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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

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01J6	Women's relay gold caps India's strong campaign in Asian U-20 Championships महिला रिले स्वर्ण ने एशियाई अंडर-20 चैंपियनशिप में भारत के शानदार अभियान को मुकम्मल किया
01J6	Mann Ki Baat: PM praises athletes, changemakers



	मन की बात: प्रधानमंत्री ने खिलाड़ियों और बदलाव लाने वालों की सराहना की
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BIG SHOT



Mummy homecoming: People of the Kolla indigenous community participate in a ceremony following the return of the so-called 'Child of Chani', an Inca-era child mummy found frozen in 1905 at nearly 5,900 m on a mountain, in Jujuy province, Argentina on May 28. The mummy had been in a Buenos Aires museum for around 120 years.

Mummy homecoming: People of the Kolla indigenous community participate in a ceremony following the return of the so-called 'Child of Chani', an Inca-era child mummy found frozen in 1905 at nearly 5,900 m on a mountain, in Jujuy province, Argentina on May 28. The mummy had been in a Buenos Aires museum for around 120 years.

CHILD OF CHANI

- The Kolla People, an Indigenous community living mainly in the **Andes Mountains of Argentina and Bolivia**. They participated in a ceremony after the return of an ancient Inca child mummy known as the **"Child of Chani."**
- The mummy was discovered in **1905** near the summit of **Mount Chani** in Argentina at an altitude of nearly **5,900 metres** above sea level. The child belonged to the Inca Civilization, which flourished in South America before the arrival of the **Spanish in the 16th century**.
- The child's body remained naturally preserved for centuries because of the extreme cold temperatures high in the Andes. Such preserved bodies are called **mummies**.
- Unlike Egyptian mummies, which were artificially preserved using chemicals and wrapping, these Andean mummies were preserved naturally by freezing conditions, similar to food being preserved in a freezer.
- Historians believe that some Inca children were part of a ritual called **Capacocha**. In this ritual, children considered pure or special were ceremonially offered to mountain gods.
- Mountains were sacred in Inca belief because they were thought to control weather, water, and fertility.
- The **Inca civilization** developed in the Andes Mountains region of western South America, mainly in present-day Peru, during the **13th to 16th centuries**.
- The capital of the **Inca Empire was Cusco**, which was considered the political and cultural center of the empire.
- The Incas built a vast empire called the **"Tawantinsuyu,"** meaning **"Land of Four Regions."** At its peak, the empire extended across modern **Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, and parts of Argentina and Colombia**. The ruler of the empire was called the



“Sapa Inca,” who was treated as the son of the Sun God. The Incas mainly worshipped the Sun God, known as “Inti.”

- The civilization is famous for its advanced engineering and architecture.
- Despite lacking modern tools, iron technology, or wheeled transport, the Incas built strong roads, bridges, terraces, and stone buildings.
- Their road network stretched thousands of kilometers across mountains. One of the best examples of Inca architecture is Machu Picchu, a magnificent hilltop city built with precisely cut stones that fit together without cement.

Mann Ki Baat: PM praises athletes, changemakers

He praised Indian sprinters **Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur**; lauded mango farmers for reaching global markets; shared story of educator **Girija Amma** for raising funds for soldiers

PCS

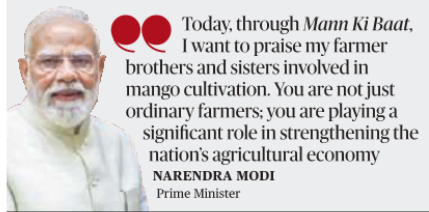
Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 134th episode of **Mann Ki Baat** on Sunday, highlighted India's achievements in sports, environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and scientific learning, while urging citizens to continue contributing towards nation-building through innovation, community participation, and social responsibility.

A major highlight of the address was the Prime Minister's praise for **Indian sprinters Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur**, who delivered historic performances at the **Federation Cup in Ranchi**.

During a telephone interaction with the athletes, Mr. Modi lauded their dedication and the spirit of healthy competition that has helped elevate Indian athletics.

Mr. Singh recently became India's fastest man after clocking a remarkable 10.09 seconds in the 100-metre sprint, becoming the first Indian athlete to



break the 10.10-second barrier.

Praising mango farmers
Speaking about the summer season, Mr. Modi said mangoes remain an inseparable part of Indian households and culture. He praised farmers engaged in mango cultivation and highlighted how Indian mangoes are increasingly reaching global markets.

“Today, through **Mann Ki Baat**, I want to praise my farmer brothers and sisters involved in mango cultivation. You are not just ordinary farmers; you are playing a significant role in strengthening the nation's agricultural economy,” the Prime Minister said.

Reflecting on his recent visit to the Netherlands,

the Prime Minister described it as a significant step in strengthening India's international partnerships. He also spoke about the **return of rare Chola-era copper plates** by the country, describing them as invaluable historical treasures that offer insights into the maritime strength, governance, and international relations of the Chola empire.

Mr. Modi also underlined the importance of environmental conservation and highlighted efforts to protect the **endangered Ganga river dolphin**.

He called upon citizens to actively participate in preserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

The Prime Minister urged people and local ad-

ministrations to remain vigilant during heatwaves and work collectively to minimise their impact.

He also appreciated grassroots initiatives such as the work of **Saji Valasheeril** in Kerala, who has trained thousands of people, including children with disabilities, through swimming programmes.

Astronomy initiatives

Encouraging scientific curiosity among young people, Mr. Modi highlighted astronomy outreach initiatives by organisations such as Astro Kerala, the Bangalore Astronomical Society, and the Big Bang Astronomy Club of Rajkot.

He said astronomy has long fascinated Indians and can inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators.

The Prime Minister concluded by sharing the inspiring story of educator **Girija Amma**, whose initiative of collecting one rupee daily from students for soldiers raised nearly ₹40 lakh, calling it a shining example of patriotism and collective responsibility towards the nation.

01J6. Mann Ki Baat: PM praises athletes, changemakers

मन की बात: प्रधानमंत्री ने खिलाड़ियों और बदलाव लाने वालों की सराहना की

- He praised Indian sprinters **Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur**; lauded mango farmers for reaching global markets; shared the story of educator **Girija Amma** for raising funds for soldiers.



उन्होंने भारतीय धावकों **गुरिंदरवीर सिंह** और **अनिमेष कुजूर** की प्रशंसा की; वैश्विक बाजारों तक पहुंचने वाले आम किसानों की सराहना की; और सैनिकों के लिए धन जुटाने वाली शिक्षिका **गिरिजा अम्मा** की कहानी साझा की।

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, in the **134th episode of Mann Ki Baat** on Sunday, highlighted India's achievements in sports, environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and scientific learning, while urging citizens to continue contributing towards nation-building through innovation, community participation, and social responsibility.
प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने रविवार को **मन की बात** के 134वें एपिसोड में खेल, पर्यावरण संरक्षण, सांस्कृतिक विरासत और वैज्ञानिक शिक्षा में भारत की उपलब्धियों को रेखांकित किया, साथ ही नागरिकों से नवाचार, सामुदायिक भागीदारी और सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी के माध्यम से राष्ट्र निर्माण में योगदान जारी रखने का आग्रह किया।
- A major highlight of the address was the Prime Minister's praise for **Indian sprinters Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur**, who delivered historic performances at the **Federation Cup in Ranchi**.
इस संबोधन का एक प्रमुख आकर्षण भारतीय धावकों **गुरिंदरवीर सिंह** और **अनिमेष कुजूर** की प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा की गई प्रशंसा थी, जिन्होंने **रांची** में आयोजित **फेडरेशन कप** में ऐतिहासिक प्रदर्शन किया।
- **Mr. Singh recently became India's fastest man after clocking a remarkable 10.09 seconds in the 100-metre sprint, becoming the first Indian athlete to break the 10.10-second barrier.**
श्री सिंह हाल ही में **100 मीटर स्प्रिंट** में शानदार **10.09 सेकंड** का समय निकालकर भारत के सबसे तेज धावक बने और **10.10 सेकंड की बाधा** को तोड़ने वाले पहले भारतीय एथलीट बने।

Praising mango farmers

आम किसानों की सराहना

- **Reflecting on his recent visit to the Netherlands**, the Prime Minister described it as a significant step in strengthening India's international partnerships.
प्रधानमंत्री ने अपनी हालिया **नीदरलैंड** यात्रा को भारत की अंतरराष्ट्रीय साझेदारियों को मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम बताया।
- He also spoke about the **return of rare Chola-era copper plates by the country**, describing them as invaluable historical treasures that offer insights into the maritime strength, governance, and international relations of the **Chola empire**.
उन्होंने देश द्वारा दुर्लभ **चोल कालीन ताम्रपत्रों** की वापसी का भी उल्लेख किया और उन्हें अमूल्य ऐतिहासिक धरोहर बताया, जो **चोल साम्राज्य** की समृद्धी शक्ति, शासन व्यवस्था और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों की जानकारी देते हैं।
- Mr. Modi also underlined the importance of environmental conservation and highlighted efforts to protect the **endangered Ganga river dolphin**.
श्री मोदी ने पर्यावरण संरक्षण के महत्व पर भी जोर दिया और संकटग्रस्त **गंगा नदी डॉल्फिन** की सुरक्षा के प्रयासों को रेखांकित किया।
- He also appreciated grassroots initiatives such as the **work of Saji Valasheril in Kerala, who has trained thousands of people, including children with disabilities, through swimming programmes.**
उन्होंने **केरल** में **साजी वलाशेरिल** जैसे जमीनी स्तर के प्रयासों की भी सराहना की, जिन्होंने तैराकी कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से दिव्यांग बच्चों सहित हजारों लोगों को प्रशिक्षण दिया है।

Astronomy initiatives

खगोल विज्ञान पहल

- Encouraging scientific curiosity among young people, Mr. Modi highlighted astronomy outreach initiatives by **organisations such as Astro Kerala, the Bangalore Astronomical**



Society, and the Big Bang Astronomy Club of Rajkot.

युवाओं में वैज्ञानिक जिज्ञासा को प्रोत्साहित करते हुए श्री मोदी ने एस्ट्रो केरल, बेंगलोर एस्ट्रोनॉमिकल सोसाइटी, और राजकोट के बिग बैंग एस्ट्रोनॉमी क्लब जैसी संस्थाओं की खगोल विज्ञान संबंधी पहलों को रेखांकित किया।

- The Prime Minister concluded by sharing the inspiring story of educator **Girija Amma**, whose initiative of collecting one rupee daily from students for soldiers raised nearly **₹40 lakh**, calling it a shining example of patriotism and collective responsibility towards the nation. प्रधानमंत्री ने शिक्षिका **गिरिजा अम्मा** की प्रेरणादायक कहानी साझा करते हुए कार्यक्रम का समापन किया, जिनकी सैनिकों के लिए छात्रों से प्रतिदिन एक रुपया एकत्र करने की पहल से लगभग **₹40 लाख** जुटाए गए। उन्होंने इसे देश के प्रति देशभक्ति और सामूहिक जिम्मेदारी का उज्ज्वल उदाहरण बताया।

The Voice of Hind Rajab likely to get 'A' certificate

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Voice of Hind Rajab, the critically acclaimed 2025 film on the killing of the eponymous Palestinian five-year-old by Israeli forces, is set to be cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with an 'A' certificate, say official sources.

This comes weeks after the Kaouther Ben Hania directorial was rejected for supposedly being detrimental to India-Israel relations.

The misgivings of the initial advisory panel drew censure from film-makers, actors, activists and the Opposition.

For the film to release, the CBFC will have to issue the certificate on its website (a step yet to be completed), and hand over the certificate to the film distributor.

01J6. The Voice of Hind Rajab likely to get 'A' certificate

‘द वॉयस ऑफ हिंद रजब’ को ‘A’ प्रमाणपत्र मिलने की संभावना

- The **Voice of Hind Rajab**, the critically acclaimed 2025 film on the killing of the eponymous Palestinian five-year-old by Israeli forces, is set to be cleared by the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** with an 'A' certificate, official sources say.

द वॉयस ऑफ हिंद रजब, जो 2025 की समीक्षकों द्वारा प्रशंसित फिल्म है और इजरायली बलों द्वारा उसी नाम की पांच वर्षीय फिलिस्तीनी बच्ची की हत्या पर आधारित है, उसे **केंद्रीय फिल्म प्रमाणन बोर्ड (CBFC)** द्वारा 'A' प्रमाणपत्र दिए जाने की संभावना है, ऐसा आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने कहा।

- For the film to release, the **CBFC** will have to issue the certificate on its website (a step yet to be completed), and hand over the certificate to the film distributor.

फिल्म की रिलीज के लिए **CBFC** को अपनी वेबसाइट पर प्रमाणपत्र जारी करना होगा (जो प्रक्रिया अभी पूरी नहीं हुई है) और फिल्म वितरक को प्रमाणपत्र सौंपना होगा।

01J6. Evergreen Kohli second oldest to win PoM award in IPL final

सदाबहार कोहली IPL फाइनल में PoM पुरस्कार जीतने वाले दूसरे सबसे

उमदराज खिलाड़ी बने

- At the age of **37 years and 207 days**, **Virat Kohli** became the **second oldest player to win the Player-of-the-Match** award in an **Indian Premier League** final. **37 वर्ष और 207 दिन** की आयु में **विराट कोहली** इंडियन प्रीमियर लीग फाइनल में **प्लेयर ऑफ द मैच** पुरस्कार जीतने वाले दूसरे सबसे उमदराज खिलाड़ी बन गए।
- Anil Kumble** (38y 219d, 4-0-16-4 for **Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs. Deccan Chargers** in 2009) remains the oldest recipient of the award. **अनिल कुंबले** (38 वर्ष 219 दिन, 2009 में **रॉयल चैलेंजर्स बेंगलुरु** बनाम **डेक्कन चार्जर्स** के खिलाफ 4-0-16-4) अब भी इस पुरस्कार के सबसे उमदराज विजेता बने हुए हैं।

TRUE CHAMPION

Evergreen Kohli second oldest to win PoM award in IPL final



VIJAY SONEJI

At the age of 37 years and 207 days, Virat Kohli became the second oldest player to win the Player-of-the-Match award in an Indian Premier League final. Anil Kumble (38y 219d, 4-0-16-4 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs. Deccan Chargers in 2009) remains the oldest recipient of the award.



PRODIGY

15-year-old Sooryavanshi the youngest to clinch Orange Cap



IPLT20.COM

Rajasthan Royals opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to clinch the IPL Orange Cap. The 15-year-old amassed 776 runs (one century and five half-centuries) in 16 innings to walk home with the prize. Gujarat Titans' Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan were in contention but fell for low scores in the final.

01J6. 15-year-old Sooryavanshi the youngest to clinch Orange Cap

15 वर्षीय सूर्यवंशी ऑरेंज कैप जीतने वाले सबसे युवा खिलाड़ी बने

• **Rajasthan Royals** opener **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the youngest player to clinch the **IPL Orange Cap**.

राजस्थान रॉयल्स के ओपनर वैभव सूर्यवंशी IPL ऑरेंज कैप जीतने वाले सबसे युवा खिलाड़ी बन गए।

• The **15-year-old** amassed **776 runs** (one century and five half-centuries) in 16 innings to walk home with the prize.

इस **15 वर्षीय** खिलाड़ी ने 16 पारियों में **776 रन** बनाए, जिसमें एक शतक और पांच अर्धशतक शामिल थे, और इसी के साथ उन्होंने यह पुरस्कार अपने नाम किया।



Royal Challengers retain title with a regal display

Kohli takes the Bengaluru side home with an unbeaten 75; the bowlers restrict Titans to 155 for eight after Patidar asks them to take first strike; Washington wages a lone battle for Gill's men

PCB: **IPL-19**

Ashwin Achal AHMEDABAD

Royal Challengers Bengaluru crowned a dominant IPL 2026 campaign with a crushing five-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans in the final here on Sunday, sealing the title with the same authority it had shown throughout the season. RCB had set the standard from the opening weeks of the tournament, and reserved its best for the biggest night.

For a side considered favourite, the season ended in fitting fashion – as champion for the second successive year.

The RCB bowlers set the tone early at the Narendra Modi Stadium, relentlessly hitting hard lengths to strangle GT. A sub-par 155 for eight was never likely to be enough to seriously test a power-packed RCB batting line-up.

Stark contrast That gulf in intent was evident when Virat Kohli (75 n.o., 42b, 9x4, 3x6) and Venkatesh Iyer (32, 16b, 4x4, 2x6) came out attacking, in stark contrast to GT's muddled innings. The pair took on Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada, powering RCB to 70 for two in the PowerPlay.

With the required rate dropping to 6.14, GT was left to play catch up.

Rashid Khan briefly raised hopes when he dismissed Rajat Patidar and Krunal Pandya in the ninth over, but with Kohli still around, RCB remained in control.

RCB capped a memorable campaign in emphatic fashion, crossing the line with 12 balls to spare. The 90,000-odd crowd, with RCB jerseys in the majority, erupted as Kohli launched Arshad Khan into the sky.

Patidar's decision to field first was vindicated,

as GT never quite found room to breathe.

After the RCB pacers struck early, left-arm spinner Krunal tightened the grip with subtle changes of pace and trajectory.

Only Washington Sundar escaped the choke-

hold. His unbeaten 50 (37b, 5x4) was an innings of resistance, but it was a lone hand in a line-up that never settled.

Shubman Gill's men appeared wary of RCB's pace attack from the outset. Intent gave way to preserva-



Delivering on the big night: Rasikh was the most successful RCB bowler while Hazlewood picked up a couple before the RCB openers Venkatesh and Kohli came out swinging. K.R. DEEPAK & VIJAY SONJI

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS

Sai Sudharsan c. Iyer b. Bhuvneshwar 12 (12b, 2x4), Shubman Gill c. Patidar b. Hazlewood 19 (8b, 2x4), Nishant Sinha c. Padikkal b. Rasikh 20 (18b, 3x4), Jos Buttler st. Jitesh b. Krunal 19 (23b, 1x4), Washington Sundar (not out) 50 (57b, 5x4), Arshad Khan c. Rasikh b. Hazlewood 15 (6b, 2x6), Rahul Tewatia c. Patidar b. Rasikh 7 (5b, 1x4), Jason Holder c. Hazlewood b. Bhuvneshwar 7 (5b, 1x4), Rashid Khan c. Shepherd b. Rasikh 7 (3b, 1x6), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 3 (8b), Extras (lb-1, w-4); 5; Total (for eight wickets, in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Gill, 2.2 overs), 2-26 (Sai Sudharsan, 3.4), 3-55 (Nishant, 7.6), 4-73 (Buttler, 12.1), 5-99 (Arshad, 14.1), 6-115 (Tewatia, 16.1), 7-142 (Holder, 18.3), 8-151 (Rashid, 19.2).

RCB BOWLING

Duffy 4-0-38-0, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-29-2, Hazlewood 4-0-37-2,

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Rasikh 4-0-27-3, Krunal 4-0-23-1, Venkatesh Iyer (Impact Player for Duffy) c. Rabada b. Siraj 32 (16b, 4x4, 2x6), Virat Kohli (not out) 75 (42b, 9x4, 3x6), Devdutt Padikkal c. Arshad b. Rabada 1 (4b), Rajat Patidar c. Rabada b. Rashid 15 (13b, 2x4, 1x6), Krunal Pandya lbw b. Rashid 1 (2b), Tim David c. Buttler b. Arshad 24 (17b, 3x4, 1x6), Jitesh Sharma (not out) 11 (7.4b, 1x4), Extras (lb-1, w-1); 2; Total (for five wickets, in 18 overs): 161.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-63 (Venkatesh, 4.3), 2-63 (Padikkal, 5.1), 3-89 (Patidar, 8.2), 4-91 (Krunal, 8.5), 5-132 (David, 13.6).

TITANS BOWLING

Siraj 4-0-36-1, Rabada 3-0-44-1, Holder 2-0-16-0, Rashid 4-0-25-2, Arshad 4-0-32-1, Prasidh (Impact Player for Tewatia) 1-0-7-0. **Toss:** RCB. **Pink:** Kohli. RCB won by five wickets with two overs to spare.

Impact Index

- 3 RCB is the third team, after CSK and MI, to successfully defend its title
 - 3 Kohli has the most scores of 75 or more in T20 finals
 - 3 RCB's 50 is the highest in a final since CSK (4 overs in 2023) held the previous record
 - 4 Rabada (2020, 2026) is the fourth player to win the Purple Cap twice after Bravo (2013, 2015), Bhuvneshwar (2016, 2017) and Harshal (2021, 2024)
 - 4 Patidar is the fourth skipper to win two or more titles after Dhoni (5), Rohit (5) and Gambhir (2)
 - 9 For the ninth consecutive season, the winner of Qualifier 1 has gone on to lift the title. Overall, the record is 13 (out of 16) since the playoffs format was introduced in 2011
 - 25 Kohli's quickest half-century (by balls faced) in the IPL
 - 28 Patidar has taken the least matches by a captain to win two crowns (Rohit 44, Dhoni 59, Gambhir 79)
 - 75 Kohli is the second highest unbeaten score in a successful run chase in a final after Watson's 117 n.o. vs. SRH in 2018
- Compiled by ANURAGH VELAMURI

its two premier batters back in the pavilion inside four overs, GT retreated.

The promotion of Nishant Sinha to No. 3 underlined the mood. Tasked with blunting the new ball, Sinha could not shift momentum, and the move only strengthened RCB's control.

GT went nearly seven overs after the PowerPlay without a boundary. Jos Buttler, usually quick to change gears, crawled at under a run-a-ball. When

he finally tried to accelerate, Krunal outfoxed him with a quicker delivery and Jitesh Sharma did the rest.

Even the death overs brought little relief. Washington alone kept the scoreboard moving.

Lucky break Dropped by substitute Jordan Cox on four, he dragged GT to a total that kept faint hope alive.

That hope vanished quickly once Kohli and Venkatesh came out to bat.

Composure of the guys just shone through: Kohli

Ashwin Achal AHMEDABAD

At this very venue last year, Virat Kohli sunk to the ground and held back tears when Royal Challengers Bengaluru broke a long drought to clinch its maiden IPL trophy.

On Sunday, Kohli was far less emotional when RCB successfully defended the title. There was no novelty to celebrate this year, just the satisfaction of a thorough professional getting the job done.

Kohli was clinical with the bat, striking an unbeaten 42-ball 75 to lead the RCB chase.

His confidence reflected the feeling in a team which stayed ahead of the pack right from the early phase of the competition.

"It doesn't feel like the same pressure as last year. We knew what kind of ability we have in the group. We topped the table. There's a reason why we got here first. The skill sets we have, the maturity, the composure of the guys just shone through again tonight," Kohli said after the win.

RCB's excellent campaign had hinged on handy contributions from several members of the squad, a shift from the star-driven ethos in past teams.

"We have a group of guys where you don't need to be the one to step up every time. There are guys behind you, around you, who can win games. We have so many 'Player-of-the-Match' awards spread throughout the group. I feel so happy to play in a group where we have balance. We are an all-round strong team, and that is why we have confidence on the field," Kohli said.

Honours board

2008	Rajasthan Royals
2009	Deccan Chargers
2010	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders
2013	Mumbai Indians
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders
2015	Mumbai Indians
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad
2017	Mumbai Indians
2018	Chennai Super Kings
2019	Mumbai Indians
2020	Mumbai Indians
2021	Chennai Super Kings
2022	Gujarat Titans
2023	Chennai Super Kings
2024	Kolkata Knight Riders
2025	Royal Challengers Bengaluru
2026	Royal Challengers Bengaluru

... And the caps go to

Matches 16
Runs 776

ORANGE CAP
Sooryanvashi (RR)

HS: 103 | **SR: 37.30**

Wickets 17
Wickets 23

PURPLE CAP
Rabada (GT)

BB: 3/25 | **Econ: 9.68**

Best on show Most Valuable Player: Vaidh Sooryanvashi (RR); Orange Cap: Sooryanvashi; Purple Cap: Kagiso Rabada (GT); Emerging player: Sooryanvashi; Super striker (highest SR): Sooryanvashi; Most sixes: Sooryanvashi; Most fours: Sai Sudharsan (GT); Most dot balls: Mohammed Siraj (GT); Catch of the season: Manish Pandey (KKR); Fairplay: Punjab Kings

01J6. Royal Challengers retain title with a regal display

रॉयल चैलेंजर्स ने शाही प्रदर्शन के साथ खिताब बरकरार रखा

- The RCB bowlers set the tone early at the **Narendra Modi Stadium**, relentlessly hitting hard lengths to strangle GT.

RCB के गेंदबाजों ने नरेंद्र मोदी स्टेडियम में शुरुआत से ही कड़ी लेंथ गेंदबाजी कर GT को दबाव में डाल दिया।



Satwik-Chirag win Singapore Open, end their two-year title drought

The premier Indian men's doubles team bounces back to defeat Indonesia's Alfian and Fikri for its first crown since the 2024 Thailand Open

PCS

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

Satwicksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought back from a game down to clinch their maiden Singapore Open title, defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in the men's doubles final of the BWF Super 750 badminton tournament, here on Sunday.

The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champions produced a gritty comeback to secure their first title in two years and their ninth career World Tour crown, besides

claiming a third Super 750 title, with a tense 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 win in 73 minutes.

The victory was particularly significant for the World No. 4 Indian duo, who became the first Indians to win the doubles title at the Singapore Open.

Satwik and Chirag had last lifted a trophy at the Thailand Open in 2024. Since then, they had reached four finals but finished runner-up on each occasion before finally breaking the drought here.

The Indians had entered the final trailing 1-2 in their head-to-head record against the Indonesian pair, with their most recent defeat coming in the Malaysia Open quarterfinals in January.

After dropping a closely-fought opening game, Satwik and Chirag raised their intensity and dominated the longer rallies to turn the contest around against the World No. 3 Indonesians.

The triumph capped an impressive week for the Indian pair, who had stunned reigning World champions and top seeds Kim Won Ho and Seo Seungjae of South Korea in the semifinals.

As the winning point was sealed, Satwik and Chirag lay flat on the court in celebration. Satwik followed it up with a baby-themed celebration, while an ecstatic Chirag let out a loud roar before leaping onto his partner.

The duo later danced on court as they savoured a long-awaited return to the top step on the podium.

"Two years... we knew for a fact that eventually the win will come. We had that belief and it was just a matter of time and finally we got it," said Chirag.

Other results (finals):

Men: Alex Lanier (Fra) bt Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) 17-21, 21-15, 21-14.

Women: An Se-young (Kor) bt Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) 21-11, 17-21, 21-19.

Doubles: Jia Yifan & Zhang Shuxian (Chn) bt Liu Shengshu & Tan Ning (Chn) 22-20, 21-19.

Mixed doubles:

Mathias Christiansen & Alexandra Boje (Den) bt Yuichi Shimogami & Sayaka Hobara 17-21, 21-12, 21-12.



Victory dance: Satwik and Chirag are over the moon after their comeback win. BWF/BADMINTON PHOTO

01J6. Satwik-Chirag win Singapore Open, end their two-year title drought सात्विक-चिराग ने सिंगापुर ओपन जीता, दो साल का खिताबी सूखा समाप्त किया

- The premier Indian men's doubles team bounces back to defeat **Indonesia's Alfian and Fikri** for its first crown since the **2024 Thailand Open**.

भारत की प्रमुख पुरुष युगल जोड़ी ने वापसी करते हुए **इंडोनेशिया के अल्फियान और फिकरी** को हराकर **2024 थाईलैंड ओपन** के बाद अपना पहला खिताब जीता।

- Satwicksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** fought back from a game down to clinch their maiden **Singapore Open** title, defeating **Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri** in the men's doubles final of the **BWF Super 750** badminton tournament, here on Sunday.

सात्विकसाईराज रंकीरेड्डी और चिराग शेट्टी ने एक गेम से पिछड़ने के बाद शानदार वापसी करते हुए रविवार को **BWF सुपर 750** बैडमिंटन टूर्नामेंट के पुरुष युगल फाइनल में **इंडोनेशिया के फजार अल्फियान और मुहम्मद शोहिबुल फिकरी** को हराकर अपना पहला **सिंगापुर ओपन** खिताब जीता।

- The **Asian Games and Commonwealth Games** champions produced a gritty comeback to secure their first title in two years and their ninth career World Tour crown, besides claiming a third Super 750 title, with a tense 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 win in 73 minutes.

एशियाई खेलों और कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स के चैंपियन इस भारतीय जोड़ी ने संघर्षपूर्ण वापसी करते हुए दो वर्षों में अपना पहला खिताब और करियर का नौवां वर्ल्ड टूर खिताब जीता, साथ ही तीसरा सुपर 750 खिताब भी हासिल किया। उन्होंने 73 मिनट में 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 से जीत दर्ज की।

- The victory was particularly significant for the **World No. 4** Indian duo, who became the first **Indians to win the doubles title at the Singapore Open**.

यह जीत **विश्व नंबर 4** भारतीय जोड़ी के लिए विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण रही, क्योंकि वे सिंगापुर ओपन में युगल खिताब जीतने वाले पहले भारतीय बने।

- Satwik and Chirag** had last lifted a trophy at the **Thailand Open in 2024**.

सात्विक और चिराग ने आखिरी बार 2024 में थाईलैंड ओपन का खिताब जीता था।



Women's relay gold caps India's strong campaign in Asian u-20 Championships



Stellar: India's women's 4x400m relay team set a meet record. AFI



Good showing: India's men's 4x400m team of Ranjith, Sayed, Ashfaq, and Piyush took bronze in 3:05.54. AFI

ATHLETICS

PCS Sports Bureau

India ended the Asian under-20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong with another gold as its women's 4x400m relay team set a meet record on the final day on Sunday.

The quartet of Bhumika Sanjay Nehate, Tahura Khatun, Sehnoor Bawa and Neeru Pathak clocked 3:38.07 to finish ahead of Kazakhstan, which took silver in 3:43.63.

Host Hong Kong



Mogali won gold in men's 800m. AFI

claimed bronze in 3:49.94.

India added another relay medal soon after, with the men's 4x400m team of Piyush Raj, Sayed Sabeer, Ranjith Kumar S. and Mohammed Ashfaq taking bronze in 3:05.54.

China won gold in



Muskan topped the women's 5000m. AFI

3:04.88, while Qatar finished second in 3:05.06.

Earlier in the day, Venkatram Reddy Mogali won gold in the men's 800m with a personal best of 1:48.27.

Muskan had also topped the women's 5000m in



Nishchay claimed silver in the men's discus throw. AFI

16:53.08, while Nishchay claimed silver in the men's discus throw with a personal best of 60.10m.

The final-day medals capped a strong campaign for the Indian contingent at the continental junior meet.

01J6. Women's relay gold caps India's strong campaign in Asian U-20 Championships

महिला रिले स्वर्ण ने एशियाई अंडर-20 चैंपियनशिप में भारत के शानदार अभियान को मुकम्मल किया

- India ended the **Asian Under-20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong** with another gold as its women's 4x400m relay team set a meet record on the final day on Sunday.
भारत ने रविवार को अंतिम दिन महिलाओं की 4x400 मीटर रिले टीम द्वारा मीट रिकॉर्ड बनाते हुए हांगकांग में आयोजित एशियाई अंडर-20 एथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप का समापन एक और स्वर्ण पदक के साथ किया।
- The quartet of **Bhumika Sanjay Nehate, Tahura Khatun, Sehnoor Bawa and Neeru Pathak** clocked 3:38.07 to finish ahead of **Kazakhstan**, which took silver in 3:43.63.
भूमिका संजय नेहाते, तहुरा खातून, सेहनूर बावा और नीरू पाठक की चौकड़ी ने 3:38.07 का समय निकालकर कजाखस्तान को पीछे छोड़ा, जिसने 3:43.63 के साथ रजत पदक जीता।
- Host **Hong Kong** claimed bronze in 3:49.94.
मेजबान हांगकांग ने 3:49.94 के समय के साथ कांस्य पदक हासिल किया।
- India added another relay medal soon after, with the **men's 4x400m team of Piyush Raj, Sayed Sabeer, Ranjith Kumar S. and Mohammed Ashfaq** taking bronze in 3:05.54.



इसके तुरंत बाद भारत ने एक और रिले पदक जोड़ा, जब पुरुषों की 4x400 मीटर टीम के **पियूष राज, सैयद सबीर, रंजीत कुमार एस. और मोहम्मद अशफाक** ने 3:05.54 के समय के साथ कांस्य पदक जीता।

- **China won gold in 3:04.88, while Qatar finished second in 3:05.06.**
चीन ने 3:04.88 के समय के साथ स्वर्ण पदक जीता, जबकि कतर 3:05.06 के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर रहा।
- Earlier in the day, **Venkatram Reddy Mogali won gold in the men's 800m with a personal best of 1:48.27.**
इससे पहले दिन में **वेंकटराम रेड्डी मोगली** ने पुरुषों की 800 मीटर दौड़ में 1:48.27 के व्यक्तिगत सर्वश्रेष्ठ समय के साथ स्वर्ण पदक जीता।
- **Muskan had also topped the women's 5000m in 16:53.08.**
मुस्कान ने भी महिलाओं की 5000 मीटर दौड़ में 16:53.08 के समय के साथ पहला स्थान हासिल किया।
- **While Nishchay claimed silver in the men's discus throw with a personal best of 60.10m.**
वहीं **निश्चय** ने पुरुषों की डिस्कस थ्रो स्पर्धा में 60.10 मीटर के व्यक्तिगत सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन के साथ रजत पदक जीता।

GS Paper 1: History	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
01J6	The majoritarian shadow over Adivasi identity, faith आदिवासी पहचान और आस्था पर बहुसंख्यकवाद की छाया

The majoritarian shadow over Adivasi identity, faith

GS I: History

GS I: Society

Last week, the Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, both Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) progeny, held a conclave in Delhi – “Janjati Sanskritik Samagan” – attended by thousands of Adivasis from across the country. The stated occasion was the 150th anniversary of legendary hero Birsa Munda. In the vote of thanks, the organisers acknowledged the extensive official machinery behind the gathering – from the Railway Ministry to Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, and senior officials. With Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the chief guest, the event was effectively semi-official. This is precisely why the speeches, demands raised, and the Home Minister’s response deserve far closer scrutiny than an ostensibly cultural gathering would normally invite.

The JSM’s core agenda against Christian conversions is well known, its main demand being the delisting of all Adivasi communities that have converted to Christianity and the stripping of their constitutional and legal protections on the grounds that they no longer subscribe to Adivasi beliefs. The organisation has run violent campaigns in several States in central India, particularly Chhattisgarh, targeting Adivasi families who have converted to Christianity – campaigns that have gone so far as the forcible exhumation of bodies from graves on privately owned land belonging to Christian Adivasis in tribal villages. In February this year, in a case pending before the Supreme Court of India, the Court issued interim orders restraining such exhumations. Yet, these incidents continue under the patronage of Bharatiya Janata Party State governments.

A foundational distinction

At the conclave, the demand for delisting was framed with reference to the recent Court judgment upholding the Presidential Order of 1950, which holds that persons belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) who profess a religion “other than Hinduism” do not qualify for constitutional or legal benefits meant for SCs. The JSM’s demand is that this principle be extended to Scheduled Tribes (ST) – a move that would require removing what one of its leaders described as “a weakness in the Constitution.” What the JSM considers a weakness is, in fact, a foundational distinction: unlike in the case of SCs, neither the Constitution of India nor the law links the identity of STs to religion.

On the conclave stage, alongside portraits of Birsa Munda and a Hinduised image of “Bharat Mata”, was a portrait of the late Kartik Oraon – a Congress Member of Parliament who once filed a petition challenging the candidature of two members of the Oraon community from an ST-reserved seat on the grounds that they were Christians. The Patna High Court, in its ruling in



Brinda Karat
Senior leader
of the CPI(M)

Majoritarian politics seeks to reshape Adivasi identity and rights

1963, rejected his petition categorically, holding that “tribal identity is not religion-based,” that it rests on ethnic and community kinship ties, and that “an Oraon remains an Oraon” regardless of whether he is Hindu, Christian, or Buddhist. The High Court further observed that, by and large, converted Adivasis continued to participate in community festivals and celebrations, and joined others in raising concerns common to all Adivasi communities. This judgment remains the governing legal precedent. The JSM seeks to overturn it, and its method for doing so is chillingly cruel: isolating converted families, forcibly preventing them from attending community festivals, and then using that coercively imposed exclusion as proof that converts have abandoned Adivasi culture, promoting their expulsion from traditional gram sabhas. Exclusion is engineered, then presented as evidence.

A campaign of cooption

Simultaneously, the JSM has been pushing the assertion that Adivasis belong to the broader “sanatan parivar”. At the conclave, the organisation’s national convenor declared: “They say Adivasis are not Hindus. What is this game? We are Ram’s children – this is a conspiracy against us.” Another leader proclaimed that “Adivasis exist in the shade of the great tree of Sanatan”. The nature of the JSM’s “ghar wapas” (homecoming”) for converts is unambiguous – functions marked not with Adivasi symbols but those of Hindutva. In the JSM’s worldview, Adivasis are “vanavasi” – forest dwellers defined by their service to Lord Ram, subordinate to upper-caste deities, and redeemable only through their blessings. The building of temples with Hindu idols in tribal villages, the rebranding of local deities as forms of Vishnu, Shiva or Durga, and the installation of Hanuman idols at village entry points are all part of this hegemonic cooption campaign.

Adivasis are fully entitled to choose their religion under Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of conscience and religion. There are laws, some quite draconian, to deal with conversions which are “fraudulent”. Adivasis may choose to be Hindu, Christian, or of any other faith. But whether an Adivasi worships Ram or Jesus has no bearing on their identity as an Adivasi; this is a fundamental constitutional principle. What cannot be accepted is the distortion of this principle to suggest that an Adivasi who worships Ram is expressing Adivasi culture, while one who worships Jesus is betraying it. Adivasis have long demanded formal recognition of the distinctiveness of their beliefs, of their worship of nature, their animist traditions and practices. The Jharkhand Legislative Assembly, for instance, adopted a resolution calling for a separate column in the Census

enumeration of religion for Adivasis to register their own beliefs, a demand reiterated by Adivasi intellectuals and numerous organisations across the country. But this has been unfairly ignored by the government, insulting Adivasi faith.

The urgent issues Adivasis face

It is this majoritarian agenda that Mr. Amit Shah endorsed going even further by describing the JSM’s campaign as a contemporary “Ulgulan”. Birsa Munda’s Ulgulan was a revolt against colonial rule – and notably, he broke with Christian missionaries precisely because he saw them as instruments of that rule. Mr. Shah’s political lineage, by contrast, never fought the British – it compromised with them. To invoke hero Birsa’s name and the historic Ulgulan to legitimise a sectarian campaign against converted Adivasis is a grave betrayal of his legacy. Mr. Shah also declared that sanatanis too are nature worshippers, and that *jal, jangal, pahad* (water, forests, mountains) “is the centre of our beliefs”.

His words ring hollow. Even as Mr. Shah spoke, tribal communities in Sijimali and Rayagada in Odisha were fighting to save their sacred mountain from bauxite mining operations approved by his own government. In the Hasdeo region of Chhattisgarh, thousands of Adivasis have spent years fighting against their forests being handed over to private mining companies – forests that were previously declared a “no-go zone,” until the current regime decided otherwise. Lakhs of trees have been felled against the decisions of the gram sabhas, among them the *sal* and *karam*, the sacred trees around which Adivasi festivals and rituals are organised. The nature worshippers in Delhi have been remarkably efficient destroyers of nature.

The urgent issues before Adivasis are the sabotage of the Forest Rights Act, the virtual elimination of the rights of the gram sabha, the subversion of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas), or PESA, the huge backlog in employment in reserved posts, the pathetic condition of Adivasi student hostels and arrears in scholarship payments, and the continuing lack of civic and health facilities in Adivasi areas, to name a few. And through all of this – not once, not in a single instance – has the JSM raised its voice in defence of Adivasi rights against government-enabled corporate takeovers of *jal, jangal, and zameen*. On the contrary, by splitting Adivasi communities along religious lines, it has served the interests of the very companies that are dispossessing them. Dividing the dispossessed is, after all, the oldest trick in the book.

For those committed to the defence of Adivasi rights, the JSM gathering and the Home Minister’s endorsement are indications of the challenges ahead, which can and must be met by the united will of Adivasi resistance and democratic forces in the spirit of the great Adivasi heroes.



01J6. The majoritarian shadow over Adivasi identity, faith आदिवासी पहचान और आस्था पर बहुसंख्यकवाद की छाया

- Last week, the **Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, both Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) progeny**, held a conclave in Delhi — “Janjati Sanskritik Samagam” — attended by thousands of Adivasis from across the country. पिछले सप्ताह, जनजाति सुरक्षा मंच (JSM) और वनवासी कल्याण आश्रम, जो दोनों राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ (RSS) से संबद्ध संगठन हैं, ने दिल्ली में “जनजाति सांस्कृतिक समागम” नामक एक सम्मेलन आयोजित किया, जिसमें देशभर से हजारों आदिवासियों ने भाग लिया।
- The stated occasion was the **150th anniversary of legendary hero Birsa Munda**. इस आयोजन का घोषित अवसर महानायक बिरसा मुंडा की 150वीं जयंती था।
- The **JSM's** core agenda against Christian conversions is well known, its main demand being the **delisting of all Adivasi communities that have converted to Christianity and the stripping of their constitutional and legal protections on the grounds that they no longer subscribe to Adivasi beliefs**.
JSM का ईसाई धर्मांतरण के विरुद्ध मुख्य एजेंडा सर्वविदित है, जिसकी प्रमुख माँग यह है कि ईसाई धर्म अपनाने वाले सभी आदिवासी समुदायों को सूचीबद्ध जनजातियों की श्रेणी से बाहर किया जाए तथा यह कहते हुए उनके संवैधानिक और कानूनी संरक्षण समाप्त किए जाएँ कि वे अब आदिवासी मान्यताओं का पालन नहीं करते।
- The **organisation has run violent campaigns in several States in central India, particularly Chhattisgarh, targeting Adivasi families who have converted to Christianity — campaigns that have gone so far as the forcible exhumation of bodies from graves on privately owned land belonging to Christian Adivasis in tribal villages**. इस संगठन ने मध्य भारत के अनेक राज्यों, विशेषकर छत्तीसगढ़, में ईसाई धर्म अपनाने वाले आदिवासी परिवारों के विरुद्ध हिंसक अभियान चलाए हैं — जो आदिवासी गाँवों में ईसाई आदिवासियों की निजी भूमि पर स्थित कब्रों से शवों को जबरन निकालने तक पहुँच गए हैं।

A foundational distinction

एक मूलभूत भेद

- At the conclave, the demand for delisting was framed with reference to the recent Court judgment upholding the **Presidential Order of 1950**, which holds that **persons belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) who profess a religion “other than Hinduism” do not qualify for constitutional or legal benefits meant for SCs**.
सम्मेलन में सूची से हटाने की माँग को हाल ही के उस न्यायिक निर्णय के संदर्भ में प्रस्तुत किया गया, जिसमें **1950 के राष्ट्रपति आदेश** को बरकरार रखा गया था। इस आदेश के अनुसार, **अनुसूचित जाति (SC)** से संबंधित वे व्यक्ति जो “हिंदू धर्म के अतिरिक्त” किसी अन्य धर्म को मानते हैं, अनुसूचित जातियों हेतु निर्धारित संवैधानिक या कानूनी लाभों के पात्र नहीं होंगे।
- The **JSM's** demand is that **this principle be extended to Scheduled Tribes (ST) — a move that would require removing what one of its leaders described as “a weakness in the Constitution.”**
JSM की माँग है कि इस सिद्धांत को **अनुसूचित जनजातियों (ST)** पर भी लागू किया जाए — एक ऐसा कदम, जिसके लिए उनके एक नेता द्वारा “संविधान की कमजोरी” कहे गए प्रावधान को हटाना आवश्यक होगा।
- What the **JSM** considers a weakness is, in fact, a foundational distinction: **unlike in the case of SCs, neither the Constitution of India nor the law links the identity of STs to religion**.
जिसे **JSM** कमजोरी मानता है, वह वास्तव में एक मूलभूत भेद है: **SCs** के मामले के विपरीत, न तो **भारतीय संविधान** और न ही कानून, **STs** की पहचान को धर्म से जोड़ता है।



- On the conclave stage, alongside portraits of **Birsa Munda** and a Hinduised image of “**Bharat Mata**”, was a portrait of the late **Kartik Oraon** — a Congress Member of Parliament who once filed a petition challenging the candidature of two members of the **Oraon community** from an ST-reserved seat on the grounds that they were Christians.
सम्मेलन के मंच पर **बिरसा मुंडा** और “**भारत माता**” की हिंदूकरण की गई छवि के साथ दिवंगत **कार्तिक उराँव** का चित्र भी था — जो कांग्रेस के सांसद थे और जिन्होंने कभी **उराँव** समुदाय के दो ईसाई उम्मीदवारों की ST-आरक्षित सीट से उम्मीदवारी को चुनौती देते हुए याचिका दायर की थी।
- The **Patna High Court**, in its ruling in **1963**, rejected his petition categorically, holding that “tribal identity is not religion-based,” that it rests on ethnic and community kinship ties, and that “an Oraon remains an Oraon” regardless of whether he is Hindu, Christian, or Buddhist.
पटना उच्च न्यायालय ने अपने **1963** के निर्णय में उनकी याचिका को स्पष्ट रूप से अस्वीकार करते हुए कहा था कि “जनजातीय पहचान धर्म आधारित नहीं होती,” बल्कि यह जातीय और सामुदायिक संबंधों पर आधारित होती है, तथा “एक उराँव, उराँव ही रहता है,” चाहे वह हिंदू हो, ईसाई हो या बौद्ध।
- The High Court further observed that, by and large, converted Adivasis continued to participate in community festivals and celebrations, and joined others in raising concerns common to all Adivasi communities.
उच्च न्यायालय ने आगे यह भी कहा कि सामान्यतः धर्मांतरित आदिवासी सामुदायिक उत्सवों और आयोजनों में भाग लेते रहे तथा सभी आदिवासी समुदायों से संबंधित सामान्य मुद्दों को उठाने में अन्य लोगों के साथ शामिल रहे।

A campaign of cooption

समावेशन के माध्यम से आत्मसात करने का अभियान

- Adivasis are fully entitled to choose their religion under **Article 25** of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of conscience and religion.
आदिवासियों को संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 25** के अंतर्गत अपना धर्म चुनने का पूर्ण अधिकार प्राप्त है, जो अंतःकरण और धर्म की स्वतंत्रता की गारंटी देता है।

The urgent issues Adivasis face

आदिवासियों के समक्ष उपस्थित तात्कालिक समस्याएँ

- Birsa Munda's Ulgulan** was a revolt against colonial rule — and notably, he broke with Christian missionaries precisely because he saw them as instruments of that rule.
बिरसा मुंडा का उलगुलान औपनिवेशिक शासन के विरुद्ध विद्रोह था — और विशेष रूप से उन्होंने ईसाई मिशनरियों से संबंध इसलिए तोड़ लिया था क्योंकि वे उन्हें औपनिवेशिक शासन का उपकरण मानते थे।
- The urgent issues before Adivasis are the sabotage of the **Forest Rights Act**, the virtual elimination of the rights of the gram sabha, the subversion of the **Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas), or PESA**, the huge backlog in employment in reserved posts, the pathetic condition of Adivasi student hostels and arrears in scholarship payments, and the continuing lack of civic and health facilities in Adivasi areas, to name a few.
आदिवासियों के समक्ष तात्कालिक समस्याओं में **वन अधिकार अधिनियम** को निष्प्रभावी बनाना, ग्राम सभा के अधिकारों का लगभग समाप्त कर दिया जाना, **पंचायत (अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों तक विस्तार) अधिनियम अर्थात् PESA** को कमजोर करना, आरक्षित पदों में रोजगार का भारी बैकलॉग, आदिवासी छात्रावासों की दयनीय स्थिति, छात्रवृत्ति भुगतान में बकाया राशि तथा आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में नागरिक एवं स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं की निरंतर कमी जैसी समस्याएँ शामिल हैं।



01J6 Towards a dialogue on adolescent sexuality
किशोर यौनिकता पर संवाद की ओर

Towards a dialogue on adolescent sexuality

GSI: Society

A recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, allowing the medical termination of pregnancy at 28 weeks, has received significant media attention. Much of this attention stems from the arguments advanced on behalf of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which has sought for a reconsideration of the judgment.

Doctors at AIIMS argued that what the court described as a medical termination of pregnancy would, in reality, involve delivering a living child at 28 weeks, one likely to be born with serious medical complications, long-term co-morbidities and disabilities. They asked that the delivery be pushed by six weeks to improve the child's chances of survival. These arguments were rejected by the court in rather strong terms.

A doctor's ethical burden

The nature of the doctors' argument is not inherently distinct from claims about a (much younger) foetus' interest in being carried to term. In both cases, more time in the womb increases the chances of survival outside it. However, since a 28-week foetus is at a more advanced stage of gestation, two things change about the claim.

First, doctors are better able to predict both the foetus' chances of survival and the medical complications it may face, making concerns about neo-natal care and future health more concrete. Second, and not unrelatedly, the ethical burden of the doctor who must perform the delivery increases significantly. Where a foetus is not viable, the doctor's sole obligation is to the pregnant woman. But where a living child may be delivered, the doctor's obligations extend to that child as well. A doctor may, therefore, experience the procedure not merely as an abortion, but as a medically induced premature delivery that immediately creates an obligation to preserve life.



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While the court's order protects her from legal action, it does not extinguish her ethical and moral obligations as a doctor and as a human being.

None of this necessarily undermines the court's decision. Faced with an unwed minor who had reportedly attempted suicide twice, the court understandably prioritised her reproductive autonomy and well-being. But the doctors' objections, though framed as concern for the unborn child, also reflect a potent anxiety: the ethical burden placed on medical professionals asked to perform such procedures at the edge of foetal viability. This burden need not change how we think about the outcome of the case, but it deserves to be acknowledged for the ethical tensions underlining it.

On adolescent sexual activity

These ethical tensions are not accidental or anomalous. The immense trauma endured by the unwed minor, the predicament of the unborn but viable foetus, and the ethical burden of the doctors are all symptomatic of a deeper structural issue. Cases like these arise because of a serious and largely unnoticed failure of the state to deal appropriately with the phenomenon of teenage sex. In this case, a de-facto consensual sexual relationship between a 15-year-old girl and her 17-year-old partner resulted in pregnancy. The pregnancy went unnoticed until the minor's mother reportedly observed 'an unusual heaviness' in her abdomen, by which time it was already too advanced to terminate without court intervention. This is because the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, as amended in 2021, does not allow abortions beyond 24 weeks even in exceptional circumstances.

The Indian state's approach to the issue has largely been one of blanket criminalisation: all sexual activity involving minors is treated as a criminal offence, regardless of whether it involves coercion,

exploitation, or de-facto consensual sexual activity between adolescents. Studies from the U.S. have shown that abstinence-only policies fail to prevent adolescents from having sex. Empirical studies on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) in India have also repeatedly shown that nearly 10-15% of all cases before the POCSO special courts involve de-facto consensual relationships, and there is nothing to suggest that the law manages to deter such sex amongst adolescents.

If anything, this criminalisation works in tandem with the absence of adequate and comprehensive sex education in educational institutions.

Policies such as the ban on condom advertisements between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., and a generally repressive culture around sex brush questions of sex and sexuality under the carpet. Instead of teaching adolescents the essentials of safe sex, menstruation, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy, the answer to all questions around sex and sexuality is reduced to a simplistic "don't do it". However, preventing cases such as this is more likely to require comprehensive sex education and an emphasis on safe sexual practices.

The way forward

Such policies require a more nuanced conversation around adolescent sexuality, in which we are willing to acknowledge that de-facto consensual sexual interactions involving adolescents exist and should not be conflated with instances of child rape and exploitation. They also require a commitment to steady long-term measures, which may not provide short-term rhetorical gains.

Thus, if our concern is truly the well-being of adolescents, the solution is not a refusal to acknowledge their sexuality but a commitment to engage with it honestly and meaningfully.

Policies such as the ban on condom advertisements between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., and a generally repressive culture around sex brush questions of sex and sexuality under the carpet



01J6. Towards a dialogue on adolescent sexuality

किशोर यौनिकता पर संवाद की ओर

- A recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, allowing the **medical termination of pregnancy at 28 weeks**, has received significant media attention.
भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के एक हालिया निर्णय, जिसमें 28 सप्ताह पर गर्भसमापन की अनुमति दी गई, ने व्यापक मीडिया ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।
- However, since a **28-week fetus** is at a more advanced stage of gestation, two things change about the claim.
किन्तु चूँकि **28 सप्ताह का भ्रूण** गर्भावस्था के अधिक विकसित चरण में होता है, इसलिए इस दावे के संबंध में दो महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन उत्पन्न होते हैं।
- First, doctors are better able to predict both the fetus' chances of survival and the medical complications it may face, making concerns about neo-natal care and future health more concrete.
पहला, चिकित्सक भ्रूण के जीवित रहने की संभावना तथा संभावित चिकित्सीय जटिलताओं का अधिक सटीक अनुमान लगाने में सक्षम होते हैं, जिससे नवजात देखभाल और भविष्य के स्वास्थ्य संबंधी चिंताएँ अधिक वास्तविक और स्पष्ट हो जाती हैं।
- The **immense trauma endured by the unwed minor, the predicament of the unborn but viable fetus, and the ethical burden of the doctors** are all symptomatic of a deeper structural issue.
अविवाहित नाबालिग द्वारा झेला गया गहरा आघात, अजन्मे किंतु जीवित रहने में सक्षम भ्रूण की स्थिति, तथा चिकित्सकों पर पड़ा नैतिक दायित्व — ये सभी एक गहरे संरचनात्मक संकट के लक्षण हैं।
- This is because the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, as amended in 2021, does not allow abortions beyond 24 weeks even in exceptional circumstances**.
ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि 2021 में संशोधित **गर्भसमापन चिकित्सा अधिनियम (Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act)** असाधारण परिस्थितियों में भी 24 सप्ताह के बाद गर्भपात की अनुमति नहीं देता।
- Studies from the **U.S.** have shown that abstinence-only policies fail to prevent adolescents from having sex.
अमेरिका के अध्ययनों से यह स्पष्ट हुआ है कि केवल संयम आधारित नीतियाँ किशोरों को यौन संबंध बनाने से रोकने में असफल रहती हैं।
- Empirical studies on the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO)** in India have also repeatedly shown that **nearly 10-15% of all cases before the POCSO special courts involve de-facto consensual relationships, and there is nothing to suggest that the law manages to deter such sex amongst adolescents**.
भारत में **बाल यौन अपराध संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2012 (POCSO)** पर किए गए अनुभवजन्य अध्ययनों ने बार-बार यह दर्शाया है कि POCSO विशेष न्यायालयों के समक्ष आने वाले लगभग 10-15% मामलों में वास्तविक सहमति पर आधारित संबंध शामिल होते हैं, और ऐसा कोई प्रमाण नहीं है जिससे यह संकेत मिले कि यह कानून किशोरों के बीच ऐसे संबंधों को रोकने में सफल रहा है।
- Policies such as the ban on condom advertisements between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., and a generally repressive culture around sex brush questions of sex and sexuality under the carpet.
सुबह 6 बजे से रात 10 बजे तक कंडोम विज्ञापनों पर प्रतिबंध जैसी नीतियाँ तथा यौन विषयों के प्रति दमनकारी सामाजिक संस्कृति, यौन संबंधी प्रश्नों और यौनिकता को दबाने का कार्य करती हैं।
- Instead of teaching adolescents the essentials of safe sex, menstruation, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy, the answer to all questions around sex and sexuality is reduced to a simplistic "don't do it".
किशोरों को सुरक्षित यौन संबंध, मासिक धर्म, यौन संचारित रोगों और गर्भधारण की मूलभूत जानकारी देने के



स्थान पर, यौन और यौनिकता से जुड़े सभी प्रश्नों का उत्तर केवल एक सरल “यह मत करो” तक सीमित कर दिया गया है।

- However, preventing cases such as this is more likely to require comprehensive sex education and an emphasis on safe sexual practices.

किन्तु इस प्रकार के मामलों की रोकथाम के लिए व्यापक यौन शिक्षा और सुरक्षित यौन व्यवहार पर बल देना अधिक आवश्यक प्रतीत होता है।

The way forward आगे की राह

- Such policies require a more nuanced conversation around adolescent sexuality, in which we are willing to acknowledge that de-facto consensual sexual interactions involving adolescents exist and should not be conflated with instances of child rape and exploitation.

ऐसी नीतियों के लिए किशोर यौनिकता पर अधिक संतुलित और सूक्ष्म संवाद की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें हम यह स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार हों कि किशोरों के बीच वास्तविक सहमति पर आधारित यौन संबंध अस्तित्व में हैं और उन्हें बाल बलात्कार तथा शोषण की घटनाओं के साथ मिश्रित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

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Euphrates on the rise



Water being released from the **Euphrates Dam in Tabqa in Syria's Raqa province**. The floods in the north and east are the result of rain levels that were higher than usual this year prompting authorities to open some of the gates at the Euphrates Dam to reduce pressure on it. Flooding has been rare in the country since Turkey built dams decades ago that control the flow of the **Euphrates into Syria and Iraq**.

Water being released from the Euphrates Dam in Tabqa in Syria's Raqa province. The floods in the north and east are the result of rain levels that were higher than usual this year prompting authorities to open some of the gates at the Euphrates Dam to reduce pressure on it. Flooding has been rare in the country since Turkey built dams decades ago that control the flow of the Euphrates into Syria and Iraq. AFP



Padma Barrage: another barrier

GS I: Geography

Vasudevan Mukunth

Bangladesh has approved a large river engineering project called the Padma barrage, on the Padma river, which is Bangladesh's stretch of the Ganga, in Rajbari district. It is Bangladesh's attempt to partially re-engineer the hydrology of its southwest region, which has become prone to drought after decades of reduced seasonal flows linked to the Farakka barrage upstream in India.

The barrage will be 2.1-km-long and have 78 spillway gates, undersluices, navigation locks, fish passages, and associated embankments. It will impound roughly 2.9 billion cubic metres of water and includes 113 MW of hydropower generation. According to Bangladesh, the project will affect roughly 37% of the country's land area and irrigate around 2.88 million ha of farmland.

While the barrage's supporters see a long-delayed national water security project in the Padma barrage, critics have said mega-barrages often underperform, alter sediment flows in unpredictable ways, and can create new ecological problems, such as water-logging and damage to fisheries. Some environmental groups have also criticised the speed of approval and called for greater public scrutiny.

As Meheub Sahana at the University of Manchester and Bayes Ahmed at University College London have argued, the project highlights how South Asian countries are building more barriers to



Boats on the Padma river in 1860. PUBLIC DOMAIN

rivers rather than removing them. The regional turn towards unilateral river engineering is at odds with Europe and North America tearing down obsolete dams and culverts to restore rivers' free flow. In 2025 alone, 21 European countries removed a record 603 barriers.

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often underperform, alter sediment flows in unpredictable ways, and can create new ecological problems, such as water-logging and damage to fisheries.

जहाँ बैराज के समर्थक पद्मा बैराज को लंबे समय से लंबित राष्ट्रीय जल सुरक्षा परियोजना के रूप में देखते हैं, वहीं आलोचकों का कहना है कि विशाल बैराज अक्सर अपेक्षित प्रदर्शन नहीं कर पाते, तलछट प्रवाह को अप्रत्याशित रूप से बदल देते हैं तथा जलभराव और मत्स्य संसाधनों को क्षति जैसी नई पारिस्थितिक समस्याएँ उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।

- As Meheub Sahana at the University of Manchester and Bayes Ahmed at University College London have argued, the project highlights how South Asian countries are building more barriers to rivers rather than removing them.

जैसा कि यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मैनचेस्टर के मेहेबुब सहाना तथा यूनिवर्सिटी कॉलेज लंदन के बेयस अहमद ने तर्क दिया है, यह परियोजना दर्शाती है कि दक्षिण एशियाई देश नदियों पर अवरोध हटाने के बजाय अधिक अवरोध निर्मित कर रहे हैं।

- The regional turn towards unilateral river engineering is at odds with Europe and North America tearing down obsolete dams and culverts to restore rivers' free flow.

एकपक्षीय नदी अभियांत्रिकी की दिशा में यह क्षेत्रीय परिवर्तन यूरोप और उत्तरी अमेरिका की उस प्रवृत्ति के विपरीत है, जहाँ नदियों के मुक्त प्रवाह को पुनर्स्थापित करने के लिए अप्रचलित बाँधों और कल्वर्टों को हटाया जा रहा है।

- In 2025 alone, 21 European countries removed a record 603 barriers.

केवल 2025 में ही 21 यूरोपीय देशों ने रिकॉर्ड 603 अवरोधों को हटाया।

01J6. Padma Barrage: another barrier

पद्मा बैराज: एक और अवरोध

- Bangladesh has approved a large river engineering project called the **Padma barrage**, on the **Padma river**, which is **Bangladesh's stretch of the Ganga**, in **Rajbari district**.

बांग्लादेश ने राजबाड़ी ज़िले में स्थित पद्मा नदी, जो गंगा का बांग्लादेशी भाग है, पर पद्मा बैराज नामक एक विशाल नदी अभियांत्रिकी परियोजना को स्वीकृति प्रदान की है।

- The barrage will be **2.1-km-long** and have **78 spillway gates**, undersluices, navigation locks, fish passages, and associated embankments.

यह बैराज 2.1 किलोमीटर लंबा होगा तथा इसमें 78 स्पिलवे द्वार, अंडरस्लुइस, नौवहन लॉक, मछली मार्ग तथा संबंधित तटबंध होंगे।

- According to Bangladesh, the project will affect roughly **37%** of the country's land area and irrigate around **2.88 million ha** of farmland.

बांग्लादेश के अनुसार, यह परियोजना देश के लगभग 37% भू-क्षेत्र को प्रभावित करेगी तथा लगभग 2.88 मिलियन हेक्टेयर कृषि भूमि की सिंचाई करेगी।

- While the barrage's supporters see a long-delayed national water security project in the **Padma barrage**, critics have said **mega-barrages**



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

1. Tibetans and Sherpas call Mt Everest Chomolungma. What does that mean? **Ans:**

Mother Goddess of the Earth

2. This is a perilous area on Mt Everest where most mountaineers struggle to carry on because the air contains only about one-third of the oxygen available at sea level. What is it called? **Ans:**

The death zone

3. Before the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, which peak was considered the highest peak in the world? Also, which State government bans mountaineering expeditions from its side on this mountain, which is believed

to be sacred? **Ans:**

Kanchenjunga, Sikkim

4. She was the first woman to summit Mt Everest. A mountain range on Pluto is named after her. Name her. **Ans: Junko Tabei**

Ans: Junko Tabei

5. Humanity has littered the entire planet, from the peak of Mt Everest to the deepest point on earth. In both places, microplastics have been found. Name the deepest point. **Ans: Mariana Trench**

Visual: This man served as Surveyor General of India. He never saw the Everest but he is associated with it. Name him. **Ans: George Everest**
Early Birds: Utsav Kaushal | Suchit Narottam | K.N. Viswanathan | Dodo Jayaditya | Sukdev Shet

01J6. QUIZ: Mount Everest

1. Chomolungma — Mother Goddess of the Earth

- Tibetans and Sherpas traditionally call **Mount Everest** “Chomolungma” or “Qomolangma”.
- The term means “**Mother Goddess of the Earth**” in the Tibetan language.
- The name reflects the spiritual and sacred significance of the mountain in Himalayan Buddhist culture.
- **Sherpa communities living in Nepal and Tibet** worship the mountain as a divine entity and perform rituals before expeditions.
- In Nepal, Mount Everest is also known as **Sagarmatha**, meaning “Forehead of the Sky”.

The mountain lies in the **Mahalangur Himal** sub-range of the Himalayas on the Nepal–China border.

According to the latest Nepal-China joint announcement of 2020, Everest's official height is **8,848.86 metres**.

2. The Death Zone

- The “**Death Zone**” refers to altitudes **above approximately 8,000 metres** on mountains such as Mount Everest.
- **At this height, atmospheric oxygen levels are extremely low, containing nearly one-third of the oxygen available at sea level.**
- Human bodies cannot acclimatise permanently under such conditions.
- Climbers experience severe risks such as **hypoxia, cerebral oedema, pulmonary oedema, frostbite, and exhaustion.**

3. Kanchenjunga and Sikkim's Ban on Expeditions

- Before the **Great Trigonometrical Survey of India**, many geographers considered **Kanchenjunga** the highest mountain in the world.
- **Kanchenjunga has a height of 8,586 metres and is currently the third-highest mountain globally.**
- It is located on the border between **India's Sikkim State and Nepal.**
- The **Great Trigonometrical Survey** later scientifically established **Mount Everest** as the world's highest peak.
- **Kanchenjunga is considered sacred by the people of Sikkim, especially the Lepcha and Buddhist communities.**
- **Because of its religious importance, the Government of Sikkim prohibits mountaineers from stepping on the actual summit from the Indian side.**
- **Climbers traditionally stop a few feet below the peak to respect local beliefs.**
- The **Kanchenjunga landscape is also protected through the Khangchendzonga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**

4. Junko Tabei — First Woman to Summit Everest

- **Junko Tabei** of Japan became the first woman to successfully summit Mount Everest on **May 16, 1975.**
- **Junko Tabei later climbed the highest peaks on all seven continents, completing the “Seven Summits”.**



- A mountain range on the dwarf planet **Pluto** has been named “Tabei Montes” in her honour by the International Astronomical Union.

5. Mariana Trench — Deepest Point on Earth

- The **Mariana Trench** is the deepest known point on Earth’s oceans.
- It is located in the western Pacific Ocean near the Mariana Islands.
- Its deepest section is called the **Challenger Deep**, which reaches nearly **10,900 to 11,000 metres** below sea level according to modern oceanographic studies.
- Scientific expeditions have discovered microplastics and human-generated pollutants even at this extreme depth.
- Studies published in marine science journals show that plastic contamination has spread across the entire planet.
- Microplastics have also been found on Mount Everest, proving the global reach of pollution.
- The Mariana Trench was formed due to the subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the Mariana Plate.

6. George Everest — Surveyor General of India

- **Sir George Everest** served as the **Surveyor General of India** from 1830 to 1843.
- He played an important role in the **Great Trigonometrical Survey of India**, one of the most ambitious scientific surveys of the nineteenth century.
- The survey aimed to accurately measure the Indian subcontinent and Himalayan peaks.
- Interestingly, George Everest himself never saw Mount Everest.
- After his tenure, the mountain known earlier as “Peak XV” was identified as the world’s highest peak by surveyor **Radhanath Sikdar** in 1852.
- In 1865, the Royal Geographical Society officially named the mountain “Mount Everest” in George Everest’s honour.
- Modern satellite and GPS technology have greatly improved mountain measurements compared to nineteenth-century survey methods.

Ukraine hits Russian energy sites, denies striking nuclear plant

01J6. Ukraine hits Russian energy sites, denies striking nuclear plant

यूक्रेन ने रूसी ऊर्जा स्थलों पर हमला किया, परमाणु संयंत्र पर हमले से किया इनकार

GS I: Geography
Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine denied Moscow’s claims on Sunday that a Ukrainian drone struck the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, as Kyiv launched fresh strikes overnight on Russian energy sites.

Ukraine’s General Staff on Sunday said Ukrainian drones had struck the Saratov oil refinery in south-western Russia, causing a “large-scale fire”. It said the extent of the damage was being clarified, and claimed the refinery has been supplying Moscow’s war effort.

Kyiv denied a Russian claim that a Ukrainian



The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Russian-held southern Ukraine. AFP

drone struck the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe’s largest.

Russia’s state nuclear energy company, Rosatom, said on Saturday that the drone exploded after tearing a hole in the wall of a turbine hall, and accused Ukraine of a “deliberate” attack.

- Kyiv denied a Russian claim that a Ukrainian drone struck the **Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant**, Europe’s largest. कीव ने रूस के उस दावे को खारिज कर दिया कि एक यूक्रेनी ड्रोन ने यूरोप के सबसे बड़े जापोरिज़्झिया परमाणु संयंत्र पर हमला किया।
- **Russia’s state nuclear energy company, Rosatom.** रूस की सरकारी परमाणु ऊर्जा कंपनी रोसाटॉम ने शनिवार को कहा कि ड्रोन टरबाइन हॉल की दीवार में छेद करने के बाद विस्फोट हुआ और उसने यूक्रेन पर “जानबूझकर” हमला करने का आरोप लगाया।



GS Paper II: Polity		01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
01J6	The apex court rings its own chain सर्वोच्च न्यायालय स्वयं अपनी न्याय-शृंखला बजा रहा है	

The apex court rings its own chain

The Supreme Court's reliance on *suo motu* cognisance has turned a once 'rare but highly visible' jurisdiction into a recurring instrument shaped by primetime attention and media reports; while it keeps 'ringing' its own chain through televised listings and supervision, the trial courts below it continue doing the work

GS II: Polity

LETTER & SPIRIT

V. Venkatesan

In 1605, on his accession, the Mughal Emperor Jahangir fastened a chain outside his palace. Any subject denied justice by his administration could pull the chain and reach the emperor directly. The chain was, in conception, a remedy against the bureaucracy. The Indian Supreme Court is now, in its *suo motu* cognisance of individual criminal cases, the bureaucracy itself, ringing its own version of the chain. Each televised listing is the sound of the apex court calling attention to itself.

Media and motive

The latest instance is the court's *suo motu* cognisance of Twisha Sharma's death, registered under the title 'In Re Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of a Young Girl at Her Matrimonial Home'. The title prejudices its own inquiry. Institutional bias has not been judicially established at any level. The apex court's own office report, signed by the Assistant Registrar on May 23, records the basis of registration. The case was registered, the document says, 'based on media reports and other attending circumstances'. Two days later, the same bench appealed to the media to refrain from recording statements of witnesses. A court that acts on press reports while admonishing the journalists who filed them is, at the same moment, both consumer and critic of the same source.

The ground on which the apex court arrived was not vacant. A magistrate in Bhopal had remanded the husband, a practising advocate, to seven days of police custody. The Madhya Pradesh High Court had directed a second autopsy by an AIIMS Delhi team. The Bar Council of India had suspended the husband's licence. The State government had proposed transferring the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) before the apex listing. The institutions whose bias the apex title alleges had been moving against the accused for nearly a fortnight.

Marc Galanter and Vasujith Ram put the central question to this reflex with care. Their study appears in *A Qualified Hope* (Cambridge University Press, 2019). Why does the response of the higher judiciary to executive or police failure take 'the form of these singular heroic interventions rather than promoting some institutional shake-up, some initiative to empower and equip courts lower in the judicial hierarchy'? Their diagnosis was unsparring. 'The reflex carries, they wrote, 'an echo of the disdain with which higher courts in India frequently treat the efforts of the lower judiciary'.

Easier path

Suo motu cognisance, in matters of this kind, is the easier of the two paths open to the apex court. The harder path is the slow, unspectacular work of reforming the judiciary it heads. The first requires only the bench's decision to list the matter. The second requires sustained cooperation: with the High Courts on case management and supervision under Article 235 (control over subordinate courts), with State governments on funding trial-court infrastructure, with the executive on judicial appointments, and with the National Judicial Academy on training. The asymmetry between the



GETTY IMAGES

energies devoted to the two paths is what produces the diagnosis Galanter and Ram named.

Where the easier path is taken, the court chooses persuasion over compulsion. The apex bench has, in *Sahara India Real Estate Corporation v. SEBI* (2012), a five-judge Constitution Bench authority on media trial. Sahara permits a court to issue a postponement order against media publication. The test is a real and substantial risk of prejudice to the administration of justice. The order is available only where no less restrictive means will work. The doctrine is settled. In the Twisha matter, the bench had every occasion to invoke it. It chose instead to request the media not to record statements of potential witnesses. A request from the apex court carries moral weight. But it is not the legal instrument it has at hand for this very problem.

The post-2019 record is unkind to the *pro-suo-motu* case. In the R.G. Kar matter, the Supreme Court registered cognisance on August 18, 2024. Sanjay Roy had been arrested by the Kolkata Police eight days earlier. The Calcutta High Court had handed the probe to the CBI on August 13, 2024. The Sealdah trial court convicted Roy in January 2025 and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The trial judge did the work. Apex monitoring of CBI status reports did not.

Hathras is closer to the Bhopal facts and more instructive. The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court registered the case *suo motu* in October 2020. The Supreme Court, after entertaining transfer petitions, handed monitoring back to the High Court within weeks. That earlier bench saw the architectural point: the High Court was already in motion, and the apex role was supervisory. In July 2024, following the Hathras Satsang stampede that claimed 12 lives, the court declined a PIL. The bench said that the High Court was

equipped to deal with the case. The same principle applies in Bhopal too.

Scarce attention

Lakhimpur Khari sharpens the matter. The apex court took cognisance in October 2021 and, in April 2022, set aside the High Court's bail order for the main accused, Ashish Mishra. It then eased him back into liberty. Interim bail came in 2023. Regular bail followed in 2024. As of early 2026, the trial court had examined only 44 of 131 witnesses. In the *suo motu* case over the viral video from July 2023 has yet to produce a conviction. Apex supervision has not been the route to faster justice.

A second observation runs alongside. In 2019, Galanter and Ram called *suo motu* 'rare but highly visible'. The first half of that description has lapsed. What was once a residual jurisdiction is now a recurring instrument. A trigger sequence has begun to repeat. Sustained primetime attention is followed by cognisance. The Solicitor General has now confirmed the sequence in open court. Appearing for the Union in the Twisha matter, he told the bench that 'it is also because of this media intervention that a lot of progress has happened'.

The numbers since the chapter, authored by Galanter and Ram, went to press confirm the rule. The Supreme Court Observer, working from the apex court's own Case Status records, counts 35 *suo motu* matters in the five years from 2020 to 2024.

The preceding fifteen years had seen only 31 in total. The annual figures, excluding contempt, were 10 in 2020, eight in 2021, one in 2022, four in 2023, and 12 in 2024. The trend continues. In 2025, the court's numbering reached 10 civil *suo motu* writs and three criminal matters. Nine of the 10 civil matters are publicly listed. By May 25 this year, the count already stood at four civil and four

criminal matters. Both totals exclude *suo motu* transfer and contempt, which exercise distinct constitutional powers. The criminal count, in particular, has risen sharply. Four months and three weeks have already exceeded the criminal count for all of 2025.

Judicial attention is a scarce resource. The National Crime Records Bureau recorded 6,450 dowry deaths in 2022, with convictions in only 11 to 17 per cent of cases. The court has the capacity to list one. The criterion of selection is, on the present record, temporal rather than legal. Galanter and Ram closed their chapter with a question. They asked whether *suo motu* was 'an instance of effective use of the scarce resource of judicial attention'. The seven years since they wrote have not produced an easier answer.

None of this is to deny the seriousness of the Twisha Sharma matter. The accused's mother is a retired judge. The husband is a lawyer. The family of the deceased has reason to fear local proximity. The constitutional response to that fear is independent investigation under judicial supervision, conducted promptly. The court, however, disposed of the matter on the first day after taking note of the "narrative" in the media that an affair investigation was being denied on account of the involvement of the judiciary.

The chain Jahangir hung was a remedy against an unaccountable bureaucracy. The apex court is now that bureaucracy. Each televised listing is the sound it makes to draw attention to a failure it has the power, and the constitutional duty, to repair. Until the harder of its two paths is walked with the energy now devoted to the easier one, the chain will keep ringing. The trial courts below it will keep doing the work.

(V. Venkatesan is a journalist and legal researcher.)

THE GIST

▼ The ground on which the apex court arrived was not vacant, with the magistrate, the High Court, the Bar Council of India and the State government already acting in the Twisha Sharma case.

▼ The harder path before the apex court is the slow, unspectacular work of reforming the judiciary through better case management, trial-court infrastructure, appointments and training.

▼ Judicial attention is a scarce resource, but sustained primetime attention is increasingly followed by cognisance, raising questions about the use of that attention.



01J6. The apex court rings its own chain

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय स्वयं अपनी न्याय-श्रृंखला बजा रहा है

- In 1605, on his accession, the **Mughal Emperor Jahangir** fastened a chain outside his palace.
1605 में, सत्ता संभालने के बाद मुगल सम्राट जहाँगीर ने अपने महल के बाहर एक श्रृंखला लगवाई थी।
- The latest instance is the court's **suo motu cognisance** of **Twisha Sharma's** death, registered under the title '**In Re Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of a Young Girl at Her Matrimonial Home**'.
हालिया उदाहरण ट्विशा शर्मा की मृत्यु पर न्यायालय द्वारा लिया गया सुओ मोटू संज्ञान है, जिसे '**In Re Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of a Young Girl at Her Matrimonial Home**' शीर्षक के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत किया गया।
- The second requires sustained cooperation: with the **High Courts** on case management and supervision under **Article 235 (control over subordinate courts)**, with State governments on funding trial-court infrastructure, with the executive on judicial appointments, and with the **National Judicial Academy** on training.
दूसरे मार्ग के लिए निरंतर सहयोग आवश्यक है: उच्च न्यायालयों के साथ वाद प्रबंधन और अनुच्छेद 235 (अधीनस्थ न्यायालयों पर नियंत्रण) के अंतर्गत पर्यवेक्षण, राज्य सरकारों के साथ ट्रायल कोर्ट अवसंरचना के वित्तपोषण, कार्यपालिका के साथ न्यायिक नियुक्तियों तथा राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक अकादमी के साथ प्रशिक्षण के क्षेत्र में।
- The apex bench has, in **Sahara India Real Estate Corporation v. SEBI (2012)**, a five-judge Constitution Bench authority on media trial.
Sahara India Real Estate Corporation v. SEBI (2012) मामले में सर्वोच्च पीठ के पास मीडिया ट्रायल के संबंध में पाँच-न्यायाधीशीय संविधान पीठ का अधिकारिक निर्णय उपलब्ध है।
- The **National Crime Records Bureau** recorded **6,450 dowry deaths** in 2022, with convictions in only **11 to 17 per cent** of cases.
राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो ने 2022 में 6,450 दहेज मृत्यु के मामले दर्ज किए, जिनमें केवल 11 से 17 प्रतिशत मामलों में दोषसिद्धि हुई।

GS Paper II: Governance		01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
01J6	Language decorum भाषाई मर्यादा	



GS II: Governance

Language decorum

School education should not be the site of a cultural battle

The Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the Union Government, the CBSE, and the NCERT, directing them to file a comprehensive report on their logistical preparedness to implement a three-language formula in all CBSE schools for Class 9 students from July 1, 2026. On May 27, while hearing petitioners challenging the CBSE move, the Court declined to grant an immediate stay on the policy but acknowledged that concerns over "hardship and inconvenience" warranted review. The Court will hear arguments on July 15 and 16. The casual manner in which the government is using the CBSE to enforce its contentious language policy once again shows complete disregard for students, teachers, and parents. On May 15, the CBSE had issued a circular mandating the study of three languages for Class 9 students from July 1, citing alignment with the NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023. At least two of the three must be native Indian languages. Foreign languages such as French or German could only be taken as a third language if the first two were Indian, or alternatively as an optional fourth subject. In a meagre effort to camouflage the hardship unleashed on the students, the CBSE exempted the third language from the Class 10 Board examination, which would instead be assessed through school-based internal evaluations, though the marks would still appear on the final certificate.

Barely weeks earlier, the CBSE had stated that the third-language requirement would be deferred until the 2029-30 academic year. The abrupt turnabout can only be explained as a political decision. The move is being challenged in the Court on multiple grounds, including constitutional ones. The petitioners argue that language is a matter of personal choice and cannot be imposed by the state. It is also being pointed out that the NEP 2020, in whose name the mandate is being enforced, promises flexibility and guarantees that no language shall be imposed on any student or State. The petitioners also argue that the CBSE, as an executive body, lacks the authority to impose such a sweeping educational mandate without backing from parliamentary legislation, regardless of what the NEP says, being an executive policy intent and not a statute. Parents and teachers are alarmed about the added pressure on students just before their Board examinations. School administrators have flagged a shortage of trained language teachers and the unavailability of appropriate textbooks. Turning school education into a cultural battleground is not helping India's ambition to become a global reservoir of advanced human resources. The Centre should course-correct before the Court takes up the case again.

किया जाएगा, यद्यपि उसके अंक अंतिम प्रमाणपत्र में अंकित रहेंगे।

- The petitioners argue that language is a matter of personal choice and cannot be imposed by the state.

याचिकाकर्ताओं का तर्क है कि भाषा व्यक्तिगत चयन का विषय है और इसे राज्य द्वारा थोप नहीं जा सकता।

01J6. Language decorum

भाषाई मर्यादा

School education should not be the site of a cultural battle.

विद्यालयी शिक्षा को सांस्कृतिक संघर्ष का क्षेत्र नहीं बनाया जाना चाहिए।

- The Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the Union Government, the CBSE, and the NCERT, directing them to file a comprehensive report on their logistical preparedness to implement a **three-language formula in all CBSE schools for Class 9 students from July 1, 2026.**

भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने केंद्र सरकार, CBSE और NCERT को नोटिस जारी करते हुए निर्देश दिया है कि वे 1 जुलाई 2026 से कक्षा 9 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए सभी CBSE विद्यालयों में त्रिभाषा सूत्र लागू करने संबंधी अपनी व्यवस्थागत तैयारी पर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करें।

- On May 15, the CBSE had issued a circular mandating the study of three languages for Class 9 students from July 1, citing alignment with the NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023.

15 मई को CBSE ने एक परिपत्र जारी कर 1 जुलाई से कक्षा 9 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए तीन भाषाओं का अध्ययन अनिवार्य कर दिया था, जिसका आधार राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 (NEP 2020) तथा राष्ट्रीय पाठ्यचर्या रूपरेखा 2023 के साथ सामंजस्य बताया गया।

- At least two of the three must be native Indian languages.

तीन भाषाओं में से कम-से-कम दो भारतीय भाषाएँ होना अनिवार्य होगा।

- Foreign languages such as French or German could only be taken as a third language if the first two were Indian, or alternatively as an optional fourth subject.

फ्रेंच या जर्मन जैसी विदेशी भाषाएँ केवल तभी तीसरी भाषा के रूप में ली जा सकती हैं, जब पहली दो भाषाएँ भारतीय हों, अथवा इन्हें वैकल्पिक चौथे विषय के रूप में चुना जा सकता है।

- In a meagre effort to camouflage the hardship unleashed on the students, the CBSE exempted the third language from the Class 10 Board examination, which would instead be assessed through school-based internal evaluations, though the marks would still appear on the final certificate.

विद्यार्थियों पर पड़ने वाले अतिरिक्त बोझ को छिपाने के एक सीमित प्रयास के रूप में CBSE ने तीसरी भाषा को कक्षा 10 बोर्ड परीक्षा से बाहर रखा, जिसका मूल्यांकन विद्यालय आधारित आंतरिक परीक्षाओं द्वारा



- It is also being pointed out that the **NEP 2020**, in whose name the mandate is being enforced, promises flexibility and guarantees that no language shall be imposed on any student or State.
यह भी इंगित किया जा रहा है कि **NEP 2020**, जिसके नाम पर यह अनिवार्यता लागू की जा रही है, लचीलापन प्रदान करने तथा किसी भी विद्यार्थी या राज्य पर कोई भाषा न थोपने की गारंटी देता है।
- The petitioners also argue that the **CBSE**, as an executive body, lacks the authority to impose such a sweeping educational mandate without backing from parliamentary legislation, regardless of what the **NEP** says, being an executive policy intent and not a statute.
याचिकाकर्ताओं का यह भी तर्क है कि **CBSE**, एक कार्यपालिका निकाय होने के नाते, संसदीय कानून के समर्थन के बिना इतनी व्यापक शैक्षिक अनिवार्यता लागू करने का अधिकार नहीं रखता, चाहे **NEP** में कुछ भी कहा गया हो, क्योंकि वह केवल एक कार्यकारी नीति है, कोई विधिक अधिनियम नहीं।
- School administrators have flagged a shortage of trained language teachers and the unavailability of appropriate textbooks.
विद्यालय प्रशासन ने प्रशिक्षित भाषा शिक्षकों की कमी तथा उपयुक्त पाठ्यपुस्तकों की अनुपलब्धता की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।

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TOPICS COVERED		
01J6	Nepal PM sparks row, says his country has encroached upon Indian territory नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री के बयान से विवाद, कहा उनके देश ने भी भारतीय क्षेत्र पर अतिक्रमण किया है	
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01J6	Israel captures Beaufort castle in Lebanon in its deepest incursion इज़राइल ने लेबनान में ब्यूफोर्ट किले पर कब्जा किया, यह उसकी सबसे गहरी घुसपैठ	
01J6	Russia may use Belarus as launchpad for new Ukrainian offensive: experts रूस नए यूक्रेनी आक्रमण के लिए बेलारूस का इस्तेमाल लॉन्चपैड के रूप में कर सकता है: विशेषज्ञ	



Nepal PM sparks row, says his country has encroached upon Indian territory

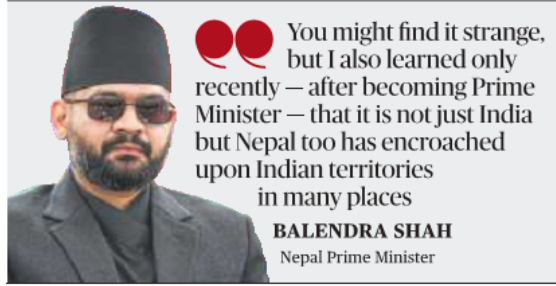
GS II: IR

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah said on Sunday that Nepal too had encroached upon Indian territory, in what is considered to be the first such public statement by a head of government of the neighbouring country.

Mr. Shah was responding to a question in Parliament regarding the Kalapani region, which remains disputed between Nepal and India.

"You might find it strange, but I also learned only recently – after becoming Prime Minister – that it is not just India but Nepal too has encroached upon Indian territories in many places," Mr. Shah said, prompting an uproar in Parliament as the Oppo-



You might find it strange, but I also learned only recently – after becoming Prime Minister – that it is not just India but Nepal too has encroached upon Indian territories in many places

BALENDRA SHAH
Nepal Prime Minister

sition objected to the statement.

Kailash Yatra

Nepal and India have a long-pending boundary dispute over Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani and the dispute resurfaced recently when India announced the revival of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra pilgrimage via the Lipulekh route. Nepal then sent diplomatic notes to both India and China. In-

dia maintains that the territories are part of Uttarakhand.

Lawmakers from the Nepali Congress and the Nepali Communist Party demanded that Mr. Shah clarify where exactly Nepal has encroached upon Indian territory and sought the removal of his remarks from the record. "The Prime Minister said Nepal has encroached upon Indian territory," Nepali Congress Chief Whip Basana

Thapa said. "Where exactly has this happened? The Prime Minister must make the House aware of this. This is a serious and objectionable statement."

Nepal Communist Party lawmaker Ramesh Malla said Mr. Shah's remarks could damage national integrity.

Sunday's address to Parliament was the first by Mr. Shah of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) since he took office on March 27 following the election held earlier that month, the first since the Gen Z protests in September last year.

He had previously faced criticism for his reluctance to address Parliament and his absence from House sessions.

RSP DELEGATION VISIT

» PAGE 6

01J6. Nepal PM sparks row, says his country has encroached upon Indian territory

नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री के बयान से विवाद, कहा उनके देश ने भी भारतीय क्षेत्र पर अतिक्रमण किया है

- **Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah** said on Sunday that Nepal too had encroached upon Indian territory, in what is considered to be the first such public statement by a head of government of the neighbouring country.

नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री बलेंद्र शाह ने रविवार को कहा कि नेपाल ने भी भारतीय क्षेत्र पर अतिक्रमण किया है, जिसे पड़ोसी देश के किसी सरकार प्रमुख द्वारा इस प्रकार का पहला सार्वजनिक बयान माना जा रहा है।

- Mr. Shah was responding to a question in Parliament regarding the **Kalapani region**, which remains disputed between Nepal and India.

श्री शाह संसद में कालापानी क्षेत्र को लेकर पूछे गए प्रश्न का उत्तर दे रहे थे, जो नेपाल और भारत के बीच अब भी विवादित बना हुआ है।

- "You might find it strange, but I also learned only recently — after becoming Prime Minister — that it is not just India but Nepal too has encroached upon Indian territories in many places," Mr. Shah said, prompting an uproar in Parliament as the Opposition objected to the statement.

"आपको यह अजीब लग सकता है, लेकिन मुझे भी हाल ही में — प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद — यह पता चला कि केवल भारत ही नहीं बल्कि नेपाल ने भी कई स्थानों पर भारतीय क्षेत्रों पर अतिक्रमण किया है," श्री शाह ने कहा, जिसके बाद विपक्ष द्वारा इस बयान पर आपत्ति जताने से संसद में हंगामा शुरू हो गया।



Kailash Yatra कैलाश यात्रा

- **Nepal and India have a long-pending boundary dispute over Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani** and the dispute resurfaced recently when India announced the revival of the **Kailash Manasarovar Yatra** pilgrimage via the Lipulekh route.
नेपाल और भारत के बीच लिपुलेख, लिम्पियाधुरा और कालापानी को लेकर लंबे समय से सीमा विवाद चला आ रहा है और यह विवाद हाल ही में फिर उभर आया जब भारत ने लिपुलेख मार्ग से कैलाश मानसरोवर यात्रा को फिर से शुरू करने की घोषणा की।
- **Nepal then sent diplomatic notes to both India and China.**
इसके बाद नेपाल ने भारत और चीन दोनों को कूटनीतिक नोट भेजे।
- **India maintains that the territories are part of Uttarakhand.**
भारत का कहना है कि ये क्षेत्र उत्तराखंड का हिस्सा हैं।

Shaping the next chapter in India-Canada relations

GS II: IR

India and Canada are turning the page together, opening a vibrant new chapter as two democratic, multicultural, and innovation-driven nations. Both governments are signalling a fresh resolve to deepen cooperation and pursue common goals. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent trip to India (February 27-March 2, 2026) and the just-concluded visit of India's Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, to Canada highlight the importance both nations attach to their relationship in an evolving global order. These engagements reflect the growing strategic depth of the India-Canada bilateral partnership, built around four strategic pillars - economic cooperation, technological collaboration, energy security, and people-to-people connectivity.

The economic promise of a stronger India-Canada partnership has never been brighter. Mr. Carney's visit also reignited talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and both nations' determination to finalise it by the end of 2026, along with the ambitious target of reaching \$50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030, signals a new era of economic confidence.

The view from Ottawa

For Canada, India represents not only a vast consumer market but also a cornerstone in its Indo-Pacific diversification ambitions. As shifting supply chains and global uncertainties reshape trade, India offers Canada a gateway to new opportunities and a chance to deepen ties with a vibrant economy. India's surging appetite for energy, infrastructure, technology, and advanced manufacturing dovetails with Canada's expertise in natural resources, clean energy, critical minerals, agriculture, and innovation. Moreover, India's rapid ascent as a global growth engine pairs strongly with Canada's wealth of resources, cutting-edge technologies, world-class universities, and robust investment capital. The



Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General,
Confederation of
Indian Industry

ongoing talks on uranium, critical minerals, clean energy, and resilient supply chains further highlight just how strategically vital this partnership has become.

To this end, Mr. Goyal's visit to Canada comes at a particularly significant juncture in the bilateral economic relationship. Accompanied by a delegation of over 100 Indian industry leaders, the visit signals a renewed intent on both sides to strengthen economic engagement and impart fresh momentum to the CEPA negotiations. Equally important, it seeks to deepen business-to-business linkages, enhance investor confidence, and encourage industry on both sides to translate strategic intent into tangible commercial partnerships and long-term economic collaboration.

India is fast becoming a driving force in Canada's future prosperity. Indian companies have invested significantly in Canada and created thousands of jobs across the country, in sectors ranging from technology and life sciences to manufacturing and mining, highlighting the depth and diversification of bilateral business relations. This two-way business presence is an important marker of trust and long-term commercial confidence.

The diaspora link

The Indian diaspora stands as a living bridge between the two nations. Indian-origin entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, students, and community leaders have left an incredible mark on Canada's economic and social landscape. Their achievements reflect the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, and multiculturalism that both countries hold dear. The diaspora should be recognised as a strategic asset, ready to drive trade, investment, innovation, talent exchange and cultural understanding.

Meanwhile, Canadian pension funds are supporting India's growth story, investing in

everything from infrastructure and logistics to clean energy, financial services, and digital ventures. This vibrant two-way investment proves that when these economies engage, both nations reap the rewards of growth, innovation, and opportunity.

Strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation

The India-Canada partnership resonates far beyond their borders, carrying weight across the Indo-Pacific. Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy places India at its heart, recognising its economic potential, youthful population, and strategic clout. Both nations champion a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based region. By joining forces in maritime security, advanced technologies, artificial intelligence, clean energy, resilient supply chains, and climate action, they can drive prosperity at home and stability throughout the region.

The path ahead calls for steady engagement, trust, and a relentless focus on real-world outcomes. The most resilient economic partnerships are built on lasting commercial interests and vibrant people-to-people connections. The momentum from the recent high-level visits shows that both countries are eager to invest in a shared future. The partnership must also become more inclusive for small and medium enterprises on both sides. As the backbone of their respective economies, these enterprises hold immense untapped potential to drive bilateral trade and investment.

India and Canada are natural allies, innovation collaborators, and pivotal players in shaping the Indo-Pacific's future. India's drive for growth, energy transformation, and manufacturing expansion opens a wealth of opportunities for Canadian businesses and investors. This is the moment to transform goodwill into action and promise into partnership. With shared vision and determination, these two nations can forge one of the decade's most influential economic alliances.

Trade,
technology and
trust mark a
revitalised
partnership



01J6. Shaping the next chapter in India-Canada relations

भारत-कनाडा संबंधों के अगले अध्याय को आकार देना

- India and Canada are turning the page together, opening a vibrant new chapter as **two democratic, multicultural, and innovation-driven nations**.
भारत और कनाडा साथ मिलकर एक नया अध्याय आरंभ कर रहे हैं, जो दो लोकतांत्रिक, बहुसांस्कृतिक और नवाचार-प्रेरित राष्ट्रों के रूप में एक सशक्त नई शुरुआत का प्रतीक है।
- Both governments are signalling a fresh resolve to deepen cooperation and pursue common goals.
दोनों सरकारें सहयोग को और गहरा करने तथा साझा लक्ष्यों की प्राप्ति के लिए नई प्रतिबद्धता का संकेत दे रही हैं।
- Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney's** recent trip to India (February 27-March 2, 2026) and the just-concluded visit of India's Commerce and Industry Minister, **Piyush Goyal**, to Canada highlight the importance both nations attach to their relationship in an evolving global order.
कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री **मार्क कार्नी** की हाल की भारत यात्रा (27 फरवरी-2 मार्च, 2026) तथा भारत के वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री **पीयूष गोयल** की हाल ही में संपन्न कनाडा यात्रा इस बात को रेखांकित करती है कि बदलती वैश्विक व्यवस्था में दोनों देश अपने संबंधों को कितना महत्व देते हैं।
- Mr. Carney's visit also reignited talks for a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, and both nations' determination to finalise it by the end of 2026, along with the ambitious target of reaching **\$50 billion** in bilateral trade by 2030, signals a new era of economic confidence.
श्री कार्नी की यात्रा ने व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौते (CEPA) पर वार्ता को पुनः गति प्रदान की, और 2026 के अंत तक इसे अंतिम रूप देने तथा 2030 तक द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को **50 अरब डॉलर** तक पहुँचाने के महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य ने आर्थिक विश्वास के एक नए युग का संकेत दिया है।

The view from Ottawa

ओटावा का दृष्टिकोण

- Equally important, it seeks to deepen **business-to-business linkages, enhance investor confidence, and encourage industry on both sides to translate strategic intent into tangible commercial partnerships and long-term economic collaboration**.
समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि यह यात्रा व्यापार-से-व्यापार संबंधों को और गहरा करने, निवेशकों के विश्वास को बढ़ाने तथा दोनों पक्षों के उद्योगों को रणनीतिक उद्देश्यों को ठोस व्यावसायिक साझेदारियों और दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक सहयोग में परिवर्तित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती है।
- **Indian companies have invested significantly in Canada and created thousands of jobs across the country, in sectors ranging from technology and life sciences to manufacturing and mining, highlighting the depth and diversification of bilateral business relations**.
भारतीय कंपनियों ने कनाडा में महत्वपूर्ण निवेश किया है तथा प्रौद्योगिकी, जीवन विज्ञान, विनिर्माण और खनन जैसे क्षेत्रों में देशभर में हजारों रोजगार सृजित किए हैं, जो द्विपक्षीय व्यापारिक संबंधों की गहराई और विविधता को दर्शाते हैं।

The diaspora link

प्रवासी समुदाय का संबंध

- **Indian-origin entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, students, and community leaders have left an incredible mark on Canada's economic and social landscape.**



भारतीय मूल के उद्यमियों, पेशवरों, शिक्षाविदों, विद्यार्थियों और सामुदायिक नेताओं ने कनाडा के आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिदृश्य पर उल्लेखनीय प्रभाव छोड़ा है।

- **Strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation**
इंडो-पैसिफिक सहयोग को सुदृढ़ बनाना
- **India's drive for growth, energy transformation, and manufacturing expansion opens a wealth of opportunities for Canadian businesses and investors.**
भारत की विकास, ऊर्जा परिवर्तन और विनिर्माण विस्तार की दिशा में प्रगति कनाडाई व्यवसायों और निवेशकों के लिए व्यापक अवसर प्रदान करती है।
- **This is the moment to transform goodwill into action and promise into partnership.**
यह सद्भावना को कार्य में और संभावनाओं को साझेदारी में परिवर्तित करने का उपयुक्त समय है।

BUCHAREST

Romania identifies drone behind apartment block strike as Russian



Further analysis of a drone that smashed into a Romanian apartment building, sparking furious condemnation of Russia, has shown that it undoubtedly came from Moscow's forces, Bucharest said on Sunday. "The drone that crashed Thursday in Galati is a Geran-2, of Russian origin," President Nicusor Dan said. AFP

01J6. Romania identifies drone behind apartment block strike as Russian

रोमानिया ने अपार्टमेंट इमारत पर हमले वाले ड्रोन को रूसी बताया

- Further analysis of a drone that smashed into a **Romanian** apartment building, sparking furious condemnation of **Russia**, has shown that it undoubtedly came from **Moscow's** forces, **Bucharest** said on Sunday.

एक ड्रोन के और अधिक विश्लेषण से, जिसने एक **रोमानियाई** अपार्टमेंट इमारत को टक्कर मारी थी और जिसके बाद **रूस** की तीखी आलोचना हुई थी, यह स्पष्ट हुआ है कि वह निश्चित रूप से **मॉस्को** की सेनाओं से आया था, ऐसा **बुखारेस्ट** ने रविवार को कहा।

Israel captures Beaufort castle in Lebanon in its deepest incursion

Defence Minister Katz says Israel will hold the site while targeting 'thousands more homes' and Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Lebanon; the 12th century Crusader-built castle overlooks Litani river and has long-standing strategic importance

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Israeli troops have captured a strategic mountain topped with a Crusader-built castle in southern Lebanon in the deepest incursion into the country in more than a quarter-century, the military said on Sunday.

The capture of Beaufort castle, near the city of Nabatiyeh, came after days of air strikes and intense fighting in nearby villages where Israeli troops fought Hezbollah members in the rugged area.

Its capture marks a major development in the latest Israel-Hezbollah war,



Holding down the fort: Israeli soldiers operate at Beaufort Ridge in southern Lebanon on Sunday. REUTERS

which began on March 2 when Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel two days after the U.S. and Israel attacked its main backer, Iran.

"The occupation of Beaufort is a dramatic stage and a dramatic shift in the policies we are leading," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Defence Minister Israel Katz wrote on X that they raised an Israeli flag over the castle. Israeli troops previously captured the castle in 1982 and held it until they withdrew from Lebanon in 2000.

"Twenty six years after the withdrawal from the security zone in Lebanon, the Israeli flag has returned to fly on the peaks that overlook the Galilee towns," Mr. Katz said at a memorial ceremony for Israeli soldiers killed in its previous occupation of southern Lebanon.

Mr. Katz said Israel intends to hold the castle as its troops work to destroy thousands more homes

that he says were used by Hezbollah and other military infrastructure in southern Lebanon.

The Beaufort fortress, perched high atop Lebanon's rolling green hills and overlooking the Litani River, has been a strategic military asset for centuries.

Built as a Crusader castle around the 12th century on top of previous fortifications, it has also been used by Saladin's Jerusalem army, Mamluks, Ottomans, the French mandate, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Israeli military until 2000, when it was partially restored and opened to visitors.



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01J6. Israel captures Beaufort castle in Lebanon in its deepest incursion इज़राइल ने लेबनान में ब्यूफोर्ट किले पर कब्जा किया, यह उसकी सबसे गहरी घुसपैठ

- The 12th century Crusader-built castle overlooks **Litani river** and has long-standing strategic importance.
12वीं शताब्दी में क्रुसेडरों द्वारा निर्मित यह किला **लितानी नदी** के ऊपर स्थित है और लंबे समय से रणनीतिक महत्व रखता है।
- The capture of **Beaufort castle**, near the city of **Nabatiyeh**, came after days of air strikes and intense fighting in nearby villages where Israeli troops fought **Hezbollah** members in the rugged area.
नबातियेह शहर के पास स्थित **ब्यूफोर्ट किले** पर कब्जा कई दिनों तक चले हवाई हमलों और आसपास के गांवों में हुई भीषण लड़ाई के बाद हुआ, जहां इज़राइली सैनिकों ने कठिन पहाड़ी क्षेत्र में **हिज़्बुल्लाह** सदस्यों से मुकाबला किया।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Russia may use Belarus as launchpad for new Ukrainian offensive: experts

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy warns of an attack from Belarus; military cooperation between Moscow and Minsk increasingly worries Kyiv's allies; Lukashenko has backed Putin's war effort by hosting Russia's nuclear weapons, as well as producing munitions, and microchips for ballistic missiles

GS II: IR
Associated Press
TALLINN

Over four years ago, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko allowed longtime ally Russia to use his territory to invade Ukraine. Now officials in Kyiv are warning that Mr. Lukashenko could again allow his land to serve as a launchpad for more attacks by the Kremlin's forces.

While Belarus has not contributed troops to battle, Mr. Lukashenko has backed President Vladimir Putin's war effort by hosting Russia's nuclear weapons and military infrastructure, as well as producing components for Moscow's military industries. Earlier this month, the countries held joint drills of nuclear forces involving Russian weapons deployed in Belarus.

Military cooperation between Moscow and Minsk is increasingly worrying Ukraine's allies.

When Mr. Putin began the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russian troops that gathered in Belarus under the guise of drills dashed toward Kyiv, only about 90 kilometres south of the border. The Russian leader's hope of capturing Kyiv quickly was shattered by staunch Ukrainian resistance.

A little over a month after the invasion, Russian



An Iskander missile launched by a Belarusian crew from a firing range in Russia during joint nuclear drills (left); Alexander Lukashenko with Vladimir Putin during their meet earlier this month. AP



troops that suffered heavy losses and struggled to maintain their supply lines pulled back from Kyiv and other areas they captured in northeastern Ukraine in what the Kremlin cast as a "goodwill gesture."

When Moscow tried to negotiate a quick end to the conflict weeks after its start, Belarus hosted the first talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations. The talks moved to Istanbul but failed to produce a deal.

As the conflict became a war of attrition, Belarus has played a key role in supporting Moscow's war effort. Belarusian plants have produced important components, including microchips and other elec-

tronics, optical guidance systems, artillery munitions and heavy trucks that carry Russian ballistic missiles.

Kremlin's war machine

BELPOL, a group of former military and law enforcement officers who oppose Mr. Lukashenko, said the Belarusian industries have integrated into the Kremlin's war machine. It says that over 500 Belarusian plants are involved in manufacturing weapons and ammunition, repairing military equipment and providing logistics.

In the Gomel region that borders Ukraine, construction has begun of a big firing range and barracks for large numbers of troops,

BELPOL head Uladzimir Zhyhar said.

Belarus, which also borders NATO members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, has hosted some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons. In December, Russia announced that its latest intermediate range nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system entered service in Belarus.

Russia has used a conventionally armed version of the Oreshnik to strike facilities in Ukraine three times – in November 2024 and then again in January and earlier this month.

Ukraine's presidential envoy on sanctions policy, Vladyslav Vlasuk, said fragments of the missile that Russia fired at Ukraine

on May 24 contained microchips from Belarus. He urged Western allies to tighten sanctions enforcement against Belarus.

Nuclear doctrine

In 2024, the Kremlin revised its nuclear doctrine, placing Belarus under the Russian nuclear umbrella. Mr. Putin has said that Moscow will retain control of its nuclear weapons deployed in Belarus but would allow its ally to select the targets in case of conflict.

Earlier this month, Russia and Belarus held massive drills that included the delivery of nuclear warheads to missile units and launch preparations. As part of the exercise, a Belarusian missile crew test-fired a nuclear-capable Iskander missile from a range in southern Russia.

"Belarus lacks military sovereignty, and as soon as Moscow sees it as necessary for its strategy, Moscow will naturally use Belarus as a launchpad for a new invasion of Ukraine or some kind of armed conflict with NATO countries," Mr. Zhyhar said.

Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his intelligence services had learned Moscow recently stepped-up efforts to "draw Belarus much deeper into the war and launch additional aggressive operations precisely from Belarusian ter-

ritory." He said the target could be along the Chernihiv-Kyiv area or against a NATO country bordering Belarus.

Mr. Zelenskyy said he ordered the military and security agencies to prepare a response and strengthen northern defences. Mr. Lukashenko has denied any aggressive plans, declaring Belarus will not enter the conflict unless attacked.

Sergei Shoigu, Russia's former Defence Minister and now secretary of its Security Council, also rejected Mr. Zelenskyy's claim, describing it as a scare tactic to attract more Western aid for Kyiv.

But in a sign of growing Western concern, French President Emmanuel Macron spoke to Mr. Lukashenko on May 24 to underscore the risks for Belarus of being dragged into the war, their first call since the invasion began.

Belarus' Opposition leader-in-exile, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, visited Kyiv last week and emphasised that "Belarus must never again become a springboard for aggression."

According to official data, Belarus' armed forces have 48,600 troops, a tiny force compared with Russia's 1.5 million. In case of war, Belarus is prepared to mobilise 290,000, but they would need weapons and training to become combat-ready.

01J6. Russia may use Belarus as launchpad for new Ukrainian offensive: experts

रूस नए यूक्रेनी आक्रमण के लिए बेलारूस का इस्तेमाल लॉन्चपैड के रूप में कर सकता है: विशेषज्ञ

- Over four years ago, Belarusian President **Alexander Lukashenko** allowed longtime ally **Russia** to use his territory to invade Ukraine.

चार साल से अधिक पहले बेलारूस के राष्ट्रपति **अलेक्जेंडर लुकाशेंको** ने अपने लंबे समय के सहयोगी रूस को यूक्रेन पर हमला करने के लिए अपनी भूमि का उपयोग करने की अनुमति दी थी।

- Belarus**, which also borders **NATO** members **Latvia**, **Lithuania** and **Poland**, has hosted some of **Russia's tactical nuclear weapons**.

बेलारूस, जिसकी सीमाएं **NATO** सदस्य लातविया, लिथुआनिया और पोलैंड से भी मिलती हैं, ने रूस के कुछ सामरिक परमाणु हथियारों की मेजबानी की है।

- In December, Russia announced that its **latest intermediate range nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system** entered service in Belarus.

दिसंबर में रूस ने घोषणा की कि उसकी नवीनतम मध्यम दूरी की परमाणु क्षमता वाली **ओरेशनिक** मिसाइल प्रणाली बेलारूस में सेवा में शामिल हो गई है।



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TOPICS COVERED		
01J6	'Carrot extract can make fake ghee dodge quality test' 'गाजर का अर्क नकली घी को गुणवत्ता परीक्षण से बचा सकता है'	
01J6	'Transitioning to a human space mission is a change of magnitude' 'मानव अंतरिक्ष मिशन की ओर बढ़ना एक बड़े स्तर का परिवर्तन है'	
01J6	Webb telescope captures weather on exoplanet 700 lightyears away वेब टेलीस्कोप ने 700 प्रकाशवर्ष दूर स्थित एक्सोप्लैनेट के मौसम को दर्ज किया	
01J6	Conflict in West Asia spurs interest in European-made sustainable aviation fuels पश्चिम एशिया के संघर्ष ने यूरोप में बने टिकाऊ विमानन ईंधनों में रुचि बढ़ाई	
01J6	From students to authors, users turn to AI detectors despite questions over accuracy सटीकता पर प्रश्नों के बावजूद विद्यार्थी से लेकर लेखक तक AI डिटेक्टरों की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं	

'Carrot extract can make fake ghee dodge quality test'

GS III: S&T

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The red-orange pigment from carrots can make fake ghee dodge a popular quality test to pass off as a premium product sourced from cows, a new study has found.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, have demonstrated that non-dairy fats, such as palm oil and lard or rendered pig fat, can be engineered to mimic the Raman spectral signature of authentic cow ghee simply by adding a beta-carotene-rich carrot extract.

Cow ghee naturally contains beta-carotene, responsible for its yellowish colour. The researchers are Vineet Sharma, Ajay Kumar Bind, Shreyans K. Jain, and Venkatanarayan Ramanathan. Their study has been published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy*.

The findings, although based on a small sample size, raise concerns about fraud in India's premium dairy market. They also challenge the efficacy of Raman spectroscopy, a rapid testing technique widely

ly used by food regulators and laboratories.

Named after Nobel laureate C.V. Raman, Raman spectroscopy is considered a powerful analytical quality test. It acts as a molecular fingerprint to verify the exact chemical composition, crystalline structure, and purity of a substance.

The IIT (BHU) team investigated whether the characteristic Raman signatures associated with cow ghee could be artificially recreated with other fats. Previous studies have treated three Raman spectral peaks of beta-carotene – at 1,006, 1,157, and 1,520 cm^{-1} – as reliable markers for authenticating cow ghee. These peaks are often absent in non-dairy fats.

To test the robustness of these markers, the researchers fortified samples of lard and palm oil with carotenoids extracted from carrots. Both lard and palm oil displayed the same Raman peaks attributed to cow ghee. The fortified fats also acquired the yellow-orange colour similar to cow ghee, making them resemble the dairy product in appearance and spectroscopic profile.

01J6. 'Carrot extract can make fake ghee dodge quality test'

'गाजर का अर्क नकली घी को गुणवत्ता परीक्षण से बचा सकता है'

- The red-orange pigment from carrots can make fake ghee dodge a popular quality test to pass off as a premium product sourced from cows, a new study has found.

गाजर से मिलने वाला लाल-नारंगी रंगद्रव्य नकली घी को एक लोकप्रिय गुणवत्ता परीक्षण से बचाकर उसे गाय से प्राप्त प्रीमियम उत्पाद के रूप में पेश कर सकता है, यह एक नए अध्ययन में पाया गया है।

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, have demonstrated that non-dairy fats, such as palm oil and lard or rendered pig fat, can be engineered to mimic the Raman spectral signature of authentic cow ghee simply by adding a beta-carotene-rich carrot extract.

उत्तर प्रदेश के वाराणसी स्थित भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय) के शोधकर्ताओं ने प्रदर्शित किया है कि पाम ऑयल और लार्ड या पिघली हुई सूअर की चर्बी जैसे गैर-डेयरी वसा को केवल बीटा-कैरोटीन युक्त गाजर के अर्क को मिलाकर असली गाय के घी के रमन स्पेक्ट्रल सिग्नेचर जैसा बनाया जा सकता है।

- Cow ghee naturally contains beta-carotene, responsible for its yellowish colour.

गाय के घी में प्राकृतिक रूप से बीटा-कैरोटीन होता है, जो उसके पीले रंग के लिए जिम्मेदार होता है।

- They also challenge the efficacy of Raman spectroscopy, a rapid testing technique widely used by food regulators and laboratories.



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ये निष्कर्ष **रमन स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी** की प्रभावशीलता पर भी सवाल उठाते हैं, जो खाद्य नियामकों और प्रयोगशालाओं द्वारा व्यापक रूप से उपयोग की जाने वाली एक त्वरित परीक्षण तकनीक है।

- Named after **Nobel laureate C.V. Raman**, Raman spectroscopy is considered a powerful analytical quality test.

नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता सी.वी. रमन के नाम पर आधारित रमन स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी को एक शक्तिशाली विश्लेषणात्मक गुणवत्ता परीक्षण माना जाता है।

- **It acts as a molecular fingerprint to verify the exact chemical composition, crystalline structure, and purity of a substance.**
यह किसी पदार्थ की सटीक रासायनिक संरचना, क्रिस्टलीय संरचना और शुद्धता की पुष्टि करने के लिए आणविक फिंगरप्रिंट की तरह कार्य करता है।
- **To test the robustness of these markers, the researchers fortified samples of lard and palm oil with carotenoids extracted from carrots.**
इन संकेतकों की मजबूती की जांच करने के लिए शोधकर्ताओं ने लार्ड और पाम ऑयल के नमूनों में गाजर से निकाले गए कैरोटेनॉयड मिलाए।
- **Both lard and palm oil displayed the same Raman peaks attributed to cow ghee.**
लार्ड और पाम ऑयल दोनों में वही रमन पीक्स दिखाई दिए जो गाय के घी से जुड़े माने जाते हैं।
- **The fortified fats also acquired the yellow-orange colour similar to cow ghee, making them resemble the dairy product in appearance and spectroscopic profile.**
इन संवर्धित वसाओं ने भी गाय के घी जैसा पीला-नारंगी रंग प्राप्त कर लिया, जिससे वे दिखने और स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपिक प्रोफाइल में डेयरी उत्पाद जैसे प्रतीत होने लगे।



Webb telescope captures weather on exoplanet 700 lightyears away

As state-of-the-art instruments like the Extremely Large Telescope, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discover many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin

GS III: S&T

Prakash Chandra
KOCHI

“Cloudy with a chance of rain” – imagine astronomers turning into meteorologists and issuing weather reports like this, but for alien planets.

According to a new study published in *Science* on May 21, scientists were able to use the NASA James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to peer closely at an exoplanet nearly 700 lightyears away, and deciphered the weather patterns on it.

Named WASP-94A b, this exoplanet is almost twice as large as Jupiter but with only half the mass. It orbits very close to its parent star – so close that it takes just four days to complete a whole revolution.

Extreme worlds

Gas giants like WASP-94A b with scorching atmospheric temperatures are called ‘hot Jupiters’ and have their orbits tidally locked, meaning their rotation is synchronised with their revolution. As a result, the same side of the planet always faces the host star, much like the moon’s tidally locked orbit keeps one side always facing the earth.

WASP-94A b’s dayside is thus a sweltering desert with temperatures hot enough to melt rock while its nightside is perennially dark and frozen as temperatures dip to nearly absolute zero.

Astronomers have always been intrigued by the bizarre weather patterns on the 6,000 or so exoplanets they have found so far. But in the absence of a sufficiently powerful telescope, they have had no way to study these far-flung bodies.

NASA’s launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) in December 2021 was the gamechanger. The unprecedented sensitivity of its instruments – which allow the telescope to discern the details on a small coin from a distance of 50 km – has helped scientists study exoplanets’ atmospheres like never before. Many of these worlds have turned out to be rocky; some are even almost earth-like. But on some other exoplanets, scientists have found extreme temperatures and pressures producing rain of molten metal and vaporised rock. Still others have downpours of molten glass pushed by supersonic winds. Some gaseous exoplanets even have crystallised carbon raining down as diamonds.

‘A world far beyond’

Hot Jupiters though are the most studied exoplanets. The latest JWST discovery has found that WASP-94A b in particular has a dynamic weather system: its mornings are blanketed in clouds of magnesium



An artistic rendering of WASP-94A b, a gas giant around 700 lightyears away. On this exoplanet, clouds build as air flows over the night side of the planet, reaching a large swell by daybreak. They dissipate on the dayside, leaving clear skies in the early evening. HANNAH ROBBINS/JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

silicate, iron, and magnesium sulphide while the evenings sport clear skies.

“The clouds appear to form on the cooler night side of the planet, sweep across the globe with extremely fast winds, and then disappear as they reach the hotter dayside,” Sagnick Mukherjee, lead author of the study and a postdoctoral fellow at Arizona State University, said. “This is a direct measurement of an extreme weather cycle unfolding on a world far beyond our Solar System.” Astronomers characterise the atmospheres of distant exoplanets using spectroscopy: light is split up into its various wavelengths, followed by measuring the intensity of each one. If the planet has an atmosphere, it will absorb some of the light. This will create a gap in the set of wavelengths arriving at the spectrometer. Since each molecule absorbs light of fixed wavelengths, it is easy to identify the compounds present in the atmosphere.

Slow transit

“To do that, we need some way to distinguish the planet’s light from the stars,” Bruce Macintosh, director of the University of California Observatories and professor of astronomy and astrophysics, said.

Prof. Macintosh, who was not part of the research team, said the astronomers used the transit method for their

discovery. “As the planet passes in front of the star, its atmosphere absorbs starlight. By studying exactly how that absorption changes with time, you can see the evidence that one side is cloudy and not the other. And by studying different wavelengths you can understand composition,” he explained.

According to University of Göttingen astrophysicist Lisa Nortmann, the researchers seemed to have studied the transit when the exoplanet passed slowly in front of its star.

“Therefore, at different times of observation, different parts of the planet are in front of the star. This effect was used in this study to ‘scan’ the planet’s atmosphere at different locations and this revealed that the atmospheric signal was different for morning and evening sides,” Dr. Nortmann, who was also not part of the study, said.

A major challenge in studying exoplanets, according to Dr. Mukherjee, is that clouds can obscure what their atmospheres are really made of.

“By separating the cloudy and clear sides of WASP-94A b, we show that earlier estimates of its composition can be strongly biased,” he said. “More broadly, the study demonstrates that understanding weather patterns on distant worlds is essential for learning how planets across a wide range of sizes (from earth-like rocky planets to

Neptune-like gas worlds and gas giants) form, evolve, and differ from planets in our own solar system.”

History of formation

Research like this could help astronomers learn about the planetary architectures of 4.6 billion years ago when the protoplanetary disk of gas and dust around the Sun started evolving into this Solar System. “The discs of material around a young star form planets. Different parts of that disc have different compositions – ice, gas, dust particles, etc.,” Prof. Macintosh said. By measuring the composition, you can tell something about the history of the formation (did it form out of solid material first or gas?) and even the location (did it form somewhere too hot for ice?). And then you can try and understand if the same process that made a big hot Jupiter like this could also make a smaller planet like the earth.”

As state-of-the-art instruments like the Extremely Large Telescope, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discover many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin.

(Prakash Chandra is a science writer. prakashisat@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Astronomers have always been intrigued by the biz weather patterns on the 6 or so exoplanets they have found so far

But in the absence of a sufficiently powerful telescope they have had no way to study these far-flung bodies

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01J6. Webb telescope captures weather on exoplanet 700 lightyears away

वेब दूरबीन ने 700 प्रकाश-वर्ष दूर स्थित बाह्यग्रह पर मौसम का पता लगाया

- As state-of-the-art instruments like the **Extremely Large Telescope**, which **Europe is currently building in northern Chile**, become operational, astronomers could discover many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin.

जैसे-जैसे यूरोप द्वारा उत्तरी चिली में निर्मित की जा रही एक्स्ट्रीमली लार्ज टेलीस्कोप जैसी अत्याधुनिक उपकरण कार्यशील होंगे, खगोलविद दूरस्थ तारों के आसपास अनेक बाह्यग्रह जन्मस्थलों की खोज कर सकते हैं, जिससे अधिक पृथ्वी-सदृश बाह्य-सौर ग्रहों तथा संभवतः वास्तविक पृथ्वी-जुड़वाँ ग्रह मिलने की संभावना कई गुना बढ़ जाएगी।

- According to a new study published in **Science** on May 21, scientists were able to use the **NASA James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** to peer closely at an **exoplanet nearly 700 lightyears away**, and deciphered the weather patterns on it.



21 मई को साइंस पत्रिका में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन के अनुसार, वैज्ञानिकों ने नासा जेम्स वेब स्पेस टेलीस्कोप (JWST) का उपयोग करके लगभग 700 प्रकाश-वर्ष दूर स्थित एक बाह्यग्रह का सूक्ष्म अवलोकन किया तथा वहाँ के मौसमीय पैटर्न को समझा।

- Named **WASP-94A b**, this exoplanet is almost twice as large as Jupiter but with only half the mass.

WASP-94A b नामक यह बाह्यग्रह आकार में बृहस्पति से लगभग दोगुना है, किंतु इसका द्रव्यमान केवल आधा है।

- It orbits very close to its parent star — so close that it takes just four days to complete a whole revolution.

यह अपने मूल तारे के अत्यंत निकट परिक्रमा करता है — इतना निकट कि इसे एक पूर्ण परिक्रमा करने में केवल चार दिन लगते हैं।

Extreme worlds

चरम संसार

- Gas giants like **WASP-94A b** with scorching atmospheric temperatures are called 'hot Jupiters' and have their orbits tidally locked, meaning their rotation is synchronised with their revolution.

WASP-94A b जैसे अत्यधिक उष्ण वायुमंडलीय तापमान वाले गैसीय विशाल ग्रहों को 'हॉट ज्यूपिटर्स' कहा जाता है तथा उनकी कक्षाएँ ज्वारीय रूप से आबद्ध होती हैं, अर्थात् उनका घूर्णन उनकी परिक्रमा के साथ समकालिक होता है।

- As a result, the same side of the planet always faces the host star, much like the moon's tidally locked orbit keeps one side always facing the earth.

इसके परिणामस्वरूप ग्रह का वही भाग सदैव अपने मूल तारे की ओर रहता है, ठीक उसी प्रकार जैसे चंद्रमा की ज्वारीय आबद्ध कक्षा के कारण उसका एक ही भाग सदैव पृथ्वी की ओर रहता है।

- **WASP-94A b's** dayside is thus a sweltering desert with temperatures hot enough to melt rock while its nightside is perennially dark and frozen as temperatures dip to nearly absolute zero.

इस प्रकार **WASP-94A b** का दिन वाला भाग अत्यंत तप्त मरुस्थल जैसा है, जहाँ तापमान चट्टानों को पिघलाने जितना अधिक है, जबकि इसका रात्रिकालीन भाग सदैव अंधकारमय और जमे हुए रूप में रहता है क्योंकि तापमान लगभग परम शून्य तक गिर जाता है।

- Many of these worlds have turned out to be rocky; some are even almost earth-like. इनमें से अनेक संसार पथरीले पाए गए हैं; कुछ तो लगभग पृथ्वी-सदृश भी हैं।

- But on some other exoplanets, scientists have found extreme temperatures and pressures producing rain of molten metal and vaporised rock.

किंतु कुछ अन्य बाह्यग्रहों पर वैज्ञानिकों ने अत्यधिक तापमान एवं दाब की ऐसी परिस्थितियाँ पाई हैं जहाँ पिघली हुई धातु और वाष्पीकृत चट्टानों की वर्षा होती है।

- Still others have downpours of molten glass pushed by supersonic winds.

कुछ अन्य ग्रहों पर अतिध्वनिक पवनों द्वारा संचालित पिघले हुए काँच की वर्षा होती है।

- Some gaseous exoplanets even have crystallised carbon raining down as diamonds.

कुछ गैसीय बाह्यग्रहों पर तो क्रिस्टलीकृत कार्बन हीरों के रूप में वर्षा करता है।

'A world far beyond'

'एक अत्यंत दूरस्थ संसार'

- Hot Jupiters though are the most studied exoplanets.

हालाँकि हॉट ज्यूपिटर्स सर्वाधिक अध्ययन किए गए बाह्यग्रह हैं।

- The latest JWST discovery has found that **WASP-94A b** in particular has a dynamic weather system: its mornings are blanketed in clouds of magnesium silicate, iron, and magnesium



sulphide while the evenings sport clear skies.

नवीनतम JWST खोज में पाया गया है कि विशेष रूप से WASP-94A b पर एक गतिशील मौसम तंत्र विद्यमान है: वहाँ की सुबहें मैग्नीशियम सिलिकेट, लौह तथा मैग्नीशियम सल्फाइड के बादलों से आच्छादित रहती हैं, जबकि शाम के समय आकाश स्वच्छ रहता है।

- “The clouds appear to form on the cooler night side of the planet, sweep across the globe with extremely fast winds, and then disappear as they reach the hotter dayside,” Sagnick Mukherjee, lead author of the study and a postdoctoral fellow at Arizona State University, said.

अध्ययन के प्रमुख लेखक तथा एरिज़ोना स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी में पोस्टडॉक्टरल फेलो साग्निक मुखर्जी ने कहा, “ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि बादल ग्रह के अपेक्षाकृत शीतल रात्रिकालीन भाग में बनते हैं, अत्यंत तीव्र पवनों के साथ पूरे ग्रह पर फैलते हैं और फिर अधिक उष्ण दिन वाले भाग तक पहुँचने पर विलुप्त हो जाते हैं।”

- Astronomers characterise the atmospheres of distant exoplanets using spectroscopy: light is split up into its various wavelengths, followed by measuring the intensity of each one.

खगोलविद दूरस्थ बाह्यग्रहों के वायुमंडल का विश्लेषण स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी के माध्यम से करते हैं: इसमें प्रकाश को उसकी विभिन्न तरंगदैर्घ्यों में विभाजित किया जाता है तथा प्रत्येक की तीव्रता मापी जाती है।

- If the planet has an atmosphere, it will absorb some of the light.

यदि ग्रह के पास वायुमंडल होता है, तो वह कुछ प्रकाश को अवशोषित कर लेता है।

- This will create a gap in the set of wavelengths arriving at the spectrometer.

इसके परिणामस्वरूप स्पेक्ट्रोमीटर तक पहुँचने वाली तरंगदैर्घ्यों के समूह में एक अंतर उत्पन्न हो जाता है।

- Since each molecule absorbs light of fixed wavelengths, it is easy to identify the compounds present in the atmosphere.

चूँकि प्रत्येक अणु निश्चित तरंगदैर्घ्य के प्रकाश को अवशोषित करता है, इसलिए वायुमंडल में उपस्थित यौगिकों की पहचान करना सरल हो जाता है।

Slow transit

धीमा पारगमन

- “To do that, we need some way to distinguish the planet’s light from the stars,” Bruce Macintosh, director of the University of California Observatories and professor of astronomy and astrophysics, said.

“ऐसा करने के लिए हमें ग्रह के प्रकाश को तारों के प्रकाश से अलग पहचानने का कोई तरीका चाहिए,”

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कैलिफोर्निया ऑब्ज़र्वेटरीज़ के निदेशक तथा खगोल विज्ञान एवं खगोल भौतिकी के प्रोफेसर ब्रूस मैकिन्टॉश ने कहा।

- “As the planet passes in front of the star, its atmosphere absorbs starlight.”

“जब ग्रह तारे के सामने से गुजरता है, तब उसका वायुमंडल तारों के प्रकाश को अवशोषित करता है।”

- “By studying exactly how that absorption changes with time, you can see the evidence that one side is cloudy and not the other.”

“समय के साथ उस अवशोषण में होने वाले परिवर्तनों का सटीक अध्ययन करके यह देखा जा सकता है कि ग्रह का एक भाग बादलों से घिरा है जबकि दूसरा नहीं।”

- “And by studying different wavelengths you can understand composition,” he explained.

“और विभिन्न तरंगदैर्घ्यों का अध्ययन करके उसकी संरचना को समझा जा सकता है,” उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया।

- According to University of Göttingen astrophysicist Lisa Nortmann, the researchers seemed to have studied the transit when the exoplanet passed slowly in front of its star.

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ गॉटिंगेन की खगोल भौतिकविद् लीसा नॉर्टमैन के अनुसार, शोधकर्ताओं ने उस समय पारगमन का अध्ययन किया जब बाह्यग्रह अपने तारे के सामने से धीरे-धीरे गुजर रहा था।

- “Therefore, at different times of observation, different parts of the planet are in front of the star.”

“इसलिए, अवलोकन के विभिन्न समयों पर ग्रह के अलग-अलग भाग तारे के सामने होते हैं।”



- “This effect was used in this study to ‘scan’ the planet’s atmosphere at different locations and this revealed that the atmospheric signal was different for morning and evening sides,” Dr. Nortmann, who was also not part of the study, said.
“इस प्रभाव का उपयोग इस अध्ययन में ग्रह के वायुमंडल को विभिन्न स्थानों पर ‘स्कैन’ करने के लिए किया गया और इससे यह पता चला कि सुबह और शाम वाले भागों के लिए वायुमंडलीय संकेत अलग-अलग थे,” डॉ. नॉर्टमैन, जो इस अध्ययन का हिस्सा भी नहीं थीं, ने कहा।

History of formation

निर्माण का इतिहास

- Research like this could help astronomers learn about the planetary architectures of 4.6 billion years ago when the **protoplanetary disk of gas and dust around the Sun started evolving into this Solar System**.
इस प्रकार का शोध खगोलविदों को 4.6 अरब वर्ष पूर्व की ग्रह संरचनाओं के बारे में जानने में सहायता कर सकता है, जब सूर्य के चारों ओर गैस और धूल की **प्रोटोप्लैनेटरी डिस्क** विकसित होकर इस **सौरमंडल** का निर्माण करने लगी थी।
- “The **discs of material around a young star form planets**.”
“एक युवा तारे के चारों ओर स्थित पदार्थ की डिस्कें ग्रहों का निर्माण करती हैं।”
- “**Different parts of that disc have different compositions — ice, gas, dust particles, etc.**,” Prof. Macintosh said.
“उस डिस्क के विभिन्न भागों की संरचना अलग-अलग होती है — जैसे बर्फ, गैस, धूल कण आदि,” प्रोफेसर मैकिन्टॉश ने कहा।
- **As state-of-the-art instruments like the Extremely Large Telescope, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discover many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin.**
जैसे-जैसे यूरोप द्वारा उत्तरी चिली में निर्मित की जा रही **एक्स्ट्रीमली लार्ज टेलीस्कोप** जैसी अत्याधुनिक उपकरण कार्यशील होंगे, खगोलविद दूरस्थ तारों के आसपास अनेक **बाह्यग्रह जन्मस्थलों** की खोज कर सकते हैं, जिससे अधिक पृथ्वी-सदृश बाह्य-सौर ग्रहों तथा संभवतः वास्तविक पृथ्वी-जुड़वाँ ग्रह मिलने की संभावना कई गुना बढ़ जाएगी।



From students to authors, users turn to AI detectors despite questions over accuracy

AI text detectors are used to identify AI-generated writing, but concerns persist over their accuracy as they can produce false positives and false negatives; cases involving authors accused of using AI have triggered debate over whether these tools are reliable enough to determine authenticity

GS III: S&T

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

Since OpenAI's ChatGPT debuted in 2022, users have been experimenting with AI to write and publish human-sounding content at scale. According to a May 2026 report by digital consulting firm Graphite, the number of "primarily AI-generated" articles published on the internet equals the number written by humans.

While the research methodology is debatable, its findings point to a growing need for transparency in authorship as readers want to know whether government circulars, work emails, social media captions, academic papers, text messages, news articles, and even books were written by humans or chatbots.

AI-detection toolmakers claim their products are dependable and that readers who want to know whether something was written using AI or not can use them to confirm the authenticity of content. But how accurate are these tools in spotting AI generated text?

How are AI text detectors used?

Popular AI text detection tools are easy to access online, catering to a wide variety of users such as students, educators, social media managers, business experts, and content creators.

They tout high accuracy rates and training standards. Some of these platforms offer free trials or limited checks where the user can paste a short text passage and have it analysed for signs of AI-generated or AI-assisted content. In order to evaluate longer drafts or get help in editing AI text, users will have to sign up for a paid plan.

Multiple AI text detectors also offer

plagiarism checking features, or "humanisers" that claim to make AI-generated content look more natural, so as to evade detection by other AI text detectors.

As frontier AI models from companies such as OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic continue to mature and produce more human-sounding text with fewer machine-generated "tells," these AI text detection tools must evolve in tandem or risk throwing out inaccurate results.

Some popular AI text detection tools include Pangram, Quillbot, ZeroGPT, Grammarly, and Turnitin.

Can AI text detectors be trusted?

This is the billion-dollar question – literally speaking. As Generative AI tools become accessible to just about anyone with an internet connection, people worldwide are looking for ways to detect AI-generated writing. Meanwhile, many writers want to hide their reliance on AI models for reputational reasons.

AI text detectors are still prone to producing false negatives, where they classify AI-generated work as being human-made, or false positives, where they classify original human work as being partially or wholly AI-generated. The latter is an urgent problem, as it can lead to disciplinary action being taken against students and academics, even if they developed their work through honest means. False positives can also lead to social media trolling and career-impacting consequences.

Turnitin, in particular, has seen several such cases and admitted to the potential for false positives. The company noted that it was a "powerful tool" but "not infallible."

More worryingly, the company's

website noted that "literary flair or a scholarly voice that strays from the norm can throw Turnitin for a loop," leading to confusion when assessing the uniqueness of writing.

When *The Hindu* ran 186 words of a 2010 Pulitzer prize-winning foreign journalism feature through several trending AI detection platforms, the results varied wildly: Pangram and Quillbot both classified the text as being 100% human written, while ZeroGPT said that it was 49.9% AI.

Pangram is often cited as a trusted AI text detector on social media; it claims to detect AI-generated content with 99.98% accuracy, and stated it was reviewed positively by third parties including the University of Maryland and the University of Chicago.

Pangram's popularity is also due to efforts by CEO and co-founder Max Sperry, who actively promotes the tool on X (formerly Twitter) and cites its results to claim outright that trending pieces were generated with AI. On the flip side, Pangram has also stated that for text under 75 words, the results may be less accurate.

This brings up another problem: how much trust can everyday users place in the accuracy of commercial AI text detectors when their very business models depend on users signing up to paid plans in order to access AI text "humanisers" and other rewriting tools?

Have AI text detectors been used to accuse authors?

In March 2026, American author Mia Ballard's horror novel *Shy Girl* was cancelled by publisher Hachette over allegations of AI writing, while Ms. Ballard was trolled online. Two months later, the

Commonwealth Foundation defended its judging process after a few regional winners of its 2026 Commonwealth Short Story Prize were hit with AI accusations – namely the Trinidadian writer of East Indian heritage, Jamir Nazir, whose story *The Serpent in the Grove* was one of the five shortlisted winners.

In both cases, many social media users cited the results of AI text detectors in order to claim that the works of authors Mia Ballard and Jamir Nazir showed signs of being AI-generated. Specifically, Pangram was used to accuse both Ms. Ballard and Mr. Nazir of submitting AI writing. Though some users feel that being flagged by AI text detectors was clear evidence of creative dishonesty, others fear these still-experimental AI tools could wrongly damage the careers of authors and academics.

Razmi Farook, Director-General of the Commonwealth Foundation, stated that AI checkers were not used in the 2026 short story judging process. She was concerned about the ethical implications of submitting "unpublished original work" to an AI checker.

Ms. Farook further expressed disappointment at how the work of other feted writers and winners had faced scrutiny; Pangram AI published results claiming that it found more stories showing signs of AI use among the 2026 and 2025 Commonwealth short story prize winners.

All the shortlisted writers this year had personally stated that no AI was used, according to Ms. Farook, who highlighted that AI detection tools were "not unfailing or infallible," and that the competition had to operate on the principle of trust until a reliable detection process was available.

01J6. From students to authors, users turn to AI detectors despite questions over accuracy

सटीकता पर प्रश्नों के बावजूद विद्यार्थी से लेकर लेखक तक AI डिटेक्टरों की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं

- AI text detectors are used to identify AI-generated writing, but concerns persist over their accuracy as they can produce false positives and false negatives; cases involving authors accused of using AI have triggered debate over whether these tools are reliable enough to determine authenticity.

AI टेक्स्ट डिटेक्टरों का उपयोग AI-जनित लेखन की पहचान करने के लिए किया जाता है, किंतु उनकी सटीकता को लेकर चिंताएँ बनी हुई हैं क्योंकि वे गलत सकारात्मक और गलत नकारात्मक परिणाम दे सकते हैं; AI के उपयोग के आरोपों से जुड़े लेखकों के मामलों ने इस बात पर बहस को जन्म दिया है कि क्या ये उपकरण प्रामाणिकता निर्धारित करने के लिए पर्याप्त रूप से विश्वसनीय हैं।

- Since **OpenAI's ChatGPT debuted in 2022**, users have been experimenting with AI to write and publish human-sounding content at scale. 2022 में **OpenAI के ChatGPT के पदार्पण के बाद** से उपयोगकर्ता AI का प्रयोग बड़े पैमाने पर मानव-सदृश सामग्री लिखने और प्रकाशित करने के लिए कर रहे हैं।
- According to a May 2026 report by digital consulting firm **Graphite**, the number of "primarily AI-generated" articles published on the internet equals the number written by humans. डिजिटल परामर्श कंपनी **ग्रेफाइट** की मई 2026 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इंटरनेट पर प्रकाशित "मुख्यतः AI-जनित" लेखों की संख्या मानवों द्वारा लिखे गए लेखों के बराबर हो चुकी है।



- Some popular AI text detection tools include **Pangram, Quillbot, ZeroGPT, Grammarly, and Turnitin**.
कुछ लोकप्रिय AI टेक्स्ट डिटेक्शन उपकरणों में **Pangram, Quillbot, ZeroGPT, Grammarly और Turnitin** शामिल हैं।
- The latter is an urgent problem, as it can lead to disciplinary action being taken against students and academics, even if they developed their work through honest means.
दूसरी स्थिति एक गंभीर समस्या है, क्योंकि इसके कारण विद्यार्थियों और शिक्षाविदों के विरुद्ध अनुशासनात्मक कार्रवाई हो सकती है, भले ही उन्होंने अपना कार्य ईमानदार तरीकों से तैयार किया हो।
- False positives can also lead to social media trolling and career-impacting consequences.
गलत सकारात्मक परिणाम सोशल मीडिया ट्रोलिंग तथा करियर को प्रभावित करने वाले दुष्परिणामों का कारण भी बन सकते हैं।
- When **The Hindu** ran 186 words of a 2010 **Pulitzer prize-winning** foreign journalism feature through several trending AI detection platforms, the results varied wildly: **Pangram** and **Quillbot** both classified the text as being 100% human written, while **ZeroGPT** said that it was 49.9% AI.
जब **द हिंदू** ने 2010 के **पुलित्जर पुरस्कार विजेता** विदेशी पत्रकारिता लेख के 186 शब्दों को कई लोकप्रिय AI डिटेक्शन प्लेटफॉर्म पर जाँच के लिए प्रस्तुत किया, तो परिणाम अत्यधिक भिन्न रहे: **Pangram** और **Quillbot** ने इसे 100% मानव-लिखित बताया, जबकि **ZeroGPT** ने इसे 49.9% AI-जनित घोषित किया।
- Pangram's popularity is also due to efforts by CEO and co-founder **Max Spero**, who actively promotes the tool on **X** (formerly Twitter) and cites its results to claim outright that trending pieces were generated with AI.
Pangram की लोकप्रियता उसके CEO और सह-संस्थापक **मैक्स स्पेरो** के प्रयासों के कारण भी है, जो **X** (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पर इस उपकरण का सक्रिय प्रचार करते हैं और इसके परिणामों का उपयोग यह दावा करने के लिए करते हैं कि चर्चित सामग्री AI द्वारा तैयार की गई है।
- Specifically, **Pangram** was used to accuse both Ms. Ballard and Mr. Nazir of submitting AI writing.
विशेष रूप से **Pangram** का उपयोग सुश्री बैलार्ड और श्री नज़ीर दोनों पर AI-जनित लेखन प्रस्तुत करने का आरोप लगाने के लिए किया गया।
- She was concerned about the **ethical implications of submitting "unpublished original work" to an AI checker**.
उन्हें "अप्रकाशित मौलिक रचनाओं" को AI जाँच उपकरणों में प्रस्तुत करने के नैतिक प्रभावों को लेकर चिंता थी।
- Ms. Farook further expressed disappointment at how the work of other feted writers and winners had faced scrutiny; **Pangram AI** published results claiming that it found more stories showing signs of AI use among the 2026 and 2025 Commonwealth short story prize winners.
सुश्री फारूक ने इस बात पर भी निराशा व्यक्त की कि अन्य प्रतिष्ठित लेखकों और विजेताओं की रचनाएँ भी संदेह के घेरे में आ गईं; **Pangram AI** ने ऐसे परिणाम प्रकाशित किए जिनमें दावा किया गया कि 2026 और 2025 के कॉमनवेल्थ लघुकथा पुरस्कार विजेताओं में AI उपयोग के संकेत वाली और अधिक कहानियाँ पाई गईं।



Conflict in West Asia spurs interest in European-made sustainable aviation fuels

GS III, S&T, Environment
Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

At a plant near Frankfurt, in Germany, hydrogen and carbon dioxide sourced from a chlorine factory and a biogas facility nearby are piped into a reactor, and after a few more steps turned into jet fuel.

Interest in such synthetic propellants is growing as the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran pushes Europe to reassess its dependencies, raising hopes of a turnaround for the struggling sector, according to industry experts.

The conflict "made the business case for e-SAF much stronger," said Mariano Berkenwald, head of strategy at Ineratec, the

firm operating the Frankfurt facility.

'Climate friendly'

Before the war squeezed Europe's jet fuel supplies, electro-Sustainable Aviation Fuel (e-SAF), was largely touted for its climate friendly credentials.

Doing away with oil, it can reduce by 90% planet warming emissions from aviation — itself responsible for up to 4% of all greenhouse gases released in the European Union, proponents say.

Brussels has made it a key component of a push to green up transport, mandating fuel suppliers to blend at least 1.2% of the stuff into the kerosene made available at EU air-

ports by 2030 and 35% by 2050. But the sector has struggled to take off, bogged down by high costs and low investments.

Founded 10 years ago, Ineratec launched production last year, and its small German facility is currently the only one in Europe making the propellant.

About 40 more projects under development are stuck in a rut, unable to secure the funding needed to start production plants, said Camille Mutrelle of advocacy group Transport & Environment (T&E).

Europe needs roughly nine more bigger factories to meet the 2030 target but "we still have zero", she said. Ineratec's plant churns



Brussels has mandated fuel suppliers to blend 1.2% of the synthetic propellant into kerosene made available at EU airports by 2030. AP

out some 2,500 tonnes of fuel a year, enough to power only about 50 transatlantic flights.

With the clock ticking, Brussels, which recently scaled down the ambition of other climate goals, not-

ably for cars, has been under pressure to scrap the target or at least the hefty fines suppliers would face for not meeting it. The industry was braced for a review of the mandate due next year.

Defence interest

Since its key ingredients can be sourced entirely in Europe, e-SAF has drawn attention from military forces, which worry about the ready availability of fuel to power fighter jets, helicopters and other vehicles — and could pay a premium for it, according to Matteo Mirolo, an aviation consultant specialising in sustainable fuels.

E-SAF costs about 10 times more than kerosene and even supporters con-

cede it is unlikely to ever match the price of its fossil fuel-based rival.

Germany's armed forces recently tested Ineratec's fuel. And other governments are known to have expressed interest in building capacity, said Ms. Mutrelle.

"The current crisis is a wake-up call regarding Europe's energy independence," said Ourania Georgoutsakou, managing director of Airlines for Europe, a civil aviation lobby group.

Making sustainable fuels cheaper and more readily available should be "an urgent strategic priority", she added.

Doubts over the sector and low prospective re-

turns meant that energy majors have so far largely stayed away, preferring to invest in biofuels, said Ms. Mutrelle.

Derived from waste, these propellants are also part of the EU's climate plans.

But production often relies on waste oil and fat imports from China, which makes them less palatable from a security of supply perspective.

The European Commission said it was considering the establishment of an EU financing mechanism for e-SAF to support development. "We need home-grown energy, including fuels and aviation fuels," a commission spokesperson said.

01J6. Conflict in West Asia spurs interest in European-made sustainable aviation fuels

पश्चिम एशिया के संघर्ष ने यूरोप में बने टिकाऊ विमानन ईंधनों में रुचि बढ़ाई

- At a plant near **Frankfurt**, in **Germany**, hydrogen and carbon dioxide sourced from a chlorine factory and a biogas facility nearby are piped into a reactor, and after a few more steps turned into jet fuel.
जर्मनी के फ्रैंकफर्ट के पास स्थित एक संयंत्र में क्लोरीन फैक्ट्री और पास की बायोगैस सुविधा से प्राप्त हाइड्रोजन और कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड को रिएक्टर में भेजा जाता है और कुछ प्रक्रियाओं के बाद उसे जेट ईंधन में बदल दिया जाता है।
- Interest in such synthetic propellants is growing as the **U.S.-Israeli** war on **Iran** pushes Europe to reassess its dependencies, raising hopes of a turnaround for the struggling sector, according to industry experts.
उद्योग विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार ईरान पर अमेरिका-इज़राइल युद्ध ने यूरोप को अपनी निर्भरताओं का पुनर्मूल्यांकन करने के लिए प्रेरित किया है, जिससे ऐसे कृत्रिम ईंधनों में रुचि बढ़ रही है और संघर्ष कर रहे इस क्षेत्र में सुधार की उम्मीद जगी है।
- The conflict "made the business case for **e-SAF** much stronger," said **Mariano Berkenwald**, head of strategy at **Ineratec**, the firm operating the Frankfurt facility.
फ्रैंकफर्ट संयंत्र संचालित करने वाली कंपनी इनरेटेक के रणनीति प्रमुख मरियानो बेरकेनवाल्ड ने कहा कि इस संघर्ष ने "e-SAF के व्यावसायिक महत्व को बहुत मजबूत बना दिया है।"

'Climate friendly'

'जलवायु अनुकूल'

- Before the war squeezed Europe's jet fuel supplies, electro-**Sustainable Aviation Fuel (e-SAF)**, was largely touted for its climate friendly credentials.
युद्ध से पहले जब यूरोप की जेट ईंधन आपूर्ति प्रभावित नहीं हुई थी, तब इलेक्ट्रो-सस्टेनेबल एविएशन फ्यूल (e-SAF) को मुख्य रूप से उसके जलवायु अनुकूल गुणों के लिए प्रचारित किया जाता था।
- Doing away with oil, it can reduce by 90% planet warming emissions from aviation — itself responsible for up to 4% of all greenhouse gases released in the **European Union**, proponents say.
समर्थकों का कहना है कि तेल का उपयोग समाप्त करके यह विमानन से होने वाले वैश्विक ताप वृद्धि उत्सर्जन को 90% तक कम कर सकता है, जबकि विमानन स्वयं यूरोपीय संघ में उत्सर्जित कुल ग्रीनहाउस गैसों का लगभग 4% हिस्सा है।



- **Brussels** has made it a key component of a push to green up transport, mandating fuel suppliers to blend at least 1.2% of the stuff into the kerosene made available at EU airports by 2030 and 35% by 2050.
ब्रसेल्स ने इसे परिवहन को हरित बनाने की अपनी योजना का प्रमुख हिस्सा बनाया है और ईंधन आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को 2030 तक EU हवाईअड्डों पर उपलब्ध केरोसिन में कम से कम 1.2% और 2050 तक 35% e-SAF मिलाने का निर्देश दिया है।
- But the sector has struggled to take off, bogged down by high costs and low investments. लेकिन यह क्षेत्र उच्च लागत और कम निवेश के कारण आगे नहीं बढ़ पाया है।
- Founded 10 years ago, **Ineratec** launched production last year, and its small German facility is currently the only one in Europe making the propellant.
10 वर्ष पहले स्थापित **इनरेटेक** ने पिछले वर्ष उत्पादन शुरू किया और उसका छोटा जर्मन संयंत्र वर्तमान में यूरोप का एकमात्र ऐसा संयंत्र है जो यह ईंधन बना रहा है।
- About 40 more projects under development are stuck in a rut, unable to secure the funding needed to start production plants, said **Camille Mutrelle** of advocacy group **Transport & Environment (T&E)**.
एडवोकेसी समूह **ट्रान्सपोर्ट एंड एनवायरनमेंट (T&E)** की **कैमिल म्यूट्रेल** ने कहा कि विकासाधीन लगभग 40 अन्य परियोजनाएं वित्तीय सहायता के अभाव में अटकी हुई हैं।
- Europe needs roughly nine more bigger factories to meet the 2030 target but “we still have zero”, she said.
उन्होंने कहा कि 2030 के लक्ष्य को पूरा करने के लिए यूरोप को लगभग नौ बड़े कारखानों की आवश्यकता है, लेकिन “अभी भी हमारे पास एक भी नहीं है।”
- Ineratec’s plant churns out some 2,500 tonnes of fuel a year, enough to power only about 50 transatlantic flights.
इनरेटेक का संयंत्र प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 2,500 टन ईंधन बनाता है, जो केवल लगभग 50 ट्रांस-अटलांटिक उड़ानों के लिए पर्याप्त है।
- With the clock ticking, Brussels, which recently scaled down the ambition of other climate goals, notably for cars, has been under pressure to scrap the target or at least the hefty fines suppliers would face for not meeting it.
समय तेजी से बीतने के साथ ब्रसेल्स, जिसने हाल ही में कारों से जुड़े अन्य जलवायु लक्ष्यों को कम किया है, पर इस लक्ष्य को हटाने या कम से कम इसे पूरा न करने पर लगने वाले भारी जुर्मानों को कम करने का दबाव बढ़ रहा है।
- The industry was braced for a review of the mandate due next year.
उद्योग अगले वर्ष होने वाली इस नीति की समीक्षा के लिए तैयार था।
- It now believes the war in **West Asia** and the resulting closure of the **Strait of Hormuz**, a key shipping lane for global gas and oil, might have changed the momentum.
अब उद्योग को विश्वास है कि **पश्चिम एशिया** के युद्ध और वैश्विक तेल एवं गैस के प्रमुख समुद्री मार्ग **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** के बंद होने से परिस्थितियां बदल गई हैं।

Defence interest

रक्षा क्षेत्र की रुचि

- Since its key ingredients can be sourced entirely in Europe, **e-SAF** has drawn attention from military forces, which worry about the ready availability of fuel to power fighter jets, helicopters and other vehicles.
क्योंकि इसके प्रमुख घटक पूरी तरह यूरोप में उपलब्ध हो सकते हैं, इसलिए **e-SAF** ने सैन्य बलों का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है, जिन्हें लड़ाकू विमानों, हेलीकॉप्टरों और अन्य वाहनों के लिए ईंधन की उपलब्धता की चिंता है।
- And could pay a premium for it, according to **Matteo Mirolo**, an aviation consultant specialising in sustainable fuels.



टिकाऊ ईंधनों के विशेषज्ञ विमानन सलाहकार **माटेओ मिरोलो** के अनुसार सैन्य बल इसके लिए अधिक कीमत चुकाने को भी तैयार हो सकते हैं।

- E-SAF costs about 10 times more than kerosene and even supporters concede it is unlikely to ever match the price of its fossil fuel-based rival.
e-SAF की लागत केरोसिन से लगभग 10 गुना अधिक है और इसके समर्थक भी मानते हैं कि यह शायद कभी जीवाश्म ईंधन आधारित विकल्प की कीमत तक नहीं पहुंच पाएगा।
- Germany's armed forces recently tested Ineratec's fuel.
जर्मनी की सेना ने हाल ही में इनरेटेक के ईंधन का परीक्षण किया।
- And other governments are known to have expressed interest in building capacity, said Ms. Mutrelle.
सुश्री म्यूट्रेल ने कहा कि अन्य सरकारों ने भी उत्पादन क्षमता विकसित करने में रुचि दिखाई है।
- "The current crisis is a wake-up call regarding Europe's energy independence," said **Ourania Georgoutsakou**, managing director of **Airlines for Europe**, a civil aviation lobby group.
नागरिक विमानन लॉबी समूह **एयरलाइंस फॉर यूरोप** की प्रबंध निदेशक **ओरानिया जॉर्जाउत्साकोउ** ने कहा, "वर्तमान संकट यूरोप की ऊर्जा स्वतंत्रता के लिए चेतावनी है।"
- Making sustainable fuels cheaper and more readily available should be "an urgent strategic priority", she added.
उन्होंने कहा कि टिकाऊ ईंधनों को सस्ता और अधिक उपलब्ध बनाना "एक तात्कालिक रणनीतिक प्राथमिकता" होनी चाहिए।
- Doubts over the sector and low prospective returns meant that energy majors have so far largely stayed away, preferring to invest in biofuels, said Ms. Mutrelle.
सुश्री म्यूट्रेल ने कहा कि इस क्षेत्र को लेकर संदेह और कम संभावित लाभ के कारण बड़ी ऊर्जा कंपनियां अब तक इससे दूर रही हैं और जैव ईंधनों में निवेश को प्राथमिकता दे रही हैं।
- Derived from waste, these propellants are also part of the **EU's** climate plans.
कचरे से बने ये ईंधन भी **EU** की जलवायु योजनाओं का हिस्सा हैं।
- But production often relies on waste oil and fat imports from **China**, which makes them less palatable from a security of supply perspective.
लेकिन इनका उत्पादन अक्सर **चीन** से आयातित अपशिष्ट तेल और वसा पर निर्भर करता है, जिससे आपूर्ति सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से यह कम उपयुक्त हो जाता है।
- The **European Commission** said it was considering the establishment of an EU financing mechanism for e-SAF to support development.
यूरोपीय आयोग ने कहा कि वह e-SAF के विकास के समर्थन के लिए EU वित्तपोषण तंत्र स्थापित करने पर विचार कर रहा है।
- "We need homegrown energy, including fuels and aviation fuels," a commission spokesperson said.
आयोग के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, "हमें घरेलू स्तर पर विकसित ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें ईंधन और विमानन ईंधन भी शामिल हैं।"

GS Paper III: Internal Security		01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
01J6	General Subramani takes charge as CDS; lays emphasis on 'JAI' जनरल सुब्रमणि ने CDS का पदभार संभाला; 'JAI' पर दिया जोर	
01J6	Admiral Swaminathan takes charge as 27th chief of Navy एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन ने नौसेना के 27वें प्रमुख के रूप में पदभार संभाला	



General Subramani takes charge as CDS; lays emphasis on 'JAI'

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

NEW DELHI

General N.S. Raja Subramani on Sunday assumed charge as India's third Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

Soon after assuming office, General Subramani paid tribute to fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. He was later accorded a ceremonial Tri-Services Guard of Honour at South Block.

Addressing reporters, the new CDS expressed gratitude for the trust reposed in the armed forces and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening national security through greater integration among the services. "The Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Ministry of Defence, strategic institutions and all stakeholders stand united as part of the Whole of Nation approach to strengthen India's security," he said.

He said the armed forces would work towards implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "JAI" – Jointness, Atma Nirbharta (self-sufficiency), and Innovation. He



Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani

said organisational reforms aimed at enhancing synergy, integration, and operational effectiveness among the three services would remain a key focus area. "Atma Nirbharta is a central pillar of our national security. We will accelerate the development, induction, and integration of indigenous weapons in our armed forces," he said, while stressing the need for innovation in thought and action.

A highly decorated officer with more than four decades of service, General Subramani was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985. He has held several key command and staff appointments, including General Officer Commanding 2 Corps, GOC-in-C Central Command, and Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

01J6. General Subramani takes charge as CDS; lays emphasis on 'JAI'

जनरल सुब्रमणि ने CDS का पदभार संभाला; 'JAI' पर दिया जोर

• General N.S. Raja Subramani on Sunday assumed charge as India's third Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

जनरल एन.एस. राजा सुब्रमणि ने रविवार को भारत के तीसरे चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ (CDS) तथा सैन्य मामलों के विभाग के सचिव के रूप में पदभार संभाला।

• Soon after assuming office, General Subramani paid tribute to fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

पदभार संभालने के तुरंत बाद जनरल सुब्रमणि ने नई दिल्ली स्थित राष्ट्रीय युद्ध स्मारक पर पुष्पचक्र अर्पित कर शहीद सैनिकों को श्रद्धांजलि दी।

• He was later accorded a ceremonial Tri-Services Guard of Honour at South Block.

इसके बाद उन्हें साउथ ब्लॉक में औपचारिक त्रि-सेवा गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर प्रदान किया गया।

• Addressing reporters, the new CDS expressed gratitude for the trust reposed in the armed forces and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening national security through greater integration among the services.

पत्रकारों को संबोधित करते हुए नए CDS ने सशस्त्र बलों पर जताए गए विश्वास के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया और सेवाओं के बीच अधिक एकीकरण के माध्यम से राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।

• "The Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Ministry of Defence, strategic institutions and all stakeholders stand united as part of the Whole of Nation approach to strengthen India's security," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "भारतीय सेना, नौसेना, वायुसेना, रक्षा मंत्रालय, रणनीतिक संस्थान और सभी हितधारक भारत की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए Whole of Nation

approach के तहत एकजुट हैं।"

• He said the armed forces would work towards implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "JAI" — Jointness, Atma Nirbharta (self-sufficiency), and Innovation.

उन्होंने कहा कि सशस्त्र बल प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के "JAI" — जाइंटनेस, आत्मनिर्भरता और नवाचार — के दृष्टिकोण को लागू करने की दिशा में कार्य करेंगे।

• He said organisational reforms aimed at enhancing synergy, integration, and operational effectiveness among the three services would remain a key focus area.



उन्होंने कहा कि तीनों सेनाओं के बीच तालमेल, एकीकरण और परिचालन प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से किए जाने वाले संगठनात्मक सुधार प्रमुख फोकस क्षेत्र बने रहेंगे।

- **“Atma Nirbharta** is a central pillar of our national security. We will accelerate the development, induction, and integration of indigenous weapons in our armed forces,” he said, while stressing the need for innovation in thought and action.
उन्होंने कहा, **“आत्मनिर्भरता** हमारी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक केंद्रीय स्तंभ है। हम अपने सशस्त्र बलों में स्वदेशी हथियारों के विकास, शामिल किए जाने और एकीकरण की प्रक्रिया को तेज करेंगे,” साथ ही उन्होंने विचार और कार्य में नवाचार की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- A highly decorated officer with more than four decades of service, General Subramani was commissioned into the **Garhwal Rifles** in December 1985.
चार दशकों से अधिक की सेवा वाले अत्यधिक सम्मानित अधिकारी जनरल सुब्रमणि को दिसंबर 1985 में **गढ़वाल राइफल्स** में कमीशन मिला था।
- He has held several key command and staff appointments, including **General Officer Commanding 2 Corps, GOC-in-C Central Command, and Vice Chief of the Army Staff**.
उन्होंने कई महत्वपूर्ण कमांड और स्टाफ पदों पर कार्य किया है, जिनमें **जनरल ऑफिसर कमांडिंग 2 कॉर्प्स, जीओसी-इन-सी सेंट्रल कमांड, और वाइस चीफ ऑफ आर्मी स्टाफ** शामिल हैं।

Admiral Swaminathan takes charge as 27th chief of Navy

GS III: Internal Security:
Defence
New Delhi

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Sunday assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy, succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retired after over 41 years of service.

Soon after taking over the command of the maritime force, Admiral Swaminathan reaffirmed the Navy's commitment to protecting national and economic interests amid an increasingly complex regional security environment. Speaking to reporters on the occasion, the new Navy chief said he was honoured to lead the force at a time when maritime security challenges continue to evolve.

“I'm extremely grateful to have this opportunity to serve the Indian Navy and the nation in this capacity. The Indian Navy stands vi-



Adm. Krishna Swaminathan with outgoing Navy chief Adm. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR

gilant to protect national interests and is actively deployed in a regional security environment that remains challenging, complex, unpredictable and uncertain,” he said.

Highlighting his priorities as the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Swaminathan stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of operational readiness and combat effectiveness. He said the Navy would conti-

nue its ongoing modernisation drive while accelerating the induction of niche and emerging technologies to strengthen its operational capabilities. “The Indian Navy is well set on a course of capability enhancement and modernisation. It shall be my endeavour to sustain the growth momentum, consolidate ongoing programmes and sharpen our operational capabilities,” he added.

Commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987, Admiral Swaminathan is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist with nearly four decades of distinguished service.

During his career, he has held several key operational and staff appointments, including Commander of Western Fleet, Vice Chief of Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command, a position he held prior to becoming the Navy chief.



01J6. Admiral Swaminathan takes charge as 27th chief of Navy एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन ने नौसेना के 27वें प्रमुख के रूप में पदभार संभाला

- **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** on Sunday assumed charge as the 27th **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)** of the Indian Navy, succeeding **Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, who retired after over 41 years of service.
एडमिरल कृष्णा स्वामीनाथन ने रविवार को भारतीय नौसेना के 27वें चीफ ऑफ द नेवल स्टाफ (CNS) के रूप में पदभार संभाला। उन्होंने एडमिरल दिनेश कुमार त्रिपाठी का स्थान लिया, जो 41 वर्षों से अधिक की सेवा के बाद सेवानिवृत्त हुए।
- Soon after taking over the command of the maritime force, Admiral Swaminathan reaffirmed the Navy's commitment to protecting national and economic interests amid an increasingly complex regional security environment.
समुद्री बल की कमान संभालने के तुरंत बाद एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन ने लगातार जटिल होते क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा वातावरण के बीच राष्ट्रीय और आर्थिक हितों की रक्षा के लिए नौसेना की प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।
- Speaking to reporters on the occasion, the new Navy chief said he was honoured to lead the force at a time when maritime security challenges continue to evolve.
इस अवसर पर पत्रकारों से बातचीत करते हुए नए नौसेना प्रमुख ने कहा कि ऐसे समय में बल का नेतृत्व करना उनके लिए सम्मान की बात है, जब समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ लगातार बदल रही हैं।
- "I'm extremely grateful to have this opportunity to serve the **Indian Navy** and the nation in this capacity.
"मैं इस भूमिका में **भारतीय नौसेना** और राष्ट्र की सेवा करने का अवसर मिलने के लिए अत्यंत आभारी हूँ।
- The Indian Navy stands vigilant to protect national interests and is actively deployed in a regional security environment that remains challenging, complex, unpredictable and uncertain," he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "भारतीय नौसेना राष्ट्रीय हितों की रक्षा के लिए सतर्क है और ऐसे क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा वातावरण में सक्रिय रूप से तैनात है, जो चुनौतीपूर्ण, जटिल, अप्रत्याशित और अनिश्चित बना हुआ है।"
- Highlighting his priorities as the **Chief of the Naval Staff**, Admiral Swaminathan stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of operational readiness and combat effectiveness.
चीफ ऑफ द नेवल स्टाफ के रूप में अपनी प्राथमिकताओं को रेखांकित करते हुए एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन ने परिचालन तैयारी और युद्धक क्षमता के उच्चतम मानकों को बनाए रखने के महत्व पर जोर दिया।
- He said the Navy would continue its ongoing modernisation drive while accelerating the induction of niche and emerging technologies to strengthen its operational capabilities.
उन्होंने कहा कि नौसेना अपनी परिचालन क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने के लिए आधुनिकरण अभियान को जारी रखेगी और विशेष तथा उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों को तेजी से शामिल करेगी।
- "The Indian Navy is well set on a course of capability enhancement and modernisation.
"भारतीय नौसेना क्षमता वृद्धि और आधुनिकीकरण के मार्ग पर अच्छी तरह आगे बढ़ रही है।
- It shall be my endeavour to sustain the growth momentum, consolidate ongoing programmes and sharpen our operational capabilities," he added.
उन्होंने कहा, "मेरा प्रयास रहेगा कि विकास की गति को बनाए रखा जाए, चल रहे कार्यक्रमों को मजबूत किया जाए और हमारी परिचालन क्षमताओं को और तेज किया जाए।"
- Commissioned into the **Indian Navy** on July 1, 1987, Admiral Swaminathan is a **Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist** with nearly four decades of distinguished service.
1 जुलाई 1987 को **भारतीय नौसेना** में कमीशन प्राप्त करने वाले एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन लगभग चार दशकों की विशिष्ट सेवा वाले **संचार और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध विशेषज्ञ** हैं।
- During his career, he has held several key operational and staff appointments, including **Commander of Western Fleet, Vice Chief of Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command**, a position he held prior to becoming the Navy chief.



अपने करियर के दौरान उन्होंने कई महत्वपूर्ण परिचालन और स्टाफ पदों पर कार्य किया है, जिनमें कमांडर ऑफ वेस्टर्न फ्लीट, वाइस चीफ ऑफ नेवल स्टाफ और फ्लैग ऑफिसर कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ ऑफ वेस्टर्न नेवल कमांड शामिल हैं। नौसेना प्रमुख बनने से पहले वे इसी पद पर कार्यरत थे।

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The prisoner who builds his own cell

Cave grows grander, yet Man Midas does not realise he is wearing golden handcuffs; he earns, spends more; in the endless game of lifestyle upgrades, he stops living, begins merely maintaining

GS IV: Ethics

Essay

GOLDEN HANDCUFFS

Vaishali R. Venkat

Days pass, but Man Midas never finds peace. The cave's grandeur that once was his pride, fills him with dread. What was once a dream has transformed into a burden he can no longer carry easily. Every possession needs upkeep, every upgrade adds another brick to the invisible walls trapping him inside and every sunrise carries an anxiety: what if it all collapses? Midas runs harder simply to stand in the same place.

After observing Midas in silence, Alien Aurum turns to Monk Moneywise and murmurs, "Midas no longer builds a life. He looks like a prisoner, trapped inside the very cage he built."

Monk Moneywise nods, "True Aurum, the trap begins when humans expand standard of living, blurring the line between need and luxury. Extravagance becomes ordinary and options necessities. A cycle turns into a bike which evolves into a small car to finally mature as a sedan."

"With each upgrade, fuel cost, insurance premia and EMIs multiply quietly. Bigger homes turn bigger EMIs, posh schools bring higher fee, club memberships bills, household help is the norm, foreign holidays are rituals. Comfort slowly hardens into financial obligation. Though Midas' income rises, even one interruption in earn-



"Humans often stay trapped in lives that no longer bring joy because leaving feels like erasing every sacrifice once made to build them"

ings now threatens the entire life built around it."

Alien Aurum asks in bewilderment, "Mr. Moneywise, if a family of two needs just a small place to eat and sleep, why do they spend entire lives paying for four or five big rooms?"

Imagined future

Gazing towards the distant human dwellings, Monk Moneywise whispers, "Homes disclose some of the deepest truths about human life. Humans build houses not just for today, but for imagined futures: visiting relatives, children who may settle abroad, grandchildren who may never arrive, prestige and the deep fear of appearing small before the society. The tragedy is rarely the size of the house, but the weight of the imagined future they purchase along with it."

Alien Aurum interrupts, "Weight of the imagined future?"

Nodding gently, the monk explains, "Humans spend decades buying a house believing one day they will finally be relieved of monthly rental burdens. Yet, the irony shows itself years later. For instance, in the gated communities.



"Whether apartment is lived in or empty sans tenants, maintenance costs keep rising every month, often running into several thousands."

Even after fully owning the flat, charges never truly stop. Whether the apartment is lived in, locked for months, or empty without tenants for years, maintenance charges continue arriving month on month, often running into several thousands. The tragedy deepens further with age."

Alien Aurum cuts in and asks Monk Moneywise, "The tragedy deepens with age? How?"

Mr. Moneywise continues, "Aurum, many elderly residents no longer regularly use the swimming pools, clubhouses or luxury amenities they once proudly paid for, yet the maintenance charges never disappear. During salaried years, these costs appear harmless. But after retirement, the shock slowly emerges. They now have to keep paying significant money monthly simply to continue living inside a house they already fully own but not fully use."

Buried exhaustion

Years of buried exhaustion suddenly erupt through Midas. "Enough of your theories and sermons! It's been years of struggle and do you know what all I have sacrificed to build all

these? Missed family moments, sleepless nights, health slowly breaking down, dreams postponed and what not. It's easy for you to mock me. But how can I simply walk away? If I let go of this life, then what is all that pain even for? Every sleepless night and every sacrifice goes into bins? We cannot bleed for something our entire lives and then simply let it go."

Now Master Time interrupts saying, "That pain you cannot let go of, Midas, has a name. Behavioural economists call it the sunk-cost fallacy: humans often stay trapped in lives that no longer bring joy because leaving feels like erasing every sacrifice once made to build them."

Crucial questions

Time's voice echoes across the silent valley, "Before every upgrade ask yourself: Can I sustain this if my income falls? Will this matter to me ten years from now? Am I buying this for need or status? What are the recurring charges even after the excitement fades? Am I buying for the present life or the imagined future? Am I here because I want this life, or because leaving it now feels too costly? If Midas had asked these questions before every purchase, he would have built a life not a cage and the golden handcuffs would never have found a wrist to bind itself upon."

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)



01J6. The prisoner who builds his own cell

वह कैदी जो अपनी ही कोठरी बनाता है

- Cave grows grander, yet **Man Midas** does not realise he is wearing golden handcuffs.
गुफा भव्य होती जाती है, फिर भी **मैन मिडास** यह नहीं समझ पाता कि उसने सोने की हथकड़ियां पहन रखी हैं।
- He earns, spends more; in the endless game of lifestyle upgrades, he stops living, begins merely maintaining.
वह अधिक कमाता है, अधिक खर्च करता है; जीवनशैली को लगातार बेहतर बनाने के अंतहीन खेल में वह जीना छोड़ देता है और केवल बनाए रखने में लग जाता है।
- Days pass, but **Man Midas** never finds peace.
दिन बीतते जाते हैं, लेकिन **मैन मिडास** को कभी शांति नहीं मिलती।
- The cave's grandeur that once was his pride, fills him with dread.
गुफा की भव्यता, जो कभी उसका गर्व थी, अब उसे भय से भर देती है।
- What was once a dream has transformed into a burden he can no longer carry easily.
जो कभी एक सपना था, वह अब ऐसा बोझ बन गया है जिसे वह आसानी से उठा नहीं सकता।
- Every possession needs upkeep, every upgrade adds another brick to the invisible walls trapping him inside and every sunrise carries an anxiety: what if it all collapses?
हर वस्तु को देखभाल की आवश्यकता होती है, हर नया उन्नयन उसे कैद करने वाली अदृश्य दीवारों में एक और ईंट जोड़ देता है और हर सूर्योदय एक चिंता लेकर आता है: अगर यह सब ढह गया तो क्या होगा?
- Midas runs harder simply to stand in the same place.
मिडास केवल उसी स्थान पर बने रहने के लिए और तेज भागता है।
- After observing Midas in silence, **Alien Aurum** turns to **Monk Moneywise** and murmurs, "Midas no longer builds a life. He looks like a prisoner, trapped inside the very cage he built."
मिडास को चुपचाप देखने के बाद **एलियन ऑरम** ने **मॉक मनीवाइज** की ओर मुड़कर कहा, "मिडास अब जीवन नहीं बना रहा। वह एक कैदी जैसा दिखता है, जो उसी पिंजरे में फंसा है जिसे उसने स्वयं बनाया है।"
- Monk Moneywise nods, "True Aurum, the trap begins when humans expand standard of living, blurring the line between need and luxury."
मॉक मनीवाइज ने सिर हिलाते हुए कहा, "सही कहा ऑरम, जाल तब शुरू होता है जब इंसान जीवन स्तर बढ़ाते हुए जरूरत और विलासिता के बीच की रेखा धुंधली कर देता है।"
- Extravagance becomes ordinary and options necessities.
फिजूलखर्ची सामान्य बन जाती है और विकल्प आवश्यकताएं बन जाते हैं।
- A cycle turns into a bike which evolves into a small car to finally mature as a sedan."
साइकिल बाइक में बदलती है, फिर छोटी कार बनती है और अंततः सेडान में परिवर्तित हो जाती है।"
- "With each upgrade, fuel cost, insurance premia and EMIs multiply quietly."
"हर उन्नयन के साथ ईंधन खर्च, बीमा प्रीमियम और ईएमआई चुपचाप बढ़ते जाते हैं।"
- "Bigger homes turn bigger EMIs, posh schools bring higher fee, club memberships bills, household help is the norm, foreign holidays are rituals."
"बड़े घर बड़ी ईएमआई में बदल जाते हैं, महंगे स्कूल अधिक फीस लाते हैं, क्लब सदस्यता बिल बन जाती है, घरेलू मदद सामान्य हो जाती है और विदेशी छुट्टियां एक परंपरा बन जाती हैं।"
- "Comfort slowly hardens into financial obligation."
"सुविधा धीरे-धीरे आर्थिक बाध्यता में बदल जाती है।"
- "Though Midas' income rises, even one interruption in earnings now threatens the entire life built around it."
"हालांकि मिडास की आय बढ़ती है, लेकिन अब कमाई में एक छोटी रुकावट भी उसके पूरे जीवन को खतरे में डाल देती है।"



- Alien Aurum asks in bewilderment, "Mr. Moneywise, if a family of two needs just a small place to eat and sleep, why do they spend entire lives paying for four or five big rooms?"
एलियन ऑरम ने आश्चर्य से पूछा, "मिस्टर मनीवाइज, यदि दो लोगों के परिवार को केवल खाने और सोने के लिए एक छोटी जगह चाहिए, तो वे चार या पांच बड़े कमरों के लिए पूरी जिंदगी भुगतान क्यों करते हैं?"

Imagined future

कल्पित भविष्य

- Gazing towards the distant human dwellings, **Monk Moneywise** whispers, "Homes disclose some of the deepest truths about human life."
दूर स्थित मानव आवासों की ओर देखते हुए **मॉक मनीवाइज** ने फुसफुसाते हुए कहा, "घर मानव जीवन के कुछ सबसे गहरे सत्य प्रकट करते हैं।"
- "Humans build houses not just for today, but for imagined futures."
"मनुष्य घर केवल आज के लिए नहीं बल्कि कल्पित भविष्य के लिए बनाते हैं।"
- "Visiting relatives, children who may settle abroad, grandchildren who may never arrive, prestige and the deep fear of appearing small before the society."
"आने वाले रिश्तेदार, विदेश में बसने वाले बच्चे, शायद कभी न आने वाले पोते-पोतियां, प्रतिष्ठा और समाज के सामने छोटा दिखने का गहरा भय।"
- "The tragedy is rarely the size of the house, but the weight of the imagined future they purchase along with it."
"त्रासदी शायद ही कभी घर के आकार में होती है, बल्कि उस कल्पित भविष्य के बोझ में होती है जिसे वे उसके साथ खरीदते हैं।"
- Alien Aurum interrupts, "Weight of the imagined future?"
एलियन ऑरम बीच में बोल पड़ा, "कल्पित भविष्य का बोझ?"
- Nodding gently, the monk explains, "Humans spend decades buying a house believing one day they will finally be relieved of monthly rental burdens."
धीरे से सिर हिलाते हुए मॉक ने समझाया, "मनुष्य यह सोचकर दशकों तक घर खरीदते हैं कि एक दिन वे मासिक किराए के बोझ से मुक्त हो जाएंगे।"
- "Yet, the irony shows itself years later."
"लेकिन वर्षों बाद विडंबना सामने आती है।"
- "For instance, in the gated communities."
"उदाहरण के लिए, गेटेड कम्युनिटीज में।"
- "Even after fully owning the flat, charges never truly stop."
"फ्लैट का पूर्ण स्वामित्व मिलने के बाद भी खर्च वास्तव में कभी समाप्त नहीं होते।"
- "Whether the apartment is lived in, locked for months, or empty without tenants for years, maintenance charges continue arriving month on month, often running into several thousands."
"चाहे अपार्टमेंट में लोग रहें, महीनों तक बंद रहे या वर्षों तक बिना किरायेदार के खाली रहे, मेंटेनेंस शुल्क हर महीने आता रहता है, जो अक्सर हजारों रुपये तक पहुंच जाता है।"
- "The tragedy deepens further with age."
"उम्र बढ़ने के साथ यह त्रासदी और गहरी हो जाती है।"
- Alien Aurum cuts in and asks **Monk Moneywise**, "The tragedy deepens with age? How?"
एलियन ऑरम ने बीच में टोकते हुए **मॉक मनीवाइज** से पूछा, "उम्र के साथ त्रासदी और गहरी हो जाती है? कैसे?"
- Mr. Moneywise continues, "Aurum, many elderly residents no longer regularly use the swimming pools, clubhouses or luxury amenities they once proudly paid for, yet the maintenance charges never disappear."
मिस्टर मनीवाइज ने आगे कहा, "ऑरम, कई बुजुर्ग निवासी अब उन स्विमिंग पूलों, क्लब हाउसों या



विलासितापूर्ण सुविधाओं का उपयोग नियमित रूप से नहीं करते जिनके लिए उन्होंने कभी गर्व से भुगतान किया था, फिर भी मेंटेनेंस शुल्क कभी समाप्त नहीं होते।”

- “During salaried years, these costs appear harmless.”
“नौकरी के वर्षों में ये खर्च मामूली लगते हैं।”
- “But after retirement, the shock slowly emerges.”
“लेकिन सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद धीरे-धीरे झटका सामने आता है।”
- “They now have to keep paying significant money monthly simply to continue living inside a house they already fully own but not fully use.”
“अब उन्हें हर महीने बड़ी राशि केवल उस घर में रहने के लिए चुकानी पड़ती है, जिसका वे पूर्ण स्वामित्व रखते हैं लेकिन पूरी तरह उपयोग नहीं करते।”

Buried exhaustion

दबी हुई थकान

- Years of buried exhaustion suddenly erupt through Midas.
वर्षों की दबी हुई थकान अचानक मिडास के भीतर से फूट पड़ती है।
- “Enough of your theories and sermons!”
“तुम्हारे सिद्धांतों और उपदेशों से अब बहुत हो गया!”
- “It’s been years of struggle and do you know what all I have sacrificed to build all these?”
“यह वर्षों का संघर्ष है और क्या तुम जानते हो कि यह सब बनाने के लिए मैंने क्या-क्या बलिदान दिए हैं?”
- “Missed family moments, sleepless nights, health slowly breaking down, dreams postponed and what not.”
“परिवार के साथ छोटे पल, बिना नींद की रातें, धीरे-धीरे बिगड़ती सेहत, टलते सपने और न जाने क्या-क्या।”
- “It’s easy for you to mock me.”
“तुम्हारे लिए मेरा मजाक उड़ाना आसान है।”
- “But how can I simply walk away?”
“लेकिन मैं यह सब छोड़कर कैसे चला जाऊं?”
- “If I let go of this life, then what is all that pain even for?”
“अगर मैं इस जीवन को छोड़ दूँ, तो फिर उस सारे दर्द का क्या अर्थ रह जाएगा?”
- “Every sleepless night and every sacrifice goes into bins?”
“क्या हर जागी हुई रात और हर बलिदान बेकार हो जाएगा?”
- “We cannot bleed for something our entire lives and then simply let it go.”
“हम पूरी जिंदगी किसी चीज के लिए संघर्ष करें और फिर उसे यून ही छोड़ दें, यह संभव नहीं है।”
- Now **Master Time** interrupts saying, “That pain you cannot let go of, Midas, has a name.”
अब **मास्टर टाइम** बीच में बोलते हुए कहते हैं, “मिडास, उस दर्द का एक नाम है जिसे तुम छोड़ नहीं पा रहे हो।”
- “Behavioural economists call it the sunk-cost fallacy: humans often stay trapped in lives that no longer bring joy because leaving feels like erasing every sacrifice once made to build them.”
“व्यवहारिक अर्थशास्त्री इसे ‘संक-कॉस्ट फॉलसी’ कहते हैं: इंसान अक्सर ऐसे जीवन में फंसे रहते हैं जो अब खुशी नहीं देता, क्योंकि उसे छोड़ना उन सभी बलिदानों को मिटा देने जैसा लगता है जो उसे बनाने में किए गए थे।”

Crucial questions

महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न

- Time’s voice echoes across the silent valley, “Before every upgrade ask yourself: Can I sustain this if my income falls?”



शांत घाटी में टाइम की आवाज गूंजती है, “हर उन्नयन से पहले स्वयं से पूछो: यदि मेरी आय कम हो जाए तो क्या मैं इसे बनाए रख सकता हूँ?”

- “Will this matter to me ten years from now?”
“क्या यह दस साल बाद भी मेरे लिए मायने रखेगा?”
- “Am I buying this for need or status?”
“क्या मैं इसे जरूरत के लिए खरीद रहा हूँ या प्रतिष्ठा के लिए?”
- “What are the recurring charges even after the excitement fades?”
“उत्साह खत्म होने के बाद भी बार-बार आने वाले खर्च क्या हैं?”
- “Am I buying for the present life or the imagined future?”
“क्या मैं वर्तमान जीवन के लिए खरीद रहा हूँ या कल्पित भविष्य के लिए?”
- “Am I here because I want this life, or because leaving it now feels too costly?”
“क्या मैं यहां इसलिए हूँ क्योंकि मैं यह जीवन चाहता हूँ, या इसलिए क्योंकि अब इसे छोड़ना बहुत महंगा लगता है?”
- “If Midas had asked these questions before every purchase, he would have built a life not a cage and the golden handcuffs would never have found a wrist to bind itself upon.”
“यदि मिडास ने हर खरीदारी से पहले ये प्रश्न पूछे होते, तो वह एक जीवन बनाता, पिंजरा नहीं, और सोने की हथकड़ियों को कभी कोई कलाई नहीं मिलती जिस पर वे खुद को बांध सकें।”

PATRIOTIC IAS