



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



PATRIOTIC IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

29 MAY 2026

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

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

PCS Special:		29 May 2026
29M	Poet Bashir Badr passes away at 91 कवि बशीर बद्र का 91 वर्ष की आयु में निधन	
29M	When legal doctrine meets absurdity, comedy, and courtroom theatrics जब विधिक सिद्धांत का सामना विसंगति, हास्य और न्यायालयीन नाटकीयता से होता है	
29M	Yemen's ex-President Hadi, who exiled to Saudi Arabia, dies सऊदी अरब में निर्वासन में रह रहे यमन के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति हादी का निधन	



Poet Bashir Badr passes away at 91

Press Trust of India
PCS

Bashir Badr, one of most quoted Urdu poets, died aged 91 in Bhopal on Thursday after a prolonged illness. Born in Ayodhya on February 15, 1935, he was renowned for his mastery of the Urdu language. 'Aas', his collection of 69 ghazals, earned him the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu in 1999.

Apart from the Padma Shri, Badr was awarded four times by the U.P. Urdu Academy and once by the Bihar Urdu Academy.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

29M. Poet Bashir Badr passes away at 91

कवि बशीर बद्र का 91 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

• **Bashir Badr**, one of most quoted Urdu poets, died aged 91 in Bhopal on Thursday after a prolonged illness.

सबसे अधिक उद्धृत किए जाने वाले उर्दू कवियों में से एक बशीर बद्र का गुरुवार को भोपाल में लंबी बीमारी के बाद 91 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

• **'Aas'**, his collection of 69 ghazals, earned him the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu in 1999.

'आस', जो उनकी 69 गज़लों का संग्रह है, ने उन्हें 1999 में उर्दू के लिए साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार दिलाया।

• Apart from the Padma Shri, Badr was awarded four times by the U.P. Urdu Academy and once by the Bihar Urdu Academy.

पद्मश्री के अतिरिक्त, बद्र को यू.पी. उर्दू अकादमी द्वारा चार बार और बिहार उर्दू अकादमी द्वारा एक बार सम्मानित किया गया।

When legal doctrine meets absurdity, comedy, and courtroom theatrics

Comic undercurrents, institutional peculiarities, and unforgettable characters lie hidden beneath the solemnity of courts and the legal profession; through judicial excess, courtroom spectacle, ghosts, and AI hallucinations, the stories reveal the human side of the administration of justice

PCS

Kartikey Singh

The law and the legal system form the foundation of societal order. Their legitimacy rests upon procedural discipline, fidelity to constitutional and statutory frameworks, and the promise that disputes will be resolved through reason. Courts are designed to embody this seriousness, with their elevated benches, solemn-looking judges, and black robes.

Yet beneath this solemnity lies a less acknowledged history of the legal profession, shaped by vanity, wit, eccentricity, bruised egos, theatricality, and episodes of absurdity that reveal how human the administration of justice has always been. It is this hidden world of law, with its comic undercurrents, institutional peculiarities, and unforgettable characters, that Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta writes about in his two recently released books, *The Lawful and the Awful: Quirky Tales from the World of Law* and *The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre: The Unfamiliar, the Curious, and the Extraordinary in Law*. These volumes, which are about foreign courts and legal systems rather than the Indian judiciary, transform humour into a mode of institutional analysis.

The weight of the robe

The Lawful and the Awful opens with a chapter titled 'Bench without Borders'. Judges, Mr. Mehta writes, are most often found in the courtroom. Like lions in a jungle, they are possessive of their jurisdiction, and when that jurisdiction is challenged, "various defensive behaviours come into play such as unrealistic expansion of authority, loud vocalisations, displays of dominance and,

at times, outright aggression". Beneath the humour lies a perceptive study of judicial temperament and the behavioural instincts that courts so often conceal beneath procedural complexity. The rest of the book bears it out, case by case.

The range in the book is extraordinary. Judge Phantly Roy Bean of Val Verde County, Texas, who dispensed justice from his tavern called the Jersey Lilly Saloon by sitting on a barrel, kept a black bear named Bruno both as a court enforcer and his pet. He selected juries from among his most regular drinking customers. He sits in the same chapter as Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys of the Bloody Assizes, who in 1685 conducted summary trials from inn to inn across England, sentencing hundreds of people to death while, contemporary accounts suggest, allowing his appetite for fine food and drink to influence his venue selection.

The centrepiece of *The Lawful and the Awful* is "The Court of One: The Inimitable Justice Scalia", a long, carefully written portrait of the American jurist whose dissents rewrote the possibilities of judicial prose.

Mr. Mehta's footnoting is impeccable. This matters as these are not apocryphal anecdotes but documented legal history, which is what gives the comedy its particular edge. In law as in life, he observes in the preface, truth is generally more ridiculous than invention. His literature endorses this view on almost every page.

Anxieties of the modern courtroom

The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre engages with an equally fascinating range of themes. It confronts the present directly: judicial bullying, the judiciary's uneasy encounter with social media, the

supernatural in courtrooms, and the vertiginous question of Artificial Intelligence in legal practice. Like its companion, the tone remains composed, observant, and frequently funny.

'The Divinity Virus: Bullies on the Bench' opens with the account of Judge Talmadge D. Littlejohn of Mississippi's 1st Chancery District, who required everyone present to stand and recite the 'Pledge of Allegiance' before proceedings commenced. The chapter records that in October 2010, when a lawyer appearing in his court declined to participate, he had to face contempt of court. The pages then throw a light on judicial excess - judges unable to restrain their tempers, repeatedly interrupting counsels, humiliating lawyers, weaponising authority through sarcasm and intimidation, and mistaking institutional power for personal infallibility. Mr. Mehta uses these incidents to reveal how quickly judicial authority, when unchecked, can slide into spectacle and outright misuse.

'Law beyond the Living: Demons, Devils, Ghosts, and God in Court', which humorously recounts people taking celestial beings to court, is the liveliest and one of the most insightful chapters in both books. Mr. Mehta revisits the case of *Stambovsky v. Ackley*, where a New York court ruled on the principle of 'buyer beware'.

The owner of a house had publicly claimed in magazines like *Reader's Digest* that the house was haunted. Later, when a buyer complained during a contract dispute, the court said the owner could not suddenly deny the ghosts existed, since she herself had promoted the house as haunted. What begins as an absurd ghost story evolves into a fascinating example of courts adjudicating questions

seemingly beyond the boundaries of law itself.

At a time when the Supreme Court has itself raised concerns over the growing use of AI in legal drafting, the chapter 'Artificially Intelligent, Legally Embarrassed: Hallucinations, Fake Citations, and the Perils of Robo-Research' is timely. Mr. Mehta observes that technology is only as effective as its users, and the legal profession, like any other profession, has its share of both those who work hard and those who work hardy.

Miscellany-at-Law series

Those who find themselves drawn deeper into this tradition of legal humour as a mode of serious inquiry would do well to turn next to the classic three-volume *Miscellany-at-Law* series by Sir Robert Megarry, an eminent British lawyer, judge, and legal author, who eventually rose to serve as the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales. Each volume is organised into chapters of themed material - judicial temperament, advocacy, absurd statutes and linguistic oddities of legal drafting.

Much like Mr. Mehta's excavations, the range of the *Miscellanies* is astonishing: a court in Charleston genuinely considering whether horses should be required to wear diapers and a court declining to classify trespassing bees as 'invitees', 'licensees', or 'trespassers'.

All these stories are documented, footnoted, and placed within their proper legal context so that the comedy, rather than displacing the doctrine, actually sharpens it.

(Kartikey Singh, lawyer, and currently working as a Law Clerk-cum-Research Associate at the Supreme Court of India)



29M. When legal doctrine meets absurdity, comedy, and courtroom theatrics जब विधिक सिद्धांत का सामना विसंगति, हास्य और न्यायालयीन नाटकीयता से होता है

- It is this hidden world of law, with its comic undercurrents, institutional peculiarities, and unforgettable characters, that **Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta** writes about in his two recently released books, **The Lawful and the Awful: Quirky Tales from the World of Law** and **The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre: The Unfamiliar, the Curious, and the Extraordinary in Law**.
विधि की इसी छिपी हुई दुनिया, जिसमें हास्यपूर्ण अंतर्धाराएँ, संस्थागत विचित्रताएँ तथा अविस्मरणीय व्यक्तित्व सम्मिलित हैं, के बारे में भारत के सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने अपनी हाल ही में प्रकाशित दो पुस्तकों **The Lawful and the Awful: Quirky Tales from the World of Law** तथा **The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre: The Unfamiliar, the Curious, and the Extraordinary in Law** में लिखा है।
- These volumes, which are about foreign courts and legal systems rather than the Indian judiciary, transform humour into a mode of institutional analysis.
ये ग्रंथ, जो भारतीय न्यायपालिका के बजाय विदेशी न्यायालयों एवं विधिक व्यवस्थाओं पर आधारित हैं, हास्य को संस्थागत विश्लेषण के एक माध्यम में परिवर्तित कर देते हैं।

The weight of the robe विधिक वस्त्र का भार

- The Lawful and the Awful** opens with a chapter titled **'Bench without Borders'**.
The Lawful and the Awful का आरंभ **'Bench without Borders'** शीर्षक वाले अध्याय से होता है।
- The centrepiece of **The Lawful and the Awful** is **'The Court of One: The Inimitable Justice Scalia'**, a long, carefully written portrait of the American jurist whose dissents rewrote the possibilities of judicial prose.

The Lawful and the Awful का केंद्रीय आकर्षण **'The Court of One: The Inimitable Justice**

Yemen's ex-President Hadi, who exiled to Saudi Arabia, dies

PCS
Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Yemen's former President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled house arrest by Houthi rebels and spent his final years in Saudi Arabia, has died, the Yemeni presidency said on Thursday.

Three days of mourning, with lowered flags and condolence books, was declared to commemorate Hadi, who oversaw a tumultuous period when the Houthis seized large swathes of Yemen, triggering a devastating civil war.

The presidency's statement praised his "wise leadership", saying he "led the Yemeni state through one of the most complex



Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi

phases the country has ever experienced, amid war, coup, and unprecedented humanitarian and economic crises".

Hadi fled to Saudi Arabia in 2015 as war erupted between the Houthis, who had forced the government from the capital Sanaa, and a Saudi-led coalition.

Scalia' है, जो उस अमेरिकी न्यायाविद् का विस्तृत एवं सावधानीपूर्वक लिखा गया चित्रण है, जिनके असहमति निर्णयों ने न्यायिक गद्य की संभावनाओं को पुनर्परिभाषित किया।

- The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre** engages with an equally fascinating range of themes.

The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre समान रूप से आकर्षक विषयों की विस्तृत श्रृंखला से संबद्ध है।

- 'The Divinity Virus: Bullies on the Bench'** opens with the account of **Judge Talmadge D. Littlejohn** of Mississippi's 1st Chancery District, who required everyone present to stand and recite the **'Pledge of Allegiance'** before proceedings commenced.

'The Divinity Virus: Bullies on the Bench' की शुरुआत मिसिसिपी के प्रथम चांसरी डिस्ट्रिक्ट के न्यायाधीश टालमेज डी. लिटलजॉन के वर्णन से होती है, जो कार्यवाही आरम्भ होने से पूर्व उपस्थित सभी लोगों को खड़े होकर **'Pledge of Allegiance'** का पाठ करने के लिए बाध्य करते थे।

29M. Yemen's ex-President Hadi, who exiled to Saudi Arabia, dies

सऊदी अरब में निर्वासन में रह रहे यमन के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति



हादी का निधन

- Yemen's former President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi**, who fled house arrest by **Houthi rebels** and spent his final years in **Saudi Arabia**, has died, the Yemeni presidency said on Thursday.
 यमन के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति अबेदरब्बो मंसूर हादी, जो हूती विद्रोहियों द्वारा नजरबंदी से भागकर अपने अंतिम वर्ष सऊदी अरब में बिताए, का निधन हो गया है। यह जानकारी गुरुवार को यमन की राष्ट्रपति संस्था ने दी।
- Hadi fled to Saudi Arabia in 2015** as war erupted between the Houthis, who had forced the government from the capital **Sanaa**, and a Saudi-led coalition.
 2015 में हादी सऊदी अरब भाग गए थे, जब राजधानी सना से सरकार को बाहर कर चुके हूती विद्रोहियों और सऊदी नेतृत्व वाले गठबंधन के बीच युद्ध छिड़ गया था।

GS Paper 1: History	29 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED	

Sacred tradition



GS I: History: ABC
Spiritual bond: Muslim pilgrims shave each other's heads, during a ritual known as 'halq', marking the completion of Haj after the symbolic stoning of the devil in Mina near the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday. AP

Spiritual bond: Muslim pilgrims shave each other's heads, during a ritual known as 'halq', marking the completion of Haj after the symbolic stoning of the devil in Mina near the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday.

GS Paper 1: Geography	29 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
29M	

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Iridescent streak



Sudden flash: Lightning illuminates the sky as a thunderstorm brings in much-needed relief after a hot day in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on May 26. Lightning has emerged as one of the most lethal natural hazards in the country. NCRB data showed that India reported over 1 lakh deaths due to lightning between 1975 and 2024. A.K. Dutt

Sudden flash: **Lightning illuminates the sky as a thunderstorm** brings in much-needed relief after a hot day in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on May 26. Lightning has emerged as one of the most lethal natural hazards in the country. **NCRB data showed that India reported over 1 lakh deaths due to lightning between 1975 and 2024.**

GS Paper II: Polity	29 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
29M	Will increasing the strength of the SC solve the pendency problem?



	क्या उच्चतम न्यायालय (SC) की न्यायाधीश संख्या बढ़ाने से लंबित मामलों की समस्या का समाधान होगा?
29M	A revival of sedition tied to consent सहमति से जुड़ा देशद्रोह कानून का पुनर्जीवन

Will increasing the strength of the SC solve the pendency problem?



Prashant Reddy T.
Legal Academic and co-author of 'Tareekh Pe Justice: Reforms for India's District Courts'



Swapnil Tripathi
leads Chakra, the constitutional law centre at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

PARLEY

In May 17, the President promulgated an ordinance increasing the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges. The move came just days after the Union Cabinet approved the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, stating that the addition of four judges would enable the top court to facilitate "speedy justice". On May 27, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the elevation of four High Court Chief Justices and senior advocate V. Mohana as judges of the top court. According to the National Judicial Data Grid, pendency before the SC currently stands at 93,966 cases. Is increasing the top court's strength an effective way to reduce pendency? Prashant Reddy T. and Swapnil Tripathi discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Aaratrika Bhaumik.

Was the ordinance route necessary to increase the top court's sanctioned strength?

Prashant Reddy: No. With Parliament set to convene within weeks, the government could easily have introduced the proposal through the ordinary legislative process. In any event, previous Bills increasing the sanctioned strength of the top court have often passed with minimal debate. In fact, in 2009, the government reportedly introduced a similar measure through a money Bill owing to its numerical disadvantage in the Rajya Sabha. Resorting to an ordinance for a measure of this nature deepens institutional scepticism and fuels unnecessary speculation about the motives of the move.

Does the Supreme Court's willingness to entertain a large number of Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) contribute to the pendency?

Swapnil Tripathi: Yes. The Constituent Assembly envisaged that the Supreme Court would exercise considerable restraint, particularly in invoking its extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution. SLPs were conceived as a remedy to be exercised sparingly. Over time, however, a substantial portion of the Supreme Court's docket has come to be dominated by SLPs. What is even more concerning is the court's persistent reluctance to formulate clear guidelines governing the exercise of this jurisdiction. The absence of any meaningful guidelines has contributed to the very accumulation of arrears the institution is now struggling to manage.

PR: The difficulty with Article 136 is that there has never been a clear consensus, even within



The Supreme Court of India.

the Constituent Assembly, on the precise role this jurisdiction was intended to perform. In most other common law jurisdictions, top courts have evolved institutional filters to regulate discretionary appeals, mindful of the finite judicial time available to them. They generally confine themselves to the most contentious or jurisprudentially significant cases. By contrast, as recently as 2016, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court declined to narrow the scope of Article 136, observing that no effort should be made to restrict the court's powers under the provision. The result is an increasingly unpredictable system in which outcomes often appear contingent on the Bench before which a matter is listed. This, in turn, fuels allegations of Bench fixing and corrupt listing practices, eroding the court's legitimacy in the eyes of the public.

Should the Court confine itself primarily to constitutional cases to reduce backlog?

PR: No. Last year, in *Vijaya Bank & Anr. versus Prashant B. Narnaware*, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court was called upon to interpret Section 27 of the Indian Contract Act. The case was about the validity of a bond clause, allowing a public sector bank to recover damages from an employee who resigned before completing a mandatory three-year service period. Although framed as a contract law dispute, the issue went to the heart of the right to work and carried significant implications for labour mobility and market competition. Questions of law with such far-reaching consequences must engage the top court's attention. The real concern is not that the Court hears such cases, but how it hears them. Matters involving substantial questions of law ought to be decided by larger Benches to ensure doctrinal consistency.

ST: I agree. The Supreme Court was never envisaged as a constitutional court alone. It was also designed to function as the country's final



The pendency crisis cannot truly be addressed unless the Supreme Court develops a more robust mechanism to filter out frivolous litigation

SWAPNIL TRIPATHI

court of appeal. Over time, however, its appellate jurisdiction has increasingly overshadowed its role in deciding constitutional questions. At the same time, the court must ensure that the inflow of routine appeals is reduced and that intervention is reserved for cases where it is genuinely warranted. I would, however, add an important caveat. Where courts are called upon to decide substantial questions of law, such matters ought ideally to be heard by larger Benches to minimise inconsistencies in interpretation among coordinate Benches.

Will increasing the Supreme Court's sanctioned strength lead to more conflicting rulings by coordinate Benches?

PR: Yes. An increase in the court's sanctioned strength is likely to result in greater doctrinal inconsistency, particularly when most judges sit in Division Benches of two. A larger number of Benches will inevitably result in a greater number of cases being entertained and, consequently, more conflicting rulings by coordinate Benches. Further, once divergent views emerge among coordinate Benches and matters require reference to larger Benches for authoritative resolution, delays are likely to become even more pronounced.

ST: I think the polyvocality of the Supreme Court is one of its strengths, but it works as a strength only when accompanied by judicial discipline. The two must complement each other. Judges may arrive at different conclusions on facts, but the application of legal principles must remain consistent.

Does the government need a more consistent litigation policy?

PR: The government was initially expected to introduce a National Litigation Policy (NLP) to reduce the overwhelming volume of cases involving the Union, State governments, and public sector undertakings that continue to clog the judicial system. The government eventually withdrew its assurance to introduce it, leaving unanswered questions about how decisions relating to government litigation are actually taken. There are numerous instances where

similar cases remain pending before different High Courts, and instead of allowing at least one High Court to conclusively adjudicate the issue, the government files transfer petitions before the Supreme Court. The result is that these cases often remain pending before the top court for several more years.

ST: The government's litigation strategy often appears to be driven by a highly result-oriented, case-to-case approach rather than any coherent policy. Courts have repeatedly questioned why the government continues to pursue virtually every dispute up to the Supreme Court, even in cases where its position is clearly unsustainable. There is also a striking lack of institutional consistency. Changes in law officers often lead to shifts in legal strategy, with successive counsels sometimes advancing positions entirely contrary to those taken earlier. Ultimately, it is the individual litigant, lacking the State's resources and institutional capacity, who suffers the most.

What are the institutional reforms required?

ST: The pendency crisis cannot truly be addressed unless the Supreme Court develops a more robust mechanism to filter out frivolous litigation. This is particularly important in the context of Public Interest Litigations (PIL). The court must strictly apply the guidelines laid down in *State of Uttaranchal versus Balwant Singh Chauhan* (2010), including ensuring that a PIL is filed for a genuine public cause and not driven by personal or political interests. As for cases already pending before the court, stricter time allocation for oral arguments is essential. Greater reliance should also be placed on written submissions so that judicial time is not consumed by prolonged hearings.

Is this an opportunity to improve gender representation on the Bench?

PR: Yes. In my view, these four additional positions ought ideally to be filled by women. There must also be greater transparency in the appointments process.

ST: A common justification offered for not appointing more women judges is that there are not enough senior women judges in the High Courts. But the convention of seniority has often been relaxed when it comes to appointing male judges to the Supreme Court.



To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

29M. Will increasing the strength of the SC solve the pendency problem?

क्या उच्चतम न्यायालय (SC) की न्यायाधीश संख्या बढ़ाने से लंबित मामलों की समस्या का समाधान होगा?

- On May 17, the President promulgated an ordinance increasing the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from **34 to 38 judges**.

17 मई को राष्ट्रपति ने एक अध्यादेश जारी कर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की स्वीकृत न्यायाधीश संख्या को 34 से बढ़ाकर 38 कर दिया।

- The move came just days after the Union Cabinet approved the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, stating that the addition of four judges would enable the top court to facilitate "speedy justice".

यह कदम केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा सर्वोच्च न्यायालय (न्यायाधीशों की संख्या) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 को मंजूरी देने के कुछ ही दिनों बाद उठाया गया, जिसमें कहा गया था कि चार अतिरिक्त न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति से सर्वोच्च न्यायालय "त्वरित न्याय" सुनिश्चित कर सकेगा।

- On May 27, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the elevation of four High Court Chief Justices and senior advocate **V. Mohana** as judges of the top court.



27 मई को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय कॉलेजियम ने चार उच्च न्यायालयों के मुख्य न्यायाधीशों तथा वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता वी. मोहना को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश के रूप में नियुक्त करने की सिफारिश की।

- According to the **National Judicial Data Grid**, pendency before the **Supreme Court** currently stands at **93,966 cases**.

राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक डेटा ग्रिड के अनुसार, वर्तमान में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में लंबित मामलों की संख्या **93,966** है।

- The **Constituent Assembly** envisaged that the **Supreme Court** would exercise considerable restraint, particularly in invoking its extraordinary jurisdiction under **Article 136** of the Constitution.

संविधान सभा ने यह परिकल्पना की थी कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय विशेष रूप से संविधान के अनुच्छेद 136 के अंतर्गत अपनी असाधारण अधिकारिता का प्रयोग अत्यंत संयम के साथ करेगा।

- **SLPs** were conceived as a remedy to be exercised sparingly.

विशेष अनुमति याचिकाओं (SLPs) की कल्पना एक ऐसे उपाय के रूप में की गई थी जिसका उपयोग सीमित परिस्थितियों में किया जाए।

- **PR:** The difficulty with **Article 136** is that there has never been a clear consensus, even within the **Constituent Assembly**, on the precise role this jurisdiction was intended to perform.

पीआर: अनुच्छेद 136 के साथ कठिनाई यह है कि स्वयं संविधान सभा के भीतर भी इस अधिकारिता की सटीक भूमिका को लेकर कभी स्पष्ट सहमति नहीं रही।

- They generally confine themselves to the **most contentious or jurisprudentially significant cases**.

वे सामान्यतः स्वयं को केवल अत्यधिक विवादास्पद या विधिशास्त्रीय दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण मामलों तक सीमित रखते हैं।

- **By contrast, as recently as 2016, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court declined to narrow the scope of Article 136, observing that no effort should be made to restrict the court's powers under the provision.**

इसके विपरीत, हाल ही में 2016 में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की एक संविधान पीठ ने अनुच्छेद 136 के दायरे को सीमित करने से इनकार करते हुए कहा था कि इस प्रावधान के अंतर्गत न्यायालय की शक्तियों को सीमित करने का कोई प्रयास नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

- This, in turn, **fuels allegations of Bench fixing and corrupt listing practices, eroding the court's legitimacy in the eyes of the public.**

इसके परिणामस्वरूप बेंच फिक्सिंग तथा भ्रष्ट सूचीकरण प्रक्रियाओं के आरोपों को बल मिलता है, जिससे जनता की दृष्टि में न्यायालय की वैधता कमजोर होती है।

Should the Court confine itself primarily to constitutional cases to reduce backlog?

क्या लंबित मामलों को कम करने के लिए न्यायालय को मुख्यतः संवैधानिक मामलों तक ही स्वयं को सीमित कर लेना चाहिए?

- Last year, in **Vijaya Bank & Anr. versus Prashant B. Narnaware**, a **Division Bench** of the **Supreme Court** was called upon to interpret **Section 27 of the Indian Contract Act**.

पिछले वर्ष, विजया बैंक एवं अन्य बनाम प्रशांत बी. नार्णवरे मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की एक खंडपीठ को भारतीय संविदा अधिनियम की धारा 27 की व्याख्या करने के लिए कहा गया था।

- The case was about the validity of a bond clause; allowing a public sector bank to recover damages from an employee who resigned before completing a mandatory three-year service period.

यह मामला एक बांड प्रावधान की वैधता से संबंधित था, जो किसी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक को उस कर्मचारी से क्षतिपूर्ति वसूलने की अनुमति देता था जिसने अनिवार्य तीन वर्ष की सेवा अवधि पूर्ण होने से पहले इस्तीफा दे दिया हो।



Will increasing the Supreme Court's sanctioned strength lead to more conflicting rulings by coordinate Benches?

क्या सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की स्वीकृत न्यायाधीश संख्या बढ़ाने से समकक्ष पीठों के परस्पर विरोधी निर्णयों में वृद्धि होगी?

- **PR:** Yes.
पीआर: हाँ।
- An increase in the court's sanctioned strength is likely to result in greater doctrinal inconsistency, particularly when most judges sit in **Division Benches** of two.
न्यायालय की स्वीकृत संख्या में वृद्धि से विधिक सिद्धांतों में अधिक असंगति उत्पन्न होने की संभावना है, विशेषकर तब जब अधिकांश न्यायाधीश दो-सदस्यीय **खंडपीठों** में बैठते हैं।

Does the government need a more consistent litigation policy?

क्या सरकार को अधिक सुसंगत मुकदमेबाजी नीति की आवश्यकता है?

- **PR:** The government was initially expected to introduce a **National Litigation Policy (NLP)** to reduce the overwhelming volume of cases involving the Union, State governments, and public sector undertakings that continue to clog the judicial system.
पीआर: प्रारंभ में यह अपेक्षा की गई थी कि सरकार **राष्ट्रीय मुकदमेबाजी नीति (NLP)** प्रस्तुत करेगी ताकि केंद्र, राज्य सरकारों और सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों से जुड़े अत्यधिक मामलों के बोझ को कम किया जा सके, जो न्यायिक व्यवस्था को अवरुद्ध करते रहते हैं।
- The government eventually withdrew its assurance to introduce it, leaving unanswered questions about how decisions relating to government litigation are actually taken.
अंततः सरकार ने इसे लागू करने संबंधी अपना आश्वासन वापस ले लिया, जिससे यह प्रश्न अनुत्तरित रह गया कि सरकारी मुकदमों से संबंधित निर्णय वास्तव में किस प्रकार लिए जाते हैं।
- There are numerous instances where similar cases remain pending before different **High Courts**, and instead of allowing at least one High Court to conclusively adjudicate the issue, the government files transfer petitions before the **Supreme Court**.
ऐसे अनेक उदाहरण हैं जहाँ समान प्रकार के मामले विभिन्न **उच्च न्यायालयों** में लंबित रहते हैं, और कम-से-कम एक उच्च न्यायालय को अंतिम निर्णय देने की अनुमति देने के बजाय सरकार **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** में स्थानांतरण याचिकाएँ दायर कर देती है।
- The result is that these cases often remain pending before the top court for several more years.
परिणामस्वरूप ये मामले सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में कई और वर्षों तक लंबित बने रहते हैं।
- **ST:** The government's litigation strategy often appears to be driven by a highly result-oriented, case-to-case approach rather than any coherent policy.
एसटी: सरकार की मुकदमेबाजी रणनीति अक्सर किसी सुसंगत नीति के बजाय अत्यधिक परिणाम-केंद्रित और मामले-दर-मामले दृष्टिकोण से प्रेरित दिखाई देती है।
- Courts have repeatedly questioned why the government continues to pursue virtually every dispute up to the **Supreme Court**, even in cases where its position is clearly unsustainable.
न्यायालयों ने बार-बार यह प्रश्न उठाया है कि सरकार लगभग प्रत्येक विवाद को **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** तक क्यों ले जाती है, यहाँ तक कि उन मामलों में भी जहाँ उसका पक्ष स्पष्ट रूप से टिकाऊ नहीं होता।

What are the institutional reforms required?

कौन-से संस्थागत सुधार आवश्यक हैं?

- **ST:** The pendency crisis cannot truly be addressed unless the **Supreme Court** develops a more robust mechanism to filter out frivolous litigation.
एसटी: लंबित मामलों के संकट का वास्तविक समाधान तब तक संभव नहीं है जब तक **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** तुच्छ एवं निरर्थक मुकदमों को छोटने के लिए अधिक सुदृढ़ तंत्र विकसित नहीं करता।



- This is particularly important in the context of **Public Interest Litigations (PIL)**. यह विशेष रूप से **जनहित याचिकाओं (PIL)** के संदर्भ में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The court must strictly apply the guidelines laid down in **State of Uttaranchal versus Balwant Singh Chauhal (2010)**, including ensuring that a **PIL** is filed for a genuine public cause and not driven by personal or political interests.

न्यायालय को **स्टेट ऑफ उत्तरांचल बनाम बलवंत सिंह चौहल (2010)** में निर्धारित दिशानिर्देशों का कठोरता से पालन करना चाहिए, जिसमें यह सुनिश्चित करना भी शामिल है कि **PIL** वास्तविक जनहित के लिए दायर की गई हो, न कि व्यक्तिगत या राजनीतिक हितों से प्रेरित हो।

A revival of sedition tied to consent

The Supreme Court's May 21 clarification partially revives sedition proceedings under Section 124A for consenting accused persons; the direction creates disparity in the working of Section 124A and leaves accused caught between trial under an undecided law and indefinite limbo

CS II: Polity

LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant clarified on May 21 that courts may proceed with trials, appeals and proceedings under Section 124A of the now-repealed Indian Penal Code if the accused raise no objection. In effect, the direction partially revived the paused colonial-era sedition provision for those willing to face trial.

The direction came in a special leave petition filed by a person anxious about his nearly-decade-old appeal against conviction under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Arms Act, and several provisions of the IPC, including Section 124A.

He and his co-accused were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Sessions Court in Madhya Pradesh in February 2017. Their appeal before the State High Court had remained in limbo after the Supreme Court ordered all ongoing and future proceedings under Section 124A to be kept in abeyance in an interim order on May 11, 2022.

The Supreme Court Bench found that the High Court "appeared reluctant" to hear the appeal while the May 2022 order remained in force. The appellant in this case, Kamran, submitted that he was willing to let the High Court hear the appeal in its entirety, including with respect to sedition.

The Bench relented by passing a general direction that sedition proceedings under Section 124A against consenting accused persons, like Kamran, should go ahead. The court's decision, apparently, was guided by speedy trial and closure for the accused and reducing the burden on the justice administration system, already groaning under a backlog.

Constitutional questions

However, on the flip side, the Supreme Court's clarification has exposed consenting accused persons to be subject to a provision which both the court and the government had considered suspect in 2022. The challenge to the



GETTY IMAGES

constitutionality of Section 124A is pending in the Supreme Court. Multiple writ petitions in *S.G. Vombatkere versus Union of India* had challenged Section 124A for violating foundational rights.

The pendency of the Vombatkere petitions raises the question whether lower courts would pronounce a judgment on guilt when the constitutionality of the provision was itself suspect. Besides, the May 21 clarification was passed in an unconnected case, *Kamran versus State of Madhya Pradesh*, without issuing notice to or hearing the petitioners in the Vombatkere group of matters.

Practical problems may also arise for lower courts if one accused is willing to be tried under Section 124A while his co-accused may not. The answer lies in deciding the petitions challenging the colonial provision, and not delivering stopgap clarifications.

The clarification of May 21 further rebels against the fundamental right of "equality before the law". The interim order of May 2022 had expressed the Supreme Court's "hope and expectation" that the government would not register any fresh FIRs, continue investigation or take coercive measures against people under Section 124A while the challenge to the provision was still alive in the apex court. The order had given affected

parties, against whom Section 124A was invoked, liberty to approach courts for relief. It had gone to the extent of directing that adjudication with respect to connected Sections in such cases would proceed only if courts were of the opinion that no prejudice would be caused to the accused. None of these directions was modified on May 21.

Unequal consequences

The clarification may lead to a visible disparity in the working of Section 124A. Trials and court proceedings would resume against the accused who may have consented out of a sense of anguish or were sure of their innocence, while others, not so frantic for closure, would opt to quietly wait it out till the apex court finally decided on the legality of Section 124A. The Supreme Court's prolonged delay on the Vombatkere petitions leaves vulnerable citizens stranded between a rock and a hard place: either consent to a trial under an undecided law, which carries a life imprisonment, or endure indefinite limbo.

Again, the May 21 direction would mean trial and appeals would resume for consenting accused on a provision which the apex court and the Centre had agreed in 2022 was not in tune with the current social milieu, and was intended for a time when this country was under the colonial

regime. The Attorney General had, at the time, shared instances of glaring misuse of Section 124A, like when an independent MP and her husband were booked under Section 124A after they threatened to recite the *Hanuman Chalisa* outside the private residence of a former Maharashtra Chief Minister.

The offence of sedition has been traced to the Statute of Westminster 1275, when the King was considered the holder of the Divine right. Pre-dating the Constitution, the provision has been viewed with suspicion in Independent India. The country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, had described the Section on the floor of the Provisional Parliament in 1951 as "highly objectionable and obnoxious". In 1962, the Supreme Court in *Kedar Nath Singh versus State of Bihar* read it down to say that a "citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about the government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, so long as he does not incite people to violence or with an intention of creating public disorder".

Burden on State

Even Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, considered a successor to Section 124A, is under challenge in the Supreme Court for its ambiguity, cloaking an immense capacity to have a chilling effect on free speech and expression.

The current challenges to sedition provisions urge the Supreme Court to conform to post-Kedar Nath precedents like *R.C. Cooper, Indira Gandhi versus Raj Narain* and *I.R. Coelho*, which established that fundamental rights did not reside in isolated silos or watertight compartments – a curtailment of free speech brought about by a charge under Section 124A or Section 152 would also affect the right to life and personal liberty. The content of each fundamental right animates the others.

The burden is on the State to establish that a "rights-limiting" sedition provision is necessary in a democratic society. It should not be left to affected parties to consent to sedition proceedings out of sheer desperation caused by a delay to decide the constitutionality of Section 124A by none other than the highest court of the country.

THE GIST

▼ The May 21 clarification allow trials, appeals and proceedings under Section 124A to go ahead for accused persons willing to face trial, even as they challenge to the constitutionality of the provision remains pending in the Supreme Court.

▼ The prolonged delay in deciding the Vombatkere petitions leaves vulnerable citizens between consenting to proceedings under a colonial-era law carrying life imprisonment or remaining in prolonged limbo.

29M. A revival of sedition tied to consent

सहमति से जुड़ा देशद्रोह कानून का पुनर्जीवन

- The direction creates disparity in the working of **Section 124A** and leaves accused **caught between trial under an undecided law and indefinite limbo**.

यह निर्देश धारा 124A के क्रियान्वयन में असमानता उत्पन्न करता है और आरोपितों को एक अनिर्णीत कानून के अंतर्गत मुकदमे तथा अनिश्चितकालीन अधर की स्थिति के बीच फँसा छोड़ देता है।

- A **three-judge Bench** headed by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** clarified on **May 21** that courts may proceed with trials, **appeals and proceedings under Section 124A** of the now-repealed **Indian Penal Code** if the accused raise no objection.



भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत की अध्यक्षता वाली तीन-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने 21 मई को स्पष्ट किया कि यदि अभियुक्त कोई आपत्ति नहीं उठाते हैं, तो न्यायालय अब निरस्त हो चुकी भारतीय दंड संहिता की धारा 124A के अंतर्गत मुकदमों, अपीलों और कार्यवाहियों को आगे बढ़ा सकते हैं।

- The direction came in a **special leave petition** filed by a person anxious about his nearly-decade-old appeal against conviction under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**, the **Arms Act**, and several provisions of the IPC, including **Section 124A**. यह निर्देश एक ऐसे व्यक्ति द्वारा दायर **विशेष अनुमति याचिका** में आया, जो **गैरकानूनी गतिविधियाँ (निवारण) अधिनियम**, **शस्त्र अधिनियम**, तथा **धारा 124A** सहित भारतीय दंड संहिता की विभिन्न धाराओं के अंतर्गत अपनी लगभग दशक पुरानी दोषसिद्धि के विरुद्ध लंबित अपील को लेकर चिंतित था।
- Their appeal before the State High Court had remained in limbo after the Supreme Court ordered all ongoing and future proceedings under Section 124A to be kept in abeyance in an interim order on May 11, 2022.** उनकी अपील राज्य उच्च न्यायालय में लंबित रह गई थी, क्योंकि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 11 मई 2022 के अंतरिम आदेश में धारा 124A के अंतर्गत सभी वर्तमान और भविष्य की कार्यवाहियों को स्थगित रखने का निर्देश दिया था।
- The Bench relented by passing a general direction that **sedition proceedings under Section 124A against consenting accused persons, like Kamran, should go ahead.** पीठ ने यह सामान्य निर्देश जारी करते हुए राहत दी कि **कमरान** जैसे सहमत अभियुक्तों के विरुद्ध धारा 124A के अंतर्गत राजद्रोह संबंधी कार्यवाहियाँ जारी रहनी चाहिए।
- The court's decision, apparently, was guided by **speedy trial and closure for the accused and reducing the burden on the justice administration system**, already groaning under a backlog. न्यायालय का यह निर्णय स्पष्टतः अभियुक्तों के लिए त्वरित सुनवाई और मामले के निस्तारण को सुनिश्चित करने तथा पहले से लंबित मामलों के बोझ से दबे न्याय प्रशासन तंत्र पर भार कम करने की दृष्टि से प्रेरित था।

Constitutional questions

संवैधानिक प्रश्न

- The **challenge to the constitutionality of Section 124A is pending in the Supreme Court.** धारा 124A की संवैधानिक वैधता को चुनौती देने वाला मामला अभी भी सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में लंबित है।
- Multiple writ petitions in **S.G. Vombatkere versus Union of India** had challenged **Section 124A for violating foundational rights.** एस.जी. वॉबटकेरे बनाम भारत संघ में दायर अनेक रिट याचिकाओं ने धारा 124A को मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करने वाला बताते हुए चुनौती दी थी।
- The pendency of the **Vombatkere** petitions raises the question whether lower courts would **pronounce a judgment on guilt when the constitutionality of the provision was itself suspect.** वॉबटकेरे याचिकाओं के लंबित रहने से यह प्रश्न उत्पन्न होता है कि क्या निचली अदालतें दोषसिद्धि पर निर्णय दे सकती हैं, जबकि स्वयं उस प्रावधान की संवैधानिक वैधता ही संदेहास्पद है।
- Besides, the **May 21** clarification was passed in an unconnected case, **Kamran versus State of Madhya Pradesh**, without issuing notice to or hearing the petitioners in the **Vombatkere** group of matters. इसके अतिरिक्त, 21 मई की स्पष्टता एक असंबद्ध मामले, **कमरान बनाम मध्य प्रदेश राज्य**, में पारित की गई थी, बिना वॉबटकेरे समूह के मामलों के याचिकाकर्ताओं को नोटिस जारी किए या उनकी सुनवाई किए।
- Practical problems may also arise for lower courts if one accused is willing to be tried under Section 124A while his co-accused may not.** यदि एक अभियुक्त धारा 124A के अंतर्गत मुकदमे का सामना करने को तैयार हो जबकि उसका सह-अभियुक्त तैयार न हो, तो इससे निचली अदालतों के समक्ष व्यावहारिक समस्याएँ भी उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।



- The clarification of **May 21** further rebels against the fundamental right of 'equality before the law'.
21 मई की यह स्पष्टता 'कानून के समक्ष समानता' के मौलिक अधिकार के भी प्रतिकूल प्रतीत होती है।
- The interim order of **May 2022** had expressed the **Supreme Court's** "hope and expectation" that the government would not register any fresh FIRs, continue investigation or take coercive measures against people under **Section 124A** while the challenge to the provision was still alive in the apex court.
मई 2022 के अंतरिम आदेश में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने "आशा और अपेक्षा" व्यक्त की थी कि जब तक इस प्रावधान को चुनौती देने वाला मामला सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में लंबित है, तब तक सरकार धारा 124A के अंतर्गत कोई नई एफआईआर दर्ज नहीं करेगी, जाँच जारी नहीं रखेगी और न ही लोगों के विरुद्ध दमनात्मक कदम उठाएगी।
- The country's first Prime Minister, **Jawaharlal Nehru**, had described the Section on the floor of the Provisional Parliament in 1951 as "highly objectionable and obnoxious".
देश के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री **जवाहरलाल नेहरू** ने 1951 में अस्थायी संसद में इस धारा को "अत्यंत आपत्तिजनक और घृणित" बताया था।
- In 1962, the Supreme Court in **Kedar Nath Singh versus State of Bihar** read it down to say that a "citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about the government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, so long as he does not incite people to violence or with an intention of creating public disorder".
1962 में **केदार नाथ सिंह बनाम बिहार राज्य** मामले में उच्चतम न्यायालय ने इसकी व्याख्या सीमित करते हुए कहा था कि "एक नागरिक को सरकार अथवा उसकी नीतियों के विषय में आलोचना या टिप्पणी के रूप में जो चाहे कहने या लिखने का अधिकार है, जब तक कि वह लोगों को हिंसा के लिए उकसाता न हो अथवा सार्वजनिक अव्यवस्था उत्पन्न करने का उद्देश्य न रखता हो।"

Burden on State राज्य पर दायित्व

- Even **Section 152** of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**, considered a successor to **Section 124A**, is under challenge in the Supreme Court for its ambiguity, cloaking an immense capacity to have a chilling effect on free speech and expression.
भारतीय न्याय संहिता की धारा 152, जिसे धारा 124A का उत्तराधिकारी माना जाता है, भी अपनी अस्पष्टता के कारण उच्चतम न्यायालय में चुनौती के अधीन है, क्योंकि उसमें अभिव्यक्ति और वाक् स्वतंत्रता पर भयकारी प्रभाव डालने की अत्यधिक क्षमता निहित है।
- The current challenges to sedition provisions urge the Supreme Court to conform to post-**Kedar Nath** precedents like **R.C. Cooper, Indira Gandhi versus Raj Narain** and **I.R. Coelho**, which established that fundamental rights did not reside in isolated silos or watertight compartments — a curtailment of free speech brought about by a charge under **Section 124A** or **Section 152** would also affect the right to life and personal liberty.
राजद्रोह संबंधी प्रावधानों को दी गई वर्तमान चुनौतियाँ उच्चतम न्यायालय से आग्रह करती हैं कि वह **केदार नाथ** के बाद के निर्णयों जैसे **आर.सी. कूपर, इंदिरा गांधी बनाम राज नारायण** तथा **आई.आर. कोएलो** के अनुरूप चले, जिन्होंने स्थापित किया कि मौलिक अधिकार पृथक या पूर्णतः अलग-अलग खों में सीमित नहीं रहते — धारा 124A अथवा धारा 152 के अंतर्गत लगाए गए आरोपों से उत्पन्न अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर प्रतिबंध, जीवन और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार को भी प्रभावित करेगा।

GS Paper II: International Relations		29 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
29M	Myanmar President Hlaing to visit India; exiled govt. protests म्यांमार के राष्ट्रपति हलाइंग भारत दौरे पर आएंगे; निर्वासित सरकार ने विरोध जताया	



29M China to send delegation of army scholars to key defence summit

चीन प्रमुख रक्षा शिखर सम्मेलन में सेना के विद्वानों का प्रतिनिधिमंडल भेजेगा

Myanmar President Hlaing to visit India; exiled govt. protests

GS II: IR

Kaloi Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing will visit India from May 30 to June 3, the External Affairs Ministry announced on Thursday. This will be the first foreign visit by President Hlaing since he won the controversial election (December 2025-January 2026) that excluded political parties of the Opposition.

The Opposition National Unity Government (NUG) has protested against the announced visit, describing Mr. Hlaing as a "terrorist junta leader" who is attacking Myanmar's people. "Myanmar lies at the confluence of India's neighbourhood First, Act East and MAHASAGAR policies. The official visit of President U Min Aung Hlaing to India is expected to further strengthen and deepen the multi-faceted relations between the two countries," the Ministry said. The visit will be keenly watched as it comes against the backdrop of intensifying Myanmar mili-

India-based Myanmar opposition groups have announced they will hold protests during the visit

tary attacks on rebel targets in Chin state, close to Mizoram, that is known for rare earth minerals.

India-based Myanmar opposition groups have announced they will hold protests coinciding with the visit.

Mr. Hlaing will begin his visit from Bodh Gaya where he is expected to offer prayers at the Maha Bodhi temple and meet resident Myanmar nationals and monks. The Ministry said the President will be accompanied by a "high-level delegation comprising Cabinet Ministers, senior officials, and business leaders". He will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 1 and participate in a Myanmar-India business forum in Delhi. He is next scheduled to visit Mumbai for meetings with business leaders and industrialists.

29M. Myanmar President Hlaing to visit India; exiled govt. protests

म्यांमार के राष्ट्रपति हलाइंग भारत दौरे पर आएंगे; निर्वासित सरकार ने विरोध जताया

• "Myanmar lies at the confluence of India's Neighbourhood First, Act East and MAHASAGAR policies."

"म्यांमार भारत की Neighbourhood First, Act East और MAHASAGAR नीतियों के संगम पर स्थित है।"

• The visit will be keenly watched as it comes against the backdrop of intensifying Myanmar military attacks on rebel targets in Chin state, close to Mizoram, that is known for rare earth minerals.

यह यात्रा ऐसे समय हो रही है जब म्यांमार की सेना मिजोरम के निकट स्थित चिन राज्य में विद्रोही ठिकानों पर हमले तेज कर रही है, जो रेयर अर्थ मिनरल्स के लिए जाना जाता है।

• Mr. Hlaing will begin his visit from Bodh Gaya where he is expected to offer prayers at the Maha Bodhi temple and meet resident Myanmar nationals and monks.

श्री हलाइंग अपनी यात्रा की शुरुआत बोधगया से करेंगे, जहाँ वे महाबोधि मंदिर में प्रार्थना करेंगे और वहाँ रह रहे म्यांमार के नागरिकों तथा भिक्षुओं से मुलाकात करेंगे।

BELJING

China to send delegation of army scholars to key defence summit



GS II: IR

China said on Thursday it will send a delegation of scholars from its army's study institutions to attend Asia's premier security forum in Singapore. The Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's top international defence summit, kicks off in the city-state on Friday. The meeting will be attended by U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth this year. AFP

सम्मेलन में सेना के विद्वानों का प्रतिनिधिमंडल भेजेगा

- China said on Thursday it will send a delegation of scholars from its army's study institutions to attend Asia's premier security forum in Singapore. चीन ने गुरुवार को कहा कि वह अपनी सेना के अध्ययन संस्थानों के विद्वानों का एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल सिंगापुर में आयोजित एशिया के प्रमुख सुरक्षा मंच में भाग लेने के लिए भेजेगा।
- The Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's top international defence summit, kicks off in the city-state on Friday. शांगरी-ला डायलॉग, जो एशिया का प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय रक्षा शिखर सम्मेलन है, शुक्रवार से इस नगर-राज्य में शुरू होगा।

GS Paper III: Economy

TOPICS COVERED

29 May 2026



29M India, Korea agree to address India's growing bilateral trade deficit
भारत और कोरिया ने भारत के बढ़ते द्विपक्षीय व्यापार घाटे को दूर करने पर सहमति जताई

India, Korea agree to address India's growing bilateral trade deficit

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The negotiating teams of India and South Korea concluded the 12th round of negotiations on upgrading the existing trade agreement between the two countries, with South Korea agreeing to address India's growing bilateral trade deficit, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Thursday.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo had in April 2026 signed a joint declaration to accelerate negotiations to upgrade the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IK CEPA), which had come into force in 2010.

The 12th round of the upgrade negotiations was held in New Delhi on May

The 12th round of the upgrade negotiations was held in New Delhi on May 25-27, 2026

25-27, 2026. "Both sides acknowledged India's bilateral trade deficit, which has risen significantly since the IK CEPA came into force in 2010, and agreed to address the issue within the overall IK CEPA framework," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

India's trade deficit with South Korea stood at \$15.6 billion in 2025-26, compared with \$5.1 billion in the financial year ended March 2010. "During the current round, discussions were held on trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin and origin procedures, investment,

and sanitary and phytosanitary standards," it added.

The two sides also decided to constitute sub-groups to discuss cooperation in the areas of digital trade, supply chain cooperation, and strategic industrial cooperation.

"India and Korea reaffirmed their commitment to conclude the CEPA upgrade negotiations in a time-bound manner, with the objective of achieving a modernised and mutually beneficial agreement that supports the shared vision of balanced bilateral trade and enhanced cooperation," the statement said.

The negotiations were co-chaired by Kapil Chaudhary, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce and Park Geun-oh, Director General for Trade Agreement Policy in the Republic of Korea.

29M. India, Korea agree to address India's growing bilateral trade deficit
भारत और कोरिया ने भारत के बढ़ते द्विपक्षीय व्यापार घाटे को दूर करने पर सहमति जताई

• Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo had in April 2026 signed a joint declaration to accelerate negotiations to upgrade the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IK CEPA).

वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल और दक्षिण कोरिया के व्यापार मंत्री यो हान-कू ने अप्रैल 2026 में भारत-कोरिया व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौते (IK CEPA) को उन्नत बनाने हेतु वार्ता में तेजी लाने के लिए संयुक्त घोषणा पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे।

• Which had come into force in 2010.

जो 2010 में लागू हुआ था।

• The 12th round of the upgrade negotiations was held in New Delhi on May 25-27, 2026.

उन्नयन वार्ता का 12वाँ दौर 25-27 मई 2026 को नई

दिल्ली में आयोजित किया गया।

• "Both sides acknowledged India's bilateral trade deficit, which has risen significantly since the IK CEPA came into force in 2010."

"दोनों पक्षों ने भारत के द्विपक्षीय व्यापार घाटे को स्वीकार किया, जो 2010 में IK CEPA लागू होने के बाद से काफी बढ़ गया है।"

• India's trade deficit with South Korea stood at \$15.6 billion in 2025-26, compared with \$5.1 billion in the financial year ended March 2010.

दक्षिण कोरिया के साथ भारत का व्यापार घाटा 2025-26 में 15.6 अरब डॉलर रहा, जबकि मार्च 2010 में समाप्त वित्तीय वर्ष में यह 5.1 अरब डॉलर था।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		29 May 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
29M	Chandrayaan-2 identifies 'possible presence' of ice in lunar south pole चंद्रयान-2 ने चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर बर्फ की 'संभावित उपस्थिति' की पहचान की	
29M	Colour blindness: a hidden vision condition many don't realise they have वर्णान्धता: एक छिपी हुई दृष्टि स्थिति जिसके बारे में अनेक लोगों को यह एहसास नहीं होता कि वे इससे प्रभावित हैं	
29M	Quantum-safe thinking क्वांटम-सुरक्षित चिंतन	



29M	QUIZ
29M	Coal gasification can help substitute imports of up to ₹3 lakh crore, says Reddy कोयला गैसीकरण ₹3 लाख करोड़ तक के आयात का विकल्प बन सकता है, बोले रेड्डी
29M	Global heat likely to shatter records in next five years: UN climate report अगले पाँच वर्षों में वैश्विक गर्मी रिकॉर्ड तोड़ सकती है: संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु रिपोर्ट

Chandrayaan-2 identifies 'possible presence' of ice in lunar south pole

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nearly six years after it was launched, India's second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 continues to provide valuable data on the satellite.

In a new finding, scientists have found the possible presence of sub-surface ice in the Lunar South Polar Region. These were the findings of scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) who used observations from the Chandrayaan-2's Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR) payload.

In this study, the scientists focused on doubly



Lunar shades: In the study, the scientists focused on special craters located in permanently shadowed regions of the moon. PTI

shadowed craters, which are special craters located in permanently shadowed regions (PSRs) of the moon.

Due to continuous shielding from sunlight

and thermal radiation, these regions remain extremely cold (temperatures -25K) and are considered favourable locations for preserving water-ice over long geological times-

cales. Using advanced radar polarimetric analysis, the scientists identified radar signatures consistent with the possible presence of sub-surface ice beneath the floors of four doubly shadowed craters in the lunar South Polar Region.

"Among the investigated craters, one crater of 1.1 km diameter within the Faustini crater shows particularly strong evidence of sub-surface ice, supported by both radar observations and distinctive lobate-rim morphological characteristics," the ISRO added.

The findings are expected to have significant implications for future lunar exploration missions.

29M. Chandrayaan-2 identifies 'possible presence' of ice in lunar south pole चंद्रयान-2 ने चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर बर्फ की 'संभावित उपस्थिति' की पहचान की

- Nearly six years after it was launched, India's second moon mission **Chandrayaan-2** continues to provide valuable data on the satellite.
लॉन्च होने के लगभग छह वर्ष बाद भी भारत का दूसरा चंद्र मिशन **चंद्रयान-2** उपग्रह के बारे में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी प्रदान करता जा रहा है।
- In a new finding, scientists have found the possible presence of sub-surface ice in the **Lunar South Polar Region**.
एक नई खोज में वैज्ञानिकों ने चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुवीय क्षेत्र में सतह के नीचे बर्फ की संभावित उपस्थिति पाई है।
- These were the findings of scientists from the **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)** who used observations from the **Chandrayaan-2's Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR) payload**.
ये निष्कर्ष भौतिक अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला (PRL) के वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा निकाले गए, जिन्होंने चंद्रयान-2 के ड्यूल फ्रीक्वेंसी सिंथेटिक अपर्चर रडार (DFSAR) पेलोड के अवलोकनों का उपयोग किया।



- In this study, the scientists focused on **doubly shadowed craters**. इस अध्ययन में वैज्ञानिकों ने दोहरी छाया वाले क्रेटरों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।
- These are special craters located in permanently shadowed regions (PSRs) of the moon.** ये चंद्रमा के स्थायी रूप से छायायुक्त क्षेत्रों (PSRs) में स्थित विशेष क्रेटर हैं।
- Due to continuous shielding from sunlight and thermal radiation, these regions remain extremely cold (temperatures -25K).** सूर्य के प्रकाश और तापीय विकिरण से लगातार सुरक्षित रहने के कारण ये क्षेत्र अत्यधिक ठंडे रहते हैं (तापमान -25K)।
- These regions are considered favourable locations for preserving water-ice over long geological timescales.** इन क्षेत्रों को लंबे भूवैज्ञानिक समय तक जल-बर्फ को संरक्षित रखने के लिए अनुकूल स्थान माना जाता है।
- Using advanced radar polarimetric analysis, the scientists identified radar signatures consistent with the possible presence of sub-surface ice beneath the floors of four doubly shadowed craters in the lunar South Polar Region.** उन्नत रडार पोलारिमेट्रिक विश्लेषण का उपयोग करते हुए वैज्ञानिकों ने चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुवीय क्षेत्र के चार दोहरी छाया वाले क्रेटरों की सतह के नीचे बर्फ की संभावित उपस्थिति के अनुरूप रडार संकेतों की पहचान की।
- “Among the investigated craters, one crater of 1.1 km diameter within the Faustini crater shows particularly strong evidence of sub-surface ice.”**
“जांच किए गए क्रेटरों में से **Faustini crater** के भीतर स्थित **1.1 किमी व्यास** वाला एक क्रेटर सतह के नीचे बर्फ के विशेष रूप से मजबूत प्रमाण दिखाता है।”

Colour blindness: a hidden vision condition many don't realise they have

CS III: S&T
Lakshmi S.

Despite being prevalent among Indians, knowledge and understanding of colour blindness in India is extremely poor. Most of the general population believes that colour blindness is when one sees the world only in shades of black and white. But this is not the case: most people with colour blindness cannot discriminate only between certain colours, namely red-green or blue-yellow combinations. The disorder is congenital and thus, many people may be unaware of their condition all their lives.

Indian scenario

According to various studies in India, around 8% of men and 0.5% of women suffer from colour blindness, which means almost 70 million Indians are potentially colour blind. Red-green type of this vision

problem is the most common type of colour blindness, caused by a gene mutation located on the X chromosome. Thus, since men have just one X chromosome, they are much more susceptible to inheriting this condition from their parents compared to women.

A serious problem with colour-blindness is that this condition influences one's life unnoticed. Common problems that people with this condition might face on daily basis range from the serious to the minor: misinterpreting traffic lights, a negative impact on academic performance of students, an inability to match clothes, problems working with colour-coded charts or maps, issues with choosing ripe fruit, and problems with interpreting colour signals. Many of these issues can go unnoticed until the person gets diagnosed with the problem.

It should be noted that there are



Colour clarity: According to various studies in India, around 8% of men and 0.5% of women suffer from colour blindness. GETTY IMAGES

multiple types of colour blindness. For example, red-green is the most common type, while blue-yellow type and complete colour blindness

are rather uncommon. Besides, while this problem is usually genetic, it can also develop due to diabetes mellitus, glaucoma, cataracts, retinal

diseases, optic nerve disease, brain injury, with ageing and certain medicines.

Any changes in colour vision should be checked by an ophthalmologist, as it can mean an underlying serious eye or neurological condition.

Testing of colour vision is necessary for children and adults who have diabetes or any chronic eye diseases. Unfortunately, colour blindness awareness is not high enough in India to allow for testing in schools for every child.

Addressing myths

There are also certain myths that should be addressed. First of all, it is a misconception that colour blindness leads to total blindness. It also has no connection to intelligence. Despite the fact that there are no ways to treat genetically-determined colour blindness permanently, some

individuals can be helped by colour-filter glasses, which allow for discriminating between different colours. However, there is no permanent cure for colour blindness.

More awareness

Schools, workplaces, and other areas use colour codes extensively, making the creation of colourblind-friendly environments necessary. Teachers and other educators need to be aware that students should not be punished for colour blindness.

Accommodating this need in individuals may involve the use of labels instead of colours, adding patterns or symbols, improving lighting, and using certain apps that can help identify colours.

(Dr. Lakshmi S. is head, clinical services, Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, Chennai.
omprakash.lakshmi@yahoo.com

29M. Colour blindness: a hidden vision condition many don't realise they have

वर्णान्धता: एक छिपी हुई दृष्टि स्थिति जिसके बारे में अनेक लोगों को यह एहसास नहीं होता कि वे इससे प्रभावित हैं

- Most of the general population believes that **colour blindness is when one sees the world only in shades of black and white**. अधिकांश सामान्य जनसंख्या यह मानती है कि रंगांधता का अर्थ है दुनिया को केवल काले और सफेद रंगों की छायाओं में देखना।
- But this is not the case: **most people with colour blindness cannot discriminate only between certain colours, namely red-green or blue-yellow combinations**. किन्तु यह सत्य नहीं है: अधिकांश रंगांध व्यक्ति केवल कुछ विशेष रंगों, जैसे लाल-हरा या नीला-पीला संयोजनों के बीच अंतर नहीं कर पाते हैं।



- The disorder is congenital and thus, many people may be unaware of their condition all their lives.
यह विकार जन्मजात होता है और इसलिए अनेक लोग अपने पूरे जीवन में अपनी इस स्थिति से अनभिज्ञ रह सकते हैं।
- **Indian scenario**
भारतीय परिदृश्य
- According to various studies in India, around 8% of men and 0.5% of women suffer from colour blindness, which means almost 70 million Indians are potentially colour blind.
भारत में विभिन्न अध्ययनों के अनुसार, लगभग 8% पुरुष और 0.5% महिलाएँ रंगांधता से पीड़ित हैं, जिसका अर्थ है कि लगभग 7 करोड़ भारतीय संभावित रूप से रंगांध हैं।
- Red-green type of this vision problem is the most common type of colour blindness, caused by a gene mutation located on the X chromosome.
इस दृष्टि समस्या का लाल-हरा प्रकार रंगांधता का सबसे सामान्य रूप है, जो X गुणसूत्र पर स्थित जीन उत्परिवर्तन के कारण होता है।
- Thus, since men have just one X chromosome, they are much more susceptible to inheriting this condition from their parents compared to women.
इस प्रकार, चूँकि पुरुषों में केवल एक X गुणसूत्र होता है, इसलिए वे महिलाओं की तुलना में अपने माता-पिता से इस स्थिति को प्राप्त करने के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील होते हैं।
- Common problems that people with this condition might face on daily basis range from the serious to the minor: misinterpreting traffic lights, a negative impact on academic performance of students, an inability to match clothes, problems working with colour-coded charts or maps, issues with choosing ripe fruit, and problems with interpreting colour signals.
इस स्थिति वाले लोगों को दैनिक जीवन में गंभीर से लेकर सामान्य तक अनेक समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ सकता है: ट्रैफिक लाइटों को गलत समझना, विद्यार्थियों के शैक्षणिक प्रदर्शन पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव, कपड़ों का सही मेल न कर पाना, रंग-आधारित चार्ट या मानचित्रों के साथ कार्य करने में कठिनाई, पके हुए फल चुनने में समस्या, तथा रंग संकेतों की व्याख्या में परेशानी।
- It should be noted that there are multiple types of colour blindness.
यह ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए कि रंगांधता के अनेक प्रकार होते हैं।
- For example, red-green is the most common type, while blue-yellow type and complete colour blindness are rather uncommon.
उदाहरण के लिए, लाल-हरा प्रकार सबसे सामान्य है, जबकि नीला-पीला प्रकार और पूर्ण रंगांधता अपेक्षाकृत दुर्लभ हैं।
- Besides, while this problem is usually genetic, it can also develop due to diabetes mellitus, glaucoma, cataracts, retinal diseases, optic nerve disease, brain injury, with ageing and certain medicines.
इसके अतिरिक्त, यद्यपि यह समस्या सामान्यतः आनुवंशिक होती है, यह मधुमेह (Diabetes Mellitus), ग्लूकोमा, मोतियाबिंद, रेटिना रोग, दृष्टि तंत्रिका रोग, मस्तिष्क की चोट, बढ़ती आयु और कुछ दवाओं के कारण भी विकसित हो सकती है।
- Any changes in colour vision should be checked by an ophthalmologist, as it can mean an underlying serious eye or neurological condition.
रंग दृष्टि में किसी भी परिवर्तन की जाँच एक नेत्र रोग विशेषज्ञ (Ophthalmologist) द्वारा करानी चाहिए, क्योंकि यह किसी गंभीर नेत्र या तंत्रिका संबंधी स्थिति का संकेत हो सकता है।
- Testing of colour vision is necessary for children and adults who have diabetes or any chronic eye diseases.
उन बच्चों और वयस्कों के लिए रंग दृष्टि की जाँच आवश्यक है जिन्हें मधुमेह या कोई दीर्घकालिक नेत्र रोग है।

Addressing myths भांतियों का निराकरण



- There are also certain myths that should be addressed.
कुछ भ्रांतियाँ भी हैं जिनका निराकरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- First of all, it is a misconception that colour blindness leads to total blindness.
सबसे पहले, यह एक गलत धारणा है कि रंगांधता पूर्ण अंधत्व का कारण बनती है।
- It also has no connection to intelligence.

GS III: S&T

Quantum-safe thinking India must be alive to challenges posed by advanced encryption algorithms

The new DST Task Force report on making India's digital ecosystems quantum-safe is a product of contemplating a threat that is both long-term and urgent. Today, public-key cryptography underpins online identity protection and secure communications. Its protective ability rests on mathematical problems that conventional computers cannot solve efficiently; thus, the information is 'hidden' behind a lock whose key is the solution to such a problem. However, a sufficiently capable quantum computer could use, say, Shor's algorithm to open this lock in minutes or hours. Symmetric cryptography, such as AES encryption, is less threatened by the advent of quantum computers but the existential exposure is nonetheless concentrated in public-key infrastructure, which secures everything from HTTPS to telecommunication networks. The shorter-term problem is the possibility of a bad actor harvesting encrypted data today and decrypting them later using quantum computers. Post-quantum cryptography (PQC) is software that can run on conventional computers but with the added benefit of resisting attacks from quantum computers. The DST report recommends three post-quantum standards finalised in 2024 to plan India's efforts on the post-quantum effort and that it begin migrating to this architecture. This prudent advice must be followed, especially *vis-à-vis* critical infrastructure, financial services, power grids, and defence.

The migration must continue even if "Q-day" – when quantum computers practically endanger public-key cryptography – is pushed back from the report's expected 2029. Indeed, experts disagree on this point, although the mainstream view is that both "Q-day" and migration will take at least a decade. Cryptography is in practice a set of dependencies often spread across – within, say, a ministry – databases, legacy hardware, vendor software, authentication protocols, and control systems. Thus, the challenges of the sprawling organisational transition must not be underestimated. Moreover, since advanced AI can autonomously compromise the software layer today and quantum computers threaten the mathematics of encryption tomorrow, the threat surface is much larger than what "Q-day" alone portends. The report recommends the wider adoption of PQC and, in environments requiring higher security assurances, the more technically demanding quantum key distribution (QKD) as well. For India, that means a new budgetary allocation of at least ₹5,000 crore; upgrading legacy infrastructure for interoperability; rationalising vendor dependence; and fostering and retaining the human capital, as QKD engineers are rare today. India must also periodically reassess its needs considering the acute trade-off QKD poses between security and operational efficiency.

इसका बुद्धिमत्ता से भी कोई संबंध नहीं है।

- Despite the fact that there are no ways to treat genetically-determined colour blindness permanently, some individuals can be helped by colour-filter glasses, which allow for discriminating between different colours.

यद्यपि आनुवंशिक रूप से निर्धारित रंगांधता का स्थायी उपचार संभव नहीं है, फिर भी कुछ व्यक्तियों को रंग-फिल्टर चश्मों से सहायता मिल सकती है, जो विभिन्न रंगों के बीच अंतर करने में मदद करते हैं।

- However, there is no permanent cure for colour blindness.
हालाँकि, रंगांधता का कोई स्थायी उपचार उपलब्ध नहीं है।

More awareness

अधिक जागरूकता

- Schools, workplaces, and other areas use colour codes extensively, making the creation of colourblind-friendly environments necessary.

विद्यालयों, कार्यस्थलों और अन्य क्षेत्रों में रंग संकेतों का व्यापक उपयोग किया जाता है, जिससे रंगांध-अनुकूल वातावरण का निर्माण आवश्यक हो जाता है।

- Teachers and other educators need to be aware that students should not be punished for colour blindness.

शिक्षकों और अन्य शिक्षाविदों को यह समझना चाहिए कि विद्यार्थियों को रंगांधता के कारण दंडित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

- Accommodating this need in individuals may involve the use of labels instead of colours, adding patterns or symbols, improving lighting, and using certain apps that can help identify colours.

व्यक्तियों की इस आवश्यकता को पूरा करने के लिए रंगों के स्थान पर लेबल का उपयोग, पैटर्न या प्रतीकों को जोड़ना, प्रकाश व्यवस्था में सुधार करना, तथा रंग पहचानने में सहायता करने वाले कुछ अनुप्रयोगों का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।

29M. Quantum-safe thinking

क्वांटम-सुरक्षित चिंतन

- India must be alive to challenges posed by advanced encryption algorithms

भारत को उन्नत एन्क्रिप्शन एल्गोरिदम द्वारा उत्पन्न चुनौतियों के प्रति सतर्क रहना चाहिए।

- The new DST Task Force report on making India's digital ecosystems quantum-safe is a product of contemplating a threat that is both long-term and urgent.

भारत के डिजिटल पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों को क्वांटम-सुरक्षित (quantum-safe)



बनाने पर आधारित नई DST टास्क फोर्स रिपोर्ट एक ऐसे खतरे पर विचार का परिणाम है जो दीर्घकालिक भी है और अत्यंत तात्कालिक भी।

- Today, **public-key cryptography** underpins online identity protection and secure communications.

आज पब्लिक-की क्रिप्टोग्राफी ऑनलाइन पहचान सुरक्षा और सुरक्षित संचार की आधारशिला है।

- Its protective ability rests on mathematical problems that conventional computers cannot solve efficiently; thus, the information is 'hidden' behind a lock whose key is the solution to such a problem.

इसकी सुरक्षा क्षमता उन गणितीय समस्याओं पर आधारित है जिन्हें पारंपरिक कंप्यूटर प्रभावी रूप से हल नहीं कर सकते; इस प्रकार, जानकारी एक ऐसे ताले के पीछे 'छिपी' रहती है जिसकी चाबी ऐसी ही किसी समस्या का समाधान होती है।

- However, a sufficiently capable **quantum computer** could use, say, **Shor's algorithm** to open this lock in minutes or hours.

किन्तु, पर्याप्त क्षमता वाला क्वांटम कंप्यूटर उदाहरणतः शॉर एल्गोरिद्म (Shor's Algorithm) का उपयोग करके इस ताले को कुछ मिनटों या घंटों में खोल सकता है।

- **Symmetric cryptography**, such as **AES encryption**, is less threatened by the advent of quantum computers but the existential exposure is nonetheless concentrated in **public-key infrastructure**, which secures everything from **HTTPS** to telecommunication networks.

सिमेट्रिक क्रिप्टोग्राफी, जैसे AES एन्क्रिप्शन, क्वांटम कंप्यूटरों के आगमन से अपेक्षाकृत कम प्रभावित है, किन्तु अस्तित्वगत खतरा मुख्यतः पब्लिक-की अवसंरचना पर केंद्रित है, जो HTTPS से लेकर दूरसंचार नेटवर्क तक सब कुछ सुरक्षित करती है।

- **Post-quantum cryptography (PQC)** is software that can run on conventional computers but with the added benefit of resisting attacks from quantum computers.

पोस्ट-क्वांटम क्रिप्टोग्राफी (PQC) ऐसा सॉफ्टवेयर है जो पारंपरिक कंप्यूटरों पर चल सकता है, किन्तु इसमें क्वांटम कंप्यूटरों के आक्रमणों का प्रतिरोध करने की अतिरिक्त क्षमता होती है।

- Cryptography is in practice a set of dependencies often spread across — within, say, a ministry — databases, legacy hardware, vendor software, authentication protocols, and control systems.

व्यवहार में क्रिप्टोग्राफी अनेक परस्पर निर्भरताओं का समूह है, जो किसी मंत्रालय के भीतर डेटाबेस, पुराने हार्डवेयर, विक्रेता सॉफ्टवेयर, प्रमाणीकरण प्रोटोकॉल और नियंत्रण प्रणालियों में फैली होती हैं।

- The report recommends the wider adoption of **PQC** and, in environments requiring higher security assurances, the more technically demanding **quantum key distribution (QKD)** as well.

रिपोर्ट ने **PQC** को व्यापक रूप से अपनाने तथा अधिक उच्च सुरक्षा आश्वासन वाले वातावरणों में तकनीकी

रूप से अधिक जटिल क्वांटम की वितरण (QKD) प्रणाली के उपयोग की भी अनुशंसा की है।

- For India, that means a new budgetary allocation of at least **₹5,000 crore**; upgrading legacy infrastructure for interoperability; rationalising vendor dependence; and fostering and retaining the human capital, as **QKD engineers** are rare today.

भारत के लिए इसका अर्थ है कम-से-कम **₹5,000 करोड़** का नया बजटीय आवंटन; पारस्परिक कार्यक्षमता हेतु पुरानी अवसंरचना का उन्नयन; विक्रेता निर्भरता का तार्किक पुनर्गठन; तथा मानव संसाधन का विकास और संरक्षण, क्योंकि वर्तमान में **QKD इंजीनियर** अत्यंत दुर्लभ हैं।

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

1. Now powering most EVs (particularly Chinese ones), LFP batteries owe much of their commercial viability to the polyanion cathode framework pioneered in the late 1980s by Nobel laureate John B. Goodenough and his associate, who was born in a small village in Tamil Nadu. **Ans: Prof. Arumugam Manthiram**
2. From one Goodenough associate to another: while the scientist in Q1 laid the conceptual groundwork, the actual 1997 paper announcing LiFePO₄ as a cathode was led by a scientist from Kalahandi, Odisha. Name him. **Ans: Akshaya Padhi**
3. Named after a Russian mineralogist and first found in the Urals in 1839, identify this crystal structure revolutionising photovoltaics. **Ans: Perovskite**
4. In 1987, a water-well worker in Bourakébougou, Mali, accidentally set off a blue flame that burned for weeks in a borewell. Decades later, the gas was found to be 98% pure. Name this naturally mined, newest "colour" of hydrogen. **Ans: Gold or White or natural Hydrogen**
5. Name the Fujian-born physicist who founded CATL in 2011, the world's largest battery maker and LFP producer. **Ans: Robin Zeng or Zeng Yuqun**

Visual: Name this Victorian mansion in Northumberland, the world's first home lit by hydroelectricity in 1878, and its industrialist owner. **Ans: Cragside House. William Armstrong**

Early Birds: Utsav Kaushal | Arun Kumar Singh | Neil Lall | Bhavya Pandey | ViswanadhaRao Batchu



29M. QUIZ: S&T

1. Prof. Arumugam Manthiram and LFP Battery Revolution

- Prof. Arumugam Manthiram, born in Tamil Nadu, worked with Nobel laureate John B. Goodenough and helped develop the polyanion cathode framework that later enabled Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries.
- LFP batteries are widely used in modern Electric Vehicles (EVs), especially in China, because they are safer, thermally stable, cheaper, and have longer life cycles than cobalt-based batteries.

2. Akshaya Padhi and the LiFePO₄ Discovery

- Scientist Akshaya Padhi from Kalahandi, Odisha, led the landmark 1997 research paper that identified LiFePO₄ (Lithium Iron Phosphate) as an effective cathode material for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries.
- Working with John B. Goodenough, Padhi demonstrated that phosphate-based cathodes could deliver high safety and long cycle life.
- Today, LiFePO₄ batteries power millions of EVs and energy-storage systems globally.

3. Perovskite Crystal Structure and Solar Technology

- Perovskite is a crystal structure named after Russian mineralogist Lev Perovski and was first identified in the Ural Mountains in 1839 by Gustav Rose.
- Perovskite materials are revolutionising solar photovoltaics because they offer high efficiency, lightweight construction, and lower manufacturing costs compared to conventional silicon solar cells.
- Recent research has achieved perovskite solar-cell efficiencies above 26%. Scientists are now focusing on improving durability and moisture resistance to make commercial large-scale deployment more practical.

4. White or Natural Hydrogen in Mali

- In 1987, a borewell accident in Bourakébougou, Mali, revealed a naturally occurring hydrogen reserve containing nearly 98% pure hydrogen.
- This resource is called White Hydrogen, Gold Hydrogen, or Natural Hydrogen because it is extracted directly from underground without industrial processing.
- The discovery renewed global interest in naturally occurring hydrogen as a clean-energy source. Scientists estimate that underground natural hydrogen reserves could be enormous.
- Several countries are now exploring geological hydrogen resources as part of future carbon-free energy strategies.

5. Robin Zeng and CATL's Global Battery Dominance

- Robin Zeng (Zeng Yuqun), a physicist born in Fujian, China, founded CATL (Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Limited) in 2011.
- CATL has become the world's largest producer of EV batteries and a leading manufacturer of LFP batteries. The company supplies batteries to major automobile companies including Tesla, BMW, and several Chinese EV brands.
- CATL is investing heavily in battery recycling, sodium-ion batteries, and advanced energy-storage technologies to support the rapidly expanding global electric mobility market. (



Coal gasification can help substitute imports of up to ₹3 lakh crore, says Reddy

GS III: S&T
Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Coal gasification can help substitute imports of up to ₹3 lakh crore, Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy said, adding that the sustainable mining method also extends to ensuring self-reliance for India's industries and overall economic security.

"Each year, the country imports products valued at up to ₹3 lakh crore that could also be availed via coal gasification," he said at a promotional roadshow for surface coal and lignite gasification projects, here on Thursday.

Coal gasification entails conversion of coal into syngas, which can be used to produce chemicals, fertilisers and hydrogen.

It was also informed that the government was



G. Kishan Reddy

working on a policy to include within the broader urea policy – an incentivised component that shall include urea produced via coal gasification.

On May 13, the Union Cabinet had approved the scheme for promotion of surface coal/lignite gasification projects with a financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore.

Explaining the aspect on ensuring economic security, Mr. Reddy said, "In-

dia is nearly 90% import-dependent for many industrial chemicals. For procuring these essential chemicals, the country spends a lot of foreign currency."

"Geopolitical tensions, such as the conflict in West Asia which have caused shipping disruptions globally, have also impacted India's supply chains. Thus, gasification [now] also extends as a subject for strategic industrial, self-reliance, economic security and [the vision for] Viksit Bharat," he added.

In response to a question from *The Hindu* on the technology for coal gasification, the Minister said it would not be a problem as the government had eased restrictions for import of technology and with private sector collaboration in the realm.

29M. Coal gasification can help substitute imports of up to ₹3 lakh crore, says Reddy

कोयला गैसीकरण ₹3 लाख करोड़ तक के आयात का विकल्प बन सकता है, बोले रेड्डी

• **Coal gasification** can help substitute imports of up to **₹3 lakh crore**, **Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy** said.

केंद्रीय कोयला मंत्री **जी. किशन रेड्डी** ने कहा कि **कोयला गैसीकरण ₹3 लाख करोड़ तक के आयात का विकल्प बन सकता है।**

• **Coal gasification** entails conversion of coal into **syngas**, which can be used to produce chemicals, fertilisers and hydrogen.

कोयला गैसीकरण में कोयले को सिंगैस (Syngas) में परिवर्तित किया जाता है, जिसका उपयोग रसायन, उर्वरक और हाइड्रोजन बनाने में किया जा सकता है।

• It was also informed that the **government was working on a policy to include within the broader urea policy an incentivised component that shall**

include urea produced via coal gasification.

यह भी बताया गया कि सरकार व्यापक **यूरिया नीति** के अंतर्गत एक प्रोत्साहन आधारित प्रावधान शामिल करने पर कार्य कर रही है, जिसमें कोयला गैसीकरण से उत्पादित यूरिया को शामिल किया जाएगा।

- **On May 13, the Union Cabinet had approved the scheme for promotion of surface coal/lignite gasification projects with a financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore.**

13 मई को केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने सतही कोयला/लिग्नाइट गैसीकरण परियोजनाओं को बढ़ावा देने की योजना को ₹37,500 करोड़ के वित्तीय प्रावधान के साथ मंजूरी दी थी।

- Explaining the aspect on ensuring economic security, Mr. Reddy said, **"India is nearly 90% import-dependent for many industrial chemicals."**

आर्थिक सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के पहलू को स्पष्ट करते हुए श्री रेड्डी ने कहा, **"भारत कई औद्योगिक रसायनों के लिए लगभग 90% आयात-निर्भर है।"**

- As the **government had eased restrictions for import of technology and with private sector collaboration in the realm.**

क्योंकि सरकार ने तकनीक आयात पर प्रतिबंधों में ढील दी है और इस क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र के सहयोग को भी बढ़ावा दिया है।



Global heat likely to shatter records in next five years: UN climate report

GS III: S&T

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

In the next five years, the Earth is overwhelmingly likely to surge again and again past the international climate threshold set as safe and shatter its hottest-year record along the way, according to new United Nations climate projections.

The World Meteorological Organization also forecasts an overheating Arctic that warms nearly 3 degrees Fahrenheit (1.66 degrees Celsius) between now and 2030 and a dangerous drought with potential wildfires for the Amazon, a crucial part of Earth's defences to lessen human-caused climate change. A hotter globe from the burning of coal, oil and gas means more ex-



Sweltering summer: Tourists use an umbrella for shade near the Colosseum during a heatwave in Rome on Thursday. AFP

treme weather including floods, droughts and heat waves, scientists said.

The projections by the UN climate agency and the United Kingdom's (U.K.) Meteorological Office said there's a 75% chance that the average global temperature between 2026 and 2030 will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-in-

dustrial times. That threshold is the agreed-upon limit of warming – averaged over 20 years – set in 2015 by the Paris climate deal.

A UN report a few years later detailed how exceeding that 1.5 mark means more likely death, danger and species loss. Even though it's only a few tenths of a degree, some of the planet's ecosystems,

such as coral and glaciers, can't handle the strain.

There's a 91% chance that at least one of the next five years will shoot past the 1.5 degree threshold and an 86% chance that one of those years will smash the record for Earth's hottest year set in 2024, the WMO report said. The WMO projects each year between now and 2030 to be between 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) and 1.9 degrees Celsius (3.4 degrees Fahrenheit) since the late 1800s.

"It's important to note that [1.5] is not kind of a cliff edge that we're going to fall off," said report co-author Melissa Seabrook, a climate scientist.

"Every kind of 0.1 of a degree has more and more severe impact."

29M. Global heat likely to shatter records in next five years: UN climate report अगले पाँच वर्षों में वैश्विक गर्मी रिकॉर्ड तोड़ सकती है: संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु रिपोर्ट

- The **World Meteorological Organization** also forecasts an overheating **Arctic** that warms nearly 3 degrees Fahrenheit (1.66 degrees Celsius) between now and 2030. विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन ने भी अनुमान लगाया है कि आर्कटिक क्षेत्र अब से 2030 के बीच लगभग 3 डिग्री फ़ारेनहाइट (1.66 डिग्री सेल्सियस) तक अधिक गर्म हो जाएगा।

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is a specialized agency of the **United Nations (UN)** responsible for international cooperation in the fields of:
 - Meteorology
 - Weather forecasting
 - Climate science
 - Hydrology
 - Atmospheric science
 - Geophysics
- The WMO plays an important role in:
 - Global weather monitoring
 - Climate change studies
 - Disaster warning systems
 - Scientific exchange of meteorological data
- Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- Established:** 23 March 1950
- Parent Organization:** United Nations (UN)



- **Origin of International Meteorological Cooperation**
 - Weather systems move across national boundaries. Therefore, international cooperation became necessary for weather forecasting and climate observation.
 - Early cooperation in meteorology increased after the invention of the telegraph in 1843 because weather information could be transmitted rapidly between countries.
 - In 1873, the **International Meteorological Organization (IMO)** was established as a non-governmental platform for exchanging weather data and scientific observations.

Formation of WMO

- The **World Meteorological Convention** was signed on: 11 October 1947
- The Convention came into force on: 23 March 1950
- In 1951, the WMO officially became a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- **Membership**
- As of 2026, the WMO has: 193 Member States and Territories
- The organization promotes: Free and unrestricted exchange of weather and climate data among countries.

GS Paper III: Internal Security

29 May 2026

TOPICS COVERED

29M Nearly 1,200 fishing harbours to be brought under CISF watch: Centre करीब 1,200 मत्स्य बंदरगाहों को CISF की निगरानी में लाया जाएगा: केंद्र

Nearly 1,200 fishing harbours to be brought under CISF watch: Centre

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Nearly 1,200 fishing harbours and fishing landing sites are all set to be brought under the oversight of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** as part of the Union Home Ministry's plan to secure India's coastline.

A senior government official said that after assigning the security-related duties at around **250 sea ports to the CISF**, the Ministry proposes to bring the **fishing harbours and landing sites under the supervision of the force.**

"It is not possible to deploy CISF personnel at all the fishing harbours but the CISF will be roped in to design the security template and guide the local administration in managing the security protocol. From regulating the movement of fisherfolk through biometric attendance system to providing smart ID cards, the CISF can provide an overall framework," said the official.



Earlier, to strengthen coastal security, Centre designated the CISF as the security regulator for over 250 seaports. JOTHI RAMALINGAM B

At present, there are a total of 1,547 notified fish landing centres and fishing harbours in 13 coastal States and Union Territories of West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.

The fishing sites are managed both by the State and Union governments. While the States are responsible for post-construction management, maintenance, and operation of the fishing harbours under

their control and have arrangements for management of these harbours, those under the control of the Centre are under the aegis of Port Trusts, the Ministry of Fisheries informed the Rajya Sabha on December 17, 2025.

Uniform security

The official said that there are multiple security agencies deployed along the coastline, starting from the local police to Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy further in the sea.

"As there are multiple agencies involved, a uniform security template is

missing. The CISF can be used to plug the gaps and also sensitise the local population to coastal security," the official added.

In December 2025, Union Home Minister Amit Shah convened a meeting for the constitution of a dedicated body, the Bureau of Port Security, for the security of vessels and port facilities. The body, on the line of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, is still in the making.

Earlier, to plug the gaps in coastal security, the Union government designated the CISF as the security regulator for over 250 seaports in the country. Officials said that the government intends to deploy "sovereign entity" also at private seaports which handle cargo, bringing them under the a uniform security architecture.

In 2023, following deliberations at the National Security Strategy Conference, guidelines were issued by the Home Ministry to handle sea-port security.



29M. Nearly 1,200 fishing harbours to be brought under CISF watch: Centre करीब 1,200 मत्स्य बंदरगाहों को CISF की निगरानी में लाया जाएगा: केंद्र

- Nearly 1,200 fishing harbours and fishing landing sites are all set to be brought under the oversight of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** as part of the Union Home Ministry's plan to secure India's coastline.
भारत के तटीय क्षेत्रों की सुरक्षा के लिए केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय की योजना के तहत लगभग 1,200 मत्स्य बंदरगाहों और मछली उतारने वाले स्थलों को केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (CISF) की निगरानी में लाया जाएगा।
- "CISF will be roped in to design the security template and guide the local administration in managing the security protocol."
"लेकिन CISF को सुरक्षा ढांचा तैयार करने और स्थानीय प्रशासन को सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल प्रबंधन में मार्गदर्शन देने के लिए शामिल किया जाएगा।"
- "From regulating the movement of fisherfolk through biometric attendance system to providing smart ID cards, the CISF can provide an overall framework," said the official.
अधिकारी ने कहा, "बायोमेट्रिक उपस्थिति प्रणाली के माध्यम से मछुआरों की आवाजाही को नियंत्रित करने से लेकर स्मार्ट पहचान पत्र उपलब्ध कराने तक, CISF एक समग्र ढांचा प्रदान कर सकती है।"
- At present, there are a total of **1,547 notified fish landing centres and fishing harbours in 13 coastal States and Union Territories.**
वर्तमान में 13 तटीय राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में कुल 1,547 अधिसूचित मत्स्य अवतरण केंद्र और मत्स्य बंदरगाह हैं।
- **These include West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep.**
इनमें पश्चिम बंगाल, ओडिशा, आंध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, पुडुचेरी, केरल, कर्नाटक, गोवा, महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, दमन और दीव, अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह तथा लक्षद्वीप शामिल हैं।
- **The fishing sites are managed both by the State and Union governments.**
मत्स्य स्थलों का प्रबंधन राज्य और केंद्र सरकार दोनों द्वारा किया जाता है।
- **While the States are responsible for post-construction management, maintenance, and operation of the fishing harbours under their control.**
जहाँ राज्य सरकारें अपने नियंत्रण वाले मत्स्य बंदरगाहों के निर्माणोत्तर प्रबंधन, रखरखाव और संचालन के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं।
- **And have arrangements for management of these harbours.**
और इन बंदरगाहों के प्रबंधन की व्यवस्था करती हैं।
- **Those under the control of the Centre are under the aegis of Port Trusts, the Ministry of Fisheries informed the Rajya Sabha on December 17, 2025.**
मत्स्य मंत्रालय ने 17 दिसंबर 2025 को राज्यसभा में बताया कि केंद्र के नियंत्रण वाले बंदरगाह पोर्ट ट्रस्ट्स के अधीन आते हैं।

Uniform security

एकरूप सुरक्षा

- The official said that there are multiple security agencies deployed along the coastline.
अधिकारी ने कहा कि तटरेखा के साथ कई सुरक्षा एजेंसियाँ तैनात हैं।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Starting from the local police to **Indian Coast Guard** and **Indian Navy** further in the sea. स्थानीय पुलिस से लेकर समुद्र में आगे तक **भारतीय तटरक्षक बल** और **भारतीय नौसेना** तक।
- “As there are multiple agencies involved, a uniform security template is missing.” “चूँकि इसमें कई एजेंसियाँ शामिल हैं, इसलिए एक समान सुरक्षा ढांचा नहीं है।”
- In **December 2025**, Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** convened a meeting for the constitution of a dedicated body, the **Bureau of Port Security**, for the security of vessels and port facilities.
दिसंबर 2025 में केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** ने जहाजों और बंदरगाह सुविधाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए एक समर्पित संस्था **ब्यूरो ऑफ पोर्ट सिक्योरिटी** के गठन हेतु बैठक बुलाई थी।
- The body, on the line of the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security**, is still in the making. यह संस्था **ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिक्योरिटी** की तर्ज पर बनाई जा रही है और अभी गठनाधीन है।
- Earlier, to plug the gaps in coastal security, the Union government designated the **CISF** as the security regulator for over **250 seaports** in the country.
इससे पहले तटीय सुरक्षा की कमियों को दूर करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने देश के **250 से अधिक समुद्री बंदरगाहों** के लिए **CISF** को सुरक्षा नियामक नियुक्त किया था।
- Officials said that the government intends to deploy “sovereign entity” also at private seaports which handle cargo.
अधिकारियों ने कहा कि सरकार कार्गो संभालने वाले निजी समुद्री बंदरगाहों पर भी “सॉवरेन एंटीटी” तैनात करने की योजना बना रही है।

PATRIOTIC IAS