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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

27 APRIL 2026

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27A	Raghu Rai didn't just photograph India, he invented a way of seeing it रघु राय ने केवल भारत की तस्वीरें नहीं लीं, बल्कि उसे देखने का एक तरीका गढ़ा
27A	Kwizera blazes to TCS World 10K Bengaluru record क्विज़ेरा ने TCS वर्ल्ड 10K बेंगलुरु में रिकॉर्ड बनाया
27A	Sawe becomes first man to run a marathon under two hours सावे दो घंटे से कम में मैराथन दौड़ने वाले पहले व्यक्ति बने



Visually challenged trainee judge gets an inclusive campus



Thanya Nathan C., Kerala's first visually challenged trainee judge, at the Kerala Judicial Academy on Sunday. THULASI KAKKAT

PCS

KOCHI

Hostel room number 110 on the ground floor of the Kerala Judicial Academy at Athani in Ernakulam has been spruced up for a new occupant.

Two stainless steel grab bars have been fixed along the wall of the room to guide Thanya Nathan C., the first visually challenged trainee judge in the district judiciary of Kerala, who checked into the hostel on Sunday, from the door to the bed. The bathroom has been modified to cater to the needs of its occupant. Ms. Nathan will be accompanied by her mother, C.H. Babitha, with permission from the academy which will be covering the expenses.

The academy premises have been modified to ensure unobstructed movement for Ms. Nathan with newly built ramps and tactile paving to guide her along the path. A walkway encircling the courtyard with a fully grown flowering tree has been secured with chains to prevent any accidental fall.

"I need a companion to move outside the room, though I quickly get accus-

tomed to the interiors of the rooms where I am staying. It is for the first time that I am staying in a hostel room," Ms. Nathan said.

While service of a woman attendant will be made available for Ms. Nathan, her fellow trainees will be put on a weekly rotation to help her complete her academic work. It will be a learning opportunity for other trainees, said K.N. Sujith, Director of the academy.

Ms. Nathan may miss the "walk the talk" programme where the trainees take a stroll along the campus with senior judges. However, plans are afoot to set up the required facilities for the programme.

Some of the proposals to make the campus fully inclusive, which had to be put on hold during the Assembly election, will be revived once the Model Code of Conduct is lifted. Purchasing of software for trainees with special needs is in the pipeline, Mr. Sujith added.

The year-long training programme for Ms. Nathan and her fellow trainees will commence on Monday with an induction ceremony at 11 a.m.

27A. Visually challenged trainee judge gets an inclusive campus

दृष्टिबाधित प्रशिक्षु न्यायाधीश को समावेशी परिसर मिला

- Visually challenged trainee judge gets an inclusive campus.

दृष्टिबाधित प्रशिक्षु न्यायाधीश को समावेशी परिसर मिला।

- Hostel room number 110 on the ground floor of the Kerala Judicial Academy at Athani in Ernakulam has been spruced up for a new occupant.

एर्नाकुलम के अठानी स्थित केरल न्यायिक अकादमी के भूतल पर हॉस्टल कमरा संख्या 110 को नए निवासी के लिए तैयार किया गया है।

- Two stainless steel grab bars have been fixed along the wall of the room to guide Thanya Nathan C., the first visually challenged trainee judge in the district judiciary of Kerala, who checked into the hostel on Sunday, from the door to the bed.

कमरे की दीवार के साथ दो स्टेनलेस स्टील ग्रैब बार लगाए गए हैं ताकि थान्या नाथन सी., जो केरल की जिला न्यायपालिका की पहली दृष्टिबाधित प्रशिक्षु न्यायाधीश हैं और रविवार को हॉस्टल में आईं, दरवाजे से बिस्तर तक मार्गदर्शन पा सकें।



Images that eloquently told the story of India in light and shade

The story of Raghu Rai, who passed away on Sunday, is intricately linked with that of the country; from capturing the stately presence of Indira Gandhi to documenting the Bhopal gas tragedy, his photographs have frozen moments of history

Ziya Us Salam

Language may be used to obfuscate the truth. An image never lies. Raghu Rai's countless images often with their quiet optimism and occasionally brooding pessimism, never did. A testimony to a country as much at ease with the gentle religiosity of the eternal refugee, the Dalai Lama, and the endlessly healing Mother Teresa as with the silent eloquence of a frame of a Satyajit Ray film or the stately presence of Indira Gandhi captured in a frame sitting in her office, signing some papers even as her Ministers, all men, stand around her.

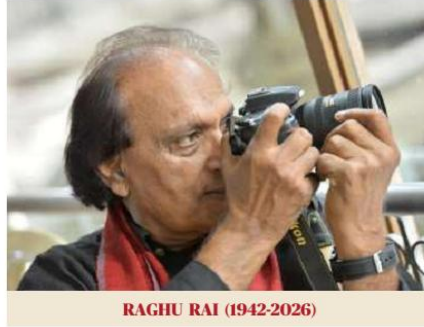
Then there were timeless frames of a blind Muslim beggar finding his way leaning on the shoulder of a Hindu girl with mental disabilities and another one of a *chaiwala* precariously perched at the gate of a moving train with his tray, cups and saucers.

For the record, Rai, who passed away at the age of 83 on Sunday, after battling cancer for two years, was a print photographer whose association with the States-

man, beginning 1966, has been recounted almost as often as his images have been debated before being embraced. He worked for *Sunday* and *India Today* too, but, essentially, he was his own man, doing his own thing. In his own fashion, documenting the times he lived in.

Rai's story is intricately linked with that of India. Without either, the story would be incomplete. In the lap of the Himalayas, Rai found peace at the feet of the Dalai Lama. On one occasion, he had gone to capture the face of serenity. Two monks flanked a little maroon sheet, as Rai prepared for the shoot. Then came the Dalai Lama and in the humility which was always his companion, he asked Rai, "Where do you want me to stand?" A little later, Rai's photo spoke as precisely, the interplay of light and shadow, the intensity of the purpose being balanced with the gentleness of nature.

Rai followed the Ganga trail; capturing its beauty, its religiosity with such depth as to make infinity intelligible. Much the same



RAGHU RAI (1942-2026)

he did with the Yamuna, and Delhi, the city which draws its lifeline from the Yamuna. He lent a magical touch to Khushwant Singh's *Delhi: A Portrait* and quietly reiterated that a good picture is better than a thousand words, even if the words were of the irrepressible Singh. With his lens, Delhi's trees spoke, its monuments communicated.

He found peace by the ghats of the Ganga in Banaras. A Hindu saint with long, knotted hair evoked as much awe as spirituality for him. The way his lens captured the pacific waters one didn't need a story. He

was to immortalise it for posterity with the book, *Varanasi: Portrait of a Civilisation*, one of the nearly 20 books he penned and photographed for. Further down the Ganga trail, he followed Mother Teresa to Kolkata. His image of the Mother, bent over a stick, her eyes aglow with hope lent grace and spirituality to the moment.

'Meeting god'

He was born in 1942, the year of Quit India; his parents quit the newly created Pakistan soon after Partition. The Padma Shri awardee's photographs were many things to a mil-

lion people. For Rai, they were life. As he once told this correspondent, "Without my camera, I am nothing. Indeed, without a memory a human being is like a ripple in the river, when and where it starts, where it ends, nobody knows. For me, photography started as a bid to freeze memories."

He was a protégé of Henri Cartier-Bresson, who nominated Rai, then an upcoming photojournalist, to join Magnum Photos in 1977. He was to go on to raise photojournalism to an art, holding retrospectives in New Delhi and London besides exhibitions in the U.S., Finland, Australia, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands. Wherever people could read and see, Rai's work was admired. Most notably Bhopal after the gas tragedy in 1984. He was generous to the talented, appreciative of the skilful, and impatient of delays and dilettantes. Understandable for someone so blessed, so devoted that his art itself became a form of worship.

"I meet my god through my camera," he once said.

27A. Images that eloquently told the story of India in light and shade

ऐसी तस्वीरें जिन्होंने रोशनी और छाया में भारत की कहानी बयां की

- The story of **Raghu Rai**, who passed away on Sunday, is intricately linked with that of the country.

रघु राय की कहानी, जिनका रविवार को निधन हो गया, देश की कहानी से गहराई से जुड़ी हुई है।

- From capturing the stately presence of **Indira Gandhi** to documenting the **Bhopal gas tragedy**, his photographs have frozen moments of history.

इंदिरा गांधी की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति को कैद करने से लेकर **भोपाल गैस त्रासदी** को दस्तावेज करने तक, उनकी तस्वीरों ने इतिहास के क्षणों को स्थिर कर दिया।

- Language may be used to obfuscate the truth.
भाषा का उपयोग सत्य को छिपाने के लिए किया जा सकता है।

- An image never lies.
एक तस्वीर कभी झूठ नहीं बोलती।

- Raghu Rai's countless images, often with their quiet optimism and occasionally brooding pessimism, never did.
रघु राय की अनगिनत तस्वीरें, जिनमें अक्सर शांत आशावाद और कभी-कभी गहन निराशा झलकती है, कभी झूठ नहीं बोलतीं।

- A testimony to a country as much at ease with the gentle religiosity of the eternal refugee, the **Dalai Lama**, and the endlessly healing **Mother Teresa**.



यह उस देश की गवाही हैं जो शाश्वत शरणार्थी **दलाई लामा** की सौम्य धार्मिकता और निरंतर सेवा करने वाली **मदर टेरेसा** के साथ सहज है।

- As with the silent eloquence of a frame of a **Satyajit Ray** film or the stately presence of **Indira Gandhi** captured in a frame sitting in her office.
जैसे **सत्यजीत रे** की फिल्म के फ्रेम की मौन अभिव्यक्ति या अपने कार्यालय में बैठी **इंदिरा गांधी** की गरिमामयी छवि।
- Signing some papers even as her Ministers, all men, stand around her.
वह कागज़ों पर हस्ताक्षर कर रही हैं जबकि उनके सभी मंत्री, जो पुरुष हैं, उनके आसपास खड़े हैं।
- Then there were timeless frames of a blind Muslim beggar finding his way leaning on the shoulder of a Hindu girl with mental disabilities.
फिर एक अंधे मुस्लिम भिखारी की कालातीत तस्वीरें थीं जो मानसिक रूप से विकलांग हिंदू लड़की के कंधे का सहारा लेकर रास्ता ढूँढ रहा है।
- And another one of a chaiwala precariously perched at the gate of a moving train with his tray, cups and saucers.
और एक अन्य तस्वीर जिसमें एक चायवाला चलती ट्रेन के दरवाजे पर अपने ट्रे, कप और तश्तरियों के साथ संतुलन बनाए हुए है।
- For the record, Rai, who passed away at the age of **83** on Sunday, after battling **cancer** for two years.
रिकॉर्ड के अनुसार, **83 वर्ष** की आयु में रविवार को दो साल तक **कैंसर** से लड़ने के बाद रघु राय का निधन हुआ।
- Was a print photographer whose association with **The Statesman**, beginning **1966**, has been recounted almost as often as his images have been debated before being embraced.
वे एक प्रिंट फोटोग्राफर थे जिनका **1966** से **द स्टेट्समैन** के साथ जुड़ाव उतना ही चर्चित रहा जितनी उनकी तस्वीरें।
- "I meet my god through my camera," he once said.
उन्होंने कहा था, "मैं अपने कैमरे के माध्यम से भगवान से मिलता हूँ।"
- "I am partial to the **wide angle**," he once told me, "because even when I photograph a person, I want the atmosphere, the surrounding, the simultaneity of moments."
उन्होंने कहा था, "मैं **वाइड एंगल** का पक्षधर हूँ, क्योंकि जब मैं किसी व्यक्ति की तस्वीर लेता हूँ, तो मैं उसका परिवेश, आसपास और क्षणों का एक साथ होना चाहता हूँ।"
- The **darkroom**, in his hands, was less a process and more a mythos.
उनके हाथों में **डार्करूम** एक प्रक्रिया नहीं, बल्कि एक मिथक जैसा था।



Kwizera blazes to TCS World 10K Bengaluru record



That winning feeling: Kwizera claims the international men's category. Also taking top spot are Niyonkuru (international women), Harmanjot and Sanjivni (Indian men and women). SUDHAMARA JAIN

ATHLETICS

APCS BENGALURU

Rodrigue Kwizera blitzed through the field to set a new men's event record at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026 here on Sunday.

Kwizera stepped on the pedal in the final stretch to finish with a timing of 27:31s, well under the previous mark of 27:38 set by Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli in 2022.

Kwizera, who missed the top spot to Kenya's Sebastian Sawe in a photo finish here three years ago, won \$34,000 (including the event record bonus of \$8,000).

Acceleration

The Burundi runner accelerated at the 8km mark – after passing the M. Chinaswamy Stadium – to pull away from his rivals.

Kwizera kept a high pace in the long straight finish on Cubbon Road to eclipse Kimeli's record.

"The challenge was the

heat. I have been training in Spain, where it is much cooler this time of the year. Today, I told myself that I will push at the 5K mark, and again in the final kilometre.

"I wanted to go for the event record; I am glad I did it," Kwizera said.

Stiff challenge

Rwanda's Florence Niyonkuru overcame a stiff challenge from favourite Brenda Jechirchir to claim the international women's title.

At the 7km stage, it was Florence, Brenda, Ethiopian Melal Biratu and Kenya's Judy Chepakwony who formed the leader pack.

Florence took over in the last right turn, at the Cubbon Park metro station.

Now on her own, Florence eased off and missed the event record (30:35, Irene Cheptai, 2022) by ten seconds.

The Rwanda athlete took home \$26,000. Harmanjot Singh and Sanjivani Jadhav recorded

the best timings among Indian men and women respectively.

Harmanjot clocked 29:13, falling short of the Indian record by just one second.

"I had the event record in mind. I tried to stay with the international elite pack as far as I could, which was till 5K. After that, I decided to rely on my own judgement," Harmanjot said.

Sanjivani, the 2017 Asian Championships 5,000m bronze medalist, took top Indian honours here for a third time in a row.

Harmanjot and Sanjivani won ₹3,00,000 and ₹2,75,000 respectively.

The results:

International Men: 1. Rodrigue Kwizera (Burundi) 27:31; 2. Harbert Kibet (Uganda) 27:39; 3. Gilbert Kipkosgei Kiprotich (Kenya) 27:43.

Women: 1. Florence Niyonkuru (Rwanda) 30:45; 2. Brenda Jechirchir (Kenya) 30:59; 3. Chatta Oida Diriba (Ethiopia) 31:03.

Indian (winners only):
Men: Harmanjot Singh 29:13.
Women: Sanjivani Jadhav 35:01.

27A. Kwizera blazes to TCS World 10K Bengaluru record

क्विज़ेरा ने TCS वर्ल्ड 10K बेंगलुरु में रिकॉर्ड बनाया

• **Rodrigue Kwizera** blitzed through the field to set a new men's event record at the **TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026** here on Sunday.

रॉड्रिग क्विज़ेरा ने रविवार को यहां आयोजित **TCS वर्ल्ड 10K बेंगलुरु 2026** में पुरुषों का नया रिकॉर्ड बनाने के लिए मैदान में शानदार प्रदर्शन किया।

• **Kwizera** stepped on the pedal in the final stretch to finish with a timing of **27:31s**, well under the previous mark of **27:38** set by **Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli** in 2022.

क्विज़ेरा ने अंतिम चरण में गति बढ़ाई और **27:31 सेकंड** के समय के साथ फिनिश किया, जो 2022 में **निकोलस किपकोरिर किमेली** द्वारा बनाए गए **27:38** के पिछले रिकॉर्ड से काफी बेहतर है।

• Kwizera, who missed the top spot to **Kenya's Sebastian Sawe** in a photo finish here three years ago, won **\$34,000** (including the event record bonus of \$8,000).

क्विज़ेरा, जो तीन साल पहले यहां फोटो फिनिश में **केन्या के सेबेस्टियन सावे** से शीर्ष स्थान चूक गए थे, ने **\$34,000** (जिसमें \$8,000 का रिकॉर्ड बोनस शामिल है) जीते।

Sawe becomes first man to run a marathon under two hours

APCS LONDON

Kenya's Sebastian Sawe became the first man to run a marathon in under two hours when he won the London Marathon in one hour, 59m and 30seconds on Sunday.

The 31-year-old shattered the world record held by the late Kelvin Kiptum who set a time of 2:00:35 at the Chicago Marathon in October 2023.

Yomif Kejelcha of Ethiopia was second in his debut with 1:59.41, while Jacob Kiplimo of Uganda took bronze in 2:02.28.

Tigst Assefa of Ethiopia



Blistering runs: Sawe and Assefa produced the best-ever times while winning the London Marathon. AFP

broke her own women's only world record en route to victory. The 29-year-old pulled away from Kenyans Hellen Obiri and Joyciline Jepkosgei down the home stretch to cross the finish

line in 2:15.41 seconds, beating the record of 2:15.50 she set last year in London.

Obiri was second in 2:15.53, while Jepkosgei took the bronze in 2:15.55.

27A. Sawe becomes first man to run a marathon under two hours

सावे दो घंटे से कम में मैराथन दौड़ने वाले पहले व्यक्ति बने

• **Kenya's Sebastian Sawe** became the first man to run a marathon in under two hours when he won the **London Marathon in one hour, 59m and 30 seconds** on Sunday.

केन्या के सेबेस्टियन सावे रविवार को **लंदन मैराथन** जीतकर एक घंटा 59 मिनट 30 सेकंड में मैराथन पूरी करने वाले पहले व्यक्ति बने।

• **The 31-year-old** shattered the world record held by the late **Kelvin Kiptum** who set a time of **2:00:35** at the **Chicago Marathon** in October 2023.

31 वर्षीय सावे ने दिवंगत **केल्विन किप्टुम** के विश्व रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया, जिन्होंने अक्टूबर 2023 में **शिकागो मैराथन** में **2:00:35** का समय बनाया था।

• **Yomif Kejelcha** of Ethiopia was second in his debut with **1:59.41**, while **Jacob Kiplimo** of Uganda took bronze in **2:02.28**.

इथियोपिया के **योमिफ केजेल्चा** अपने डेब्यू में **1:59.41** के समय के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर रहे, जबकि युगांडा के **जैकब किप्लिमो** ने **2:02.28** के साथ कांस्य पदक जीता।

• **Tigst Assefa** of Ethiopia broke her own women's-only world record en route to victory.

इथियोपिया की **टिगस्ट असेफा** ने जीत की ओर बढ़ते हुए अपना ही महिला विश्व रिकॉर्ड तोड़ दिया।



GS Paper 1: History		27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
27A	How did the Neanderthals go extinct? (निएंडरथल कैसे विलुप्त हुए?)	
27A	QUIZ	

Neanderthal mystery

GS I: History



Q: How did the Neanderthals go extinct?

A: Pursuing the mystery of how the Neanderthals went extinct, researchers from the Universities of

Cambridge and of Montreal have now asserted that climate change was not the primary reason. Instead, they have reported that *Homo sapiens* succeeded because of their better social connectivity whereas the Neanderthals' populations suffered the effects of poor social connections.

The findings, published on April 1 *Quaternary Science Reviews*, were based on habitat suitability modelling: using algorithms to estimate where ancient humans might have preferred to live based on simulations of the climate over 60,000 years.

Based on these simulations, the team said that both species maintained "core" regions in Spain and Italy, among other areas, that should have provided shelter and protection as the populations negotiated Marine Isotope Stage 3 — a time when the earth was cold even as its climate oscillated rapidly.

The researchers also said that these two groups rarely crossed paths: based on their estimated maps, the researchers said the species' ranges overlapped by less than 5% — a figure they said weakened the theory of "competitive



Scientist Svante Pääbo poses with a replica of a Neanderthal skeleton on October 3, 2022. AP

exclusion", which claims that Neanderthals went extinct because *H. sapiens* outcompeted them for resources.

If the new findings are to be believed, Neanderthal groups in Eastern Europe were too isolated to survive demographic pressures, while *H. sapiens* benefited from superior networks along coastal migration routes. Ultimately, the paper concluded, the process in which *H. sapiens* replaced Neanderthals was "regionally differentiated", meaning it happened for different reasons in different locations.

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

- The findings, published on **April 1** in **Quaternary Science Reviews**, were based on **habitat suitability modelling**: using algorithms to estimate where ancient humans might have preferred to live based on simulations of the climate over **60,000 years**.

ये निष्कर्ष 1 अप्रैल को क्वाटरनरी साइंस रिव्यूज में प्रकाशित हुए, जो आवास उपयुक्तता मॉडलिंग पर आधारित थे: इसमें एल्गोरिद्म का उपयोग करके यह अनुमान लगाया गया कि प्राचीन मानव **60,000 वर्षों** के जलवायु सिमुलेशन के आधार पर कहाँ रहना पसंद करते होंगे।

- Based on these simulations, the team said that both species maintained "core" regions in **Spain** and **Italy**, among other areas, that should have provided shelter and protection as the populations negotiated **Marine Isotope Stage 3** — a time when the earth was cold even as its climate oscillated rapidly.

इन सिमुलेशनों के आधार पर, टीम ने कहा कि दोनों प्रजातियों ने स्पेन और इटली सहित अन्य क्षेत्रों में "मुख्य" क्षेत्र बनाए रखे, जो **मरीन आइसोटोप स्टेज 3** के दौरान आश्रय और सुरक्षा प्रदान करते होंगे — यह वह समय था जब पृथ्वी ठंडी थी, लेकिन जलवायु तेजी से बदल रही थी।

- The researchers also said that these two groups rarely crossed paths: based on their estimated maps, the researchers said the species' ranges overlapped by less than **5%** — a figure they said weakened the theory of "**competitive exclusion**", which claims that **Neanderthals went extinct because *H. sapiens* outcompeted them for resources**.

शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी कहा कि ये दोनों समूह शायद ही कभी एक-दूसरे से मिले: उनके अनुमानित मानचित्रों के अनुसार, इन प्रजातियों का विस्तार क्षेत्र **5% से भी कम** ओवरलैप करता था — यह आंकड़ा "**प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक बहिष्करण**" सिद्धांत को कमजोर करता है, जो यह दावा करता है कि निएंडरथल इसलिए विलुप्त हुए क्योंकि **होमो सेपियन्स** ने संसाधनों के लिए उन्हें पछाड़ दिया।

- If the new findings are to be believed, **Neanderthal groups in Eastern Europe** were too isolated to survive **demographic pressures**, while ***H. sapiens*** benefited from superior

27A. How did the Neanderthals go extinct? (निएंडरथल कैसे विलुप्त हुए?)

- A: Pursuing the mystery of how the **Neanderthals** went extinct, researchers from the **Universities of Cambridge and of Montreal** have now asserted that **climate change was not the primary reason**.

उ: निएंडरथल के विलुप्त होने के रहस्य का अध्ययन करते हुए, **कैम्ब्रिज और मॉन्ट्रियल विश्वविद्यालयों** के शोधकर्ताओं ने अब यह दावा किया है कि **जलवायु परिवर्तन** इसका मुख्य कारण नहीं था।

- Instead, they have reported that ***Homo sapiens* succeeded because of their better social connectivity** whereas the Neanderthals' populations suffered the effects of poor social connections.

इसके बजाय, उन्होंने बताया कि **होमो सेपियन्स** अपनी बेहतर **सामाजिक संपर्क क्षमता** के कारण सफल हुए, जबकि निएंडरथल की आबादी कमजोर सामाजिक संबंधों के कारण प्रभावित हुई।



networks along coastal migration routes.

यदि इन नए निष्कर्षों पर विश्वास किया जाए, तो पूर्वी यूरोप में निएंडरथल समूह जनसंख्या दबावों का सामना करने के लिए बहुत अधिक अलग-थलग थे, जबकि होमो सेपियन्स को तटीय प्रवासन मार्गों के साथ बेहतर नेटवर्क का लाभ मिला।

- Ultimately, the paper concluded, the process in which **H. sapiens replaced Neanderthals was “regionally differentiated”**, meaning it happened for different reasons in different locations.

अंततः, शोध पत्र ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि जिस प्रक्रिया में होमो सेपियन्स ने निएंडरथल का स्थान लिया, वह “क्षेत्रीय रूप से भिन्न” थी, अर्थात विभिन्न स्थानों पर अलग-अलग कारणों से यह हुआ।

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

1. West Bengal's first Chief Minister was a veteran freedom fighter with roots in the Anushilan Samiti and he served very briefly before being succeeded by one of the State's longer-serving CMs. **Ans: Prafulla Chandra Ghosh and Bidhan Chandra Roy**

2. When Jyoti Basu was first elected in the State Assembly, he was just one of three MLAs elected on the Communist Party of India ticket. Who among the other two, was elected from Darjeeling? **Ans: Rattanlal Brahmin**

3. Ajoy Mukherjee founded a party that launched the political career of a future President of India. **Ans: Bangla Congress, Pranab Mukherjee**

4. When Tamil thespian Sivaji Ganesan fiercely raged against social orthodoxy in Parasakthi, he was reciting dialogue written by a prolific screenwriter who also served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. **Ans: M Karunanidhi**

5. Name this Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who was a school topper. **Ans: J Jayalalithaa**

Visual: Identify this popular CM from Tamil Nadu. **Ans: K. Kamaraj**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Sunil Madhavan | Dodo Jayaditya | Prodosh Mitra

27A. QUIZ

Prafulla Chandra Ghosh

• Prafulla Chandra Ghosh was the **first Chief Minister of West Bengal** in 1947 after Independence. A **freedom fighter** linked with the **Anushilan Samiti**, he contributed to revolutionary nationalist activities in Bengal.

- His tenure was **brief**, lasting only a few months due to political instability during the **Partition period**.
- He led the State in its initial administrative transition, dealing with refugee crises and institutional restructuring in newly formed West Bengal.

Bidhan Chandra Roy

• Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy served as Chief Minister from **1948 to 1962**, becoming one of West Bengal's **longest-serving leaders**.

- A noted **physician** and freedom fighter, he led post-Partition reconstruction. He promoted **industrialisation and urban development**, establishing cities like **Durgapur** and **Bidhannagar**.
- His governance strengthened infrastructure, healthcare,

and economic planning, leaving a lasting legacy in shaping modern West Bengal's administrative and developmental framework.

Jyoti Basu (Early Electoral Entry)

- Jyoti Basu was first elected to the Bengal Legislative Assembly in **1946** on a **Communist Party of India (CPI)** ticket. At that time, CPI had very limited representation, with only **three MLAs** elected. Basu represented the **Railway constituency**, reflecting strong trade union influence.
- This marked the beginning of his long political career, eventually leading to his tenure as one of India's longest-serving Chief Ministers.

Rattanlal Brahmin (Darjeeling Representative)

- **Rattanlal Brahmin** was one of the other two CPI legislators elected in **1946**, representing the **Darjeeling constituency**.
- His election reflected the spread of communist influence among **tea garden workers** and hill populations.
- Though less prominent nationally than Basu, his role was significant in establishing CPI's early political base in northern Bengal.
- This foothold later contributed to the growth of left politics in West Bengal's diverse regional landscape.



Bangla Congress (Founded by Ajoy Mukherjee)

- Ajoy Mukherjee founded the **Bangla Congress** in **1966** after breaking away from the Indian National Congress.
- The party played a crucial role in forming the **United Front governments (1967, 1969)** in West Bengal, marking a shift toward coalition politics.
- It represented regional aspirations and opposition to Congress dominance, contributing significantly to the rise of non-Congress political forces in the State.

Pranab Mukherjee (Political Career Beginning)

- Pranab Mukherjee began his political career through the **Bangla Congress**, which provided his initial entry into active politics. He was elected to the **Rajya Sabha in 1969**, gaining recognition for his administrative and parliamentary skills.
- He later joined the Congress and rose to hold key portfolios, eventually serving as the **President of India (2012–2017)**, becoming one of the most experienced statesmen in Indian politics.

Parasakthi and Sivaji Ganesan

- Sivaji Ganesan delivered powerful dialogues in the 1952 film *Parasakthi* that sharply criticised **social orthodoxy**, caste practices, and superstition.
- The film marked his debut and became a landmark in Tamil cinema for its strong reformist message.
- His intense performance, especially courtroom scenes, reflected the growing influence of **Dravidian ideology** in popular culture during that period.

M. Karunanidhi (Screenwriter and Chief Minister)

- M. Karunanidhi wrote the dialogues of *Parasakthi*, showcasing his brilliance as a **prolific screenwriter**. His writing promoted rationalism and social justice, aligning with the **Dravidian movement**.
- Later, he became a key leader of the DMK and served multiple terms as **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**.
- His dual legacy in cinema and politics significantly shaped Tamil society, language politics, and regional identity.

J. Jayalalithaa (School Topper and Chief Minister)

- J. Jayalalithaa was an academically brilliant student and a **school topper**, known for excelling in her studies at **Bishop Cotton Girls' School, Bengaluru**. She earned high distinction and even secured a scholarship for higher education but chose a career in cinema.
- Later, she entered politics under MGR's mentorship and became a dominant leader of **AIADMK**, serving multiple terms as **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** with strong welfare-oriented governance.

GS Paper 1: Society		27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
27A	At Chintan Shivir, DNT enumeration in Census discussed चिंतन शिविर में जनगणना में DNT गणना पर चर्चा	
27A	Mamata seeks Bhabanipur support, PM reaches out to Matuas in campaign last leg ममता ने भवानीपुर में समर्थन मांगा, पीएम ने चुनाव के अंतिम चरण में मतुआ समुदाय से संपर्क साधा	



At Chintan Shivir, DNT enumeration in Census discussed

GS I: Society

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Social Justice Ministry on Sunday concluded a three-day "Chintan Shivir" (brainstorming session), during which the inclusion of denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes (DNTs) in the ongoing Census 2027 exercise was one of the key focus areas.

The DNT communities have been demanding a separate column or question in the Census forms, specifically to account for their populations across the country. Community leaders are also mobilising support for a separate Schedule for DNTs on a par with the lists of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. The Supreme Court dismissed a petition last month seeking a Census question for DNTs and a separate classification for them, leaving them the liberty to approach the government on the matter.

During the Chintan Shivir, the Social Justice Ministry brought together Centre and State government officials to discuss the future of its schemes for marginalised sections through panel discussions, breakout sessions and thematic meal sessions.

Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar said on Sunday that the sessions were "a serious and result-oriented platform for the Centre, States and Union Territories to reflect collec-

The Ministry brought together Centre and State officials to discuss the future of its schemes for marginalised sections

tively on how social justice delivery can be made more accessible, responsive and implementation-driven".

The brainstorming session also discussed scholarship and hostel schemes for SC and OBC students, comprehensive support for transgender people and how to align schemes for them with the new amendments enacted by Parliament in 2026. While a central focus of the sessions on DNT welfare was the principal bottleneck issue of State and Union Territory governments not providing DNT community certificates, hindering their access to schemes, across different sessions, the issue of obtaining an accurate count of DNT populations across the country also kept coming up, officials said.

This comes even as members of Centre's Development Welfare Board for DNTs raise concerns over the lack of clarity on their enumeration in the ongoing Census. "As of now, we don't know if there will be a column for OBCs. So we don't know if there will be a DNT column as well or how this is going to be done," one Board official said.

27A. At Chintan Shivir, DNT enumeration in Census discussed

चिंतन शिविर में जनगणना में DNT गणना पर चर्चा

• At Chintan Shivir, DNT enumeration in Census was discussed.

चिंतन शिविर में जनगणना में DNT की गणना पर चर्चा हुई।

• The Social Justice Ministry on Sunday concluded a three-day "Chintan Shivir" (brainstorming session).

सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय ने रविवार को तीन दिवसीय "चिंतन शिविर" (मंथन सत्र) का समापन किया।

• During which the inclusion of denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes (DNTs) in the ongoing Census 2027 exercise was one of the key focus areas.

जिस दौरान चल रही जनगणना 2027 प्रक्रिया में विमुक्त, घुमंतू और अर्ध-घुमंतू जनजातियों (DNTs) को शामिल करना प्रमुख फोकस क्षेत्र रहा।

• The DNT communities have been demanding a separate column or question in the Census forms.

DNT समुदाय जनगणना फॉर्म में अलग कॉलम या प्रश्न की मांग कर रहे हैं।

• Specifically to account for their populations across the country.

विशेष रूप से देशभर में उनकी जनसंख्या का सही आकलन करने के लिए।

• Community leaders are also mobilising support for a separate Schedule for DNTs on a par with the lists of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

समुदाय के नेता अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति और अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग की तरह DNTs के लिए अलग अनुसूची (Schedule) की मांग के लिए समर्थन जुटा रहे हैं।

• The Supreme Court dismissed a petition last month seeking a Census question for DNTs and a separate classification for them.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पिछले महीने DNTs के लिए जनगणना में अलग प्रश्न और अलग वर्गीकरण की मांग वाली याचिका खारिज कर दी।

• Leaving them the liberty to approach the government on the matter.

उन्हें इस मामले में सरकार के पास जाने की स्वतंत्रता दी गई।

• Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar said on Sunday

that the sessions were a serious and result-oriented platform.

सामाजिक न्याय मंत्री वीरेंद्र कुमार ने रविवार को कहा कि ये सत्र गंभीर और परिणाम-उन्मुख मंच थे।

• For the Centre, States and Union Territories to reflect collectively on how social justice delivery can be made more accessible, responsive and implementation-driven.

जहां केंद्र, राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश मिलकर यह विचार कर सकें कि सामाजिक न्याय वितरण को कैसे अधिक सुलभ, उत्तरदायी और कार्यान्वयन-आधारित बनाया जाए।

• The brainstorming session also discussed scholarship and hostel schemes for SC and OBC students.

मंथन सत्र में SC और OBC छात्रों के लिए छात्रवृत्ति और छात्रावास योजनाओं पर भी चर्चा हुई।

• Comprehensive support for transgender people and how to align schemes for them with the new amendments enacted by Parliament in 2026.

ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों के लिए व्यापक समर्थन और 2026 में संसद द्वारा किए गए संशोधनों के साथ योजनाओं को कैसे समायोजित किया जाए, इस पर भी चर्चा हुई।



- While a central focus of the sessions on DNT welfare was the principal bottleneck issue of State and Union Territory governments not providing **DNT community certificates**.

DNT कल्याण पर सत्रों का मुख्य फोकस राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश सरकारों द्वारा **DNT सामुदायिक**

प्रमाणपत्र न देने की प्रमुख बाधा पर था।

- Hindering their access to schemes.

जिससे उनकी योजनाओं तक पहुंच बाधित हो रही है।

- Across different sessions, the issue of obtaining an accurate count of DNT populations across the country also kept coming up, officials said.

अधिकारियों ने कहा कि विभिन्न सत्रों में देशभर में DNT आबादी की सटीक गणना का मुद्दा बार-बार उठता रहा।

- This comes even as members of Centre's **Development Welfare Board for DNTs** raise concerns over the lack of clarity on their enumeration in the ongoing Census.

यह तब हो रहा है जब केंद्र के **DNT विकास एवं कल्याण बोर्ड** के सदस्य चल रही

जनगणना में उनकी गणना को लेकर स्पष्टता की कमी पर चिंता जता रहे हैं।

- "As of now, we don't know if there will be a column for **OBCs**."

"फिलहाल हमें नहीं पता कि **OBCs** के लिए कोई कॉलम होगा या नहीं।

- So we don't know if there will be a DNT column as well or how this is going to be done," one Board official said.

इसलिए हमें यह भी नहीं पता कि DNT के लिए कॉलम होगा या नहीं या यह प्रक्रिया कैसे होगी," एक बोर्ड अधिकारी ने कहा।

27A. Mamata seeks Bhabanipur support, PM reaches out to Matuas in campaign last leg

ममता ने भवानीपुर में समर्थन मांगा, पीएम ने चुनाव के अंतिम चरण में

मतुआ समुदाय से संपर्क साधा

- The **Matua sect of Namasudra Hindus** originated from Orakandi in the 19th century.

नामशूद्र हिंदुओं का मतुआ संप्रदाय 19वीं सदी में ओराकांडी से उत्पन्न हुआ।

Mamata seeks Bhabanipur support, PM reaches out to Matuas in campaign last leg

GS I: Society

Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA

With hours left for campaigning in the last phase of election in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday focused on issues concerning the Matua population, and said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would ensure citizenship to the community of Hindu refugees that has migrated from Bangladesh.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee focused on her constituency in Bhabanipur, where she held a roadshow. She raised several issues, including the deletions of under-adjudication voters from the electoral roll, and targeted the administration that has been appointed by the Election Commission. "Those who are arresting now must think about getting arrested in future. Sin spares no one," she said.

Mr. Modi held a public meeting at Thakurnagar in North 24 Parganas, and said the Trinamool Congress openly opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. "Don't fall for the TMC's lies on CAA. All refugees will receive permanent address in this country... If someone votes for Trinamool, they will be making their ancestors sad," he said.

The Prime Minister, who offered prayers at the Matua temple in Thakurnagar, recalled his visit to Orakandi in Bangladesh ahead of the 2021 Assembly polls in West Bengal. The Matua sect of Namasudra Hindus originated from Orakandi in the 19th century and its followers have



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a 'Vijay Sankalp' rally in Arambagh, West Bengal. PTI

been migrating to Bengal.

"I pledge before the brothers and sisters of the Matua Namasudra community members that they will receive citizenship through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. They will be provided the same documents which other citizens of this country have," he said.

The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls has resulted in a significant number of voter deletions in the Matua community, resulting in uncertainty among them. The community has largely voted for the BJP in the past. Dozens of Assembly seats in North 24 Parganas and Nadia are dominated by the community, and its support will be crucial in determining the electoral fortune of the party.

Mr. Modi, who held another rally at Haripal in Hooghly, and a roadshow in north Kolkata, also touched on the issue of women's safety. Accusing the Trinamool of "sheltering goons who torture women", he said the BJP has given ticket to Sandeshkha-

li's Rekha Patra and the mother of the R.G. Kar victim, Ratna Debnath, and this proves the party's commitment to ensuring women's security.

In Bhabanipur, Ms. Banerjee began her campaign with a roadshow in Chakraberia and addressed four public meetings. The Trinamool chairperson, who is up against the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, walked for over 80 minutes from Chakraberia intersection to Hazra Fire Brigade and her procession went through several lanes and by-lanes.

Ms. Banerjee tried to assure the electorate that it has not faced any issues over the past 15 years that she has been in power. "I scored a century in the first round, I will do it again in the second round. BJP is scared. That's why they brought in the central forces. All the OCs (officers in charge of police stations) have been changed. They (BJP) are indulging in hooliganism. Cast your own vote. Keep a copy of the voter slip so that NRC cannot be implemented," she said.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- And its followers have been migrating to Bengal.
और इसके अनुयायी बंगाल में आकर बसते रहे हैं।
- “I pledge before the brothers and sisters of the **Matua Namasudra community** members that they will receive citizenship through the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act**.
“मैं मतुआ नामसूद्र समुदाय के भाई-बहनों के सामने यह संकल्प लेता हूँ कि उन्हें नागरिकता (संशोधन) अधिनियम के तहत नागरिकता मिलेगी।

GS Paper 1: Geography		27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
27A	Hanging glaciers: NGT issues notice to Centre लटकते ग्लेशियर: NGT ने केंद्र को नोटिस जारी किया	

Hanging glaciers: NGT issues notice to Centre

GS I: Geography
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has sought a response from the Centre and others regarding the danger that hanging glaciers pose on the mountain slopes of central Himalaya.

The NGT has taken *suo motu* cognisance of a report citing a study which flagged the environmental concern. It said the report indicated a violation of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act.

27A. Hanging glaciers: NGT issues notice to Centre लटकते ग्लेशियर: NGT ने केंद्र को नोटिस जारी किया

- Hanging glaciers: **NGT** issues notice to Centre.
लटकते ग्लेशियर: **NGT** ने केंद्र को नोटिस जारी किया।
- The **National Green Tribunal** has sought a response from the Centre and others regarding the **danger that hanging glaciers pose on the mountain slopes of central Himalaya**.
राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (NGT) ने केंद्र और अन्य पक्षों से **लटकते ग्लेशियरों** द्वारा मध्य हिमालय की पर्वतीय ढलानों पर उत्पन्न खतरे के संबंध में जवाब मांगा है।
- The NGT has taken **suo motu cognisance** of a report citing a study which flagged the environmental concern.
NGT ने एक अध्ययन का हवाला देने वाली रिपोर्ट पर **स्वप्रेरणा (suo motu) संज्ञान** लिया है, जिसमें पर्यावरणीय चिंता को उजागर किया गया।
- It said the report indicated a violation of the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act**.
इसने कहा कि रिपोर्ट **पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम** के प्रावधानों के उल्लंघन का संकेत देती है।

GS Paper II: Polity		27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
27A	Right to safe travel on highways part of right to life हाईवे पर सुरक्षित यात्रा का अधिकार, जीवन के अधिकार का हिस्सा	
27A	NCSC seeks report on Mamata's 'derogatory' remark NCSC ने ममता की 'अपमानजनक' टिप्पणी पर रिपोर्ट मांगी	



'Right to safe travel on highways part of right to life'

GS II: Polity: FR

02

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has declared that the safety of commuters against road accidents and the right to safe passage on highways are part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"National Highways constitute approximately 2% of India's total road length but account for nearly 30% of all road fatalities. A road, particularly a high-speed expressway, must not become a corri-

The loss of life to avoidable hazards points at failure of the state's protective umbrella, says SC

dor of peril due to administrative lethargy or infrastructural gaps. The loss of even a single life to avoidable hazards like illegal parking or blackspots, etc., represents a failure of the state's protective umbrella," a Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Atul S. Chandurkar observed in

an April 13 order. The court issued a series of directions, including the immediate prohibition on the construction or operation of any commercial structure within the right-of-way of any National Highway. The order also directed that vehicles should park/stop only at designated areas.

The order arose from a *suo motu* case based on the loss of a total of 34 lives in successive road accidents on November 2 and November 3 last year in Rajasthan and Telangana.

27A. Right to safe travel on highways part of right to life
हाईवे पर सुरक्षित यात्रा का अधिकार, जीवन के अधिकार का हिस्सा

• The right to safe travel on highways is part of the right to life.

हाईवे पर सुरक्षित यात्रा का अधिकार जीवन के अधिकार का हिस्सा है।

• The Supreme Court has declared that the safety of commuters against road accidents and the right to safe passage on highways are part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने घोषित किया है कि सड़क दुर्घटनाओं से यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और हाईवे पर सुरक्षित आवागमन का अधिकार संविधान के

अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत जीवन के मौलिक अधिकार का हिस्सा है।

- "National Highways constitute approximately 2% of India's total road length but account for nearly 30% of all road fatalities.

"राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग भारत की कुल सड़क लंबाई का लगभग 2% हैं, लेकिन लगभग 30% सड़क दुर्घटना मृत्यु इन्हीं पर होती हैं।

- A road, particularly a high-speed expressway, must not become a corridor of peril due to administrative lethargy or infrastructural gaps.

एक सड़क, विशेषकर तेज गति वाला एक्सप्रेसवे, प्रशासनिक लापरवाही या बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी के कारण खतरनाक मार्ग नहीं बनना चाहिए।

- The loss of even a single life to avoidable hazards like illegal parking or blackspots represents a failure of the state's protective umbrella," a Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Atul S. Chandurkar observed in an April 13 order.

अवैध पार्किंग या ब्लैकस्पॉट जैसे टाले जा सकने वाले खतरों से एक भी जान का नुकसान राज्य की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था की विफलता को दर्शाता है," न्यायमूर्ति जे.के. महेश्वरी और अतुल एस. चंदुरकर की पीठ ने 13 अप्रैल के आदेश में कहा।

- The court issued a series of directions, including the immediate prohibition on the construction or operation of any commercial structure within the right-of-way of any National Highway.

अदालत ने कई निर्देश जारी किए, जिनमें किसी भी राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग के राइट-ऑफ-वे के भीतर किसी भी व्यावसायिक ढांचे के निर्माण या संचालन पर तत्काल रोक शामिल है।

- The order also directed that vehicles should park/stop only at designated areas.

आदेश में यह भी निर्देश दिया गया कि वाहन केवल निर्धारित स्थानों पर ही पार्क/रुकें।

- The order arose from a *suo motu* case based on the loss of a total of 34 lives in successive road accidents on November 2 and November 3 last year in Rajasthan and Telangana.

यह आदेश एक स्वप्रेरित (*suo motu*) मामले से संबंधित है, जो पिछले वर्ष 2 और 3 नवंबर को राजस्थान और तेलंगाना में हुई लगातार सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में 34 लोगों की मौत के आधार पर लिया गया।



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

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

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NCSC seeks report on Mamata's 'derogatory' remark

GS II: Polity

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Sunday took suo motu cognisance of a video clip showing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee allegedly using "derogatory" language against the SC community during an election rally.

The NCSC has written to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal and the Director-General of Police, directing them to submit a detailed report within three days.

The Commission referred to a video that appeared on "Kolkata TV" on April 26, regarding Ms. Banerjee's alleged remarks made during a rally in Kolkata's Chowringhee area recently while campaigning for a Trinamool candidate during the ongoing Assembly polls in the State.

"Suo-motu cognisance has been taken by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes on a video that appeared in 'Kolkata TV' wherein derogatory language has been used by Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, against SC community," the notice stated.

"The Commission has decided to investigate/inquire into the matter in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it under Article 338 of the Constitution. You are hereby requested to submit an action taken report to the undersigned within 3 days," it said. NCSC Chairman Kishor Makwana said the Commission is committed to safeguarding the constitutional rights of Scheduled Castes.

27A. NCSC seeks report on Mamata's 'derogatory' remark NCSC ने ममता की 'अपमानजनक' टिप्पणी पर रिपोर्ट मांगी

- NCSC seeks report on Mamata's 'derogatory' remark.

NCSC ने ममता की 'अपमानजनक' टिप्पणी पर रिपोर्ट मांगी।

• The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Sunday took suo motu cognisance of a video clip showing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee allegedly using "derogatory" language against the SC community during an election rally.

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग (NCSC) ने रविवार को एक वीडियो क्लिप का स्वप्रेरण से संज्ञान लिया, जिसमें पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी पर चुनावी रैली के दौरान अनुसूचित जाति समुदाय के खिलाफ "अपमानजनक" भाषा का उपयोग करने का आरोप है।

• "The Commission has decided to investigate/inquire into the matter in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it under Article 338 of the Constitution. "आयोग ने संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338 के तहत प्राप्त शक्तियों के अनुसार इस मामले की जांच करने का निर्णय लिया है।

• You are hereby requested to submit an action taken report to the undersigned within 3 days," it said.

आपसे अनुरोध है कि 3 दिनों के भीतर कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करें," इसमें कहा गया।

• NCSC Chairman Kishor Makwana said the Commission is committed to safeguarding the constitutional rights of Scheduled Castes.

NCSC अध्यक्ष किशोर मकवाना ने कहा कि आयोग अनुसूचित जातियों के संवैधानिक अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।



GS Paper II: Governance		27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
27A	Overfed and undernourished in Delhi दिल्ली में अधिक भोजन लेकिन कुपोषण	
27A	Experts call for data-led approach to tackle public health challenges विशेषज्ञों ने सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए डेटा-आधारित दृष्टिकोण की मांग की	
	Tough call कठिन निर्णय	

SPOTLIGHT

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

Laxman, 6, and his group of school friends, are a part of the sea of children pouring out of the primary school gate in the residential Kidwai Nagar area of south Delhi.

It is noon and the group is walking back home, laughing and jostling, in their bright blue school uniforms, their cotton bags with books slung across their bodies. The walk back from school is the best part of their day, they say, as are the double-fried potatoes – covered in bright red food colouring, sprinkled with sugar – bought from a roadside food cart. This is lunch for several children from the school as they flock to the cart for a plate.

Laxman and his band of friends say that their day begins with tea with locally-bought *mathri* (a crispy, deep-fried savoury snack made from refined wheat flour, oil, and salt). The *mathri* is cheap, at ₹5 for 250 grams, for a family that doesn't earn more than ₹15,000 a month and lives in a rented jhuggi. Made in batches to serve many, it is fried in oil reused so many times, that the oil turns black. Some days, the children get biscuits, which often contain trans fats. There's roti with salt and red chilli powder made in refined oil the days a parent, mostly a mother, has

the time to make it.

The afternoon treat also includes a sugary cold beverage, followed later in the evening by street foods like *aloo tikki*, *chaat*, *samosa*, *chowmein*, *momos*, or *leftovers* at home – all made with cheap raw ingredients that have no standardisation or quality check, and are likely to be adulterated. The first fresh home-cooked sit-down meal of the day comes late in the evening, when one of the parents returns from work.

"We usually eat potato fry or curry. Sometimes there's fish or meat with rice or roti," says Laxman, whose mother works as a domestic help in the neighbouring government residential apartments.

No ideal daily diet

In his current diet regime Laxman almost never meets the ideal prescribed daily diet for a 6-year-old Indian boy. He may meet the calorific value – approximately 1,200-2,000 calories prescribed by India's National Institute of Nutrition – but is unlikely to meet key nutrient values, which include protein, iron, and calcium, ideally spread across 4-6 small meals daily. Laxman says he cannot remember when he had a full day of home-cooked meals.

He is an active child, but his stomach bulges over his shorts. Like most of his friends he has central obesity, predisposing him to adult obesity and many lifestyle diseases, as stu-

Overfed and undernourished in Delhi

The national capital faces what public health professionals call the **'Double Burden of Malnutrition'**, a condition in which children consume excess calories that lack essential nutrients. This early undernutrition is a risk factor for obesity later in life and needs immediate attention

GS II: Governance: Health

despite his calorific rich and nutrition deficit diet, Laxman shows no typical visible symptoms of poor nutrition, such as stunted growth, chronic tiredness, brittle hair, pale or dry skin, a swollen abdomen or legs (oedema), or frequent infections. His condition is neither unique nor isolated.

At a time when the global population is witnessing rising obesity levels, India – particularly the national capital – is battling the Double Burden of Malnutrition (DBM), a condition in which children consume calories that lack essential nutrients, leading to them being overweight.

Towards the end of 2025, a systematic review and meta-analysis of cross-sectional studies from 1995 to 2023, looked at the prevalence of obesity among school-going children (ages



SREEJATH RAVIKUMAR

5 to 19) in India. This paper titled 'Prevalence of Obesity among School-going Children in India: A Comprehensive Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, and Spatial 'No Analysis' published in the *Indian Journal of Community Medicine*, found that among India's States, the highest pooled prevalence of child-

hood obesity was in Arunachal Pradesh, followed by Delhi. The lowest pooled prevalence of obesity was in Manipur.

Krishan Chugh, principal director and HOD Paediatrics, Fortis Research Memorial Institute, Gurgaon, explains that Delhi faces a higher risk of childhood obesity compared to many other Indian cities due to a mix of lifestyle, environmental, and socioeconomic factors.

First, urbanisation in Delhi has led to reduced physical activity. Children often have limited access to safe open spaces and spend more time indoors on screens. Academic pressure also leaves little time for outdoor play.

Second, dietary patterns have shifted significantly. Easy access to fast

food chains and processed snacks – high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats – has increased calorie intake. Many of these foods are addictive, and are available across the price spectrum.

With Delhi being one of the highest polluted cities in the world, parents are wary of children being outdoors, further curbing activity. Studies have also linked pollution exposure to metabolic changes that may increase obesity risk.

Additionally, rising disposable incomes and changing family structures (like working parents) often lead to reliance on convenience foods. Most schools lack strong nutrition and physical education programmes, further compounding the issue.

What is worrying doctors is that the age group affected by DBM is decreasing rapidly, with obesity appearing at younger ages. More concerning is that it is no longer limited to affluent groups and seen across economic strata.

Affluence factor
Affluence has also pushed Delhi into the childhood obesity epidemic. A 2025 study by the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), found that obesity in private-school students is over five times higher than in government-school students.

Children with obesity, which was, in 2013 classified as a disease requiring

prevention and treatment, face early risks of other non-communicable diseases, including hypertension and metabolic syndrome. Diet-related non-communicable diseases include cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), certain cancers, and diabetes.

India is expected to be home to over 27 million children and adolescents (ages 5-19) living with obesity by 2030, accounting for a significant share of the global burden, found a UNICEF analysis.

Ultra-processed food consumption in India has risen sharply, driven by aggressive marketing, affordability, and easy availability, gradually replacing traditional diets. India's *Indian Economic Survey 2024-25*, reported that ultra-processed food consumption in India surged from USD 900 million (2006) to USD 37.9 billion (2019), growing at over 33% annually.

Dr. Neha Shah, a Chennai-based bariatric surgeon and founder, The Good Weight, a clinic dedicated to weight loss, says she sees many children from Delhi in her online weight-loss programme. "India is now facing a triple burden of malnutrition: undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, and obesity."

She says that when she started medical school three decades ago, what worried doctors was malnourishment in children due to lack of food –

kwashiorkor, marasmus, children wasting away from protein deficiency. "Today, the crisis looks completely different. Children now have too much of the wrong things, and not enough of what helps them grow well," she says.

Dr. Vivek Bindal, the head of Bariatric and Robotic Surgery, Max Hospital (Vaishali and Patparganj), in Delhi, adds that a change in gut health, influenced by environmental factors such as pesticide exposure, is also a major contributing factor to the global rise in obesity.

At the policy level

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 data conducted in 2019-2021 revealed a 127% increase in overweight children from the NFHS-3, from about 15 years before. Delhi is among the States in India where the childhood obesity rate is higher than the national average.

The Union Health Ministry has a few public-health programmes, such as the Fit India Movement, the Eat Right India campaign, POSHAN Abhiyan 2.0, and school-based health and wellness interventions, but little is known of their effectiveness.

Dr. Bindal feels India needs targeted preventive interventions and continuous monitoring to ensure that childhood obesity doesn't reach pandemic levels in the country.

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27A. Overfed and undernourished in Delhi

दिल्ली में अधिक भोजन लेकिन कुपोषण

- The national capital faces what public health professionals call the **'Double Burden of Malnutrition'**, a condition in which children consume excess calories that lack essential nutrients.

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी उस स्थिति का सामना कर रही है जिसे सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञ 'कुपोषण का दोहरा बोझ' (Double Burden of Malnutrition) कहते हैं, जिसमें बच्चे आवश्यक पोषक तत्वों की कमी वाले अधिक कैलोरी का सेवन करते हैं।

- Some days, the children get biscuits, which often contain **trans fats**. कुछ दिनों में बच्चों को बिस्कुट मिलते हैं, जिनमें अक्सर **ट्रांस फैट** होता है।
- He may meet the calorific value — approximately **1,200–2,000 calories** prescribed by India's **National Institute of Nutrition** — but is unlikely to meet key nutrient values, which include **protein, iron, and calcium**, ideally spread across **4–6 small meals daily**.

वह कैलोरी की आवश्यकता — लगभग **1,200–2,000 कैलोरी** (भारत के राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान द्वारा



निर्धारित) — पूरी कर सकता है, लेकिन प्रोटीन, आयरन और कैल्शियम जैसे आवश्यक पोषक तत्वों की पूर्ति नहीं कर पाता, जिन्हें दिन में 4-6 छोटे भोजन में लेना चाहिए।

- India is expected to have over 27 million children with obesity by 2030, according to UNICEF.
UNICEF के अनुसार, 2030 तक भारत में 27 मिलियन से अधिक बच्चे मोटापे से ग्रस्त होंगे।
- Ultra-processed food consumption in India has increased sharply.
भारत में अल्ट्रा-प्रोसेस्ड खाद्य पदार्थों की खपत तेजी से बढ़ी है।
- The Economic Survey 2024-25 reported a surge from USD 900 million to USD 37.9 billion.
आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण 2024-25 के अनुसार, यह वृद्धि USD 900 मिलियन से USD 37.9 बिलियन तक हुई।
- Dr. Neha Shah says India is now facing a triple burden of malnutrition.
डॉ. नेहा शाह कहती हैं कि भारत अब कुपोषण के त्रिस्तरीय बोझ का सामना कर रहा है।
- Dr. Vivek Bindal adds that environmental factors like pesticide exposure affect gut health.
डॉ. विवेक बिंदल कहते हैं कि कीटनाशकों जैसे पर्यावरणीय कारक आंत स्वास्थ्य को प्रभावित करते हैं।
- Government programmes include Fit India Movement, Eat Right India, POSHAN Abhiyan 2.0.
सरकारी कार्यक्रमों में फिट इंडिया मूवमेंट, ईट राइट इंडिया, पोषण अभियान 2.0 शामिल हैं।

Experts call for data-led approach to tackle public health challenges

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The webinar “Public Health in India: From Reactive Care to Preventive Ecosystems” held on Saturday highlighted the urgent need to strengthen preventive healthcare, build data-driven systems, and develop a skilled public health workforce to address the country’s evolving health challenges.

Organised by the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) in association with *The Hindu* as part of the Future Career Conversations series, the session focused on India’s ongoing shift from a curative model of care to prevention-led public health systems.

Setting the context, Hari Singh, Dean, School of Public Health, SRMIST, outlined the wide range of public health challenges facing India, from infec-



tious diseases to the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), also noting persistent gaps such as the urban-rural divide and the need for more inclusive systems.

Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and Principal Adviser, National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, spoke about pandemic preparedness and broader health risks. “The lessons from the pandemic clearly show that preparedness, strong public systems, and global cooperation are critical,” she said.

She also emphasised the need for stronger, evi-

dence-based approaches and more robust data-driven surveillance systems, noting that “public health responses must increasingly rely on data to anticipate and manage risks effectively”.

J. Amalorpavanathan, Member, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu, provided insights into Tamil Nadu’s public health model.

Explaining the State’s structured systems and preparedness strategies, he noted that consistent policy focus, better investment in health and system readiness are key to improving health outcomes.

Prakash M., Associate Professor, School of Public Health, SRMIST, discussed the role of artificial intelligence and digital tools in public health.

He said that “AI in public health is most effective when it builds on existing systems and strengthens

decision-making,” stressing the need for better integration of digital health architecture.

Participants raised questions on career opportunities and academic pathways in public health. The panellists highlighted the need for interdisciplinary skill sets, including epidemiology, data analysis, and policy understanding. “Public health requires an evidence-based approach, a strong scientific temper and most importantly empathy,” they noted.

Discussions also touched upon emerging areas such as digital health systems and the growing relevance of technology in shaping future public health careers.

The session was moderated by Athira Elssa Johnson, Senior Reporter, *The Hindu*.

The webinar can be viewed at <https://newsth.live/THSRMPY>

27A
Experts call for

data-led approach to tackle public health challenges

विशेषज्ञों ने सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए डेटा-आधारित दृष्टिकोण की मांग की



- “The lessons from the pandemic clearly show that **preparedness, strong public systems, and global cooperation** are critical,” she said.
उन्होंने कहा, “महामारी से मिले सबक बताते हैं कि तैयारी, मजबूत सार्वजनिक प्रणाली और वैश्विक सहयोग अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।”
- She also emphasised the **need for stronger, evidence-based approaches and more robust data-driven surveillance systems.**
उन्होंने अधिक मजबूत साक्ष्य-आधारित दृष्टिकोण और बेहतर डेटा-आधारित निगरानी प्रणाली की आवश्यकता पर भी जोर दिया।

GS II: Governance

Tough call

India needs to develop rapid venom detection diagnostics

A combination of snakes being ectothermic, a hotter summer than usual, difficult decision-making, and gaps in clinical infrastructure has led to a situation in Kerala where the availability of anti-snake venom (ASV) has not been able to prevent all deaths from snakebites. Snakes are driven by the heat to seek refuge in cool, damp spaces, which means homes and storerooms with firewood and coconut husks. The State is also densely vegetated with substantial human-wildlife range overlap. April-May is also the pre-monsoon breeding season for many venomous snakes, which means that they move around more and tend to be defensive. However, about 70% of snakebite presentations involve non-venomous species, and roughly half of the rest are dry bites with no venom injected. A substantial number of patients thus do not warrant ASV. Caution against administering ASV willy-nilly is merited because these compounds can also induce anaphylactic reactions, which can be fatal. At the same time, there is no commercially available diagnostic kit in India to detect venom in a patient's blood, and the diagnosis is entirely symptomatic. The ICMR has called this syndromic approach a systemic flaw, since by the time symptoms appear, the venom may already have damaged tissue irreversibly. Together with scarce ICU beds, a lack of ventilator backups, inadequate training in managing anaphylaxis, and limited lab support for monitoring, this approach has offset the benefits of the availability of ASV.

India accounts for nearly half of all snakebites in the world, with agricultural workers and children being the worst affected. Kerala is home to over 100 snake species, including the Big Four venomous snakes: the common krait, Russell's viper, saw-scaled viper, and spectacled cobra. The State government has made snakebite a notifiable disease. It launched the 'SARPA' programme to professionalise snake rescue. The SARPA Padam and the upcoming SARPA Suraksha programmes also focus on assessing risk and conducting ward-level and school awareness campaigns. Progressive as the notification and 'SARPA' are relative to similar measures in the rest of India, the deaths are a sign that Kerala may be prevention-heavy and that it needs to reinforce the 'cure' as well. ASV is already widely available; the uncertainty that prevails over doctors' decision-making at the first point of contact needs to be mitigated. Many experts have also called for the development and use of rapid venom detection diagnostics to eliminate the risks of the syndromic approach. This must be followed by increasing hospital capacity and the availability of skilled medical workers to manage the consequences of that decision.

wildlife range overlap.

यह राज्य घनी वनस्पति से आच्छादित है और यहाँ मानव-वन्यजीव क्षेत्रों का पर्याप्त ओवरलैप है।

- April-May is also the **pre-monsoon breeding season** for many venomous snakes, which means that they move around more and tend to be defensive.
अप्रैल-मई कई विषैले साँपों का पूर्व-मानसून प्रजनन काल भी होता है, जिससे वे अधिक सक्रिय रहते हैं और रक्षात्मक व्यवहार करते हैं।

- Noting that “public health responses must increasingly rely on data to anticipate and manage risks effectively”.

उन्होंने कहा कि “सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रतिक्रियाओं को जोखिमों का पूर्वानुमान लगाने और प्रबंधन के लिए डेटा पर आधारित होना चाहिए।”

- The panellists highlighted the need for **interdisciplinary skill sets, including epidemiology, data analysis, and policy understanding.**

पैनलिस्टों ने बहुविषयक कौशल की आवश्यकता बताई, जिसमें महामारी विज्ञान, डेटा विश्लेषण और नीति समझ शामिल है।

- “Public health requires an **evidence-based approach**, a strong scientific temper and most importantly empathy,” they noted.
उन्होंने कहा, “सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य के लिए साक्ष्य-आधारित दृष्टिकोण, मजबूत वैज्ञानिक सोच और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण संवेदनशीलता आवश्यक है।”

27A. Tough call

कठिन निर्णय

- India needs to develop **rapid venom detection diagnostics** भारत को त्वरित विष पहचान निदान विकसित करने की आवश्यकता है

A combination of snakes being **ectothermic**, a hotter summer than usual, difficult **decision-making**, and gaps in **clinical infrastructure** has led to a situation in **Kerala** where the availability of **anti-snake venom (ASV)** has not been able to prevent all deaths from **snakebites**.

साँपों के शीत-रक्ततीय (ectothermic) होने, सामान्य से अधिक गर्मी, कठिन निर्णय-निर्धारण, और चिकित्सीय अवसंरचना में कमियों के संयोजन ने केरल में ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न की है जहाँ एंटी-स्नेक वेनम (ASV) की उपलब्धता होने के बावजूद सभी सर्पदंश से होने वाली मौतों को रोका नहीं जा सका है।

- Snakes are driven by the heat to seek refuge in cool, damp spaces, which means homes and storerooms with firewood and coconut husks.

गर्मी के कारण साँप ठंडी और नम जगहों में आश्रय ढूँढते हैं, जिसका अर्थ है कि वे घरों और जलावन लकड़ी तथा नारियल के छिलकों वाले भंडार स्थलों में पहुँच जाते हैं।

- The **State is also densely vegetated with substantial human-wildlife range overlap.**

यह राज्य घनी वनस्पति से आच्छादित है और यहाँ मानव-वन्यजीव क्षेत्रों का पर्याप्त ओवरलैप है।

- April-May is also the **pre-monsoon breeding season** for many venomous snakes, which means that they move around more and tend to be defensive.
अप्रैल-मई कई विषैले साँपों का पूर्व-मानसून प्रजनन काल भी होता है, जिससे वे अधिक सक्रिय रहते हैं और रक्षात्मक व्यवहार करते हैं।



- However, about **70% of snakebite presentations** involve non-venomous species, and roughly half of the rest are **dry bites** with no venom injected.
हालांकि, लगभग **70% सर्पदंश मामलों** में गैर-विषैले साँप शामिल होते हैं, और शेष में से लगभग आधे **ड्राई बाइट** होते हैं जिनमें विष प्रविष्ट नहीं होता।
- A substantial number of patients thus do not warrant ASV.
इस प्रकार, बड़ी संख्या में रोगियों को **ASV** की आवश्यकता नहीं होती।
- Caution against administering ASV willy-nilly is merited because these compounds can also induce **anaphylactic reactions**, which can be fatal.
बिना सोचे-समझे **ASV** देने से बचना आवश्यक है क्योंकि यह **एनाफिलैक्टिक प्रतिक्रियाएँ** उत्पन्न कर सकता है, जो घातक हो सकती हैं।
- At the same time, there is no commercially available **diagnostic kit** in India to detect venom in a patient's blood, and the diagnosis is entirely **symptomatic**.
साथ ही, भारत में रोगी के रक्त में विष की पहचान के लिए कोई व्यावसायिक **डायग्नोस्टिक किट** उपलब्ध नहीं है, और निदान पूरी तरह **लक्षण-आधारित** है।
- The **ICMR** has called this **syndromic approach** a systemic flaw, since by the time symptoms appear, the venom may already have damaged tissue irreversibly.
ICMR ने इस **सिंड्रोमिक दृष्टिकोण** को एक प्रणालीगत दोष बताया है, क्योंकि जब तक लक्षण प्रकट होते हैं, तब तक विष ऊतकों को अपरिवर्तनीय रूप से क्षतिग्रस्त कर सकता है।
- Together with scarce **ICU beds**, a lack of **ventilator backups**, inadequate training in managing **anaphylaxis**, and limited **lab support** for monitoring, this approach has offset the benefits of the availability of ASV.
कम **ICU बेड**, **वेंटिलेटर बैकअप** की कमी, **एनाफिलैक्सिस प्रबंधन** में अपर्याप्त प्रशिक्षण, और निगरानी के लिए सीमित **प्रयोगशाला सहायता** के साथ, इस दृष्टिकोण ने ASV की उपलब्धता के लाभ को कम कर दिया है।
- **India accounts for nearly half of all snakebites in the world, with agricultural workers and children being the worst affected.**
भारत विश्व के लगभग आधे **सर्पदंश मामलों** के लिए जिम्मेदार है, जिसमें **कृषि श्रमिक** और **बच्चे** सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होते हैं।
- **Kerala is home to over 100 snake species, including the Big Four venomous snakes: the common krait, Russell's viper, saw-scaled viper, and spectacled cobra.**
केरल में **100 से अधिक साँप प्रजातियाँ** पाई जाती हैं, जिनमें **चार प्रमुख विषैले साँप** शामिल हैं: **कॉमन क्रेट**, **रसेल वाइपर**, **सॉ-स्केल्ड वाइपर**, और **स्पेक्टैकल्ड कोबरा**।
- The **State government has made snakebite a notifiable disease.**
राज्य सरकार ने **सर्पदंश को एक अधिसूचित रोग** घोषित किया है।
- It launched the **'SARPA' programme to professionalise snake rescue.**
साँपों के बचाव कार्य को पेशेवर बनाने के लिए **'SARPA' कार्यक्रम** शुरू किया गया।
- The **SARPA Padam** and the upcoming **SARPA Suraksha** programmes also focus on assessing risk and conducting ward-level and school awareness campaigns.
SARPA पदम और आगामी **SARPA सुरक्षा** कार्यक्रम जोखिम मूल्यांकन और वार्ड स्तर तथा विद्यालयों में जागरूकता अभियान पर भी केंद्रित हैं।
- Progressive as the notification and 'SARPA' are relative to similar measures in the rest of India, the deaths are a sign that Kerala may be **prevention-heavy** and that it needs to reinforce the **'cure'** as well.
यद्यपि अधिसूचना और 'SARPA' कार्यक्रम भारत के अन्य हिस्सों की तुलना में प्रगतिशील हैं, फिर भी मौतें इस बात का संकेत हैं कि केरल **रोकथाम-केंद्रित** है और उसे **उपचार** को भी सुदृढ़ करना होगा।
- **ASV is already widely available; the uncertainty that prevails over doctors' decision-making at the first point of contact needs to be mitigated.**
ASV पहले से व्यापक रूप से उपलब्ध है; प्रारंभिक संपर्क बिंदु पर डॉक्टरों के **निर्णय-निर्धारण** में जो अनिश्चितता है, उसे कम करने की आवश्यकता है।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
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- Many experts have also called for the **development and use of rapid venom detection diagnostics** to eliminate the risks of the syndromic approach.
कई विशेषज्ञों ने त्वरित विष पहचान परीक्षणों के विकास और उपयोग की भी मांग की है ताकि सिंड्रोमिक दृष्टिकोण के जोखिमों को समाप्त किया जा सके।

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TOPICS COVERED		
27A	West Asia war, language on Israel derail joint statement at BRICS meet पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध और इज़राइल पर भाषा ने BRICS बैठक में संयुक्त बयान को पटरी से उतारा	
27A	Turning point निर्णायक मोड़	
27A	Trump's hubris and the cost to the world order ट्रम्प का अहंकार और वैश्विक व्यवस्था पर उसकी कीमत	
27A	N. Ireland police suspect dissident republicans in latest car bombing उत्तरी आयरलैंड पुलिस को हालिया कार बम विस्फोट में असंतुष्ट रिपब्लिकनों पर संदेह	
27A	Pragmatism, not patriotism, pushes young Lithuanians to military service व्यावहारिकता, न कि देशभक्ति, युवा लिथुआनियाई लोगों को सैन्य सेवा की ओर प्रेरित करती है	

PATRIOTIC IAS



West Asia war, language on Israel derail joint statement at BRICS meet

GS II: IR
Sunasini Hardar
NEW DELHI

Extended late-night parleys and heated debates marked the meeting of the 11-nation BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys in New Delhi that ended without a joint statement on Friday, *The Hindu* has learnt, indicating more trouble for India's BRICS Presidency this year.

While delegates from the United Arab Emirates and Iran sparred over the war in West Asia, a number of diplomatic and official sources present or briefed about the discussions said that the meetings on April 23-24 also saw an unexpected attempt by India to "tone down" language on Israel and Palestine, which was opposed by almost all other members.

The issues have set the stage for more difficult negotiations in the weeks ahead as BRICS Foreign Mi-



Attendees at the BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys meeting in New Delhi. PTI

nisters are due to meet on May 14-15, with the summit scheduled for September 10-11. Many BRICS Foreign Ministers have confirmed they will attend the meeting next month, including Russia, China, Egypt and Brazil.

In particular, sources present in the meetings said that officials from the Ministry negotiating the joint statement sought to amend paragraphs from BRICS summits in Brasilia

in 2025 and Kazan in 2024.

These included softening language that criticised Israel for its bombardment of Gaza and Lebanon, as well as dropping a reference to "East Jerusalem" to be established as the capital of the Palestinian state as a part of the two-state solution. Ministry officials even sought to replace references of "Israel" while criticising its operations in the West Bank and Lebanon with the less di-

rect term "occupying power".

"We were very surprised as India has agreed to such language at many multilateral fora," said a diplomat who asked not to be named. However, another diplomat pointed out that India had incorporated such changes during the India-Arab League Summit held in Delhi in January 2026. In bilateral statements, India stopped using the term "East Jerusalem" in 2017.

The MEA declined several requests for a response on whether India's position on Palestine was isolated at the meeting. "There was no change in India's position on the Palestine issue" a government source told PTI news agency on Sunday, attributing the lack of consensus to "sharp difference of positions among members who are party to the conflict".

27A. West Asia war, language on Israel derail joint statement at BRICS meet

पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध और इज़राइल पर भाषा ने BRICS बैठक में संयुक्त बयान को पटरी से उतारा

- Extended late-night parleys and heated debates marked the meeting of the **11-nation BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys in New Delhi** that ended without a joint statement on Friday.
देर रात तक चली बातचीत और तीखी बहसों के बीच 11 देशों के BRICS उप विदेश मंत्रियों और विशेष दूतों की नई दिल्ली में बैठक शुक्रवार को बिना संयुक्त बयान के समाप्त हुई।
- Indicating more trouble for India's **BRICS Presidency this year**.
यह इस वर्ष भारत की **BRICS अध्यक्षता** के लिए और कठिनाइयों का संकेत देता है।
- While **delegates from the United Arab Emirates and Iran sparred over the war in West Asia**.
जबकि **संयुक्त अरब अमीरात और ईरान** के प्रतिनिधियों के बीच पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध को लेकर विवाद हुआ।
- A number of diplomatic and official sources said that the meetings on **April 23-24** also saw an unexpected attempt by India to "tone down" language on **Israel and Palestine**.
कई कूटनीतिक और आधिकारिक स्रोतों ने कहा कि **23-24 अप्रैल** की बैठकों में भारत द्वारा **इज़राइल और फिलिस्तीन** पर भाषा को "नरम" करने का अप्रत्याशित प्रयास भी देखा गया।
- Which was opposed by almost all other members.
जिसका लगभग सभी अन्य सदस्यों ने विरोध किया।



- The issues have set the stage for more difficult negotiations in the weeks ahead. इन मुद्दों ने आने वाले हफ्तों में और कठिन वार्ताओं की स्थिति पैदा कर दी है।
- As **BRICS Foreign Ministers are due to meet on May 14-15.** क्योंकि **BRICS विदेश मंत्री 14-15 मई** को मिलने वाले हैं।
- **With the summit scheduled for September 10-11.** और शिखर सम्मेलन **10-11 सितंबर** को निर्धारित है।
- In particular, sources said that officials from the Ministry negotiating the joint statement sought to amend paragraphs from **BRICS summits in Brasilia in 2025 and Kazan in 2024.** विशेष रूप से, स्रोतों ने कहा कि मंत्रालय के अधिकारी संयुक्त बयान के लिए **2025 में ब्रासीलिया और 2024 में कज़ान** में हुए BRICS शिखर सम्मेलनों के पैराग्राफ में संशोधन करना चाहते थे।
- These included softening language that **criticised Israel for its bombardment of Gaza and Lebanon.** इनमें **गाज़ा और लेबनान** पर इज़राइल की बमबारी की आलोचना को नरम करना शामिल था।
- As well as dropping a reference to **“East Jerusalem”** to be established as the capital of the Palestinian state as a part of the **two-state solution.** साथ ही **“पूर्वी यरूशलम”** को **दो-राष्ट्र समाधान** के तहत फिलिस्तीनी राज्य की राजधानी के रूप में स्थापित करने के संदर्भ को हटाना भी शामिल था।
- Ministry officials even sought to replace references of “Israel” while criticising its operations in the **West Bank and Lebanon** with the less direct term **“occupying power”.** मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने **वेस्ट बैंक और लेबनान** में इज़राइल की कार्रवाइयों की आलोचना करते समय “इज़राइल” के स्थान पर कम प्रत्यक्ष शब्द **“अधिकार रखने वाली शक्ति”** का उपयोग करने का प्रस्ताव दिया।
- “We were very surprised as India has agreed to such language at many multilateral fora,” said a diplomat. एक राजनयिक ने कहा, “हम बहुत आश्चर्यचकित थे क्योंकि भारत ने कई बहुपक्षीय मंचों पर ऐसी भाषा से सहमति जताई है।”
- However, another diplomat pointed out that India had incorporated such changes during the **India-Arab League Summit held in Delhi in January 2026.** हालांकि, एक अन्य राजनयिक ने बताया कि भारत ने **जनवरी 2026** में दिल्ली में आयोजित **भारत-अरब लीग शिखर सम्मेलन** के दौरान ऐसे बदलाव शामिल किए थे।
- In bilateral statements, India stopped using the term **“East Jerusalem”** in **2017.** द्विपक्षीय बयानों में भारत ने **2017** से **“पूर्वी यरूशलम”** शब्द का उपयोग बंद कर दिया।
- The **MEA** declined several requests for a response on whether India’s position on Palestine was isolated at the meeting. **विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA)** ने यह बताने से इनकार कर दिया कि बैठक में फिलिस्तीन पर भारत की स्थिति अलग-थलग थी या नहीं।
- “There was no change in India’s position on the **Palestine issue,**” a government source told **PTI news agency** on Sunday. एक सरकारी सूत्र ने रविवार को **PTI समाचार एजेंसी** को बताया, **“फिलिस्तीन मुद्दे** पर भारत की स्थिति में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है।”
- Attributing the lack of consensus to **sharp difference of positions among members who are party to the conflict.** और सहमति की कमी का कारण **संघर्ष में शामिल देशों के बीच तीव्र मतभेद** बताया।



GS II: IR MQB

Turning point

The U.S. is slicing away at India's ability to pursue an independent foreign policy

The U.S. has allowed its waiver of sanctions on Iran's Chabahar port to lapse on Sunday (April 26), indicating that India is now at a crossroads on how to proceed with the port as a key connectivity initiative. Barring a belated waiver renewal, New Delhi must choose between accepting sanctions and abandoning its \$620 million investment, or proceeding with the project and risk strict U.S. sanctions. India's "start-stop" engagement with Iran on developing a facility at the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar goes back decades, and Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee signed an MoU for the project in 2003. However, U.S. pressure on India to postpone plans aimed at stopping Iran's nuclear programme led to construction delays. The Manmohan Singh government was unable to make much progress either, but continued work on the Zaranj-Delaram highway to connect the Iran-Afghanistan border crossing to Kabul. After the 2015 JCPOA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government signed a trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to advance trade and aid via Chabahar port and a highway into Afghanistan. Chabahar's importance grew as ties with Pakistan deteriorated and it restricted India's transit access to Afghanistan. However, fate intervened again as U.S. President Donald Trump walked out of the JCPOA, and began a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran by re-implementing all sanctions. While India was forced by the U.S. to give up Iranian oil imports, and plans for the rail line, the U.S. built a "carve-out" for Chabahar, allowing India to send wheat and medical supplies to Afghanistan. That carve-out is now at an end, with the Trump administration giving Delhi until this month to "wind-down" its operations. Since November 2025, India has withdrawn personnel from Chabahar, prepaid its \$120 million investment commitment, and is considering transferring its stake in the Shahid Beheshti Terminal to an Iranian company, with the option of returning later.

The West Asia war has complicated the situation, and it is unclear when, if ever, India will be able to re-engage with Iran or rebuild Chabahar after the conflict. Temporarily dropping the project may seem pragmatic. However, Chabahar is just one of several India's independent decisions that the U.S. has thwarted; there have been dikats to stop buying oil from Iran, Venezuela, and Russia. Mr. Trump has threatened sanctions on all trade with Iran, and on BRICS grouping members; the U.S.'s seemingly insatiable demands may also extend to India's engagement with other countries. Giving in on Chabahar will not just end India's connectivity plans with Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan. It will damage its claims of sovereign autonomy, and slice away its ability to pursue an independent foreign policy.

मनमोहन सिंह सरकार भी अधिक प्रगति नहीं कर सकी, लेकिन उसने ईरान-अफगानिस्तान सीमा को काबुल से जोड़ने के लिए जरंज-डेलाराम राजमार्ग पर काम जारी रखा।

- After the 2015 JCPOA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government signed a trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to advance trade and aid via Chabahar port and a highway into Afghanistan.

2015 के JCPOA के बाद, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की सरकार ने चाबहार बंदरगाह और अफगानिस्तान तक राजमार्ग के माध्यम से व्यापार और सहायता बढ़ाने के लिए ईरान और अफगानिस्तान के साथ एक त्रिपक्षीय समझौता किया।

27A. Turning point

निर्णायक मोड़

- The U.S. is slicing away at India's ability to pursue an independent foreign policy

अमेरिका भारत की क्षमता को, एक स्वतंत्र विदेश नीति अपनाने की दिशा में, कमजोर कर रहा है

- The U.S. has allowed its waiver of sanctions on Iran's Chabahar port to lapse on Sunday (April 26), indicating that India is now at a crossroads on how to proceed with the port as a key connectivity initiative.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने ईरान के चाबहार बंदरगाह पर लगे प्रतिबंधों से छूट को रविवार (26 अप्रैल) को समाप्त होने दिया है, जिससे संकेत मिलता है कि भारत अब इस बंदरगाह को एक प्रमुख कनेक्टिविटी पहल के रूप में आगे बढ़ाने के संबंध में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ पर है।

- Barring a belated waiver renewal, New Delhi must choose between accepting sanctions and abandoning its \$620 million investment, or proceeding with the project and risk strict U.S. sanctions.

यदि देर से छूट का नवीनीकरण नहीं होता है, तो नई दिल्ली को प्रतिबंधों को स्वीकार करके अपने 620 मिलियन डॉलर के निवेश को छोड़ने या परियोजना को जारी रखते हुए कठोर अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों का जोखिम उठाने के बीच चुनाव करना होगा।

- India's "start-stop" engagement with Iran on developing a facility at the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar goes back decades, and Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee signed an MoU for the project in 2003.

चाबहार के शहीद बेहेशती टर्मिनल में सुविधा विकसित करने को लेकर ईरान के साथ भारत की "रुक-रुक कर" सहभागिता दशकों पुरानी है, और प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी ने 2003 में इस परियोजना के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे।

- However, U.S. pressure on India to postpone plans aimed at stopping Iran's nuclear programme led to construction delays.

हालांकि, ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम को रोकने के उद्देश्य से योजनाओं को स्थगित करने के लिए भारत पर अमेरिकी दबाव के कारण निर्माण में देरी हुई।

- The Manmohan Singh government was unable to make much progress either, but continued work on the Zaranj-Delaram highway to connect the Iran-Afghanistan border crossing to Kabul.



- Chabahar's importance grew as ties with **Pakistan** deteriorated and it restricted India's transit access to **Afghanistan**.
पाकिस्तान के साथ संबंध बिगड़ने और भारत की अफगानिस्तान तक पारगमन पहुंच सीमित होने के कारण चाबहार का महत्व बढ़ गया।
- However, fate intervened again as **U.S. President Donald Trump** walked out of the **JCPOA**, and began a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran by re-implementing all sanctions. हालांकि, स्थिति फिर बदली जब अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने **JCPOA** से बाहर निकलकर ईरान के खिलाफ सभी प्रतिबंधों को पुनः लागू करते हुए "अधिकतम दबाव" अभियान शुरू किया।
- While India was forced by the U.S. to give up Iranian oil imports, and plans for the rail line, the U.S. built a "carve-out" for Chabahar, allowing India to send **wheat and medical supplies** to Afghanistan.
जहां अमेरिका ने भारत को ईरानी तेल आयात और रेल लाइन योजनाओं को छोड़ने के लिए मजबूर किया, वहीं उसने चाबहार के लिए एक "छूट व्यवस्था" बनाई, जिससे भारत को अफगानिस्तान को गेहूं और चिकित्सा आपूर्ति भेजने की अनुमति मिली।
- That carve-out is now at an end, with the Trump administration giving Delhi until this month to "wind-down" its operations.
अब यह छूट समाप्त हो चुकी है, और ट्रंप प्रशासन ने दिल्ली को इस महीने तक अपने संचालन को "समाप्त करने" का समय दिया है।
- Since **November 2025**, India has withdrawn personnel from Chabahar, prepaid its **\$120 million investment commitment**, and is considering transferring its stake in the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal** to an Iranian company, with the option of returning later.
नवंबर 2025 से, भारत ने चाबहार से अपने कर्मचारियों को वापस बुला लिया है, अपने **120 मिलियन डॉलर के निवेश** को अग्रिम भुगतान कर दिया है, और भविष्य में वापसी के विकल्प के साथ अपनी हिस्सेदारी एक ईरानी कंपनी को हस्तांतरित करने पर विचार कर रहा है।
- The **West Asia war** has complicated the situation, and it is unclear when, if ever, India will be able to re-engage with Iran or rebuild Chabahar after the conflict.
पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध ने स्थिति को और जटिल बना दिया है, और यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि भारत कब, यदि कभी, ईरान के साथ फिर से जुड़ पाएगा या संघर्ष के बाद चाबहार का पुनर्निर्माण कर पाएगा।
- **Temporarily dropping the project may seem pragmatic.**
परियोजना को अस्थायी रूप से छोड़ना व्यावहारिक लग सकता है।
- However, Chabahar is just one of several India's **independent decisions** that the U.S. has thwarted; there have been diktats to stop buying oil from **Iran, Venezuela, and Russia**.
हालांकि, चाबहार उन कई स्वतंत्र निर्णयों में से एक है जिन्हें अमेरिका ने बाधित किया है; ईरान, वेनेजुएला, और रूस से तेल खरीदने को रोकने के निर्देश भी दिए गए हैं।
- Mr. Trump has threatened sanctions on all trade with Iran, and on **BRICS grouping members**; the U.S.'s seemingly **insatiable** demands may also extend to India's engagement with other countries.
श्री ट्रंप ने ईरान के साथ सभी व्यापार और **BRICS देशों** पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाने की धमकी दी है; अमेरिका की ये लगातार बढ़ती मांगें भारत के अन्य देशों के साथ संबंधों तक भी फैल सकती हैं।
- **Giving in on Chabahar will not just end India's connectivity plans with Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan.**
चाबहार पर पीछे हटना केवल ईरान, मध्य एशिया और अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत की कनेक्टिविटी योजनाओं को समाप्त नहीं करेगा।
- It will damage its claims of **sovereign autonomy**, and slice away its ability to pursue an **independent foreign policy**.
यह उसकी सार्वभौमिक स्वायत्तता के दावों को नुकसान पहुंचाएगा और उसकी स्वतंत्र विदेश नीति अपनाने की क्षमता को कम कर देगा।



Trump's hubris and the cost to the world order

CS II: IR MOB

The *Chambers Dictionary* describes hubris as insolence, arrogance, and overconfidence that can lead to disaster or ruin. The moot question is whether this description fits the actions and personality of United States President Donald Trump. To many, if not most people, it would seem an apt description of the 47th President of the U.S. who, in his second term, seems intent on completing the unfinished tasks of his first, and in a manner that leaves no one in any doubt about his narcissistic attributes. To some, this may appear too harsh a judgment, but considering reactions from across the globe, the majority would agree.

Mr. Trump's actions at the beginning of this year in Venezuela, followed by his shenanigans in West Asia, suggest that he fully comprehends what he is doing. His supporters even cite historical precedents to justify his actions. They refuse to accept that all this only confirms the rise of the 'illiberal international', which is reshaping the global order today.

A false reading of victory

Wars usually tend to be fought in the belief that one side will come out victorious. In West Asia today, the situation conforms to the adage that not all wars need to have a winner. A 'no win fragile peace' in West Asia should ordinarily be a humbling experience for anyone, but Mr. Trump is intent on brandishing the claim that he has virtually eclipsed Iran. Higher levels of bombast cannot, however, obscure the reality that while Iran has suffered, it still stands tall though bruised. The Pakistan moderated truce talks in Islamabad have, meanwhile, provided a fig leaf for a truce of sorts and an opportunity to continue negotiations without either side having to prove its claims of victory.

Mr. Trump's folly of launching a war on a Friday/Saturday, hoping to force a result in his favour by Monday morning, has since been proven wrong. Spurred, perhaps, by his success in Venezuela, and driven by a delusion to win a Nobel Peace Prize by preventing another world war, Mr. Trump appears to see victory in every twist and turn of events in West Asia today. His occasional claims to peace having returned to the region appear increasingly hallucinating rather than real.

From Israel's point of view, a ceasefire on terms that have not achieved its objective of destroying Iran's war machine carries little meaning. That this should be so, even after the U.S. had joined the war on its side, would be even more hurtful, but it has little option but to go along. A major worry is that if the impression were to gain ground that, having launched a war



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The West Asia conflict has exposed the disruptive leadership style of the United States President

to end all wars, it has now been reduced to being a nursemaid to a faltering peace, it would be highly damaging to its image and future.

As of now, there appear to be no victors or losers in a conflict 'manufactured' by Israel, and sustained by the U.S. If anything, suspicions have grown about Israel's role overall, as also about its manipulative skills, leading to a 'credibility gap' across the region. The role of the U.S. as a guarantor and guardian of many Arab States, including provision of a nuclear umbrella, also stands diminished. It is too early to assess how this would fundamentally alter power equations across the region.

Military leaders often declare deadlines to finish campaigns. Mr. Trump is, perhaps, the first civilian overlord to announce deadlines and determine victories, often randomly and without justification. This war has witnessed a series of announcements by Mr. Trump about the end of the war in West Asia as also several announcements of victory, leading to an 'Alice in Wonderland' scenario. Meanwhile, hundreds have lost their lives on account of an unnecessary conflict, and several thousand have been rendered homeless.

Modern war realities

One lesson to learn from the conflict – something that is less known and often overlooked – is how smaller armies can 'best' major powers by employing low cost effective weapons and tactics. Further, overestimating the strength of powerful allies – by Israel in respect of the U.S. – could prove a costly mistake. Iran might have been battered, but any belief that this would result in the dismantling of Iran's network of proxy militia, has clearly been belied. What has accompanied this is the deep suspicion – across the region, and also in the West and elsewhere – about Israel's Machiavellian tactics and policies of misinformation.

The failure of the Pakistan-mediated ceasefire talks held from early April in Islamabad raised the spectre of a fresh round of unbridled violence, with the U.S. President at one stage even threatening to erase Iran from the face of the earth. Yet, even as all bets were off on what to expect at the end of the two-week-long ceasefire, Mr. Trump pulled another rabbit out of his hat. As the world waited with concern at the grim prospect of a further escalation of a needless war, Mr. Trump announced that he was acceding to Pakistan's request and announced an indefinite extension of the ceasefire.

Mr. Trump's logic in acquiescing to Pakistan's request and endorsing the need to give Tehran's leadership more time to prepare a proper end to the war would have been praiseworthy, had it not

emanated from anyone other than the present incumbent of the White House, who is known for his mood swings. Notwithstanding the rickety ceasefire prospects, hopes have arisen that an all-out war has been avoided for now. Iran, however, is acting as a 'spoiler', seizing some ships in the Strait of Hormuz. There is also no clarity on the date or even the likelihood of the next round of U.S.-Iran talks.

The ceasefire does provide some breathing space for now. What is significant is the fact that a war initiated by Israel has since changed colour, with Israel's role becoming peripheral. The focus has shifted to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and on determining who has the authority to impose a blockade of international waters. In 1507, a Portuguese admiral took control over the Strait of Hormuz, turning it into a customs-controlled port that levied duties on passing trade. Mr. Trump is now exploiting this anachronism to turn it into a global chokepoint, imposing a naval blockade, and threatening the free flow of oil across the Strait. Given the unpredictability of his thought processes, nothing can be said as to how long the latest ceasefire would last, but his assertion that Tehran must never have a nuclear weapon, nor make or obtain one, would seem to suggest that the current ceasefire is likely at best to be a temporary one.

Pakistan's role

What is possibly most galling for India is the emergence of Pakistan as a conciliator – or to use Mr. Trump's phrase "an indispensable broker" as far as the conflict is concerned. Even as Mr. Trump seeks to garner all the glory, proclaiming that he has been able to stave-off the 10th major war of his times, Pakistan's role and its influence is witnessing an upswing. The turn of the wheel whereby Pakistan rather than India helped negotiate peace, is likely to make India unhappy, but this is the reality as of today. The special relationship between Field Marshal Asim Munir of Pakistan and the U.S. President is different from the usual cozying up of Pakistani generals with U.S. Presidents in the past, and this has helped shape Pakistan's emergence as a peacemaker that cannot be wished away. What should also not be lost sight of is that, of late, Pakistan has successfully managed to project itself as a net 'security guarantor' for the Islamic world. In the circumstances, India must tread lightly. It may be something that India had not bargained for, but any attempt at this time to denigrate Pakistan and Asim Munir's role could prove counterproductive. Patience has been India's sublime virtue, and this is the time for India to exercise it in full measure.

27A. Trump's hubris and the cost to the world order

ट्रम्प का अहंकार और वैश्विक व्यवस्था पर उसकी कीमत

- The *Chambers Dictionary* describes **hubris** as insolence, arrogance, and overconfidence that can lead to disaster or ruin.

चेम्बर्स डिक्शनरी के अनुसार ह्यूब्रिस (अहंकार) का अर्थ उद्दंडता, घमंड और अत्यधिक आत्मविश्वास है जो विनाश या पतन का कारण बन सकता है।

- To many, if not most people, it would seem an apt description of the **47th President of the U.S.** who, in his second term, seems intent on completing the unfinished tasks of his first, and in a manner that leaves no one in any doubt about his **narcissistic attributes**.

अधिकांश लोगों के लिए यह संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के 47वें राष्ट्रपति का सटीक वर्णन प्रतीत होता है, जो अपने दूसरे कार्यकाल में पहले कार्यकाल के अधूरे कार्यों को पूरा करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध दिखते हैं, और इस प्रकार कि उनके **आत्ममुग्ध गुणों** पर कोई संदेह नहीं रहता।

- To some, this may appear too harsh a judgment, but considering reactions from across the globe, the majority would agree.

कुछ लोगों को यह आकलन कठोर लग सकता है, लेकिन विश्वभर से आने वाली प्रतिक्रियाओं को देखते हुए अधिकांश लोग इससे सहमत होंगे।



- Mr. Trump's actions at the beginning of this year in **Venezuela**, followed by his **shenanigans** in **West Asia**, suggest that he fully comprehends what he is doing.
इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में **वेनेजुएला** में श्री ट्रंप की कार्रवाइयाँ और उसके बाद **पश्चिम एशिया** में उनकी गतिविधियाँ यह दर्शाती हैं कि वे पूरी तरह समझते हैं कि वे क्या कर रहे हैं।
- They refuse to accept that all this only confirms the **rise of the 'illiberal international'**, which is **reshaping the global order today**.
वे यह स्वीकार करने से इंकार करते हैं कि यह सब केवल 'अउदार अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था' के उदय की पुष्टि करता है, जो आज वैश्विक व्यवस्था को पुनः आकार दे रही है।

A false reading of victory (विजय की गलत व्याख्या)

- Wars usually tend to be fought in the belief that one side will come out victorious.
युद्ध आमतौर पर इस विश्वास के साथ लड़े जाते हैं कि एक पक्ष विजयी होगा।
- In **West Asia** today, the situation conforms to the adage that **not all wars need to have a winner**.
आज **पश्चिम एशिया** में स्थिति इस कहावत के अनुरूप है कि सभी युद्धों में विजेता होना आवश्यक नहीं होता।
- A 'no win fragile peace' in West Asia should ordinarily be a humbling experience for anyone, but Mr. Trump is intent on brandishing the claim that he has virtually eclipsed **Iran**.
पश्चिम एशिया में 'बिना जीत की नाजुक शांति' सामान्यतः किसी के लिए विनम्र अनुभव होना चाहिए, लेकिन श्री ट्रंप यह दावा करने पर अड़े हैं कि उन्होंने लगभग **ईरान** को पीछे छोड़ दिया है।
- The **role of the U.S. as a guarantor and guardian of many Arab States, including provision of a nuclear umbrella, also stands diminished**.
कई अरब देशों के संरक्षक और गारंटर के रूप में, जिसमें **परमाणु सुरक्षा छत्र** प्रदान करना भी शामिल है, **अमेरिका** की भूमिका भी कमजोर हुई है।
- It is too early to assess how this would fundamentally alter **power equations** across the region.
यह आकलन करना अभी जल्दबाजी होगी कि इससे क्षेत्र में **शक्ति संतुलन** किस प्रकार मूल रूप से बदल जाएगा।
- Military leaders often declare **deadlines** to finish campaigns.
सैन्य नेता अक्सर अभियानों को समाप्त करने के लिए **समय-सीमाएँ** घोषित करते हैं।
- Mr. **Trump** is, perhaps, the first civilian overlord to announce deadlines and determine victories, often randomly and without justification.
श्री **ट्रंप** संभवतः पहले नागरिक शासक हैं जो समय-सीमाएँ घोषित करते हैं और विजय निर्धारित करते हैं, अक्सर बिना किसी तर्क के और अनियमित रूप से।
- This war has witnessed a series of announcements by Mr. Trump about the end of the war in **West Asia** as also several announcements of victory, leading to an '**Alice in Wonderland**' scenario.
इस युद्ध में श्री ट्रंप द्वारा **पश्चिम एशिया** में युद्ध समाप्ति और कई बार विजय की घोषणाएँ देखी गई हैं, जिससे '**एलिस इन वंडरलैंड**' जैसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई है।
- Meanwhile, hundreds have lost their lives on account of an unnecessary conflict, and several thousand have been rendered homeless.
इस बीच, एक अनावश्यक संघर्ष के कारण सैकड़ों लोगों की जान गई है और हजारों लोग बेघर हो गए हैं।

Modern war realities (आधुनिक युद्ध की वास्तविकताएँ)

- One lesson to learn from the conflict — something that is less known and often overlooked — is **how smaller armies can 'best' major powers by employing low cost effective weapons and tactics**.
इस संघर्ष से एक महत्वपूर्ण सबक — जो कम ज्ञात और अक्सर अनदेखा किया जाता है — यह है कि **छोटी**



सेनाएँ कैसे कम लागत वाले प्रभावी हथियारों और रणनीतियों का उपयोग करके बड़ी शक्तियों को परास्त कर सकती हैं।

- In 1507, a Portuguese admiral took control over the Strait of Hormuz, turning it into a **customs-controlled port** that levied duties on passing trade.
1507 में, एक पुर्तगाली एडमिरल ने हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पर नियंत्रण कर लिया और इसे एक शुल्क-नियंत्रित बंदरगाह में बदल दिया, जहां गुजरने वाले व्यापार पर कर लगाया जाता था।
- What is possibly most **galling** for India is the **emergence of Pakistan as a conciliator** — or to use Mr. Trump's phrase **"an indispensable broker"** as far as the conflict is concerned.
भारत के लिए संभवतः सबसे अधिक पीड़ादायक बात यह है कि **पाकिस्तान** एक मध्यस्थ के रूप में उभरा है — या श्री ट्रंप के शब्दों में, संघर्ष के संदर्भ में "एक अपरिहार्य मध्यस्थ" के रूप में।
- The special relationship between **Field Marshal Asim Munir** of Pakistan and the **U.S. President** is different from the usual cozying up of Pakistani generals with U.S. Presidents in the past, and this has helped shape Pakistan's emergence as a peacemaker that cannot be wished away.
पाकिस्तान के **फील्ड मार्शल असीम मुनीर** और **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति** के बीच विशेष संबंध अतीत में पाकिस्तानी जनरलों और अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपतियों के बीच सामान्य निकटता से भिन्न है, और इसने पाकिस्तान को एक ऐसे शांति-निर्माता के रूप में उभरने में सहायता की है जिसे नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जा सकता।
- What should also not be lost sight of is that, of late, **Pakistan has successfully managed to project itself as a net 'security guarantor' for the Islamic world.**
यह भी ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि हाल के समय में पाकिस्तान ने स्वयं को **इस्लामी दुनिया** के लिए एक समग्र 'सुरक्षा गारंटर' के रूप में सफलतापूर्वक प्रस्तुत किया है।
- In the circumstances, India must **tread lightly**.
इन परिस्थितियों में, भारत को सावधानीपूर्वक कदम उठाने चाहिए।
- It may be something that India had not bargained for, but any attempt at this time to denigrate Pakistan and Asim Munir's role could prove counterproductive.
यह ऐसी स्थिति हो सकती है जिसकी भारत ने अपेक्षा नहीं की थी, लेकिन इस समय पाकिस्तान और असीम मुनीर की भूमिका को कमतर आंकने का कोई भी प्रयास प्रतिकूल परिणाम दे सकता है।
- Patience has been India's sublime virtue, and this is the time for India to exercise it in full measure.

धैर्य भारत का एक महान गुण रहा है, और यह वह समय है जब भारत को इसे पूर्ण रूप से अपनाना चाहिए।

BELFAST

N. Ireland police suspect dissident republicans in latest car bombing



AP

GS II: IR

Northern Ireland police said on Sunday they suspect dissident republicans could be behind an overnight car bomb attack outside a police station near Belfast. Politicians denounced the incident, with First Minister Michelle O'Neill from the pro-Irish Sinn Fein party saying those behind the attack "speak for absolutely no one". AFP

27A. N. Ireland police suspect dissident republicans in latest car bombing

उत्तरी आयरलैंड पुलिस को हालिया कार बम विस्फोट में असंतुष्ट रिपब्लिकनों पर संदेह

- Northern Ireland police said on Sunday they suspect **dissident republicans** could be behind an overnight **car bomb attack** outside a police station near **Belfast**.

उत्तरी आयरलैंड पुलिस ने रविवार को कहा कि उन्हें संदेह है कि असंतुष्ट रिपब्लिकन बेलफास्ट के पास एक पुलिस स्टेशन के बाहर रात में हुए कार बम हमले के पीछे हो सकते हैं।

- Politicians denounced the incident, with **First Minister Michelle O'Neill** from the pro-Irish **Sinn Fein party** saying those behind the attack "speak for absolutely no one".



राजनेताओं ने इस घटना की निंदा की, जिसमें प्रथम मंत्री मिशेल ओ'नील ने, जो pro-Irish सिन फेन पार्टी से हैं, कहा कि इस हमले के पीछे लोग "किसी का भी प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करते।"

Pragmatism, not patriotism, pushes young Lithuanians to military service

GS II: IR
Agence France Presse
VILNIUS

Outside a high school classroom in Vilnius, several students look apprehensive as they discuss their looming futures — university, the job market and, for many of them, serving in the military.

In their final year of high school, all are on the brink of Lithuania's newly-reformed draft policy, expanded to make all 18- to 22-year-old men who pass a health check eligible, as the small neighbour of Russia and Belarus seeks to deter any aggression from Moscow.

While authorities praise young people's patriotism, eligible men say they need more government support as they prepare to serve.



Lithuania's new draft policy makes men aged 18 to 22 who pass a health check-up eligible for military enrolment. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"Those younger people will have to defend our country, and to be able to motivate them is important, so they feel encouraged to join the military," Valentinas, an 18-year-old high school student, told AFP.

This policy, initially im-

plemented in 2014 after the Russian occupation of Crimea, has expanded several times since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

At the start of this year, the draft list grew from 3,500 people to 5,000. Previous exceptions to the

policy, such as those for students in higher education, were removed.

Lithuania's Defence Ministry is confident its young people are eager to defend their country.

But many potential draftees worry the military draft might disrupt their future plans.

"This year I wouldn't want to go," Dominikas, 18, told AFP. "If I was to get drafted, it would mess up the rhythm of education, and that would be a problem". Vykintas, 18, a classmate, admitted he volunteered, but not out of overt enthusiasm for service. "I'm not really excited for the military, but I also volunteered for it because I think it's better to just do it after school and be free with it," he told AFP.

27A. Pragmatism, not patriotism, pushes young Lithuanians to military service व्यावहारिकता, न कि देशभक्ति, युवा लिथुआनियाई लोगों को सैन्य सेवा की ओर प्रेरित करती है

- Outside a high school classroom in **Vilnius**, several students look apprehensive as they discuss their looming futures — university, the job market and, for many of them, serving in the military.

विलनियस में एक हाई स्कूल कक्षा के बाहर, कई छात्र चिंतित दिखते हैं क्योंकि वे अपने आने वाले भविष्य — विश्वविद्यालय, नौकरी बाजार और उनमें से कई के लिए सैन्य सेवा — पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं।

- In their final year of high school, all are on the brink of **Lithuania's newly-reformed draft policy**, expanded to make all **18- to 22-year-old men** who pass a health check eligible, as the small neighbour of **Russia and Belarus** seeks to deter any aggression from **Moscow**.

हाई स्कूल के अपने अंतिम वर्ष में, सभी लिथुआनिया की नई संशोधित भर्ती नीति के कगार पर हैं, जिसे इस तरह विस्तारित किया गया है कि स्वास्थ्य जांच पास करने वाले सभी 18 से 22 वर्ष के पुरुष पात्र हों, क्योंकि रूस और बेलारूस का छोटा पड़ोसी मॉस्को से किसी भी आक्रामकता को रोकना चाहता है।

- While authorities praise young people's **patriotism**, eligible men say they need more **government support** as they prepare to serve.

जहां अधिकारी युवाओं की देशभक्ति की सराहना करते हैं, वहीं पात्र पुरुष कहते हैं कि सेवा की तैयारी करते समय उन्हें अधिक सरकारी समर्थन की आवश्यकता है।



- “Those younger people will have to defend our country, and to be able to motivate them is important, so they feel encouraged to join the military,” **Valentinas**, an **18-year-old** high school student, told AFP.
“उन युवा लोगों को हमारे देश की रक्षा करनी होगी, और उन्हें प्रेरित करना महत्वपूर्ण है ताकि वे सेना में शामिल होने के लिए उत्साहित महसूस करें,” **वैलेन्टिनास**, एक **18 वर्षीय** हाई स्कूल छात्र ने AFP को बताया।
- This policy, initially implemented in **2014** after the **Russian occupation of Crimea**, has expanded several times since the full-scale invasion of **Ukraine** in **2022**.
यह नीति, जिसे पहली बार **2014** में **क्रीमिया पर रूसी कब्जे** के बाद लागू किया गया था, **2022** में **यूक्रेन** पर पूर्ण पैमाने के आक्रमण के बाद कई बार विस्तारित की गई है।
- At the start of this year, the **draft list** grew from **3,500 people to 5,000**.
इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में, **भर्ती सूची 3,500 लोगों से बढ़कर 5,000** हो गई।
- Previous exceptions to the policy, such as those for **students in higher education**, were removed.
इस नीति में पहले दिए गए अपवाद, जैसे **उच्च शिक्षा के छात्रों** के लिए, हटा दिए गए।
- **Lithuania’s Defence Ministry** is confident its young people are eager to defend their country.
लिथुआनिया का रक्षा मंत्रालय आश्वस्त है कि उसके युवा अपने देश की रक्षा के लिए उत्सुक हैं।
- But many potential **draftees** worry the military draft might disrupt their future plans.
लेकिन कई संभावित **भर्ती उम्मीदवार** चिंतित हैं कि सैन्य भर्ती उनके भविष्य की योजनाओं को बाधित कर सकती है।
- “This year I wouldn’t want to go,” **Dominikas**, 18, told AFP.
“इस वर्ष में जाना नहीं चाहूंगा,” **डोमिनिकास**, 18, ने AFP को बताया।
- “If I was to get drafted, it would mess up the rhythm of education, and that would be a problem”.
“अगर मुझे भर्ती किया गया, तो यह मेरी शिक्षा की लय को बिगाड़ देगा, और यह एक समस्या होगी।”
- **Vyintas**, 18, a classmate, admitted he volunteered, but not out of overt enthusiasm for service.
विकिंटस, 18, जो उसका सहपाठी है, ने स्वीकार किया कि उसने स्वयंसेवा की, लेकिन सेवा के प्रति अत्यधिक उत्साह के कारण नहीं।
- “I’m not really excited for the military, but I also volunteered for it because I think it’s better to just do it after school and be free with it,” he told AFP.
“मैं वास्तव में सेना के लिए उत्साहित नहीं हूँ, लेकिन मैंने इसके लिए स्वयंसेवा भी की क्योंकि मुझे लगता है कि स्कूल के बाद इसे कर लेना बेहतर है और फिर इससे मुक्त हो जाना,” उसने AFP को बताया।

GS Paper III: Economy		27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
27A	New Zealand, India to sign free trade pact today; tariffs to be removed on all exports न्यूज़ीलैंड, भारत आज मुक्त व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करेंगे; सभी निर्यातों पर टैरिफ हटाए जाएंगे	
27A	Modi hails India’s strides in nuclear, wind energy मोदी ने भारत की परमाणु और पवन ऊर्जा में प्रगति की सराहना की	
27A	Summer as a source of income shock for gig workers गिग श्रमिकों के लिए आय आघात के स्रोत के रूप में गर्मी	
27A	Rupee depreciation and its impact on investments रुपये के अवमूल्यन और इसका निवेश पर प्रभाव	



New Zealand, India to sign free trade pact today; tariffs to be removed on all exports

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand will on Monday sign a Free Trade Agreement that will remove tariffs on 100% of India's exports to New Zealand, and either sharply reduce or remove tariffs on 95% of current imports from that country.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday took to social media to welcome Todd McClay, New Zealand's Minister for Trade & Investment, to New Delhi, ahead of the signing of the pact.

"As we approach the #IndiaNZFTA signing on April 27th, his visit marks a defining moment in our bilateral journey, reflecting the trust, shared values, and common vision that underpin our partnership for sustainable economic



Union Minister Piyush Goyal welcomes Todd McClay, New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment on Friday. X/@PIYUSHGOYAL

growth, driving prosperity for both our nations," he said.

India's exports to New Zealand grew 32.1% in 2024-25 to \$711.1 million, the latest full financial year for which there is data. Imports from New Zealand grew 75.2% to \$587.1 million over the same period.

The deal will provide India with immediate duty-free access on 100% of tariff lines. This is down from the 10% tariff New Zealand currently levies on about 450 tariff lines that India exports, including textiles and apparel products, leather and headgear, ceramics, carpets, and auto

mobiles and auto components. On average, New Zealand levied a tariff of 2.2% in 2025, which will come down to zero under the agreement.

The pact between the countries is one of the fastest-negotiated trade agreements that India has entered into, with negotiations being announced in March 2025 and concluding in December.

India has also managed to keep several items out of the FTA, including all dairy products such as milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, and cheese, animal products other than sheep meat, vegetable products such as onions, chana, peas, corn, and almonds, sugar, artificial honey, animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils, arms and ammunition, gems and jewellery, and copper and aluminium

and their products.

The FTA includes a provision wherein New Zealand will invest \$20 billion in India over 15 years.

The deal also includes provisions relating to the mobility of working professionals and students. Indian students can work up to 20 hours per week while studying in New Zealand, with extended post-study work visas.

India has offered New Zealand exporters market access in 70.03% of the tariff lines with 30% of these lines seeing tariffs being immediately removed while the rest will see a phased removals or reductions.

According to the New Zealand government, 95% of the country's current exports will see tariffs either reduced to zero or sharply reduced.

27A. New Zealand, India to sign free trade pact today; tariffs to be removed on all exports

न्यूज़ीलैंड, भारत आज मुक्त व्यापार समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करेंगे; सभी निर्यातों पर टैरिफ हटाए जाएंगे

- New Zealand, India signed a **Free Trade Agreement** today.
- India and New Zealand will on Monday sign a **Free Trade Agreement** that will remove **tariffs on 100% of India's exports** to New Zealand, and either sharply reduce or remove tariffs on **95% of current imports** from that country.
भारत और न्यूज़ीलैंड सोमवार को एक **मुक्त व्यापार समझौते** पर हस्ताक्षर करेंगे जो **भारत के 100% निर्यातों पर टैरिफ समाप्त** करेगा और उस देश से आने वाले **95% आयातों पर टैरिफ को कम या समाप्त** करेगा।
- **Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal** on Saturday took to social media to welcome **Todd McClay**, New Zealand's **Minister for Trade & Investment**, to **New Delhi**, ahead of the signing of the pact.
वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गoyal ने शनिवार को सोशल मीडिया पर **टॉड मैक्ले**, न्यूज़ीलैंड के **ट्रेड एवं निवेश मंत्री**, का **नई दिल्ली** में स्वागत किया, **समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर** से पहले।
- "As we approach the **#IndiaNZFTA signing on April 27th**, his visit marks a defining moment in our bilateral journey, reflecting the **trust, shared values, and common vision** that underpin our partnership for **sustainable economic growth**, driving prosperity for both our nations," he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "जैसे-जैसे हम **27 अप्रैल को #IndiaNZFTA हस्ताक्षर** की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं, उनकी यात्रा हमारी **द्विपक्षीय यात्रा** में एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण है, जो **विश्वास, साझा मूल्य और साझा दृष्टि** को दर्शाती है, जो हमारे **सतत आर्थिक विकास** के लिए साझेदारी को मजबूत करती है और दोनों देशों की **समृद्धि** को बढ़ाती है।"
- India's exports to New Zealand grew **32.1% in 2024-25 to \$711.1 million**, the latest full financial year for which there is data.



न्यूज़ीलैंड को भारत का निर्यात 2024-25 में 32.1% बढ़कर \$711.1 मिलियन हो गया, जो नवीनतम पूर्ण वित्तीय वर्ष का आंकड़ा है।

- Imports from New Zealand grew 75.2% to \$587.1 million over the same period.
उसी अवधि में न्यूज़ीलैंड से आयात 75.2% बढ़कर \$587.1 मिलियन हो गया।
- The deal will provide India with immediate duty-free access on 100% of tariff lines.
यह समझौता भारत को 100% टैरिफ लाइनों पर तुरंत शुल्क-मुक्त पहुंच प्रदान करेगा।
- This is down from the 10% tariff New Zealand currently levies on about 450 tariff lines that India exports, including textiles and apparel products, leather and headgear, ceramics, carpets, and automobiles and auto components.
यह वर्तमान में न्यूज़ीलैंड द्वारा लगाए जाने वाले लगभग 450 टैरिफ लाइनों पर 10% टैरिफ से कम है, जिनमें टेक्सटाइल, परिधान, चमड़ा, हेडगियर, सिरेमिक, कालीन और ऑटोमोबाइल व ऑटो पार्ट्स शामिल हैं।
- On average, New Zealand levied a tariff of 2.2% in 2025, which will come down to zero under the agreement.
औसतन, न्यूज़ीलैंड ने 2025 में 2.2% टैरिफ लगाया था, जो इस समझौते के तहत शून्य हो जाएगा।
- The pact between the countries is one of the fastest-negotiated trade agreements that India has entered into, with negotiations being announced in March 2025 and concluding in December.
यह समझौता भारत द्वारा किए गए सबसे तेज़ वार्ता वाले व्यापार समझौतों में से एक है, जिसकी बातचीत मार्च 2025 में शुरू हुई और दिसंबर में समाप्त हुई।
- India has also managed to keep several items out of the FTA, including all dairy products such as milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, and cheese, animal products other than sheep meat, vegetable products such as onions, chana, peas, corn, and almonds, sugar, artificial honey, animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils, arms and ammunition, gems and jewellery, and copper and aluminium and their products.
भारत ने कई वस्तुओं को FTA से बाहर रखने में भी सफलता पाई है, जिनमें सभी डेयरी उत्पाद जैसे दूध, क्रीम, व्हे, दही और पनीर, भेड़ के मांस को छोड़कर अन्य पशु उत्पाद, प्याज, चना, मटर, मक्का और बादाम जैसे वनस्पति उत्पाद, चीनी, कृत्रिम शहद, पशु, वनस्पति या सूक्ष्मजीव वसा और तेल, हथियार और गोला-बारूद, रत्न और आभूषण, तथा तांबा और एल्यूमिनियम और उनके उत्पाद शामिल हैं।
- The FTA includes a provision wherein New Zealand will invest \$20 billion in India over 15 years.
FTA में एक प्रावधान शामिल है जिसके तहत न्यूज़ीलैंड 15 वर्षों में भारत में \$20 बिलियन का निवेश करेगा।
- The deal also includes provisions relating to the mobility of working professionals and students.
इस समझौते में कामकाजी पेशेवरों और छात्रों की गतिशीलता से संबंधित प्रावधान भी शामिल हैं।
- Indian students can work up to 20 hours per week while studying in New Zealand, with extended post-study work visas.
भारतीय छात्र न्यूज़ीलैंड में पढ़ाई के दौरान सप्ताह में 20 घंटे तक काम कर सकते हैं, साथ ही पढ़ाई के बाद विस्तारित वर्क वीज़ा मिलेगा।
- India has offered New Zealand exporters market access in 70.03% of the tariff lines with 30% of these lines seeing tariffs being immediately removed while the rest will see phased removals or reductions.
भारत ने न्यूज़ीलैंड के निर्यातकों को 70.03% टैरिफ लाइनों में बाजार पहुंच दी है, जिनमें से 30% लाइनों पर तुरंत टैरिफ हटाया जाएगा, जबकि बाकी में चरणबद्ध कमी या समाप्ति होगी।
- According to the New Zealand government, 95% of the country's current exports will see tariffs either reduced to zero or sharply reduced.
न्यूज़ीलैंड सरकार के अनुसार, देश के 95% वर्तमान निर्यातों पर टैरिफ या तो शून्य किया जाएगा या काफी कम किया जाएगा।



Modi hails India's strides in nuclear, wind energy

Prime Minister says civil nuclear programme has greatly helped different sectors; highlights that the country now ranks fourth in world in wind energy capacity; calls for Census participation

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the achievement of criticality in the fast breeder nuclear reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu as a "historic milestone in India's nuclear energy journey".

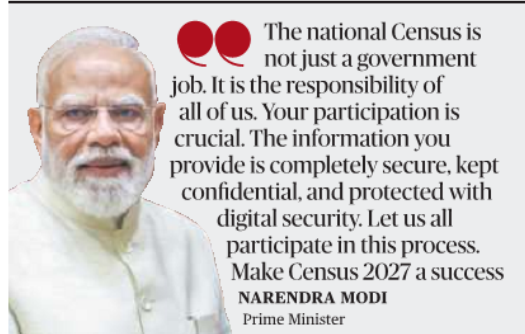
During his monthly *Mann ki Baat* address, the Prime Minister focused on India's nuclear and renewable energy efforts, as well as on various nature conservation initiatives being undertaken across the country.

He also urged citizens to take part in the Census 2027 enumeration process, saying the data collected were "completely secure, kept confidential, and protected with digital security".

Nuclear pride

"India's civil nuclear programme has greatly helped everyone from agriculture to modern innovators," Mr. Modi said. "Friends, just a few days ago, our nuclear scientists enhanced India's pride with another major achievement. The fast breeder reactor in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, has achieved criticality."

He further explained that 'criticality' is the stage in which a reactor successfully executes a self-sustaining nuclear chain reac-



tion for the first time.

"This stage signifies the reactor entering the operational phase," Mr. Modi said.

"This is a historic milestone in India's nuclear energy journey. And importantly, this nuclear reactor is built entirely with indigenous technology."

Strides in wind energy

The Prime Minister also spoke about India's wind energy sector, saying that the country had recently achieved a major milestone with wind energy generation capacity exceeding 56 gigawatts (GW). He said that, in the past one year, about 6 GW of new capacity had been added.

"India is progressing rapidly in wind energy and the world is also looking towards us," he asserted. "Today India ranks fourth in the world in wind energy capacity. This is the hard work of our engi-

neers, this is the diligence of our youth, this is a symbol of the collective willpower of the nation."

Mr. Modi noted that several States in India such as Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, were leading the charge in this sector.

"In areas like Kutch, Patan, and Banaskantha in Gujarat, where previously only deserts were visible, large renewable energy parks are now being built," he said. "Youth are benefiting from this, creating new opportunities, developing new skills, and opening up new avenues for employment."

Crucial Census

Mr. Modi also spoke about the Census 2027 data collection process under way in the country, calling it the world's largest Census.

"Friends, the national Census is not just a government job," he said. "It is the responsibility of all of

us. Your participation is crucial. The information you provide is completely secure, kept confidential, and protected with digital security. Let us all participate in this process. Make Census 2027 a success."

He further explained that Census 2027 had been made digital, with all information recorded directly in digital form by workers going door-to-door using a mobile app.

"This time your participation in the Census has also been made easier; you can enter your information yourself," Mr. Modi explained. "This facility will open for you 15 days before the worker's arrival. You can enter the information as per your convenience. When you complete the process, you receive a special ID. This ID will be sent to your mobile or email. Later, when the worker visits your home, you can verify the information by showing this ID."

This process, he added, eliminated the need to enter information again, thereby saving time and simplifying the process.

"In States where self-enumeration has been completed, Census staff have also begun the work of listing households," Mr. Modi said.

"So far, the house listing of approximately 12 million families has been completed," he added.

27A. Modi hails India's strides in nuclear, wind energy

मोदी ने भारत की परमाणु और पवन ऊर्जा में प्रगति की सराहना की

- The Prime Minister says the civil nuclear programme has greatly helped different sectors. प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि नागरिक परमाणु कार्यक्रम ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों को बहुत लाभ पहुंचाया है।
- Highlights that the country now ranks fourth in the world in wind energy capacity. उन्होंने बताया कि देश अब पवन ऊर्जा क्षमता में दुनिया में चौथे स्थान पर है।



- Calls for **Census participation**.
उन्होंने जनगणना में भागीदारी का आह्वान किया।
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Sunday hailed the achievement of **criticality** in the fast breeder nuclear reactor at **Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu** as a “historic milestone in India’s nuclear energy journey”.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने रविवार को तमिलनाडु के कल्पक्कम में फास्ट ब्रीडर न्यूक्लियर रिएक्टर में क्रिटिकलिटी की उपलब्धि को “भारत की परमाणु ऊर्जा यात्रा में ऐतिहासिक मील का पत्थर” बताया।
- During his monthly **Mann ki Baat** address, the Prime Minister focused on India’s nuclear and renewable energy efforts, as well as on various **nature conservation initiatives** being undertaken across the country.
अपने मासिक **मन की बात** संबोधन में प्रधानमंत्री ने भारत के परमाणु और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा प्रयासों के साथ-साथ देशभर में चल रही **प्रकृति संरक्षण पहल** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।
- He also urged citizens to take part in the **Census 2027** enumeration process.
उन्होंने नागरिकों से **जनगणना 2027** की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने का भी आग्रह किया।
- Saying the data collected were completely secure, kept confidential, and protected with **digital security**.
उन्होंने कहा कि एकत्रित डेटा पूरी तरह सुरक्षित, गोपनीय और **डिजिटल सुरक्षा** से संरक्षित है।

Nuclear pride परमाणु गौरव

- “India’s civil nuclear programme has greatly helped everyone from agriculture to modern innovators,” Mr. Modi said.
“भारत का नागरिक परमाणु कार्यक्रम कृषि से लेकर आधुनिक नवोन्मेषकों तक सभी की बहुत मदद करता है,” श्री मोदी ने कहा।
- “Friends, just a few days ago, our nuclear scientists enhanced India’s pride with another major achievement.
“मित्रों, कुछ दिन पहले ही हमारे परमाणु वैज्ञानिकों ने एक और बड़ी उपलब्धि से भारत का गौरव बढ़ाया है।”
- The fast breeder reactor in **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**, has achieved **criticality**.
तमिलनाडु के कल्पक्कम में फास्ट ब्रीडर रिएक्टर ने **क्रिटिकलिटी** प्राप्त कर ली है।”
- He further explained that ‘criticality’ is the stage in which a reactor successfully executes a self-sustaining **nuclear chain reaction** for the first time.
उन्होंने आगे बताया कि ‘क्रिटिकलिटी’ वह अवस्था है जिसमें रिएक्टर पहली बार सफलतापूर्वक स्वयं संचालित **परमाणु श्रृंखला अभिक्रिया** करता है।
- “This stage signifies the reactor entering the **operational phase**,” Mr. Modi said.
“यह चरण रिएक्टर के **संचालन चरण** में प्रवेश को दर्शाता है,” श्री मोदी ने कहा।
- “This is a historic milestone in India’s nuclear energy journey.
“यह भारत की परमाणु ऊर्जा यात्रा में एक ऐतिहासिक मील का पत्थर है।”
- And importantly, this nuclear reactor is built entirely with **indigenous technology**.
और महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह रिएक्टर पूरी तरह **स्वदेशी तकनीक** से बना है।”

Strides in wind energy पवन ऊर्जा में प्रगति

- The Prime Minister also spoke about India’s wind energy sector.
प्रधानमंत्री ने भारत के पवन ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के बारे में भी बात की।
- Saying that the country had recently achieved a major milestone with wind energy generation capacity exceeding **56 gigawatts (GW)**.



उन्होंने कहा कि देश ने हाल ही में **56 गीगावाट (GW)** से अधिक पवन ऊर्जा उत्पादन क्षमता हासिल कर एक बड़ा मील का पत्थर प्राप्त किया है।

- He said that, in the past one year, about **6 GW** of new capacity had been added.
उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले एक वर्ष में लगभग **6 GW** नई क्षमता जोड़ी गई है।
- “India is progressing rapidly in wind energy and the world is also looking towards us,” he asserted.
उन्होंने कहा, “भारत पवन ऊर्जा में तेजी से प्रगति कर रहा है और दुनिया भी हमारी ओर देख रही है।”
- “Today India ranks **fourth in the world** in wind energy capacity.
“आज भारत पवन ऊर्जा क्षमता में **दुनिया में चौथे स्थान** पर है।”
- This is the hard work of our engineers, this is the diligence of our youth, this is a symbol of the collective willpower of the nation.”
यह हमारे इंजीनियरों की मेहनत, हमारे युवाओं की लगन और राष्ट्र की सामूहिक इच्छाशक्ति का प्रतीक है।”
- Mr. Modi noted that several States in India such as **Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan** were leading the charge in this sector.
श्री मोदी ने कहा कि भारत के कई राज्य जैसे **गुजरात, तमिलनाडु, महाराष्ट्र और राजस्थान** इस क्षेत्र में अग्रणी हैं।
- “In areas like **Kutch, Patan, and Banaskantha** in Gujarat, where previously only deserts were visible, large renewable energy parks are now being built,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “**कच्छ, पाटन और बनासकांठा** जैसे क्षेत्रों में, जहां पहले केवल रेगिस्तान दिखाई देते थे, अब बड़े नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा पार्क बनाए जा रहे हैं।”
- “Youth are benefiting from this, creating new opportunities, developing new skills, and opening up new avenues for employment.”
“युवा इससे लाभान्वित हो रहे हैं, नए अवसर बना रहे हैं, नए कौशल विकसित कर रहे हैं और रोजगार के नए रास्ते खोल रहे हैं।”

Crucial Census

महत्वपूर्ण जनगणना

- Mr. Modi also spoke about the **Census 2027** data collection process under way in the country.
श्री मोदी ने देश में चल रही **जनगणना 2027** डेटा संग्रह प्रक्रिया के बारे में भी बात की।
- Calling it the world's largest Census.
इसे दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी जनगणना बताया।
- “Friends, the national Census is not just a government job,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “मित्रों, राष्ट्रीय जनगणना केवल सरकारी कार्य नहीं है।”
- “It is the responsibility of all of us.
“यह हम सभी की जिम्मेदारी है।”
- Your participation is crucial.
आपकी भागीदारी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The information you provide is completely secure, kept confidential, and protected with digital security.
आपकी दी गई जानकारी पूरी तरह सुरक्षित, गोपनीय और डिजिटल सुरक्षा से संरक्षित है।
- Let us all participate in this process.
आइए हम सभी इस प्रक्रिया में भाग लें।
- Make Census 2027 a success.”
जनगणना 2027 को सफल बनाएं।”
- He further explained that Census 2027 had been made **digital**.
उन्होंने आगे बताया कि जनगणना 2027 को **डिजिटल** बनाया गया है।



- With all information recorded directly in digital form by workers going door-to-door using a **mobile app**.
जिसमें सभी जानकारी घर-घर जाकर **मोबाइल ऐप** के माध्यम से डिजिटल रूप में दर्ज की जाएगी।
- “This time your participation in the Census has also been made easier.
“इस बार जनगणना में आपकी भागीदारी को और आसान बनाया गया है।”
- You can enter your information yourself,” Mr. Modi explained.
आप अपनी जानकारी स्वयं दर्ज कर सकते हैं,” श्री मोदी ने समझाया।
- “This facility will open for you 15 days before the worker’s arrival.
“यह सुविधा कर्मचारी के आने से 15 दिन पहले खुल जाएगी।”
- You can enter the information as per your convenience.
आप अपनी सुविधा के अनुसार जानकारी दर्ज कर सकते हैं।
- When you complete the process, you receive a special ID.
प्रक्रिया पूरी करने पर आपको एक विशेष ID मिलेगी।
- This ID will be sent to your mobile or email.
यह ID आपके मोबाइल या ईमेल पर भेजी जाएगी।
- Later, when the worker visits your home, you can verify the information by showing this ID.”
बाद में जब कर्मचारी आपके घर आएगा, तो आप इस ID दिखाकर जानकारी की पुष्टि कर सकते हैं।”
- This process, he added, eliminated the need to enter information again, thereby saving time and simplifying the process.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह प्रक्रिया दोबारा जानकारी भरने की जरूरत खत्म करती है, जिससे समय बचता है और प्रक्रिया सरल होती है।
- “In States where self-enumeration has been completed, Census staff have also begun the work of listing households,” Mr. Modi said.
श्री मोदी ने कहा, “जिन राज्यों में स्व-गणना पूरी हो चुकी है, वहां जनगणना कर्मचारी घरों की सूची बनाने का कार्य भी शुरू कर चुके हैं।”
- “So far, the house listing of approximately **12 million families** has been completed,” he added.
उन्होंने कहा, “अब तक लगभग **12 मिलियन परिवारों** की हाउस लिस्टिंग पूरी हो चुकी है।”



Summer as a source of income shock for gig workers

GS III: Economy, Environment, Disaster Management

MCQ

As India moves into another summer, early forecasts indicate intense heat ahead. Heatwaves are no longer rare; they are a recurring feature of Indian summers. The question is no longer whether extreme heat will return, but whether the country is prepared for its economic consequences.

Official data show that India did experience significant heat-related mortality in 2022. Meteorological trends indicate that heatwaves across large parts of the country have become more frequent and prolonged over the past decade. As policymakers review preparedness measures before peak summer arrives, there is one group which remains largely absent from the adaptation conversation – gig and delivery workers, whose livelihoods increasingly power India's urban economy.

From food delivery riders and e-commerce couriers to app-based drivers and logistics workers, millions now earn income through digital platforms. NITI Aayog estimates India had about 7.7 million gig workers in 2020-21, projected to reach over 23 million by 2029-30. As heatwaves intensify, this growing workforce will be among the most climate-exposed and least protected.

Heat cuts earnings

For gig and delivery workers, extreme heat is not just a matter of discomfort; it directly affects earnings. Income depends on the number of trips completed, orders delivered, or hours logged on an app. When temperatures surge, movement slows, fatigue increases, and health risks rise; yet, incentive structures remain unchanged.

Unlike salaried employees, gig workers cannot "work from home" or take paid leave during extreme heat. Logging off for a few hours means immediate income loss. Continuing to work through peak heat hours increases the risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and longer-term health stress. If the coming summer follows recent patterns, heat will be not just a public health concern but an income shock, forcing



Krishna Malakar

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Resilience for
gig workers
means safe
work and stable
earnings during
extreme heat

workers to choose between protecting their health and their earnings.

Preparedness remains incomplete

India has made progress in recognising heat as a public health risk. Heat Action Plans, early warning systems and emergency measures have improved preparedness in several cities. But most policies still treat heat as a medical emergency rather than an economic risk, assuming that people can adjust their behaviour. Advisories typically recommend staying indoors, reducing physical activity, and taking frequent breaks. But for gig and delivery workers, whose income depends on mobility, these options are not realistic.

Even where cities set up temporary drinking water kiosks, shaded rest areas, or cooling centres, these measures are rarely designed with highly mobile platform workers in mind. As a result, preparedness efforts may reduce mortality, but they do little to prevent income loss.

The weeks before peak summer offer a narrow but important policy window. Heat stress sits at the intersection of climate policy, labour regulation, urban planning and platform governance. Yet, responsibility remains fragmented.

Health departments focus on illness and mortality. Disaster management agencies focus on emergency response. Labour departments grapple with the ambiguous employment status of gig workers. Digital platforms optimise delivery times and incentives, with limited explicit integration of climate risk considerations. When accountability is distributed across institutions without coordination, heat risk for gig workers remains inadequately addressed. These vulnerabilities are further compounded for women gig workers, who often face additional health, safety and unpaid care burdens during extreme heat, making income disruption even harder to absorb.

If adaptation is to move beyond reactive

measures, this is the moment to expand its scope.

First, heat must be treated as a labour and productivity issue, not only a health one. Rest norms during peak heat hours, shaded congregation points, and access to drinking water at common waiting locations should be seen as basic safeguards.

Second, policymakers must acknowledge that extreme heat creates income volatility. Without mechanisms – whether through labour protections or better integration with existing welfare systems – to cushion these losses, adaptation will remain incomplete.

Third, digital labour platforms need to be part of the preparedness conversation. Heat-responsive design such as moderating delivery pressure during peak heat hours or introducing more flexible performance metrics – can lower exposure without halting services.

Finally, stronger institutional coordination is needed before summer intensifies. Collaboration among labour departments, urban local bodies, disaster management authorities, and platform regulators would signal that heat risk is being treated as an economic issue, not just a seasonal emergency.

Rethinking resilience

India's cities increasingly depend on gig and delivery workers to function. Food, medicines and essential goods move through urban systems because this workforce absorbs daily risks. As temperatures rise, those risks will intensify.

Climate resilience cannot be measured only by advisories issued or cooling centres opened. For gig workers navigating city streets on two-wheelers and bicycles, resilience means the ability to work safely – and to earn without enduring silent income losses during extreme heat.

If heat preparedness continues to overlook gig and delivery workers, the country will enter another season of rising temperatures without protecting one of its most visible and essential workforces.

27A. Summer as a source of income shock for gig workers

गिग श्रमिकों के लिए आय आघात के स्रोत के रूप में गर्मी

- As India moves into another summer, early forecasts indicate intense heat ahead. जैसे-जैसे भारत एक और गर्मी के मौसम में प्रवेश कर रहा है, प्रारंभिक पूर्वानुमान तीव्र गर्मी का संकेत दे रहे हैं।
- Heatwaves are no longer rare; they are a recurring feature of Indian summers. हीटवेव अब दुर्लभ नहीं रहे; वे भारतीय गर्मियों की एक नियमित विशेषता बन चुके हैं।
- The question is no longer whether extreme heat will return, but whether the country is prepared for its economic consequences. प्रश्न अब यह नहीं है कि अत्यधिक गर्मी लौटेंगी या नहीं, बल्कि यह है कि क्या देश इसके आर्थिक प्रभावों के लिए तैयार है।
- Official data show that India did experience significant heat-related mortality in 2022. आधिकारिक आंकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि भारत में 2022 में महत्वपूर्ण गर्मी से संबंधित मृत्यु हुई।
- Meteorological trends indicate that heatwaves across large parts of the country have become more frequent and prolonged over the past decade. मौसम संबंधी रुझान बताते हैं कि देश के बड़े हिस्सों में हीटवेव पिछले दशक में अधिक बार और अधिक लंबे समय तक होने लगे हैं।
- As policymakers review preparedness measures before peak summer arrives, there is one group which remains largely absent from the adaptation conversation — gig and delivery workers, whose livelihoods increasingly power India's urban economy. जब नीति-निर्माता चरम गर्मी से पहले तैयारी उपायों की समीक्षा कर रहे हैं, तब एक समूह जो अनुकूलन चर्चा से काफी हद तक अनुपस्थित है — गिग और डिलीवरी कार्यकर्ता, जिनकी आजीविका तेजी से भारत की शहरी अर्थव्यवस्था को संचालित कर रही है।
- From food delivery riders and e-commerce couriers to app-based drivers and logistics workers, millions now earn income through digital platforms.



फूड डिलीवरी राइड्स और ई-कॉमर्स क्रियर से लेकर ऐप-आधारित ड्राइवरों और लॉजिस्टिक्स कर्मियों तक, लाखों लोग अब डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से आय अर्जित कर रहे हैं।

- **NITI Aayog estimates India had about 7.7 million gig workers in 2020-21, projected to reach over 23 million by 2029-30.**

नीति आयोग का अनुमान है कि 2020-21 में भारत में लगभग 7.7 मिलियन गिग वर्कर्स थे, जो 2029-30 तक बढ़कर 23 मिलियन से अधिक हो सकते हैं।

- As heatwaves intensify, this growing workforce will be among the most **climate-exposed** and least protected.
जैसे-जैसे हीटवेव तीव्र होंगे, यह बढ़ता हुआ कार्यबल सबसे अधिक जलवायु-प्रभावित और कम से कम संरक्षित होगा।

Heat cuts earnings (गर्मी आय को कम करती है)

- For gig and delivery workers, extreme heat is not just a matter of discomfort; it directly affects **earnings**.
गिग और डिलीवरी कार्यकर्ताओं के लिए अत्यधिक गर्मी केवल असुविधा का विषय नहीं है; यह सीधे उनकी आय को प्रभावित करती है।
- **Income depends on the number of trips completed, orders delivered, or hours logged on an app.**
आय इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि कितनी यात्राएँ पूरी की गईं, कितने ऑर्डर डिलीवर हुए, या ऐप पर कितने घंटे काम किया गया।
- **When temperatures surge, movement slows, fatigue increases, and health risks rise; yet, incentive structures remain unchanged.**
जब तापमान बढ़ता है, तो गति धीमी हो जाती है, थकान बढ़ती है, और स्वास्थ्य जोखिम बढ़ जाते हैं; फिर भी प्रोत्साहन संरचना अपरिवर्तित रहती है।
- **Unlike salaried employees, gig workers cannot “work from home” or take paid leave during extreme heat.**
वेतनभोगी कर्मचारियों के विपरीत, गिग वर्कर्स अत्यधिक गर्मी के दौरान “घर से काम” नहीं कर सकते और न ही सवेतन अवकाश ले सकते हैं।
- **Logging off for a few hours means immediate income loss.**
कुछ घंटों के लिए लॉग ऑफ करना तुरंत आय हानि का कारण बनता है।
- **Continuing to work through peak heat hours increases the risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and longer-term health stress.**
चरम गर्मी के समय काम जारी रखने से निर्जलीकरण, हीट एग्जॉशन, और दीर्घकालिक स्वास्थ्य तनाव का जोखिम बढ़ता है।
- If the coming summer follows recent patterns, heat will be not just a public health concern but an **income shock**, forcing workers to choose between protecting their health and their earnings.
यदि आने वाली गर्मी हाल के रुझानों का पालन करती है, तो गर्मी केवल सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य का मुद्दा नहीं होगी, बल्कि एक आय झटका भी होगी, जिससे श्रमिकों को अपने स्वास्थ्य और आय के बीच चयन करना पड़ेगा।

Preparedness remains incomplete (तैयारी अभी भी अधूरी है)

- India has made progress in recognising heat as a **public health risk**.
भारत ने गर्मी को एक सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य जोखिम के रूप में पहचानने में प्रगति की है।
- **Heat Action Plans, early warning systems and emergency measures have improved preparedness in several cities.**



हीट एक्शन प्लान, प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणाली, और आपातकालीन उपायों ने कई शहरों में तैयारी में सुधार किया है।

- But most policies still treat heat as a **medical emergency** rather than an economic risk, assuming that people can adjust their behaviour.
लेकिन अधिकांश नीतियाँ अभी भी गर्मी को **चिकित्सीय आपात स्थिति** के रूप में देखती हैं, न कि आर्थिक जोखिम के रूप में, यह मानते हुए कि लोग अपने व्यवहार को समायोजित कर सकते हैं।
- **Advisories typically recommend staying indoors, reducing physical activity, and taking frequent breaks.**
सलाह आमतौर पर घर के अंदर रहने, शारीरिक गतिविधि कम करने और बार-बार विश्राम लेने की सिफारिश करती है।
- **But for gig and delivery workers, whose income depends on mobility, these options are not realistic.**
लेकिन गिग और डिलीवरी कार्यकर्ताओं के लिए, जिनकी आय **गतिशीलता** पर निर्भर करती है, ये विकल्प व्यावहारिक नहीं हैं।
- Even where cities set up temporary drinking water kiosks, **shaded rest areas**, or **cooling centres**, these measures are rarely designed with highly mobile platform workers in mind.
यहाँ तक कि जहाँ शहर अस्थायी जल केंद्र, **छायादार विश्राम स्थल**, या **कूलिंग सेंटर** स्थापित करते हैं, ये उपाय अक्सर अत्यधिक गतिशील प्लेटफॉर्म श्रमिकों को ध्यान में रखकर नहीं बनाए जाते।
- As a result, preparedness efforts may reduce **mortality**, but they do little to prevent **income loss**.
परिणामस्वरूप, तैयारी के प्रयास **मृत्यु दर** को कम कर सकते हैं, लेकिन वे **आय हानि** को रोकने में बहुत कम सहायता करते हैं।
- The weeks before **peak summer** offer a narrow but important **policy window**.
चरम ग्रीष्मकाल से पहले के सप्ताह एक संकीर्ण लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण **नीति अवसर** प्रदान करते हैं।
- **Heat stress sits at the intersection of climate policy, labour regulation, urban planning and platform governance.**
हीट स्ट्रेस जलवायु नीति, श्रम विनियमन, शहरी नियोजन और प्लेटफॉर्म शासन के संगम पर स्थित है।
- **Yet, responsibility remains fragmented.**
फिर भी, जिम्मेदारी **खंडित** बनी हुई है।
- **Health departments focus on illness and mortality.**
स्वास्थ्य विभाग बीमारी और **मृत्यु दर** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं।
- **Disaster management agencies focus on emergency response.**
आपदा प्रबंधन एजेंसियाँ आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया पर ध्यान केंद्रित करती हैं।
- **Labour departments grapple with the ambiguous employment status of gig workers.**
श्रम विभाग गिग वर्कर्स की अस्पष्ट रोजगार स्थिति से जूझते हैं।
- **Digital platforms optimise delivery times and incentives, with limited explicit integration of climate risk considerations.**
डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म डिलीवरी समय और प्रोत्साहनों को अनुकूलित करते हैं, जबकि **जलवायु जोखिम** के विचारों का सीमित समावेश होता है।
- When accountability is distributed across institutions without coordination, heat risk for gig workers remains inadequately addressed.
जब बिना समन्वय के जिम्मेदारी विभिन्न संस्थानों में विभाजित होती है, तो गिग वर्कर्स के लिए हीट जोखिम पर्याप्त रूप से संबोधित नहीं हो पाता।
- These vulnerabilities are further compounded for **women gig workers**, who often face additional **health, safety and unpaid care burdens** during extreme heat, making income disruption even harder to absorb.
ये कमजोरियाँ **महिला गिग वर्कर्स** के लिए और बढ़ जाती हैं, जो अत्यधिक गर्मी के दौरान अतिरिक्त **स्वास्थ्य**,



सुरक्षा और अवैतनिक देखभाल भार का सामना करती हैं, जिससे आय में बाधा को संभालना और कठिन हो जाता है।

- If adaptation is to move beyond **reactive measures**, this is the moment to expand its scope. यदि अनुकूलन को केवल **प्रतिक्रियात्मक उपायों** से आगे बढ़ाना है, तो यही इसका दायरा बढ़ाने का समय है।
- First, heat must be treated as a **labour and productivity issue**, not only a health one. पहला, गर्मी को केवल स्वास्थ्य नहीं बल्कि **श्रम और उत्पादकता के मुद्दे** के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।
- **Rest norms during peak heat hours, shaded congregation points, and access to drinking water at common waiting locations should be seen as basic safeguards.** चरम गर्मी के समय **विश्राम मानक, छायादार एकत्रण स्थल, और सामान्य प्रतीक्षा स्थलों पर पीने के पानी** की उपलब्धता को बुनियादी सुरक्षा उपाय माना जाना चाहिए।
- **Second, policymakers must acknowledge that extreme heat creates income volatility.** दूसरा, नीति-निर्माताओं को यह स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि अत्यधिक गर्मी **आय अस्थिरता** उत्पन्न करती है।
- Without mechanisms — whether through **labour protections** or better integration with existing **welfare systems** — to cushion these losses, adaptation will remain incomplete. इन हानियों को कम करने के लिए **श्रम सुरक्षा** या मौजूदा **कल्याण प्रणालियों** के साथ बेहतर समन्वय जैसे तंत्रों के बिना, अनुकूलन अधूरा रहेगा।
- Third, **digital labour platforms need to be part of the preparedness conversation.** तीसरा, **डिजिटल श्रम प्लेटफॉर्म** को तैयारी की चर्चा का हिस्सा बनाना आवश्यक है।
- **Heat-responsive design such as moderating delivery pressure during peak heat hours or introducing more flexible performance metrics — can lower exposure without halting services.** **हीट-उत्तरदायी डिजाइन** जैसे चरम गर्मी के समय डिलीवरी दबाव को कम करना या अधिक **लचीले प्रदर्शन मानक** लागू करना — सेवाओं को रोके बिना जोखिम को कम कर सकता है।
- Finally, stronger **institutional coordination** is needed before summer intensifies. अंततः, गर्मी बढ़ने से पहले मजबूत **संस्थागत समन्वय** की आवश्यकता है।
- **Collaboration among labour departments, urban local bodies, disaster management authorities, and platform regulators would signal that heat risk is being treated as an economic issue, not just a seasonal emergency.** **श्रम विभाग, शहरी स्थानीय निकाय, आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण, और प्लेटफॉर्म नियामकों** के बीच सहयोग यह संकेत देगा कि हीट जोखिम को केवल मौसमी आपात स्थिति नहीं बल्कि आर्थिक मुद्दे के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

Rethinking resilience (लचीलापन पर पुनर्विचार)

- India's cities increasingly depend on **gig and delivery workers** to function. भारत के शहर तेजी से **गिग और डिलीवरी वर्कर्स** पर निर्भर होते जा रहे हैं।
- **Food, medicines** and essential goods move through urban systems because this workforce absorbs daily risks. **खाद्य पदार्थ, दवाइयाँ** और आवश्यक वस्तुएँ शहरी तंत्र में इसलिए संचालित होती हैं क्योंकि यह कार्यबल दैनिक जोखिमों को वहन करता है।
- As temperatures rise, those risks will intensify. जैसे-जैसे तापमान बढ़ेगा, ये जोखिम भी बढ़ेंगे।
- **Climate resilience cannot be measured only by advisories issued or cooling centres opened.** **जलवायु लचीलापन** केवल जारी किए गए निर्देशों या खोले गए **कूलिंग सेंटरों** से नहीं मापा जा सकता।
- For gig workers navigating city streets on **two-wheelers** and **bicycles**, resilience means the ability to work safely — and to earn without enduring silent **income losses** during extreme heat.



शहर की सड़कों पर दोपहिया वाहनों और साइकिलों से चलने वाले गिग वर्कर्स के लिए लचीलापन का अर्थ है सुरक्षित रूप से काम करना — और अत्यधिक गर्मी में बिना छिपी हुई आय हानि झेले कमाई करना।

- If heat preparedness continues to overlook **gig and delivery workers**, the country will enter another season of rising temperatures without protecting one of its most visible and essential workforces.

यदि हीट तैयारी में गिग और डिलीवरी वर्कर्स की अनदेखी जारी रहती है, तो देश एक और गर्मी के मौसम में

GS Paper III: Science and Technology

27 April 2026

TOPICS COVERED

27A

How AI helped community-led development in Rajasthan
राजस्थान में सामुदायिक-नेतृत्व वाले विकास में AI ने कैसे सहायता की

How AI helped community-led development in Rajasthan

A project to improve water resilience in two Rajasthan districts strengthened existing government efforts by using AI to improve last-mile responsiveness; the application was also lightweight enough to sit inside any large programme that depends on frontline behaviour change and local coordination

GS III: S&T
Suchiradipita Bhattacharjee
Alan Nicol

India is in an artificial intelligence (AI) moment. Across agriculture, health, finance, and governance, the race is on to deploy AI-enabled services that reach the last mile. Chatbots answer farmer queries. Agentic tools navigate entitlement schemes. And advisory platforms push the right information to the right person (presumably) at the right time.

Many of these tools share a similar logic. While exceptions exist, they are often designed around the assumption that communities have an information deficit that AI can fill. But what if that's not all communities need?

In public services, the gap is not always between people and information. It is often between people and the local institutions meant to serve them. India's villages are shaped by the complexities of caste, class, gender, and land ownership. Numbers alone cannot track what actually makes an intervention work. Why a volunteer stops showing up, what makes a woman hesitate to speak in a Gram Sabha, and why an approved plan isn't being implemented rarely makes it back to the people designing and funding these programmes.

This is not because institutions don't want qualitative information. In many cases, they simply lack the means, time, and resources to consistently gather it at scale.

Different question for AI

The authors designed a pilot project, called AI4WaterPolicy, in the water-stressed Sirohi and Pali districts of Rajasthan. And rather than deploy AI to push information outwards, the project used it to listen.

Working with a field partner, Centre for Microfinance (CMF), and technology partner Colectiv, an AI model conducted 352 interviews across 50 villages in six months. The team had trained the model using a brief of the programme context and the questions it needed to know.

The AI chatbot then held 20-minute WhatsApp conversations in Hindi and local dialects via voice notes or text with 'Pani Mitras' (community volunteer water champions), Panchayat leaders, and CMF's frontline staff. Follow-up questions were adapted to each respondent on the fly. The model finally translated anonymised transcripts and organised them thematically, after which the field and research team reviewed and validated them.

The answers revealed three things:
(i) **Pride in the results:** "Water level in my village, which was at 150 feet, has now come to below 100 feet. This is a matter of great pride for me".

(ii) **The double burden for women:** "I manage my family by waking up early,



Technology must empower the human intermediary, like the community volunteer water champions in the AI4WaterPolicy project, rather than replace them. GETTY IMAGES

then I visit other women in the village to discuss water-related issues. After returning home, I resume my household work"; and

(iii) **Funding and approval delays:** "Because of delayed approval of proposals in the Panchayat department, we could not complete the work on time"

The project then deployed 'Pani Mitras' to address these issues. During the project's structured workshops to share and discuss findings with respondents, called 'Pause and Reflect' sessions, participants validated some interpretations and pushed back on others. Mainly, they said their limited understanding of Panchayat procedures and government schemes was a challenge.

In reply, CMF redesigned its training programme mid-cycle to add a Panchayat Raj orientation programme and structured workshops with block-level officials from rural development, agriculture, and water resources departments. This pivot was not part of the original plan. It happened because the AI model helped the project turn insights around quickly enough to act within the same programme cycle.

Follow-up interviews with 'Pani Mitras' three months after the workshops found that more than half of the community members had since engaged directly with government officials – something many had hesitated to do before.

They reported more confidence navigating scheme application processes and mentioned the feedback had prompted their Panchayat or department

The AI4WaterPolicy pilot succeeded not just because of the algorithms used but also because its organisers budgeted time, funds, and people to return findings to respondents and co-develop follow-up actions

Listening with intent

There is an important distinction here: responsive systems and actively listening systems are not the same thing. The former takes community input as a signal and returns an answer. The latter is shaped by what it hears and the community moves from being a passive beneficiary to an active co-designer.

In this pilot, AI made active listening possible in three ways. First, a voice-enabled WhatsApp channel gave 'Pani Mitras' a private space to speak freely. As one respondent put it, "When a person is in front of you, you feel hesitant. On your own phone, there's no hesitation." Second, the AI model identified recurring themes across 352 conversations without requiring weeks of manual coding. Third, because the findings were synthesised within weeks, the implementing team could redesign training mid-cycle. Traditional monitoring can't easily provide such responsiveness.

The AI4WaterPolicy pilot succeeded not just because of the algorithms used but also because its organisers budgeted time, funds, and people to return findings

to respondents and co-develop follow-up actions. CMF had also spent years working in these villages, identifying and training the 'Pani Mitras'. During the interviews, their staff facilitated access to shared devices for participants without smartphones, helped navigate connectivity problems, and ensured the 'Pause and Reflect' sessions were genuine deliberations. The AI could listen at scale precisely because human relationships had already created the conditions necessary for honest conversations.

Empower, not replace

The digital divide is real and manifests in gender, class, and caste-based differences, and any honest conversation about AI and the last mile must reckon with this reality. Technology must empower the human intermediary, like the 'Pani Mitras', rather than replace them. This was not a one-off pilot from Rajasthan. The approach strengthened and complemented existing government efforts by enhancing feedback loops and improving last-mile responsiveness. It was also lightweight enough to sit inside any large programme that depends on frontline behaviour change and local coordination.

Policies, programmes, and systems like Jal Jeevan Mission, VB-G RAM G, and sectoral extension systems all include such last-mile implementation.

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THE GIST

The authors designed a pilot project, called AI4WaterPolicy, in the water-stressed Sirohi and Pali districts of Rajasthan

The AI chatbot held 20-minute WhatsApp conversations in Hindi and local dialects via voice notes or text with 'Pani Mitras' (community volunteer water champions), Panchayat leaders, and CMF's frontline staff

The AI could listen at scale precisely because human relationships had already created the conditions necessary for honest conversations



27A. How AI helped community-led development in Rajasthan

राजस्थान में सामुदायिक-नेतृत्व वाले विकास में AI ने कैसे सहायता की

- A project to improve **water resilience** in two Rajasthan districts strengthened existing **government efforts** by using **AI** to improve **last-mile responsiveness**; the application was also **lightweight** enough to sit inside any large programme that depends on **frontline behaviour change** and **local coordination**.
राजस्थान के दो जिलों में **जल लचीलापन** सुधारने के लिए एक परियोजना ने **सरकारी प्रयासों** को सुदृढ़ किया, जिसमें **AI** का उपयोग कर **अंतिम-छोर की प्रतिक्रिया क्षमता** को बेहतर बनाया गया; यह अनुप्रयोग इतना **हल्का** भी था कि इसे किसी भी बड़े कार्यक्रम में शामिल किया जा सके जो **फ्रंटलाइन व्यवहार परिवर्तन** और **स्थानीय समन्वय** पर निर्भर करता है।
- India is in an **artificial intelligence (AI) moment**.
भारत एक **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (एआई)** के दौर में है।
- Across **agriculture, health, finance, and governance**, the race is on to deploy **AI-enabled services** that reach the **last mile**.
कृषि, स्वास्थ्य, वित्त, और शासन के क्षेत्रों में **एआई-सक्षम सेवाओं** को अंतिम व्यक्ति तक पहुँचाने की होड़ लगी हुई है।
- **Chatbots** answer farmer queries.
चैटबॉट्स किसानों के प्रश्नों का उत्तर देते हैं।
- **Agentic tools** navigate **entitlement schemes**.
एजेंटिक टूल्स अधिकार योजनाओं को समझने और उपयोग करने में मदद करते हैं।
- And **advisory platforms** push the right information to the right person (presumably) at the right time.
और **परामर्श प्लेटफॉर्म** सही व्यक्ति तक (संभवतः) सही समय पर सही जानकारी पहुँचाते हैं।
- Many of these tools share a similar **logic**.
इनमें से कई उपकरण समान **तर्क** पर आधारित हैं।
- While exceptions exist, they are often designed around the assumption that communities have an **information deficit** that AI can fill.
हालांकि कुछ अपवाद हैं, लेकिन अधिकांश उपकरण इस धारणा पर आधारित हैं कि समुदायों में **सूचना की कमी** है जिसे एआई पूरा कर सकता है।
- But what if that's not all communities need?
लेकिन यदि समुदायों की आवश्यकताएँ केवल इतनी ही न हों तो?
- In **public services**, the gap is not always between people and information.
सार्वजनिक सेवाओं में अंतर हमेशा लोगों और जानकारी के बीच नहीं होता।
- It is often between people and the **local institutions** meant to serve them.
यह अक्सर लोगों और उन्हें सेवा देने के लिए बनाए गए **स्थानीय संस्थानों** के बीच होता है।
- India's villages are shaped by the complexities of **caste, class, gender, and land ownership**.
भारत के गाँव **जाति, वर्ग, लिंग, और भूमि स्वामित्व** की जटिलताओं से प्रभावित होते हैं।
- Numbers alone cannot track what actually makes an **intervention work**.
केवल आंकड़े यह नहीं बता सकते कि वास्तव में कौन-सा **हस्तक्षेप सफल** बनाता है।
- Why a volunteer stops showing up, what makes a woman hesitate to speak in a **Gram Sabha**, and why an approved plan isn't being implemented rarely makes it back to the people designing and funding these programmes.
क्यों कोई स्वयंसेवक आना बंद कर देता है, क्या कारण है कि कोई महिला **ग्राम सभा** में बोलने में हिचकिचाती है, और क्यों स्वीकृत योजना लागू नहीं हो रही — ये बातें शायद ही उन लोगों तक पहुँचती हैं जो इन कार्यक्रमों को डिजाइन और वित्तपोषित करते हैं।



- This is not because institutions don't want **qualitative information**.
यह इसलिए नहीं है कि संस्थान **गुणात्मक जानकारी** नहीं चाहते।
- In many cases, they simply lack the means, time, and resources to consistently gather it at **scale**.
कई मामलों में, उनके पास इसे बड़े पैमाने पर लगातार एकत्र करने के लिए साधन, समय और संसाधनों की कमी होती है।

Different question for AI (एआई के लिए अलग प्रश्न)

- The authors designed a pilot project, called **AI4WaterPolicy**, in the **water-stressed** Sirohi and Pali districts of **Rajasthan**.
लेखकों ने राजस्थान के जल-संकटग्रस्त सिरोही और पाली जिलों में **AI4WaterPolicy** नामक एक पायलट परियोजना तैयार की।
- And rather than deploy AI to push information outwards, the project used it to **listen**.
और सूचना को बाहर भेजने के बजाय, इस परियोजना ने एआई का उपयोग **सुनने** के लिए किया।
- Working with a field partner, **Centre for Microfinance (CmF)**, and technology partner **Colectiv**, an AI model conducted **352 interviews** across **50 villages** in six months.
सेंटर फॉर माइक्रोफाइनेंस (CmF) और तकनीकी साझेदार **कोलेक्टिव** के साथ मिलकर, एक एआई मॉडल ने छह महीनों में **50 गाँवों में 352 साक्षात्कार** किए।
- The team had trained the model using a brief of the programme context and the questions it needed to know.
टीम ने मॉडल को कार्यक्रम के संदर्भ और आवश्यक प्रश्नों की जानकारी देकर प्रशिक्षित किया था।
- The AI chatbot then held **20-minute WhatsApp conversations** in **Hindi** and local dialects via **voice notes** or text with '**Pani Mitras**', Panchayat leaders, and CmF's frontline staff.
इसके बाद एआई चैटबॉट ने **हिंदी** और स्थानीय बोलियों में **वॉयस नोट्स** या टेक्स्ट के माध्यम से **20 मिनट की व्हाट्सएप बातचीत 'पानी मित्रों'**, पंचायत नेताओं और CmF के फील्ड स्टाफ के साथ की।
- Follow-up questions were adapted to each respondent on the fly.
अनुवर्ती प्रश्न प्रत्येक उत्तरदाता के अनुसार तुरंत अनुकूलित किए गए।
- The model finally translated anonymised transcripts and organised them thematically, after which the field and research team reviewed and validated them.
अंततः मॉडल ने गुमनाम प्रतिलिपियों का अनुवाद किया और उन्हें विषयगत रूप से व्यवस्थित किया, जिसके बाद फील्ड और शोध टीम ने उनका परीक्षण और सत्यापन किया।
- The answers revealed three things:
उत्तर तीन बातों को दर्शाते हैं:
- (i) **Pride in the results**: "Water level in my village, which was at 150 feet, has now come to below 100 feet. This is a matter of great pride for me";
(i) **परिणामों पर गर्व**: "मेरे गाँव में जल स्तर जो पहले 150 फीट था, अब 100 फीट से नीचे आ गया है। यह मेरे लिए बहुत गर्व की बात है";
- (ii) The **double burden for women**: "I manage my family by waking up early, then I visit other women in the village to discuss water-related issues. After returning home, I resume my household work";
(ii) महिलाओं पर **दोहरे बोझ**: "मैं सुबह जल्दी उठकर अपने परिवार का प्रबंधन करती हूँ, फिर गाँव की अन्य महिलाओं से जल संबंधी मुद्दों पर चर्चा करने जाती हूँ। घर लौटने के बाद मैं फिर से घरेलू काम में लग जाती हूँ";
- (iii) **Funding and approval delays**: "Because of delayed approval of proposals in the **Panchayat department**, we could not complete the work on time"
(iii) **वित्तपोषण और स्वीकृति में देरी**: "पंचायत विभाग में प्रस्तावों की स्वीकृति में देरी के कारण हम समय पर कार्य पूरा नहीं कर सके"



- The project then deployed '**Pani Mitras**' to address these issues.
इसके बाद परियोजना ने इन समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए '**पानी मित्रों**' को नियुक्त किया।
- During the project's structured workshops to share and discuss findings with respondents, called '**Pause and Reflect**' sessions, participants validated some interpretations and pushed back on others.
परियोजना के दौरान निष्कर्षों को साझा और चर्चा करने हेतु आयोजित संरचित कार्यशालाओं, जिन्हें '**पॉज एंड रिफ्लेक्ट**' सत्र कहा गया, में प्रतिभागियों ने कुछ निष्कर्षों को स्वीकार किया और कुछ पर असहमति जताई।
- Mainly, they said their limited understanding of **Panchayat procedures** and **government schemes** was a challenge.
मुख्यतः उन्होंने कहा कि **पंचायत प्रक्रियाओं** और **सरकारी योजनाओं** की उनकी सीमित समझ एक चुनौती थी।
- In reply, **CmF** redesigned its training programme mid-cycle to add a **Panchayati Raj orientation programme** and structured workshops with block-level officials from **rural development, agriculture, and water resources departments**.
इसके उत्तर में **CmF** ने अपने प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम को मध्यावधि में पुनः डिजाइन किया और इसमें **पंचायती राज अभिमुखीकरण कार्यक्रम** तथा **ग्रामीण विकास, कृषि, और जल संसाधन विभागों** के ब्लॉक स्तर के अधिकारियों के साथ संरचित कार्यशालाएँ जोड़ीं।
- This pivot was not part of the original plan.
यह परिवर्तन मूल योजना का हिस्सा नहीं था।
- It happened because the AI model helped the project turn insights around quickly enough to act within the same programme cycle.
यह इसलिए संभव हुआ क्योंकि एआई मॉडल ने परियोजना को इतनी तेजी से अंतर्दृष्टियाँ प्रदान कीं कि उसी कार्यक्रम चक्र में कार्य किया जा सके।
- Follow-up interviews with '**Pani Mitras**' three months after the workshops found that more than half of the community members had since engaged directly with **government officials** — something many had hesitated to do before.
कार्यशालाओं के तीन महीने बाद '**पानी मित्रों**' के साथ किए गए अनुवर्ती साक्षात्कारों में पाया गया कि आधे से अधिक समुदाय के सदस्य अब सीधे **सरकारी अधिकारियों** से संवाद कर चुके थे — जो पहले करने में वे हिचकिचाते थे।
- They reported more confidence navigating **scheme application processes** and mentioned the feedback had prompted their Panchayat or department to act more quickly.
उन्होंने **योजना आवेदन प्रक्रियाओं** को समझने में अधिक आत्मविश्वास व्यक्त किया और बताया कि प्रतिक्रिया के कारण उनकी पंचायत या विभाग ने अधिक तेजी से कार्य किया।

Listening with intent (उद्देश्यपूर्ण सुनना)

- There is an important distinction here: **responsive systems** and **actively listening systems** are not the same thing.
यहाँ एक महत्वपूर्ण अंतर है: **प्रतिक्रियात्मक प्रणालियाँ** और **सक्रिय रूप से सुनने वाली प्रणालियाँ** एक समान नहीं हैं।
- The former takes community input as a signal and returns an answer.
पहली प्रणाली समुदाय के इनपुट को एक संकेत के रूप में लेकर उत्तर देती है।
- The latter is shaped by what it hears and the community moves from being a passive **beneficiary** to an active **co-designer**.
दूसरी प्रणाली जो सुनती है उसके अनुसार स्वयं को ढालती है और समुदाय एक निष्क्रिय **लाभार्थी** से सक्रिय **सह-निर्माता** बन जाता है।
- In this pilot, AI made active listening possible in three ways.
इस पायलट में, एआई ने तीन तरीकों से सक्रिय सुनना संभव बनाया।
- First, a **voice-enabled WhatsApp channel** gave '**Pani Mitras**' a private space to speak freely.



पहला, एक वॉयस-सक्षम व्हाट्सएप चैनल ने 'पानी मित्रों' को स्वतंत्र रूप से बोलने के लिए निजी स्थान प्रदान किया।

- As one respondent put it, "When a person is in front of you, you feel hesitant. On your own phone, there's no hesitation."
जैसा कि एक उत्तरदाता ने कहा, "जब कोई व्यक्ति आपके सामने होता है, तो आप हिचकिचाते हैं। अपने फोन पर कोई झिझक नहीं होती।"
- Second, the AI model identified recurring **themes** across 352 conversations without requiring weeks of manual coding.
दूसरा, एआई मॉडल ने 352 वार्तालापों में बार-बार आने वाले **विषयों** की पहचान की, बिना कई हफ्तों के मैन्युअल कोडिंग के।
- Third, because the findings were synthesised within weeks, the implementing team could redesign training mid-cycle.
तीसरा, क्योंकि निष्कर्ष कुछ ही हफ्तों में संकलित हो गए, कार्यान्वयन टीम प्रशिक्षण को मध्यावधि में पुनः डिजाइन कर सकी।
- Traditional **monitoring** can't easily provide such responsiveness.
पारंपरिक **निगरानी प्रणाली** इतनी त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया प्रदान नहीं कर सकती।
- The **AI4WaterPolicy pilot** succeeded not just because of the algorithms used but also because its organisers budgeted time, funds, and people to return findings to respondents and co-develop follow-up actions.
AI4WaterPolicy पायलट केवल एल्गोरिद्म के कारण सफल नहीं हुआ, बल्कि इसलिए भी क्योंकि इसके आयोजकों ने समय, धन और मानव संसाधनों का प्रावधान किया ताकि निष्कर्षों को प्रतिभागियों तक पहुँचाया जा सके और आगे की कार्रवाइयों को संयुक्त रूप से विकसित किया जा सके।
- CmF had also spent years working in these villages, identifying and training the '**Pani Mitras**'.
CmF ने इन गाँवों में वर्षों तक काम किया और '**पानी मित्रों**' की पहचान एवं प्रशिक्षण किया।
- During the interviews, their staff facilitated access to **shared devices** for participants without smartphones, helped navigate **connectivity problems**, and ensured the 'Pause and Reflect' sessions were genuine deliberations.
साक्षात्कार के दौरान, उनके कर्मचारियों ने बिना स्मार्टफोन वाले प्रतिभागियों के लिए **साझा उपकरणों** की सुविधा प्रदान की, **कनेक्टिविटी समस्याओं** को हल करने में मदद की, और सुनिश्चित किया कि 'पॉज एंड रिफ्लेक्ट' सत्र वास्तविक विचार-विमर्श हों।
- The AI could listen at scale precisely because human relationships had already created the conditions necessary for **honest conversations**.
एआई बड़े पैमाने पर सुनने में सक्षम था क्योंकि मानव संबंधों ने पहले से ही **ईमानदार संवाद** के लिए आवश्यक परिस्थितियाँ बना दी थीं।

Empower, not replace (सशक्त बनाएं, प्रतिस्थापित नहीं)

- The **digital divide** is real and manifests in **gender, class, and caste-based differences**, and any honest conversation about AI and the last mile must reckon with this reality.
डिजिटल विभाजन वास्तविक है और यह **लिंग, वर्ग, और जाति आधारित अंतर** में प्रकट होता है, और एआई तथा अंतिम चरण पर कोई भी ईमानदार चर्चा इस वास्तविकता को स्वीकार करनी चाहिए।
- Technology must **empower** the human intermediary, like the 'Pani Mitras', rather than replace them.
प्रौद्योगिकी को 'पानी मित्रों' जैसे मानव मध्यस्थों को **सशक्त** बनाना चाहिए, न कि उन्हें प्रतिस्थापित करना चाहिए।
- This was not a one-off pilot from Rajasthan.
यह राजस्थान का एकमात्र पायलट नहीं था।



- The approach strengthened and complemented existing **government efforts** by enhancing **feedback loops** and improving last-mile **responsiveness**.
इस दृष्टिकोण ने **फीडबैक प्रणाली** को मजबूत करके और अंतिम स्तर की **प्रतिक्रियाशीलता** को सुधारकर मौजूदा **सरकारी प्रयासों** को सुदृढ़ और पूरक बनाया।
- It was also lightweight enough to sit inside any large programme that depends on frontline behaviour change and **local coordination**.
यह इतना हल्का भी था कि किसी भी बड़े कार्यक्रम में शामिल किया जा सके जो अग्रिम स्तर के व्यवहार परिवर्तन और **स्थानीय समन्वय** पर निर्भर करता है।
- Policies, programmes, and systems like **Jal Jeevan Mission, VB-G RAM G**, and sectoral extension systems all include such last-mile implementation
जल जीवन मिशन, VB-G RAM G, और विभिन्न क्षेत्रीय विस्तार प्रणालियों जैसे **नीतियाँ, कार्यक्रम और प्रणालियाँ** सभी ऐसे अंतिम स्तर के कार्यान्वयन को शामिल करते हैं।

GS Paper III: Environment	27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
27A	Choppers called in as forest fires spread across the Nilgiris नीलगिरि में जंगल की आग फैलने पर हेलीकॉप्टर बुलाए गए
27A	Information asymmetry in higher education उच्च शिक्षा में सूचना विषमता

Choppers called in as forest fires spread across the Nilgiris

GS III: Environment
The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is fighting multiple fires that have destroyed hundreds of acres of forest in the Nilgiris Forest Division and the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**. Helicopters were deployed from the Sulur Air Force base in Coimbatore for the second consecutive day on Sunday to help fight the fires.

According to a press release, a forest fire was reported in the Wenlock Downs Reserve Forest of



Aerial assistance: The strength of the ascending fires prompted the authorities to seek aerial assistance. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Parson's Valley Range of the Nilgiris Forest Division on April 15.

A team of local foresters was deployed to fight the fire. More than 400 Forest

Department personnel were roped in from across the State to put out the flames.

Seven forest fire response vehicles were deployed at crucial locations. Two teams of the State Disaster Response Force and five teams of the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department were drafted for the operations, the release said.

Members of eco-development committees were also engaged in fighting the fires, which spread rapidly on Saturday, driven by heavy winds, high tempera-

tures, and low humidity.

The strength of the ascending fires prompted the authorities to seek aerial assistance.

Forest Department officials said the department was fighting multiple fires in the Singara and Masinagudi Forest Ranges in the MTR as well as those in Parson's Valley. They believe the fires were started by people, possibly in retaliation for the perceived inaction on the part of the Forest Department after the killing of three persons by tigers in The Nilgiris in the last year.

27A. Choppers called in as forest fires spread across the Nilgiris नीलगिरि में जंगल की आग फैलने पर हेलीकॉप्टर बुलाए गए

- Choppers called in as **forest fires** spread across the Nilgiris.
नीलगिरि में **जंगल की आग फैलने पर हेलीकॉप्टर बुलाए गए**।
- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is fighting multiple fires that have destroyed hundreds of acres of forest in the **Nilgiris Forest Division** and the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**.
तमिलनाडु वन विभाग कई आग से लड़ रहा है जिसने **नीलगिरि वन प्रभाग और मुदुमलाई टाइगर रिजर्व (MTR)** में सैकड़ों एकड़ जंगल नष्ट कर दिए हैं।
- Helicopters were deployed from the **Sulur Air Force base** in **Coimbatore** for the second consecutive day on Sunday to help fight the fires.



रविवार को लगातार दूसरे दिन कोयंबटूर के सुलूर एयर फोर्स बेस से हेलीकॉप्टर आग बुझाने में मदद के लिए तैनात किए गए।

- According to a press release, a forest fire was reported in the **Wenlock Downs Reserve Forest of Parson's Valley Range** of the Nilgiris Forest Division on April 15. प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, 15 अप्रैल को नीलगिरि वन प्रभाग के पार्सन्स वैली रेंज के वेनलॉक डाउन्स रिजर्व फॉरेस्ट में जंगल की आग की सूचना मिली।

Information asymmetry in higher education

GS II: Education

MOB

Every admission season in India feels like a marketplace of promises. Brochures look impressive and websites highlight success stories. Yet, even then, students are making some of the most important decisions of their life with limited and uneven information.

India's higher education system has expanded rapidly; enrolment increased from 3.42 crore in 2014-15 to 4.33 crore in 2021-22. The Gross Enrolment Ratio has also improved. The higher education landscape has enlarged from standalone degrees to multidisciplinary ones, and that too of various management categories. However, expansion has made choices more complex.

Making the right choice

Students and families often face trade-offs between cost, quality, and location when choosing an institution. The core problem is that institutions know far more about their quality than students do. They have detailed knowledge about their faculty, teaching-learning processes, infrastructure, student support systems and placement outcomes. In contrast, students depend on brochures, advertisements, informal advice, and selective placement data. Much of this available information is incomplete or unverifiable. In economics, this situation is called information asymmetry. When one party has more information than the other, decision-making becomes distorted. George Akerlof's idea of the "market for lemons" explains how, in such situations, lower-quality providers can imitate the signals of higher-quality ones. In higher education, this means that institutions offering weaker academic quality can still appear attractive through marketing, branding, or selective disclosure. As a result, students may end up choosing institutions that do not meet their expectations. Simultaneously, good institutions



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Institutional websites, rankings, data portals, and social media may offer vast information, but not necessarily better information

may not be able to distinguish themselves clearly. This creates a situation of adverse selection, where the market does not reward quality effectively.

The problem is not just about individual choices. It has wider implications. It affects graduate outcomes, employability, and trust in the education system. It also has implications for achieving national goals such as the SDG-4 (ensuring inclusive and quality education) by 2030 and Viksit Bharat by 2047 with a skilled and employable workforce.

Overload of information

One may argue that there is now more information available than ever before. However, institutional websites, rankings, data portals, and social media may offer vast information, but not necessarily better information.

A large part of the data available is self-reported and often promotional. Definitions of indicators such as faculty strength, research output, and placement outcomes vary across institutions. Some rankings use methods that are not fully transparent. For students and families, this creates confusion. In such situations, students tend to rely on visible signals such as brand name, campus infrastructure, or fees. These signals are easy to observe but they do not always reflect academic quality. When these signals dominate decision-making, institutions may focus more on visibility than on improving provisions related to teaching-learning processes. This is where public ranking frameworks and verified data portals become important.

India's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), introduced in 2016, is one such effort to standardise information. It uses a common set of indicators such as teaching and learning resources, research output, graduation outcomes, outreach, and perception. It also requires institutions to disclose data in a structured format, the value of

which lies in comparability. When institutions report data using common definitions and formats, it becomes easier for students to make informed choices. Similarly, centralised data portals that provide verified information on enrolment, accreditation, and faculty strength can reduce dependence on informal and unreliable sources.

Room for improvement

These tools also have limitations. Rankings depend on how indicators are selected and weighted. If too much importance is given to easily measurable factors, institutions may try to improve scores rather than actual quality. Many important aspects of education, such as classroom experience, mentoring, and work-integrated learning, are difficult to measure. There is also a risk of over-interpreting ranks. Differences between institutions may be small, but ranks can create the perception of large gaps. This is why rank bands and methodological transparency are important. Despite these limitations, the absence of credible public information would be far worse. Without verified data, students would continue to rely on biased information. Information asymmetry would remain high, and poor-quality signalling would persist.

If India aims to build a strong and inclusive higher education system, information systems must be a priority. This includes better data verification, clearer definitions, transparent methodologies, accessible platforms and appropriate visualisation. For students, this is about making informed choices. For institutions, it is about credibility and accountability. The key question is simple: can students choose well if they cannot clearly see what they are choosing? Until that gap is reduced, the higher education market will continue to reward not only quality, but also the ability to present quality convincingly.



27A. Information asymmetry in higher education

उच्च शिक्षा में सूचना विषमता

- Every **admission season** in **India** feels like a marketplace of promises.
भारत में हर **प्रवेश सत्र** वादों के बाज़ार जैसा प्रतीत होता है।
- Brochures look impressive and websites highlight success stories.
ब्रॉशर आकर्षक दिखते हैं और वेबसाइटें सफलता की कहानियों को उजागर करती हैं।
- Yet, even then, students are making some of the most important decisions of their life with limited and uneven **information**.
फिर भी, छात्र अपने जीवन के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय सीमित और असमान **जानकारी** के आधार पर लेते हैं।
- **India's higher education system has expanded rapidly; enrolment increased from 3.42 crore in 2014-15 to 4.33 crore in 2021-22.**
भारत की **उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली** तेजी से विस्तारित हुई है; नामांकन **2014-15 में 3.42 करोड़ से बढ़कर 2021-22 में 4.33 करोड़** हो गया है।
- The **Gross Enrolment Ratio** has also improved.
सकल नामांकन अनुपात में भी सुधार हुआ है।
- The higher education landscape has enlarged from standalone degrees to **multidisciplinary** ones, and that too of various **management categories**.
उच्च शिक्षा का परिदृश्य एकल डिग्री से बढ़कर **बहुविषयक** पाठ्यक्रमों तक विस्तारित हो गया है, और वह भी विभिन्न **प्रबंधन श्रेणियों** में।
- However, expansion has made choices more complex.
हालांकि, इस विस्तार ने विकल्पों को और जटिल बना दिया है।

Making the right choice (सही विकल्प चुनना)

- Students and families often face **trade-offs** between **cost, quality, and location** when choosing an institution.
संस्थान चुनते समय छात्र और परिवार अक्सर **लागत, गुणवत्ता, और स्थान** के बीच **समझौते** का सामना करते हैं।
- The core problem is that institutions know far more about their **quality** than students do.
मुख्य समस्या यह है कि संस्थान अपनी **गुणवत्ता** के बारे में छात्रों की तुलना में कहीं अधिक जानते हैं।
- They have detailed knowledge about their **faculty, teaching-learning processes, infrastructure, student support systems and placement outcomes**.
उन्हें अपने **फैकल्टी, शिक्षण-अधिगम प्रक्रियाओं, अवसंरचना, छात्र सहायता प्रणालियों और प्लेसमेंट परिणामों** के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी होती है।
- In contrast, **students depend on brochures, advertisements, informal advice, and selective placement data**.
इसके विपरीत, छात्र **ब्रॉशर, विज्ञापन, अनौपचारिक सलाह, और चयनित प्लेसमेंट डेटा** पर निर्भर रहते हैं।
- **Much of this available information is incomplete or unverifiable**.
इस उपलब्ध जानकारी का अधिकांश भाग अपूर्ण या अप्रमाणित होता है।
- In economics, this situation is called **information asymmetry**.
अर्थशास्त्र में इस स्थिति को **सूचना विषमता** कहा जाता है।
- **When one party has more information than the other, decision-making becomes distorted**.
जब एक पक्ष के पास दूसरे की तुलना में अधिक जानकारी होती है, तो निर्णय-निर्धारण विकृत हो जाता है।
- **George Akerlof's idea of the "market for lemons" explains how, in such situations, lower-quality providers can imitate the signals of higher-quality ones**.
जॉर्ज एकरलॉफ की **"लेमन्स का बाज़ार"** अवधारणा बताती है कि ऐसी स्थिति में निम्न गुणवत्ता वाले प्रदाता उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले संकेतों की नकल कर सकते हैं।



- In higher education, this means that institutions offering weaker academic quality can still appear attractive through **marketing, branding**, or selective disclosure.
उच्च शिक्षा में इसका अर्थ है कि कमजोर शैक्षणिक गुणवत्ता वाले संस्थान भी **मार्केटिंग, ब्रांडिंग**, या चयनात्मक जानकारी देकर आकर्षक दिख सकते हैं।
- As a result, students may end up choosing institutions that do not meet their expectations.
परिणामस्वरूप, छात्र ऐसे संस्थान चुन सकते हैं जो उनकी अपेक्षाओं पर खरे नहीं उतरते।
- Simultaneously, good institutions may not be able to distinguish themselves clearly.
साथ ही, अच्छे संस्थान स्वयं को स्पष्ट रूप से अलग नहीं दिखा पाते।
- This creates a situation of **adverse selection**, where the market does not reward quality effectively.
यह **प्रतिकूल चयन** की स्थिति उत्पन्न करता है, जहाँ बाज़ार गुणवत्ता को प्रभावी ढंग से पुरस्कृत नहीं करता।
- The problem is not just about individual choices.
यह समस्या केवल व्यक्तिगत विकल्पों तक सीमित नहीं है।
- It has wider implications.
इसके व्यापक प्रभाव हैं।
- It affects **graduate outcomes, employability, and trust in the education system**.
यह **स्नातक परिणामों, रोजगार योग्यता, और शिक्षा प्रणाली में विश्वास** को प्रभावित करता है।
- It also has implications for achieving national goals such as the **SDG-4 (ensuring inclusive and quality education) by 2030** and **Viksit Bharat by 2047** with a skilled and employable workforce.
इसका प्रभाव राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्यों जैसे **SDG-4 (समावेशी और गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा सुनिश्चित करना) को 2030 तक प्राप्त करने और 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनाने पर भी पड़ता है**, जिसके लिए कुशल और रोजगार योग्य कार्यबल आवश्यक है।

Overload of information (सूचना का अधिभार)

- One may argue that there is now more **information** available than ever before.
कोई तर्क दे सकता है कि अब पहले से अधिक **जानकारी** उपलब्ध है।
- However, **institutional websites, rankings, data portals, and social media** may offer vast information, but not necessarily better information.
हालांकि, संस्थागत **वेबसाइटें, रैंकिंग, डेटा पोर्टल, और सोशल मीडिया** व्यापक जानकारी प्रदान करते हैं, लेकिन जरूरी नहीं कि बेहतर जानकारी दें।
- A large part of the data available is **self-reported** and often **promotional**.
उपलब्ध डेटा का बड़ा हिस्सा **स्व-रिपोर्टेड** और अक्सर **प्रचारात्मक** होता है।
- Definitions of indicators such as **faculty strength, research output, and placement outcomes** vary across institutions.
फैकल्टी संख्या, अनुसंधान उत्पादन, और प्लेसमेंट परिणामों जैसे संकेतकों की परिभाषाएँ संस्थानों में भिन्न होती हैं।
- Some rankings use methods that are not fully **transparent**.
कुछ रैंकिंग ऐसे तरीकों का उपयोग करती हैं जो पूरी तरह **पारदर्शी** नहीं होते।
- For students and families, this creates **confusion**.
छात्रों और परिवारों के लिए यह **भ्रम** उत्पन्न करता है।
- In such situations, students tend to rely on visible signals such as **brand name, campus infrastructure, or fees**.
ऐसी स्थिति में, छात्र **ब्रांड नाम, कैम्पस अवसंरचना, या फीस** जैसे दृश्यमान संकेतों पर निर्भर रहते हैं।
- These signals are easy to observe but they do not always reflect **academic quality**.
ये संकेत आसानी से देखे जा सकते हैं, लेकिन वे हमेशा **शैक्षणिक गुणवत्ता** को नहीं दर्शाते।
- When these signals dominate decision-making, institutions may focus more on **visibility** than on improving provisions related to **teaching-learning processes**.



जब ये संकेत निर्णय-निर्धारण में प्रमुख हो जाते हैं, तो संस्थान शिक्षण-अधिगम प्रक्रियाओं में सुधार करने के बजाय दिखावट पर अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित करने लगते हैं।

- This is where **public ranking frameworks** and **verified data portals** become important. यहीं पर सार्वजनिक रैंकिंग ढाँचे और सत्यापित डेटा पोर्टल महत्वपूर्ण हो जाते हैं।
- **India's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), introduced in 2016, is one such effort to standardise information.**

भारत का नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूशनल रैंकिंग फ्रेमवर्क (NIRF), जिसे 2016 में शुरू किया गया, सूचना को मानकीकृत करने का एक ऐसा प्रयास है।

- **It uses a common set of indicators such as teaching and learning resources, research output, graduation outcomes, outreach, and perception.**

यह शिक्षण एवं अधिगम संसाधन, अनुसंधान उत्पादन, स्नातक परिणाम, आउटरीच, और धारणा जैसे सामान्य संकेतकों का उपयोग करता है।

- **It also requires institutions to disclose data in a structured format, the value of which lies in comparability.**

यह संस्थानों को एक संरचित प्रारूप में डेटा प्रस्तुत करने की भी आवश्यकता करता है, जिसका महत्व तुलनीयता में निहित है।

- **When institutions report data using common definitions and formats, it becomes easier for students to make informed choices.**

जब संस्थान सामान्य परिभाषाओं और प्रारूपों का उपयोग करके डेटा प्रस्तुत करते हैं, तो छात्रों के लिए सूचित निर्णय लेना आसान हो जाता है।

- Similarly, centralised data portals that provide **verified information** on enrolment, accreditation, and faculty strength can reduce dependence on informal and unreliable sources.

इसी प्रकार, नामांकन, मान्यता और फैकल्टी संख्या पर सत्यापित जानकारी प्रदान करने वाले केंद्रीकृत डेटा पोर्टल अनौपचारिक और अविश्वसनीय स्रोतों पर निर्भरता को कम कर सकते हैं।

Room for improvement (सुधार की आवश्यकता)

- These tools also have limitations. इन उपकरणों की भी सीमाएँ हैं।
- Rankings depend on how indicators are selected and weighted. रैंकिंग इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि संकेतकों का चयन और भारांकन कैसे किया जाता है।
- If too much importance is given to easily measurable factors, institutions may try to improve **scores** rather than actual **quality**. यदि आसानी से मापे जाने वाले कारकों को अधिक महत्व दिया जाता है, तो संस्थान वास्तविक गुणवत्ता के बजाय स्कोर सुधारने पर ध्यान दे सकते हैं।
- **Many important aspects of education, such as classroom experience, mentoring, and work-integrated learning, are difficult to measure.** शिक्षा के कई महत्वपूर्ण पहलू, जैसे कक्षा अनुभव, मार्गदर्शन, और कार्य-एकीकृत अधिगम, मापना कठिन होते हैं।
- There is also a risk of over-interpreting ranks. रैंक की अत्यधिक व्याख्या का भी जोखिम होता है।
- Differences between institutions may be small, but ranks can create the perception of large gaps. संस्थानों के बीच अंतर छोटा हो सकता है, लेकिन रैंक बड़े अंतर का आभास करा सकते हैं।
- This is why **rank bands** and **methodological transparency** are important. इसी कारण रैंक बैंड और कार्यप्रणाली पारदर्शिता महत्वपूर्ण हैं।



- Despite these limitations, the absence of credible public information would be far worse. इन सीमाओं के बावजूद, विश्वसनीय सार्वजनिक जानकारी का अभाव और भी अधिक गंभीर होगा।
- Without verified data, students would continue to rely on **biased information**. सत्यापित डेटा के बिना, छात्र **पक्षपाती जानकारी** पर निर्भर रहेंगे।
- **Information asymmetry** would remain high, and poor-quality signalling would persist. **सूचना विषमता** उच्च बनी रहेगी और निम्न गुणवत्ता के संकेत जारी रहेंगे।
- If India aims to build a strong and inclusive **higher education system**, information systems must be a priority. यदि भारत एक मजबूत और समावेशी **उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली** बनाना चाहता है, तो सूचना प्रणालियों को प्राथमिकता देनी होगी।
- This includes better **data verification**, clearer definitions, transparent methodologies, accessible platforms and appropriate **visualisation**. इसमें बेहतर **डेटा सत्यापन**, स्पष्ट परिभाषाएँ, पारदर्शी कार्यप्रणालियाँ, सुलभ प्लेटफॉर्म और उपयुक्त **दृश्य प्रस्तुति** शामिल हैं।
- For students, this is about making **informed choices**. छात्रों के लिए यह **सूचित निर्णय** लेने से संबंधित है।
- For institutions, it is about **credibility** and **accountability**. संस्थानों के लिए यह **विश्वसनीयता** और **जवाबदेही** का विषय है।
- The key question is simple: can students choose well if they cannot clearly see what they are choosing? मुख्य प्रश्न सरल है: यदि छात्र स्पष्ट रूप से नहीं देख सकते कि वे क्या चुन रहे हैं, तो क्या वे सही चुनाव कर सकते हैं?
- Until that gap is reduced, the higher education market will continue to reward not only quality, but also the ability to present quality convincingly. जब तक यह अंतर कम नहीं होता, उच्च शिक्षा का बाज़ार केवल गुणवत्ता ही नहीं बल्कि गुणवत्ता को प्रभावी ढंग से प्रस्तुत करने की क्षमता को भी पुरस्कृत करता रहेगा।

GS Paper III: Disaster Management		27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
27A	Railways orders audit of signalling systems for safe operations रेलवे ने सुरक्षित संचालन के लिए सिग्नलिंग सिस्टम का ऑडिट आदेशित किया	



Railways orders audit of signalling systems for safe operations

GS III: Disaster Management
CHENNAI

The Indian Railways has ordered an audit of the signalling systems across its network to rectify deficiencies and improve the overall reliability of the critical assets for ensuring safe operations.

Directing the general managers of all zonal railways to depute senior officers to conduct the audit, the Railway Board said in a safety advisory that it was essential to ensure the quality of newly commissioned installations and periodically review the existing/old systems to assess their reliability.

The instruction comes against the backdrop of many fatal accidents or derailments in the last three years, in which the failure of signals, especially in the automatic signalling territory, was suspected to be the reason. In at least two incidents, including the accident involving the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express in South Eastern

Railway on June 2, 2023, which left about 290 passengers dead and 900 others injured, signals were in the green for speeding trains to run on the main line, but the points were set to the loop line.

The advisory said the audit must cover the quality of installation and adherence to approved drawings and specifications, compliance with the Technical Advisory Note issued by the Research Design and Standards Organisation, the condition of equipment, wiring, earthing, and bonding, which were imperative for the effective functioning of the signalling systems.

“The objective of the audit is to identify faulty systems, ensure compliance with the prescribed standards, and improve the reliability of the signalling installations,” a senior railway officer said.

The Railways has also directed the general managers to conduct root-cause analysis of asset failures at the divisional level.

27A Railways orders audit of signalling systems for safe operations

रेलवे ने सुरक्षित संचालन के लिए सिग्नलिंग सिस्टम का ऑडिट आदेशित किया

- Railways order audit of signalling systems for safe operations.

रेलवे ने सुरक्षित संचालन के लिए सिग्नलिंग सिस्टम का ऑडिट आदेशित किया।

- The Indian Railways has ordered an audit of the signalling systems across its network to rectify deficiencies and improve the overall reliability of the critical assets for ensuring safe operations.

भारतीय रेलवे ने अपने नेटवर्क में सिग्नलिंग सिस्टम का ऑडिट कराने का आदेश दिया है ताकि कमियों को दूर किया जा सके और सुरक्षित संचालन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण परिसंपत्तियों की विश्वसनीयता बढ़ाई जा सके।

- Directing the general managers of all zonal railways to depute senior officers to conduct the audit, the Railway Board said in a safety advisory that it was essential to ensure the quality of newly commissioned installations and periodically review the existing/old systems to assess their reliability. सभी जोनल रेलवे के महाप्रबंधकों को ऑडिट के लिए वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों को नियुक्त करने का निर्देश देते हुए रेलवे बोर्ड ने सुरक्षा परामर्श में कहा कि नई स्थापित प्रणालियों की गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करना और मौजूदा/पुरानी प्रणालियों की समय-समय पर समीक्षा करना आवश्यक है।

- The instruction comes against the backdrop of many fatal accidents or derailments in the last three years, in which the failure of signals, especially in the automatic signalling territory, was suspected to be the reason.

यह निर्देश पिछले तीन वर्षों में हुई कई घातक

दुर्घटनाओं और पटरी से उतरने की घटनाओं के संदर्भ में आया है, जिनमें विशेषकर स्वचालित सिग्नलिंग क्षेत्र में सिग्नल विफलता को कारण माना गया।

- In at least two incidents, including the accident involving the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express in South Eastern Railway on June 2, 2023, which left about 290 passengers dead and 900 others injured, signals were in the green for speeding trains to run on the main line, but the points were set to the loop line.

कम से कम दो घटनाओं में, जिनमें 2 जून 2023 को दक्षिण पूर्वी रेलवे में शालीमार-चेन्नई कोरोमंडल एक्सप्रेस की दुर्घटना शामिल है, जिसमें लगभग 290 यात्रियों की मृत्यु और 900 घायल हुए, सिग्नल मुख्य लाइन पर तेज गति से चलने के लिए हरे थे, लेकिन पॉइंट्स लूप लाइन पर सेट थे।



- The advisory said the audit must cover the quality of installation and adherence to approved drawings and specifications, compliance with the **Technical Advisory Note** issued by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation**, the condition of equipment, wiring, earthing, and bonding, which were imperative for the effective functioning of the signalling systems.
परामर्श में कहा गया कि ऑडिट में स्थापना की गुणवत्ता और स्वीकृत ड्राइंग व विनिर्देशों के पालन, **रिसर्च डिजाइन एंड स्टैंडर्ड्स ऑर्गनाइजेशन** द्वारा जारी **टेक्निकल एडवाइजरी नोट** का अनुपालन, उपकरणों की स्थिति, वायरिंग, अर्थिंग और बॉन्डिंग शामिल होनी चाहिए, जो सिग्नलिंग सिस्टम के प्रभावी संचालन के लिए आवश्यक हैं।
- “The objective of the audit is to identify faulty systems, ensure compliance with the prescribed standards, and improve the reliability of the signalling installations,” a senior railway officer said.
एक वरिष्ठ रेलवे अधिकारी ने कहा, “ऑडिट का उद्देश्य खराब प्रणालियों की पहचान करना, निर्धारित मानकों का पालन सुनिश्चित करना और सिग्नलिंग इंस्टॉलेशन की विश्वसनीयता में सुधार करना है।”
- The Railways has also directed the general managers to conduct **root-cause analysis** of asset failures at the divisional level.
रेलवे ने महाप्रबंधकों को मंडल स्तर पर परिसंपत्तियों की विफलताओं का **मूल कारण विश्लेषण (root-cause analysis)** करने का भी निर्देश दिया है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		27 April 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
27A	Has Anthropic's Mythos made the cure worse than the disease? क्या एंथ्रोपिक का मिथोस इलाज को बीमारी से भी बदतर बना दिया है?	



Has Anthropic's Mythos made the cure worse than the disease?

In the world of cybersecurity, defenders are, to put it crudely, your anti-virus sellers, helping you fix security vulnerabilities and keep data safe. But that simple business model is being disrupted by speed and scale

CS III: Internal Security
John Xavier

A few weeks back, Anthropic made two major announcements. The AI company said it was forming an alliance with who's who of the tech industry and it said, with those alliance members, it will share its latest AI model that is skilled at identifying hidden weaknesses in software.

That created a sort of cartel-style alliance sans price fixing in an industry that is increasingly facing cyber threats as the mushrooming of AI-powered applications is making the already difficult threat terrain harder to navigate for defenders.

In the world of cybersecurity, defenders are, to put it crudely, your anti-virus sellers, helping you fix security vulnerabilities and keep data safe. But that simple business model is being disrupted by speed and scale.

AI models like Anthropic's Mythos are capable of finding flaws in the software architecture that have gone unnoticed for years, despite running the most capable security checks.

And the company has claimed that it has identified many such issues in the currently used software in several critical systems.

A new problem

The frontier AI company has said that only those in its alliance network have access to Mythos Preview. That means only they can find legacy flaws and fix them.

But the company is now fighting a problem it helped create – and one it may have already lost a round of.

A small group of unauthorised users, those not part of Project Glasswing, have gained access to the model. Based on reports, they haven't entered it through a back door. They seem to have made an educated guess about where the model lived online, based on the URL formats Anthropic uses for its other models, and leveraged credentials belonging to a contractor.

The group has been using Mythos regularly for some time, though not for cybersecurity purposes, according to a report by Bloomberg.

Anthropic confirmed it is investigating the incident and said there is currently no evidence that the activity extended beyond the third-party vendor environment.

The safeguard question

The incident raises serious questions about whether Anthropic, valued at approximately \$380 billion, can effectively safeguard its most powerful technologies from falling into the hands of malicious actors.

This is also not the company's first stumble. The Mythos breach comes shortly after Fortune reported earlier that Anthropic had accidentally made nearly 3,000 internal files publicly accessible, including a draft blog post describing Mythos itself.

A company asking the world to trust its guardrails has now tripped over two of them in quick succession.

Mythos is not a database of known vulnerabilities. It is not a smarter version of the scanners security teams already



A small group of unauthorised users, those not part of Project Glasswing, have gained access to the Mythos model. REUTERS

run. It operates through interaction rather than inspection.

Mythos's capability

Instead of scanning code for known patterns, the system engages with it. It executes functions, tests different inputs, and observes how the software responds. Each result feeds into the next step, allowing the model to refine its approach and move deeper into the system.

If an attempt fails, it does not stop the process. But that failure acts as an input for the next process. Unlike conventional cybersecurity products, it acts like a senior security engineer who can reason about the software. And its biggest differentiation is that it won't get tired. It can persevere indefinitely.

The model has already found thousands of high-severity vulnerabilities, including some in every major operating system and web browser. It is capable of chaining multiple vulnerabilities together into working exploits. In controlled evaluations, it could execute multi-stage attacks on vulnerable networks, tasks that would take human professionals days of work.

Limited patches

Fewer than 1% of the potential vulnerabilities Mythos has discovered so far have been fully patched by their maintainers. The rest sit in a growing pipeline of known-but-undisclosed flaws. That pipeline is not a database in the traditional sense. But for anyone who gains access to Mythos, it functions as a live, continuously expanding map of weaknesses in software that runs banking systems, hospitals, power grids and supply chains.

Which returns us to the Discord group in the vendor environment – the small group of unauthorised users who access Mythos Preview. While their reported reason behind accessing is reassuring for now, it ignores the structural problem entirely. Access is access.

If another group, one with malicious intent, had gained access to this AI tool, it is very likely they would have sabotaged some critical software. With a ready-to-attack set of vulnerabilities, the power asymmetry is significant between the user and the attacker.

Also, the window between discovering a vulnerability and exploiting it by an adversary has now collapsed. What once took months now can happen in minutes with AI, as Microsoft noted in its Project Glasswing statement.

Alarming asymmetry

The unauthorised users don't need to understand everything Mythos can do. They need only to understand enough to start asking the right questions of it.

This is the asymmetry that should alarm security leaders more than any specific vulnerability. Defenders are constrained by set processes like patch validation, deployment windows, coordination across teams, and the operational cost of downtime.

Mythos leaves the defensive cost of answering those questions inside a real enterprise largely unchanged. The right lesson now is preparation. Attackers, meanwhile, have no such constraints. They only need one door left open. If thousands of vulnerabilities can be identified quickly, organisations may not have the capacity to address them all. Prioritisation becomes critical, and

errors become more costly. In this environment, more visibility does not automatically mean more secure.

Mythos-class capabilities will become more broadly available. Within the next year or two, enterprises will have direct access to AI-powered discovery tools that can scan their own proprietary codebases with similar depth.

Beyond Anthropic's Mythos

It is easy to stay stuck on a single model but it is quite possible that Anthropic may be overstating Mythos's capabilities as some experts have pointed out that smaller open models have demonstrated meaningful portions of what Mythos does, at a fraction of the cost.

While this means that the gap between a frontier model and a sufficiently motivated attacker with access to cheaper alternatives is narrowing, it also shows that hackers can get access to cheap, Mythos-level models.

That means organisations should be well prepared for a constantly evolving threat landscape where attackers are moving faster than patch cycles. There is also a need for a hard rethink of risk tolerance for operational downtime: if adversary timelines are now measured in minutes, the old calculus about acceptable patch delays no longer holds.

The deeper question is whether any single company can be trusted as the gatekeeper of technology this consequential. Project Glasswing was designed to put defenders ahead of attackers. But if the guardrails can be bypassed by a Discord group with a contractor's login and a good guess about a URL, the cure may be running on the same fragile infrastructure as the disease.

27A. Has Anthropic's Mythos made the cure worse than the disease?

क्या एंथ्रोपिक का मिथोस इलाज को बीमारी से भी बदतर बना दिया है?

- A few weeks back, **Anthropic** made two major announcements. कुछ सप्ताह पहले, **Anthropic** ने दो महत्वपूर्ण घोषणाएँ कीं।
- The AI company said it was forming an **alliance** with who's who of the **tech industry** and it said, with those alliance members, it will share its latest **AI model** that is skilled at identifying **hidden weaknesses in software**.



इस AI कंपनी ने कहा कि वह तकनीकी उद्योग के प्रमुख लोगों के साथ एक गठबंधन बना रही है और उन सदस्यों के साथ वह अपना नवीनतम AI मॉडल साझा करेगी, जो सॉफ्टवेयर में छिपी कमजोरियों की पहचान करने में सक्षम है।

- That created a sort of **cartel-style alliance** sans **price fixing** in an industry that is increasingly facing **cyber threats** as the mushrooming of **AI-powered applications** is making the already difficult threat terrain harder to navigate for defenders.
इससे एक प्रकार का कार्टेल-शैली का गठबंधन बना, जिसमें मूल्य निर्धारण नहीं था, ऐसे उद्योग में जो बढ़ते हुए साइबर खतरों का सामना कर रहा है, क्योंकि AI-संचालित अनुप्रयोगों की वृद्धि ने पहले से ही कठिन खतरे के परिदृश्य को और जटिल बना दिया है।
- **In the world of cybersecurity, defenders are, to put it crudely, your anti-virus sellers, helping you fix security vulnerabilities and keep data safe.**
साइबर सुरक्षा की दुनिया में, सरल शब्दों में कहें तो रक्षक आपके एंटी-वायरस विक्रेता होते हैं, जो सुरक्षा कमजोरियों को ठीक करने और डेटा को सुरक्षित रखने में मदद करते हैं।
- But that simple business model is being disrupted by **speed and scale**.
लेकिन यह सरल व्यापार मॉडल गति और पैमाने के कारण बाधित हो रहा है।
- **AI models like Anthropic's Mythos are capable of finding flaws in the software architecture** that have gone unnoticed for years, despite running the most capable security checks.
Anthropic का Mythos जैसे AI मॉडल सॉफ्टवेयर संरचना में ऐसी खामियाँ खोज सकते हैं जो वर्षों तक, सबसे उन्नत सुरक्षा जांचों के बावजूद, अनदेखी रह गई थीं।
- And the company has claimed that it has identified many such issues in the currently used software in several **critical systems**.
कंपनी ने दावा किया है कि उसने वर्तमान में उपयोग किए जा रहे सॉफ्टवेयर में कई ऐसे मुद्दों की पहचान की है जो कई महत्वपूर्ण प्रणालियों में मौजूद हैं।

A new problem (एक नई समस्या)

- The frontier AI company has said that **only those in its alliance network have access to Mythos Preview**.
इस अग्रणी AI कंपनी ने कहा है कि केवल उसके गठबंधन नेटवर्क के सदस्य ही Mythos Preview तक पहुँच सकते हैं।
- **That means only they can find legacy flaws and fix them.**
इसका अर्थ है कि केवल वही पुरानी खामियों को खोज और ठीक कर सकते हैं।
- But the company is now fighting a problem it helped create — and one it may have already lost a round of.
लेकिन अब कंपनी उसी समस्या से जूझ रही है जिसे उसने स्वयं उत्पन्न किया — और संभवतः एक चरण में वह हार भी चुकी है।
- **A small group of unauthorised users, those not part of Project Glasswing, have gained access to the model.**
कुछ अनधिकृत उपयोगकर्ताओं के छोटे समूह, जो Project Glasswing का हिस्सा नहीं थे, ने इस मॉडल तक पहुँच प्राप्त कर ली है।
- Based on reports, they haven't entered it through a **back door**.
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, उन्होंने इसमें पिछले दरवाजे से प्रवेश नहीं किया।
- **They seem to have made an educated guess about where the model lived online, based on the URL formats Anthropic uses for its other models, and leveraged credentials belonging to a contractor.**
उन्होंने यह अनुमान लगाया कि मॉडल ऑनलाइन कहाँ स्थित है, Anthropic द्वारा अन्य मॉडलों के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले URL प्रारूपों के आधार पर, और एक ठेकेदार के क्रेडेंशियल्स का उपयोग किया।



- The group has been using **Mythos** regularly for some time, though not for **cybersecurity purposes**, according to a report by **Bloomberg**.
Bloomberg की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यह समूह कुछ समय से **Mythos** का नियमित उपयोग कर रहा है, हालांकि **साइबर सुरक्षा उद्देश्यों** के लिए नहीं।
- Anthropic confirmed it is investigating the incident and said there is currently no evidence that the activity extended beyond the **third-party vendor environment**.
Anthropic ने पुष्टि की है कि वह इस घटना की जांच कर रहा है और कहा कि अभी तक ऐसा कोई प्रमाण नहीं है कि यह गतिविधि **थर्ड-पार्टी विक्रेता वातावरण** से आगे बढ़ी हो।

The safeguard question (सुरक्षा का प्रश्न)

- **The incident raises serious questions about whether Anthropic, valued at approximately \$380 billion, can effectively safeguard its most powerful technologies from falling into the hands of malicious actors.**
यह घटना गंभीर प्रश्न उठाती है कि लगभग **\$380 अरब** मूल्य वाली Anthropic क्या अपनी सबसे शक्तिशाली तकनीकों को **दुर्भावनापूर्ण तत्वों** के हाथों में जाने से प्रभावी ढंग से बचा सकती है।
- This is also not the company's first stumble.
यह कंपनी की पहली चूक भी नहीं है।
- The Mythos breach comes shortly after **Fortune** reported earlier that **Anthropic had accidentally made nearly 3,000 internal files publicly accessible, including a draft blog post describing Mythos itself.**
Mythos से जुड़ी यह घटना तब सामने आई जब **Fortune** ने पहले रिपोर्ट किया था कि Anthropic ने गलती से लगभग **3,000 आंतरिक फाइलें** सार्वजनिक कर दी थीं, जिनमें Mythos का वर्णन करने वाला एक ड्राफ्ट ब्लॉग पोस्ट भी शामिल था।
- **A company asking the world to trust its guardrails has now tripped over two of them in quick succession.**
एक कंपनी जो दुनिया से अपने **सुरक्षा तंत्र** पर विश्वास करने को कह रही है, वह स्वयं लगातार दो बार उसी पर ठोकर खा चुकी है।
- Mythos is not a database of known **vulnerabilities**.
Mythos ज्ञात **कमजोरियों** का कोई डेटाबेस नहीं है।
- It is not a smarter version of the scanners security teams already run.
यह सुरक्षा टीमों द्वारा पहले से उपयोग किए जाने वाले स्कैनरों का उन्नत संस्करण भी नहीं है।
- **It operates through interaction rather than inspection.**
यह **निरीक्षण** के बजाय **परस्पर क्रिया** के माध्यम से कार्य करता है।

Mythos's capability (Mythos की क्षमता)

- **Instead of scanning code for known patterns, the system engages with it.**
ज्ञात पैटर्न के लिए कोड को स्कैन करने के बजाय, यह प्रणाली उससे **परस्पर क्रिया** करती है।
- **It executes functions, tests different inputs, and observes how the software responds.**
यह **फंक्शन्स निष्पादित** करती है, विभिन्न इनपुट का परीक्षण करती है, और यह देखती है कि सॉफ्टवेयर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया करता है।
- **Each result feeds into the next step, allowing the model to refine its approach and move deeper into the system.**
प्रत्येक परिणाम अगले चरण में इनपुट के रूप में जाता है, जिससे मॉडल अपने दृष्टिकोण को **परिष्कृत** कर सकता है और प्रणाली में और गहराई तक जा सकता है।
- **If an attempt fails, it does not stop the process.**
यदि कोई प्रयास असफल होता है, तो यह प्रक्रिया को नहीं रोकता।



- But that failure acts as an input for the next process.
बल्कि वह असफलता अगले प्रक्रिया के लिए इनपुट बन जाती है।
- Unlike conventional cybersecurity products, it acts like a senior security engineer who can reason about the software.
पारंपरिक साइबर सुरक्षा उत्पादों के विपरीत, यह एक वरिष्ठ सुरक्षा इंजीनियर की तरह कार्य करता है जो सॉफ्टवेयर के बारे में तर्क कर सकता है।
- And its biggest differentiation is that it won't get tired.
और इसका सबसे बड़ा अंतर यह है कि यह थकता नहीं है।
- It can persevere indefinitely.
यह अनिश्चित काल तक कार्य जारी रख सकता है।
- The model has already found thousands of high-severity vulnerabilities, including some in every major operating system and web browser.
मॉडल ने पहले ही हजारों उच्च-गंभीरता वाली कमजोरियाँ खोज ली हैं, जिनमें हर प्रमुख ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टम और वेब ब्राउज़र में कुछ शामिल हैं।
- It is capable of chaining multiple vulnerabilities together into working exploits.
यह कई कमजोरियों को जोड़कर कार्यशील एक्सप्लॉइट्स बना सकता है।
- In controlled evaluations, it could execute multi-stage attacks on vulnerable networks, tasks that would take human professionals days of work.
नियंत्रित परीक्षणों में, यह कमजोर नेटवर्क पर बहु-चरणीय हमले कर सकता है, जो मानव विशेषज्ञों को कई दिन लगते।

Limited patches

सीमित पैच

- Fewer than 1% of the potential vulnerabilities Mythos has discovered so far have been fully patched by their maintainers.
Mythos द्वारा खोजी गई संभावित कमजोरियों में से 1% से भी कम को उनके प्रबंधकों द्वारा पूरी तरह पैच किया गया है।
- The rest sit in a growing pipeline of known-but-undisclosed flaws.
बाकी ज्ञात लेकिन अप्रकाशित खामियों की बढ़ती श्रृंखला में मौजूद हैं।
- That pipeline is not a database in the traditional sense.
यह श्रृंखला पारंपरिक अर्थों में कोई डेटाबेस नहीं है।
- But for anyone who gains access to Mythos, it functions as a live, continuously expanding map of weaknesses in software that runs banking systems, hospitals, power grids and supply chains.
लेकिन जो भी Mythos तक पहुँच प्राप्त करता है, उसके लिए यह बैंकिंग सिस्टम, अस्पताल, पावर ग्रिड और सप्लाई चेन चलाने वाले सॉफ्टवेयर की कमजोरियों का एक जीवंत और निरंतर विस्तारशील मानचित्र बन जाता है।
- Which returns us to the Discord group in the vendor environment — the small group of unauthorised users who access Mythos Preview.
यह हमें विक्रेता वातावरण में मौजूद Discord समूह की ओर वापस ले जाता है — वह छोटा समूह जिसने अनधिकृत रूप से Mythos Preview तक पहुँच बनाई।
- While their reported reason behind accessing is reassuring for now, it ignores the structural problem entirely.
हालांकि उनकी पहुँच का कारण अभी आश्वस्त करने वाला लगता है, लेकिन यह संरचनात्मक समस्या को पूरी तरह नजरअंदाज करता है।
- Access is access.
पहुँच, पहुँच ही होती है।



- If another group, one with malicious intent, had gained access to this AI tool, it is very likely they would have sabotaged some critical software.
यदि कोई अन्य समूह, जिसके इरादे दुर्भावनापूर्ण हों, इस AI टूल तक पहुँच प्राप्त कर लेता, तो संभवतः वे किसी महत्वपूर्ण सॉफ्टवेयर को नुकसान पहुँचा देते।
- With a ready-to-attack set of vulnerabilities, the power asymmetry is significant between the user and the attacker.
हमले के लिए तैयार कमजोरियों के साथ, उपयोगकर्ता और हमलावर के बीच शक्ति असमानता बहुत अधिक हो जाती है।
- Also, the window between discovering a vulnerability and exploiting it by an adversary has now collapsed.
इसके अलावा, किसी कमजोरी की खोज और उसके दुरुपयोग के बीच का समय अब बहुत कम हो गया है।
- What once took months now can happen in minutes with AI, as Microsoft noted in its Project Glasswing statement.
जो पहले महीनों में होता था, वह अब AI के साथ मिनटों में हो सकता है, जैसा कि Microsoft ने अपने Project Glasswing बयान में कहा।

Alarming asymmetry (चिंताजनक असमानता)

- The unauthorised users don't need to understand everything Mythos can do.
अनधिकृत उपयोगकर्ताओं को Mythos की पूरी क्षमता समझने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- They need only to understand enough to start asking the right questions of it.
उन्हें केवल इतना समझना होता है कि वे उससे सही प्रश्न पूछ सकें।
- This is the asymmetry that should alarm security leaders more than any specific vulnerability.
यह वही असमानता है जो किसी विशेष कमजोरी से अधिक सुरक्षा नेताओं को चिंतित करनी चाहिए।
- Defenders are constrained by set processes like patch validation, deployment windows, coordination across teams, and the operational cost of downtime.
रक्षक निर्धारित प्रक्रियाओं से बंधे होते हैं जैसे पैच सत्यापन, तैनाती समय, टीमों के बीच समन्वय, और डाउनटाइम की लागत।
- Mythos leaves the defensive cost of answering those questions inside a real enterprise largely unchanged.
Mythos इन प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने की रक्षात्मक लागत को वास्तविक उद्यम के भीतर लगभग अपरिवर्तित रखता है।
- The right lesson now is preparation.
अब सही सीख तैयारी है।
- Attackers, meanwhile, have no such constraints.
दूसरी ओर, हमलावरों पर ऐसे कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं होते।
- They only need one door left open.
उन्हें केवल एक खुला दरवाज़ा चाहिए।
- If thousands of vulnerabilities can be identified quickly, organisations may not have the capacity to address them all.
यदि हजारों कमजोरियों की जल्दी पहचान हो सकती है, तो संगठन उन्हें सभी को ठीक करने में सक्षम नहीं हो सकते।
- Prioritisation becomes critical, and errors become more costly.
इसलिए प्राथमिकता निर्धारण महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है और त्रुटियाँ अधिक महंगी साबित होती हैं।
- In this environment, more visibility does not automatically mean more secure.
इस परिस्थिति में अधिक दृश्यता का अर्थ स्वचालित रूप से अधिक सुरक्षा नहीं होता।
- Mythos-class capabilities will become more broadly available.
Mythos जैसी क्षमताएँ भविष्य में अधिक व्यापक रूप से उपलब्ध होंगी।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Within the next year or two, enterprises will have direct access to AI-powered discovery tools that can scan their own proprietary codebases with similar depth.
अगले एक-दो वर्षों में, उद्यमों को ऐसे AI-आधारित उपकरण मिलेंगे जो उनके अपने कोडबेस को समान गहराई से स्कैन कर सकेंगे।

Beyond Anthropic's Mythos (Anthropic के Mythos से आगे)

- It is easy to stay stuck on a single model but it is quite possible that Anthropic may be overstating Mythos's capabilities as some experts have pointed out that smaller open models have demonstrated meaningful portions of what Mythos does, at a fraction of the cost.
किसी एक मॉडल पर केंद्रित रहना आसान है, लेकिन संभव है कि Anthropic Mythos की क्षमताओं को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर बता रहा हो, क्योंकि कुछ विशेषज्ञों ने बताया है कि छोटे ओपन मॉडल भी कम लागत पर समान कार्य कर सकते हैं।
- While this means that the gap between a frontier model and a sufficiently motivated attacker with access to cheaper alternatives is narrowing, it also shows that hackers can get access to cheap, Mythos-level models.
इसका अर्थ है कि उन्नत मॉडल और सस्ते विकल्पों वाले हमलावरों के बीच का अंतर घट रहा है, और हैकर्स को भी सस्ते Mythos-जैसे मॉडल मिल सकते हैं।
- That means organisations should be well prepared for a constantly evolving threat landscape where attackers are moving faster than patch cycles.
इसका अर्थ है कि संगठनों को तेजी से बदलते खतरे के परिदृश्य के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए, जहाँ हमलावर पैच चक्र से तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं।
- There is also a need for a hard rethink of risk tolerance for operational downtime: if adversary timelines are now measured in minutes, the old calculus about acceptable patch delays no longer holds.
संचालनात्मक डाउनटाइम के जोखिम सहनशीलता पर पुनर्विचार आवश्यक है, क्योंकि यदि हमलावर मिनटों में कार्य कर सकते हैं, तो पुराने पैच विलंब के मानदंड अब लागू नहीं होते।
- The deeper question is whether any single company can be trusted as the gatekeeper of technology this consequential.
गंभीर प्रश्न यह है कि क्या इतनी महत्वपूर्ण तकनीक के संरक्षक के रूप में किसी एक कंपनी पर भरोसा किया जा सकता है।
- Project Glasswing was designed to put defenders ahead of attackers.
Project Glasswing का उद्देश्य रक्षकों को हमलावरों से आगे रखना था।
- But if the guardrails can be bypassed by a Discord group with a contractor's login and a good guess about a URL, the cure may be running on the same fragile infrastructure as the disease.
लेकिन यदि सुरक्षा उपायों को एक Discord समूह द्वारा, ठेकेदार के लॉगिन और URL के अनुमान से पार किया जा सकता है, तो समाधान भी उसी कमजोर ढांचे पर आधारित हो सकता है जिस पर समस्या आधारित है।

GS Paper IV: Ethics

27 April 2026

TOPICS COVERED

27A

Radio exercise tradition, one face of Japan's longevity
रेडियो व्यायाम परंपरा, जापान की दीर्घायु का एक पहलू



Radio exercise tradition, one face of Japan's longevity

GS IV: Ethics

TOKYO

This is how Japan wakes up. It's called Radio Taiso – Exercise Radio – a simple yet dynamic way to start the day. Japanese radio plays music every morning at 6.30 to accompany basic instructions for calisthenics, and millions perform in the choreography: in parks, workplaces, schools – and at home.

Radio Taiso has an almost 100-year history, formally introduced in 1928 and coinciding with the enthronement of Emperor Hirohito. The tradition endures because the exercises are suitable for all ages and capabilities, and easily accessible.

We're talking about basic exercise movements: reach to the sky to limber up, twist at the torso, bend at the hips, swing the arms and get the shoulders loose, or jump or run in place.

Exercisers can make it as strenuous as they wish, and it's over in just 10 minutes, all done to the rhythm of a soft piano melody.

The routine features a trio of three-minute segments that get slightly more difficult – but not much. Most Radio Taiso followers know the sequences by heart.

Each movement is repeated four to eight times with instructions throughout to relax, breathe, and inhale and exhale slowly.

Kenji Iguchi is 83 – he'd pass for 60 – and he's been a regular for about 20 years. "It's for my joints, mainly the knees and back, because of my age," he said.

Japan has one of the longest-lived populations on Earth, and this ritual is credited for promoting physical and social well-being. The average life expectancy here is about 85, and only Hong Kong is reported to be slightly higher. By comparison, the United States life expectancy is about 79.

27A. Radio exercise tradition, one face of Japan's longevity

रेडियो व्यायाम परंपरा, जापान की दीर्घायु का एक पहलू

- This is how Japan wakes up.

यह इस तरह है कि जापान जागता है।

- It's called **Radio Taiso — Exercise Radio** — a simple yet dynamic way to start the day.

इसे रेडियो ताइसो — एकसरसाइज रेडियो कहा जाता है — दिन की शुरुआत करने का एक सरल लेकिन गतिशील तरीका।

- Japanese radio plays music every morning at **6.30** to accompany basic instructions for calisthenics, and millions perform in the choreography: in parks, workplaces, schools — and at home.

जापानी रेडियो हर सुबह **6.30 बजे** संगीत बजाता है ताकि

कैलिस्थेनिक्स के बुनियादी निर्देशों के साथ तालमेल हो सके, और लाखों लोग इस कोरियोग्राफी को पार्कों, कार्यस्थलों, स्कूलों — और घर पर करते हैं।

- **Radio Taiso** has an almost **100-year history**, formally introduced in **1928** and coinciding with the enthronement of **Emperor Hirohito**.

रेडियो ताइसो का लगभग **100 वर्षों का इतिहास** है, जिसे औपचारिक रूप से **1928** में शुरू किया गया था और यह **सम्राट हिरोहितो** के राज्याभिषेक के साथ मेल खाता है।

- The tradition endures because the exercises are suitable for all ages and capabilities, and easily accessible.

यह परंपरा इसलिए कायम है क्योंकि ये व्यायाम सभी आयु और क्षमताओं के लिए उपयुक्त हैं और आसानी से सुलभ हैं।

- We're talking about **basic exercise movements**: reach to the sky to limber up, twist at the torso, bend at the hips, swing the arms and get the shoulders loose, or jump or run in place.

हम बुनियादी व्यायाम गतिविधियों की बात कर रहे हैं: शरीर को

ढीला करने के लिए ऊपर की ओर हाथ बढ़ाना, धड़ को मोड़ना, कूल्हों पर झुकना, हाथों को घुमाना और कंधों को ढीला करना, या जगह पर कूदना या दौड़ना।

- Exercisers can make it as **strenuous** as they wish, and it's over in just **10 minutes**, all done to the rhythm of a soft piano melody.
व्यायाम करने वाले इसे अपनी इच्छा के अनुसार **कठिन** बना सकते हैं, और यह केवल **10 मिनट** में समाप्त हो जाता है, जो एक हल्की पियानो धुन की ताल पर किया जाता है।
- The routine features a trio of **three-minute segments** that get slightly more difficult — but not much.
इस दिनचर्या में **तीन-तीन मिनट के तीन भाग** होते हैं जो थोड़े अधिक कठिन होते जाते हैं — लेकिन बहुत ज्यादा नहीं।
- Most **Radio Taiso** followers know the sequences by heart.
अधिकांश **रेडियो ताइसो** अनुयायी इन क्रमों को कंठस्थ जानते हैं।
- Each movement is repeated **four to eight times** with instructions throughout to relax, breathe, and inhale and exhale slowly.



प्रत्येक गतिविधि को चार से आठ बार दोहराया जाता है, और साथ ही आराम करने, सांस लेने, और धीरे-धीरे श्वास-प्रश्वास करने के निर्देश दिए जाते हैं।

- **Kenji Iguchi** is 83 — he'd pass for 60 — and he's been a regular for about 20 years. **केनजी इगुची 83 वर्ष** के हैं — लेकिन वे 60 के लगते हैं — और वे लगभग 20 वर्षों से नियमित रूप से यह करते आ रहे हैं।
- "It's for my joints, mainly the knees and back, because of my age," he said. उन्होंने कहा, "यह मेरे जोड़ों के लिए है, मुख्य रूप से घुटनों और पीठ के लिए, मेरी उम्र के कारण।"
- **Japan** has one of the longest-lived populations on Earth, and this ritual is credited for promoting physical and social well-being. **जापान** दुनिया की सबसे अधिक दीर्घायु आबादी वाले देशों में से एक है, और इस परंपरा को शारीरिक और सामाजिक कल्याण को बढ़ावा देने का श्रेय दिया जाता है।
- The average **life expectancy** here is about 85, and only **Hong Kong** is reported to be slightly higher. यहाँ औसत **जीवन प्रत्याशा** लगभग 85 वर्ष है, और केवल **हांगकांग** को थोड़ा अधिक बताया गया है।
- By comparison, the **United States** life expectancy is about 79. तुलना में, **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** की जीवन प्रत्याशा लगभग 79 वर्ष है।

PATRIOTIC IAS