States to come up with a formula by **May 2, the next date of hearing**.

ट्रिब्यूनल ने दोनों राज्यों को एक फॉर्मूला प्रस्तुत करने के लिए **अंतिम अवसर** दिया है, जिसकी अगली सुनवाई की तारीख **2 मई** है।

- An order passed by the MWDT, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice **Bela M. Trivedi**, noted that though both States had jointly submitted on **April 11** that the annual water availability would be finalised by the next date of hearing on **April 20**, Advocates General of Odisha and Chhattisgarh again sought more time to submit a concrete proposal.

MWDT द्वारा पारित आदेश, जिसकी अध्यक्षता पूर्व सुप्रीम कोर्ट न्यायाधीश **जस्टिस बेला एम. त्रिवेदी** कर रही हैं, में उल्लेख किया गया कि हालांकि दोनों राज्यों ने संयुक्त रूप से **11 अप्रैल** को प्रस्तुत किया था कि वार्षिक जल उपलब्धता अगली सुनवाई **20 अप्रैल** तक अंतिम रूप दे दी जाएगी, फिर भी ओडिशा और छत्तीसगढ़ के महाधिवक्ताओं ने ठोस प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करने के लिए फिर से और समय मांगा।

- “They have also not been able to place on record the suggestions with regard to the recasting of issues already framed in both the reference proceedings to narrow down the disputes between the party States,” the tribunal observed.

“वे दोनों राज्यों के बीच विवाद को कम करने के लिए दोनों संदर्भ कार्यवाहियों में पहले से तय मुद्दों के पुनर्गठन के संबंध में सुझाव भी रिकॉर्ड पर रखने में सक्षम नहीं रहे हैं,” ट्रिब्यूनल ने कहा।

Panel unhappy

पैनल असंतुष्ट

- The three-member MWDT – comprising Justice Trivedi, Justice **Ravi Ranjan**, and Justice **Indermeet Kaur** – expressed unhappiness over the manner in which the proceedings are being conducted.

तीन सदस्यीय MWDT – जिसमें जस्टिस त्रिवेदी, जस्टिस **रवि रंजन**, और जस्टिस **इंदरमीत कौर** शामिल हैं – ने कार्यवाही के संचालन के तरीके पर असंतोष व्यक्त किया।

- “We make it clear that if they are not able to finalise the same or place on record any consensus on any of the issues by the next date, the tribunal will proceed with the proceedings on merits,” the tribunal said.

“हम स्पष्ट करते हैं कि यदि वे अगली तारीख तक इसे अंतिम रूप देने या किसी भी मुद्दे पर सहमति रिकॉर्ड पर रखने में असमर्थ रहते हैं, तो ट्रिब्यूनल मेरिट के आधार पर कार्यवाही आगे बढ़ाएगा,” ट्रिब्यूनल ने कहा।

- The **851-km-long Mahanadi river**, which originates from the Amarkantak hills in the Bastar plateau of Chhattisgarh, flows for **494 km in Odisha** before meeting with the Bay of Bengal.

851 किमी लंबी महानदी नदी, जो छत्तीसगढ़ के बस्तर पठार में अमरकंटक पहाड़ियों से निकलती है, ओडिशा में **494 किमी** बहने के बाद बंगाल की खाड़ी में मिलती है।

- Following its formation as a separate State, Chhattisgarh’s demand for water skyrocketed, which led it to create major, medium, and minor irrigation projects, including industrial barrages.

एक अलग राज्य के रूप में गठन के बाद, छत्तीसगढ़ की जल मांग तेजी से बढ़ी, जिसके कारण उसने बड़े, मध्यम और छोटे सिंचाई प्रोजेक्ट्स बनाए, जिनमें औद्योगिक बैराज भी शामिल हैं।

- When Odisha found out there was considerable reduction in Mahanadi water in its territory, it noticed Chhattisgarh’s extensive upstream construction and increased water usage.

जब ओडिशा को अपने क्षेत्र में महानदी के जल में काफी कमी का पता चला, तो उसने छत्तीसगढ़ द्वारा व्यापक अपस्ट्रीम निर्माण और बढ़े हुए जल उपयोग को नोटिस किया।

- According to the Odisha government, Chhattisgarh has built more than **500 anicuts and 30 barrages**, many primarily for industrial use.

ओडिशा सरकार के अनुसार, छत्तीसगढ़ ने **500 से अधिक एनीकट और 30 बैराज** बनाए हैं, जिनमें से कई मुख्य रूप से औद्योगिक उपयोग के लिए हैं।



No headway कोई प्रगति नहीं

- The then Naveen Patnaik-led government had moved the Supreme Court in **2018** for river-water sharing.
तत्कालीन नवीन पटनायक-नेतृत्व वाली सरकार ने नदी जल बंटवारे के लिए **2018** में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख किया था।
- With the case dragging on, the MWDT's formation was subsequently announced.
मामला लंबा खिंचने के कारण, बाद में MWDT के गठन की घोषणा की गई।
- With BJP governments in both States after **2024**, they submitted before the tribunal about settling the dispute amicably but haven't made much headway.
2024 के बाद दोनों राज्यों में बीजेपी सरकार बनने के साथ, उन्होंने ट्रिब्यूनल के सामने विवाद को सौहार्दपूर्ण ढंग से सुलझाने की बात रखी, लेकिन ज्यादा प्रगति नहीं हुई।

MAHANADI RIVER

- The Mahanadi River is one of the major east-flowing rivers of peninsular India.
- It is often called the “**Sorrow of Odisha**” due to its history of devastating floods.
- The river plays a crucial role in **irrigation, agriculture, hydropower, and delta formation** in eastern India.
- The Mahanadi originates from the **Sihawa Hills in Chhattisgarh**.
- It flows through the states of **Chhattisgarh and Odisha** before draining into the **Bay of Bengal**.
- Total length of the river is approximately **851 km**.
- It forms a **large fertile delta** near the coastal region of Odisha.



Drainage Basin and Tributaries

- The Mahanadi basin covers about **1.41 lakh sq km**, spreading across Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Major Tributaries**
 - Left Bank Tributaries
 - Seonath
 - Hasdeo
 - Mand
 - Right Bank Tributaries
 - Ong
 - Tel



Major Dams and Projects

Hirkud Dam

- Located near Sambalpur in Odisha.
- Constructed in **1957**, it is one of the **longest earthen dams in the world**.
- Provides **flood control, irrigation, and hydroelectric power**.

Other Projects



- Ravishankar Sagar Dam (Chhattisgarh)
- Hasdeo Bango Project

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANICUTS AND BARRAGES

- Anicuts are low, fixed structures without gates, while barrages are gated structures with adjustable flow control.
- Anicuts are mainly used for simple diversion, whereas barrages are used for regulation and management of river flow.
- Anicuts are common in peninsular rivers, while barrages are widely used in northern perennial rivers.

Court stays action against KCR in Kaleshwaram case

Telangana High Court, however, upholds the setting up of the inquiry commission by Revanth govt. to look into alleged irregularities and misappropriation of funds in the lift irrigation project

GS I: Geography

Marri Ramu
HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court said on Wednesday that the Justice P.C. Ghose Commission report, which indicted BRS leader and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and three others over the execution of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), "shall be inoperative".

A Bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin, pronouncing the verdict on a batch of writ petitions seeking to set aside the commission's report and questioning the constitution of the commission, said no action can be taken against Mr. Rao and three



One of the barrages of the Kaleshwaram project on the Godavari.

others, based on the report.

The Telangana government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, constituted the Commission of Inquiry under former judge of Supreme Court Justice P.C. Ghose in 2024. It was to inquire into the alleged irregularities and

misappropriation of funds in the execution of KLIP, taken up on the Godavari by the previous government led by Mr. Rao.

The structural damage to the Medigadda barrage of the KLIP that came to light on October 21, 2023, ahead of the Assembly election, was a major issue

in the poll campaign. The Congress came to power after the election.

The Bench heard extensive arguments over the four pleas filed by Mr. Rao, his former Cabinet colleague T. Harish Rao, former Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi and IAS officer Smitha Sabharwal, for nearly six months from September 2024.

While ordering that the commission's findings shall be 'inoperative', the Bench, however, upheld the formation of the commission. The petitioners said that even the panel was illegal. But, the Bench noted that the creation of the commission was not arbitrary or illegal, and said the petitions were being "allowed partly".

23A. Court stays action against KCR in Kaleshwaram case

कालेश्वरम मामले में KCR के खिलाफ कार्रवाई पर अदालत ने रोक लगाई

- Telangana High Court, however, upholds the setting up of the inquiry commission by **Revanth govt.** to look into alleged irregularities and misappropriation of funds in the **lift irrigation project**

तेलंगाना हाई कोर्ट ने हालांकि **रेवंत सरकार** द्वारा जांच आयोग के गठन को बरकरार रखा, जो **लिफ्ट सिंचाई परियोजना** में कथित अनियमितताओं और धन के दुरुपयोग की जांच के लिए बनाया गया था

- The Telangana High Court said on Wednesday that the Justice **P.C. Ghose Commission report**, which indicted BRS leader and former Chief Minister **K. Chandrasekhar Rao** and three others over the execution of the **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)**, "shall be



inoperative”.

तेलंगाना हाई कोर्ट ने बुधवार को कहा कि न्यायमूर्ति पी.सी. घोष आयोग की रिपोर्ट, जिसमें BRS नेता और पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री K. चंद्रशेखर राव और तीन अन्य को कालेश्वरम लिफ्ट सिंचाई परियोजना (KLIP) के क्रियान्वयन में दोषी ठहराया गया था, “अप्रभावी होगी”

- A Bench of Chief Justice **Apresh Kumar Singh** and Justice **G.M. Mohiuddin**, pronouncing the verdict on a batch of writ petitions seeking to set aside the commission’s report and questioning the constitution of the commission, said no action can be taken against Mr. Rao and three others, based on the report.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश **अपरेश कुमार सिंह** और न्यायमूर्ति **जी.एम. मोहिउद्दीन** की पीठ ने, आयोग की रिपोर्ट को रद्द करने और आयोग के गठन को चुनौती देने वाली कई याचिकाओं पर फैसला सुनाते हुए कहा कि रिपोर्ट के आधार पर श्री राव और तीन अन्य के खिलाफ कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की जा सकती
- The Telangana government, led by Chief Minister **A. Revanth Reddy**, constituted the Commission of Inquiry under former judge of Supreme Court Justice **P.C. Ghose** in 2024.
तेलंगाना सरकार, जिसका नेतृत्व मुख्यमंत्री **A. रेवंत रेड्डी** कर रहे हैं, ने 2024 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व न्यायाधीश **पी.सी. घोष** के तहत जांच आयोग का गठन किया
- It was to inquire into the alleged irregularities and misappropriation of funds in the execution of **KLIP**, taken up on the Godavari by the previous government led by Mr. Rao.
यह आयोग **KLIP** के क्रियान्वयन में कथित अनियमितताओं और धन के दुरुपयोग की जांच के लिए बनाया गया था, जिसे गोदावरी पर श्री राव के नेतृत्व वाली पिछली सरकार ने शुरू किया था
- The structural damage to the **Medigadda barrage** of the KLIP that came to light on October 21, 2023, ahead of the Assembly election, was a major issue in the poll campaign.
KLIP के **मेदिगड्डा बैराज** में टांचागत क्षति, जो 21 अक्टूबर 2023 को विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले सामने आई, चुनाव प्रचार में एक बड़ा मुद्दा थी
- The Congress came to power after the election.
चुनाव के बाद कांग्रेस सत्ता में आई
- The Bench heard extensive arguments over the four pleas filed by Mr. Rao, his former Cabinet colleague **T. Harish Rao**, former Chief Secretary **S.K. Joshi** and IAS officer **Smitha Sabharwal**, for nearly six months from September 2024.
पीठ ने श्री राव, उनके पूर्व कैबिनेट सहयोगी **टी. हरिश राव**, पूर्व मुख्य सचिव **एस.के. जोशी** और आईएएस अधिकारी **स्मिता सब्बरवाल** द्वारा दायर चार याचिकाओं पर सितंबर 2024 से लगभग छह महीनों तक विस्तृत सुनवाई की
- While ordering that the commission’s findings shall be ‘inoperative’, the Bench, however, upheld the formation of the commission.
आयोग के निष्कर्षों को ‘अप्रभावी’ घोषित करते हुए भी, पीठ ने आयोग के गठन को बरकरार रखा
- The petitioners said that even the panel was illegal.
याचिकाकर्ताओं ने कहा कि यह पैनल भी अवैध था
- But, the Bench noted that the creation of the commission was not arbitrary or illegal, and said the petitions were being “partially allowed partly”.
लेकिन पीठ ने कहा कि आयोग का गठन न तो मनमाना था और न ही अवैध, और कहा कि याचिकाओं को “आंशिक रूप से स्वीकार” किया जा रहा है

GODAVARI

- Godavari is considered as the oldest river of India. It brought so many sediments that is resulted in the oil and natural gases in the Godavari basin.
- The Source of origin is **Triambakeshwar Nasik** in Maharashtra.
- It flows through Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.



- Length of Godavari is **1465 Km**. It is the second longest river in India.
- The second largest river of India and largest river system of peninsular India
- Left-Hand Tributaries are the Penganga, Wardha, Weinganga, Purna, Pranhita, Indravati, Sabari, Sileru, and Kadam.
- Right-hand tributaries are Manjira, Kinnerasani, and Pravara.
- **Chitrakote waterfall** (at Indravati river) is Chhattisgarh's largest and most water-logged waterfall. is considered as the Niagara waterfall of India.
- The **Chitrakote Falls** (also spelled **Chitrakote**, **Chitrakot**, and **Chitrakoot**; **Hindi**: चित्रकोट जलप्रपात) is a natural [waterfall](#) on the [Indravati River](#), located approximately 38 kilometres (24 mi) to the west of [Jagdalpur](#), in [Bastar district](#) in the [Indian state of Chhattisgarh](#).
- The height of the falls is about 29 metres (95 ft).^{[1][2]} It is the widest fall in India, reaching a width of nearly 300 metres (980 ft) during the [monsoon season](#).^[3] Because of its width and its widespread horseshoe shape during the monsoon season, it is often called the "[Niagara Falls of India](#)"
- Manjira in known as Manjra in Maharashtra.
- **Kaleshwaram Project**: It is lift irrigation project.
- Sir Arther Cotton in 1857 helped in establishment of Kaleshwaram that made this region as the food bowl of the South India.
- Sir Arther Cotton also helped in establishment of Prakashan Barrage.
- Godavari meets Bay of Bengal as **Gautami, Vasista, Vainateya, Tulya, Bradwaja**.

Centre plans new rail link to 'controversial' bauxite hills in Odisha

GS I: Geography

BHUBANESWAR

Notwithstanding massive tribal resistance to the proposed bauxite mining in the Sijimali hills spanning Odisha's Rayagada and Kalahandi districts, the Ministry of Railways has proposed a new rail link connecting two bauxite-bearing hills, the mining rights for which have been secured by the Vedanta and Adani groups.

As per notification by the Ministry of Railways on Tuesday, the Centre, in exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (37A) of Section-2 of Railways Act, 1989 notified a new broad-gauge line connecting Tikiri Station to Kutrumali and Sijimali Bauxite Mines on Waltair Division of East Coast Railway.

Kalinga Alumina Limit-



Villagers protest construction of the road connecting State Highway 44 to Sijimali summit.

ed, a subsidiary of Adani Group, has proposed **open-cast mining** over 701.792 hectare in Kutrumali, with 127.7 million tonnes of bauxite. Vedanta Group has secured rights over 1,549.022 hectare in nearby Sijimali, which holds over 300 million tonnes of bauxite.

Villagers have obstructed construction of the road connecting State Highway 44 and summit of Sijimali announcing that they would not let anyone construct road by felling trees.

23A. Centre plans new rail link to 'controversial' bauxite hills in Odisha केंद्र ने ओडिशा के 'विवादित' बॉक्साइट पहाड़ियों के लिए नई रेल लाइन की योजना बनाई

• Notwithstanding massive tribal resistance to the proposed **bauxite mining** in the Sijimali hills spanning Odisha's **Rayagada and Kalahandi districts**, the Ministry of Railways has proposed a new rail link connecting two bauxite-bearing hills, the mining rights for which have been secured by the **Vedanta and Adani groups**.

ओडिशा के **रायगढ़ा और कालाहांडी जिलों** में फैली सिजिमाली पहाड़ियों में प्रस्तावित **बॉक्साइट खनन** के खिलाफ भारी आदिवासी विरोध के बावजूद, रेल मंत्रालय ने दो बॉक्साइट-समृद्ध पहाड़ियों को जोड़ने वाली नई रेल लाइन का प्रस्ताव दिया है, जिनके खनन अधिकार **वेदांता और अडानी समूहों** को प्राप्त हैं।

• As per notification by the Ministry of Railways on Tuesday, the Centre, in exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (37A) of Section-2 of Railways Act, 1989 notified a new **broad-gauge line** connecting Tikiri Station to Kutrumali and Sijimali Bauxite Mines on Waltair Division of East Coast Railway.

मंगलवार को रेल मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना के अनुसार, केंद्र ने



रेलवे अधिनियम, 1989 की धारा-2 के खंड (37A) के तहत प्राप्त अधिकारों का प्रयोग करते हुए एक नई ब्रॉड-गेज लाइन अधिसूचित की है, जो पूर्वी तट रेलवे के वाल्टेयर डिवीजन में टिकिरी स्टेशन को कुड्डुमाली और सिजिमाली बॉक्साइट खदानों से जोड़ती है।

- **Kalinga Alumina Limited**, a subsidiary of **Adani Group**, has proposed opencast mining over **701.792 hectares** in Kutrumali, with **127.7 million tonnes of bauxite**.
अडानी समूह की सहायक कंपनी कलिंग अलुमिना लिमिटेड ने कुड्डुमाली में **701.792 हेक्टेयर** क्षेत्र में खुली खदान (ओपनकास्ट माइनिंग) का प्रस्ताव दिया है, जिसमें **127.7 मिलियन टन बॉक्साइट** है।
- **Vedanta Group** has secured rights over **1,549.022 hectares** in nearby Sijimali, which holds over **300 million tonnes of bauxite**.
वेदांता समूह ने पास की सिजिमाली पहाड़ियों में **1,549.022 हेक्टेयर** क्षेत्र के अधिकार प्राप्त किए हैं, जहाँ **300 मिलियन टन से अधिक बॉक्साइट** मौजूद है।
- Villagers have obstructed construction of the road connecting State Highway 44 and summit of Sijimali announcing that they would not let anyone construct the road by felling trees.
ग्रामीणों ने राज्य राजमार्ग 44 और सिजिमाली की चोटी को जोड़ने वाली सड़क के निर्माण को रोक दिया है और घोषणा की है कि वे पेड़ काटकर किसी को भी सड़क बनाने नहीं देंगे।

Tuti: the tiny, defiant Nile island caught in the heart of Sudan's war

SS1 Geography

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

For nearly two years, Al-Shubbak watched through ancient grey eyes as Tuti, the crescent-shaped island in the heart of the Sudanese capital she calls home, emptied of its inhabitants under a punishing paramilitary siege.

She refused to leave. "I didn't even move for the English when they colonised us," she told AFP through a toothless smile, a year after the army broke the siege, and 70 after the British occupation of Khartoum ended.

She recited an old battle cry that her daughter, who does not know exactly how old her mother is, repeated: "Our fathers resisted the occupiers with stones.

Though they met them with gunfire, they still could not take Tuti the green."

Located where the White Nile, flowing from Uganda, meets the Blue Nile from Ethiopia, Tuti is across the river from where war first broke out in April 2023, between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Riverside village

In recent months, many residents have returned home to the island, besieged from June 2023 until March 2025, when the army recaptured the capital. Shops have reopened and farmers have come back to their land, which historically supplied much of Khartoum's fresh pro-

duce from its fruit orchards and vegetable fields.

On a Friday afternoon, villagers flocked to the old red-brick mosque, where a rusted sign reads "established 1480".

In times past, crowds would gather in plastic chairs at the edge of the island, sipping tea with their feet in the Nile, the very first spot where it becomes one river flowing north to Egypt.

Now, authorities say that the same spot is a minefield, and the islanders are scarred by their days living in an open-air prison.

"Nothing could get in or out without the RSF saying so," said 34-year-old day labourer Salaheldin Abdelqader, who escaped seven



Anglers at Tuti Island, where the White Nile and Blue Nile merge to form the River Nile, in Khartoum. AFP

months into the siege and returned last year.

To get anything in - food, medicine, fuel to power water pumps - islanders had to pay off RSF fighters who controlled the only bridge. And they could only leave after forking out a toll for safe passage.

For Abdelqader, that was 350,000 Sudanese pounds (now around \$90), more than double a doctor's monthly salary.

Sheikh Mohamed Eid, a local elder who sounded the alarm over Tuti's plight on social media, said that during the war residents were "forced to leave at

gunpoint" and pay to do so "with our own money".

In accordance with government media regulations, AFP was accompanied by an army officer, who stepped out of earshot during interviews.

'Guard our soil'

A stout man with a head wrap piled high on his brow, Mr. Eid spoke at length of the people's connection to their island, from which former president Omar al-Bashir's government repeatedly tried to relocate them to build luxury investments.

"We're like fish in the water, we can't survive outside Tuti," he told AFP in his home, the sky visible through a hole in the roof where an artillery shell tore through.

After two months using donations to pay the RSF double or triple to get goods onto the island so people would not starve, Mr. Eid was detained by the paramilitaries.

Thrown into one notorious jail after another, he watched other incarcerated islanders die, one by one, before his release nine months later.

The RSF's siege slowly choked the life out of Tuti. Eventually, of an estimated 30,000 people, only Ms. Shubbak's family re-

mained, caring for the bedridden matriarch. "We stayed to guard our soil," her daughter Najat al-Nour, a Quran professor in his fifties who lifted her chin high to admonish those who left. "A mistake," she snapped.

But Nosayba Saad had no choice. She and her family endured a year and a half of RSF rule, during which fighters repeatedly entered people's homes, demanding gold and phones and accusing them of spying for the army.

By the time her family paid to leave in October 2024, the RSF had taken to stealing food and cash as well. She didn't think she would see her home again.

"Now our street is almost full, and more people are on their way," she said. But her joy was bitter-sweet. Two of her uncles are missing and presumed dead, while every family on the island has lost someone. "Still, being together with our people again, coming home is such a blessing," she said.

23A. Tuti: the tiny, defiant Nile island caught in the heart of Sudan's war

टूटी: सूडान के युद्ध के केंद्र में फंसा छोटा लेकिन दृढ़ नील द्वीप

- For nearly two years, **AlShubbak** watched through ancient grey eyes as **Tuti**, the **crescent-shaped island in the heart of the Sudanese capital** she calls home, emptied of its inhabitants under a punishing paramilitary siege.

लगभग दो वर्षों तक, **अलशुब्बाक** ने अपनी धुंधली आँखों से देखा कि **टूटी**, जो सूडान की राजधानी के केंद्र में स्थित अर्धचंद्राकार द्वीप है, एक कठोर अर्धसैनिक घेराबंदी के कारण अपने निवासियों से खाली हो गया।

- "I didn't even move for the English when they colonised us," she told AFP through a toothless smile, a year after the army broke the siege, and 70 after the **British occupation of Khartoum ended**.

"जब अंग्रेजों ने हमें उपनिवेश बनाया था तब भी मैं नहीं हिली," उन्होंने AFP से बिना दांतों वाली मुस्कान के साथ कहा, सेना द्वारा घेराबंदी तोड़े जाने के एक साल बाद और खार्तूम पर ब्रिटिश कब्जे के समाप्त होने के 70 साल बाद।



- Located where the **White Nile**, flowing from Uganda, meets the **Blue Nile** from Ethiopia, Tuti is across the river from where war first broke out in April 2023, between Sudan's army and the paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**.
व्हाइट नाइल (युगांडा से आने वाली) और ब्लू नाइल (इथियोपिया से आने वाली) के संगम पर स्थित टूटी उस स्थान के सामने नदी के पार है जहाँ अप्रैल 2023 में सूडान की सेना और अर्धसैनिक रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्स (RSF) के बीच युद्ध शुरू हुआ था।

GS Paper II: Polity		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	Voting for all 234 T.N. seats, Phase 1 of Bengal polls today 234 T.N. सीटों पर मतदान, बंगाल चुनाव के Phase 1 का आज आयोजन	
23A	Will a change in entry rules amount to 'invasion', asks SC क्या प्रवेश नियमों में बदलाव 'अतिक्रमण' माना जाएगा, सुप्रीम कोर्ट का सवाल	
23A	Candidate moves SC against PM's address उम्मीदवार ने प्रधानमंत्री के संबोधन के खिलाफ सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख किया	
23A	Women win many unreserved panchayat seats, says Centre महिलाएँ कई अनारक्षित पंचायत सीटों पर जीत दर्ज कर रही हैं, केंद्र का कहना	

Voting for all 234 T.N. seats, Phase 1 of Bengal polls today

GS II: Polity
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/KOLKATA

People will line up on Thursday to vote across 234 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu and 152 of the total 294 constituencies in the first phase of polling in West Bengal.

For Tamil Nadu's over 5.73 crore electors, 75,064 polling stations have been set up in 33,133 locations. Electronic voting machines, including 1.06 lakh ballot units, and 75,064 VVPAT units, will be deployed across the State.

Each polling station will have two cameras and the proceedings will be web-cast live. Digital platforms, including social media apps, television feeds, and handles of social media influencers will be monitored, officials said.

Alliances led by the DMK and AIADMK are in the fray, with the Naam Tamilar Katchi and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam looking to

People's choice

Polling will be held for all 234 seats in Tamil Nadu and 152 of 294 seats in West Bengal today

Tamil Nadu		West Bengal Phase I	
Polling stations	75,064	Polling stations	44,378
No. of electors		No. of electors	
Male	2,80,30,658	Male	1,84,99,496
Female	2,93,04,905	Female	1,75,77,210
Third gender	7,728	Third gender	465
Total	5,73,43,291	Total	3,60,77,171

Results on May 4

punch above their weight in the election.

In West Bengal, the Election Commission has deployed more than 2,400 companies of central armed police personnel to ensure free and fair polls. Around 3.60 crore voters are eligible to cast their votes in this phase and polling will be held across 44,378 stations; 59,777 ballot units, 59,980 control units, and 64,466 VVPAT machines will be deployed.

The elections are being held after a special intensive revision of electoral rolls reduced the number of voters in West Bengal by almost 12% while around 68 lakh voters were removed from the rolls in Tamil Nadu.

The remaining 142 seats in West Bengal will vote on April 29, and the votes will be counted on May 4.

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 5

23A. Voting for all 234 T.N. seats, Phase 1 of Bengal polls today

234 T.N. सीटों पर मतदान, बंगाल चुनाव के Phase 1 का आज आयोजन

- People will line up on Thursday to vote across 234 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu and 152 of the total 294 constituencies in the first phase of polling in West Bengal.

लोग Thursday (गुरुवार) को मतदान के लिए कतार में लगेंगे, जो Tamil Nadu की 234 विधानसभा सीटों और West Bengal की कुल 294 सीटों में से पहले चरण की 152 सीटों पर मतदान करेंगे।

- For Tamil Nadu's over 5.73 crore electors, 75,064 polling stations have been set up in 33,133 locations.

Tamil Nadu के 5.73 करोड़ से अधिक मतदाताओं के लिए 75,064 मतदान केंद्र 33,133 स्थानों पर स्थापित किए गए हैं।

- Electronic voting machines, including 1.06 lakh ballot units,



75,064 control units, and 75,064 VVPAT units, will be deployed across the State. राज्य भर में Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) तैनात की जाएंगी, जिनमें 1.06 लाख बैलेट यूनिट, 75,064 कंट्रोल यूनिट और 75,064 VVPAT यूनिट शामिल हैं।

- Each polling station will have two cameras and the proceedings will be webcast live. प्रत्येक मतदान केंद्र पर दो कैमरे होंगे और पूरी प्रक्रिया का live webcast किया जाएगा।
- Digital platforms, including social media apps, television feeds, and handles of social media influencers will be monitored, officials said. अधिकारियों ने कहा कि social media apps, television feeds और social media influencers के हैंडल्स सहित डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्मों की निगरानी की जाएगी।
- Alliances led by the DMK and AIADMK are in the fray, with the Naam Tamilar Katchi and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam looking to punch above their weight in the election. DMK और AIADMK के नेतृत्व वाले गठबंधन चुनावी मैदान में हैं, जबकि Naam Tamilar Katchi और Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam चुनाव में अपनी क्षमता से अधिक प्रदर्शन करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- In West Bengal, the Election Commission has deployed more than 2,400 companies of central armed police personnel to ensure free and fair polls. West Bengal में Election Commission ने निष्पक्ष और शांतिपूर्ण मतदान सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 2,400 से अधिक केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस कंपनियों को तैनात किया है।
- Around 3.60 crore voters are eligible to cast their votes in this phase and polling will be held across 44,378 stations; 59,777 ballot units, 59,980 control units, and 64,466 VVPAT machines will be deployed. इस चरण में लगभग 3.60 करोड़ मतदाता मतदान के पात्र हैं और मतदान 44,378 केंद्रों पर होगा; इसमें 59,777 बैलेट यूनिट, 59,980 कंट्रोल यूनिट और 64,466 VVPAT मशीनें तैनात की जाएंगी।
- The elections are being held after a special intensive revision of electoral rolls reduced the number of voters in West Bengal by almost 12% while around 68 lakh voters were removed from the rolls in Tamil Nadu. यह चुनाव electoral rolls के special intensive revision के बाद हो रहे हैं, जिसमें West Bengal में लगभग 12% मतदाताओं की कमी हुई, जबकि Tamil Nadu में लगभग 68 लाख मतदाताओं को सूची से हटाया गया।
- The remaining 142 seats in West Bengal will vote on April 29, and the votes will be counted on May 4. West Bengal की शेष 142 सीटों पर मतदान 29 अप्रैल को होगा और मतगणना 4 मई को की जाएगी।

Will a change in entry rules amount to 'invasion', asks SC

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked if a hypothetical alteration of rules by the State of Kerala to allow menstruating women entry into Sabarimala temple in the name of social reform would amount to an 'invasion' of religious practice.

A nine-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India Surya Kant is hearing a series of petitions in the Sabarimala review case. "Suppose the Kerala rules said the entry of women between the age of 10 to 50 is allowed to the temple in the name of social reform, would it be an invasion or can the court say it



Pilgrims on the way to Sabarimala. FILE PHOTO

[bar on entry] is not an essential practice and uphold the rules?" Justice B.V. Nagarathna said.

Senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, for a review petitioner, submitted that the rules, in the name of

reform, must not take away devotees' rights.

Senior advocate Aryama Sundaram and advocate Rohini Musa said a temple was considered the abode of the deity. The traditions, beliefs and rituals of a temple would be peculiar to the manifestation of the deity in that shrine.

Mr. Sundaram argued that the concept of gender equality did not extend to access to all places of worship. He said gender was not part of "all classes" mentioned in Article 25(2) (b), which said the state could make any law to usher in "social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes of Hindus".

23A. Will a change in entry rules amount to 'invasion', asks SC

क्या प्रवेश नियमों में

बदलाव 'अतिक्रमण' माना

जाएगा, सुप्रीम कोर्ट का

सवाल

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked if a hypothetical alteration of rules by the State of Kerala to allow menstruating women entry into Sabarimala temple in the



name of social reform would amount to an 'invasion' of religious practice.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को पूछा कि क्या केरल राज्य द्वारा काल्पनिक रूप से नियमों में बदलाव कर **मासिक धर्म वाली महिलाओं** को सबरीमाला मंदिर में सामाजिक सुधार के नाम पर प्रवेश देने से धार्मिक प्रथा में 'अतिक्रमण' माना जाएगा।

- A nine-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India **Surya Kant** is hearing a series of petitions in the **Sabarimala review case**.
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश **सूर्य कांत** की अध्यक्षता वाली नौ-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ **सबरीमाला समीक्षा मामले** में कई याचिकाओं की सुनवाई कर रही है।
- "Suppose the Kerala rules said the entry of women between the age of **10 to 50** is allowed to the temple in the name of social reform, would it be an invasion or can the court say it [bar on entry] is not an essential practice and uphold the rules?" Justice **B.V. Nagarathna** said.
"मान लीजिए केरल के नियम कहते हैं कि **10 से 50 वर्ष की महिलाओं** को सामाजिक सुधार के नाम पर मंदिर में प्रवेश की अनुमति है, तो क्या यह अतिक्रमण होगा या अदालत कह सकती है कि यह [प्रवेश पर रोक] आवश्यक प्रथा नहीं है और नियमों को बरकरार रख सकती है?" न्यायमूर्ति **बी.वी. नागरत्ना** ने कहा।
- Senior advocate **Gopal Subramaniam**, for a **review petitioner**, submitted that the rules, in the name of reform, must not take away devotees' rights.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **गोपाल सुब्रमण्यम**, जो एक समीक्षा याचिकाकर्ता की ओर से थे, ने कहा कि सुधार के नाम पर नियम भक्तों के अधिकारों को नहीं छीन सकते।
- He said gender was not part of "all classes" mentioned in Article **25(2)(b)**, which said the state could make any law to usher in "social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes of Hindus".
उन्होंने कहा कि लिंग "सभी वर्गों" का हिस्सा नहीं है जैसा कि अनुच्छेद **25(2)(b)** में उल्लेख है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि राज्य सामाजिक कल्याण और सुधार लाने या सार्वजनिक स्वरूप वाले हिंदू धार्मिक संस्थानों को सभी हिंदुओं के लिए खोलने के लिए कानून बना सकता है।

REVIEW PETITIONS AND CURATIVE PETITIONS

Review Petition

- Provided under **Article 137 of the Constitution of India**.
- Governed by **Supreme Court Rules, 2013** and **Order XLVII of CPC (Civil Procedure Code)**.

Curative Petition

- Not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.
- Created by the **Supreme Court in Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra (2002)** as an **extraordinary judicial remedy**.

Purpose

- **Review Petition:** To correct **apparent errors on the face of the record** (clerical, factual, or legal mistakes) in a judgment.
- Example: Wrong calculation of compensation in a judgment.
- **Curative Petition:** To prevent **gross miscarriage of justice** even after a review petition has been dismissed.
- It acts as the **last judicial resort**.

Filing Authority

- **Review Petition:** Can be filed by the **party aggrieved** by the judgment.



- **Curative Petition:** Can be filed by the **party aggrieved**, but only after exhausting both **appeal** and **review** options.

Time Limit

- **Review Petition:** Must be filed within **30 days** from the date of judgment/order.
- **Curative Petition:** No fixed time limit in law, but must be filed **within a reasonable time** after dismissal of review petition.

Bench Composition

- **Review Petition:** Usually heard by the **same Bench** of judges that delivered the original judgment (wherever possible).
- **Curative Petition:** Heard by the **senior-most judges of the Supreme Court**, including those who delivered the original judgment.
- Decided **in chambers** (not open court) unless the court orders otherwise.

Grounds

- **Review Petition: Error apparent on the face of record.**
- Discovery of **new and important evidence** not available earlier.
- **Curative Petition:** Violation of principles of **natural justice** (e.g., party not given fair hearing).
 - Judge was **biased** or had a conflict of interest.
 - Preventing **abuse of process** of the court.

Candidate moves SC against PM's address

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Congress MP from Kerala and a candidate in the 2026 Assembly election, T.N. Prathapan, on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court against the "inexplicable inaction" on the part of the Election Commission despite the "flagrant violation" of the Model Code of Conduct by the airing of "partisan political address" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi targeting Opposition parties on April 18.

The address came a day after the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill was defeated in the Lok Sabha.

"The broadcast constituted a misuse of state ma-

chinery and official media for electoral gain. The petitioner contends that such inaction on the part of the Election Commission (EC) is arbitrary, unconstitutional, and constitutes an abdication of its solemn constitutional mandate," the petition, filed by advocate Suvidutt M.S., said.

Show-cause notice

The plea has sought the court to "forthwith issue a show-cause notice to the Prime Minister and/or the BJP, calling upon them to show cause as to why they should not be held liable for violation of Section VII (4) of the Model Code of Conduct and Section 123 (7) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

"यह प्रसारण चुनावी लाभ के लिए राज्य तंत्र और आधिकारिक मीडिया के दुरुपयोग के समान था।"

- The petitioner contends that such inaction on the part of the Election Commission (EC) is arbitrary, unconstitutional, and constitutes an abdication of its solemn constitutional mandate," the petition, filed by advocate **Suvidutt M.S.**, said.

23A. Candidate moves SC against PM's address उम्मीदवार ने प्रधानमंत्री के संबोधन के खिलाफ सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख किया

- Former Congress MP from Kerala and a candidate in the **2026 Assembly election**, T.N. Prathapan, on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court against the "inexplicable inaction" on the part of the **Election Commission** despite the "flagrant violation" of the **Model Code of Conduct** by the airing of "partisan political address" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi targeting Opposition parties on April 18.

केरल से पूर्व कांग्रेस सांसद और **2026 विधानसभा चुनाव** के उम्मीदवार टी.एन. प्रतापन ने बुधवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में **चुनाव आयोग** की "अस्पष्ट निष्क्रियता" के खिलाफ याचिका दायर की, जबकि 18 अप्रैल को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा विपक्षी दलों को लक्षित करते हुए दिए गए "पक्षपाती राजनीतिक संबोधन" के प्रसारण से **आचार संहिता** का "स्पष्ट उल्लंघन" हुआ था।

- The address came a day after the Constitution (**131st Amendment Bill**) was defeated in the Lok Sabha.

यह संबोधन लोकसभा में संविधान के **131वें संशोधन विधेयक** के पराजित होने के एक दिन बाद आया।

- "The broadcast constituted a misuse of **state machinery** and official media for electoral gain.



याचिकाकर्ता का कहना है कि चुनाव आयोग (EC) की ऐसी निष्क्रियता मनमानी, असंवैधानिक है और उसके संवैधानिक कर्तव्य से **विमुखता** को दर्शाती है, यह याचिका, अधिवक्ता **सुविदत्त एम.एस.** द्वारा दायर की गई, में कहा गया।

Show-cause notice

कारण बताओ नोटिस

- The plea has sought the court to “forthwith issue a show-cause notice to the Prime Minister and/or the **BJP**, calling upon them to show cause as to why they should not be held liable for violation of Section **VII (4)** of the Model Code of Conduct and Section **123 (7)** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
याचिका में अदालत से अनुरोध किया गया है कि वह “तत्काल प्रधानमंत्री और/या **BJP** को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी करे, जिसमें पूछा जाए कि उन्हें आचार संहिता की धारा **VII (4)** और जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा **123 (7)** के उल्लंघन के लिए उत्तरदायी क्यों न ठहराया जाए।”

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (MCC)

- Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to regulate political parties and candidates during elections.
- It aims to ensure **free, fair, and transparent elections**, which is a basic feature of the Constitution under the doctrine of free and fair elections.
- The **MCC was first evolved in 1960 in Kerala** and later adopted nationwide.
- It was **formally and comprehensively enforced by the ECI in 1991** with stronger monitoring mechanisms.

Constitutional and Legal Basis

- The MCC does not have a direct statutory backing and is not part of any law passed by Parliament.
- It derives its authority from **Article 324 of the Constitution**, which empowers the Election Commission to supervise, direct, and control elections.
- Certain provisions of MCC overlap with enforceable laws such as the Representation of the People Act, 1951, Indian Penal Code, and other statutory provisions.**
- The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the wide powers of the ECI under Article 324 to enforce the MCC.

Objectives of MCC

- To ensure a **level playing field** for all political parties and candidates.
- To prevent misuse of official machinery by the ruling party.
- To maintain **ethical standards in election campaigning**.
- To avoid practices that may aggravate social tensions such as casteism, communalism, or hate speech.

Key Features of MCC

- The MCC is divided into **eight parts** dealing with various aspects of election conduct.
- It covers **general conduct**, meetings, processions, polling day behaviour, polling booths, observers, party in power, and election manifestos.
- It includes both **dos and don'ts** for political actors.



- It is applicable to **political parties, candidates, ministers, and government officials.**

Enforcement and Duration of MCC

- The MCC comes into force **immediately after the announcement of the election schedule by the ECI**, not merely the notification.
- It remains in force until the **completion of the election process**, including results.
- In multi-phase elections, it continues until the last phase concludes.
- The ECI enforces MCC through **advisories, warnings, censure, FIRs, and temporary campaign bans.**

Women win many unreserved panchayat seats, says Centre

Data show that the number of women representatives exceeded the quota in just 10 States and UTs by up to 5 percentage points; four did not meet the quota, while five had just enough

GS II: Polity

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Ahead of National Panchayati Raj Day on Friday, the Union government, in a statement on Wednesday, said that with reservation of seats, women made up over 49.7% of the elected representatives in panchayats in the country, and they were winning unreserved seats as well in “significant numbers”.

While the Constitution mandates a 33% reservation for women in urban and rural local bodies, 19 States and Union Territories have extended 50% of the seats for them.

However, government data submitted to Parliament in 2025 showed that the number of women representatives exceeded the prescribed quota in just 10 States and Union Territories and by up to 5 percentage points. Four States and Union Territories did not meet the quota, while five have just enough women to meet the reservation percentage.

Officials told *The Hindu* that the Ministry did not maintain any specific data on the absolute number of women elected to pan-



Political engagement: A panchayat leader heading a gram sabha meeting in a village in Tamil Nadu. FILE PHOTO

chayat positions from reserved and unreserved seats, and neither did it maintain panchayat-wise data centrally.

The Centre’s Constitution Amendment Bill to advance the next delimitation exercise and introduce women’s reservation in Parliament and the Assemblies was defeated in the Lok Sabha recently.

In the statement, the Panchayati Raj Ministry said the panchayats represented “one of the most remarkable examples of women’s political empowerment”, adding that provisions had been made to ensure their representation in local self-

governments. It said there were 24.41 lakh elected panchayat representatives across the country, of whom 12.14 lakh were women (49.75%).

“Crucially, women are not only occupying reserved seats but winning unreserved seats in significant numbers, reflecting a genuine and deepening shift in grassroots political culture,” the Ministry added.

However, according to State-wise data on representation among elected panchayat officials tabled by the government in Parliament in April 2025, the quota for women is not met in Gujarat, Haryana, Tripura, and Dadra and

Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. While all these States and Union Territories are meant to provide 50% quota for women, Gujarat has 49.9%, Haryana 42.12%, Tripura 45.25%, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 31.97%. Apart from this, States such as Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Sikkim are seen meeting the 50% quota for women exactly.

The States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Rajasthan were among the ones where the women’s quota was seen as exceeding, but by about 0-5 percentage points.

In Arunachal Pradesh, where 33% quota is provided, women make up over 38% of elected panchayat representatives.

On the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, over 35.6% representatives are women as against a 33% quota. In States where 50% reservation is provided for, the highest proportion of women representatives was seen in Chhattisgarh, where 54.78% panchayat representatives are women.



23A. Women win many unreserved panchayat seats, says Centre

महिलाएँ कई अनारक्षित पंचायत सीटों पर जीत दर्ज कर रही हैं, केंद्र का कहना

- Data show that the number of women representatives exceeded the **quota** in just 10 States and U.T.s by up to 5 percentage points; four did not meet the quota, while five had just enough.
डेटा दिखाते हैं कि केवल 10 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में महिला प्रतिनिधियों की संख्या **कोटा** से अधिक रही, और वह भी अधिकतम 5 प्रतिशत अंक तक; चार ने कोटा पूरा नहीं किया, जबकि पाँच में केवल पर्याप्त संख्या रही।
- Ahead of **National Panchayati Raj Day on Friday**, the Union government, in a statement on Wednesday, said that **with reservation of seats, women made up over 49.7% of the elected representatives in panchayats in the country, and they were winning unreserved seats as well in "significant numbers"**.
शुक्रवार को **राष्ट्रीय पंचायत राज दिवस** से पहले, केंद्रीय सरकार ने बुधवार को बयान में कहा कि सीटों के आरक्षण के साथ देश में पंचायतों में महिला प्रतिनिधियों की संख्या **49.7%** से अधिक हो गई है, और वे अनारक्षित सीटों पर भी "महत्वपूर्ण संख्या" में जीत रही हैं।
- **While the Constitution mandates a 33% reservation for women in urban and rural local bodies, 19 States and Union Territories have extended 50% of the seats for them.**
संविधान शहरी और ग्रामीण स्थानीय निकायों में महिलाओं के लिए **33% आरक्षण** का प्रावधान करता है, लेकिन 19 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों ने इसे बढ़ाकर उनके लिए **50% सीटें** कर दी हैं।
- However, **government data submitted to Parliament in 2025 showed that the number of women representatives exceeded the prescribed quota in just 10 States and Union Territories and by up to 5 percentage points.**
हालांकि, 2025 में संसद में प्रस्तुत सरकारी डेटा के अनुसार केवल 10 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में महिला प्रतिनिधियों की संख्या निर्धारित कोटे से अधिक थी, और वह भी अधिकतम 5 प्रतिशत अंक तक।
- **Four States and Union Territories did not meet the quota, while five have just enough women to meet the reservation percentage.**
चार राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश कोटा पूरा नहीं कर पाए, जबकि पाँच में आरक्षण प्रतिशत पूरा करने के लिए बस पर्याप्त महिलाएँ थीं।
- Officials told The Hindu that the **Ministry did not maintain any specific data on the absolute number of women elected to panchayat positions from reserved and unreserved seats, and neither did it maintain panchayat-wise data centrally.**
अधिकारियों ने The Hindu को बताया कि मंत्रालय के पास आरक्षित और अनारक्षित सीटों से पंचायत पदों पर चुनी गई महिलाओं की कुल संख्या का कोई विशिष्ट डेटा नहीं है, और न ही पंचायत-वार डेटा केंद्रीय स्तर पर रखा जाता है।
- The Centre's Constitution Amendment Bill to advance the next delimitation exercise and introduce women's reservation in Parliament and the Assemblies was defeated in the Lok Sabha recently.
केंद्र का संविधान संशोधन विधेयक, जो अगले परिसीमन अभ्यास को आगे बढ़ाने और संसद व विधानसभाओं में महिलाओं के आरक्षण को लागू करने के लिए था, हाल ही में लोकसभा में पराजित हो गया।
- In the statement, the Panchayati Raj Ministry said the panchayats represented "one of the most remarkable examples of women's political empowerment", adding that provisions had been made to ensure their representation in local self-governments.
बयान में पंचायत राज मंत्रालय ने कहा कि पंचायतें "महिलाओं के राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण के सबसे उल्लेखनीय उदाहरणों में से एक" हैं, और यह भी जोड़ा कि स्थानीय स्वशासन में उनकी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रावधान किए गए हैं।
- It said there were **24.41 lakh elected panchayat representatives across the country, of whom 12.14 lakh were women (49.75%).**



इसने कहा कि देश भर में कुल **24.41 लाख** निर्वाचित पंचायत प्रतिनिधि हैं, जिनमें से **12.14 लाख महिलाएँ (49.75%)** हैं।

- “Crucially, women are not only occupying reserved seats but winning unreserved seats in significant numbers, reflecting a genuine and deepening shift in grassroots political culture,” the Ministry added.

“महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, महिलाएँ केवल आरक्षित सीटों पर ही नहीं बल्कि अनारक्षित सीटों पर भी बड़ी संख्या में जीत रही हैं, जो जमीनी राजनीतिक संस्कृति में वास्तविक और गहरा बदलाव दर्शाता है,” मंत्रालय ने जोड़ा।

- However, according to State-wise data on representation among elected panchayat officials tabled by the government in Parliament in April 2025, the quota for women is not met in Gujarat, Haryana, Tripura, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

हालांकि, अप्रैल 2025 में संसद में प्रस्तुत राज्यवार डेटा के अनुसार, गुजरात, हरियाणा, त्रिपुरा और दादरा व नगर हवेली एवं दमन और दीव में महिलाओं का कोटा पूरा नहीं हुआ है।

- While all these States and Union Territories are meant to provide **50% quota for women**, Gujarat has 49.9%, Haryana 42.12%, Tripura 45.25%, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 31.97%.

हालांकि इन सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में महिलाओं के लिए **50% आरक्षण** निर्धारित है, लेकिन गुजरात में 49.9%, हरियाणा में 42.12%, त्रिपुरा में 45.25% और दादरा एवं नगर हवेली तथा दमन और दीव में 31.97% है।

- Apart from this, States such as Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Sikkim are seen meeting the **50% quota** for women exactly.

इसके अलावा आंध्र प्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश और सिक्किम जैसे राज्य महिलाओं के लिए **50% कोटा** बिल्कुल पूरा करते दिखते हैं।

- The States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Rajasthan were among the ones where the women's quota was seen as exceeding, but by about 0–5 percentage points.

अरुणाचल प्रदेश, गोवा, बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड, केरल और राजस्थान उन राज्यों में शामिल हैं जहाँ महिलाओं का कोटा थोड़ा बढ़ा हुआ है, लेकिन लगभग 0–5 प्रतिशत अंक तक ही।

- In Arunachal Pradesh, where 33% quota is provided, women make up over **38%** of elected panchayat representatives.

अरुणाचल प्रदेश में, जहाँ **33% आरक्षण** है, वहाँ महिलाएँ निर्वाचित पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों में **38% से अधिक** हैं।

- On the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, over **35.6%** representatives are women as against a 33% quota.

अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में, 33% कोटे के मुकाबले **35.6%** प्रतिनिधि महिलाएँ हैं।

- In States where 50% reservation is provided for, the highest proportion of women representatives was seen in Chhattisgarh, where **54.78%** panchayat representatives are women.

जहाँ 50% आरक्षण लागू है, वहाँ सबसे अधिक महिला प्रतिनिधियों का अनुपात छत्तीसगढ़ में देखा गया, जहाँ **54.78%** पंचायत प्रतिनिधि महिलाएँ हैं।

GS Paper II: Governance		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	‘Toxic workplaces take lives of 8.4 lakh people annually’ ‘विषाक्त कार्यस्थल हर साल 8.4 लाख लोगों की जान लेते हैं’	



‘Toxic workplaces take lives of 8.4 lakh people annually’

GS II: Governance

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

More than 8,40,000 people die each year around the globe from health conditions linked to psychosocial risks, including long working hours, job insecurity, and workplace harassment, according to a new global report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) released in Geneva on Wednesday.

These work-related psychosocial risks are mainly associated with cardiovascular diseases and mental disorders, including suicide, according to the report titled “The psychosocial working environment: global developments and pathways for action”.

The report prescribes policy interventions at both levels of government and industry to address the situation, along with empowering collectivisa-

The report calls for policy interventions at both central and State levels of government

tion of the workforce.

The report said work-related psychosocial risks represent a major and growing threat to workers’ safety and health, organisational productivity, and broader economic performance. Psychosocial risk factors are responsible for more than 8,40,000 deaths annually due to associated cardiovascular diseases and mental disorders, the report added. “These risks also lead to nearly 45 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost each year. The combined impact of cardiovascular disease and mental disorders associated with psychosocial risk factors is

estimated to result in 1.37% of global GDP lost annually,” the report said.

“The ILO estimates that globally, 35% of workers work more than 48 hours per week. Exposure to bullying and other forms of violence and harassment is another major concern. The ILO estimates that 23% of workers globally have experienced at least one form of violence or harassment in their working life, with psychological violence being the most prevalent at 18%,” the report said.

The ILO estimated the figure of over 840,000 deaths per year by using two key sources of evidence, including the global prevalence of five major psychosocial risk factors at work – job strain, effort-reward imbalance, job insecurity, long working hours, and workplace bullying and harassment.

associated with cardiovascular diseases and mental disorders, including suicide, according to the report titled “The psychosocial working environment: global developments and pathways for action”.

यह कार्य-संबंधी मनोसामाजिक जोखिम मुख्य रूप से हृदय रोगों और मानसिक विकारों से जुड़े हैं, जिसमें आत्महत्या भी शामिल है, यह बात “The psychosocial working environment: global developments and pathways for action” नामक रिपोर्ट में कही गई है।

- The report prescribes policy interventions at both levels of government and industry to address the situation, along with empowering collectivisation of the workforce. रिपोर्ट में इस स्थिति से निपटने के लिए सरकार और उद्योग दोनों स्तरों पर नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप तथा कार्यबल के सामूहिकीकरण को सशक्त बनाने की सिफारिश की गई है।
- The report said work-related psychosocial risks represent a major and growing threat to workers’ safety and health, organisational productivity, and broader economic performance. रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि कार्य-संबंधी मनोसामाजिक जोखिम श्रमिकों की सुरक्षा और स्वास्थ्य, संगठनात्मक उत्पादकता और व्यापक आर्थिक प्रदर्शन के लिए एक बड़ा और बढ़ता हुआ खतरा हैं।
- Psychosocial risk factors are responsible for more than **8,40,000 deaths annually** due to associated cardiovascular diseases and mental disorders, the report added. रिपोर्ट में आगे कहा गया है कि मनोसामाजिक जोखिम कारक संबंधित हृदय रोगों और मानसिक विकारों के कारण प्रति वर्ष **8,40,000 से अधिक मौतों** के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं।
- “These risks also lead to nearly **45 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)** lost each year. “ये जोखिम हर वर्ष लगभग **45 मिलियन विकलांगता-समायोजित जीवन वर्ष (DALYs)** के नुकसान का कारण भी बनते हैं।

23A. ‘Toxic workplaces take lives of 8.4 lakh people annually’

‘विषाक्त कार्यस्थल हर साल 8.4

लाख लोगों की जान लेते हैं’

• More than **8,40,000 people** die each year around the globe from health conditions linked to **psychosocial risks**, including long working hours, job insecurity, and workplace harassment, according to a new global report by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** released in Geneva on Wednesday.

दुनिया भर में हर वर्ष **8,40,000 से अधिक लोग** स्वास्थ्य स्थितियों के कारण मरते हैं जो **मनोसामाजिक जोखिमों** से जुड़ी होती हैं, जिनमें लंबे कार्य घंटे, नौकरी की असुरक्षा और कार्यस्थल पर उत्पीड़न शामिल हैं, यह जानकारी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (ILO) की एक नई वैश्विक रिपोर्ट में दी गई है, जो बुधवार को जिनेवा में जारी की गई।

• These work-related **psychosocial risks** are mainly



- The combined impact of cardiovascular disease and mental disorders associated with psychosocial risk factors is estimated to result in **1.37% of global GDP lost annually**, the report said.
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, मनोसामाजिक जोखिम कारकों से जुड़े हृदय रोग और मानसिक विकारों का संयुक्त प्रभाव प्रति वर्ष वैश्विक GDP के लगभग **1.37% नुकसान** का कारण बनता है।
- “The ILO estimates that globally, **35% of workers** work more than 48 hours per week.
“ILO का अनुमान है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर **35% श्रमिक** प्रति सप्ताह 48 घंटे से अधिक काम करते हैं।
- Exposure to bullying and other forms of violence and harassment is another major concern.
उत्पीड़न और अन्य प्रकार की हिंसा तथा धमकी का सामना करना एक और बड़ा चिंता का विषय है।
- The ILO estimates that **23% of workers globally** have experienced at least one form of violence or harassment in their working life, with psychological violence being the most prevalent at **18%**, the report said.
ILO का अनुमान है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर **23% श्रमिकों** ने अपने कार्य जीवन में किसी न किसी प्रकार की हिंसा या उत्पीड़न का अनुभव किया है, जिसमें **18%** के साथ मनोवैज्ञानिक हिंसा सबसे अधिक पाई जाती है।
- The ILO estimated the figure of over **840,000 deaths per year** by using two key sources of evidence, including the global prevalence of five major psychosocial risk factors at work — job strain, effort-reward imbalance, job insecurity, long working hours, and workplace bullying and harassment.
ILO ने प्रति वर्ष **840,000 से अधिक मौतों** का अनुमान दो प्रमुख साक्ष्यों के आधार पर लगाया है, जिसमें कार्यस्थल पर पाँच प्रमुख मनोसामाजिक जोखिम कारकों की वैश्विक व्यापकता शामिल है — नौकरी का तनाव, प्रयास-इनाम असंतुलन, नौकरी की असुरक्षा, लंबे कार्य घंटे, और कार्यस्थल पर धमकी एवं उत्पीड़न।

GS Paper II: International Relations		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	Common concerns साझी चिंताएँ	
23A	23 killed in Nigeria in 3 separate attacks linked to militants, bandits नाइजीरिया में उग्रवादियों और डकैतों से जुड़े 3 अलग-अलग हमलों में 23 की मौत	



CS II: IR

Common concerns

India and South Korea can coordinate on weathering geopolitical storms

Strengthening trade and technology ties between India and Republic of Korea (South Korea) was at the top of the list of outcomes from the two-day visit of President Lee Jae Myung to Delhi and meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visit, eight years after the last by a South Korean President and seven since Mr. Modi's trip to Seoul, was long overdue and focused on building futuristic ties amid the recent global turmoil. The two leaders committed to taking trade levels to \$50 billion by the end of the decade, launched a joint vision for the India-RoK Special Strategic Partnership, framework statements on shipbuilding and maritime logistics, energy resource security and sustainability, and signed 15 memoranda of understanding on cooperation in a number of economic areas. In particular, the two nations are seeking to use Korean technology skill and India's capacity to scale to build partnerships in critical minerals and quantum computing as they have in manufacturing heavy equipment and consumer goods; a number of Korean companies are household names in India, which has become the largest production base for many of these companies.

Despite the present-day successes, an ancient history dating back to Korean princess Suriratna (also known as Heo Hwang-ok) who was believed to have travelled from "Ayuta" or Ayodhya, and plans for the future, India-South Korea ties have belied their potential. The current level of \$27 billion in bilateral trade is particularly low for two economies among the world's top 15 by GDP. Korean dramas and K-pop are popular in India while Indian cultural and religious influence is evident in South Korea; yet, tourist flows remain low, and each has fewer than 15,000 resident expatriates. Before his departure to Vietnam from India, President Lee pointed out that while India's population is 15 times larger than Vietnam's, India has just 12,000 Korean residents while Vietnam has 2,00,000. Closer ties between them will require greater efforts for political and strategic relations, building stronger ties in the Indo-Pacific, and fast-tracking talks for the CEPA trade agreement which has failed to be finalised despite talks. Welcoming Mr. Lee, Mr. Modi listed three qualities – "democratic values, a market economy, and respect for the rule of law" – as "deeply embedded in the DNA" of both nations. Both countries have many common concerns and have much to lose at present from the effects of the U.S.-Israel war with Iran, disruptions in maritime trade and long-term energy shortages. The visit was a timely opportunity for India and Korea to seek new ways to engage with each other, and develop a common outlook on weathering future shocks arising from the war.

दोनों देशों के बीच एक प्राचीन संबंध राजकुमारी सुरिरत्ना (हयो हवांग-ओक) से जुड़ा है, जिन्हें अयुत (अयोध्या) से आया माना जाता है।

- **Korean dramas and K-pop are popular in India.** कोरियाई ड्रामा और के-पॉप भारत में लोकप्रिय हैं।
- **Indian cultural and religious influence** is evident in South Korea. भारतीय सांस्कृतिक और धार्मिक प्रभाव दक्षिण कोरिया में दिखाई देता है।
- However, **tourist flows remain low** and expatriate numbers are limited. हालाँकि, पर्यटकों की संख्या कम है और प्रवासियों की संख्या भी सीमित है।

23A. Common concerns

साझी चिंताएँ

- **Strengthening trade and technology ties between India and Republic of Korea (South Korea) was at the top of the list of outcomes from the two-day visit of President Lee Jae Myung to Delhi and meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

भारत और कोरिया गणराज्य (दक्षिण कोरिया) के बीच व्यापार और प्रौद्योगिकी संबंधों को मजबूत करना राष्ट्रपति ली जे म्युंग की दिल्ली यात्रा और प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के साथ बैठकों के प्रमुख परिणामों में शामिल था।

- They launched a **joint vision for the India-RoK Special Strategic Partnership.**

उन्होंने भारत-कोरिया विशेष रणनीतिक साझेदारी के लिए संयुक्त दृष्टि प्रस्तुत की।

- Framework statements were issued on **shipbuilding and maritime logistics, energy resource security and sustainability.**

जहाज निर्माण, समुद्री लॉजिस्टिक्स, ऊर्जा संसाधन सुरक्षा और स्थिरता पर रूपरेखा बयान जारी किए गए।

- They **signed 15 memoranda of understanding on cooperation in various economic areas.**

उन्होंने विभिन्न आर्थिक क्षेत्रों में सहयोग के लिए 15 समझौता ज्ञापनों पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

- The two nations are seeking to combine **Korean technology skill with India's scaling capacity.**

दोनों देश कोरियाई तकनीकी कौशल और भारत की विस्तार क्षमता को संयोजित करना चाहते हैं।

- They aim to build partnerships in **critical minerals and quantum computing.**

वे महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों और क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग में साझेदारी बनाना चाहते हैं।

- The **current bilateral trade of \$27 billion is low for two top economies.**

वर्तमान 27 अरब डॉलर का द्विपक्षीय व्यापार दो बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के लिए कम है।

- **There is an ancient link through princess Suriratna (Heo Hwang-ok) believed to have come from Ayuta (Ayodhya).**



- India has about **12,000 Korean residents**, while Vietnam has **2,00,000**.
भारत में लगभग **12,000 कोरियाई निवासी** हैं, जबकि वियतनाम में **2,00,000** हैं।
- Talks for the **CEPA trade agreement** need to be fast-tracked.
CEPA व्यापार समझौते के लिए वार्ता को तेज करने की आवश्यकता है।
- Mr. Modi highlighted **democratic values, market economy, and rule of law** as common traits.
मोदी ने **लोकतांत्रिक मूल्य, बाज़ार अर्थव्यवस्था और कानून का शासन** को साझा विशेषताएँ बताया।
- Both countries face challenges from the **U.S.-Israel war with Iran**.
दोनों देश **अमेरिका-इज़राइल और ईरान युद्ध** के प्रभावों का सामना कर रहे हैं।
- They are affected by **maritime trade disruptions and energy shortages**.
वे **समुद्री व्यापार बाधाओं और ऊर्जा संकट** से प्रभावित हैं।
- The visit was a **timely opportunity** to deepen engagement and develop a **common outlook**.
यह यात्रा **समयोचित अवसर** थी, जिससे सहयोग को गहरा किया जा सके और **साझा दृष्टिकोण विकसित** किया जा सके।

KANO

23 killed in Nigeria in 3 separate attacks linked to militants, bandits



GS II: IR

AFP

At least 23 people, including three children, were killed on Tuesday in three separate attacks blamed on jihadists and criminal gangs in Nigeria, according to security reports. Suspected Boko Haram jihadists killed 11 people in a raid on a village in Borno state, while 12 others were killed in attacks on two villages in Zamfara state. AFP

पर हमले में **11 लोगों** की हत्या कर दी, जबकि **जमफारा राज्य** के दो गांवों पर हमलों में **12 अन्य लोग** मारे गए।

23A. 23 killed in Nigeria in 3 separate attacks linked to militants, bandits नाइजीरिया में उग्रवादियों और डकैतों से जुड़े 3 अलग-अलग हमलों में 23 की मौत

- At least **23 people**, including three children, were killed on Tuesday in three separate attacks blamed on **jihadists** and criminal gangs in Nigeria, according to security reports.
सुरक्षा रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, मंगलवार को नाइजीरिया में **जिहादी** और आपराधिक गिरोहों द्वारा किए गए तीन अलग-अलग हमलों में कम से कम **23 लोग**, जिनमें तीन बच्चे शामिल हैं, मारे गए।

• Suspected **Boko Haram** jihadists killed **11 people** in a raid on a village in **Borno state**, while **12 others** were killed in attacks on two villages in **Zamfara state**.

संदिग्ध **बोको हराम** जिहादियों ने **बोर्नो राज्य** के एक गांव

GS Paper III: Economy		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	Beyond trade deals to building a new architecture व्यापार समझौतों से आगे बढ़कर एक नई संरचना का निर्माण	
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	People with 'zero' electricity bills after solar system adoption सोलर सिस्टम अपनाने के बाद 'शून्य' बिजली बिल वाले लोग	
	Norms tweaked to blend non-petroleum sources with ATF	



गैर-पेट्रोलियम स्रोतों को ATF के साथ मिलाने के लिए नियमों में बदलाव

Beyond trade deals to building a new architecture

SS III: Economy

MOB

In just a few days in early 2026, India signed two major trade agreements – the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement, and a deal with the United States that lowered American tariffs on Indian goods. The EU deal was called the “mother of all deals”. The U.S. agreement was seen as a strategic reset. Both are real achievements.

But these deals also reveal a deeper problem: the system that allowed countries such as India to trade freely is breaking down. What you can buy and sell increasingly depends on politics, not just economics. No country can make everything it needs. India has great software engineers but needs advanced computer chips from Taiwan. It makes generic medicines but relies on China for the chemical ingredients. It has a huge market but needs technology and investment from others. For the past few decades, the global economy flowed smoothly – buy from whoever made things the best and cheapest. If someone refused to sell unfairly, international bodies would step in. The world operated on rules that countries mostly honoured. That is how India built its pharmaceutical industry and South Korea became a tech giant.

Politics dictates access

Today, access to what you need – computer chips, rare minerals and medical supplies – depends on world politics. The U.S. and China selectively block the sale of critical goods and services, using economic power as a tool of control. The international organisations meant to enforce fair trade have been sidelined.

China has restricted certain exports during territorial disputes with India. India imports a large share of its Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients from China – the chemical base for generic drugs. Similar dependencies exist in electronics, solar panels and rare earth minerals. After the Galwan Valley clashes in 2020, China demonstrated its willingness to weaponise these



Arindam Goswami

Research Analyst in the High-Tech Geopolitics Programme at the Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru



Ashwin Prasad

Staff Research Analyst in the Advanced Military Technology and Outer Space Programme at the Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru

India must move from managing relationships with major powers to building partnerships with equals

trade lines. The U.S., despite positioning itself as India's strategic ally against China, has also used trade as leverage. In August 2025, Washington imposed additional tariffs on Indian goods to punish India for buying Russian energy resources. The economic damage was sudden and widespread. Markets took a hit. Foreign investors pulled out. South Korea and Canada also believed that they had solid deals with the Donald Trump administration, only to face new threats and renegotiations shortly after.

Historically, India could turn to Russia as a counterweight. But that option has weakened since the Ukraine war. Western sanctions have cut Russia off from global technology networks, and it now depends heavily on China for markets and political support. Where India once had room to manoeuvre between major powers, its choices have narrowed.

Dependence on either the U.S. or China for critical supply chains now carries unacceptable risks. They are bilateral arrangements subject to political shifts. They are tactical wins. India needs a long-term strategy alongside them.

Move toward smaller, focused partnerships

India's current approach of maintaining ties with all major powers without getting too close to any is no longer sufficient. The alternative is sectoral plurilateralism, as geopolitical backstops for dealing with volatile powers. Instead of forming large groups around vague shared values, India should build smaller, focused partnerships with a few countries in specific sectors. These groups would allow middle powers to set standards, develop capabilities, and create real interdependence on their own terms.

There is precedent for this. In 1951, six European countries formed the Coal and Steel Community, focused on just those two industries. By linking their supply chains, they made conflict too costly, even before any political union existed. They built trust through practical

cooperation, not declarations. Within a decade, this became the foundation of the EU.

This approach turns India's capabilities into lasting leverage instead of bargaining chips in one-off negotiations. India's UPI payment system handles massive transaction volumes. Its Aadhaar identity system and DigiLocker platform are models that dozens of developing countries want to copy. A group of countries building shared, open-source digital standards could create a real alternative to China's surveillance model and America's big tech platforms. No bilateral trade deal delivers that kind of influence.

Consider artificial intelligence (AI). The world has two main players – U.S. companies dominating foundation models and Chinese firms building their own systems. But France leads in open-weight AI research, the United Arab Emirates has investment capital, Japan manufactures advanced chips, and India has engineering talent and a large market. Together, they could build and export an open AI system to markets in Africa and Asia where neither the American nor Chinese options fit well. Whoever sets technical standards in emerging markets first usually keeps the advantage.

The starting point

India should begin with three pilot partnerships – in space, digital infrastructure, and AI – where it has proven capabilities and prospective partners have urgent needs. These groups need real authority: the ability to set binding standards in their sectors without waiting for approval from U.S.-led or China-dominated global bodies. A partnership that can certify drug supply chains or set AI safety rules for its members is power.

A country that only manages relationships with big powers is reacting. Building partnerships with equals is shaping the future. India needs to move from one to the other.

The views expressed are personal

23A. Beyond trade deals to building a new architecture

व्यापार समझौतों से आगे बढ़कर एक नई संरचना का निर्माण

- In just a few days in early 2026, India signed two major trade agreements — the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement, and a deal with the United States that lowered American tariffs on Indian goods.

2026 की शुरुआत में कुछ ही दिनों में, भारत ने दो प्रमुख व्यापार समझौते किए — भारत-यूरोपीय संघ (EU)

मुक्त व्यापार समझौता और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के साथ एक समझौता, जिसने भारतीय वस्तुओं पर अमेरिकी शुल्क कम किए।

- The EU deal was called the “mother of all deals”. EU समझौते को “सभी समझौतों की जननी” कहा गया।
- The U.S. agreement was seen as a **strategic reset**. अमेरिकी समझौते को एक रणनीतिक पुनर्संतुलन के रूप में देखा गया।
- Both are **real achievements**. दोनों ही वास्तविक उपलब्धियाँ हैं।
- But these deals also reveal a **deeper problem**: the system that allowed countries such as India to trade freely is **breaking down**. लेकिन ये समझौते एक गहरी समस्या को भी उजागर करते हैं: वह प्रणाली जिसने भारत जैसे देशों को स्वतंत्र रूप से व्यापार करने की अनुमति दी, वह अब टूट रही है।
- What you can buy and sell increasingly depends on **politics, not just economics**. आप क्या खरीद और बेच सकते हैं, यह अब केवल अर्थशास्त्र नहीं बल्कि राजनीति पर निर्भर करता जा रहा है।



- No country can make everything it needs.
कोई भी देश अपनी सभी आवश्यक वस्तुएँ स्वयं नहीं बना सकता।
- India has great **software engineers** but needs **advanced computer chips from Taiwan**.
भारत के पास उत्कृष्ट सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर हैं, लेकिन उसे ताइवान से उन्नत कंप्यूटर चिप्स की आवश्यकता होती है।
- It makes **generic medicines** but relies on China for **chemical ingredients**.
यह जेनेरिक दवाएँ बनाता है, लेकिन रासायनिक अवयवों के लिए चीन पर निर्भर है।
- It has a huge market but needs **technology and investment** from others.
इसके पास एक विशाल बाजार है, लेकिन इसे अन्य देशों से प्रौद्योगिकी और निवेश की आवश्यकता होती है।
- For decades, the global economy worked on **efficiency and cost advantage**.
दशकों तक वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था दक्षता और लागत लाभ पर आधारित रही।
- If someone refused to sell unfairly, **international bodies would intervene**.
यदि कोई देश अनुचित रूप से बेचने से इनकार करता था, तो अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाएँ हस्तक्षेप करती थीं।
- The world operated on **rules that countries mostly honoured**.
दुनिया नियमों पर आधारित थी, जिनका अधिकांश देशों ने पालन किया।
- That is how India built its **pharmaceutical industry** and South Korea became a **tech giant**.
इसी प्रकार भारत ने अपना फार्मास्युटिकल उद्योग विकसित किया और दक्षिण कोरिया एक प्रौद्योगिकी महाशक्ति बना।

Politics dictates access / राजनीति पहुंच निर्धारित करती है

- Today, access to **critical goods — chips, minerals, medical supplies — depends on geopolitics**.
आज महत्वपूर्ण वस्तुओं — चिप्स, खनिज, चिकित्सा आपूर्ति — तक पहुंच भू-राजनीति पर निर्भर करती है।
- The **U.S. and China** use economic power to **block critical goods and services**.
अमेरिका और चीन आर्थिक शक्ति का उपयोग करके महत्वपूर्ण वस्तुओं और सेवाओं को रोकते हैं।
- **International trade institutions** have been **sidelined**.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार संस्थाएँ अब हाशिये पर चली गई हैं।
- China restricted exports during **territorial disputes with India**.
चीन ने भारत के साथ क्षेत्रीय विवादों के दौरान निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाया।
- India depends heavily on China for **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API)**.
भारत सक्रिय फार्मास्युटिकल अवयव (API) के लिए चीन पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है।
- Similar dependencies exist in **electronics, solar panels and rare earth minerals**.
इसी प्रकार की निर्भरता इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, सौर पैनल और दुर्लभ पृथ्वी खनिजों में भी है।
- After the **Galwan Valley clashes (2020)**, China showed it could **weaponise trade**.
गलवान घाटी संघर्ष (2020) के बाद चीन ने दिखाया कि वह व्यापार को हथियार बना सकता है।
- The U.S. also used trade as **leverage against India**.
अमेरिका ने भी भारत के खिलाफ व्यापार को दबाव के साधन के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया।
- In **August 2025**, it imposed additional tariffs for buying **Russian energy**.
अगस्त 2025 में, उसने रूसी ऊर्जा खरीदने के कारण अतिरिक्त शुल्क लगाए।
- The impact was **sudden and widespread**.
इसका प्रभाव अचानक और व्यापक था।
- Markets fell and **foreign investors withdrew**.
बाजार गिर गए और विदेशी निवेशक पीछे हट गए।
- Countries like **South Korea and Canada** also faced **renegotiations and threats**.
दक्षिण कोरिया और कनाडा जैसे देशों को भी पुनः वार्ता और धमकियों का सामना करना पड़ा।
- India earlier relied on **Russia as a counterweight**, but this has weakened post **Ukraine war**.
भारत पहले रूस को संतुलन के रूप में उपयोग करता था, लेकिन यूक्रेन युद्ध के बाद यह कमजोर हो गया।



- Western sanctions have cut Russia off from **global technology networks**.
पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों ने रूस को वैश्विक प्रौद्योगिकी नेटवर्क से अलग कर दिया है।
- Russia now depends heavily on **China**.
रूस अब काफी हद तक **चीन पर निर्भर** है।
- India's strategic **room to manoeuvre has narrowed**.
भारत की रणनीतिक लचीलापन कम हो गया है।
- Dependence on either the **U.S. or China** now carries **unacceptable risks**.
अब **अमेरिका या चीन** पर निर्भरता **अस्वीकार्य जोखिम** लेकर आती है।
- These are **bilateral and politically driven arrangements**.
ये **द्विपक्षीय और राजनीतिक रूप से संचालित व्यवस्थाएँ** हैं।
- They may deliver **short-term gains but not long-term security**.
ये **अल्पकालिक लाभ** दे सकते हैं, लेकिन **दीर्घकालिक सुरक्षा** नहीं।
- India needs a **long-term strategic approach** alongside them.
भारत को इनके साथ-साथ एक **दीर्घकालिक रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण** अपनाने की आवश्यकता है।

Move toward smaller, focused partnerships / छोटे, केंद्रित साझेदारी की ओर बढ़ना

- India's current approach of maintaining ties with all major powers without getting too close to any is no longer sufficient.
भारत का वर्तमान दृष्टिकोण, जिसमें वह सभी प्रमुख शक्तियों के साथ संबंध बनाए रखता है लेकिन किसी के भी अत्यधिक निकट नहीं जाता, अब पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- The alternative is **sectoral plurilateralism**, as geopolitical backstops for dealing with volatile powers.
विकल्प है **क्षेत्रीय बहुपक्षीयता (sectoral plurilateralism)**, जो अस्थिर शक्तियों से निपटने के लिए एक भू-राजनीतिक सहारा प्रदान करती है।
- Instead of forming large groups around vague shared values, India should build **smaller, focused partnerships** with a few countries in specific sectors.
अस्पष्ट साझा मूल्यों के आधार पर बड़े समूह बनाने के बजाय, भारत को विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों में कुछ देशों के साथ **छोटी, केंद्रित साझेदारियाँ** बनानी चाहिए।
- These groups would allow **middle powers to set standards, develop capabilities, and create real interdependence** on their own terms.
ये समूह **मध्य शक्तियों को मानक निर्धारित करने, क्षमताएँ विकसित करने और वास्तविक परस्पर निर्भरता बनाने** की अनुमति देंगे।
- There is precedent for this.
इसके लिए ऐतिहासिक उदाहरण मौजूद हैं।
- In 1951, six European countries formed the **Coal and Steel Community**, focused on just those two industries.
1951 में, छह यूरोपीय देशों ने केवल दो उद्योगों पर केंद्रित **कोयला और इस्पात समुदाय** का गठन किया।
- By linking their **supply chains**, they made conflict too costly.
अपनी **आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को जोड़कर**, उन्होंने संघर्ष को अत्यधिक महँगा बना दिया।
- They built **trust through practical cooperation**, not declarations.
उन्होंने घोषणाओं के बजाय **व्यावहारिक सहयोग के माध्यम से विश्वास** बनाया।
- Within a decade, this became the foundation of the **European Union (EU)**.
एक दशक के भीतर, यह **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** की नींव बन गया।
- This approach turns India's capabilities into **lasting leverage** instead of bargaining chips.
यह दृष्टिकोण भारत की क्षमताओं को सौदेबाजी के साधनों के बजाय **स्थायी प्रभावशक्ति** में बदलता है।
- India's **UPI payment system** handles massive transaction volumes.
भारत की **UPI भुगतान प्रणाली** विशाल लेन-देन संभालती है।



- Its **Aadhaar identity system and DigiLocker platform** are global models.
इसकी आधार पहचान प्रणाली और डिजिलॉकर प्लेटफॉर्म वैश्विक मॉडल हैं।
- A group building **shared open-source digital standards** could offer an alternative to **China's surveillance model and America's big tech platforms**.
साझा ओपन-सोर्स डिजिटल मानकों का निर्माण करने वाला समूह चीन के निगरानी मॉडल और अमेरिका के बड़े तकनीकी प्लेटफार्मों का विकल्प प्रदान कर सकता है।
- No bilateral trade deal delivers that kind of influence.
कोई भी द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौता इस प्रकार का प्रभाव नहीं देता।
- Consider **artificial intelligence (AI)**.
कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) पर विचार करें।
- The world has two main players — **U.S. companies and Chinese firms**.
दुनिया में दो प्रमुख खिलाड़ी हैं — अमेरिकी कंपनियाँ और चीनी फर्म।
- But **France leads in open-weight AI research, UAE has capital, Japan manufactures chips, and India has talent and market**.
लेकिन फ्रांस ओपन-वेट AI अनुसंधान में अग्रणी है, यूएई के पास पूंजी है, जापान चिप्स बनाता है, और भारत के पास प्रतिभा और बाजार है।
- Together, they could build an **open AI system for Africa and Asia markets**.
मिलकर, वे अफ्रीका और एशिया के बाजारों के लिए एक ओपन AI प्रणाली विकसित कर सकते हैं।
- Whoever sets **technical standards first** gains long-term advantage.
जो पहले तकनीकी मानक निर्धारित करता है, उसे दीर्घकालिक लाभ मिलता है।

The starting point / प्रारंभिक बिंदु

- India should begin with **three pilot partnerships — space, digital infrastructure, and AI**.
भारत को तीन प्रारंभिक साझेदारियों — अंतरिक्ष, डिजिटल अवसंरचना और AI से शुरुआत करनी चाहिए।
- These areas combine India's **capabilities** with partners' **urgent needs**.
ये क्षेत्र भारत की क्षमताओं और साझेदारों की तत्काल आवश्यकताओं को जोड़ते हैं।
- These groups need **real authority to set binding standards**.
इन समूहों को बाध्यकारी मानक निर्धारित करने का वास्तविक अधिकार होना चाहिए।
- They should not depend on **U.S.-led or China-dominated global bodies**.
उन्हें अमेरिका-नेतृत्व वाले या चीन-प्रधान वैश्विक संस्थानों पर निर्भर नहीं होना चाहिए।
- A partnership that can **certify drug supply chains or set AI safety rules** holds real power.
जो साझेदारी दवा आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं को प्रमाणित कर सके या AI सुरक्षा नियम तय कर सके, वही वास्तविक शक्ति रखती है।
- A country that only manages relations with big powers is **reacting**.
जो देश केवल बड़ी शक्तियों के साथ संबंध प्रबंधित करता है, वह प्रतिक्रिया दे रहा होता है।
- Building partnerships with equals is **shaping the future**.
समान साझेदारों के साथ संबंध बनाना भविष्य को आकार देना है।
- India needs to move from one to the other.
भारत को एक स्थिति से दूसरी स्थिति की ओर बढ़ना होगा।



Number of counterfeit products seized by Amazon

GS III: Economy

15 in million. Amazon blocked hundreds of millions of suspected fake reviews and seized over 15 million counterfeit products globally in 2025, according to the e-commerce giant's 'Trustworthy Shopping Experience Report'. Amazon's legal actions in 2025 led to the shutdown of more than 100 websites attempting to facilitate fake reviews and scams targeting its store. PTI

अधिक नकली उत्पादों को जब्त किया।

- Amazon's **legal actions** in 2025 led to the shutdown of more than **100 websites** attempting to facilitate fake reviews and scams targeting its store. अमेज़न की 2025 में की गई कानूनी कार्रवाइयों के परिणामस्वरूप **100 से अधिक वेबसाइटों** को बंद किया गया, जो फर्जी समीक्षाओं और उसके स्टोर को निशाना बनाने वाले घोटालों को बढ़ावा देने की कोशिश कर रही थीं।

23A. Number of counterfeit products seized by Amazon

अमेज़न द्वारा जब्त किए गए नकली उत्पादों की संख्या

- 15 in a million. 15 मिलियन।
- Amazon blocked hundreds of millions of suspected **fake reviews** and seized over **15 million counterfeit products** globally in 2025, according to the e-commerce giant's 'Trustworthy Shopping Experience Report'. ई-कॉमर्स कंपनी अमेज़न के 'ट्रस्टवर्थी शॉपिंग एक्सपीरियंस रिपोर्ट' के अनुसार, अमेज़न ने 2025 में वैश्विक स्तर पर करोड़ों संदिग्ध फर्जी समीक्षाओं को ब्लॉक किया और **15 मिलियन से**

People with 'zero' electricity bills after solar system adoption

GS III: Economy

11,000 As many as 10,885 households achieved zero bills during the month, driven by installations carried out through TP Western Odisha Distribution Ltd's (TPWODL) 1-kW Utility Led Aggregation (ULA) model, which has accelerated solar adoption in the region, officials said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

(ULA) मॉडल के तहत किए गए इंस्टॉलेशन के कारण संभव हुआ, जिसने क्षेत्र में सौर ऊर्जा अपनाने को तेज किया।

23A. People with 'zero' electricity bills after solar system adoption

सोलर सिस्टम अपनाने के बाद 'शून्य' बिजली बिल वाले लोग

- 11,000
- As many as **10,885 households** achieved zero bills during the month, driven by installations carried out through TP Western Odisha Distribution Ltd's (TPWODL) 1-kW Utility Led Aggregation (ULA) model, which has accelerated solar adoption in the region, officials said.

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि कुल **10,885 घरों** ने महीने के दौरान शून्य बिल हासिल किया, जो टीपी वेस्टर्न ओडिशा डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन लिमिटेड (TPDDL) के 1-किलोवाट यूटिलिटी लेड एग्रीगेशन



Norms tweaked to blend non-petroleum sources with ATF

GS III: Economy

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

In a boost for India's sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) ambitions and to alleviate some pressure amid the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, the Petroleum Ministry expanded the definition of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to include blending of the fuel with synthesised hydrocarbons viz. fuel created from non-petroleum sources.

The gazette notification reads: "The following subclause shall be substituted, namely: 'aviation turbine fuel' is a complex mixture of hydrocarbons conforming to IS 1571 specification or its blend with synthesised hydrocarbons as specified in IS 17081."

For clarity, the gazette proposes to mandate stan-



The Petroleum Ministry expanded the definition of ATF.

dards for ATF, which adhere to those set for blended fuels labelled IS 1571. These standards would also include those defined as synthesised hydrocarbons, which are presently labelled IS 17081, and were formulated in 2019.

Input feedstock for hydrocarbons can range from biomass and natural gas, among others and not necessarily ethanol.

में निर्दिष्ट सिंथेसाइज्ड हाइड्रोकार्बन के साथ इसका मिश्रण है।"

- For clarity, the gazette proposes to mandate standards for ATF, which adhere to those set for blended fuels labelled IS 1571.

स्पष्टता के लिए, राजपत्र ATF के लिए ऐसे मानकों को अनिवार्य करने का प्रस्ताव करता है जो IS 1571 के तहत लेबल किए गए मिश्रित ईंधनों के मानकों के अनुरूप हों।

- These standards would also include those defined as synthesised hydrocarbons, which are presently labelled IS 17081, and were formulated in 2019.

इन मानकों में वे भी शामिल होंगे जिन्हें सिंथेसाइज्ड हाइड्रोकार्बन के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है, जिन्हें वर्तमान में IS 17081 के तहत लेबल किया गया है और जिन्हें 2019 में तैयार किया गया था।

- Input feedstock for hydrocarbons can range from biomass and natural gas, among others and not necessarily ethanol.

हाइड्रोकार्बन के लिए इनपुट फीडस्टॉक बायोमास और प्राकृतिक गैस आदि हो सकते हैं और यह जरूरी नहीं कि केवल एथेनॉल ही हो।

23A. Norms tweaked to blend non-petroleum sources with ATF

गैर-पेट्रोलियम स्रोतों को ATF के साथ मिलाने के लिए नियमों में बदलाव

- In a boost for India's sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) ambitions and to alleviate some pressure amid the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, the Petroleum Ministry expanded the definition of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to include blending of the fuel with synthesised hydrocarbons viz. fuel created from non-petroleum sources.

भारत के सस्टेनेबल एविएशन फ्यूल (SAF) लक्ष्यों को बढ़ावा देने और ईरान के खिलाफ अमेरिका-इजरायल युद्ध के बीच कुछ दबाव कम करने के लिए, पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने एविएशन टरबाइन फ्यूल (ATF) की परिभाषा का विस्तार किया, जिसमें सिंथेसाइज्ड हाइड्रोकार्बन यानी गैर-पेट्रोलियम स्रोतों से बने ईंधन के साथ मिश्रण को शामिल किया गया।

- The gazette notification reads: "The following subclause shall be substituted, namely: 'aviation turbine fuel' is a complex mixture of hydrocarbons conforming to IS 1571 specification or its blend with synthesised hydrocarbons as specified in IS 17081."

राजपत्र अधिसूचना में कहा गया है: "निम्न उपधारा को प्रतिस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात: 'एविएशन टरबाइन फ्यूल' हाइड्रोकार्बनों का एक जटिल मिश्रण है जो IS 1571 विनिर्देश के अनुरूप है या IS 17081



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Societies embrace gene therapy but resist genetic change in crops

If regulation is only about safety and curbing, and demanding compliance with an ever-changing process, it will curb enthusiasm for daring ideas and explanations about the complexities and meaning of life; modest and unambitious approaches in science are a self-defeating oxymoron

This article is part of Examined World, a contemplative series exploring what the sciences reveal about us.

Our debates and discussions on technology are currently dominated by artificial intelligence (AI).

Conversations around this subject are rarely about whether AI will envelop our lives or not, but about how and when it will do so.

The chariot taking us to the future has another horse — biotechnology — galloping at the same breakneck speed as its twin, but puzzlingly not central enough to our discussions. This steed has also matured, and the question before us is whether we have the ability to generate new ideas in science that can steer the chariot in directions we value or if we are destined to go where it takes us.

Our ability to engineer life is not recent. For more than 10,000 years we have bred and domesticated plants, animals, and microbes. In our migrations across the planet, we have often taken with us these organisms and diseases across continents. The passengers on our migration often wreaked ecological devastation in their new homes. At other times they adapted well and were of great value to our societies.

Much of the food we eat in India today is from non-native plants and animals, and our ecosystem has adapted these organisms, 'engineered' by breeding them. Most of what goes into your delicious aloo paratha is imported food engineered by breeding. Like all life on the earth, we too are genetically engineered. Our own migrations, mixing, isolation, and endogamy have shuffled our genes and how they respond to our environment.

However, very little of all this — immensely valuable in building civilisations — was driven by deliberate ideas or theory. Engineering organisms through this method of breeding and selecting for characters that are desired is slow, taking decades or even hundreds or thousands of years.

Canvas of genome engineering since the late 19th century and through the 20th century to the present, successive revolutions in biology have demonstrated how humans can engineer nature in our laboratories. These were driven by ideas as well as our revelations in natural sciences, mathematics, and computer science. Human societies have long demonstrated the capacity to modify nature, a capability that we have cradled held for millennia. Today, we wield this with a power and intensity that no one ever could, and with a greater responsibility upon us even as we open new avenues.

The broad canvas of genome engineering can be divided for convenience into three compartments: humans, plants, and microbial engineering. Public demand, acceptance, and apprehension vary considerably across these sectors. Understanding how we accept, raise concerns or reject technologies involves science, culture, market, and politics.

Engineering germ-line cells — sperm or egg — to alter genes in a way that allows changes to be transmitted to the next generation is not legally permitted in most countries. Engineering somatic cells — the cells of our body whose genes are not carried to our progeny — is regulated and allowed and is happening in many situations. Cells of patients with certain kinds of cancers can be engineered so that their immune system is modified to attack cancerous cells. Because these treatments are given to patients who are severely ill, the risks are outweighed by the potential benefits.

Acceptance of Innovation
The acceptability of such interventions is high; indeed, they are welcomed. The value of gene therapies for well-defined inherited diseases is weighed against safety concerns coming from the toxicity of the gene delivery system, which may need to be injected at high concentrations for the treatment to be effective. Patient groups that are keen on treatment and cures for a wide variety of diseases, such as sickle-cell disease, thalassemia, and, potentially, muscular dystrophy, Huntington's disease, and a variety of other familial diseases, drive demands for drugs and genetic treatments. The costs of research and therapy, safety and efficacy considerations, long timelines, the operation of market forces, etc., are limiting the use of these technologies. There is no groundswell of opposition to



While arguments exist regarding the safety and the consequences of environmental release of genetically modified crops, they have been grown and consumed safely across the world for decades now. IAS/PW07

the idea of engineering somatic cells for therapy in humans.

Contrast the relative acceptability of genetic engineering approaches in human health to the situation in agriculture and horticulture. In the U.S. and Canada, almost all the maize, soybean, and cotton is made from genetically engineered plants designed for pest resistance or herbicide resistance. Canada is a large producer of canola, almost all of it from genetically engineered plants. These products are exported all over the world, including to Europe and India, where they are not allowed to be grown. Yet a large proportion of Europe's animal feed is imported from the Americas and is from genetically modified plants.

The arguments against genetically modified food come from a range of positions about their safety and the consequences of environmental release, about how they result in monoculture and reduce diversity, and how they result in the domination of big seed and farm companies that hold the key patents and control the market.

However, genetically modified crops have been grown and consumed safely for decades now. The dominance of seed companies is not a consequence of the use of genetically modified plants and is present independent of whether their products are genetically modified or not. Monoculture and the dominance of marketable varieties have happened independent of the use of genetically modified plants. The classical green revolution — i.e. the breeding of high-yielding varieties of cereals — did not require laboratory genetic engineering. Some of the criticism may be justified but the fact remains that acceptance of innovation in some areas is slow or never, and remarkably fast in other related areas.

Synthetic biology and biotechnology provide another context where genetic engineering is growing rapidly. Several drugs — insulin is a common example — are made by recombinant DNA technology and directly injected into us. The anti-malarial natural product artemisinin can now be made by

microbes in the laboratory and does not have to be extracted from plants. Many natural products are now synthesised in large amounts in the laboratory using genetic engineering.

The 'weight loss' drug semaglutide, which is the active ingredient in Ozempic and Wegovy, is a relatively recent example of synthetic biology's reach. Its natural equivalent in our bodies decays in minutes, but the synthetic version grown in baker's yeast can stay on for weeks, ensuring its efficacy. Synthetic biology has transformed the diagnosis of animal and plant diseases, made vaccines that have prevented millions of deaths of humans and livestock, and developed what are called biologics: genetically engineered antibodies and proteins that are used to treat cancers and other diseases. Developed largely by energetic startups, followed usually by collaboration with big companies, these drugs are less-expensively made when they eventually go off patent. Here, there is little or no lament against their being used in humans, except to despair of their cost and accessibility.

Wheels of the chariot

Ideas that move into application have emerged where they have been challenged, tested, discarded or accepted, and where societal debates on them have flourished. When the flexibility to put out ideas and test them diminishes, as in Europe in agriculture or the U.S. in infectious disease research, the global supply chain of ideas gets hit and these geographies reform or new geographies for ideas take root. How societies respond to ideas also affects how further potentially transformative new ones emerge. Trefler Lysenko and his acolytes managed to destroy Soviet agriculture by smashing the core ideas of genetics, and in doing so also managed to kill new ideas in biology. Mathematics and physics, lying outside the realm of genetic re-ent, escaped his attention and thrived. One can selectively destroy the capacity for new ideas but this is never a viable route.

We do not find societies where only

ideas thrive without any innovation — nor others where true innovation thrives without original ideas. But we can find societies where there is imitation and incremental development, standing on the discoveries and innovation of others.

For true innovation, as opposed to imitation and catching up, a reasonable regulatory system is also needed. A completely risk-averse regulatory system is by definition very safe, allowing only those innovations to grow that have been tested by others elsewhere over the years. This results in a society that may become good at high-volume low-value products whose technological and market effectiveness has been demonstrated elsewhere. Not to be snuffed at, but certainly not sufficient for a large country like ours, and not sufficient to stimulate new and daring ideas.

With the acceleration of biotechnologies in all their diversity, rigorous but enabling regulatory oversight is essential. Today, information from genome sequences in the context of how we analyse information, in this partnership powers the generation of new ideas about how life works and new ideas about what life itself is. These, in turn, will rapidly feed into new findings and new innovations.

If regulation is only about safety and curbing, and demanding compliance with an ever-changing process, it will curb enthusiasm for daring ideas and explanations about the complexities and meaning of life. Modest and unambitious approaches, thus encouraged, are a self-defeating oxymoron. In this highly regulated situation, both ideas and innovation will be stifled. The 'one-size-fits-all' approach of quality is what one will have to take pride in, at best. The life sciences, unlike many other technologies, are simpler to scale, moving from ideas and discovery to innovations and applications. In particular, theory and computational approaches in the life sciences must be strongly encouraged and can be very effective. Narrowly demarcating applications and results can be counterproductive, yet focus and quality along with daring are required.

Fundamental and applied research are the wheels of the chariot. If we run one where we will go in circles, we must over-regulate; the chariot will be stuck in regulatory quicksand and we will go nowhere. If we under-regulate, we cannot steer the direction the horses are to take us, and they may well take us to a precipice. Wise regulation that not only deals with the present but also with an unknown and uncertain future will release human ingenuity and result in our ability to take the most complex and unforeseen challenges.

(Dr. Vijayaraghavan is the DAE-Homi Bhabha Chair, TIFR-National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore. vijay@ncbs.res.in)

23A. Societies embrace gene therapy but resist genetic change in crops

समाज जीन थेरेपी को अपनाते हैं, लेकिन फसलों में आनुवंशिक परिवर्तन का विरोध करते हैं

• Our debates and discussions on technology are currently dominated by artificial intelligence (AI).

हमारी प्रौद्योगिकी पर बहस और चर्चाएँ वर्तमान में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) द्वारा प्रमुख रूप से प्रभावित हैं।

• Conversations around this subject are rarely about whether AI will envelop our lives or not, but about how and when it will do so.

इस विषय पर चर्चाएँ अब इस बात पर नहीं होतीं कि AI हमारे जीवन को प्रभावित करेगा या नहीं, बल्कि इस पर होती हैं कि यह कैसे और कब ऐसा करेगा।

• The chariot taking us to the future has another horse — biotechnology — galloping at the same breakneck speed as its twin, but puzzlingly not central enough to our discussions.

भविष्य की ओर ले जाने वाले इस रथ का एक और घोड़ा — जैव प्रौद्योगिकी (biotechnology) — भी समान तीव्र गति से दौड़ रहा है, लेकिन आश्चर्यजनक रूप से हमारी चर्चाओं में उतना केंद्र में नहीं है।

• This steed has also matured, and the question before us is whether we have the ability to generate new ideas in science that can steer the chariot in directions we value or if we are destined to go where it takes us.



यह क्षेत्र भी परिपक्व हो चुका है, और प्रश्न यह है कि क्या हमारे पास नए वैज्ञानिक विचार उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता है जो इस रथ को हमारी इच्छित दिशा में ले जाएँ, या हम केवल उसी दिशा में जाने के लिए बाध्य हैं जहाँ यह हमें ले जाए।

- **Our ability to engineer life is not recent.**
जीवन को इंजीनियर करने की हमारी क्षमता नई नहीं है।
- **For more than 10,000 years we have bred and domesticated plants, animals, and microbes.**
हमने 10,000 वर्षों से अधिक समय से पौधों, पशुओं और सूक्ष्मजीवों का प्रजनन और वशीकरण किया है।
- **In our migrations across the planet, we have often taken with us these organisms and diseases across continents.**
हमारे वैश्विक प्रवास के दौरान हम इन जीवों और रोगों को विभिन्न महाद्वीपों में साथ ले गए।
- **The passengers on our migration often wreaked ecological devastation in their new homes.**
हमारे साथ गए ये जीव कई बार अपने नए स्थानों पर पारिस्थितिक विनाश का कारण बने।
- **At other times they adapted well and were of great value to our societies.**
कभी-कभी ये जीव अच्छी तरह अनुकूलित हुए और हमारे समाजों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सिद्ध हुए।
- **Much of the food we eat in India today is from non-native plants and animals.**
आज भारत में जो भोजन हम करते हैं, उसका बड़ा हिस्सा विदेशी मूल के पौधों और पशुओं से आता है।
- **Our ecosystem has adapted these organisms, engineered by breeding.**
हमारे पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र ने इन जीवों को प्रजनन के माध्यम से अनुकूलित किया है।
- **Most of what goes into your delicious aloo paratha is imported food engineered by breeding.**
आपके स्वादिष्ट आलू पराठा में प्रयुक्त अधिकांश सामग्री विदेशी मूल की है जिसे प्रजनन द्वारा विकसित किया गया है।
- **Like all life on the earth, we too are much engineered.**
पृथ्वी के अन्य जीवन की तरह, हम स्वयं भी काफी हद तक इंजीनियर किए गए हैं।
- **Our own migrations, mixing, isolation, and endogamy have shuffled our genes and how they respond to our environment.**
हमारे प्रवास, मिश्रण, अलगाव और अंतर्विवाह ने हमारे जीन और उनके पर्यावरणीय प्रतिक्रिया को प्रभावित किया है।
- **However, very little of all this was driven by deliberate ideas or theory.**
हालाँकि, यह सब बहुत कम सिद्धांत या योजनाबद्ध विचारों द्वारा संचालित था।
- **Engineering organisms by breeding and selection is slow, taking decades or even centuries.**
प्रजनन और चयन द्वारा जीवों का इंजीनियरिंग एक धीमी प्रक्रिया है, जिसमें दशकों या सदियों का समय लगता है।

Canvas of genome engineering / जीनोम इंजीनियरिंग का परिदृश्य

- **Since the late 19th century, successive revolutions in biology have enabled humans to engineer nature in laboratories.**
19वीं शताब्दी के अंत से, जीवविज्ञान में हुई क्रांतियों ने मनुष्यों को प्रयोगशालाओं में प्रकृति को नियंत्रित करने की क्षमता दी है।
- **These revolutions were driven by ideas similar to those in natural sciences and mathematics.**
ये क्रांतियाँ प्राकृतिक विज्ञान और गणित की तरह विचारों से प्रेरित थीं।
- **Human societies have long modified nature, but now with unprecedented power and responsibility.**



मानव समाज लंबे समय से प्रकृति को परिवर्तित करते आए हैं, लेकिन अब यह कार्य अभूतपूर्व शक्ति और जिम्मेदारी के साथ हो रहा है।

- **Genome engineering can be divided into humans, plants, and microbial engineering.** जीनोम इंजीनियरिंग को मानव, पौधे और सूक्ष्मजीव इंजीनियरिंग में विभाजित किया जा सकता है।
- **Public acceptance and concern vary across these sectors.** इन क्षेत्रों में जन स्वीकृति और चिंता अलग-अलग स्तर पर है।
- **Understanding acceptance involves science, society, culture, market, and politics.** स्वीकृति को समझने में विज्ञान, समाज, संस्कृति, बाजार और राजनीति सभी शामिल हैं।
- **Engineering germ-line cells is not legally permitted in most countries.** जर्म-लाइन कोशिकाओं का इंजीनियरिंग अधिकांश देशों में कानूनी रूप से प्रतिबंधित है।
- **Engineering somatic cells is allowed and regulated.** सोमैटिक कोशिकाओं का इंजीनियरिंग नियंत्रित और अनुमत्त है।
- **Cancer patients' cells can be engineered to modify the immune system.** कैंसर रोगियों की कोशिकाओं को इस प्रकार इंजीनियर किया जा सकता है कि उनका प्रतिरक्षा तंत्र संशोधित हो जाए।
- **These treatments are justified as benefits outweigh risks.** इन उपचारों में लाभ जोखिमों से अधिक होते हैं, इसलिए इन्हें उचित माना जाता है।

Acceptance of innovation / नवाचार की स्वीकृति

- The acceptability of such **interventions** is high; indeed, they are welcomed. ऐसे **हस्तक्षेपों** की स्वीकृति उच्च है; वास्तव में, उनका स्वागत किया जाता है।
- The value of **gene therapies** for well-defined **inherited diseases** is weighed against safety concerns coming from the **toxicity of the gene delivery system**, which may need to be injected at high concentrations for the treatment to be effective. स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित **अनुवांशिक रोगों** के लिए **जीन थेरेपी** का मूल्य **जीन डिलीवरी प्रणाली की विषाक्तता** से संबंधित सुरक्षा चिंताओं के साथ संतुलित किया जाता है, जिसके प्रभावी होने के लिए उच्च मात्रा में इंजेक्शन देना पड़ सकता है।
- **Patient groups** that are keen on treatment and cures for diseases such as **sickle-cell disease, thalassemias, muscular dystrophies, Huntington's disease**, and other familial diseases drive demands for **drugs and genetic treatments**. वे रोगी समूह, जो **सिकल-सेल रोग, थैलेसीमिया, मस्क्युलर डिस्ट्रॉफी, हंटिंगटन रोग** और अन्य पारिवारिक रोगों के उपचार के इच्छुक हैं, **दवाओं और जीन आधारित उपचारों** की मांग को बढ़ाते हैं।
- The costs of **research and therapy**, safety and **efficacy considerations**, long timelines, and **market forces** limit the use of these technologies. **अनुसंधान और उपचार की लागत, सुरक्षा और प्रभावशीलता, लंबे समय और बाजार शक्तियाँ** इन तकनीकों के उपयोग को सीमित करती हैं।
- There is no **groundswell of opposition** to engineering **somatic cells** for therapy in humans. मनुष्यों में उपचार हेतु **सोमैटिक कोशिकाओं के इंजीनियरिंग** के प्रति कोई व्यापक **विरोध** नहीं है।
- Contrast the relative acceptability of **genetic engineering in human health** to the situation in **agriculture and horticulture**. **मानव स्वास्थ्य में जीन इंजीनियरिंग** की अपेक्षाकृत स्वीकृति की तुलना **कृषि और बागवानी** की स्थिति से की जा सकती है।
- **In the U.S. and Canada, most maize, soybean, and cotton are from genetically engineered plants designed for pest resistance or herbicide resistance.** **अमेरिका और कनाडा** में अधिकांश **मक्का, सोयाबीन और कपास** **आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित पौधों** से उत्पादित होते हैं, जो **कीट प्रतिरोध या खरपतवारनाशी प्रतिरोध** के लिए बनाए गए हैं।



- Canada is a major producer of **canola**, mostly from **genetically engineered plants**.
कनाडा कैनोला का प्रमुख उत्पादक है, जो मुख्यतः आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित पौधों से उत्पन्न होता है।
- These products are exported worldwide, including to **Europe and India**, where they are not allowed to be grown.
इन उत्पादों का निर्यात यूरोप और भारत सहित विश्वभर में होता है, जहाँ इन्हें उगाने की अनुमति नहीं है।
- A large proportion of **Europe's animal feed** is imported from the Americas and is derived from **genetically modified plants**.
यूरोप के पशु आहार का एक बड़ा हिस्सा अमेरिका से आयातित होता है और आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित पौधों से प्राप्त होता है।
- Arguments against **genetically modified food** include concerns about **safety, environmental impact, monoculture, and corporate control**.
आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित खाद्य के विरुद्ध तर्कों में सुरक्षा, पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव, एकल फसल प्रणाली, और कॉर्पोरेट नियंत्रण की चिंताएँ शामिल हैं।
- However, **genetically modified crops** have been grown and consumed safely for decades.
हालाँकि, आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित फसलें दशकों से सुरक्षित रूप से उगाई और उपभोग की जा रही हैं।
- The **dominance of seed companies** exists independent of genetic modification.
बीज कंपनियों का प्रभुत्व आनुवंशिक संशोधन से स्वतंत्र रूप से भी मौजूद है।
- **Monoculture** and **dominance of market varieties** occurred even before genetic engineering.
एकल फसल प्रणाली और बाजार आधारित किस्मों का प्रभुत्व जीन इंजीनियरिंग से पहले भी मौजूद था।
- The **Green Revolution** used **breeding, not laboratory genetic engineering**.
हरित क्रांति में प्रयोगशाला आधारित जीन इंजीनियरिंग नहीं बल्कि प्रजनन तकनीक का उपयोग हुआ।
- Some criticism may be valid, but acceptance of innovation varies widely across sectors.
कुछ आलोचनाएँ उचित हो सकती हैं, लेकिन नवाचार की स्वीकृति विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में अलग-अलग होती है।

Synthetic biology and biotechnology / सिंथेटिक जीवविज्ञान और जैव प्रौद्योगिकी

- **Synthetic biology and biotechnology provide another context where genetic engineering is growing rapidly.**
सिंथेटिक जीवविज्ञान और जैव प्रौद्योगिकी एक अन्य संदर्भ प्रदान करते हैं जहाँ जीन इंजीनियरिंग तीव्र गति से बढ़ रही है।
- **Several drugs — insulin is a common example — are made by recombinant DNA technology and directly injected into us.**
कई दवाएँ — इंसुलिन एक सामान्य उदाहरण है — रिकॉम्बिनेंट डीएनए तकनीक द्वारा बनाई जाती हैं और सीधे शरीर में दी जाती हैं।
- The anti-malarial natural product **artemisinin** can now be made by microbes in the **laboratory** and does not have to be extracted from plants.
एंटी-मलेरियल प्राकृतिक उत्पाद आर्टेमिसिनिन अब प्रयोगशाला में सूक्ष्मजीवों द्वारा बनाया जा सकता है और इसे पौधों से निकालने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- Many natural products are now synthesised in large amounts in the laboratory using **genetic engineering**.
कई प्राकृतिक उत्पाद अब जीन इंजीनियरिंग का उपयोग करके प्रयोगशाला में बड़े पैमाने पर संश्लेषित किए जाते हैं।
- The '**weight-loss**' drug **semaglutide**, which is the active ingredient in **Ozempic and Wegovy**, is a relatively recent example of **synthetic biology's reach**.
वजन घटाने की दवा सेमाग्लूटाइड, जो ओजेम्पिक और वेगोवी में सक्रिय घटक है, सिंथेटिक जीवविज्ञान की पहुँच का एक हालिया उदाहरण है।
- Its natural equivalent in our bodies decays in minutes, but the synthetic version grown in **baker's yeast** can stay on for weeks, ensuring its **efficacy**.



हमारे शरीर में इसका प्राकृतिक रूप कुछ ही मिनटों में नष्ट हो जाता है, लेकिन बेकर थीस्ट में विकसित इसका कृत्रिम रूप कई हफ्तों तक सक्रिय रहता है, जिससे इसकी प्रभावशीलता सुनिश्चित होती है।

- **Synthetic biology has transformed the diagnosis of animal and plant diseases**, made **vaccines** that have prevented millions of deaths of humans and livestock, and developed what are called **biologics: genetically engineered antibodies and proteins** that are used to treat cancers and other diseases.
सिंथेटिक जीवविज्ञान ने पशु और पौधों की बीमारियों के निदान को परिवर्तित किया है, ऐसे टीके बनाए हैं जिन्होंने मनुष्यों और पशुओं की लाखों मौतों को रोका है, और बायोलॉजिक्स — जीन इंजीनियर किए गए एंटीबाँडी और प्रोटीन विकसित किए हैं जो कैंसर और अन्य बीमारियों के उपचार में उपयोग होते हैं।
- Developed largely by **energetic startups**, followed usually by collaboration with **big companies**, these drugs are **less-expensively made when they eventually go off patent**. मुख्यतः ऊर्जावान स्टार्टअप्स द्वारा विकसित, और बाद में बड़ी कंपनियों के साथ सहयोग से, ये दवाएँ पेटेंट समाप्त होने पर कम लागत में बनाई जाती हैं।
- Here, there is little or no lament against their being used in humans, except to despair of their **cost and accessibility**. यहाँ इनके उपयोग के विरुद्ध बहुत कम या कोई विरोध नहीं है, केवल उनकी लागत और उपलब्धता को लेकर चिंता है।

Wheels of the chariot / रथ के पहिए

- **Ideas that move into application have emerged where they have been challenged, tested, discarded or accepted, and where societal debates on them have flourished.** वे विचार जो व्यवहार में आते हैं, वहीं उत्पन्न होते हैं जहाँ उन्हें चुनौती दी गई, परखा गया, अस्वीकार या स्वीकार किया गया, और जहाँ उन पर सामाजिक बहसें विकसित हुईं।
- When the **flexibility to put out ideas and test them diminishes**, as in **Europe in agriculture** or the **U.S. in infectious disease research**, the **global supply chain of ideas gets broken** until these geographies reform or new geographies for ideas take root. जब विचार प्रस्तुत करने और परखने की लचीलापन कम हो जाती है, जैसे यूरोप में कृषि या अमेरिका में संक्रामक रोग अनुसंधान में, तब विचारों की वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला टूट जाती है, जब तक कि ये क्षेत्र सुधार न करें या नए विचार केंद्र विकसित न हों।
- How societies respond to ideas also affects how further **potentially transformative new ones emerge**. समाज विचारों पर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया देता है, यह भी तय करता है कि आगे संभावित रूप से परिवर्तनकारी नए विचार कैसे उत्पन्न होंगे।
- **Trofim Lysenko and his acolytes managed to destroy Soviet agriculture by smashing the core ideas of genetics**, and in doing so also managed to **kill new ideas in biology**. ट्रॉफिम लाइसेन्को और उनके अनुयायियों ने आनुवंशिकी के मूल सिद्धांतों को नष्ट कर सोवियत कृषि को नष्ट कर दिया, और इस प्रक्रिया में उन्होंने जीवविज्ञान में नए विचारों को भी समाप्त कर दिया।
- **Mathematics and physics, lying outside his interest and remit, escaped his attention and thrived.** गणित और भौतिकी, जो उनके रुचि क्षेत्र से बाहर थे, उनके ध्यान से बच गए और विकसित होते रहे।
- One can selectively destroy the **capacity for new ideas** but this is never a **stable route**. नए विचारों की क्षमता को चयनात्मक रूप से नष्ट किया जा सकता है, लेकिन यह कभी भी स्थायी मार्ग नहीं होता।

Ideas, innovation and regulation / विचार, नवाचार और विनियमन

- We do not • nd societies where only **ideas thrive** without any **innovation** — nor others where true **innovation thrives** without **original ideas**.



हम ऐसे समाज नहीं पाते जहाँ केवल विचार विकसित हों बिना किसी नवाचार के — और न ही ऐसे जहाँ वास्तविक नवाचार बिना मौलिक विचारों के विकसित हो।

- But we can find societies where there is **imitation and incremental development**, standing on the discoveries and innovation of others.
लेकिन हम ऐसे समाज पाते हैं जहाँ **अनुकरण और क्रमिक विकास** होता है, जो दूसरों की खोजों और नवाचारों पर आधारित होता है।
- For true **innovation**, as opposed to imitation and catching up, a **reasonable regulatory system** is also needed.
वास्तविक नवाचार के लिए, केवल अनुकरण और पीछे से आने के बजाय, एक उचित विनियामक प्रणाली आवश्यक है।
- A completely **risk-averse regulatory system** is by definition very safe, allowing only those innovations to grow that have been tested by others elsewhere over the years.
एक पूर्णतः **जोखिम से बचने वाली विनियामक प्रणाली** अत्यंत सुरक्षित होती है, जो केवल उन्हीं नवाचारों को बढ़ने देती है जिन्हें अन्य स्थानों पर पहले ही परखा जा चुका है।
- This results in a society that may become good at **high-volume low-value products** whose technological and market effectiveness has been demonstrated elsewhere.
इससे एक ऐसा समाज बनता है जो **अधिक मात्रा में कम मूल्य वाले उत्पादों** में कुशल हो सकता है, जिनकी तकनीकी और बाजार प्रभावशीलता पहले ही अन्यत्र सिद्ध हो चुकी है।
- Not to be snubbed at, but certainly not sufficient for a **large country like ours**, and not sufficient to stimulate **new and daring ideas**.
यह पूरी तरह से नकारने योग्य नहीं है, लेकिन यह **हमारे जैसे बड़े देश** के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है और **नए व साहसिक विचारों** को प्रेरित करने के लिए भी पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- With the acceleration of **biotechnologies**, rigorous but **enabling regulatory oversight** is essential.
जैव प्रौद्योगिकियों के तीव्र विकास के साथ, कठोर लेकिन **सक्षम बनाने वाला विनियामक पर्यवेक्षण** आवश्यक है।
- Today, information from **genome sequences** in the context of how the environment and genes affect outcomes partners with the growth of how we analyse information.
आज **जीनोम अनुक्रमों से प्राप्त जानकारी**, जो यह बताती है कि पर्यावरण और जीन परिणामों को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं, हमारे **सूचना विश्लेषण के विकास** के साथ जुड़ रही है।
- This partnership powers the generation of **new ideas** about how life works and what life itself is.
यह साझेदारी यह समझने में **नए विचार उत्पन्न करती है** कि जीवन कैसे कार्य करता है और जीवन क्या है।
- These, in turn, will rapidly feed into **new findings and new innovations**.
ये आगे चलकर तेजी से **नई खोजों और नए नवाचारों** को जन्म देंगे।
- If regulation is only about **safety and curbing**, and demanding compliance with an ever-changing process, it will curb **enthusiasm for daring ideas**.
यदि विनियमन केवल **सुरक्षा और नियंत्रण** तक सीमित हो और लगातार बदलती प्रक्रियाओं के अनुपालन की मांग करे, तो यह **साहसिक विचारों के प्रति उत्साह** को कम कर देगा।
- Modest and **unambitious approaches** thus encouraged are a **self-defeating oxymoron**.
इस प्रकार प्रोत्साहित किए गए **सीमित और महत्वाकांक्षाहीन दृष्टिकोण** एक **स्व-विरोधी स्थिति** बन जाते हैं।
- In this highly regulated situation, both **ideas and innovation** will happen elsewhere.
ऐसी अत्यधिक विनियमित स्थिति में **विचार और नवाचार** दोनों ही अन्य स्थानों पर विकसित होंगे।
- **Reverse engineering of quality** is what one will have to take pride in, at best.
अधिकतम, व्यक्ति को **गुणवत्ता के रिवर्स इंजीनियरिंग** पर ही गर्व करना होगा।
- The **life sciences**, unlike many other technologies, are simpler to scale from ideas to applications.
जीवन विज्ञान, अन्य तकनीकों की तुलना में, विचारों से अनुप्रयोग तक ले जाना अपेक्षाकृत सरल होता है।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- In particular, **theory and computational approaches** in life sciences must be strongly encouraged.
विशेष रूप से, जीवन विज्ञान में **सैद्धांतिक और संगणनात्मक दृष्टिकोणों** को प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए।
- Narrowly demanding **application and results** can be counterproductive.
केवल **अनुप्रयोग और परिणामों** की संकीर्ण मांग करना प्रतिकूल हो सकता है।
- Yet **focus, quality and daring** are required.
फिर भी **एकाग्रता, गुणवत्ता और साहस** आवश्यक हैं।
- **Fundamental and applied research** are the **wheels of the chariot**.
मौलिक और अनुप्रयुक्त अनुसंधान इस रथ के पहिए हैं।
- If we ruin one wheel, we will go in circles.
यदि हम एक पहिए को नष्ट कर देंगे, तो हम **चक्र में ही घूमते रहेंगे**।
- If we **over-regulate**, the chariot will be stuck in **regulatory quicksand**.
यदि हम **अत्यधिक विनियमन** करेंगे, तो रथ **नियामक दलदल** में फँस जाएगा।
- If we **under-regulate**, we cannot steer the direction.
यदि हम **कम विनियमन** करेंगे, तो हम दिशा नियंत्रित नहीं कर पाएँगे।
- They may take us to a **precipice**.
वे हमें **खाई के किनारे** तक ले जा सकते हैं।
- **Wise regulation** that deals with present and future will release **human ingenuity**.
संतुलित और विवेकपूर्ण विनियमन, जो वर्तमान और भविष्य दोनों को ध्यान में रखे, **मानव रचनात्मकता** को मुक्त करेगा।
- It will help tackle the most **complex and unforeseen challenges**.
यह हमें सबसे **जटिल और अप्रत्याशित चुनौतियों** से निपटने में सक्षम बनाएगा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Extreme heat threatens food systems, warn UN agencies

GS III: S&T
Reuters

Extrême heat is pushing global agrifood systems to the brink, threatening the livelihoods and health of more than a billion people, according to a new report by the UN's food and weather agencies.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said heatwaves are becoming more frequent, intense and prolonged, damaging crops, livestock, fisheries, and forests.

For livestock, the report details a thermal humidity index that, when

Extreme heat intensifies droughts and pest outbreaks, and cuts yields once critical temperature thresholds are breached

breached, will trigger acute heat stress.

In dairy cattle, this manifests as a 15% to 25% drop in milk production and significant drops in fertility rates. Scientists have noted similar stressors in poultry, where extreme temperature spikes can lead to mass mortality events in facilities without industrial-level climate control.

"Extreme heat is rewriting the script on what farmers, fishers, and foresters can grow and when they can grow. In some cases it is even dictating if they can still work," said Kaveh Zahedi, head of FAO's climate change office. "At its core, this report is telling us that we face a very uncertain future," he said.

Recent climate datasets show global warming is accelerating, with 2025 ranking among the three hottest years on record, triggering more frequent and severe weather extremes.

Acting as a risk multiplier, extreme heat intensifies droughts, wildfires, and pest outbreaks and sharply cuts crop yields once critical temperature thresholds are breached.

The report said higher temperatures are shrinking the safety margin that plants, animals, and humans rely on to function.

Beyond just dehydration, extreme heat disrupts the rest period of plants. High nighttime temperatures force crops to maintain high respiration rates after dark, consuming the energy stores they built through photosynthesis during the day.

This exhaustion stunts growth and leads to pollen sterility in staple crops like maize and rice, where heat during the critical flowering window can altogether prevent fertilisation, resulting in empty husks. Marine heatwaves are also becoming more frequent, depleting oxygen levels in water and threatening fish stocks. In 2024, 91% of the world's oceans experienced at least one marine heatwave, the report said.

Risks rise sharply as warming accelerates. The intensity of extreme heat events is expected to roughly double at 2C of warming and quadruple at 3C, compared to 1.5C, the report said.

Mr. Zahedi said every one-degree rise in average global temperatures cuts yields of maize, rice, soya, and wheat by around 6%.

The FAO and WMO said piecemeal responses were inadequate and called for better risk governance and early-warning weather systems to help farmers and fishers take preventive action.

23A. Extreme heat threatens food systems, warn UN agencies

अत्यधिक गर्मी खाद्य प्रणालियों के लिए खतरा है, संयुक्त राष्ट्र एजेंसियों ने चेतावनी दी

Extreme heat / अत्यधिक गर्मी



- **Extreme heat is pushing global agrifood systems to the brink, threatening the livelihoods and health of more than a billion people, according to a new report by the UN's food and weather agencies.**
अत्यधिक गर्मी वैश्विक कृषि-खाद्य प्रणालियों को संकट की स्थिति तक धकेल रही है, जिससे एक अरब से अधिक लोगों की आजीविका और स्वास्थ्य खतरे में हैं, यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र की खाद्य और मौसम एजेंसियों की नई रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है।
- The **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** said heatwaves are becoming more **frequent, intense and prolonged**, damaging crops, livestock, fisheries, and forests.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र खाद्य एवं कृषि संगठन (FAO) और विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन (WMO) ने कहा कि हीटवेव अधिक बार, तीव्र और लंबी हो रही हैं, जिससे फसलें, पशुधन, मत्स्य और वन प्रभावित हो रहे हैं।
- For livestock, the report details a **thermal humidity index** that, when breached, will trigger **acute heat stress**.
पशुधन के लिए, रिपोर्ट में एक **थर्मल ह्यूमिडिटी इंडेक्स** का उल्लेख है, जिसे पार करने पर **तीव्र तापीय तनाव** उत्पन्न होता है।
- In dairy cattle, this manifests as a **15% to 25% drop in milk production** and significant drops in **fertility rates**.
डेयरी पशुओं में यह दूध उत्पादन में **15% से 25% की गिरावट** और **प्रजनन दर में कमी** के रूप में दिखाई देता है।
- Scientists have noted similar stressors in poultry, where **extreme temperature spikes** can lead to **mass mortality events** in facilities without industrial-level climate control.
वैज्ञानिकों ने पोल्ट्री में भी ऐसे ही प्रभाव देखे हैं, जहाँ **अत्यधिक तापमान वृद्धि** के कारण बिना उन्नत नियंत्रण वाली इकाइयों में **सामूहिक मृत्यु घटनाएँ** हो सकती हैं।
- **“Extreme heat is rewriting the script** on what farmers, sheers, and foresters can grow and when they can grow.
“अत्यधिक गर्मी यह तय कर रही है कि किसान, मछुआरे और वनपाल क्या और कब उगा सकते हैं।
- In some cases it is even dictating if they can still work,” said **Kaveh Zahedi**, head of FAO's climate change office.
कुछ मामलों में यह तय कर रही है कि वे काम कर सकते हैं या नहीं,” **कावेह ज़ाहेदी**, FAO के जलवायु परिवर्तन कार्यालय प्रमुख ने कहा।
- “At its core, this report is telling us that we face a very **uncertain future**,” he said.
“इसका मूल संदेश है कि हम एक **अनिश्चित भविष्य** का सामना कर रहे हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- Recent climate datasets show **global warming is accelerating**, with **2025 ranking among the three hottest years on record**, triggering more frequent and severe weather extremes.
हालिया जलवायु आंकड़े दिखाते हैं कि **वैश्विक तापन तेज हो रहा है**, और **2025 अब तक के तीन सबसे गर्म वर्षों में शामिल है**, जिससे अधिक बार और गंभीर मौसम घटनाएँ हो रही हैं।
- Acting as a **risk multiplier**, extreme heat intensifies **droughts, wildfires, and pest outbreaks** and sharply cuts crop yields once **critical temperature thresholds** are breached.
जोखिम गुणक के रूप में कार्य करते हुए, अत्यधिक गर्मी **सूखा, जंगल की आग और कीट प्रकोप** को बढ़ाती है और **महत्वपूर्ण तापमान सीमा** पार होने पर फसल उत्पादन को घटा देती है।
- The report said higher temperatures are shrinking the **safety margin** that plants, animals, and humans rely on to function.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि बढ़ते तापमान **सुरक्षा सीमा** को कम कर रहे हैं जिस पर **पौधे, पशु और मनुष्य** निर्भर हैं।
- Beyond just dehydration, extreme heat disrupts the **rest period of plants**.
केवल निर्जलीकरण ही नहीं, अत्यधिक गर्मी **पौधों की विश्राम अवधि** को भी बाधित करती है।
- High nighttime temperatures force crops to maintain **high respiration rates**, consuming the energy stores built through **photosynthesis**.



रात के उच्च तापमान फसलों को उच्च श्वसन दर बनाए रखने के लिए मजबूर करते हैं, जिससे प्रकाश संश्लेषण से प्राप्त ऊर्जा खर्च हो जाती है।

- This exhaustion stunts growth and leads to **pollen sterility** in staple crops like **maize and rice**.
यह थकावट विकास को रोकती है और **मक्का और चावल** जैसी फसलों में **पराग निष्क्रियता** उत्पन्न करती है।
- Heat during the critical **flowering window** can prevent fertilisation, resulting in **empty husks**.
महत्वपूर्ण **फूल आने की अवधि** में गर्मी **निषेचन को रोक सकती है**, जिससे **खाली दाने** बनते हैं।
- **Marine heatwaves** are also becoming more frequent, depleting **oxygen levels in water** and threatening **fish stocks**.
समुद्री हीटवेव भी बढ़ रही हैं, जिससे पानी में **ऑक्सीजन स्तर घट रहा है** और **मछली भंडार** खतरे में हैं।
- In 2024, **91% of the world's oceans** experienced at least one marine heatwave.
2024 में **दुनिया के 91% महासागरों** ने कम से कम एक समुद्री हीटवेव का अनुभव किया।
- Risks rise sharply as warming accelerates.
जैसे-जैसे तापमान बढ़ता है, **जोखिम तेजी से बढ़ते हैं**।
- The intensity of extreme heat events is expected to **double at 2°C** and **quadruple at 3°C**, compared to **1.5°C**.
अत्यधिक गर्मी की घटनाएँ **2°C पर दोगुनी** और **3°C पर चार गुना** होने की संभावना है, **1.5°C** की तुलना में।
- Every **one-degree rise** in global temperature cuts yields of **maize, rice, soya, and wheat by around 6%**.
वैश्विक तापमान में प्रत्येक **1°C वृद्धि** से **मक्का, चावल, सोया और गेहूँ** की पैदावार लगभग **6% घटती है**।
- The **FAO and WMO** said **piecemeal responses were inadequate** and called for better **risk governance** and **early-warning weather systems**.
FAO और WMO ने कहा कि **आंशिक उपाय पर्याप्त नहीं हैं** और बेहतर **जोखिम प्रबंधन** तथा **पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणाली** की आवश्यकता है।
- This will help farmers and **fishers** take **preventive action**.
इससे किसान और मछुआरे **निवारक कदम** उठा सकेंगे।



Young Chinese use AI to launch one-person firms over job anxiety

GS III: S&T

Agence France-Presse
SHANGHAI

Young Chinese, many who fear age discrimination in their workplace after turning 35, are increasingly starting “one-person companies” that have artificial intelligence do most of the work.

More young people in China are subscribing to the model, as cities pledge millions of dollars in funding and rent subsidies for such ventures, in alignment with Beijing’s political goal of “technological self-reliance”.

“The one-person company is a product of the AI era,” said Karen Dai, founder of Shanghai-based SoloNest, which hosts wee-



Participants sharing their ideas during a coffee chat hosted by one person company SoloNest at a conference room in Shanghai. AFP

kend events for solo entrepreneurs.

On a Sunday in Shanghai, around 20 people in their 20s and 30s packed into a conference room for Ms. Dai’s 134th iteration of a three-hour ideas swap on going it alone.

One attendee, Wang Tianyi, now earns up to 40,000 yuan (\$5,800) per month making AI-generated commercials for businesses.

The 26-year-old, who quit his product manager job at an internet company

last year, predicts that people flying solo will become a “major trend”.

Chinese municipalities are rolling out policies to support AI-powered one-person companies, using the initials “OPC”, a rare use of English in official policy.

In November, the eastern city of Suzhou vowed to cultivate “more than 10,000 OPC talents” by 2028 and funnel around 700 million yuan (\$100 million) towards sectors, including AI robotics, healthcare, and smart transportation.

Southwestern Chengdu also last month promised subsidies of up to 20,000 yuan for graduates to establish AI-driven OPCs.

23A. Young Chinese use AI to launch one-person firms over job anxiety

नौकरी की चिंता के चलते युवा चीनी AI की मदद से एक-व्यक्ति कंपनियाँ शुरू कर रहे हैं

- Young Chinese, many who fear **age discrimination** in their workplace after turning 35, are increasingly starting “**one-person companies**” that have **artificial intelligence** do most of the work.

युवा चीनी, जिनमें से कई 35 वर्ष की आयु के बाद कार्यस्थल में आयु भेदभाव से डरते हैं, तेजी से “एक-व्यक्ति कंपनियाँ” शुरू कर रहे हैं, जिनमें अधिकांश काम कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) करती है।

- More young people in China are subscribing to the model, as cities pledge millions of dollars in funding and rent subsidies for such ventures, in alignment with Beijing’s political goal of “**technological self-reliance**”.

चीन में अधिक युवा इस मॉडल को अपना रहे हैं, क्योंकि शहर इस तरह के उद्यमों के लिए लाखों डॉलर की फंडिंग और किराया सब्सिडी दे रहे हैं, जो बीजिंग के “तकनीकी आत्मनिर्भरता” के राजनीतिक लक्ष्य के अनुरूप है।

- “The one-person company is a product of the **AI era**,” said **Karen Dai**, founder of Shanghai-based **SoloNest**, which hosts weekend events for solo entrepreneurs.

“एक-व्यक्ति कंपनी AI युग का उत्पाद है,” शंघाई स्थित SoloNest की संस्थापक **करेन दाई** ने कहा, जो एकल उद्यमियों के लिए सप्ताहांत कार्यक्रम आयोजित करती है।

- On a Sunday in **Shanghai**, around 20 people in their 20s and 30s packed into a conference room for Ms. Dai’s 134th iteration of a three-hour ideas swap on going it alone.

शंघाई में एक रविवार को, 20 से 30 वर्ष की आयु के लगभग 20 लोग एक सम्मेलन कक्ष में एकत्र हुए, जहाँ सुश्री दाई के तीन घंटे के विचार-विमर्श सत्र का 134वाँ आयोजन हुआ, जिसमें अकेले काम करने के विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया गया।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- One attendee, **Wang Tianyi**, now earns up to **40,000 yuan (\$5,800)** per month making **AI-generated commercials** for businesses.
एक प्रतिभागी वांग तियानयी अब व्यवसायों के लिए **AI द्वारा बनाए गए विज्ञापन** तैयार करके प्रति माह **40,000 युआन (\$5,800)** तक कमाते हैं।
- The 26-year-old, who quit his **product manager** job at an internet company last year, predicts that people flying solo will become a “**major trend**”.
26 वर्षीय, जिन्होंने पिछले वर्ष एक इंटरनेट कंपनी में अपनी **प्रोडक्ट मैनेजर** की नौकरी छोड़ दी, का अनुमान है कि अकेले काम करना एक “**बड़ा रुझान**” बन जाएगा।
- Chinese municipalities are rolling out policies to support **AI-powered one-person companies**, using the initials “**OPC**”, a rare use of English in official policy.
चीनी नगरपालिकाएँ **AI-संचालित एक-व्यक्ति कंपनियों** को समर्थन देने के लिए नीतियाँ लागू कर रही हैं, जिनमें “**OPC**” संक्षेप का उपयोग किया जा रहा है, जो आधिकारिक नीति में अंग्रेज़ी का दुर्लभ उपयोग है।
- In November, the eastern city of **Suzhou** vowed to cultivate “more than **10,000 OPC talents**” by 2028 and funnel around **700 million yuan (\$100 million)** towards sectors, including **AI robotics**, healthcare, and smart transportation.
नवंबर में, पूर्वी शहर **सूझोउ** ने 2028 तक “**10,000 से अधिक OPC प्रतिभाएँ**” विकसित करने और **AI रोबोटिक्स**, स्वास्थ्य सेवा और स्मार्ट परिवहन जैसे क्षेत्रों में लगभग **700 मिलियन युआन (\$100 मिलियन)** निवेश करने का वादा किया।
- Southwestern **Chengdu** also last month promised subsidies of up to **20,000 yuan** for graduates to establish **AI-driven OPCs**.
दक्षिण-पश्चिमी **चेंगदू** ने भी पिछले महीने स्नातकों को **AI-आधारित OPCs** स्थापित करने के लिए **20,000 युआन** तक की सब्सिडी देने का वादा किया।

GS Paper III: Environment		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	Tamil Nadu and the climate question तमिलनाडु और जलवायु का प्रश्न	
23A	QUIZ	



It's in your hands



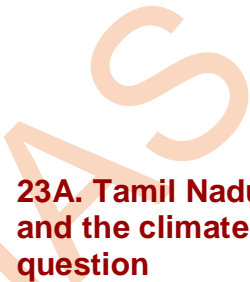
One home: Students take part in an awareness campaign organised on World Earth Day at the Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The theme of this year's earth day was 'Our Power, Our Planet'. K. MURALI KUMAR

One home: Students take part in an awareness campaign organised on World Earth Day at the Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The theme of this year's Earth day was 'Our Power, Our Planet'.

Tamil Nadu and the climate question

Tamil Nadu heads to the polls as an increasingly climate-exposed State shaped by cyclones, floods, droughts, and heatwaves while party manifestos signal a shift in climate language with promises on heat action, mobility, renewable energy, and resilience. The real test lies in institutional capacity, integration, implementation



23A. Tamil Nadu and the climate question

तमिलनाडु और जलवायु का प्रश्न

Tamil Nadu is one of India's most dynamic economies / तमिलनाडु भारत की सबसे गतिशील अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में से एक है

• Tamil Nadu is one of India's most dynamic economies and, increasingly, one of its most climate-exposed.

तमिलनाडु भारत की सबसे गतिशील अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में से एक है और धीरे-धीरे यह सबसे अधिक जलवायु-प्रभावित राज्यों में भी शामिल हो रहा है।

• Take just the last three years, for instance — **Cyclone Michaung** cost the State over **₹11,000 crore** in a single week in 2023.

उदाहरण के लिए पिछले तीन वर्षों को लें —

चक्रवात मिचोंग ने 2023

FULL CONTEXT

Sanjiv Gopal
Tamil Nadu is one of India's most dynamic economies and, increasingly, one of its most climate-exposed. Take just the last three years, for instance —

Cyclone Michaung cost the State over ₹11,000 crore in a single week in 2023. The compounded floods and droughts of 2024 added another ₹10,000 crore in economic losses.

Cyclone Ditwah destroyed crops across 2.1 lakh hectares of land, roughly the size of three lakh football fields. Add to this intensifying heatwaves across districts such as Madurai and Tiruchirappalli, along with significant loss of productivity due to extreme heat, and you have a State where political parties can no longer contest elections without commitment to climate action.

On April 23, as Tamil Nadu heads to the polls, the important question now seriously have the parties engaged with the climate crisis already reshaping the State? To answer this, we have examined their manifestos through a climate lens—going beyond promises explicitly labelled as climate policy to identify measures linked to heat action, flood mitigation, coastal protection, water management, and agricultural resilience.

DMK: leading on climate
The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) manifesto is among the more substantially climate-aware documents produced by any major party in Tamil Nadu for an Assembly election.

The standout section focuses on extreme heat. The manifesto promises to appoint District Heat Officers in every district and city — officials tasked with issuing localised heat warnings and enforcing workplace safety during extreme temperature events. Heat mortality in India is chronically undercounted, and the absence of accountable, district-level climate officers has long been a structural gap. If implemented, this single measure could save lives in the coming summers.

Alongside this, AI-based automatic micro-grid weather stations in every district would provide localised cyclone and heat warnings — a meaningful upgrade over city-level forecasting, which leaves farmers and coastal communities without adequate time to respond.

On mobility, the DMK sets an explicit target of 30% vehicle electrification by 2030, with electric bus services expanded to five cities. Building on the Vaidyalayanam scheme for women, the party has committed to inducting 10,000 new buses equipped with modern facilities and expanding mini-bus services to improve last-mile connectivity. The proposal for 'Complete Streets' with pedestrian pathways and shade trees addresses both the urban heat island effect and the lack of walkable public spaces that push people toward private vehicles.

The promise to convert at least 3% of urban land into 'sponge city' infrastructure is the language of serious climate adaptation. So does the proposal for a coastal green belt of native species — including casuarina, palmyra, pongamia, and mangroves — from Kanyakumari to Tiruvallur to buffer sea erosion and cyclonic winds.

The DMK has the advantage of incumbency and the building blocks to achieve this: the Tamil Nadu EV Policy



On mobility, the DMK sets an explicit target of 30% vehicle electrification by 2030, with electric bus services expanded to five cities. FILE PHOTO

Beyond the promises, three factors will determine whether Tamil Nadu's next government can align growth with climate realities: institutional capacity, integration and equity

2023 is already in place, and renewable energy capacity has crossed 25 GW. The manifesto also includes early signals on circular economy pathways, such as bio-CNG and waste-to-energy infrastructure in several cities. It is one of the few manifestos to link climate action with systems such as transport, flood management, and public space design.

What is missing, however, are explicit commitments on coastal zone management and climate finance.

AIADMK: a significant RE push
The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (AIADMK) commitment to converting all city buses to electric vehicles is more sweeping in ambition than the DMK's targeted expansion. A full fleet electrification effort (with timelines) would be transformative for urban air quality and sustainable mobility. Metro rail expansions in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai are also transit-positive. The manifesto further promises to extend the free bus scheme (currently for women) to men travelling on city buses.

The promise of a 100% government subsidy for solar pump sets for farmers is powerful. Agricultural electricity demand is a major driver of Tamil Nadu's carbon load, and solar pump sets could reduce both emitters and the burden on TANGEDCO. Rooftop solar subsidies for households, along with additional subsidies for micro and small industries, round out a decentralised solar push. The commitment to introduce climate change into the school curriculum is understated but meaningful.

Then there are the free refrigerators.

Promising 2.22 crore energy-consuming appliances with no accompanying energy-efficiency standards, grid-greening guarantees, or old-appliance disposal programme is contradictory. As temperatures rise, refrigerators may become unavoidable, but large-scale distribution into a grid still reliant on significant thermal power could increase the State's carbon load.

TVK: ambition without a track record
The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has put forward a climate chapter that is, on paper, the most ambitious among major parties. The centrepiece is a Climate-Resilient Tamil Nadu Master Plan 2045, with a 38-district framework backed by a dedicated ₹5,000 crore climate budget and a proposed sustained renewable economy division. If that institutional architecture is real, it would mark the first time a Tamil Nadu party has treated climate as a standalone fiscal and administrative priority.

On mobility, TVK promises 20,000 EV fast-charging stations by 2031, full electrification of 5,000 TNSTC buses, and dedicated footpaths and cycling tracks across 25 cities — a non-motorised transport commitment unmatched by other manifestos.

The 'Vetri Solar Mission' targets 100% renewable energy for Tamil Nadu. On water, the numbers are staggering: restoration of over 30,000 irrigation tanks, five lakh new farm ponds, a 90% subsidy for drip irrigation and a ₹5,000 crore Cauvery Delta Protection Fund.

The critical question, however, is credibility. TVK has never governed, and its total manifesto commitments exceed ₹1.1 lakh crore. The vision is encouraging, but voters should press hard for the fiscal plan behind it.

NTK's overlooked green manifesto
Any discussion of Tamil Nadu's climate election cannot be complete without acknowledging that Seeman's Naam

manifesto has produced, by ideological conviction, the greenest forest cover from 20.2% to 33% within five years, explicitly names the Paris Agreement and UN climate guidelines as binding commitments, and pledges to cancel the Parandur Airport project, ban coal mine expansion at NLC Neyveli, block hydrocarbon exploration in the Cauvery Delta, and oppose the Environment Impact Assessment Draft 2020.

NTK's manifesto is a document that future climate advocates in Tamil Nadu will reference and one that other parties should take note of.

A shift in political language
A simple keyword count across manifestos reveals something worth pausing on. In the DMK's 2021 manifesto, 'climate change' appeared once; in 2026, it appears six times. The AIADMK, which made no mention of 'climate' in 2021, now includes it at least twice.

NTK's 2026 manifesto uses the word 'environment' 16 times, while TVK, in its first election, clocks five mentions of 'climate change'.

These are word counts, not policies. But together, they signal that the climate crisis has entered Tamil Nadu's political vocabulary in a way it had not before.

Beyond the promises, three factors will determine whether Tamil Nadu's next government can align growth with climate realities: institutional capacity, integration and equity.

Manifestos are documents of promise. On climate, they are also documents of preparedness. Tamil Nadu's next government will inherit not a distant environmental challenge, but an unfolding economic one. The question is not only who offers the most, but who demonstrates the capacity to implement coherently and consistently over time. (Sanjiv Gopal is Chief Strategy Officer, Asar Social Impact Advisors)

THE GIST

▼ The DMK treats climate as a systems problem, though coastal management and funding plans are unclear.

▼ The AIADMK combines a decentralised renewable push with policy contradictions, most notably the large-scale distribution of refrigerators without energy-efficiency or grid decarbonisation safeguards.

▼ The TVK offers an expansive Climate-Resilient Master Plan and large-scale commitments, but credibility and fiscal sequencing remain unclear, while the NTK presents the clearest ideological climate stance.



में एक ही सप्ताह में राज्य को ₹11,000 करोड़ से अधिक का नुकसान पहुँचाया।

- The compounded **floods and droughts of 2024** added another **₹10,000 crore** in economic losses.
2024 की संयुक्त **बाढ़ और सूखे** ने अतिरिक्त **₹10,000 करोड़** का आर्थिक नुकसान जोड़ा।
- Cyclone Dityah** destroyed crops across **2.11 lakh hectares** of land, roughly the size of three lakh football fields.
चक्रवात दितवाह ने **2.11 लाख हेक्टेयर** भूमि में फसलों को नष्ट कर दिया, जो लगभग तीन लाख फुटबॉल मैदानों के बराबर है।
- Add to this intensifying **heatwaves across districts such as Madurai and Tiruchirappalli**, along with significant loss of productivity due to **extreme heat**.
इसके साथ **मदुरै और तिरुचिरापल्ली** जैसे जिलों में बढ़ती **हीटवेव्स** और **अत्यधिक गर्मी** के कारण उत्पादकता में भारी कमी भी शामिल है।
- And you have a State where political parties can no longer contest elections without commitment to **climate action**.
और इस प्रकार यह एक ऐसा राज्य बन गया है जहाँ राजनीतिक दल अब **जलवायु कार्रवाई** के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता के बिना चुनाव नहीं लड़ सकते।
- On **April 23**, as Tamil Nadu heads to the polls, the important question is how seriously have the parties engaged with the **climate crisis** already reshaping the State.
23 अप्रैल को जब तमिलनाडु चुनाव की ओर बढ़ रहा है, महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह है कि दलों ने राज्य को पुनः आकार दे रहे **जलवायु संकट** के प्रति कितनी गंभीरता दिखाई है।
- To answer this, we have **examined their manifestos through a climate lens** — going beyond promises labelled as climate policy to identify measures linked to **heat action, flood mitigation, coastal protection, water management, and agricultural resilience**.
इसका उत्तर पाने के लिए हमने उनके घोषणापत्रों का **जलवायु दृष्टिकोण** से विश्लेषण किया है — केवल जलवायु नीति के रूप में चिह्नित वादों से आगे बढ़कर **हीट एक्शन, बाढ़ नियंत्रण, तटीय संरक्षण, जल प्रबंधन और कृषि लचीलापन** से जुड़े उपायों की पहचान की है।

DMK: leading on climate / डीएमके: जलवायु पर अग्रणी

- The **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)** manifesto is among the more **climate-aware documents** produced by any major party in Tamil Nadu for an Assembly election.
द्रविड़ मुनेत्र कड़गम (DMK) का घोषणापत्र तमिलनाडु में किसी भी प्रमुख पार्टी द्वारा विधानसभा चुनाव के लिए तैयार किए गए अधिक **जलवायु-सचेत दस्तावेजों** में से एक है।
- The standout section focuses on **extreme heat**.
इसका प्रमुख भाग **अत्यधिक गर्मी** पर केंद्रित है।
- The **manifesto promises to appoint District Heat Officers** in every district and city.
घोषणापत्र हर जिले और शहर में **जिला हीट अधिकारी** नियुक्त करने का वादा करता है।
- Officials tasked with issuing localised heat warnings and enforcing workplace safety during extreme temperature events**.
ये अधिकारी **स्थानीय स्तर पर गर्मी की चेतावनी** जारी करने और अत्यधिक तापमान के दौरान **कार्यस्थल सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित** करने के लिए जिम्मेदार होंगे।
- Heat mortality in India is chronically undercounted, and the absence of district-level climate officers has long been a structural gap**.
भारत में **हीट मृत्यु दर** का लंबे समय से कम आकलन किया जाता रहा है और **जिला-स्तरीय जलवायु अधिकारियों** की अनुपस्थिति एक संरचनात्मक कमी रही है।
- If implemented, this single measure could **save lives** in the coming summers.
यदि लागू किया गया, तो यह एक उपाय आने वाले वर्षों में **जीवन बचा सकता है**।
- Alongside this, **AI-based automatic micro-grid weather stations** in every district would provide **localised cyclone and heat warnings**.



इसके साथ प्रत्येक जिले में एआई आधारित माइक्रो-ग्रिड मौसम स्टेशन स्थापित किए जाएंगे जो स्थानीय चक्रवात और गर्मी चेतावनी प्रदान करेंगे।

- A meaningful upgrade over **city-level forecasting**, which leaves farmers and coastal communities without adequate time to respond.
यह शहर-स्तरीय पूर्वानुमान की तुलना में एक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार है, जो किसानों और तटीय समुदायों को पर्याप्त प्रतिक्रिया समय नहीं देता।
- On mobility, the DMK sets an explicit target of **30% vehicle electrification by 2030**.
परिवहन के क्षेत्र में डीएमके ने 2030 तक 30% वाहनों के विद्युतीकरण का स्पष्ट लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है।
- With **electric bus services** expanded to **five cities**.
साथ ही इलेक्ट्रिक बस सेवाओं को पाँच शहरों तक विस्तारित किया जाएगा।
- Building on the **Vidiyal Payanam scheme** for women, the party has committed to inducting **10,000 new buses** equipped with modern facilities.
महिलाओं के लिए विदियाल पयानम योजना के आधार पर पार्टी ने आधुनिक सुविधाओं से लैस 10,000 नई बसें शामिल करने का वादा किया है।
- And expanding **mini-bus services** to improve **last-mile connectivity**.
और मिनी-बस सेवाओं का विस्तार कर अंतिम मील कनेक्टिविटी को बेहतर बनाने का लक्ष्य रखा है।
- The proposal for **'Complete Streets'** with **pedestrian pathways and shade trees** addresses both the **urban heat island effect** and the lack of walkable public spaces.
'कम्प्लीट स्ट्रीट्स' का प्रस्ताव जिसमें पैदल पथ और छायादार वृक्ष शामिल हैं, शहरी हीट आइलैंड प्रभाव और पैदल चलने योग्य सार्वजनिक स्थानों की कमी दोनों को संबोधित करता है।
- **The promise to convert at least 3% of urban land into 'sponge city' infrastructure / शहरी भूमि के कम से कम 3% को 'स्पंज सिटी' अवसंरचना में परिवर्तित करने का वादा**
- The promise to convert at least 3% of urban land into **'sponge city' infrastructure** is the language of serious **climate adaptation**.
कम से कम 3% शहरी भूमि को 'स्पंज सिटी' अवसंरचना में परिवर्तित करने का वादा गंभीर जलवायु अनुकूलन की भाषा है।
- So does the proposal for a **coastal green belt of native species** — including **casuarina, palmyra, pongamia, and mangroves** — from **Kanyakumari to Tiruvallur** to **buffer sea erosion and cyclonic winds**.
इसी प्रकार स्थानीय प्रजातियों की तटीय हरित पट्टी का प्रस्ताव — जिसमें कैसुअरिना, पामायरा, पोंगामिया और मेंग्रोव शामिल हैं — कन्याकुमारी से तिरुवल्लूर तक समुद्री कटाव और चक्रवाती हवाओं को रोकने के लिए है।
- The **DMK** has the advantage of **incumbency** and the building blocks to achieve this: the **Tamil Nadu EV Policy 2023** is already in place, and **renewable energy capacity** has crossed **25 GW**.
DMK के पास सत्ता में होने का लाभ और इसे प्राप्त करने के आधारभूत तत्व हैं: तमिलनाडु ईवी नीति 2023 पहले से लागू है, और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता 25 GW से अधिक हो चुकी है।
- The manifesto also includes early signals on **circular economy pathways**, such as **bio-CNG and waste-to-energy infrastructure** in several cities.
घोषणापत्र में सर्कुलर अर्थव्यवस्था के मार्गों के संकेत भी शामिल हैं, जैसे कई शहरों में बायो-CNG और वेस्ट-टू-एनर्जी अवसंरचना।
- It is one of the few manifestos to link **climate action** with systems such as **transport, food management, and public space design**.
यह उन कुछ घोषणापत्रों में से एक है जो जलवायु कार्रवाई को परिवहन, बाढ़ प्रबंधन और सार्वजनिक स्थान डिजाइन जैसी प्रणालियों से जोड़ते हैं।
- What is missing, however, are explicit commitments on **coastal zone management and climate resilience**.
हालाँकि, इसमें तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन और जलवायु वित्त पर स्पष्ट प्रतिबद्धताएँ नहीं हैं।



AIADMK: a signi• cant RE push / एआईएडीएमके: नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा पर एक महत्वपूर्ण जोर

- The **All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)** commitment to converting all **city buses to electric vehicles** is more sweeping in ambition than the **DMK's targeted expansion**.
ऑल इंडिया अन्ना द्रविड़ मुनेत्र कड़गम (AIADMK) का सभी शहरी बसों को इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों में परिवर्तित करने का संकल्प DMK के लक्षित विस्तार की तुलना में अधिक व्यापक महत्वाकांक्षा वाला है।
- A full • eet electri• cation e• ort (with timelines) would be transformative for **urban air quality and sustainable mobility**.
एक पूर्ण फ्लीट विद्युतीकरण प्रयास (समयसीमा सहित) शहरी वायु गुणवत्ता और सतत गतिशीलता के लिए परिवर्तनकारी होगा।
- **Metro rail expansions in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai** are also **transit-positive**.
चेन्नई, कोयंबटूर और मदुरै में मेट्रो रेल विस्तार भी परिवहन के लिए सकारात्मक हैं।
- The manifesto further promises to extend the **free bus scheme** (currently for women) to **men travelling on city buses**.
घोषणापत्र आगे **मुफ्त बस योजना** (जो वर्तमान में महिलाओं के लिए है) को **शहरी बसों में यात्रा करने वाले पुरुषों** तक बढ़ाने का वादा करता है।
- The promise of a **100% government subsidy for solar pump sets** for farmers is powerful. किसानों के लिए **सोलर पंप सेट पर 100% सरकारी सब्सिडी** का वादा अत्यंत प्रभावशाली है।
- **Agricultural electricity demand** is a major driver of Tamil Nadu's **carbon load**, and solar pump sets could reduce both **emissions** and the burden on **TANGEDCO**.
कृषि बिजली मांग तमिलनाडु के कार्बन भार का एक प्रमुख कारण है, और सोलर पंप सेट उत्सर्जन और **TANGEDCO** पर भार दोनों को कम कर सकते हैं।
- **Rooftop solar subsidies** for households, along with additional subsidies for **micro and small industries**, round out a **decentralised solar push**.
घरों के लिए **रूफटॉप सोलर सब्सिडी**, तथा **सूक्ष्म और लघु उद्योगों** के लिए अतिरिक्त सब्सिडी, एक **विकेन्द्रीकृत सौर ऊर्जा प्रयास** को पूरा करती है।
- The commitment to introduce **climate change into the school curriculum** is understated but meaningful.
स्कूल पाठ्यक्रम में **जलवायु परिवर्तन** को शामिल करने की प्रतिबद्धता साधारण दिखती है, लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Then there are the **free refrigerators**.
इसके बाद **मुफ्त रेफ्रिजरेटर** का मुद्दा आता है।
- Promising **2.22 crore energy-consuming appliances** with no accompanying **energy-e• ciency standards, grid-greening guarantees, or old-appliance disposal programme** is contradictory.
2.22 करोड़ ऊर्जा-खपत करने वाले उपकरणों का वादा बिना किसी **ऊर्जा दक्षता मानकों, ग्रीन ग्रिड आश्वासन या पुराने उपकरण निपटान कार्यक्रम** के विरोधाभासी है।
- As temperatures rise, refrigerators may become unavoidable, but large-scale distribution into a grid still reliant on **signi• cant thermal power** could increase the State's **carbon load**.
जैसे-जैसे तापमान बढ़ता है, रेफ्रिजरेटर अपरिहार्य हो सकते हैं, लेकिन **महत्वपूर्ण थर्मल पावर** पर निर्भर ग्रिड में बड़े पैमाने पर वितरण राज्य के **कार्बन भार** को बढ़ा सकता है।

TVK: ambition without a track record / टीवीके: रिकॉर्ड के बिना महत्वाकांक्षा

- The **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)** has put forward a **climate chapter** that is, on paper, the most ambitious among major parties.
तमिलगा वेट्ट्रि कड़गम (TVK) ने एक **जलवायु अध्याय** प्रस्तुत किया है, जो कागज़ पर प्रमुख दलों में सबसे अधिक महत्वाकांक्षी है।



- The centrepiece is a **Climate-Resilient Tamil Nadu Master Plan 2045**, with a **38-district framework** backed by a dedicated **₹3,000 crore climate budget** and a proposed sustained **renewable economy division**.
इसका मुख्य आधार क्लाइमेट-रेजिलिएंट तमिलनाडु मास्टर प्लान 2045 है, जिसमें 38-जिला ढांचा, समर्पित ₹3,000 करोड़ जलवायु बजट, और प्रस्तावित नवीकरणीय अर्थव्यवस्था प्रभाग शामिल है।
- If that **institutional architecture** is real, it would mark the first time a Tamil Nadu party has treated climate as a standalone **social and administrative priority**.
यदि यह संस्थागत संरचना वास्तविक है, तो यह पहली बार होगा जब किसी तमिलनाडु पार्टी ने जलवायु को एक स्वतंत्र वित्तीय और प्रशासनिक प्राथमिकता के रूप में माना है।
- On mobility, TVK promises **20,000 EV fast-charging stations by 2031**, full **electrification of 5,000 TNSTC buses**, and dedicated **footpaths and cycling tracks across 25 cities** — a **non-motorised transport commitment** unmatched by other manifestos.
गतिशीलता के क्षेत्र में, TVK 2031 तक 20,000 ईवी फास्ट-चार्जिंग स्टेशन, 5,000 TNSTC बसों का पूर्ण विद्युतीकरण, और 25 शहरों में फुटपाथ एवं साइकिलिंग ट्रैक का वादा करता है — यह गैर-मोटर चालित परिवहन प्रतिबद्धता अन्य घोषणापत्रों में अद्वितीय है।
- The **'Vetri Solar Mission'** targets **100% renewable energy** for Tamil Nadu.
'वेट्टि सोलर मिशन' तमिलनाडु के लिए 100% नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा का लक्ष्य रखता है।
- On water, the numbers are staggering: restoration of over **39,000 irrigation tanks**, **one lakh new farm ponds**, a **90% subsidy for drip irrigation** and a **₹5,000 crore Cauvery Delta Protection Fund**.
जल के क्षेत्र में आंकड़े चौंकाने वाले हैं: 39,000 से अधिक सिंचाई टैंकों का पुनर्स्थापन, पाँच लाख नए फार्म पॉण्ड, ड्रिप सिंचाई पर 90% सब्सिडी, और ₹5,000 करोड़ कावेरी डेल्टा संरक्षण कोष।
- The critical question, however, is **credibility**.
हालाँकि, महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न विश्वसनीयता का है।
- TVK has never governed, and its total manifesto commitments exceed **₹1.1 lakh crore**.
TVK ने कभी शासन नहीं किया है, और इसके कुल घोषणापत्र वादे ₹1.1 लाख करोड़ से अधिक हैं।
- The vision is encouraging, but voters should press hard for the **social plan** behind it.
दृष्टि प्रेरणादायक है, लेकिन मतदाताओं को इसके पीछे के वित्तीय योजना पर जोर देना चाहिए।

NTK's overlooked green manifesto / एनटीके का अनदेखा हरित घोषणापत्र

- Any discussion of Tamil Nadu's climate election cannot be complete without acknowledging that **Seeman's Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK)** has produced, by ideological conviction, the **greenest manifesto**.
तमिलनाडु के जलवायु चुनाव पर कोई भी चर्चा सीमान की नाम तमिलर कड़गम (NTK) के सबसे हरित घोषणापत्र को स्वीकार किए बिना पूर्ण नहीं हो सकती।
- NTK commits to increasing **forest cover from 20.21% to 33% within five years**, explicitly names the **Paris Agreement and UN climate guidelines** as binding commitments, and pledges to cancel the **Parandur Airport project**, ban **coal mine expansion at NLC Neyveli**, block **hydrocarbon exploration in the Cauvery Delta**, and oppose the **Environment Impact Assessment Draft 2020**.
NTK पाँच वर्षों में वन क्षेत्र को 20.21% से 33% तक बढ़ाने, पेरिस समझौते और संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु दिशानिर्देशों को बाध्यकारी मानने, परंदुर एयरपोर्ट परियोजना रद्द करने, NLC नेवेली में कोयला खनन विस्तार पर प्रतिबंध लगाने, कावेरी डेल्टा में हाइड्रोकार्बन अन्वेषण रोकने, तथा पर्यावरण प्रभाव आकलन मसौदा 2020 का विरोध करने का संकल्प लेता है।
- NTK's manifesto is a document that future **climate advocates** in Tamil Nadu will reference and one that other parties should take note of.
NTK का घोषणापत्र एक ऐसा दस्तावेज़ है जिसे भविष्य के जलवायु समर्थक संदर्भित करेंगे और अन्य दलों को भी इस पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।



- **A shift in political language / राजनीतिक भाषा में परिवर्तन**
- A simple **keyword count** across manifestos reveals something worth pausing on.
घोषणापत्रों में एक साधारण **कीवर्ड गणना** कुछ महत्वपूर्ण संकेत देती है।
- In the **DMK's 2021 manifesto**, 'climate change' appeared once; in **2026**, it appears six times.
DMK के 2021 घोषणापत्र में 'जलवायु परिवर्तन' एक बार आया; **2026** में यह छह बार आता है।
- The **AIADMK**, which made no mention of 'climate' in 2021, now includes it at least twice.
AIADMK, जिसने 2021 में 'जलवायु' का उल्लेख नहीं किया था, अब इसे कम से कम दो बार शामिल करता है।
- **NTK's 2026 manifesto** uses the word 'environment' 16 times, while **TVK**, in its first election, clocks five mentions of 'climate change'.
NTK के 2026 घोषणापत्र में 'पर्यावरण' शब्द 16 बार आता है, जबकि **TVK**, अपने पहले चुनाव में, 'जलवायु परिवर्तन' का पाँच बार उल्लेख करता है।
- These are **word counts, not policies**.
ये शब्द गणना हैं, न कि नीतियाँ।
- But together, they signal that the **climate crisis** has entered Tamil Nadu's **political vocabulary** in a way it had not before.
लेकिन मिलकर ये संकेत देते हैं कि **जलवायु संकट** अब तमिलनाडु की **राजनीतिक शब्दावली** में पहले की तुलना में अधिक प्रवेश कर चुका है।
- Beyond the promises, three factors will determine whether Tamil Nadu's next government can align growth with climate realities: **institutional capacity, integration and equity**.
वादों से परे, तीन कारक यह तय करेंगे कि अगली सरकार विकास को जलवायु वास्तविकताओं के साथ कैसे जोड़ेगी: **संस्थागत क्षमता, एकीकरण और समानता**।
- Manifestos are **documents of promise**.
घोषणापत्र **वायदों के दस्तावेज़** होते हैं।
- On climate, they are also documents of **preparedness**.
जलवायु के संदर्भ में, ये **तैयारी के दस्तावेज़** भी होते हैं।
- Tamil Nadu's next government will inherit not a distant **environmental challenge**, but an unfolding **economic one**.
तमिलनाडु की अगली सरकार को कोई दूर का **पर्यावरणीय संकट** नहीं, बल्कि एक विकसित हो रहा **आर्थिक संकट** विरासत में मिलेगा।
- The question is not only who offers the most, but who demonstrates the **capacity to implement coherently and consistently over time**.
प्रश्न केवल यह नहीं है कि कौन अधिक वादा करता है, बल्कि यह है कि कौन **समय के साथ सुसंगत और प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन क्षमता** दिखाता है।



Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. In which year was this event first held? **Ans: 1970**
2. How is the person Julian Koenig associated with Earth Day? **Ans: He coined the term Earth Day**
3. The first Earth Day was focused on which country? **Ans: United States**
4. What is the Earth Day-themed single released in 1990? **Ans: Tomorrow's World**
5. Which was the unfortunate event that gave a push for the event to be observed? **Ans: Santa Barbara oil spill**

Visual: How is this related to Earth Day?
Ans: On Earth Day 2016, the landmark Paris Agreement was signed by the United States, the U.K., China, and 120 other countries

Early Birds: C Saravanan | Tom Alan Faith | Lalchand Bhutani | K.N. Viswanathan | Sumana Dutta

23A. QUIZ

First Observance in 1970

- The event refers to **Earth Day**, first held in 1970, marking a major milestone in global environmental awareness. Initiated in the United States, it mobilized millions to demand action against pollution and ecological degradation.
- Led by Gaylord Nelson, it laid the foundation for modern environmental movements.
- Today, it is observed worldwide, influencing policies on climate change, conservation, and sustainable development.

Julian Koenig and Earth Day

- Julian Koenig, an American advertising copywriter, is credited with coining the term "**Earth Day**" in 1970.
- Working with environmental campaign organizers, he suggested the name due to its rhyme with "birthday," making it

memorable and appealing.

- The term played a key role in branding the movement, helping it gain widespread recognition.
- Since then, Earth Day has evolved into a global environmental event promoting awareness and sustainability.

First Earth Day and the United States

- The first **Earth Day** in 1970 was primarily focused on the United States, where it originated as a nationwide environmental movement. Initiated by Gaylord Nelson, it mobilized around 20 million Americans to protest pollution and ecological degradation.
- This mass participation led to stronger environmental laws and institutions, including the creation of regulatory frameworks, later inspiring global adoption of Earth Day as an international environmental awareness event.

"Tomorrow's World" – Earth Day 1990 Single

- The Earth Day-themed single **Tomorrow's World** was released in 1990 to promote global environmental awareness during the expanded international celebration of Earth Day.
- It reflected growing concern about issues such as pollution, deforestation, and climate change.
- The 1990 campaign marked Earth Day's transformation into a worldwide movement, mobilizing millions across countries and strengthening environmental advocacy through media, music, and public participation.

Santa Barbara Oil Spill and Earth Day

- The Santa Barbara oil spill in California significantly influenced the launch of Earth Day in 1970.
- The massive spill released millions of gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean, causing severe environmental damage and public outrage.
- It highlighted the dangers of industrial pollution and inspired policymakers like Gaylord Nelson to initiate a nationwide environmental movement, leading to the first Earth Day observance.



GS Paper III: Disaster Management

23 April 2026

TOPICS COVERED

23A **Forty years since the disaster, Chernobyl is a story that keeps finding new retellings**
आपदा के चालीस वर्ष बाद भी, चेर्नोबिल की कहानी नए रूपों में बार-बार सामने आती रहती है

Forty years since the disaster, Chernobyl is a story that keeps finding new retellings

Three books on the tragedy provide a detailed understanding on what transpired, drawing on Soviet archives, KGB documents, interviews, and testimonies by survivors to reveal both the system that failed and the human cost it left behind

GS III: Disaster
Vas Management

The Bhopal gas tragedy killed more people. The Soviet Union's nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk irradiated a larger area over a longer period. Why then has the Chernobyl disaster endured so pronouncedly in the popular imagination?

During a flawed safety test, the nuclear reactor at the heart of the Chernobyl disaster entered an unstable state, culminating in explosions at 1:23 a.m. on April 26, 1986. The first firefighters arrived at the plant within minutes, expecting an ordinary fire. By then, the reactor core had exploded. When the personnel climbed on the roof, they stepped on blast debris. They didn't know what it really was.

Two lieutenants led teams that managed to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent units. But within a few hours, they were vomiting, and most of them died within weeks.

An illusory prestige
In *Chernobyl: History of a Tragedy*, Serhii Plokhy, a noted historian of Eastern Europe, established that scientists had warned about the reactor's instability. The Soviet leadership had ignored these warnings in the interest of what Plokhy called "atomic prestige" – the international status that came with taming nuclear power in the post-war era. The Communist leadership could trumpet this prestige within the country, considering nuclear physics was believed

to sit at the top of a hierarchy of knowledge.

The events at Chernobyl in 1986, however, exposed this prestige to be illusory. The power plant was located near Prypiat. The city, until then a statement of Soviet modernity, quickly became a ghost town. The disaster also happened around the same time that Mikhail Gorbachev was ramping up industrial output. The expectation resulted in senior staff at the plant being caught between the obligation to deliver dangerous levels of power and the desperation not to face the consequences of non-compliance. In his 2019 book, *Midnight in Chernobyl*, the British journalist Adam Higginbotham diagnosed this trap as an obsession with scale that outpaced safety.

A thorough account

Midnight is in fact one of the best books on the Chernobyl disaster for those interested in its people. It is replete with interviews and provides a thorough account of how the disaster unfolded without being overwhelming. Chernobyl's complexity was always going to make for confusing history, and any historical account that claimed otherwise would be mistaken. *Midnight* includes conflicting details to illustrate this, aside from also showing up where the 2019 HBO show *Chernobyl* gets its facts wrong. It also has a few mistakes of its own, such as when it says the hydrogen atom has a neutron. But these details are trivial in the narrative, which is the real treasure.

On the other hand, Plokhy's book is

perhaps the most complete single-volume account of the disaster. The historian drew on Soviet archives, KGB documents, and testimony by survivors that writers before him couldn't. He pieced together the disaster's immediate aftermath in such fine detail that the book often reads like a novel. Because of the authority of his sources, Plokhy's voice is confident, including when he dissects the Soviet bureaucratic culture that rendered the disaster a matter of time. Its only downside, admittedly an important one, is that it sometimes understates the disaster's health effects. It is nonetheless an excellent reference for those seeking to understand what actually happened.

Voices from Chernobyl, by the Russian journalist Svetlana Alexievich, opens with the testimony of Lyudmilla Ignatenko, whose husband was one of the first fire-fighters at the plant. She recalled following him to a hospital in Moscow, hiding her pregnancy to remain at his bedside. His skin cracked, his hair fell out, and pieces of his lungs and liver came out of his mouth. He died in 14 days. Her own daughter only lived four hours: the doctors told Lyudmilla the foetus had absorbed radiation from her womb.

The desperate efforts to safeguard the reactor came to be called the Battle of Chernobyl, with a twist: the enemies here – more immediately, radiation, and more importantly, the state – were invisible. The plant was in Ukraine but 70% of the radionuclides fell in Belarus. The government didn't evacuate Prypiat for two days. The Kremlin only issued a statement on April 28, when radiation

triggered alarms at a nuclear plant in Sweden. Gorbachev even encouraged citizens to participate in May Day parades – an act Plokhy argued was the moment Ukrainians became permanently disillusioned with the state.

At the level of the body

Of the many ways to understand Chernobyl, from scientific to political, *Voices from Chernobyl* brought to bear the existential. Alexievich interviewed hundreds of survivors over many years but her principal contribution was her voice. She removed herself from the narrative, instead setting out the testimonies of fire-fighters, physicists, and re-settlers without imposing any arguments on them. She seemed to be saying no synthesis could ever capture the events at Chernobyl. Against the meticulousness of Plokhy and Higginbotham, Alexievich argued that the disaster could only ever be legible at the level of the body, even if such bodies number in the thousands. Since the disaster, Chernobyl has been complicated as much by sci-fi lore and military video games – which treated the defunct facility as an ominous battleground – as by haunting photographs and, today, a dark tourism industry. Scholars have described the Zone of Exclusion as a unique place where it is now possible to bodily experience a historic politico-technical failure. Even Fukushima didn't manage this, thus avoiding slipping into mythology. In fact, Fukushima was a disaster. Chernobyl is a story that keeps finding new retellings.

23A. Forty years since the disaster, Chernobyl is a story that keeps finding new retellings

आपदा के चालीस वर्ष बाद भी, चेर्नोबिल की कहानी नए रूपों में बार-बार सामने आती रहती है

- Three books on the tragedy provide a detailed understanding on what transpired, drawing on Soviet archives, KGB documents, interviews, and testimonies by survivors to reveal both the system that failed and the human cost it left behind

इस त्रासदी पर आधारित तीन पुस्तकें सोवियत अभिलेखागार, केजीबी दस्तावेजों, साक्षात्कारों और जीवित बचे लोगों की गवाहियों के आधार पर घटनाओं की विस्तृत समझ प्रदान करती हैं, जिससे उस विफल प्रणाली और उसके पीछे छूटे मानवीय नुकसान दोनों का खुलासा होता है



- The **Bhopal gas tragedy** killed more people.
भोपाल गैस त्रासदी में अधिक लोग मारे गए।
- The **Soviet Union's nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk** irradiated a larger area over a longer period.
सोवियत संघ के सेमिपलातिंस्क में परमाणु परीक्षणों ने लंबे समय तक अधिक क्षेत्र को विकिरणित किया।
- Why then has the **Chernobyl disaster** endured so pronouncedly in the **popular imagination**?
तो फिर चेर्नोबिल आपदा ने लोकप्रिय कल्पना में इतनी गहराई से स्थान क्यों बनाया?
- During a **• awed safety test**, the nuclear reactor at the heart of the Chernobyl disaster entered an **unstable state**, culminating in explosions at **1:23 a.m. on April 26, 1986**.
एक त्रुटिपूर्ण सुरक्षा परीक्षण के दौरान, चेर्नोबिल आपदा के केंद्र में स्थित परमाणु रिएक्टर अस्थिर अवस्था में चला गया, जो 26 अप्रैल 1986 को सुबह 1:23 बजे विस्फोटों में परिणत हुआ।
- The **• rst • re • ghters** arrived at the plant within minutes, expecting an **ordinary • re**.
पहले दमकलकर्मी कुछ ही मिनटों में संयंत्र पर पहुँच गए, यह सोचते हुए कि यह एक साधारण आग है।
- By then, the **reactor core had exploded**.
तब तक रिएक्टर कोर विस्फोटित हो चुका था।
- When the personnel climbed on the roof, they stepped on **blast debris**.
जब कर्मी छत पर चढ़े, तो उन्होंने विस्फोट के मलबे पर कदम रखा।
- They didn't know what it really was.
उन्हें यह नहीं पता था कि वह वास्तव में क्या था।
- Two **lieutenants** led teams that managed to prevent the **• re** from spreading to **adjacent units**.
दो लेफ्टिनेंटों ने टीमों का नेतृत्व किया जिन्होंने आग को निकटवर्ती इकाइयों तक फैलने से रोक दिया।
- But within a few hours, they were **vomiting**, and most of them died within weeks.
लेकिन कुछ ही घंटों में वे उल्टी करने लगे, और उनमें से अधिकांश कुछ ही हफ्तों में मर गए।

An illusory prestige / एक काल्पनिक प्रतिष्ठा

- In **Chernobyl: History of a Tragedy**, **Serhii Plokhyy**, a noted historian of Eastern Europe, established that **scientists had warned** about the reactor's instability.
Chernobyl: History of a Tragedy में, पूर्वी यूरोप के प्रसिद्ध इतिहासकार **सेरही प्लोखी** ने बताया कि वैज्ञानिकों ने चेतावनी दी थी कि रिएक्टर अस्थिर है।
- The **Soviet leadership** had ignored these warnings in the interest of what Plokhyy called **"atomic prestige"** — the international status that came with taming nuclear power in the post-war era.
सोवियत नेतृत्व ने इन चेतावनियों को अनदेखा कर दिया, जिसे प्लोखी ने **"परमाणु प्रतिष्ठा"** कहा — युद्धोत्तर काल में परमाणु शक्ति पर नियंत्रण से मिलने वाली अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थिति।
- The **Communist leadership** could trumpet this prestige within the country, considering **nuclear physics** was believed to sit at the top of a **hierarchy of knowledge**.
कम्युनिस्ट नेतृत्व देश के भीतर इस प्रतिष्ठा का प्रचार कर सकता था, क्योंकि परमाणु भौतिकी को ज्ञान की सर्वोच्च श्रेणी में माना जाता था।
- The events at **Chernobyl in 1986**, however, exposed this prestige to be **illusory**.
हालाँकि, 1986 के चेर्नोबिल की घटनाओं ने इस प्रतिष्ठा को मायावी साबित कर दिया।
- The power plant was located near **Prypiat**.
यह विद्युत संयंत्र प्रिप्यात के पास स्थित था।
- The city, until then a statement of **Soviet modernity**, quickly became a **ghost town**.
यह शहर, जो पहले सोवियत आधुनिकता का प्रतीक था, जल्दी ही एक भूतिया शहर बन गया।



- The disaster also happened around the same time that **Mikhail Gorbachev** was ramping up **industrial output**.
यह आपदा उसी समय हुई जब **मिखाइल गोर्बाचेव औद्योगिक उत्पादन** बढ़ा रहे थे।
- The expectation resulted in senior sta• at the plant being caught between the obligation to deliver **dangerous levels of power** and the desperation not to face the consequences of **non-compliance**.
इस अपेक्षा के कारण संयंत्र के वरिष्ठ कर्मचारी **खतरनाक स्तर की ऊर्जा** देने के दायित्व और **अनुपालन न करने के परिणामों** से बचने की मजबूरी के बीच फँस गए।
- In his **2019 book, Midnight in Chernobyl**, the British journalist **Adam Higginbotham** diagnosed this trap as an **obsession with scale** that outpaced safety.
अपनी **2019 की पुस्तक, Midnight in Chernobyl** में, ब्रिटिश पत्रकार **एडम हिगिनबोथम** ने इस स्थिति को **विस्तार के प्रति जुनून** बताया जो सुरक्षा से आगे निकल गया।

A thorough account / एक विस्तृत विवरण

- Midnight** is in fact one of the best books on the Chernobyl disaster for those interested in its **people**.
Midnight वास्तव में चेर्नोबिल आपदा पर उन लोगों के लिए सर्वोत्तम पुस्तकों में से एक है जो इसके **लोगों** में रुचि रखते हैं।
- It is replete with **interviews** and provides a **thorough account** of how the disaster unfolded without being overwhelming.
यह **साक्षात्कारों** से भरपूर है और बिना बोझिल हुए आपदा के घटनाक्रम का **विस्तृत विवरण** प्रस्तुत करती है।
- Chernobyl's **complexity** was always going to make for **confusing history**, and any historical account that claimed otherwise would be mistaken.
चेर्नोबिल की **जटिलता** हमेशा **भ्रमित करने वाला इतिहास** प्रस्तुत करने वाली थी, और जो भी ऐतिहासिक विवरण इसके विपरीत दावा करता, वह गलत होता।
- Midnight** includes **con• icting details** to illustrate this, aside from also showing up where the **2019 HBO show Chernobyl** gets its facts wrong.
Midnight इसे स्पष्ट करने के लिए **विरोधाभासी विवरण** शामिल करती है, साथ ही यह भी दिखाती है कि **2019 का HBO शो Chernobyl** कहाँ गलत है।
- It also has a few **mistakes of its own**, such as when it says the **hydrogen atom has a neutron**.
इसमें कुछ **अपनी गलतियाँ** भी हैं, जैसे यह कहना कि **हाइड्रोजन परमाणु में एक न्यूट्रॉन** होता है।
- But these details are trivial in the narrative, which is the **real treasure**.
लेकिन ये विवरण कथा में नगण्य हैं, जो वास्तव में **अमूल्य** है।
- On the other hand, **Ploky's book** is perhaps the most **complete single-volume account** of the disaster.
दूसरी ओर, **प्लोखी की पुस्तक** इस आपदा का संभवतः सबसे **पूर्ण एकल-खंड विवरण** है।
- The historian drew on **Soviet archives, KGB documents, and testimony by survivors** that writers before him couldn't.
इतिहासकार ने **सोवियत अभिलेखागार, केजीबी दस्तावेज़ों, और जीवित बचे लोगों की गवाही** का उपयोग किया, जो उनसे पहले के लेखकों के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं था।
- He pieced together the disaster's **immediate aftermath** in such **• ne detail** that the book often reads like a **novel**.
उन्होंने आपदा के **तत्काल बाद** को इतने **सूक्ष्म विवरण** में जोड़ा कि पुस्तक अक्सर एक **उपन्यास** जैसी लगती है।
- Because of the authority of his sources, Ploky's voice is **con• dent**, including when he dissects the **Soviet bureaucratic culture** that rendered the disaster a matter of time.



अपने स्रोतों की विश्वसनीयता के कारण, प्लोखी की आवाज़ **आत्मविश्वासी** है, विशेषकर जब वह उस **सोवियत नौकरशाही संस्कृति** का विश्लेषण करते हैं जिसने इस आपदा को अपरिहार्य बना दिया।

- Its only downside, admittedly an important one, is that it sometimes **understates the disaster's health effects**.
इसकी एकमात्र कमी, जो महत्वपूर्ण है, यह है कि यह कभी-कभी **आपदा के स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों को कम करके दिखाती है**।
- It is nonetheless an **excellent reference** for those seeking to understand what actually happened.
फिर भी, यह उन लोगों के लिए एक **उत्कृष्ट संदर्भ** है जो यह समझना चाहते हैं कि वास्तव में क्या हुआ।

Voices from Chernobyl / चेर्नोबिल से आवाज़ें

- **Voices from Chernobyl**, by the Russian journalist **Svetlana Alexievich**, opens with the testimony of **Lyudmilla Ignatenko**, whose husband was one of the **first responders** at the plant.
Voices from Chernobyl, रूसी पत्रकार **स्वेतलाना अलेक्सियेविच** द्वारा लिखित, **ल्युडमिला इग्नार्तेको** की गवाही से शुरू होती है, जिनके पति संयंत्र के पहले **दमकलकर्मियों** में से एक थे।
- She recalled following him to a hospital in **Moscow**, hiding her pregnancy to remain at his bedside.
उन्होंने याद किया कि वे उनके पीछे **मॉस्को** के एक अस्पताल तक गईं और उनके पास रहने के लिए अपनी गर्भावस्था छिपाई।
- His skin cracked, his hair fell out, and pieces of his lungs and liver came out of his mouth. उनकी त्वचा फट गई, बाल झड़ गए, और उनके फेफड़ों तथा यकृत के टुकड़े उनके मुँह से बाहर आने लगे।
- He died in **14 days**.
उसकी मृत्यु **14 दिनों** में हो गई।
- Her own daughter only lived **four hours**: the doctors told Lyudmilla the **foetus had absorbed radiation** from her womb.
उसकी अपनी बेटी केवल **चार घंटे** जीवित रही: डॉक्टरों ने ल्युडमिला को बताया कि **भ्रूण ने गर्भ में ही विकिरण अवशोषित कर लिया था**।
- The desperate efforts to safeguard the reactor came to be called the **Battle of Chernobyl**, with a twist: the enemies here — more immediately, **radiation**, and more importantly, the **state** — were invisible.
रिएक्टर को सुरक्षित रखने के निराशाजनक प्रयासों को **चेर्नोबिल की लड़ाई** कहा गया, एक विशेषता के साथ: यहाँ के शत्रु — तत्काल रूप से **विकिरण**, और अधिक महत्वपूर्ण रूप से **राज्य** — अदृश्य थे।
- The plant was in **Ukraine** but **70% of the radionuclides** fell in **Belarus**.
संयंत्र **यूक्रेन** में था लेकिन **70% रेडियोन्यूक्लाइड्स** **बेलारूस** में गिरे।
- The government didn't evacuate **Prypiat** for **two days**.
सरकार ने **प्रिप्यात** को **दो दिनों** तक खाली नहीं कराया।
- The **Kremlin** only issued a statement on **April 28**, when radiation triggered alarms at a nuclear plant in **Sweden**.
क्रेमलिन ने केवल **28 अप्रैल** को बयान जारी किया, जब विकिरण ने **स्वीडन** के एक परमाणु संयंत्र में अलार्म बजा दिया।
- **Gorbachev** even encouraged citizens to participate in **May Day parades** — an act Plokhly argued was the moment Ukrainians became permanently **disillusioned with the state**.
गोर्बाचेव ने नागरिकों को **मई दिवस परेड** में भाग लेने के लिए भी प्रोत्साहित किया — प्लोखी के अनुसार यह वह क्षण था जब यूक्रेनियन स्थायी रूप से **राज्य से निराश** हो गए।

At the level of the body / शरीर के स्तर पर



- Of the many ways to understand **Chernobyl**, from **scientific to political**, **Voices from Chernobyl** brought to bear the **existential**.
चेर्नोबिल को समझने के अनेक तरीकों में, वैज्ञानिक से राजनीतिक तक, **Voices from Chernobyl** ने अस्तित्वगत पहलू को सामने रखा।
- **Alexievich** interviewed **hundreds of survivors** over many years but her principal contribution was her **voice**.
अलेक्सियेविच ने कई वर्षों में सैकड़ों जीवित बचे लोगों का साक्षात्कार लिया, लेकिन उनका मुख्य योगदान उनकी आवाज़ थी।
- She removed herself from the narrative, instead setting out the testimonies of **resisters, physicists, and re-settlers** without imposing any arguments on them.
उन्होंने स्वयं को कथा से अलग कर लिया और **दमकलकर्मियों, भौतिकविदों और पुनर्वासित लोगों** की गवाहियों को बिना किसी तर्क थोपे प्रस्तुत किया।
- She seemed to be saying no **synthesis** could ever capture the events at Chernobyl.
वह मानो यह कह रही थी कि कोई भी **संश्लेषण** चेर्नोबिल की घटनाओं को पूरी तरह नहीं पकड़ सकता।
- Against the **meticulousness** of **Plokhly and Higginbotham**, Alexievich argued that the disaster could only ever be **legible at the level of the body**, even if such bodies number in the thousands.
प्लोखी और हिगिनबोथम की **सूक्ष्मता** के विपरीत, अलेक्सियेविच ने तर्क दिया कि इस आपदा को केवल **शरीर के स्तर पर ही समझा जा सकता है**, भले ही ऐसे शरीर हजारों में हों।
- Since the disaster, **Chernobyl** has been complicated as much by **science and military video games** — which treated the defunct facility as an **ominous battleground** — as by **haunting photographs** and, today, a **dark tourism industry**.
आपदा के बाद से, चेर्नोबिल को **साइ-फाई कथाओं और सैन्य वीडियो गेम्स** ने उतना ही जटिल बनाया है — जो इस निष्क्रिय स्थल को एक **भयावह युद्धभूमि** के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं — जितना कि **भयावह तस्वीरों** और आज के **डार्क टूरिज्म उद्योग** ने।
- Scholars have described the **Zone of Exclusion** as a unique place where it is now possible to **bodily experience a historic politico-technical failure**.
विद्वानों ने **बहिष्करण क्षेत्र (Zone of Exclusion)** को एक ऐसे अनूठे स्थान के रूप में वर्णित किया है जहाँ अब **ऐतिहासिक राजनीतिक-तकनीकी विफलता का शारीरिक अनुभव** किया जा सकता है।
- Even **Fukushima** didn't manage this, thus avoiding slipping into **mythology**.
यहाँ तक कि **फुकुशिमा** भी ऐसा नहीं कर पाया, जिससे वह **मिथकीय रूप** लेने से बच गया।
- In fact, **Fukushima was a disaster**.
वास्तव में, **फुकुशिमा एक आपदा थी**।
- **Chernobyl is a story that keeps finding new retellings**.
चेर्नोबिल एक ऐसी कहानी है जो बार-बार नए रूपों में सामने आती रहती है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		23 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23A	Centre makes registration for e-sports mandatory केंद्र ने ई-स्पोर्ट्स के लिए पंजीकरण अनिवार्य किया	
23A	T.N. Police foil trafficking of victims into cyberscam compounds of Cambodia तमिलनाडु पुलिस ने कंबोडिया के साइबर स्कैम ठिकानों में पीड़ितों की तस्करी को नाकाम किया	



23A	Govt. adds 14 seaports for e-visa entry, widens immigration access सरकार ने ई-वीजा प्रवेश के लिए 14 समुद्री बंदरगाह जोड़े, आव्रजन पहुंच का विस्तार किया
23A	INS Nireekshak arrives in Colombo for bilateral exercise आईएनएस निरीक्षक द्विपक्षीय अभ्यास के लिए कोलंबो पहुंचा

Centre makes registration for e-sports mandatory

CS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Wednesday notified rules allowing registration of e-sport games and the firms running them, which will take effect from May 1. The rules come as subordinate legislation for the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, which prohibited real money gaming in India. The rules come after a draft was last published last October.

The Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI), which will run as an attached office within MeitY as a fully digital organisation, has been set up under



The rules have provisions that enable age classifications of games should the govt. deem it necessary. GETTY IMAGES

the rules. Representatives from the Ministries of Home Affairs and Law have been added to the OGAI.

Under the new rules, registration for "online social games" will only be re-

quired and triggered when the Centre notifies a specific category of games as requiring such registration. Registration for e-sports is mandatory.

IT Secretary S. Krishnan

told the media that the rules have enabling provisions to regulate and require age classifications of video games in the future, should the government deem it necessary to address issues like addiction.

The rules provide for a "code of practice" the the IT Ministry could notify in the future covering video games, such as games with microtransactions.

"Most games which are not money games should be able to operate with no obligation to necessarily either be determined or registered," Mr. Krishnan said. "That entire process is optional."

On the issue of betting markets hosting wagers on Indian elections and crick-

et matches, he said that such sites were being blocked as and when they were brought to notice.

"Access through VPNs is a slightly thorny issue," he added. "We are trying to see how we can regulate VPNs more effectively... there are many legitimate uses of VPNs. So how do you distinguish between the legitimate and the illegitimate uses is the big question... it's a bit like a whack-a-mole situation," he said.

The Act drops the draft's language on promoting e-sports altogether. Mr. Krishnan said that this was because promotion of e-sports was a policy matter and may not have been appropriate to include in a rulemaking process.

23A. Centre makes registration for e-sports mandatory

केंद्र ने ई-स्पोर्ट्स के लिए पंजीकरण अनिवार्य किया

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) on Wednesday notified rules allowing registration of **e-sport games** and the firms running them, which will take effect from **May 1**.

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (**MeitY**) ने बुधवार को ऐसे नियम अधिसूचित किए जो **ई-स्पोर्ट गेम्स** और उन्हें चलाने वाली कंपनियों के पंजीकरण की अनुमति देते हैं, जो **1 मई** से प्रभावी होंगे।

- The rules come as subordinate legislation for the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, **2025**, which prohibits **real money gaming** in India.

ये नियम Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, **2025** के लिए अधीनस्थ कानून के रूप में आए हैं, जिसने भारत में **रियल मनी गेमिंग** पर प्रतिबंध लगाया था।

- The rules come after a draft was last published last October.

ये नियम पिछले वर्ष अक्टूबर में अंतिम बार प्रकाशित ड्राफ्ट के बाद आए हैं।

- The Online Gaming Authority of India (**OGAI**), which will run as an attached office within MeitY as a fully **digital organisation**, has been set up under the rules.

ऑनलाइन गेमिंग अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (OGAI), जो MeitY के भीतर एक संलग्न कार्यालय के रूप में पूर्णतः **डिजिटल संगठन** के रूप में कार्य करेगी, इन नियमों के तहत स्थापित की गई है।

- Representatives from the Ministries of **Home Affairs** and **Law** have been added to the OGAI. **गृह मंत्रालय** और **कानून मंत्रालय** के प्रतिनिधियों को OGAI में शामिल किया गया है।



- Under the new rules, registration for “**online social games**” will only be required and triggered when the Centre notices a specific category of games as requiring such registration. नए नियमों के तहत “ऑनलाइन सोशल गेम्स” के लिए पंजीकरण केवल तभी आवश्यक होगा जब केंद्र सरकार किसी विशेष श्रेणी के खेलों को इसके लिए अधिसूचित करेगी।
- Registration for **e-sports is mandatory**.
ई-स्पोर्ट्स के लिए पंजीकरण अनिवार्य है।
- IT Secretary **S. Krishnan** told the media that the rules have enabling provisions to regulate and require **age classifications** of video games in the future, should the government deem it necessary to address issues like addiction.
आईटी सचिव **S. कृष्णन** ने मीडिया को बताया कि इन नियमों में ऐसे प्रावधान हैं जो भविष्य में आवश्यकता पड़ने पर वीडियो गेम्स के **आयु वर्गीकरण** को नियंत्रित और अनिवार्य करने की अनुमति देते हैं, यदि सरकार को लत जैसी समस्याओं को संबोधित करना आवश्यक लगे।
- The rules provide for a “**code of practice**” the the IT Ministry could notify in the future covering video games, such as games with **microtransactions**.
ये नियम एक “**कोड ऑफ प्रैक्टिस**” का प्रावधान करते हैं, जिसे आईटी मंत्रालय भविष्य में वीडियो गेम्स, जैसे **माइक्रोट्रांजैक्शन वाले गेम्स**, के लिए अधिसूचित कर सकता है।
- “Most games which are not **money games** should be able to operate with no obligation to necessarily either be determined or registered,” Mr. Krishnan said.
“अधिकांश गेम्स जो **मनी गेम्स** नहीं हैं, उन्हें बिना किसी बाध्यता के, चाहे उन्हें निर्धारित किया जाए या पंजीकृत किया जाए, संचालन करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए,” श्री कृष्णन ने कहा।
- “That entire process is **optional**.”
“वह पूरा प्रक्रिया **वैकल्पिक** है।”
- On the issue of betting markets hosting wagers on Indian elections and cricket matches, he said that such sites were being blocked as and when they were brought to notice.
भारतीय चुनावों और क्रिकेट मैचों पर सट्टा लगाने वाले बेटिंग मार्केट्स के मुद्दे पर उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसी साइटों को जब भी ध्यान में लाया जाता है, उन्हें ब्लॉक किया जा रहा है।
- “Access through **VPNs** is a slightly thorny issue,” he added.
“**VPNs** के माध्यम से पहुंच एक थोड़ा जटिल मुद्दा है,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- “We are trying to see how we can regulate **VPNs** more effectively... There are many legitimate uses of **VPNs**. So how do you distinguish between the legitimate and the illegitimate uses is the big question... it’s a bit like a **whack-a-mole situation**,” he said.
“हम यह देखने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि हम **VPNs** को अधिक प्रभावी तरीके से कैसे नियंत्रित कर सकते हैं... **VPNs** के कई वैध उपयोग हैं। इसलिए वैध और अवैध उपयोगों के बीच अंतर कैसे किया जाए, यही बड़ा सवाल है... यह थोड़ा **whack-a-mole स्थिति** जैसा है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- The Act drops the draft’s language on promoting **esports** altogether.
इस अधिनियम ने ड्राफ्ट में **ई-स्पोर्ट्स के प्रोत्साहन** से संबंधित भाषा को पूरी तरह हटा दिया है।
- “Mr. Krishnan said that this was because promotion of **esports** was a policy matter and may not have been appropriate to include in a rulemaking process.”
“श्री कृष्णन ने कहा कि यह इसलिए था क्योंकि **ई-स्पोर्ट्स का प्रोत्साहन** एक नीति विषय है और इसे नियम बनाने की प्रक्रिया में शामिल करना उपयुक्त नहीं हो सकता था।”



T.N. Police foil trafficking of victims into cyberscam compounds of Cambodia

GS III: Internal Security

R. Sivaraman

GS I: Geography

The Cyber Crime Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police has busted a criminal network, preventing the trafficking of victims to international cyberscam compounds in Cambodia. Following a rescue operation, officials arrested key suspects and registered a case.

The police said, during a drive on 'cyber slavery'-related patrolling, social media monitoring was carried out under the supervision of Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime Wing I. Shahnaz.

Based on the operation that was conducted by the State Cyber Command Centre, the police found that an agent from Madurai was trafficking victims to the cyberscam compounds under the guise of 'data entry' job offers.

Victims were lured through fake recruitment processes, including typing tests, video interviews, and medical examinations, with promises of high salary, easy work, and free accommodation.

Each victim paid ₹1.5 lakh to the agents and carried with them a sum of \$500, which was to be collected by the receiver at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Acting swiftly on inputs, two special teams were formed in Chennai and



Victims were lured through fake recruitment processes, including typing tests, video interviews, and medical examinations, with promises of high salary, easy work, and free accommodation.

Each victim paid ₹1.5 lakh to agents and carried with them a sum of \$500, which was to be collected by the receiver in Cambodia

Madurai. The team conducted an operation at Chennai International Airport and rescued four victims who were about to be trafficked to the international scam compounds. During the operation, it was identified that a handler was assigned to accompany the victims on their journey and to hand them over upon their arrival in Phnom Penh. In this case, so far, four people, including three agents who recruited and transported victims to international scam compounds and one carrier, have been arrested.

All four are residents of Melur, Madurai. Further

investigation is on to identify their involvement in trafficking other victims.

Police advisory

Additional Director General of Police, Cyber Crime Wing, has issued an advisory and urged the public to remain vigilant and be cautious of overseas job offers promising high salaries with minimal qualifications. "Do not trust offers claiming easy data entry jobs, online interviews, free food and accommodation, and unusually attractive benefits," the advisory warned.

"Be aware that victims are often forced into cyber scam activities after reaching foreign countries. Victims who refuse to work or fail to meet targets may face physical and mental harassment. Always verify recruitment agencies through the official eMigrate portal (www.emigrate.gov.in)," it stated.

23A. T.N. Police foil trafficking of victims into cyberscam compounds of Cambodia

तमिलनाडु पुलिस ने कंबोडिया के साइबर स्कैम ठिकानों में पीड़ितों की तस्करी को नाकाम किया

The Cyber Crime Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police has busted a criminal network, preventing the trafficking of victims to international cyberscam compounds in Cambodia. तमिलनाडु पुलिस की साइबर क्राइम विंग ने एक आपराधिक नेटवर्क का भंडाफोड़ किया है, जिसने कंबोडिया में अंतरराष्ट्रीय साइबर स्कैम ठिकानों तक पीड़ितों की तस्करी को रोका।

Following a rescue operation, officials arrested key suspects and registered a case. एक बचाव अभियान के बाद, अधिकारियों ने मुख्य संदिग्धों को गिरफ्तार किया और मामला दर्ज किया।

The police said, during a drive on 'cyber slavery'-related patrolling, social media monitoring was carried out under the supervision of Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime Wing I. Shahnaz.

पुलिस ने बताया कि 'साइबर गुलामी' से संबंधित अभियान के दौरान, सोशल मीडिया निगरानी पुलिस अधीक्षक, साइबर क्राइम विंग I. शहनाज़ के पर्यवेक्षण में की गई।

Based on the operation that was conducted by the State Cyber Command Centre, the police found that an agent from Madurai was trafficking victims to the cyberscam

compounds under the guise of 'data entry' job offers.

राज्य साइबर कमांड सेंटर द्वारा किए गए ऑपरेशन के आधार पर पुलिस ने पाया कि मद्रुरै का एक एजेंट 'डेटा एंट्री' नौकरी के नाम पर पीड़ितों को साइबर स्कैम ठिकानों तक तस्करी कर रहा था।

- Victims were lured through fake recruitment processes, including typing tests, video interviews, and medical examinations, with promises of high salary, easy work, and free accommodation.

पीड़ितों को नकली भर्ती प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से फंसाया गया, जिसमें टाइपिंग टेस्ट, वीडियो इंटरव्यू और मेडिकल जांच शामिल थी, और उन्हें उच्च वेतन, आसान काम और मुफ्त आवास का वादा किया गया।



- Each victim paid ₹1.5 lakh to the agents and carried with them a sum of \$500, which was to be collected by the receiver at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
प्रत्येक पीड़ित ने एजेंटों को ₹1.5 लाख का भुगतान किया और अपने साथ \$500 ले गए, जिसे कंबोडिया के नोम पेन्ह में रिसीवर द्वारा लिया जाना था।
- Acting swiftly on inputs, two special teams were formed in Chennai and Madurai.
सूचना पर तेजी से कार्रवाई करते हुए, चेन्नई और मदुरै में दो विशेष टीमों बनाई गईं।
- The team conducted an operation at Chennai International Airport and rescued four victims who were about to be trafficked to the international scam compounds.
टीम ने चेन्नई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर ऑपरेशन किया और चार पीड़ितों को बचाया जिन्हें अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्कैम ठिकानों तक ले जाया जाने वाला था।
- During the operation, it was identified that a handler was assigned to accompany the victims on their journey and to hand them over upon their arrival in Phnom Penh.
ऑपरेशन के दौरान यह पाया गया कि एक हैंडलर को पीड़ितों के साथ यात्रा पर भेजा गया था और उन्हें नोम पेन्ह पहुंचने पर सौंपना था।
- In this case, so far, four people, including three agents who recruited and transported victims to international scam compounds and one carrier, have been arrested.
इस मामले में अब तक चार लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है, जिनमें तीन एजेंट शामिल हैं जिन्होंने पीड़ितों की भर्ती और उन्हें अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्कैम ठिकानों तक पहुंचाया तथा एक कैरियर शामिल है।
- All four are residents of Melur, Madurai.
ये चारों मदुरै के मेलूर के निवासी हैं।
- Further investigation is on to identify their involvement in trafficking other victims.
अन्य पीड़ितों की तस्करी में उनकी संलिप्तता का पता लगाने के लिए आगे जांच जारी है।

Police advisory

पुलिस सलाह

- Additional Director General of Police, Cyber Crime Wing, has issued an advisory and urged the public to remain vigilant and be cautious of overseas job offers promising high salaries with minimal qualifications.
अतिरिक्त पुलिस महानिदेशक, साइबर क्राइम विंग ने एक सलाह जारी की है और जनता से अपील की है कि वे सतर्क रहें और कम योग्यता पर उच्च वेतन देने वाले विदेशी नौकरी के प्रस्तावों से सावधान रहें।
- “Do not trust offers claiming easy data entry jobs, online interviews, free food and accommodation, and unusually attractive benefits,” the advisory warned.
“आसान डेटा एंट्री नौकरी, ऑनलाइन इंटरव्यू, मुफ्त भोजन और आवास तथा असामान्य रूप से आकर्षक लाभ देने वाले प्रस्तावों पर भरोसा न करें,” सलाह में चेतावनी दी गई।
- “Be aware that victims are often forced into cyber scam activities after reaching foreign countries. Victims who refuse to work or fail to meet targets may face physical and mental harassment. Always verify recruitment agencies through the official eMigrate portal (www.emigrate.gov.in),” it stated.
“सावधान रहें कि पीड़ित अक्सर विदेशी देशों में पहुंचने के बाद साइबर स्कैम गतिविधियों में मजबूर किए जाते हैं। जो काम करने से मना करते हैं या लक्ष्य पूरा नहीं कर पाते, उन्हें शारीरिक और मानसिक उत्पीड़न का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। हमेशा भर्ती एजेंसियों की जांच आधिकारिक eMigrate पोर्टलके माध्यम से करें,” इसमें कहा गया।



Govt. adds 14 seaports for e-visa entry, widens immigration access

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has designated 14 more seaports – half of them in Gujarat – as immigration check posts for foreign nationals who hold e-visas.

Electronic visa facilities have been operational since March 19 at Alang, Bedi Bandar, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Hazira, Pipavav, and Mandvi seaports in Gujarat; Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, and Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu; Kakinada and Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh; and Paradip and Dhamra in Odisha, an official said.

There are altogether 114 immigration check posts (ICPs) across air, sea, land, rail and river routes, catering to international traffic. At present, there are 37 ICPs at seaports.

E-visa holders are allowed to enter India only through the 32 designated



Key gateway: Electronic visa facilities have been operational since March 19 at several seaports in the country. N. RAJESH

airports and 33 seaports.

The e-visa – often confused with visa-on-arrival – is available to citizens of 207 countries, excluding China, Pakistan, Yemen and Iran. The e-visa categories are tourist, business, medical, medical attendant, student, family, transit, miscellaneous and production investment, with validity ranging from a month to five years.

In a related develop-

There are 114 immigration check posts catering to international traffic; 37 are at seaports

ment, the Ministry revised modalities for granting tourist visas to Chinese nationals. The Indian Embassy in Beijing had announced on July 23, 2025, that tourist visas would be issued to Chinese nationals after a

gap of five years.

After the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and the Galwan Valley incident, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed in clashes with the Chinese army, both countries had suspended flights and most visa services between them.

China restored visa applications for Indian students in 2022 and later for business and tourism.

On March 30, the MHA amended the tourist visa guidelines for Chinese tourists by liberalising conditions for Buddhist pilgrims and family members of Chinese diplomats.

The Centre, on October 2, 2025, also gave the green signal to resume direct flights between India and China after a gap of five years. On Tuesday, Air China resumed its non-stop Delhi-Beijing flight, reconnecting the flight services between the two capitals after five years.

23A. Govt. adds 14 seaports for e-visa entry, widens immigration access

सरकार ने ई-वीजा प्रवेश के लिए 14 समुद्री बंदरगाह जोड़े, आब्रजन पहुंच का विस्तार किया

- The Union Home Ministry has designated **14 more seaports** — half of them in Gujarat — as **immigration check posts** for foreign nationals who hold **e-visas**.
केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने 14 और समुद्री बंदरगाहों — जिनमें से आधे गुजरात में हैं — को ई-वीजा धारक विदेशी नागरिकों के लिए आब्रजन जांच चौकी के रूप में नामित किया है।
- Electronic visa facilities have been operational since March 19 at **Alang, Bedi Bandar, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Hazira, Pipavav, and Mandvi seaports** in Gujarat; **Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, and Thoothukudi** in Tamil Nadu; **Kakinada and Krishnapatnam** in Andhra Pradesh; and **Paradip and Dhamra** in Odisha, an official said.
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वीजा सुविधा 19 मार्च से गुजरात के अलंग, बेदी बंदर, भावनगर, पोरबंदर, हजीरा, पिपावाव और मांडवी समुद्री बंदरगाहों पर; तमिलनाडु में कुड्डालोर, नागपट्टिनम और तूतीकोरिन; आंध्र प्रदेश में काकीनाडा और कृष्णापटनम; तथा ओडिशा में परादीप और धामरा पर चालू है, एक अधिकारी ने बताया।
- There are altogether **114 immigration check posts (ICPs)** across air, sea, land, rail and river routes, catering to international traffic.
कुल मिलाकर देश में हवाई, समुद्री, भूमि, रेल और नदी मार्गों पर **114 आब्रजन जांच चौकियां (ICPs)** हैं, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय यातायात को संभालती हैं।



- At present, there are **37 ICPs at seaports**.
वर्तमान में समुद्री बंदरगाहों पर **37 ICPs** हैं।
- E-visa holders are allowed to enter India only through the **32 designated airports and 33 seaports**.
ई-वीजा धारकों को भारत में प्रवेश केवल **32 निर्धारित हवाई अड्डों** और **33 समुद्री बंदरगाहों** के माध्यम से ही अनुमति है।
- The **e-visa** — often confused with **visa-on-arrival** — is available to citizens of **207 countries**, excluding China, Pakistan, Yemen and Iran.
ई-वीजा — जिसे अक्सर **वीजा-ऑन-अराइवल** से भ्रमित किया जाता है — **207 देशों** के नागरिकों के लिए उपलब्ध है, जिसमें चीन, पाकिस्तान, यमन और ईरान शामिल नहीं हैं।
- The e-visa categories are **tourist, business, medical, medical attendant, student, family, transit, miscellaneous and production investment**, with validity ranging from a month to five years.
ई-वीजा श्रेणियाँ **पर्यटक, व्यवसाय, चिकित्सा, चिकित्सा सहायक, छात्र, परिवार, ट्रांजिट, विविध और उत्पादन निवेश** हैं, जिनकी वैधता एक महीने से लेकर पाँच वर्ष तक होती है।
- In a related development, the Ministry revised modalities for granting **tourist visas to Chinese nationals**.
एक संबंधित विकास में, मंत्रालय ने **चीनी नागरिकों को पर्यटक वीजा** देने की प्रक्रिया में संशोधन किया।
- The Indian Embassy in Beijing had announced on July 23, 2025, that **tourist visas** would be issued to Chinese nationals after a gap of five years.
बीजिंग में भारतीय दूतावास ने 23 जुलाई 2025 को घोषणा की थी कि पाँच वर्षों के अंतराल के बाद चीनी नागरिकों को **पर्यटक वीजा** जारी किए जाएंगे।
- After the 2020 **COVID-19 pandemic** and the **Galwan Valley incident**, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed in clashes with the Chinese army, both countries had suspended flights and most visa services between them.
2020 की **COVID-19 महामारी** और **गलवान घाटी घटना** के बाद, जिसमें चीनी सेना के साथ झड़प में 20 भारतीय सैनिक मारे गए थे, दोनों देशों ने उड़ानों और अधिकांश वीजा सेवाओं को निलंबित कर दिया था।
- China restored visa applications for Indian students in 2022 and later for business and tourism.
चीन ने 2022 में भारतीय छात्रों के लिए वीजा आवेदन और बाद में व्यवसाय व पर्यटन के लिए सेवाएँ बहाल कीं।
- On March 30, the MHA amended the tourist visa guidelines for Chinese tourists by liberalising conditions for **Buddhist pilgrims** and family members of Chinese diplomats.
30 मार्च को गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) ने चीनी पर्यटकों के लिए **पर्यटक वीजा दिशानिर्देशों** में संशोधन किया और **बौद्ध तीर्थयात्रियों** तथा चीनी राजनयिकों के परिवार सदस्यों के लिए शर्तों को आसान बनाया।
- The Centre, on October 2, 2025, also gave the green signal to resume **direct flights between India and China** after a gap of five years.
केंद्र ने 2 अक्टूबर 2025 को पाँच वर्षों के अंतराल के बाद **भारत और चीन के बीच सीधी उड़ानें** फिर से शुरू करने की मंजूरी दी।
- On Tuesday, Air China resumed its non-stop **Delhi-Beijing flight**, reconnecting the flight services between the two capitals after five years.
मंगलवार को एयर चाइना ने अपनी नॉन-स्टॉप **दिल्ली-बीजिंग उड़ान** फिर से शुरू की, जिससे पाँच वर्षों बाद दोनों राजधानियों के बीच हवाई संपर्क बहाल हो गया।



GS III: Internal Security

INS Nireekshak arrives in Colombo for bilateral exercise

INS Nireekshak, the Indian Navy's Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel, arrived in Colombo on Tuesday to participate in the fourth edition of the India-Sri Lanka Diving Exercise (DIVEX 2026), scheduled from April 21. According to the Indian Navy, the bilateral exercise will be conducted over a week and brings together diving teams from both navies to undertake specialised underwater operations. The engagement aims at enhancing interoperability, operational cohesion, and the exchange of best practices between the two maritime forces. The vessel was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the Sri Lankan Navy.

interoperability, operational cohesion, and the exchange of best practices between the two maritime forces.

इस अभ्यास का उद्देश्य दोनों समुद्री बलों के बीच इंटरऑपरेबिलिटी, परिचालन समन्वय और सर्वोत्तम प्रक्रियाओं के आदान-प्रदान को बढ़ाना है।

- The vessel was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the Sri Lankan Navy. जहाज का श्रीलंका नौसेना द्वारा औपचारिक स्वागत किया गया।

23A. INS Nireekshak arrives in Colombo for bilateral exercise

आईएनएस निरीक्षक द्विपक्षीय अभ्यास के लिए कोलंबो पहुंचा

• INS Nireekshak, the Indian Navy's Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel, arrived in Colombo on Tuesday to participate in the fourth edition of the India-Sri Lanka Diving Exercise (DIVEX 2026), scheduled from April 21.

आईएनएस निरीक्षक, भारतीय नौसेना का डाइविंग सपोर्ट और सबमरीन रेस्क्यू वेसल, मंगलवार को कोलंबो पहुंचा ताकि वह भारत-श्रीलंका डाइविंग अभ्यास (DIVEX 2026) के चौथे संस्करण में भाग ले सके, जो 21 अप्रैल से निर्धारित है।

• According to the Indian Navy, the bilateral exercise will be conducted over a week and brings together diving teams from both navies to undertake specialised underwater operations.

भारतीय नौसेना के अनुसार, यह द्विपक्षीय अभ्यास एक सप्ताह तक चलेगा और दोनों नौसेनाओं की डाइविंग टीमों को विशेष अंडरवॉटर ऑपरेशंस के लिए एक साथ लाएगा।

- The engagement aims at enhancing