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**04\_11\_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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### **13. First Asian Buddhist Summit in New Delhi from tomorrow (Page-12) (PCS)**

# BJP promises UCC in manifesto for Jharkhand; tribal people will be kept out of its ambit: Shah

GS Paper II: DPSP

RANCHI

The BJP has vowed to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Jharkhand if voted to power in the State, but will keep the tribal people out of its ambit. The vow has been made in the party's manifesto for the Assembly election.

The *Sankalp Patra*, released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Sunday, has 25 resolutions and a number of freebies. "We will bring the Uniform Civil Code [UCC] to Jharkhand and let me assure you that tribal people will not be affected at all," he said.

The BJP has promised that its government will buy paddy at ₹3,100 a quintal under the Krishak Suniti scheme and implement the Krishi Ashirwad Yojana to provide farmers



Union Minister Amit Shah with other BJP leaders from Jharkhand during the release of the party's manifesto in Ranchi on Sunday. ANI

₹5,000 an acre for up to five acres of farmland.

Under the proposed Maternity Protection Scheme, every pregnant woman will be provided six nutrition kits and ₹21,000. The party promises monthly financial aid of ₹2,100 to women under the Gogo-Didi scheme, five lakh jobs for youth, and housing for all, if voted to power.

Those above the age of 70 will get free medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh, the manifesto says. A

monthly pension of up to ₹2,500 will be given to the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities.

#### **Tribal culture**

To restore and promote tribal culture, a Sidho-Kanho research centre will be set up. Under the Phoolo-Jhano Padho Bitiya scheme, free education will be provided from kindergarten to postgraduate studies for girls from poor and Backward Class families.

The BJP vows to develop

## **BJP's manifesto is 'jumla', says Soren**

RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Sunday termed the BJP's manifesto for the Assembly poll "jumla (fake promises)". » Page 11

tribal tourism circuits, ecotourism, and cultural centres. It has promised to develop the State as a hub for skill development by starting a Jharkhand Internship and Skill Training (JIST) programme in which five lakh youth will be given training and annual aid of ₹1 lakh.

The BJP promises that households will get two free LPG cylinders a year, after which they can buy refills at ₹500 each. To address unemployment and

governance issues, the BJP promises that 2.87 lakh vacant posts in government departments will be filled.

Citing the manifesto, Mr. Shah said the reservation system would continue for government jobs and educational institutions. He said Operation Suraksha would be launched to make Jharkhand free from human trafficking by 2027. He vowed to end Naxalism within the next two years.

To promote rural livelihoods, the BJP will declare minimum support prices for Arhar and Madua, and will set up processing centres in tribal blocks.

Mr. Shah said the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level exam will be cancelled, promising that the Central Bureau of Investigation will probe all major paper leak cases.



# Mixed bag for SC Collegium in judicial appointments

GS Paper II: Judiciary

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who begins his last working week on Monday, headed a Supreme Court Collegium which soldiered on to fill judicial vacancies but was not always successful with its recommendations.

Though the Chandrachud Collegium's resolutions backed online free speech and dignity based on sexual orientation and integrity in judicial appointments in its two years, it did not recommend even a single woman to the top court Bench. This was despite Chief Justice Chandrachud's view that one of the missions of the collegium was to ensure a diverse court.

The collegium saw its reiteration of advocate Sau-



D.Y. Chandrachud

rabh Kirpal, who is openly gay, for elevation as a judge of the Delhi High Court stuck with the government.

The collegium recommendations of advocates R. John Sathyan as judge of the Madras High Court and Amitesh Banerjee and Sakya Sen as judges of the Calcutta High Court have not moved forward.

The collegium had to recall its September 2022 re-

commendation to transfer the Orissa High Court Chief Justice, S. Muralidhar, to the Madras High Court. Justice Muralidhar retired in August 2023.

A six-month delay on the part of the government to clear the collegium's recommendation of Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi as Jharkhand Chief Justice saw the judge get a tenure of merely 15 days. He was cleared by the Centre on July 3, 2024, and retired on July 19, 2024.

The government sat on the collegium's recommendation, and then reiterated, to transfer Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, T. Raja, to Rajasthan. Justice Raja eventually retired from the Madras High Court.

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# Minister gives conditional green signal for K-Rail

PCS

The Hindu Bureau  
THRISSUR

K-Rail, the ambitious semi-high-speed rail project of the Kerala government, got a conditional green signal from Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday. The Minister said the project could be taken forward if the technical and environmental issues in its design were properly addressed by the State government.

The controversial project has been kept pending due to intense protests from the public and the Opposition. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had earlier met the Union Minister in Delhi to discuss K-Rail.

"I requested the Chief Minister to address the technical and environmental issues expeditiously, so that the project can be taken forward. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government believes in



**Assessing facility:** Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during his visit to Thrissur station on Sunday. PTI

cooperative federalism," he said. Mr. Vaishnaw was in the State to inspect and review the railway infrastructure, including station development projects.

## On Sabari rail

The Minister said that the Centre was committed to execute the Angamaly-Erumely Sabari rail. The State government had sent a letter with certain conditions regarding the project, he said. "We are reviewing it. We will send to the Kera-

la government a format of a similar agreement, which we have entered into with the Maharashtra government," he said. Once the formalities are finalised, the project can be started, he added.

The announcement came when the Railways had been exploring a new railway line from Chengannur to Pamba, billed as a shorter, but costly, route to the Sabarimala temple. The final location survey for the Chengannur-Pamba

(75 km) new railway line was recently sanctioned and work for the preparation of a detailed project report was under way.

The Angamaly-Sabarimala project, sanctioned in 1997-98, was frozen by the Union government, following protests by residents against land acquisition and court cases filed against the project in its initial stage.

However, the scenario had changed later, and the State government had been demanding the implementation of the project, which had witnessed the construction of a 7-km rail track from Angamali to Kaladi. Now, the estimated cost of the project is pegged at ₹3,726.95 crore by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd. (KRDCL). The State has also submitted a letter of acceptance of the estimate and willingness to share 50% of the cost of the pro-

ject on the lines of a pact signed by States such as Maharashtra.

## Vande Bharat route

The Union Minister also said that complaints had been received that other trains were being delayed due to Vande Bharat Express on the Ernakulam-Alappuzha-Kayamkulam sector. Railways are considering re-routing the Vande Bharat Express through Kottayam instead of Alappuzha, he said.

## Letter from Board

It is learnt that the Railway Board would soon send a letter to Kerala seeking some clarifications related to environmental and technical issues related to the project.

Meanwhile, the Kerala K-Rail SilverLine Virudha Janakeeya Samiti has announced that it will organise a protest in Ernakulam on November 13.

## Conditional Green Signal for K-Rail

### के-रेल के लिए सशर्त हरी झंडी

- **K-Rail, the ambitious semi-high-speed rail project of the Kerala government, got a conditional green signal from Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday.** केरल सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी सेमी-हाई-स्पीड रेल परियोजना के-रेल को रविवार को केंद्रीय रेल मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव से सशर्त हरी झंडी मिली।
- The Minister said the project could be taken forward if the **technical and environmental issues** in its design were properly addressed by the State government. मंत्री ने कहा कि यदि राज्य सरकार परियोजना के डिज़ाइन में तकनीकी और पर्यावरणीय मुद्दों को ठीक से संबोधित करती है, तो इसे आगे बढ़ाया जा सकता है।
- The controversial project has been kept pending due to intense protests from the **public and the Opposition**. इस विवादास्पद परियोजना को जनता और विपक्ष के तीव्र विरोध के कारण लंबित रखा गया है।
- Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** had earlier met the Union Minister in Delhi to discuss **K-Rail**. मुख्यमंत्री पिनाराई विजयन ने पहले के-रेल पर चर्चा के लिए दिल्ली में केंद्रीय मंत्री से मुलाकात की थी।



- "I requested the Chief Minister to address the **technical and environmental issues** expeditiously, so that the project can be taken forward. The **National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government** believes in **cooperative federalism**," he said. उन्होंने कहा, "मैंने मुख्यमंत्री से तकनीकी और पर्यावरणीय मुद्दों को शीघ्रता से सुलझाने का अनुरोध किया ताकि परियोजना को आगे बढ़ाया जा सके। राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन (एनडीए) सरकार सहकारी संघवाद में विश्वास करती है।"
- Mr. Vaishnav was in the **State to inspect and review** the railway infrastructure, including station development projects. श्री वैष्णव राज्य में रेलवे बुनियादी ढांचे का निरीक्षण और समीक्षा करने के लिए, जिसमें स्टेशन विकास परियोजनाएं भी शामिल हैं, आए थे।

## On Sabari Rail

### सबरी रेल पर

- The Minister said that the **Centre was committed to execute the Angamaly-Erumely Sabari rail**. मंत्री ने कहा कि केंद्र अंगमाली-एरुमेली सबरी रेल को लागू करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।
- The **State government** had sent a letter with certain conditions regarding the project, he said. उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य सरकार ने परियोजना के संबंध में कुछ शर्तों के साथ एक पत्र भेजा था।
- "We are reviewing it. We will send to the **Kerala government** a format of a similar agreement, which we have entered into with the **Maharashtra government**," he said. उन्होंने कहा, "हम इसकी समीक्षा कर रहे हैं। हम केरल सरकार को एक समान समझौते का प्रारूप भेजेंगे, जैसा कि हमने महाराष्ट्र सरकार के साथ किया है।"
- Once the **formalities are finalized**, the project can be started, he added. उन्होंने कहा कि जैसे ही औपचारिकताएं पूरी होती हैं, परियोजना शुरू की जा सकती है।

## New Railway Line from Chengannur to Pamba

### चेंगन्नूर से पंबा तक नई रेलवे लाइन

- The announcement came when the Railways had been exploring a **new railway line from Chengannur to Pamba**, billed as a shorter but costly route to the **Sabarimala temple**. यह घोषणा उस समय आई जब रेलवे चेंगन्नूर से पंबा तक नई रेलवे लाइन की तलाश कर रही थी, जो सबरीमाला मंदिर के लिए एक छोटा लेकिन महंगा मार्ग है।
- The **final location survey for the Chengannur-Pamba (75 km) new railway line** was recently sanctioned, and work for the preparation of a **detailed project report** was under way. चेंगन्नूर-पंबा (75 किमी) नई रेलवे लाइन के अंतिम स्थान सर्वेक्षण को हाल ही में मंजूरी दी गई, और विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट की तैयारी का काम जारी है।



## Angamali-Sabarimala Project

### अंगमाली-सबरीमाला परियोजना

- The **Angamali-Sabarimala project**, sanctioned in **1997-98**, was frozen by the Union government following **protests by residents** against land acquisition and **court cases** filed against the project in its initial stage. **1997-98 में स्वीकृत अंगमाली-सबरीमाला परियोजना** को भूमि अधिग्रहण के खिलाफ **निवासियों के विरोध** और प्रारंभिक चरण में **परियोजना के खिलाफ दर्ज अदालत मामलों** के कारण केंद्र सरकार द्वारा रोक दिया गया था।
- However, the scenario had changed later, and the **State government** had been demanding the implementation of the project, which had witnessed the construction of a **7-km rail track from Angamali to Kaladi**. हालांकि, बाद में परिदृश्य बदल गया, और राज्य सरकार परियोजना के कार्यान्वयन की मांग कर रही थी, जिसमें **अंगमाली से कलाडी तक 7 किमी रेल ट्रैक** का निर्माण हुआ था।
- Now, the estimated cost of the project is pegged at **₹3,726.95 crore** by the **Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd. (KRDCL)**. अब, परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत **केरल रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड (KRDCL)** द्वारा **₹3,726.95 करोड़** तय की गई है।
- The **State** has also submitted a **letter of acceptance of the estimate and willingness to share 50% of the cost** of the project on the lines of a pact signed by States such as **Maharashtra**. राज्य ने भी अनुमान की स्वीकृति का पत्र और परियोजना की लागत का **50% साझा करने की इच्छा** प्रस्तुत की है, जैसा कि **महाराष्ट्र** जैसे राज्यों द्वारा किए गए समझौतों में किया गया है।

## Vande Bharat Route

### वंदे भारत मार्ग

- The Union Minister also said that complaints had been received that **other trains were being delayed** due to the **Vande Bharat Express on the Ernakulam-Alappuzha-Kayamkulam sector**. केंद्रीय मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि **एर्नाकुलम-अलप्पुझा-कायमकुलम सेक्टर में वंदे भारत एक्सप्रेस** के कारण **अन्य ट्रेनों में देरी** की शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं।
- Railways are considering **re-routing the Vande Bharat Express through Kottayam instead of Alappuzha**, he said. उन्होंने कहा कि रेलवे **वंदे भारत एक्सप्रेस को अलप्पुझा के बजाय कोट्टायम के माध्यम से पुनः मार्गित करने पर विचार कर रहा है।**

## Letter from Board

### बोर्ड से पत्र

- It is learnt that the **Railway Board would soon send a letter to Kerala** seeking some **clarifications related to environmental and technical issues** related to the project. यह पता चला है कि रेलवे बोर्ड **जल्द ही केरल को एक पत्र भेजेगा** जिसमें परियोजना से संबंधित **पर्यावरणीय और तकनीकी मुद्दों के बारे में कुछ स्पष्टीकरण** मांगे जाएंगे।



## Protest by K-Rail SilverLine Virudha Janakeeya Samiti के-रेल सिल्वरलाइन विरोध जनकीय समिति द्वारा प्रदर्शन

- Meanwhile, the Kerala K-Rail SilverLine Virudha Janakeeya Samiti has announced that it will organize a protest in Ernakulam on November 13. इस बीच, केरल के-रेल सिल्वरलाइन विरोध जनकीय समिति ने घोषणा की है कि वह 13 नवंबर को एर्नाकुलम में प्रदर्शन आयोजित करेगी।

## Residents of A.P. villages stage protest against tests to assess uranium availability; officials to hold talks

GS Paper I:  
Geography  
KURNOOL

The people of Kappatralla and nearby villages in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district are raising their voice against the Union government for granting permission for tests to assess the availability of uranium in the reserve forest area near Kappatralla.

The villagers fear losing their lands and livelihood and also adverse effects of uranium mining on their lives. The residents have been staging silent protests for some time now and on Saturday, they laid siege to the Adoni-Kurnool road,



People from Kappatralla and other villages staging a protest against the Uranium mining in Kurnool on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

demanding that any attempts to explore uranium in their villages be stopped with immediate effect.

The Atomic Minerals Directorate based at Hyderabad had sought permission

for assessing the uranium reserves in 2017 in Kappatralla and nearby areas and collected samples. In continuation of the tests, the Union Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate

Change had recently granted permission to drill 68 borewells in an extent of 468.25 hectares in Kappatralla reserve forest.

Though officials maintained that the digging of bores is to assess the uranium reserves in the area and not for exploration of the material, residents are apprehensive of the move.

Kappatralla village sarpanch Chennama Naidu said they would oppose uranium exploration in the region as it would adversely affect their livelihood. "They are claiming that the tests are only for assessing the uranium reserves but we do not want even the

tests to be conducted here," Mr. Naidu said.

"Amid growing opposition, it was decided to create proper awareness among the people of the mandal about the digging of bores and go ahead with the process," a senior forest official said. "Forest Department and revenue officials were asked to interact with residents."

Meanwhile, officials of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) are likely to conduct a meeting with the people on Monday to give an assurance that the tests are only for assessing the uranium and not for exploration.

## Residents of A.P. Villages Stage Protest Against Uranium Tests

आंध्र प्रदेश के गांवों के निवासियों ने यूरेनियम परीक्षण के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शन किया

Residents of Kappatralla and nearby villages in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh are protesting against the Union government's decision to allow tests to assess uranium availability in the reserve forest area near Kappatralla. कप्पात्रल्ला और आसपास के गांवों के निवासी



**कुरनूल जिले, आंध्र प्रदेश में आरक्षित वन क्षेत्र में यूरेनियम उपलब्धता का आकलन करने के परीक्षण की अनुमति देने के केंद्र सरकार के निर्णय का विरोध कर रहे हैं।**

- The villagers fear losing their **lands and livelihood** and the adverse effects of uranium mining on their lives. ग्रामीणों को भूमि और आजीविका खोने का डर है और उनके जीवन पर यूरेनियम खनन के प्रतिकूल प्रभावों का भी भय है।
- The residents have been staging **silent protests** for some time, and on **Saturday**, they blocked the **Adoni-Kurnool road**, demanding an immediate halt to any uranium exploration efforts in their villages. निवासी कुछ समय से **मौन विरोध प्रदर्शन** कर रहे हैं, और **शनिवार** को उन्होंने **अडोनी-कुरनूल सड़क** पर अवरोध लगाया, मांग की कि उनके गांवों में यूरेनियम अन्वेषण के प्रयास तुरंत बंद किए जाएं।

### **Atomic Minerals Directorate's Permission and Borewell Drilling** **एटॉमिक मिनरल्स डायरेक्टरेट की अनुमति और बोरवेल ड्रिलिंग**

- The **Atomic Minerals Directorate**, based in **Hyderabad**, sought permission to assess uranium reserves in **2017** in Kappatralla and nearby areas and collected samples. **हैदराबाद** स्थित **एटॉमिक मिनरल्स डायरेक्टरेट** ने **2017** में कप्पात्रल्ला और आसपास के क्षेत्रों में यूरेनियम भंडार का आकलन करने की अनुमति मांगी थी और नमूने एकत्र किए थे।
- Recently, the **Union Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change** granted permission to drill **68 borewells** across **468.25 hectares** in the **Kappatralla reserve forest** as part of continued testing. हाल ही में, **केंद्र वन, पर्यावरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय** ने कप्पात्रल्ला आरक्षित वन में **468.25 हेक्टेयर** में **68 बोरवेल ड्रिल** करने की अनुमति दी, जो परीक्षणों के निरंतर प्रयास का हिस्सा है।

### **Apprehension Among Residents About Uranium Reserve Assessment** **यूरेनियम भंडार आकलन को लेकर निवासियों में चिंता**

- Officials clarified that the **digging of bores** is solely to assess **uranium reserves** in the area, not for actual exploration, but residents remain apprehensive. अधिकारियों ने स्पष्ट किया कि क्षेत्र में **बोरवेल खोदने** का उद्देश्य केवल **यूरेनियम भंडार** का आकलन करना है, न कि वास्तविक अन्वेषण के लिए, लेकिन निवासी फिर भी चिंतित हैं।
- **Kappatralla village** sarpanch **Chennama Naidu** stated that they would oppose any uranium exploration in the area due to its potential negative impact on their **livelihood**. **कप्पात्रल्ला गांव** की सरपंच **चेन्नम्मा नायडू** ने कहा कि वे क्षेत्र में किसी भी प्रकार के यूरेनियम अन्वेषण का विरोध करेंगे, क्योंकि इससे उनकी **आजीविका** पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।
- Mr. Naidu emphasized that even though officials claim the tests are only for assessing uranium reserves, the residents do not want any tests conducted in their area. श्री नायडू



ने जोर देकर कहा कि भले ही अधिकारी कह रहे हैं कि ये परीक्षण केवल यूरेनियम भंडार का आकलन करने के लिए हैं, निवासी अपने क्षेत्र में किसी भी प्रकार का परीक्षण नहीं चाहते।

## **Awareness Efforts and Meetings Planned by Officials**

### **अधिकारियों द्वारा जागरूकता प्रयास और बैठकें आयोजित करने की योजना**

- Amid increasing opposition, it was decided to **raise awareness** among the people of the **mandal** about the purpose of bore digging, while proceeding with the process. बढ़ते विरोध के बीच, यह निर्णय लिया गया कि **मंडल** के लोगों में **जागरूकता बढ़ाई जाए** कि बोरवेल खोदने का उद्देश्य क्या है, और प्रक्रिया को आगे बढ़ाया जाए।
- **Forest and revenue officials** were asked to engage with the residents to address their concerns. **वन और राजस्व अधिकारियों** को निवासियों के साथ बातचीत करने के लिए कहा गया ताकि उनकी चिंताओं को दूर किया जा सके।
- Meanwhile, officials from **Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL)** are likely to hold a meeting with residents on **Monday** to assure them that the tests are strictly for uranium assessment, not exploration. इस बीच, **यूरेनियम कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (यूसीआईएल)** के अधिकारी **सोमवार** को निवासियों के साथ बैठक करने की संभावना रखते हैं ताकि उन्हें आश्वासन दिया जा सके कि ये परीक्षण केवल यूरेनियम का आकलन करने के लिए हैं, न कि अन्वेषण के लिए।

## **Uranium**

- **Uranium is primarily found in two isotopes:** Uranium-238 and Uranium-235. Uranium-235 is the isotope that can sustain a chain reaction, making it valuable for nuclear energy production. Mining methods include open-pit mining, underground mining, and in-situ leach mining.
- यूरेनियम मुख्य रूप से दो समस्थानिकों में पाया जाता है: यूरेनियम-238 और यूरेनियम-235। यूरेनियम-235 वह समस्थानिक है जो श्रृंखला अभिक्रिया को बनाए रख सकता है, जिससे यह परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पादन के लिए मूल्यवान होता है। खनन विधियों में खुली खदान खनन, भूमिगत खनन, और इन-सिचु लीच खनन शामिल हैं।

## **Data and Facts**

- As per the World Nuclear Association, **Kazakhstan** is the largest uranium producer globally, followed by Canada and Australia. In India, major uranium reserves are located in **Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan**.



- वर्ल्ड न्यूक्लियर एसोसिएशन के अनुसार, कजाकिस्तान वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे बड़ा यूरेनियम उत्पादक है, उसके बाद कनाडा और ऑस्ट्रेलिया हैं। भारत में, प्रमुख यूरेनियम भंडार झारखंड, आंध्र प्रदेश और राजस्थान में स्थित हैं।

**GS Paper II: India-Srilanka**

## Sharing resources

**Fishermen from both sides of the Palk Bay must meet to resolve dispute**

India rightly used the sixth meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries, in Colombo on October 29, as an opportunity to again call for a meeting between fishermen of both countries to resolve the vexed problem of fishing in the Palk Bay. In a meeting in Colombo between India's High Commissioner Santosh Jha and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, stress was laid on the "importance of a long-term resolution that respects the needs of fishermen ... and promotes cooperation". Mr. Dissanayake affirmed his commitment to protecting Sri Lanka's interests. Weeks earlier, when India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met the President, the subject had come up for discussion. The idea of talks between fishermen seems to have takers. On October 25, fishermen staged a demonstration in Rameswaram wanting talks. Nearly eight months ago, representatives of the fisherfolk from the Northern Province had appealed for negotiations with their Tamil Nadu counterparts, despite their complaints about 'destructive bottom trawling' by the other side. It is up to Sri Lanka to respond.

What is well known is the frequent arrest of Tamil Nadu's fishermen, especially from Ramanathapuram, on charges of transgressing the International Maritime Boundary Line. Many are released after India's intervention. According to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, as on October 27, there were 30 incidents of arrests this year; 140 fishermen and 200 boats are with Sri Lanka. There were casualties on both sides, in June and August, in operations by Sri Lanka to nab Tamil Nadu's fishermen. However, what appears to be a new trend is the increasing detention of Indian fishermen and their boats, with lengthy sentences and fines on repeat offenders. This is why India's long-standing position, that the issue has humanitarian and livelihood angles, assumes significance. At the same time, marine ecosystem conservation is important. Once Sri Lanka's parliamentary poll is over in mid-November, Mr. Dissanayake should enable a conducive environment for the northern fishermen to arrive at an agreement – this would need political support. Likewise, India should again push for the deep-sea fishing project, launched in 2017, for Tamil Nadu's fishermen, apart from promoting alternative forms of fishing. New Delhi should also come up with suitable schemes to help fishermen in the Northern Province, who have still to recover from the civil war. Fishermen from both countries should explore the relevance of the broad contours of an understanding reached between them in 2010. The northern fishermen should also understand the need to give Tamil Nadu's fishermen a reasonable period of transition. A combination of measures by all stakeholders is what can resolve the Palk Bay dispute.

## Sharing Resources: Fishermen from Both Sides of the Palk Bay Must Meet to Resolve Dispute

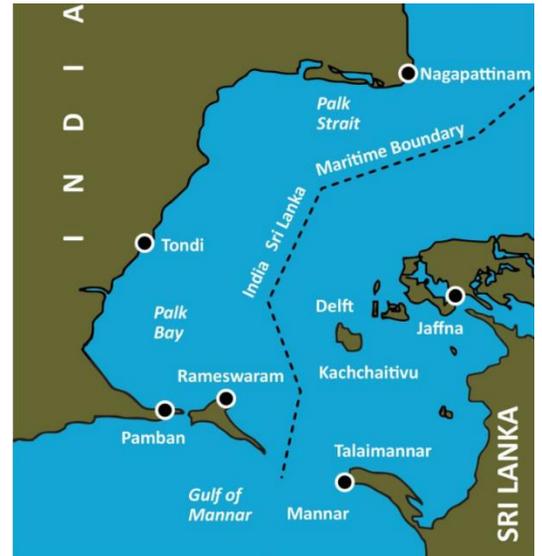
**संसाधनों का साझा उपयोग: पॉक खाड़ी के दोनों तरफ के मछुआरों को विवाद सुलझाने के लिए मिलना चाहिए**

- India utilized the sixth meeting of the **India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries** on October 29 in Colombo to call for a meeting between fishermen of both countries to address the fishing issues in **Palk Bay**. भारत ने 29 अक्टूबर को कोलंबो में भारत-श्रीलंका संयुक्त कार्यसमूह की छठी बैठक का उपयोग किया ताकि पॉक खाड़ी में मछली पकड़ने के मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए दोनों देशों के मछुआरों के बीच बैठक का आह्वान किया जा सके।

भारत ने 29 अक्टूबर को कोलंबो में भारत-श्रीलंका संयुक्त कार्यसमूह की छठी बैठक का उपयोग किया ताकि पॉक खाड़ी में मछली पकड़ने के मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए दोनों देशों के मछुआरों के बीच बैठक का आह्वान किया जा सके।

• During the meeting between **India's High Commissioner Santosh Jha and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake**, the emphasis was on finding a **long-term resolution** that respects the **needs of fishermen** and fosters **cooperation**. **भारत**

the **needs of fishermen** and fosters **cooperation**. **भारत**



के उच्चायुक्त संतोष झा और श्रीलंका के राष्ट्रपति अनुरा कुमारा डिसानायके के बीच हुई बैठक में मछुआरों की जरूरतों और सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने वाले दीर्घकालिक समाधान पर जोर दिया गया।

- **Mr. Dissanayake** reiterated his commitment to **protecting Sri Lanka's interests** in this matter. श्री डिसानायके ने इस मामले में श्रीलंका के हितों की रक्षा करने के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।
- The topic was previously discussed during a meeting between **India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** and **President Dissanayake** weeks earlier. कुछ सप्ताह पहले भारत के विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर और राष्ट्रपति डिसानायके के बीच एक बैठक में इस विषय पर चर्चा हुई थी।

## **Calls for Talks Among Fishermen and Recent Demonstrations**

### **मछुआरों के बीच बातचीत की मांग और हालिया प्रदर्शन**

- On **October 25**, fishermen in **Rameswaram** held a **demonstration** calling for talks. **25 अक्टूबर** को रामेश्वरम में मछुआरों ने बातचीत की मांग को लेकर प्रदर्शन किया।
- Nearly **eight months ago**, fishermen representatives from **Sri Lanka's Northern Province** sought negotiations with Tamil Nadu's fishermen, despite complaints about **bottom trawling**. लगभग आठ महीने पहले, श्रीलंका के उत्तरी प्रांत के मछुआरों के प्रतिनिधियों ने तमिलनाडु के मछुआरों के साथ वार्ता की अपील की, बावजूद इसके कि उनके पास **बॉटम ट्राव्लिंग** की शिकायतें थीं।
- Frequent arrests of **Tamil Nadu's fishermen** for crossing the **International Maritime Boundary Line** continue, especially those from **Ramanathapuram**. तमिलनाडु के मछुआरों की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुद्री सीमा रेखा पार करने के कारण गिरफ्तारी लगातार हो रही है, खासकर रामनाथपुरम के मछुआरों की।

## **Detentions and Humanitarian Concerns**

### **हिरासत और मानवीय चिंताएं**

- According to **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**, as of **October 27**, **140 fishermen** and **200 boats** are detained in **Sri Lanka**, with **30 incidents of arrests** reported this year. तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन के अनुसार, **27 अक्टूबर** तक, **140 मछुआरे** और **200 नावें** श्रीलंका में हिरासत में हैं, और इस वर्ष **30 गिरफ्तारियों** की घटनाएं दर्ज की गई हैं।
- There were casualties on both sides in **June and August** during operations by Sri Lanka to apprehend Tamil Nadu fishermen. **जून और अगस्त** में तमिलनाडु के मछुआरों को पकड़ने के श्रीलंका के अभियानों में दोनों पक्षों पर हताहत हुए थे।
- **India's stance highlights the humanitarian and livelihood angles** of the issue, with a **call for marine ecosystem conservation**. भारत का रुख इस मुद्दे के **मानवीय और आजीविका** पहलुओं को उजागर करता है, साथ ही **समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के संरक्षण** की भी मांग करता है।





## Need for Political Support and Alternative Fishing

### राजनीतिक समर्थन और वैकल्पिक मछली पकड़ने की आवश्यकता

- Once **Sri Lanka's parliamentary elections** conclude in **mid-November**, President Dissanayake should work towards creating a **supportive environment** for Northern fishermen to reach an agreement. **मध्य-नवंबर में श्रीलंका के संसदीय चुनावों के समाप्त होने के बाद**, राष्ट्रपति डिसानायके को उत्तरी मछुआरों के लिए एक **समर्थक वातावरण** बनाने की दिशा में काम करना चाहिए।
- **India should further its deep-sea fishing project, launched in 2017, for Tamil Nadu's fishermen and encourage alternative fishing methods.** **भारत को 2017 में शुरू की गई तमिलनाडु के मछुआरों के लिए डीप-सी मछली पकड़ने की परियोजना को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए और वैकल्पिक मछली पकड़ने के तरीकों को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए।**
- New schemes are needed from **New Delhi** to assist fishermen in **Sri Lanka's Northern Province** still recovering from the **civil war**. **नई दिल्ली को श्रीलंका के उत्तरी प्रांत के मछुआरों की सहायता के लिए नई योजनाओं की आवश्यकता है, जो अभी भी गृह युद्ध से उबर रहे हैं।**

## Reviving Past Agreements and Transition Period

### पिछले समझौतों को पुनर्जीवित करना और संक्रमण अवधि

- Fishermen from both sides should revisit the **understanding reached in 2010** and assess its relevance today. **दोनों पक्षों के मछुआरों को 2010 में किए गए समझौते पर पुनः विचार करना चाहिए और इसकी वर्तमान प्रासंगिकता का आकलन करना चाहिए।**
- Northern fishermen should understand the necessity of allowing Tamil Nadu's fishermen a **reasonable transition period**. **उत्तरी मछुआरों को तमिलनाडु के मछुआरों को एक उचित संक्रमण अवधि देने की आवश्यकता को समझना चाहिए।**
- A combined effort from **all stakeholders** is essential to resolve the **Palk Bay dispute**. **सभी हितधारकों का संयुक्त प्रयास पॉक खाड़ी विवाद को हल करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।**



# The BRICS summit boost to India-Iran ties

GS Paper II: Grouping

159 Liters

At the 16th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia in Kazan (October 22-24, 2024), there were a few meetings on the sidelines which created a buzz. One such meeting was between India and Iran, both close civilizational friends and looking to strengthen a stagnating partnership. Iran, which is now embroiled in the war in Gaza, is looking for Indian support in de-escalating the crisis. India, too, has supported having a ceasefire and de-escalation at the earliest. Globally, India is being widely sought after to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict as it enjoys trust and goodwill across both ends of the conflict, with Israel and Iran.

## Much potential

The bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian was the first time that the leaders have met. During the meeting, they acknowledged the strong and untapped potential in the bilateral relationship. Mr. Pezeshkian appreciated India's growing role in the world and underlined its potential role in de-escalating the Gaza conflict. He also acknowledged the key role played by India in 2023 in Iran's entry into key multilateral organisations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS. Both sides also discussed the possibilities of strengthening cooperation in key areas such as the Chabahar port and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Iran's importance for India, however, goes well beyond the Chabahar port and the connectivity options that it provides. Iran is vitally important due to its vast reserves of crude oil and natural gas. Its total oil reserves are estimated at 209 billion barrels and that of natural gas at 33,988 billion cubic metres, which at the end of 2021, accounted for 24% of the oil reserves of West Asia



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Energy cooperation and defence ties are just some of the possibilities that exist to strengthen a stagnating partnership

and 12% of the world. Despite crippling economic sanctions and the ongoing war in Gaza, Iran's crude production in May 2024 rose to 3.4 million barrels per day (bpd) while crude oil exports in March 2024 averaged 1.61 million bpd.

## Options for a closer partnership

The Chabahar port has been the driving force of the bilateral relationship in recent times. In a deal signed on May 13 this year, India and Iran signed a 10-year contract for the operation of the port. Chabahar port also provides easy and short access to India's Kandla and Mumbai ports. As it is located outside the Strait of Hormuz, it insulates India's trade from any threat of closure of sea lanes due to conflicts in the Persian Gulf region. In addition, a railway link of 700 km between Chabahar and Zahedan city is being fast-tracked, to be connected later to the railway network of Iran. A further road link from Zahedan to Zaranj in Afghanistan could provide seamless connectivity for humanitarian aid from India to Afghanistan.

Energy supplies are the next big possibility. Before May 2019, Iran met almost 12% of India's crude oil needs. As bilateral ties take better shape, oil and gas imports could re-commence from Iran which could then open up a new range of possibilities to fulfil India's energy needs.

The ambitious Iran-Oman-India gas pipeline has been under discussion since 1993. In May 2022, Iran and Oman agreed to develop two undersea gas pipelines and an oil field along their maritime borders. If this materialises, extending these to India could be an option.

Close military cooperation with Iran is also a possibility. The two countries had signed a defence cooperation agreement in 2001 but nothing came of it, mainly due to western sanctions on Iran. In recent years, Iran has developed modern weapons platforms such as

short and medium range ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles, and armed drones. Iran is already supplying armed drones to Russia in its war with Ukraine. India too is looking to develop cheap and effective armed drones and could find an effective partner in Iran.

To combat the threat of terror groups operating from Pakistan, India and Iran could conduct joint counterterrorism exercises and develop intelligence-sharing mechanisms. On the naval front, port calls at Iranian ports and the development of logistical facilities in the Persian Gulf could prove extremely useful.

## Aspects of Indian diplomacy

India and Iran can achieve a lot together. There is recognition that too much time has already been lost. India's ability to de-hyphenate ties and engage independently with nations that are adversarial to each other, such as Iran and Israel, could be useful in driving the ties. Also, India's decision to exercise strategic autonomy in issues of national interest, as seen in its engagement with Russia during the Ukraine war, is a useful precedent to invigorate ties with Iran.

However, many a time, stray and 'out of context' comments have threatened to apply the brakes on ties. A statement by Iran's Supreme Leader on September 16 this year, comparing the "sufferings" of Indian Muslims to the residents of Gaza, drawing sharp comments from India. Both countries have to realise that the bilateral relationship is far more important and precious to be derailed by such stray comments.

India, under Modi 3.0, is looking to strengthen India's outreach and strategic convergence in West Asia. Similarly, Iran is looking to consolidate its diplomatic gains of recent years and considers India to be an important partner. The meeting at the BRICS Summit may have just given the right impetus for both.

## The BRICS Summit Boost to India-Iran Ties

### भारत-ईरान संबंधों को ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन का बढ़ावा

- At the 16th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia in Kazan (October 22-24, 2024), there were a few meetings on the sidelines which created a buzz.  
रूस द्वारा कज़ान में आयोजित 16वें ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन (22-24 अक्टूबर, 2024) में कुछ महत्वपूर्ण बैठकों ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया।
- One such meeting was between India and Iran, both close civilizational friends looking to strengthen a stagnating partnership.  
इनमें से एक बैठक भारत और ईरान के बीच हुई, जो सभ्यतागत मित्र हैं और अपने रुकते हुए साझेदारी को मजबूत करना चाहते हैं।
- Iran, now embroiled in the war in Gaza, is seeking Indian support in de-escalating the crisis.  
वर्तमान में गाजा युद्ध में उलझे हुए ईरान को संकट को शांत करने के लिए भारत के समर्थन की आवश्यकता है।





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- India has also supported a **ceasefire and de-escalation** at the earliest in Gaza. भारत ने भी गाजा में जल्द से जल्द **युद्धविराम और तनाव कम करने** का समर्थन किया है।
- Globally, India is being sought after to help facilitate a peaceful resolution, given its **trust and goodwill** with both Israel and Iran. वैश्विक स्तर पर, भारत से शांति-समाधान में मदद की उम्मीद की जा रही है क्योंकि वह **इज़राइल और ईरान** दोनों के साथ भरोसेमंद संबंध रखता है।

## Much Potential

### काफी संभावनाएं

- The bilateral meeting between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian** was the first time the leaders have met. प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और ईरान के राष्ट्रपति मसूद पेज़ेशिकियन के बीच हुई द्विपक्षीय बैठक पहली बार हुई।
- During the meeting, they acknowledged the **strong and untapped potential** in their bilateral relationship. बैठक के दौरान, उन्होंने अपने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में **मजबूत और अनछुए संभावनाओं** को स्वीकार किया।
- Mr. Pezeshkian appreciated **India's growing role** globally and highlighted its potential role in de-escalating the Gaza conflict. श्री पेज़ेशिकियन ने वैश्विक स्तर पर **भारत की बढ़ती भूमिका** की सराहना की और गाजा संघर्ष को शांत करने में इसकी संभावित भूमिका को रेखांकित किया।
- He acknowledged **India's role in 2023** in supporting Iran's entry into the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** and **BRICS**. उन्होंने 2023 में ईरान को **शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO)** और **ब्रिक्स** में शामिल होने में भारत की भूमिका को स्वीकार किया।
- Both sides discussed the possibilities of strengthening cooperation in **Chabahar port** and the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**. दोनों पक्षों ने **चाबहार बंदरगाह** और **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उत्तर-दक्षिण परिवहन गलियारा (INSTC)** में सहयोग मजबूत करने की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा की।

## Iran's Importance for India

### भारत के लिए ईरान का महत्व

- Iran's importance goes beyond the Chabahar port, especially due to its **vast reserves of crude oil and natural gas**. ईरान का महत्व चाबहार बंदरगाह से परे है, विशेष रूप से इसके विशाल **कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस के भंडार** के कारण।
- Iran's **total oil reserves** are estimated at **209 billion barrels**, and its **natural gas reserves** at **33,988 billion cubic meters**, accounting for **24%** of West Asia's oil reserves and **12%** of the world's reserves as of **2021**.

**Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**

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





ईरान का कुल तेल भंडार 209 अरब बैरल और प्राकृतिक गैस भंडार 33,988 अरब घन मीटर है, जो पश्चिम एशिया के 24% और दुनिया के 12% तेल भंडार के बराबर है (2021 तक)।

- Despite **economic sanctions** and the ongoing **war in Gaza**, Iran's crude oil production rose to **3.4 million barrels per day (bpd)** in May 2024, while crude oil exports in March 2024 averaged **1.61 million bpd**.

आर्थिक प्रतिबंधों और गाजा युद्ध के बावजूद, मई 2024 में ईरान का कच्चा तेल उत्पादन **3.4 मिलियन बैरल प्रति दिन (bpd)** तक पहुंच गया, जबकि मार्च 2024 में कच्चे तेल का निर्यात औसतन **1.61 मिलियन bpd** रहा।

## Options for a Closer Partnership

### करीबी साझेदारी के विकल्प

- The Chabahar port has been the driving force of the bilateral relationship in recent times. चाबहार बंदरगाह हाल के समय में द्विपक्षीय संबंधों का मुख्य कारण रहा है।
- In a deal signed on **May 13** this year, India and Iran signed a **10-year contract** for the operation of the port. इस वर्ष **13 मई** को किए गए एक समझौते में, भारत और ईरान ने बंदरगाह के संचालन के लिए **10-वर्षीय अनुबंध** पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
- Chabahar port also provides easy and short access to India's **Kandla** and **Mumbai ports**. चाबहार बंदरगाह भारत के **कांडला** और **मुंबई बंदरगाहों** तक आसान और छोटा मार्ग भी प्रदान करता है।
- As it is located outside the **Strait of Hormuz**, it insulates India's trade from any threat of closure of sea lanes due to conflicts in the **Persian Gulf region**. चूंकि यह **होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** के बाहर स्थित है, यह **पर्शियन गल्फ क्षेत्र** में संघर्षों के कारण समुद्री मार्ग बंद होने के खतरे से भारत के व्यापार को सुरक्षित रखता है।
- In addition, a **railway link of 700 km** between Chabahar and Zahedan city is being fast-tracked, to be connected later to the railway network of Iran. इसके अतिरिक्त, चाबहार और ज़ाहेदान शहर के बीच **700 किमी की रेलवे लिंक** को तेजी से जोड़ा जा रहा है, जिसे बाद में ईरान के रेलवे नेटवर्क से जोड़ा जाएगा।
- A further road link from **Zahedan to Zaranj** in **Afghanistan** could provide seamless connectivity for humanitarian aid from India to Afghanistan. **अफगानिस्तान** में **ज़ाहेदान से ज़रान्ज** तक एक सड़क लिंक भारत से अफगानिस्तान तक मानवीय सहायता के लिए निर्बाध कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान कर सकता है।

## Energy Supplies

### ऊर्जा आपूर्ति

- Energy supplies are the next big possibility. ऊर्जा आपूर्ति अगला बड़ा अवसर है।





- Before **May 2019**, Iran met almost **12%** of India's crude oil needs.  
**मई 2019** से पहले, ईरान ने भारत की कच्चे तेल की आवश्यकता का लगभग **12%** पूरा किया था।
- As bilateral ties take better shape, oil and gas imports could re-commence from Iran, which could then open up a new range of possibilities to fulfill India's energy needs.  
जैसे-जैसे द्विपक्षीय संबंध बेहतर होते हैं, ईरान से तेल और गैस आयात फिर से शुरू हो सकता है, जो भारत की ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए नए अवसरों को खोल सकता है।
- The ambitious **Iran-Oman-India gas pipeline** has been under discussion since **1993**.  
महत्वाकांक्षी **ईरान-ओमान-भारत गैस पाइपलाइन** पर **1993** से चर्चा चल रही है।
- In **May 2022**, Iran and Oman agreed to develop **two undersea gas pipelines** and an oil field along their maritime borders.  
**मई 2022** में, ईरान और ओमान ने अपनी समुद्री सीमाओं के साथ **दो अंडरसी गैस पाइपलाइन** और एक तेल क्षेत्र विकसित करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- If this materializes, extending these to India could be an option.  
यदि यह संभव होता है, तो इसे भारत तक विस्तारित करना एक विकल्प हो सकता है।

## Close Military Cooperation

### करीबी सैन्य सहयोग

- Close military cooperation with Iran is also a possibility.  
ईरान के साथ करीबी सैन्य सहयोग भी एक संभावना है।
- The two countries had signed a **defence cooperation agreement** in **2001** but nothing came of it, mainly due to western sanctions on Iran.  
दोनों देशों ने **2001** में एक **रक्षा सहयोग समझौते** पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे, लेकिन इसके परिणामस्वरूप कुछ नहीं हुआ, मुख्यतः ईरान पर पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों के कारण।
- In recent years, Iran has developed modern weapons platforms such as **short and medium range ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles, and armed drones**.  
हाल के वर्षों में, ईरान ने **छोटी और मध्यम दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलें, हाइपरसोनिक मिसाइलें, और सशस्त्र ड्रोन** जैसे आधुनिक हथियार प्लेटफार्म विकसित किए हैं।
- Iran is already supplying armed drones to Russia in its war with Ukraine.  
ईरान पहले से ही यूक्रेन के साथ युद्ध में रूस को सशस्त्र ड्रोन आपूर्ति कर रहा है।
- India too is looking to develop cheap and effective armed drones and could find an effective partner in Iran.  
भारत भी सस्ते और प्रभावी सशस्त्र ड्रोन विकसित करने की कोशिश कर रहा है और ईरान में एक प्रभावी भागीदार पा सकता है।

## Counterterrorism and Naval Cooperation

### आतंकवाद विरोधी और नौसेना सहयोग

- To combat the threat of terror groups operating from **Pakistan**, India and Iran could conduct joint counterterrorism exercises and develop intelligence-sharing mechanisms.





पाकिस्तान से संचालित आतंकवादी समूहों के खतरे का मुकाबला करने के लिए, भारत और ईरान संयुक्त आतंकवाद विरोधी अभ्यास कर सकते हैं और खुफिया-साझाकरण तंत्र विकसित कर सकते हैं।

- On the naval front, port calls at Iranian ports and the development of logistical facilities in the **Persian Gulf** could prove extremely useful. नौसेना के मोर्चे पर, ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर पोर्ट कॉल और **पर्शियन गल्फ** में लॉजिस्टिकल सुविधाओं का विकास अत्यधिक उपयोगी साबित हो सकता है।

## Aspects of Indian Diplomacy

### भारतीय कूटनीति के पहलू

- India and Iran can achieve a lot together. भारत और ईरान मिलकर बहुत कुछ हासिल कर सकते हैं।
- There is recognition that too much time has already been lost. यह स्वीकार किया गया है कि पहले ही बहुत समय खो चुका है।
- India's ability to **de-hyphenate ties** and engage independently with nations that are adversarial to each other, such as **Iran and Israel**, could be useful in driving the ties. भारत की **सम्बंधों को अलग रखने** और एक-दूसरे के विरोधी देशों जैसे **ईरान और इज़राइल** के साथ स्वतंत्र रूप से जुड़ने की क्षमता इन संबंधों को मजबूत करने में उपयोगी हो सकती है।
- Also, India's decision to exercise **strategic autonomy** in issues of national interest, as seen in its engagement with **Russia during the Ukraine war**, is a useful precedent to invigorate ties with Iran. साथ ही, भारत द्वारा **यूक्रेन युद्ध के दौरान रूस के साथ** अपने जुड़ाव में देखे गए राष्ट्रीय हित के मुद्दों में **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** का प्रयोग करने का निर्णय, ईरान के साथ संबंधों को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए एक उपयोगी उदाहरण है।
- However, many a time, stray and 'out of context' comments have threatened to apply the brakes on ties. हालांकि, कई बार, अनपेक्षित और 'संदर्भ से बाहर' टिप्पणियों ने संबंधों पर ब्रेक लगाने का खतरा पैदा किया है।
- A statement by **Iran's Supreme Leader on September 16** this year, comparing the "sufferings" of **Indian Muslims to the residents of Gaza**, drew sharp comments from India. इस वर्ष **16 सितंबर** को **ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता** द्वारा **भारतीय मुसलमानों की "पीड़ा" की तुलना गाजा निवासियों से** करने वाले बयान ने भारत की तीखी प्रतिक्रिया प्राप्त की।
- Both countries have to realize that the bilateral relationship is far more important and precious to be derailed by such stray comments. दोनों देशों को यह महसूस करना होगा कि द्विपक्षीय संबंध इस प्रकार की अनपेक्षित टिप्पणियों से बाधित होने के लिए बहुत अधिक महत्वपूर्ण और मूल्यवान हैं।
- India, under **Modi 3.0**, is looking to strengthen India's outreach and strategic convergence in **West Asia**.



मोदी 3.0 के तहत, भारत पश्चिम एशिया में भारत की पहुँच और रणनीतिक संगम को मजबूत करने की योजना बना रहा है।

- Similarly, Iran is looking to consolidate its diplomatic gains of recent years and considers India to be an important partner.

इसी तरह, ईरान अपने हाल के वर्षों की कूटनीतिक उपलब्धियों को मजबूत करना चाहता है और भारत को एक महत्वपूर्ण साझेदार मानता है।

- The meeting at the **BRICS Summit** may have just given the right impetus for both. **ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन** में हुई बैठक ने दोनों के लिए सही प्रेरणा प्रदान की हो सकती है।

## Mandala Theory:

- Chanakya's **Mandala Theory** is a key concept in ancient Indian political thought, originating from his treatise, the *Arthashastra*.
- Chanakya (also known as Kautilya or Vishnugupta) was a scholar, strategist, and the advisor to Emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
- His Mandala Theory offers a framework for understanding foreign relations and strategic diplomacy in a multi-state system, guiding how a king or ruler should interact with neighboring states based on their relative power, intentions, and geographical positioning.

### 1. Central Kingdom and Neighbors

- At the center of the Mandala is the **Vijigishu** or the “Conquering King,” who aspires to expand his territory and power.
- The kingdoms surrounding the central king are classified based on their proximity and political stance towards the king. These kingdoms fall into specific roles, helping the king strategize alliances, conflicts, and diplomacy.

### 2. Classification of States

- **Ari (Enemy State):** The kingdom directly adjacent to the Vijigishu’s territory is seen as a potential enemy. This is because, in Chanakya’s view, immediate neighbors often have conflicting interests and could become adversaries.
- **Mitra (Ally State):** The state that borders the enemy’s territory but not the central kingdom is typically considered an ally of the Vijigishu, as they share a common adversary.
- **Madhyama (Middle King):** A neutral or mediator state with sufficient power and resources to influence the Vijigishu and his enemy. The Madhyama king can play a role in brokering peace or maintaining balance in the region.
- **Udasina (Neutral King):** A distant or detached king who is powerful but remains uninvolved in the conflicts between the central king and his immediate neighbors.

### 3. Circles of States (Mandala)

- According to Chanakya, the world of states is divided into circles, with each state falling into one of these categories relative to the central king.
- The Mandala Theory recognizes these concentric circles around the Vijigishu’s kingdom, determining friends and foes based on their distance and alignment with the central king.





#### 4. Six-Fold Policy (Shadgunya Siddhanta)

- Chanakya also introduced six strategic approaches, or **Shadgunya Siddhanta**, which the central king could use based on his circumstances:
  1. **Sandhi (Treaty)**: Making alliances or peace treaties with other states.
  2. **Vigraha (War)**: Engaging in warfare if beneficial.
  3. **Asana (Neutrality)**: Maintaining a stance of neutrality.
  4. **Yana (Preparation for War)**: Mobilizing forces and preparing for potential conflict.
  5. **Samsraya (Seeking Shelter)**: Seeking alliance with a stronger power.
  6. **Dvaidhibhava (Double Policy)**: Using a combination of two strategies, such as making peace with one state while waging war with another.

#### 5. Key Principles of Mandala Theory

- **Enemies' Enemy is a Friend**: Chanakya emphasized that a neighbor's neighbor is often a natural ally, as they share the same threat or adversary.
- **Realpolitik Approach**: The theory advises rulers to act in their own self-interest pragmatically, weighing gains and losses, without moral considerations clouding judgment.
- **Constant Vigilance and Preparedness**: Even allies could shift loyalties, so the king should maintain preparedness, seeking power through diplomacy, intelligence, and military strategy.

#### 6. Modern Relevance

- Chanakya's Mandala Theory is often compared to modern concepts of **Realism** in international relations, where power, national interest, and strategic alliances dominate foreign policy.
- His ideas reflect a practical approach to diplomacy, suggesting that states should balance cooperation and rivalry to ensure stability and security.



# On the new coastal zone plan of Kerala

What does the Coastal Zone Management Plan for 10 coastal districts of Kerala entail? How has the no development zone, an area which is left untouched around tidal water bodies, been altered? Will the new plan affect mangrove forests?

GS Paper III: Environmental Protection

## EXPLAINER

**K.S. Sudhi**

### The story so far:

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMPs) of 10 coastal districts of Kerala namely Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram. The plan, prepared in tune with the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019, permits the coastal districts to take advantage of the relaxed Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules and initiate development activities including construction of buildings towards the seaward side.

### What is the process?

The Ministry has asked the State government to make available the signed copies of the approved CZMPs of all the 10 coastal districts in the public domain through the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority website within one month. The Ministry has clarified that all applications seeking CRZ clearance received after the approval of the CRZ 2019 shall be considered as per the CRZ Notification, 2019. The union government had initiated the process of declaring the designated areas as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) to conserve and protect the "unique environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, besides providing livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities in the coastal areas and to promote sustainable development based on scientific principles taking into account the dangers of natural hazards, sea level rise due to global warming."

### What does it mean for Kerala?

Kerala has a coastline of around 590 km and nine of its 14 districts are located on



Roaring waters: Waves attack the coast in Chellanam, Kochi, in 2020. THULASI KAKKAT

the coast of the Arabian Sea. The 2011 Census put the population density of Kerala at 859 persons per square kilometre, which is more than double the national average of 382 people per square kilometre. The coastal areas of the State are marked by a high density of population when compared to other parts of the State. It is estimated that five corporations, 36 municipalities and 245 grama panchayats will come under the CRZ regime in the State in the 10 districts.

The high demographic pressure on land had resulted in rampant violations of the CRZ rules along the coast. Thousands of land modifications, which include the illegal reclamation of wetlands and encroachments, have been reported along the Kerala coast. Hundreds of constructions have come up along the

coast in blatant violation of the rules. The focus of the CRZ 2011 regime, which was in force till the approval of the CZMP, was on the conservation of the coastal ecosystem, which in turn protected the livelihood of millions of fishers and coastal communities.

### What are the benefits?

The approval of the CZMP would directly benefit around 10 lakh people, according to an estimation of the State government as the earlier restrictions for the construction of new houses and repair of existing homes will be relaxed. The approval of the CZMP was made a pre-condition for the States to make the CRZ 2019 applicable and enjoy its benefits.

The new regime will see the No

Development Zone (NDZ) – the area which has to be left untouched – around the tidal-influenced water bodies reduced to 50 metres from the earlier 100 metres from the High Tide Line in at least 122 local bodies in the State. The decision will see 37 village panchayats categorised as CRZ-III A, where the NDZ has been reduced to one-fourth of the earlier regime. The CRZ-III A are densely populated rural areas with a population density of 2,161 per square kilometre as per the 2011 Census. The NDZ in the category is 50 meters from the High Tide Line against 200 meters as specified by CRZ 2011 notification. The new regime will see 66 village panchayats being included in the CRZ-2 category paving way for the construction of both commercial and residential buildings along the building line of authorised structures.

The NDZ in the CRZ areas of Kerala will be reduced to half. It will be 108,397 sq. km against the earlier 239,431 sq. km, as fixed by the CRZ 2011 notification.

### What about mangroves?

Vast tracts of mangrove vegetation, which has an important role in the coastal ecosystem and are also considered breeding grounds for a large number of fishes and other organisms, would be exposed to exploitation as the 2019 notification has limited the legal protection of government holdings of an extent over 1,000 sq. metre to 50-metre buffer zones. The changes in rules will see a reduction in the buffer zones of mangroves to 2,500 hectares from the earlier 4,300 hectares in the State.

The new regime has also taken away the mandatory buffer zone around mangrove vegetation located in private holdings. Though the owners of private holdings in which the mangrove patches have survived may rejoice at the decision, it could leave a disastrous impact on the fast-depleting mangrove vegetation. The decision could lead to the wiping out of large tracts of mangrove vegetation, it's feared.

## THE GIST

Kerala has a coastline of around 590 km and 10 of its 14 districts are located on the coast of the Arabian Sea. The 2011 Census put the population density of Kerala at 859 persons per square kilometre, which is more than double the national average of 382 people per square kilometre.

The new regime will see the No Development Zone (NDZ) – the area which has to be left untouched – around the tidal-influenced water bodies reduced to 50 metres from the earlier 100 metres from the High Tide Line in at least 122 local bodies in the State.

The new regime has also taken away the mandatory buffer zone around mangrove vegetation located in private holdings.

## Coastal Zone Management Plan for Kerala केरल के लिए तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन योजना

- The **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has approved the **Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMPs) of 10 coastal districts of Kerala**, namely Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Kollam, and Thiruvananthapuram. केंद्रीय पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय ने केरल के 10 तटीय जिलों की तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन योजना (सीजेडएमपी) को मंजूरी दी है, जिनमें कासरगोड, कन्नूर, कोझीकोड, मलप्पुरम, त्रिशूर, एर्नाकुलम, कोट्टायम, अलप्पुझा, कोल्लम, और तिरुवनंतपुरम शामिल हैं।





- The plan aligns with the **Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019**, allowing coastal districts to use relaxed CRZ rules for development, including **building construction on the seaward side**. योजना तटीय विनियमन क्षेत्र अधिसूचना, 2019 के अनुरूप है, जो तटीय जिलों को समुद्र की ओर भवन निर्माण सहित विकास की अनुमति देता है।

## Process

### प्रक्रिया

- The Ministry has asked the State government to make the approved CZMPs available on the **Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority website** within **one month**. मंत्रालय ने राज्य सरकार से केरल तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट पर एक महीने के भीतर अनुमोदित सीजेडएमपी उपलब्ध कराने का अनुरोध किया है।
- The Ministry clarified that all CRZ clearance applications received after the approval will be assessed under the **CRZ Notification, 2019**. मंत्रालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि अनुमोदन के बाद प्राप्त सभी सीआरजेड मंजूरी आवेदन **सीआरजेड अधिसूचना, 2019** के तहत आंके जाएंगे।
- The Union government established the **CRZ to conserve and protect the unique environment of coastal and marine areas, providing livelihood security to fisher and local communities and promoting sustainable development based on scientific principles and natural hazards risks**. केंद्रीय सरकार ने तटीय और समुद्री क्षेत्रों के अद्वितीय पर्यावरण को संरक्षित करने, मछुआरों और स्थानीय समुदायों की आजीविका सुरक्षा प्रदान करने और वैज्ञानिक सिद्धांतों और प्राकृतिक खतरों के जोखिम के आधार पर स्थायी विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सीआरजेड स्थापित किया।

## Implications for Kerala

### केरल के लिए प्रभाव

- Kerala has a **590 km coastline**, and **nine out of its 14 districts are on the Arabian Sea coast**. केरल की **590 किमी तटरेखा** है, और **14 में से नौ जिले अरब सागर के तट पर स्थित** हैं।
- According to the **2011 Census**, Kerala has a population density of **859 persons per sq. km**, **more than double the national average of 382**. **2011 की जनगणना** के अनुसार, केरल की जनसंख्या घनत्व प्रति वर्ग किमी में **859 व्यक्ति** है, जो **राष्ट्रीय औसत 382 से दोगुनी** है।
- Kerala's coastal areas are densely populated, with an estimated **five corporations, 36 municipalities, and 245 grama panchayats** coming under the CRZ regime in the 10 districts. केरल के तटीय क्षेत्र घनी आबादी वाले हैं, जिनमें 10 जिलों में अनुमानित **पांच निगम, 36 नगरपालिका और 245 ग्राम पंचायतें** सीआरजेड शासन के अंतर्गत आती हैं।
- The high demographic pressure led to significant **CRZ violations** along the coast, with numerous land modifications, illegal **wetland reclamation**, and encroachments reported. उच्च जनसांख्यिकीय दबाव के कारण तट पर प्रमुख **सीआरजेड उल्लंघन** हुए, जिसमें कई भूमि संशोधन, अवैध आर्द्रभूमि पुनर्ग्रहण, और अतिक्रमण की रिपोर्टें शामिल हैं।





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- Hundreds of **unauthorized constructions** emerged along the coast, violating previous rules focused on conserving coastal ecosystems, thus safeguarding the livelihoods of **fishers and coastal communities**. तट पर **सैकड़ों अवैध निर्माण** सामने आए, जिसने पिछले नियमों का उल्लंघन किया जो तटीय पारिस्थितिक तंत्र के संरक्षण पर केंद्रित थे, जिससे **मछुआरों और तटीय समुदायों** की आजीविका की सुरक्षा होती थी।

## **Benefits of the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) Approval**

### **तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन योजना (CZMP) की स्वीकृति के लाभ**

- The **approval of the CZMP** is estimated to directly benefit around **10 lakh people** as it relaxes restrictions on the **construction of new houses** and repair of existing homes. तटीय क्षेत्र प्रबंधन योजना (CZMP) की स्वीकृति से **लगभग 10 लाख लोगों** को सीधा लाभ होगा क्योंकि इससे **नए घरों के निर्माण** और मौजूदा घरों की मरम्मत पर **लगी पाबंदियों में ढील** मिलेगी।
- The approval of the CZMP was made a pre-condition for states to make **CRZ 2019** applicable and enjoy its benefits. CZMP की स्वीकृति को राज्यों के लिए **CRZ 2019** को लागू करने और इसके **लाभ** प्राप्त करने के लिए एक पूर्व शर्त बनाया गया था।

## **Changes in the No Development Zone (NDZ)**

### **नो डेवलपमेंट ज़ोन (NDZ) में बदलाव**

- The **No Development Zone (NDZ)**, which is an area left untouched around tidal-influenced water bodies, has been **reduced to 50 meters** from the earlier **100 meters** in at least **122 local bodies** in the state. **नो डेवलपमेंट ज़ोन (NDZ)**, जो ज्वारीय जल निकायों के आसपास का क्षेत्र है, उसे राज्य में कम से कम **122 स्थानीय निकायों** में पहले के **100 मीटर से घटाकर 50 मीटर** कर दिया गया है।
- In **37 village panchayats** categorized as **CRZ-III A** (densely populated rural areas with a **population density of 2,161 per sq. km** as per the **2011 Census**), the **NDZ has been reduced to 50 meters from the earlier 200 meters**. **37 ग्राम पंचायतों** को **CRZ-III A** श्रेणी में रखा गया है (जो कि घनी आबादी वाले ग्रामीण क्षेत्र हैं, जिनकी जनसंख्या घनत्व **2011 की जनगणना** के अनुसार प्रति वर्ग किमी **2,161** है), और इन क्षेत्रों में **NDZ पहले के 200 मीटर से घटाकर 50 मीटर** कर दिया गया है।
- The new regime will see **66 village panchayats** included in the **CRZ-2 category**, allowing the construction of **both commercial and residential buildings** along the building line of authorized structures. नए नियम में **66 ग्राम पंचायतों** को **CRZ-2 श्रेणी** में शामिल किया जाएगा, जिससे **व्यावसायिक और आवासीय भवनों** के निर्माण की अनुमति मिल जाएगी, बशर्ते कि वे अधिकृत संरचनाओं की बिल्डिंग लाइन के अनुसार हों।
- The total NDZ in the **CRZ areas of Kerala** will now be reduced to **108.397 sq. km** from the earlier **239.431 sq. km** as per **CRZ 2011** notification.

**Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**

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





केरल के CRZ क्षेत्रों में कुल NDZ अब CRZ 2011 अधिसूचना के अनुसार 239.431 वर्ग किमी से घटकर 108.397 वर्ग किमी रह जाएगा।

## Impact on Mangroves

### मैंग्रोव्स पर प्रभाव

- The vast tracts of **mangrove vegetation**, which play an important role in the **coastal ecosystem** and are considered **breeding grounds for fishes**, would be exposed to exploitation as the **2019 notification** has limited **legal protection** to government holdings over **1,000 sq. meters** with only a **50-meter buffer zone**.

मैंग्रोव वनस्पति के विशाल क्षेत्र, जो तटीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं और मछलियों के प्रजनन के स्थान माने जाते हैं, अब 2019 अधिसूचना के अनुसार 1,000 वर्ग मीटर से अधिक सरकारी भूमि में केवल 50 मीटर बफर ज़ोन के तहत ही कानूनी सुरक्षा प्राप्त करेंगे।

- The buffer zones around mangroves will be reduced from **4,300 hectares** to **2,500 hectares** in the state.

राज्य में मैंग्रोव्स के चारों ओर के बफर ज़ोन 4,300 हेक्टेयर से घटकर 2,500 हेक्टेयर हो जाएंगे।

- The **new regime has also removed the mandatory buffer zone around mangrove vegetation located in private holdings**, which may benefit private landowners but could **endanger mangrove vegetation**.

नए नियम के तहत निजी संपत्तियों में स्थित मैंग्रोव वनस्पति के चारों ओर अनिवार्य बफर ज़ोन को भी हटा दिया गया है, जो निजी भूमि मालिकों के लिए लाभदायक हो सकता है लेकिन मैंग्रोव वनस्पति को खतरे में डाल सकता है।

- This decision could potentially lead to **widespread destruction of mangrove vegetation**.

इस निर्णय से मैंग्रोव वनस्पति के व्यापक विनाश की संभावना बन सकती है।

### Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ): Explanation in Detail

The **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)** is a key initiative by the Government of India to protect and conserve coastal ecosystems and promote sustainable development along India's coastlines.

Established under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and first notified in 1991 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the CRZ guidelines aim to regulate activities along India's coastline to mitigate environmental impacts and balance development needs.

#### 1. Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Introduction

- English:** In 1991, the Indian government issued the CRZ Notification under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, to protect coastal ecosystems.



- **Hindi:** 1991 में, भारत सरकार ने तटीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की रक्षा के लिए पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 के तहत सीआरजेड अधिसूचना जारी की।

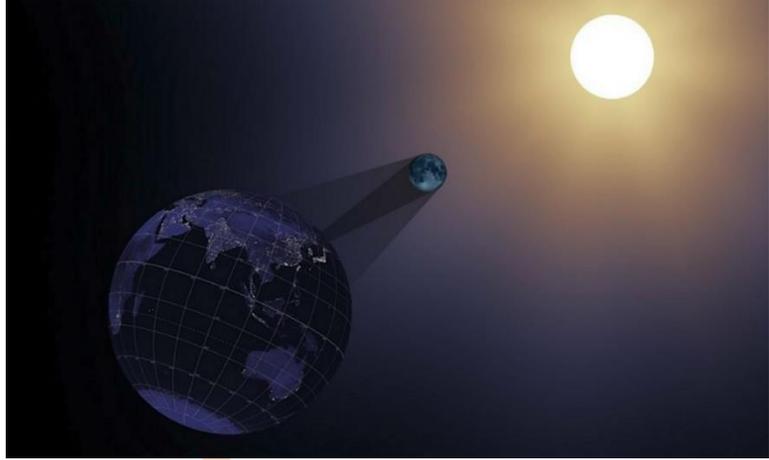
## 2. Coastal Land Designation

- **English:** Coastal land up to 500 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL) and 100 meters along tidal water bodies (like creeks, estuaries, rivers) falls under CRZ.
- **Hindi:** उच्च ज्वार रेखा से 500 मीटर और ज्वार वाली जलधाराओं के किनारे 100 मीटर तक की तटीय भूमि सीआरजेड में आती है।

## Tides and Tide Lines

### 1. Spring Tide

- **English:** Spring Tide is a high tide caused when the Sun and Moon align with Earth, known as Syzygy. This occurs twice a month, during the **new and full moon phases**.
- **Hindi:** स्प्रिंग टाइड एक उच्च ज्वार है जो तब होता है जब सूर्य, चंद्रमा और पृथ्वी एक सीध में होते हैं, जिसे सिजी कहा जाता है। यह माह में दो बार, पूर्णिमा और अमावस्या के दौरान होता है।



### 2. High Tide Line (HTL) and Low Tide Line (LTL)

- **English:** HTL is the land mark reached by the highest water level during Spring Tides, while LTL represents the lowest water line.
- **Hindi:** एचटीएल वह सीमा है जहाँ स्प्रिंग टाइड्स के दौरान उच्चतम जल स्तर पहुंचता है, जबकि एलटीएल निम्नतम जल रेखा को दर्शाता है।

## Classification of Coastal Regulation Zones

The **CRZ Notification** of 1991 defined coastal areas into four categories for regulatory purposes:



**1. CRZ-I**

- **English:** Ecologically sensitive areas essential for coastal ecosystems. Activities like natural gas exploration and salt extraction are permitted.
- **Hindi:** तटीय पारिस्थितिक तंत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण संवेदनशील क्षेत्र। प्राकृतिक गैस अन्वेषण और नमक निष्कर्षण जैसी गतिविधियाँ अनुमत हैं।

**2. CRZ-II**

- **English:** Developed areas near the coastline, where certain construction activities are permitted per guidelines.
- **Hindi:** तट के पास के विकसित क्षेत्र, जहाँ कुछ निर्माण गतिविधियाँ दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार अनुमत हैं।

**3. CRZ-III**

- **English:** Undeveloped urban and rural areas; limited to agriculture, horticulture, and public facilities construction.
- **Hindi:** अविकसित शहरी और ग्रामीण क्षेत्र; कृषि, बागवानी और सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं के निर्माण तक सीमित।

**4. CRZ-IV**

- **English:** Coastal stretches in islands like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where certain activities like coral extraction are restricted.
- **Hindi:** अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह जैसे द्वीपों में तटीय क्षेत्र, जहाँ मूंगा निष्कर्षण जैसी गतिविधियों पर प्रतिबंध है।

## **CRZ Notifications and Amendments**

### **CRZ Notification, 2011**

- **English:** The 2011 Notification revised the 1991 rules, focusing on sustainable development, scientific principles, and protection against natural hazards.
- **Hindi:** 2011 अधिसूचना ने 1991 के नियमों में संशोधन किया, जिसमें सतत विकास, वैज्ञानिक सिद्धांतों और प्राकृतिक खतरों से सुरक्षा पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया।
- **CRZ-I Reforms:** Allowances for infrastructure like roads and desalination plants.
- **Hindi:** सीआरजेड-I सुधार: सड़कों और जल-लवणकरण संयंत्र जैसी बुनियादी ढांचे की अनुमति।
- **CRZ-II Reforms:** Specific building permissions in landward areas.
- **Hindi:** सीआरजेड-II सुधार: भूभाग वाले क्षेत्रों में विशिष्ट निर्माण की अनुमति।

### **Shailesh Nayak Committee (2014) and CRZ 2018 & 2019**

- **English:** The Shailesh Nayak Committee, set up in 2014, made recommendations leading to CRZ Notifications in 2018 and 2019. These rules reduce No Development Zones (NDZ) and specify rural areas with high population density as CRZ-III A.
- **Hindi:** 2014 में गठित शैलेश नायक समिति ने 2018 और 2019 में सीआरजेड अधिसूचना के लिए सिफारिशें कीं। इन नियमों में नो डेवलपमेंट जोन (NDZ) में कमी की गई और उच्च जनसंख्या घनत्व वाले ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को सीआरजेड-III A के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया।





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## Key Updates in CRZ 2018 & 2019

### 1. Reduced No Development Zones

- **English:** NDZ for rural densely populated areas is reduced to 50m from HTL in CRZ-III A.
- **Hindi:** सीआरजेड-III A में ग्रामीण घनी आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों के लिए एनडीजेड को एचटीएल से 50 मीटर तक कम कर दिया गया है।

### 2. Division of CRZ-III

- **English:** CRZ-III divided into CRZ-III A (high population) and CRZ-III B (less densely populated).
- **Hindi:** सीआरजेड-III को सीआरजेड-III A (अधिक जनसंख्या) और सीआरजेड-III B (कम घनत्व वाले) में विभाजित किया गया है।





# What are major challenges faced by Indian cities?

What is the theme for this year's World Cities Day? What led to India's rapid urbanisation? How big of a threat does climate change and rising inequality pose to urban growth?

GS Paper I: Urbanization

Tikender Singh Panwar

## The story so far:

October 31 is observed every year as World Cities Day. The world's urban population has reached an estimated 4.7 billion, or 57.5% of the world's total population, with projections to double by 2050. The theme for this year's World Cities Day is 'Youth Climate Changemakers: Catalysing Local Action for Urban Sustainability'.

## What are challenges faced by cities?

The UN underscores that cities face unprecedented challenges, especially climate change. While strides have been made towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), urban centres remain plagued by poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. In the Global South, these challenges are intensified by

## rapid urbanisation, inadequate infrastructure, and limited resources.

Cities here often suffer from housing shortages, poor access to clean water and sanitation, and increased vulnerability to climate-related events.

## What about Indian urbanisation?

India's urbanisation trajectory differs from the cities in the Global North. In Western countries, urbanisation followed industrialisation, which created jobs that absorbed rural labour. Their urbanisation was sustained also because of massive economic transfers from colonies. Economist Utsa Patnaik has highlighted that India alone contributed over \$45 trillion to England's economy during colonial rule. In contrast, India's urbanisation is largely driven by economic distress, resulting in "poverty-driven urbanisation," with both rural-to-urban and urban-to-urban

migration. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the strain on urban planning became apparent, as reverse migration trends highlighted gaps in infrastructure.

## What are urban challenges in India?

Without a 2021 Census, India lacks precise data on its urban population. World Bank estimates suggest around 40% of India's population live in urban areas, in around 9,000 statutory and census towns. The main challenges Indian cities face include inadequate spatial planning, climate change, massive migration, growing inequality and social segregation, and governance limitations.

Urban planning agencies have struggled due to two main issues. First, spatial and temporal plans are often outdated and fail to accommodate population growth. Since the 1980s, deindustrialisation has led to job losses in cities like Ahmedabad, Delhi, Surat, and

Mumbai. Many workers displaced by this trend moved to peri-urban areas, where they live in overcrowded conditions. Currently, 40% of India's urban population resides in slums. Second, plans often focus on capital growth rather than people's needs, leading to a lack of local ownership and engagement in the planning process. Additionally, inequality is widening, with exclusive developments catering to the wealthy while millions lack basic housing. Similarly, climate change severely impacts Indian cities. Cities face severe pollution and are increasingly subject to urban flooding and "heat island effects." Among the 10 most polluted cities in India, eight are in the NCR region around Delhi.

Despite the 74th Constitutional Amendment, most Indian cities remain controlled by undemocratic bodies. Though cities have elected representatives, they rarely control urban planning, which is often outsourced to parastatals and private entities. For example, less than three of the 18 functions outlined in the 12th Schedule have been universally transferred to urban governments, and cities receive a mere 0.5% of the GDP in intergovernmental transfers. As we observe World Cities Day, these challenges highlight the need for comprehensive national interventions.

The writer is former deputy mayor, Shimla, and Member, Kerala Urban Commission.

## THE GIST

The world's urban population has reached an estimated 4.7 billion, or 57.5% of the world's total population, with projections to double by 2050.

India's urbanisation trajectory differs from the cities in the Global North. In Western countries, urbanisation followed industrialisation, which created jobs that absorbed rural labour.

The main challenges Indian cities face include inadequate spatial planning, climate change, massive migration, growing inequality and social segregation, and governance limitations.

## Major challenges faced by Indian cities

## भारतीय शहरों के सामने प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ

October 31 is observed every year as World Cities Day.

हर वर्ष 31 अक्टूबर को विश्व शहर दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है।

- The world's urban population has reached an estimated 4.7 billion, or 57.5% of the world's total population, with projections to double by 2050.

विश्व की शहरी आबादी अनुमानित 4.7 अरब हो गई है, जो कुल जनसंख्या का 57.5% है, और 2050 तक इसके दोगुना होने की संभावना है।

- The theme for this year's World Cities Day is 'Youth Climate Changemakers: Catalysing Local Action for Urban Sustainability'.

इस वर्ष के विश्व शहर दिवस की थीम है 'युवाओं का जलवायु परिवर्तन में योगदान: शहरी स्थिरता के लिए स्थानीय कार्यों को प्रेरित करना'।

## What are challenges faced by cities?

## शहरों के सामने कौन सी चुनौतियाँ हैं?

- The UN underscores that cities face unprecedented challenges, especially climate change.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने जोर दिया है कि शहर अभूतपूर्व चुनौतियों, विशेष रूप से जलवायु परिवर्तन का सामना कर रहे हैं।





- While strides have been made towards **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, urban centres remain plagued by **poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation**.  
सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDGs) की ओर प्रगति के बावजूद, शहरी केंद्र अब भी गरीबी, असमानता और पर्यावरणीय क्षरण की समस्याओं से ग्रस्त हैं।
- In the **Global South**, these challenges are intensified by rapid **urbanisation, inadequate infrastructure, and limited resources**.  
ग्लोबल साउथ में, ये चुनौतियाँ तेज शहरीकरण, अपर्याप्त बुनियादी ढांचे, और सीमित संसाधनों के कारण बढ़ गई हैं।
- Cities here often suffer from **housing shortages, poor access to clean water and sanitation, and increased vulnerability to climate-related events**.  
यहाँ के शहर आवास की कमी, स्वच्छ जल और स्वच्छता तक सीमित पहुंच, और जलवायु से जुड़े घटनाओं के प्रति संवेदनशीलता जैसी समस्याओं का सामना करते हैं।

## What about Indian urbanisation?

### भारतीय शहरीकरण के बारे में क्या?

- India's urbanisation trajectory differs from the cities in the **Global North**.  
भारत का शहरीकरण ग्लोबल नॉर्थ के शहरों से अलग है।
- **In Western countries, urbanisation followed industrialisation, which created jobs that absorbed rural labour**.  
पश्चिमी देशों में, औद्योगिकीकरण के बाद शहरीकरण हुआ, जिसने ग्रामीण श्रमिकों के लिए रोजगार उत्पन्न किया।
- **Their urbanisation was sustained also because of massive economic transfers from colonies**.  
उनका शहरीकरण उपनिवेशों से बड़े पैमाने पर आर्थिक हस्तांतरण के कारण भी बना रहा।
- Economist **Utsa Patnaik** has highlighted that **India alone contributed over \$45 trillion to England's economy during colonial rule**.  
अर्थशास्त्री उत्सा पटनायक ने बताया है कि औपनिवेशिक शासन के दौरान भारत ने अकेले \$45 ट्रिलियन से अधिक का योगदान इंग्लैंड की अर्थव्यवस्था में किया।
- In contrast, **India's urbanisation is largely driven by economic distress, resulting in "poverty-driven urbanisation", with both rural-to-urban and urban-to-urban migration**.  
इसके विपरीत, भारत का शहरीकरण मुख्यतः आर्थिक संकट से प्रेरित है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप गरीबी-प्रेरित शहरीकरण हो रहा है, जिसमें ग्रामीण से शहरी और शहरी से शहरी प्रवास शामिल हैं।
- During the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the strain on urban planning became apparent, as **reverse migration** trends highlighted gaps in infrastructure.  
कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान, शहरी योजना पर दबाव स्पष्ट हो गया, क्योंकि विपरीत प्रवास की प्रवृत्तियों ने बुनियादी ढांचे की खामियों को उजागर किया।



## Urban Challenges in India

### भारत में शहरी चुनौतियाँ

- Without a 2021 Census, India lacks precise **data** on its urban population.  
2021 की जनगणना के बिना, भारत के पास अपनी शहरी आबादी पर सटीक डेटा नहीं है।
- World Bank estimates suggest around 40% of India's population live in urban areas**, in around **9,000 statutory and census towns**.  
विश्व बैंक के अनुमान के अनुसार, भारत की लगभग 40% आबादी शहरी क्षेत्रों में रहती है, जो लगभग 9,000 वैधानिक और जनगणना नगरों में है।
- The main challenges Indian cities face include **inadequate spatial planning, climate change, massive migration, growing inequality and social segregation, and governance limitations**.  
भारतीय शहरों के सामने मुख्य चुनौतियाँ अपर्याप्त स्थानिक योजना, जलवायु परिवर्तन, विशाल प्रवास, बढ़ती असमानता और सामाजिक विभाजन, और शासन की सीमाएँ हैं।
- Urban planning agencies have struggled due to two main issues.  
शहरी योजना एजेंसियाँ दो मुख्य समस्याओं के कारण संघर्ष कर रही हैं।
- First, **spatial and temporal plans** are often outdated and fail to accommodate **population growth**.  
पहला, स्थानिक और अस्थायी योजनाएँ अक्सर पुरानी हो जाती हैं और जनसंख्या वृद्धि को समायोजित करने में विफल होती हैं।
- Since the 1980s, deindustrialisation** has led to **job losses** in cities like **Ahmedabad, Delhi, Surat, and Mumbai**.  
1980 के दशक से, औद्योगिकीकरण की कमी के कारण अहमदाबाद, दिल्ली, सूरत, और मुंबई जैसे शहरों में नौकरी का नुकसान हुआ है।
- Many workers displaced by this trend moved to **peri-urban areas**, where they live in **overcrowded conditions**.  
इस प्रवृत्ति से विस्थापित कई श्रमिक शहरी परिधीय क्षेत्रों में चले गए, जहाँ वे अत्यधिक भीड़भाड़ में रहते हैं।
- Currently, **40% of India's urban population resides in slums**.  
वर्तमान में, भारत की शहरी आबादी का 40% झुग्गियों में रहता है।
- Second, **plans often focus on capital growth rather than people's needs, leading to a lack of local ownership and engagement in the planning process**.  
दूसरा, योजनाएँ अक्सर लोगों की आवश्यकताओं के बजाय पूंजी वृद्धि पर केंद्रित होती हैं, जिससे योजना प्रक्रिया में स्थानीय स्वामित्व और भागीदारी की कमी होती है।
- Additionally, **inequality** is widening, with exclusive developments catering to the wealthy while millions lack **basic housing**.  
इसके अतिरिक्त, असमानता बढ़ रही है, जहाँ विशेष विकास अमीरों के लिए है जबकि लाखों लोगों के पास मूलभूत आवास नहीं है।
- Climate change** severely impacts Indian cities.  
जलवायु परिवर्तन का भारतीय शहरों पर गंभीर प्रभाव पड़ता है।





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- Cities face severe **pollution** and are increasingly subject to **urban flooding and heat island effects**.  
शहर गंभीर प्रदूषण का सामना कर रहे हैं और शहरी बाढ़ और हीट आइलैंड प्रभाव के बढ़ते खतरे में हैं।
- Among the 10 most polluted cities in India, **eight are in the NCR region around Delhi**.  
भारत के 10 सबसे प्रदूषित शहरों में से आठ दिल्ली के आसपास एनसीआर क्षेत्र में हैं।

## **Governance and Policy Issues**

### **शासन और नीति के मुद्दे**

- Despite the **74th Constitutional Amendment**, most Indian cities remain controlled by **undemocratic bodies**.  
74वें संवैधानिक संशोधन के बावजूद, अधिकांश भारतीय शहर अलोकतांत्रिक निकायों द्वारा नियंत्रित रहते हैं।
- Though cities have elected representatives, they rarely control **urban planning**, which is often outsourced to **parastatals and private entities**.  
भले ही शहरों में चुने हुए प्रतिनिधि होते हैं, वे शायद ही कभी शहरी योजना को नियंत्रित करते हैं, जो अक्सर अर्ध-सरकारी और निजी संस्थाओं को सौंप दी जाती है।
- For example, **less than three of the 18 functions** outlined in the **12th Schedule** have been universally transferred to urban governments.  
उदाहरण के लिए, 12वीं अनुसूची में निर्दिष्ट 18 कार्यों में से तीन से भी कम कार्य शहरी सरकारों को सार्वभौमिक रूप से हस्तांतरित किए गए हैं।
- **Cities receive a mere 0.5% of the GDP in intergovernmental transfers**.  
शहरों को अंतर-सरकारी हस्तांतरण में सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का मात्र 0.5% प्राप्त होता है।
- As we observe **World Cities Day**, these challenges highlight the need for comprehensive **national interventions**.  
विश्व शहर दिवस के अवसर पर, ये चुनौतियाँ व्यापक राष्ट्रीय हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता को उजागर करती हैं।

**Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)**

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



# How cyber scams use social engineering and malicious APKs to swindle users

How was an unverified and malicious app downloaded on an Apple phone? How did the cybercriminals enable call forwarding on the user's device? How much money did India lose to cyber scams in 2023 alone?

GS Paper III: Cyber Security

## The story so far:

In mid-October, traveller Bhargavi Mani claimed that she lost close to ₹1 lakh while trying to book lounge access at the Bengaluru airport. The scam was allegedly executed after Ms. Mani was asked to download an APK (Android Package format) file that looked like a regular app, shared via a WhatsApp chat originating from an international number.

## What happened?

The malicious APK was able to function after she clicked on the link which granted screen mirroring access to a supposed customer care adviser during a video call. When checking her credit card statement later, Ms. Mani noticed an unauthorised transaction of ₹87,125 to a PhonePe account. Additional transactions were also attempted but were denied due to the card reaching its spending limit. Ms. Mani also claimed her contacts were unable to reach her, and that a man was answering her calls. This could have been due to malicious call forwarding.

## How do cybercriminals use Big Tech platforms?

Ms. Mani said she was asked to download the malicious app from a fake website, which no longer exists. The URL presented to her was "Loungepass.in," the link to which was shared through a WhatsApp business account. The phone

registered to the account had an international number. Ms. Mani claimed this fake website was one of the top results on Google, pointing to gaps in the verification process when big businesses are listed in search results.

Loungepass.com is a genuine website that allows users to pre-book airport lounge access at major airports. In Ms. Mani's case, social engineering tactics were employed to lure her to the fake site; a method commonly used by threat actors. However, it is important to note that Apple's iOS is designed to prevent apps from being downloaded or installed directly from a link that bypasses the official Apple App Store, which enforces strict security protocols. This is where the prowess of the scam comes into play.

## How did the malicious APK work?

The only way to download an app on an iOS device is through the official Apple App Store.

Apps in the store are verified by Apple and regularly checked for malicious code to ensure user security. However, users can download and test unreleased apps on their devices by enabling a hidden setting within iOS. This feature allows users to test beta or unreleased versions of apps from developers. "Apple's Swift SDK also allows screen sharing (both in-app and in the background)", explained cybersecurity researcher Vishesh Kochher.

Scammers can use social engineering techniques to enable this setting and

allow people to download malicious apps that appear to be legitimate.

In Ms. Mani's case, once the malicious APK accessed her device, scammers likely enabled call forwarding. For example, this can be done on Airtel's network by dialling a code, followed by the phone number to which calls should be forwarded, Mr. Kochher explained. With call forwarding enabled, scammers can easily receive OTPs for transactions via phone banking.

Mr. Kochher further says that an app could be used on iOS to initiate phone calls. With calls forwarded to the scammers' number and outgoing calls controlled by the app, scammers could complete transactions without the user's knowledge.

"The technical sophistication of the app used in this scam appears similar to those used by online loan sharks, which access messages, photos, and stored information," Mr. Kochher explained.

## Who was behind the scam?

The website used to lure Mani into downloading the malicious app has been taken down. A simple search for the registered domain name shows the website, hosted by Hostinger, was registered in Gujarat, India.

However, further details about the individuals behind the website – such as their phone number, address, and organisation – were redacted from the registry. Investigators can request this information

## How bad is the cybercrime situation in India?

In 2023, Indian citizens lost ₹66.66 crore in 4,850 reported cases of online scams. A report by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) revealed that digital financial frauds amounted to a staggering ₹1.25 lakh crore over the last three years.

According to the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), at least ₹10,319 crore was reported lost by victims of digital financial fraud in 2023. Additionally, 5,252 suspect URLs have been reported so far.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance's report on 'Cybersecurity and Rising Incidents of Cyber/White Collar Crimes' noted that domestic fraud reported by Supervising Entities (SE) in FY23 totalled ₹2,537.35 crore. The use of sophisticated technical knowledge, coupled with social engineering techniques and a rise in data leaks, exacerbates the problem. India ranked fifth globally in the number of breached accounts in 2023, with 5.3 million leaked accounts. Scams enabled by social engineering and technical expertise are unlikely to disappear anytime soon. Users are advised to tread with caution when clicking on unverified links, downloading new apps, and scanning QR codes. They should periodically check for compromised passwords across all online accounts, and regularly review their card records for unknown transactions

## Cyber Scams Using Social Engineering and Malicious APKs

## साइबर धोखाधड़ी में सोशल इंजीनियरिंग और दुर्भावनापूर्ण APK का उपयोग

In mid-October, traveller Bhargavi Mani claimed that she lost close to ₹1 lakh while trying to book lounge access at the Bengaluru airport.

अक्टूबर के मध्य में, यात्री भार्गवी मणि ने दावा किया कि उन्होंने ₹1 लाख के करीब खो दिया जब उन्होंने बैंगलोर हवाई अड्डे पर लाउंज एक्सेस बुक करने की कोशिश की।



- The scam was allegedly executed after Ms. Mani was asked to download an **APK** (Android Package format) file that looked like a regular app, shared via a **WhatsApp** chat originating from an **international number**.  
धोखाधड़ी कथित तौर पर तब की गई जब मणि से एक नियमित ऐप की तरह दिखने वाला **APK** (एंड्रॉइड पैकेज फॉर्मेट) फ़ाइल डाउनलोड करने के लिए कहा गया, जिसे एक **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नंबर** से शुरू हुए **व्हाट्सएप** चैट के माध्यम से साझा किया गया।
- The malicious APK was able to function after she clicked on the link which granted **screen mirroring access** to a supposed customer care adviser during a **video call**.  
यह दुर्भावनापूर्ण APK लिंक पर क्लिक करने के बाद कार्य करने में सक्षम था, जिसने एक कथित ग्राहक सेवा सलाहकार को **वीडियो कॉल** के दौरान **स्क्रीन मिररिंग एक्सेस** प्रदान किया।
- When checking her credit card statement later, Ms. Mani noticed an **unauthorized transaction** of **₹87,125** to a **PhonePe** account.  
बाद में अपने क्रेडिट कार्ड स्टेटमेंट की जांच करते समय, मणि ने **₹87,125** का एक **अनधिकृत लेन-देन** देखा जो एक **PhonePe** खाते में हुआ था।
- Additional transactions were also attempted but were denied due to the card reaching its spending limit.  
अतिरिक्त लेन-देन भी किए गए, लेकिन कार्ड के खर्च की सीमा तक पहुँचने के कारण उन्हें अस्वीकृत कर दिया गया।
- Ms. Mani also claimed her contacts were unable to reach her, and that a man was answering her calls. This could have been due to **malicious call forwarding**.  
मणि ने यह भी दावा किया कि उसके संपर्क उससे संपर्क नहीं कर सके, और एक आदमी उसकी कॉल का जवाब दे रहा था। यह **दुर्भावनापूर्ण कॉल फॉरवर्डिंग** के कारण हो सकता है।

## How Cybercriminals Use Big Tech Platforms

### साइबर अपराधी बड़े तकनीकी प्लेटफार्मों का उपयोग कैसे करते हैं

- Ms. Mani said she was asked to download the malicious app from a **fake website**, which no longer exists.  
मणि ने कहा कि उसे एक **नकली वेबसाइट** से दुर्भावनापूर्ण ऐप डाउनलोड करने के लिए कहा गया, जो अब मौजूद नहीं है।
- The URL presented to her was “**Loungepass.in**,” the link to which was shared through a **WhatsApp business account**.  
उसे प्रस्तुत किया गया URL था “**Loungepass.in**,” जिसका लिंक एक **व्हाट्सएप बिजनेस अकाउंट** के माध्यम से साझा किया गया।
- The phone registered to the account had an **international number**.  
खाता में पंजीकृत फोन का **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नंबर** था।
- Ms. Mani claimed this fake website was one of the **top results** on **Google**, pointing to gaps in the verification process when big businesses are listed in search results.  
मणि ने दावा किया कि यह नकली वेबसाइट **Google** पर **शीर्ष परिणामों** में से एक थी, जो बड़ी कंपनियों के खोज परिणामों में सूचीबद्ध होने पर सत्यापन प्रक्रिया में खामियों की ओर इशारा करती है।





- Loungepass.com is a genuine website that allows users to **pre-book airport lounge access** at major airports.  
Loungepass.com एक असली वेबसाइट है जो उपयोगकर्ताओं को प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर **प्री-बुक एयरपोर्ट लाउंज एक्सेस** करने की अनुमति देती है।
- In Ms. Mani's case, **social engineering** tactics were employed to lure her to the fake site; a method commonly used by threat actors.  
मणि के मामले में, उसे नकली साइट पर लाने के लिए **सोशल इंजीनियरिंग** तकनीकों का उपयोग किया गया; यह खतरे के कलाकारों द्वारा सामान्यतः उपयोग की जाने वाली विधि है।

## How the Malicious APK Worked

### दुर्भावनापूर्ण APK कैसे काम किया

- The only way to download an app on an **iOS** device is through the **official Apple App Store**.  
iOS डिवाइस पर ऐप डाउनलोड करने का एकमात्र तरीका **आधिकारिक एप्पल ऐप स्टोर** के माध्यम से है।
- Apps in the store are verified by Apple and regularly checked for **malicious code** to ensure user security.  
स्टोर में ऐप्स को Apple द्वारा सत्यापित किया जाता है और उपयोगकर्ता सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए नियमित रूप से **दुर्भावनापूर्ण कोड** की जांच की जाती है।
- However, users can download and test unreleased apps on their devices by enabling a **hidden setting** within iOS.  
हालाँकि, उपयोगकर्ता अपने उपकरणों पर बिना रिलीज़ किए गए ऐप्स को डाउनलोड और परीक्षण करने के लिए iOS में एक **छिपी हुई सेटिंग** सक्षम कर सकते हैं।
- This feature allows users to test beta or unreleased versions of apps from developers.  
यह सुविधा उपयोगकर्ताओं को डेवलपर्स से ऐप्स के बीटा या बिना रिलीज़ किए गए संस्करणों का परीक्षण करने की अनुमति देती है।
- **“Apple's Swift SDK** also allows screen sharing (both in-app and in the background),” explained cybersecurity researcher **Vishesh Kochher**.  
**“Apple's Swift SDK** भी स्क्रीन शेयरिंग की अनुमति देता है (इन-ऐप और बैकग्राउंड दोनों में),” साइबर सुरक्षा शोधकर्ता **विशेष कोचर** ने बताया।
- Scammers can use social engineering techniques to enable this setting and allow people to download **malicious apps** that appear to be legitimate.  
धोखेबाज़ इस सेटिंग को सक्षम करने और लोगों को **दुर्भावनापूर्ण ऐप्स** डाउनलोड करने की अनुमति देने के लिए सोशल इंजीनियरिंग तकनीकों का उपयोग कर सकते हैं, जो वैध प्रतीत होते हैं।
- In Ms. Mani's case, **once the malicious APK accessed her device, scammers likely enabled call forwarding**.  
मणि के मामले में, एक बार जब दुर्भावनापूर्ण APK ने उसके डिवाइस तक पहुँच प्राप्त की, तो धोखेबाज़ों ने **कॉल फॉरवर्डिंग** सक्षम की होगी।





- For example, this can be done on **Airtel's network** by dialing a code, followed by the phone number to which calls should be forwarded, Mr. Kochher explained.  
उदाहरण के लिए, इसे एयरटेल के नेटवर्क पर एक कोड डायल करके किया जा सकता है, उसके बाद उस फोन नंबर का जो कॉल्स को फॉरवर्ड किया जाना चाहिए, श्री कोचर ने समझाया।
- **With call forwarding enabled, scammers can easily receive OTPs for transactions via phone banking.**  
कॉल फॉरवर्डिंग सक्षम होने पर, धोखेबाज़ आसानी से ओटीपी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं लेन-देन के लिए फोन बैंकिंग के माध्यम से।
- Mr. Kochher further says that an app could be used on iOS to **initiate phone calls**.  
श्री कोचर ने आगे कहा कि iOS पर एक ऐप का उपयोग फोन कॉल्स शुरू करने के लिए किया जा सकता है।
- With calls forwarded to the scammers' number and outgoing calls controlled by the app, scammers could complete transactions without the user's knowledge.  
कॉल्स को धोखेबाज़ों के नंबर पर फॉरवर्ड किया गया और ऐप द्वारा आउटगोइंग कॉल्स नियंत्रित की गईं, जिससे धोखेबाज़ उपयोगकर्ता की जानकारी के बिना लेन-देन पूरा कर सकते थे।
- "The technical sophistication of the app used in this scam appears similar to those used by **online loan sharks**, which access messages, photos, and stored information," Mr. Kochher explained.  
"इस धोखाधड़ी में उपयोग किए गए ऐप की तकनीकी जटिलता ऑनलाइन लोन शाक्स द्वारा उपयोग किए गए ऐप्स के समान प्रतीत होती है, जो संदेशों, तस्वीरों, और संग्रहीत जानकारी तक पहुँचती हैं," श्री कोचर ने समझाया।

## India's Loss to Cyber Scams in 2023

### 2023 में साइबर धोखाधड़ी से भारत का नुकसान

- **India lost approximately ₹15,000 crore to cyber scams in 2023 alone.**  
भारत ने केवल 2023 में साइबर धोखाधड़ी से लगभग ₹15,000 करोड़ का नुकसान उठाया।

## Who was behind the scam?

### धोखाधड़ी के पीछे कौन था?

- The website used to lure Mani into downloading the malicious app has been taken down.  
जिस वेबसाइट का उपयोग मणि को मैलवेयर ऐप डाउनलोड करने के लिए लुभाने के लिए किया गया था, उसे हटा दिया गया है।
- A simple search for the registered domain name shows the website, hosted by Hostinger, was registered in **Gujarat, India**.  
पंजीकृत डोमेन नाम के लिए एक साधारण खोज से पता चलता है कि वेबसाइट, जो हॉस्टिंगर द्वारा होस्ट की गई थी, गुजरात, भारत में पंजीकृत थी।
- However, further details about the individuals behind the website — such as their phone number, address, and organisation — were redacted from the registry.





हालांकि, वेबसाइट के पीछे के व्यक्तियों के बारे में आगे की जानकारी – जैसे कि उनका फोन नंबर, पता और संगठन – को रजिस्ट्रियों से हटा दिया गया था।

- Investigators can request this information.  
जांचकर्ता इस जानकारी को मांग सकते हैं।

## How bad is the cybercrime situation in India?

### भारत में साइबर अपराध की स्थिति कितनी गंभीर है?

- In **2023**, Indian citizens lost **₹66.66 crore** in **4,850** reported cases of online scams. **2023** में, भारतीय नागरिकों ने **₹66.66 करोड़** का नुकसान **4,850** रिपोर्ट किए गए ऑनलाइन धोखाधड़ी मामलों में किया।
- A report by the **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)** revealed that **digital financial frauds amounted to a staggering ₹1.25 lakh crore over the last three years.** भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र (I4C) की एक रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि डिजिटल वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी पिछले **तीन वर्षों** में **₹1.25 लाख करोड़** तक पहुंच गई।
- According to the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), at least **₹10,319 crore** was reported lost by victims of digital financial fraud in **2023.** राष्ट्रीय साइबर अपराध रिपोर्टिंग पोर्टल (NCRP) के अनुसार, **2023** में डिजिटल वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी के पीड़ितों द्वारा कम से कम **₹10,319 करोड़** का नुकसान रिपोर्ट किया गया।
- Additionally, **5,252** suspect URLs have been reported so far. अतिरिक्त रूप से, अब तक **5,252** संदिग्ध यूआरएल की रिपोर्ट की गई है।
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance's report on 'Cybersecurity and Rising Incidents of Cyber/White Collar Crimes' noted that domestic fraud reported by Supervising Entities (SE) in **FY23** totalled **₹2,537.35 crore.** वित्त पर संसद की स्थायी समिति की रिपोर्ट में 'साइबर सुरक्षा और साइबर/सफेद कॉलर अपराधों की बढ़ती घटनाओं' पर नोट किया गया कि **FY23** में पर्यवेक्षक संस्थाओं (SE) द्वारा रिपोर्ट किए गए घरेलू धोखाधड़ी का कुल **₹2,537.35 करोड़** था।
- The use of sophisticated technical knowledge, coupled with social engineering techniques and a rise in data leaks, exacerbates the problem. जटिल तकनीकी ज्ञान का उपयोग, सामाजिक इंजीनियरिंग तकनीकों के साथ मिलकर और डेटा लीक में वृद्धि, समस्या को बढ़ाता है।
- **India ranked fifth globally in the number of breached accounts in 2023, with 5.3 million leaked accounts.** भारत **2023** में breached accounts की संख्या में **पाँचवें** स्थान पर था, जिसमें **5.3 मिलियन** लीक किए गए खाते थे।
- Scams enabled by social engineering and technical expertise are unlikely to disappear anytime soon. सामाजिक इंजीनियरिंग और तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता द्वारा सक्षम धोखाधड़ी निकट भविष्य में समाप्त होने की संभावना नहीं है।
- Users are advised to tread with caution when clicking on unverified links, downloading new apps, and scanning QR codes.



उपयोगकर्ताओं को अनधिकृत लिंक पर क्लिक करते समय, नए ऐप डाउनलोड करते समय, और

# ED files chargesheet in digital arrest cases, I4C issues advisory

GS Paper III: Cyber Security

NEW DELHI

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to guard against the menace of 'digital' arrests, investigation agencies said on Sunday they were taking action against this category of cybercrime with the Enforcement Directorate filing a chargesheet in one such case and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) issuing a fresh advisory.

The ED issued a statement on Saturday, saying it filed a prosecution complaint before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Bengaluru last month against eight accused who allegedly "lured" common people through "fake" IPO allotments and stock market investments through fraudulent apps.

It said "digital" arrest scams involve fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials, intimidating victims into transferring their savings by fabricating scenarios that suggest illegal involvement of the victim.

The I4C issued a public advisory on Sunday asking people to "Beware of Digital Arrests" reminding them that "those making video calls are not police, CBI, Customs officials or judges".



In 'digital' arrest scams, fraudsters pose as law enforcement officials.

The advisory asked people not to fall for these "tricks" and report such crimes "immediately" by calling the national cybercrime helpline 1930 or logging on the portal [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in).

Mr. Modi, during his *Mann ki Baat* radio address on October 27, urged people to adopt the mantra of "stop, think and take action".

The ED said it booked a money laundering case after studying multiple police FIRs and arrested eight persons.

The Central agency named as accused in its chargesheet filed on October 10 Charan Raj C., Kiran S.K., Shahi Kumar M., Sachin M., Tamilarasan, Prakash R., Ajith R. and Aravindan and 24 related companies. All the arrested persons are currently lodged in jail under judicial custody.

क्यूआर कोड स्कैन करते समय सावधानी बरतने की सलाह दी जाती है।

- They should periodically check for compromised passwords across all online accounts, and regularly review their card records for unknown transactions.

उन्हें सभी ऑनलाइन खातों में समझौता किए गए पासवर्ड की समय-समय पर जांच करनी चाहिए, और अज्ञात लेन-देन के लिए अपने कार्ड रिकॉर्ड की नियमित समीक्षा करनी चाहिए।

## ED files chargesheet in digital arrest cases, I4C issues advisory

### ईडी डिजिटल गिरफ्तारी मामलों में चार्जशीट दाखिल करता है, आई4सी सलाह जारी करता है

- Days after Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** urged people to guard against the menace of 'digital' arrests, investigation agencies took action against this category of cybercrime.

प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** के डिजिटल गिरफ्तारी की समस्या से लोगों को सतर्क रहने का आग्रह करने के कुछ दिन बाद, जांच एजेंसियों ने इस श्रेणी के साइबर अपराध के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की।

- The Enforcement Directorate filed a chargesheet in one such case and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) issued a fresh advisory.

प्रवर्तन निदेशालय ने एक मामले में चार्जशीट दाखिल की और भारतीय साइबर क्राइम समन्वय केंद्र (आई4सी) ने एक नई सलाह जारी की।

- The ED stated that it filed a prosecution complaint before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in **Bengaluru** last





month against **eight** accused.

ईडी ने कहा कि उसने **बंगलुरु** में पिछले महीने विशेष धन शोधन निवारण अधिनियम (पीएमएलए) न्यायालय में **आठ** आरोपियों के खिलाफ अभियोजन शिकायत दर्ज की।

- The accused allegedly “lured” common people through “fake” IPO allotments and stock market investments via fraudulent apps.

आरोपियों ने कथित तौर पर “फर्जी” आईपीओ आवंटन और धोखाधड़ी ऐप के माध्यम से शेयर बाजार में निवेश के जरिए आम लोगों को “लुभाया”।

- “Digital” arrest scams involve fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials, intimidating victims into transferring their savings.

“डिजिटल” गिरफ्तारी धोखाधड़ी में धोखेबाज़ कानून प्रवर्तन अधिकारियों के रूप में पेश होते हैं, पीड़ितों को अपनी बचत स्थानांतरित करने के लिए मजबूर करते हैं।

- The I4C issued a public advisory reminding people to “Beware of Digital Arrests,” stating that those making video calls are not police, CBI, Customs officials, or judges.

आई4सी ने लोगों को “डिजिटल गिरफ्तारियों से सावधान रहने” की याद दिलाते हुए एक सार्वजनिक सलाह जारी की, जिसमें कहा गया कि वीडियो कॉल करने वाले पुलिस, सीबीआई, कस्टम अधिकारी या न्यायाधीश नहीं हैं।

- The advisory urged people not to fall for these “tricks” and to report such crimes “immediately” by calling the national cybercrime helpline **1930** or visiting [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in).

सलाह में लोगों से कहा गया कि वे इन “कौशल” में न आएं और ऐसे अपराधों की “तुरंत” रिपोर्ट करें, राष्ट्रीय साइबर अपराध हेल्पलाइन **1930** पर कॉल करके या [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) पर जाकर।

- Mr. Modi, during his Mann ki Baat radio address on **October 27**, urged people to adopt the mantra of “stop, think and take action.”

**27 अक्टूबर** को अपने मन की बात रेडियो संबोधन के दौरान, श्री मोदी ने लोगों से “रुकें, सोचें और कार्रवाई करें” का मंत्र अपनाने का आग्रह किया।

- The ED booked a money laundering case after studying multiple police FIRs and arrested **eight** persons.

ईडी ने कई पुलिस **FIR** का अध्ययन करने के बाद एक धन शोधन मामला दर्ज किया और **आठ** व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया।

- The Central agency named as accused in its chargesheet filed on **October 10**: Charan Raj C., Kiran S.K., Shahi Kumar M., Sachin M., Tamilarasan, Prakash R., Ajith R., Aravindan, and **24** related companies.

केंद्रीय एजेंसी ने **10 अक्टूबर** को दाखिल की गई चार्जशीट में आरोपियों के रूप में नामित किया: **Charan Raj C., Kiran S.K., Shahi Kumar M., Sachin M., Tamilarasan, Prakash R., Ajith R., Aravindan** और **24** संबंधित कंपनियाँ।

- All the arrested persons are currently lodged in jail under judicial custody.

गिरफ्तार किए गए सभी व्यक्तियों को वर्तमान में न्यायिक हिरासत में जेल में रखा गया है।





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PATRIOTIC IAS

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# First science result from Aditya L1, ISRO's sun mission, is out

**T** [GS Paper III: S&T](#)

BENGALURU

The first science result from the Aditya-L1 mission, India's first scientific mission dedicated to studying the sun, is out.

Scientists who developed the **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)** aboard Aditya-L1 predicted the onset time of a coronal mass ejection on the sun on July 16. The VELC was developed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIAp), Bengaluru.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Aditya-L1 in September 2023.

The sun is an active object and often spews vast quantities of plasma in violent eruptions called coronal mass ejections (CMEs).

"These are the most powerful explosions happening in our solar system," the IIAp team involved with VELC said in a statement to *The Hindu*. "When a CME blows past the earth, it can damage the electronics in satellites in near-earth space and disrupt radio communication networks on the earth."

Using data obtained with the VELC, the team could precisely arrive at the onset time of a CME on the sun on July 16.

The results of the study, by R. Ramesh, V. Muthu-



The Indian Space Research Organisation launched Aditya-L1 in September 2023.

priyal, Jagdev Singh, K. Sasikumar Raja, P. Savarimuthu, and Priya Gavshinde, will be published in a forthcoming edition of the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

"Observation of the CMEs as they originate on the sun and understanding their plasma characteristics is one of the major science goals for VELC, and we are happy that the instrument did exactly that," R. Ramesh, IIAp senior professor and the principal investigator of VELC, said.

He added that continuously monitoring the sun with the VELC is expected to provide valuable scientific data.

According to study co-author Jagdev Singh, "Knowing the thermodynamic properties of CMEs near the sun is very important to understand their source regions on the sun and VELC is doing precisely that."



## Aditya-L1 Mission

- The Aditya-L1 mission is **India's first dedicated solar observation mission**, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to study the Sun.
- Launched on **September 2, 2023**, this mission aims to gather crucial data about solar phenomena that impact space weather and influence Earth's climate.
- **Positioned at the Lagrange Point 1 (L1)**, approximately **1.5 million kilometers from Earth**, it enables continuous solar observation without interference from eclipses or other planetary obstructions. Below is a detailed point-by-point explanation:

## Objective of the Mission

- The primary objective of Aditya-L1 is to study the Sun, specifically the outer layers, including the photosphere, chromosphere, and the corona. By observing these layers, scientists aim to understand solar activities such as solar flares, coronal mass ejections (CMEs), and solar winds, which affect space weather and can disrupt satellite communications and power grids on Earth.
- आदित्य-L1 का मुख्य उद्देश्य सूर्य का अध्ययन करना है, विशेष रूप से उसके बाहरी परतों जैसे फोटोस्फीयर, क्रोमोस्फीयर और कोरोना का। इन परतों का अवलोकन करके, वैज्ञानिक सौर गतिविधियों जैसे सौर विस्फोट, कोरोनल मास इजेक्शन (सीएमई), और सौर पवनों को समझने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं, जो अंतरिक्ष मौसम को प्रभावित करते हैं और पृथ्वी पर उपग्रह संचार और पावर ग्रिड में बाधा डाल सकते हैं।
- **Scientific Instruments on Board**
  - Aditya-L1 is equipped with seven scientific payloads developed by ISRO and academic institutes across India. These payloads include:
    - **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)**: Studies the solar corona and helps measure the magnetic field.
    - **Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)**: Observes the Sun's ultraviolet rays.
    - **Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)**: Studies solar wind particles and their properties.
    - **High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)** and others, each dedicated to gathering comprehensive data on solar activities.
  - आदित्य-L1 में सात वैज्ञानिक उपकरण हैं जिन्हें इसरो और भारत के विभिन्न शैक्षणिक संस्थानों द्वारा विकसित किया गया है। इन उपकरणों में शामिल हैं:
    - **विजिबल एमिशन लाइन कोरोनाग्राफ (VELC)**: सौर कोरोना का अध्ययन करता है और चुंबकीय क्षेत्र को मापने में मदद करता है।
    - **सोलर अल्ट्रावायलेट इमेजिंग टेलीस्कोप (SUIT)**: सूर्य की अल्ट्रावायलेट किरणों का अवलोकन करता है।
    - **प्लाज्मा एनालाइज़र पैकेज फॉर आदित्य (PAPA)**: सौर पवन कणों और उनके गुणों का अध्ययन करता है।



- **हाई एनर्जी L1 ऑर्बिटिंग एक्स-रे स्पेक्ट्रोमीटर (HEL10S)** और अन्य उपकरण, जो सौर गतिविधियों पर व्यापक डेटा एकत्र करने के लिए समर्पित हैं।

- **Lagrange Point 1 (L1)**

- **English:** Aditya-L1 is positioned at **Lagrange Point 1 (L1)**, a stable location between Earth and the Sun where the gravitational forces of both bodies balance the satellite's orbital motion. This position enables continuous, unobstructed observation of the Sun and offers a unique vantage point to study solar activities.
- **Hindi:** आदित्य-L1 को पृथ्वी और सूर्य के बीच स्थित एक स्थिर बिंदु **लैंग्रेंज बिंदु 1 (L1)** पर तैनात किया गया है, जहां पृथ्वी और सूर्य के गुरुत्वाकर्षण बल उपग्रह के कक्षीय गति को संतुलित करते हैं। यह स्थिति सूर्य का निरंतर, बाधा रहित अवलोकन करने में सक्षम बनाती है और सौर गतिविधियों का अध्ययन करने के लिए एक अनोखा दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करती है।

- **Significance of the Mission**

- **English:** Aditya-L1 is significant for India's scientific capabilities, as it marks ISRO's entry into solar research. The data gathered from the mission will enhance understanding of solar dynamics, especially CMEs and solar winds, which influence space weather and can have significant impacts on Earth's magnetosphere, satellites, and even aviation and communication systems.
- **Hindi:** आदित्य-L1 भारत की वैज्ञानिक क्षमताओं के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि यह इसरो की सौर अनुसंधान में पहली पहल है। मिशन से एकत्रित डेटा सौर गतिशीलता, विशेष रूप से सीएमई और सौर पवनों के बारे में समझ को बढ़ाएगा, जो अंतरिक्ष मौसम को प्रभावित करते हैं और पृथ्वी के मैग्नेटोस्फीयर, उपग्रहों, विमानन और संचार प्रणालियों पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव डाल सकते हैं।

- **Historical Background**

- **English:** Aditya-L1 follows a series of successful space missions by ISRO, including the **Chandrayaan** (moon missions) and **Mangalyaan** (Mars Orbiter Mission). The mission aligns with India's space exploration goals and represents ISRO's progress in studying various celestial bodies, contributing to global solar research.
- **Hindi:** आदित्य-L1 इसरो के सफल अंतरिक्ष अभियानों जैसे **चंद्रयान** (चंद्रमा मिशन) और **मंगलयान** (मंगल कक्षीय मिशन) के बाद की कड़ी है। यह मिशन भारत के अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण लक्ष्यों के साथ मेल खाता है और विभिन्न खगोलीय पिंडों के अध्ययन में इसरो की प्रगति का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, जो वैश्विक सौर अनुसंधान में योगदान देता है।

## **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)**

The Sun is indeed a highly active and dynamic star, frequently releasing enormous quantities of charged particles and magnetic energy in intense bursts known as **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)**. These eruptions are a result of complex interactions in the Sun's magnetic field, particularly in its outer layers, such as the **photosphere**, **chromosphere**, and **corona**.





CMEs involve the expulsion of billions of tons of plasma — a hot, ionized gas consisting of electrons and protons — into space at incredibly high speeds, sometimes reaching millions of kilometers per hour.

### **Key Characteristics of Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs):**

1. **Magnitude of Energy Release**
  - CMEs release vast amounts of energy, comparable to billions of nuclear bombs exploding simultaneously. This energy release propels massive clouds of plasma and magnetic fields away from the Sun and into the solar system.
2. **Impact on Space Weather**
  - When CMEs are directed toward Earth, they can interact with the planet's magnetic field, causing geomagnetic storms. These storms can disrupt satellite operations, GPS navigation, radio communications, and even electrical power grids on Earth.
  - Geomagnetic storms are particularly intense when the magnetic polarity of the CME opposes Earth's magnetic field, creating an opportunity for stronger interactions.
3. **Auroras**
  - The interaction of CME particles with Earth's magnetosphere and atmosphere can also result in stunning auroras, visible in regions near the polar areas.
  - These light displays occur when charged particles from the CME collide with gases in Earth's atmosphere, causing the gases to glow.
4. **Solar Observation Missions**
  - Missions like **Aditya-L1** and NASA's **Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO)** are dedicated to studying CMEs, solar flares, and other solar activities. By closely monitoring these events, scientists can develop better predictive models to prepare for and mitigate the effects of space weather on Earth.
5. **Periodic Increase in Solar Activity**
  - The Sun operates on an 11-year solar cycle, characterized by periods of high and low activity. During the peak of the cycle, called **solar maximum**, the frequency of CMEs and solar flares tends to increase. Currently, we are approaching **Solar Cycle 25's peak**, anticipated around 2025, suggesting a likely rise in CME occurrences.





# First Asian Buddhist Summit in New Delhi from tomorrow

PCS

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Government of India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation, is holding the first Asian Buddhist Summit in Delhi.

The summit themed “Role of Buddha Dhamma in strengthening Asia” is a manifestation of India’s Act East Policy, which is principled on collective, inclusive, and spiritual development of Asia, the Union Culture Ministry said in a statement.

The two-day summit will be inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.

It will bring together Buddhist ‘Sangha’ leaders, scholars, experts and practitioners from various traditions across Asia to foster

dialogue, promote understanding and address contemporary challenges faced by the Buddhist community.

## ‘Unique position’

“Buddhism holds a unique position in the spiritual and cultural history of India and pan Asia. The teachings of the Buddha, His disciples and preachers have kept Asia united through a common outlook towards life, divinity, and social values,” the Ministry said.

“From the incorporation of Buddhist symbols as part of independent India’s national identity to the adoption of Buddhist values in its foreign policy, Buddha Dhamma, India and Asia are complimentary to each other,” it added.

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