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14_11_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

1. SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer culture' (GS Paper-II: Fundamental Right)
2. The Goat Life album bags two nominations at HMMA (PCS)
3. 'Sea ranching' launched of Vizhinjam coast as follow-up to artificial reef project in Kerala (GS Paper-III: Economy)
4. Omar's demand for compensation over losses to J&K due to Indus Water Treaty sparks debate (GS Paper-II: India-Pakistan)
5. The perfect cocktail of layered discrimination (GS Paper-II: Federalism)
6. Surprise spike (GS Paper-III: Economy)
7. The impact of PMUY in Jammu and Kashmir (GS Paper-II: Government Scheme)
8. Municipal corporations' tax revenue share rise in recent years (GS Paper-II: Local Governance)
9. Why is there discontent in Maharashtra? (GS Paper-II: Polity)
10. SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer culture' (GS Paper-II: FR)
11. Flights to Bali cancelled after volcanic eruption (GS Paper-I: Geography)
12. Inaugural Indian Ocean Dialogue between U.S., India to be held today (GS Paper-II: India-US)
13. 'India, Saudi defence cooperation expanding' (GS Paper-II: India-Saudi Arabia)
14. 'Unwieldy' first draft at Baku sets 2030 goal of \$5 trillion for climate action (GS Paper-III: Environment)
15. British writer Harvey wins Booker Prize (PCS)
16. Qualifying for 2027 Asian Cup the bare minimum, says Gurpreet (PCS)
17. India's tea, sugar exports raise sustainability concerns at home (GS Paper-III: Sustainable Development)
18. Alarming rate of decrease in African elephant count (GS Paper-III: Environment)

SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer culture'

Bench says States indulging in naked display of 'might is right'; issues 'binding directives' that include 15 days' prior notice to occupants

[GS Paper II: Article 142, Article 127](#)

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the States that metamorphose into judges to punish accused persons awaiting trial by driving bulldozers into their homes, indulge in a naked display of "might is right" without sparing a thought for families rendered shelterless overnight.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan invoked extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to issue a slew of "binding directives" to fasten accountability on public officials.

They include 15 days' prior notice of demolition to the occupants with details of the nature of the unauthorised construction



Wheels of injustice: Workers razing the property of an accused in an RSS attack case in Jaipur in October, citing violations. PTI

and grounds warranting demolition; the owner or occupants who want to challenge the State action must be given a fair opportunity; the demolition must be videographed, etc.

Officials will face action
Officials who violate these directives would face contempt action and would be prosecuted. They would be

liable for the restitution of the demolished property, the court said. The judgment followed petitions representing citizens from States, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, who had sought redress against the States' "bulldozer culture".

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SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer culture'

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 'बुलडोजर संस्कृति' पर रोक लगाई

Bench says States indulging in naked display of 'might is right'; issues 'binding directives' that include 15 days' prior notice to occupants

पीठ ने कहा कि राज्य 'शक्ति ही अधिकार है' का खुला प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं; 'बाध्यकारी निर्देश' जारी किए गए हैं, जिसमें रहने वालों को 15 दिन पहले नोटिस देना शामिल है

Supreme Court's Ruling on Bulldozer Demolitions
सुप्रीम कोर्ट का बुलडोजर से ध्वस्तीकरण पर आदेश

The Supreme Court, on Wednesday, criticized States that act as judges and punish accused persons by demolishing their homes using bulldozers, describing this as a display of "might is right" without considering the impact on families left homeless overnight.

बुधवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उन राज्यों की आलोचना की जो जज के रूप में काम करते हैं और आरोपित व्यक्तियों को बुलडोजर से उनके घरों को नष्ट करके सजा देते हैं, इसे "बल का अधिकार" के रूप में दिखाते हुए, बिना यह सोचे कि रातोंरात बेघर होने वाले परिवारों पर इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan used their extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to issue a series of binding directives aimed at holding public officials accountable.



न्यायमूर्ति बी.आर. गवई और के.वी. विश्वनाथन की बेंच ने संविधान के अनुच्छेद 142 के तहत अपनी असाधारण शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए सार्वजनिक अधिकारियों को जिम्मेदार ठहराने के लिए बंधनकारी निर्देशों की एक श्रृंखला जारी की।

- These directives include providing a **15-day prior notice** before demolition, detailing the nature of the **unauthorized construction** and the grounds for demolition; the affected occupants must be given a **fair chance** to challenge the State's action; and the demolition must be **videographed**.

इन निर्देशों में ध्वस्तीकरण से 15 दिन पहले नोटिस देना, अवैध निर्माण की प्रकृति और ध्वस्तीकरण के कारणों का विवरण देना; प्रभावित निवासियों को राज्य की कार्रवाई को चुनौती देने का उचित अवसर देना; और ध्वस्तीकरण का वीडियो बनाना शामिल हैं।

- **Officials** who fail to follow these directives would face **contempt action** and **prosecution**. They will also be liable for the restitution of the demolished property.

जो अधिकारी इन निर्देशों का पालन नहीं करेंगे, उन्हें अवमानना की कार्रवाई का सामना करना पड़ेगा और उन्हें अभियोजन का सामना करना होगा। वे नष्ट की गई संपत्ति की पुनर्स्थापना के लिए भी जिम्मेदार होंगे।

- The judgment followed petitions from citizens in States like **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan**, who sought redress against the States' **"bulldozer culture."**

यह आदेश उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान जैसे राज्यों के नागरिकों द्वारा दायर याचिकाओं के बाद आया, जिन्होंने राज्यों की "बुलडोजर संस्कृति" के खिलाफ न्याय की मांग की थी।

The Goat Life album bags two nominations at HMMA

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The *Goat Life* (Aadujeevitham in Malayalam) directed by Blessy has won two nominations at the 2024 Hollywood Music in Media Awards (HMMA).

The song *Periyone...*, composed by A.R. Rahman, written by Rafiq Ahamed, and sung by Jithin Raj, has been nominated in the 'Song-Feature Film' category. Mr. Rahman has been nominated in the 'Score-Independent Film (Foreign Language)' category.

An annual awards show, the HMMA recognises original music in visual media, including film, TV, video games, and more. The main event is scheduled to be held at The Avalon, Hol-



A.R. Rahman

***Periyone...* nominated in 'Song-Feature Film' category; A.R. Rahman nominated in 'Score-Independent Film (Foreign Language)' category**

lywood, on November 20. An elated Mr. Raj took to social media to thank Mr. Rahman and Mr. Blessy for the "amazing opportunity" to render the hit song. He also thanked actor Prithviraj Sukumaran, who played the lead role in the survival drama, and the entire team of the movie.

Based on novel

The movie was based on the novel *Goat Days* by Benyamin. The novel tells the

story of a young man, Najeeb, who in the early 1990s migrates from the lush green shores of Kerala in search of fortunes to a land abroad, only to get stranded in the middle of a desert.

The movie had won the awards for best director, actor, adapted screenplay, cinematography, make-up, sound mixing, popular film, and processing lab/colourist at the 54th Kerala State Film Awards.

'The Goat Life album bags two nominations at HMMA

द गोट लाइफ एल्बम को एचएमएमए में दो नामांकन मिले

The *Goat Life* (Aadujeevitham) Nominations at 2024 Hollywood Music in Media Awards

द गोअट लाइफ (आडूजीविथम) को 2024 हॉलीवुड म्यूज़िक इन मीडिया अवार्ड्स में नामांकित किया गया

- The film *The Goat Life* (Aadujeevitham), directed by Blessy, has received two nominations at the 2024 Hollywood Music in Media Awards (HMMA).

फिल्म द गोअट लाइफ (आडूजीविथम), जिसका निर्देशन ब्लेसी ने किया है, को 2024 हॉलीवुड म्यूज़िक इन मीडिया अवार्ड्स (HMMA) में दो नामांकनों के लिए चुना गया है।

- The song *Periyone...*, composed by A.R. Rahman, written by Raqq Ahamed, and sung by Jithin Raj, has been nominated in the 'Song-Feature Film' category.

गाना परियोन..., जिसे A.R. रहमान ने संगीतबद्ध किया है, रक्क अहमद ने लिखा है, और जीथिन राज ने गाया है, को 'सॉन्ग-फीचर फिल्म' श्रेणी में नामांकित किया गया है।

- A.R. Rahman has been nominated in the 'Score-Independent Film (Foreign Language)' category. A.R. रहमान को 'स्कोर-इंडिपेंडेंट फिल्म (विदेशी भाषा)' श्रेणी में नामांकित किया गया है।
- Hollywood Music in Media Awards (HMMA) is an annual awards show recognizing original music in visual media, including films, TV, video games, and more. हॉलीवुड म्यूज़िक इन मीडिया अवार्ड्स (HMMA) एक वार्षिक पुरस्कार समारोह है जो दृश्य मीडिया में मूल संगीत की सराहना करता है, जिसमें फिल्मों, टीवी, वीडियो गेम्स, और अन्य शामिल हैं।
- The main event is scheduled to be held at The Avalon, Hollywood, on November 20. मुख्य कार्यक्रम 20 नवम्बर को द अवॉलॉन, हॉलीवुड में आयोजित होने वाला है।
- Jithin Raj, elated about the nomination, thanked A.R. Rahman and Blessy for the "amazing opportunity" to sing the hit song. जीथिन राज, नामांकन से खुश होकर, A.R. रहमान और ब्लेसी का "अद्भुत अवसर" देने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया, जिससे वह इस हिट गाने को गा पाए।
- He also thanked actor Prithviraj Sukumaran, who played the lead role in the survival drama, and the entire team of the movie. उन्होंने अभिनेता प्रिथ्वीराज सुकुमारन का भी धन्यवाद किया, जिन्होंने सर्वाइवल ड्रामा में मुख्य भूमिका निभाई, और फिल्म की पूरी टीम का भी आभार व्यक्त किया।

Based on the Novel

उपन्यास पर आधारित

- The movie is based on the novel *Goat Days* by Benyamin, which tells the story of a young man, Najeeb, who migrates from Kerala in the early 1990s in search of fortunes, only to get stranded in the middle of a desert. फिल्म उपन्यास गोट डेज पर आधारित है, जिसे बेनयामिन ने लिखा है, जो एक युवा आदमी नजीब की कहानी बताता है, जो 1990 के दशक की शुरुआत में केरल से किस्मत की तलाश में प्रवास करता है, लेकिन रेगिस्तान के बीच में फंस जाता है।
- The movie won several awards at the 54th Kerala State Film Awards, including Best Director, Best Actor, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Make-up, Best Sound Mixing, Best Popular Film, and Best Processing Lab/Colourist. फिल्म ने 54वीं केरल राज्य फिल्म पुरस्कारों में कई पुरस्कार जीते, जिनमें सर्वश्रेष्ठ निर्देशक, सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेता, सर्वश्रेष्ठ रूपांतरित पटकथा, सर्वश्रेष्ठ सिनेमाटोग्राफी, सर्वश्रेष्ठ मेक-अप, सर्वश्रेष्ठ ध्वनि मिक्सिंग, सर्वश्रेष्ठ लोकप्रिय फिल्म, और सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रोसेसिंग लैब/कलरिस्ट शामिल हैं।





Safe hands: A girl belonging to the primitive tribal group of Dongria Kondhs taking care of her infant sibling as their parents are away at the field in the mountains of Niyamgiri on the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha boundary on the eve of Children's Day. K.R. DEEPAK

GS Paper I: Society

Dongria Kondhs

- The Dongria Kondhs are an indigenous tribal group primarily residing in the Niyamgiri Hills of the Eastern Ghats in Odisha, India.
- They are well-known for their deep cultural and spiritual connection with the land, especially the Niyamgiri hills, which they consider sacred and regard as the abode of their deity, *Niyam Raja*.
- Here are some key aspects of the Dongria Kondhs:

Habitat and Economy

- The Dongria Kondhs live mainly in the dense forests and slopes of the Niyamgiri range. These forests are rich in biodiversity, providing the Dongria Kondhs with resources for their livelihoods.
- They are primarily engaged in shifting cultivation, known as *podu* farming, where they grow crops such as millet, turmeric, and seasonal fruits.
- Horticulture is another mainstay, with the tribe cultivating various fruits and cash crops, including bananas, mangoes, and pineapples. They have unique knowledge of the local flora, which they use for food, medicine, and religious rituals.

Culture and Religion

- The Dongria Kondhs' culture is deeply intertwined with their natural environment. They follow animistic beliefs and worship *Niyam Raja*, their supreme deity, who is believed to reside in the Niyamgiri Hills.
- They also conduct various rituals and festivals to honor the forests, rivers, and mountains, expressing gratitude to nature and seeking blessings for a good harvest.
- Their vibrant attire, which includes colorful garments, ornaments, and tattoos, is symbolic of their identity and reflects their artistic heritage.

Language and Social Structure

- The Dongria Kondhs speak a dialect known as **Kui, which belongs to the Dravidian language family.**
- Their society is organized around clans and families, with a strong sense of community and a shared responsibility for protecting their land.

4. Conservation and Resistance

- The Dongria Kondhs became internationally known due to their resistance to bauxite mining in the Niyamgiri Hills, led by Vedanta Resources. They argued that mining would not only destroy the environment but also violate their cultural and spiritual rights.
- In 2013, after a legal battle, India's Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Dongria Kondhs, allowing the community to vote on whether mining should proceed. The tribe overwhelmingly rejected the mining proposal, a landmark decision for indigenous rights in India.



'Sea ranching' launched off Vizhinjam coast as follow-up to artificial reef project in Kerala

GS Paper III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Twenty-thousand pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) fingerlings were deposited in the sea off Vizhinjam on Wednesday as a follow-up to the artificial reef project designed to replenish marine fishery resources and promote sustainable fishing practices.

The fingerlings were released at the coordinates of artificial reef modules deposited about 1.5 nautical miles off Vizhinjam coast.

They formed the first batch of a State Fisheries Department sea ranching project aimed at releasing 10 lakh pompano and cobia (*Motha*) fingerlings at



Sea ranching in progress off the coast of Vizhinjam in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

10 locations off Thiruvananthapuram coast – one lakh each in the selected locations – where artificial reefs were deployed under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

The National Fisheries

Development Board (NFDB) had cleared the Centrally funded ₹3-crore PMMSY scheme in March.

On Wednesday, Minister of State for Fisheries George Kurian inaugurated the project aboard a Coast

Guard vessel out at sea.

The fingerlings, with size ranging between 8 to 10 gm, were released from two small fishing vessels at the coordinates of the artificial reef.

For the project, the State Fisheries Department had stocked and reared 10 lakh pompano and cobia fry at the Ayiramthengu fish farm of the Agency for Development of Aquaculture Kerala.

Artificial reefs were created at 42 locations off 33 fishing villages in Thiruvananthapuram district. They consist of 150 triangular, flower and pipe-shaped reef modules. The sea ranching project constitutes the next step in this

process. According to the department, the reefs have already attracted a large variety of fish including tuna, trevally and mackerel.

The Fisheries Department is also awaiting Central government sanction for extending the artificial reef project beyond Thiruvananthapuram district. In the second phase, the department proposes to cover 96 villages in Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts at an estimated cost of ₹29.76 crore. Ninety-six villages in the northern districts Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod are proposed to be covered in the ₹25.82 crore Phase III, department officials said.

'Sea ranching' launched of Vizhinjam coast as follow-up to artificial reef project in Kerala

केरल में कृत्रिम चट्टान परियोजना के बाद विज़िनजाम तट पर 'समुद्री पशुपालन' शुरू किया गया

Pompano Fingerlings Released in Vizhinjam for Artificial Reef Project

विजिन्जम में कृत्रिम प्रवाल परियोजना के लिए पोम्पानो मछली के अंडे समुद्र में छोड़े गए

- Twenty-thousand pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) fingerlings were deposited in the sea off Vizhinjam on Wednesday as part of the artificial reef project to replenish marine fishery resources and promote sustainable fishing practices.
बीस हजार पोम्पानो (ट्राचिनोटस ब्लोचि) फिंगरलिंग्स को विजिन्जम के समुद्र में बुधवार को कृत्रिम प्रवाल परियोजना के तहत समुद्री मत्स्य संसाधनों को फिर से भरने और स्थायी मछली पकड़ने की प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए छोड़ा गया।
- The fingerlings were released at the coordinates of artificial reef modules deposited about 1.5 nautical miles off Vizhinjam coast.
ये फिंगरलिंग्स कृत्रिम प्रवाल मॉड्यूल के निर्देशांक पर छोड़े गए थे जो विजिन्जम तट से लगभग 1.5 समुद्री मील दूर स्थित हैं।
- The fingerlings formed the first batch of a State Fisheries Department sea ranching project aimed at releasing 10 lakh pompano and cobia (*Motha*) fingerlings at 10 locations along the Thiruvananthapuram coast, with one lakh each at the selected locations where artificial reefs were deployed under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
ये फिंगरलिंग्स राज्य मत्स्य विभाग के समुद्री रैंचिंग परियोजना का पहला बैच थीं, जिसका उद्देश्य 10 लाख पोम्पानो और कोबिया (मोठा) फिंगरलिंग्स को 10 स्थानों पर थिरुवनंतपुरम तट के समुद्र में छोड़ना था, जहां कृत्रिम प्रवाल प्रधानमंत्री मत्स्य संपदा योजना (PMMSY) के तहत स्थापित किए गए थे।
- The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) had cleared the Centrally funded ₹3-crore PMMSY scheme in March.
राष्ट्रीय मत्स्य विकास बोर्ड (NFDB) ने केंद्र सरकार द्वारा वित्तपोषित ₹3-करोड़ के PMMSY योजना को मार्च में मंजूरी दी थी।
- On Wednesday, Minister of State for Fisheries George Kurian inaugurated the project aboard a Coast Guard vessel out at sea.
बुधवार को मत्स्य पालन राज्य मंत्री जॉर्ज कुरियन ने समुद्र में कोस्ट गार्ड जहाज पर इस परियोजना का उद्घाटन किया।
- The fingerlings, ranging in size from 8 to 10 gm, were released from two small fishing vessels at the coordinates of the artificial reef.
8 से 10 ग्राम के आकार के फिंगरलिंग्स को दो छोटे मछली पकड़ने वाले जहाजों से कृत्रिम प्रवाल के निर्देशांक पर छोड़ा गया।
- For the project, the State Fisheries Department had stocked and reared 10 lakh pompano and cobia fry at the Ayiramthengu fish farm of the Agency for Development of Aquaculture Kerala.
इस परियोजना के लिए, राज्य मत्स्य विभाग ने 10 लाख पोम्पानो और कोबिया फ्राई को आयरामथेंगू मछली फार्म, केरल एक्वाकल्चर विकास एजेंसी में स्टॉक और पालित किया था।
- Artificial reefs were created at 42 locations in 33 fishing villages in Thiruvananthapuram district.
कृत्रिम प्रवाल 33 मछली पकड़ने वाले गांवों में 42 स्थानों पर थिरुवनंतपुरम जिले में स्थापित किए गए थे।
- These artificial reefs consist of 150 triangular, flower, and pipe-shaped reef modules.
इन कृत्रिम प्रवालों में 150 त्रिकोणीय, फूल और पाइप के आकार के प्रवाल मॉड्यूल शामिल हैं।
- The sea ranching project is the next step in this process.
समुद्री रैंचिंग परियोजना इस प्रक्रिया का अगला कदम है।
- According to the department, the reefs have already attracted a variety of fish, including tuna, trevally, and mackerel.
विभाग के अनुसार, इन प्रवालों ने पहले ही कई प्रकार की मछलियों को आकर्षित किया है, जिनमें ट्यूना, ट्रिवैली और मैकेरल शामिल हैं।
- The Fisheries Department is also awaiting Central government sanction to extend the artificial reef project beyond Thiruvananthapuram district.
मत्स्य विभाग कृत्रिम प्रवाल परियोजना को थिरुवनंतपुरम जिले से बाहर विस्तार करने के लिए केंद्रीय सरकार की स्वीकृति का भी इंतजार कर रहा है।



- In the second phase, the department proposes to cover **96 villages** in **Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, and Thrissur districts** at an estimated cost of **₹29.76 crore**.
दूसरे चरण में, विभाग कोल्लम, अलप्पुझा, एर्नाकुलम और त्रिशूर जिलों के 96 गांवों को ₹29.76 करोड़ के अनुमानित लागत पर कवर करने का प्रस्ताव कर रहा है।
- 96 villages** in the northern districts of **Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur, and Kasaragod** are proposed to be covered in **₹25.82 crore Phase III**.
उत्तर के जिलों मलप्पुरम, कोझीकोड, कन्नूर, और कासरगोड के 96 गांवों को ₹25.82 करोड़ के चरण III में कवर करने का प्रस्ताव है।

Sea ranching is a marine conservation and aquaculture practice where juvenile fish or shellfish are bred in controlled environments and then released into the ocean or other open waters. The goal is to replenish wild fish stocks, enhance biodiversity, and support sustainable fisheries.

Process

- Juveniles of marine species (such as fish, crustaceans, and shellfish) are cultivated in hatcheries under controlled conditions. Once they reach a size that allows for greater survival in the wild, they are released into natural habitats, such as the open ocean, coastal areas, or rivers.
- After being released, these species continue to grow in the natural ecosystem, benefiting from the available food resources and habitat.

Purpose and Benefits

- Repopulation of Species:** It helps replenish populations of fish and other marine life that are declining due to overfishing, habitat destruction, and pollution.
- Enhancing Biodiversity:** By reintroducing species, sea ranching supports the natural balance of marine ecosystems, contributing to overall biodiversity.
- Supporting Fisheries:** Sea ranching provides long-term benefits for the fishing industry by increasing the availability of fish stocks. It helps in ensuring sustainable harvests while protecting marine ecosystems.
- Food Security:** For many communities, especially in coastal areas, sea ranching contributes to food security by stabilizing fish populations and ensuring a steady supply of seafood.

- PMMSY, launched on **10 September 2020**, is an ambitious flagship scheme of the **Government of India**, focusing on the sustainable development of the fisheries sector, with a total investment of ₹20,050 crores for the period from **2020-2025**.
- The scheme aims to enhance fish production and productivity, improve fish farmers' incomes, modernize infrastructure, and ensure social security for fishermen.

Omar's demand for compensation over losses to J&K due to **Indus Water Treaty** sparks debate

GS Paper II: India-Pakistan

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks on the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) triggered a fresh debate on the power projects and poor electricity scenario on Wednesday.

"The IWT on river-rich

Jammu & Kashmir restricts its ability to harness its huge hydel power potential primarily due to storage constraints. **J&K pays a heavy price in peak winter months when power generation hits low, creating hardships for its people,"** said Mr. Abdullah while speaking at a conference of

Power Ministers of States and UTs on Tuesday.

Highlighting the "limiting clauses in the Treaty that **restricts J&K from realising its full hydel potential by only permitting run-of-the-river projects**", Mr. Abdullah said **J&K was compelled to rely on power imports from other States, "**

which adversely impacts its economy".

Referring to the CM's remarks, former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said there was no doubt that the Treaty has a negative impact on Kashmir "but the BJP narrative, of late, wants to make it an issue".

Omar's demand for compensation over losses to J&K due to Indus Water Treaty sparks debate

सिंधु जल संधि के कारण जम्मू-कश्मीर को हुए नुकसान के लिए मुआवजे की उमर की मांग पर बहस छिड़ गई

Omar Abdullah's Remarks on the Indus Water Treaty (IWT)

ओमर अब्दुल्ला की सिंधु जल संधि (IWT) पर टिप्पणी

- Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's** remarks on the **Indus Water Treaty (IWT)** triggered a fresh debate on **power projects** and the **poor electricity scenario**.
जम्मू और कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री ओमर अब्दुल्ला की सिंधु जल संधि (IWT) पर टिप्पणियों ने बिजली परियोजनाओं और खराब बिजली परिदृश्य पर एक नया बहस छेड़ दिया।
- "The **IWT** on river-rich **Jammu & Kashmir** restricts its ability to harness its huge **hydel power potential** primarily due to **storage constraints**," said Mr. Abdullah.



"सिंधु जल संधि जम्मू और कश्मीर की विशाल जल विद्युत क्षमता का दोहन करने की क्षमता को मुख्य रूप से भंडारण की सीमा के कारण प्रतिबंधित करती है," श्री अब्दुल्ला ने कहा।

- "J&K pays a heavy price in **peak winter months** when **power generation hits low**, creating hardships for its people," he added. "जम्मू और कश्मीर को शीतकालीन मौसम में भारी कीमत चुकानी पड़ती है, जब बिजली उत्पादन कम हो जाता है, जिससे उसके लोगों को कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है," उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- He highlighted the "**limiting clauses in the Treaty** that restrict J&K from realizing its full **hydel potential** by only permitting **run-of-the-river projects**." उन्होंने "संधि में सीमित करने वाली धाराएं" को उजागर किया जो जम्मू और कश्मीर को अपनी पूरी जल विद्युत क्षमता को केवल रन-ऑफ-द-रिवर परियोजनाओं की अनुमति देकर पूरा करने से रोकती हैं।
- He said J&K was compelled to rely on **power imports from other states**, "which adversely impacts its economy." उन्होंने कहा कि जम्मू और कश्मीर को अन्य राज्यों से बिजली आयात करने पर मजबूर किया गया है, "जो इसकी अर्थव्यवस्था पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव डालता है।"
- Referring to the CM's remarks, former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said there was no doubt that the Treaty has a negative impact on **Kashmir** "but the **BJP** narrative, of late, wants to make it an issue." सीएम की टिप्पणियों का उल्लेख करते हुए, जम्मू और कश्मीर की पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री महबूबा मुफ्ती ने कहा कि इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि संधि का कश्मीर पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ा है, "लेकिन हाल के दिनों में बीजेपी की कहानी इसे एक मुद्दा बनाना चाहती है।"

Indus Water Treaty

- The **Indus Water Treaty (IWT)** is a water-distribution agreement between **India** and **Pakistan** that was brokered by the **World Bank**. It was mediated by World Bank on the insistence of the US.
- It was signed on **19th September 1960** by **Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** and **Pakistani President Ayub Khan**.
- It is considered as the most successful treaty of the world.

Important Dates and Data:

- **Signed:** 19th September 1960.
- **Western Rivers:** Indus, Jhelum, Chenab – for Pakistan.
- **Eastern Rivers:** Ravi, Beas, Sutlej – for India.
- **World Bank's Role:** Mediator and arbitrator.

- The treaty primarily addresses the **sharing and usage rights** of the **Indus River system**, which spans across both countries.

Key Features of the Indus Water Treaty:

River Allocation:

- The Indus River system consists of six rivers: the **Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej**.
- The treaty divides the rivers into two categories:
 - **Western Rivers:** Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab – allocated to **Pakistan**.
 - **Eastern Rivers:** Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej – allocated to **India**.

Water Rights:

- **Pakistan** has the exclusive right over the waters of the **Western rivers**.
- **India** is allowed limited uses of these rivers for domestic, non-consumptive agricultural purposes, and hydropower generation, but cannot divert their flow for other purposes.
- **India** has full control over the waters of the **Eastern rivers**, and can use them for irrigation, power generation, and other uses.

Permanent Indus Commission:

- The treaty established the **Permanent Indus Commission** comprising representatives from both India and Pakistan.
- The Commission ensures the implementation of the treaty and facilitates communication and cooperation between the two countries on water issues.

World Bank's Role:

- The **World Bank** plays a significant role in ensuring the implementation and functioning of the treaty.
- It has been involved as a mediator and helped fund some of the infrastructure projects for both countries, particularly those enabling Pakistan to better utilize its allocation of the Western rivers.



Dispute Resolution:

- The treaty outlines a framework for resolving disputes or differences that arise between India and Pakistan over the waters. In the event of a dispute, it can be referred to the **Permanent Indus Commission**, neutral experts, or even the **World Bank** for arbitration.

Challenges and Controversies:

- **Pakistan's Concerns:** Pakistan has often expressed concerns over India's construction of dams and hydroelectric projects on the Western rivers (such as the **Baglihar Dam** on the Chenab River and the **Kishanganga project** on the Jhelum River). Pakistan believes such projects could reduce water flows into its territory.
- **India's Concerns:** India argues that it has been unable to fully utilize the waters allocated to it under the treaty, particularly from the Eastern rivers. It is currently working on projects to better use the waters of Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej for irrigation and hydropower.
- **Climate Change:** With the threat of climate change, both countries are increasingly concerned about potential changes in river flow patterns due to melting glaciers, changing rainfall patterns, and increasing demand for water. This adds further stress to an already delicate balance of water-sharing arrangements.
- **Brahma Chellany:** Indus Water Treaty is the very unique treaty that any upper riparian country will agree with it.
- India agreed as per the historical context under that India was weak.
- If India plan for any non-consumptive use in the Western river allotted to Pakistan, Pakistan has veto power.
- As per the Indian PM Modi "Water and blood cannot flow together".
- However, technical the same is not possible due to lack of infrastructure, technology and also it sets wrong precedence.
- Besides that India is also lower riparian nation with respect to the Brahmaputra River.
- Pakistan has given Veto with respect projects on the Western Rivers. It causes delays in completion of the projects that causes rise in cost.

The perfect cocktail of layered discrimination

GS Paper II: Federalism

Delimitation, the biggest elephant in the room called the Indian Union, is about to take centre stage. Statesmen such as Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee appreciated the explosive potential of delimitation and kicked the can down the road, as it were, to be handled by a future generation. Here we are as that future generation. Do we kick the can further down the road? Do we detonate it? Or do we defuse it? We, the people of India, are at a historical crossroad. Will India remain a federal union? Or will it become an ethno-linguistic majoritarian mega state with minority ethno-linguistic minorities?

Federalism is part of the inviolable basic structure of the Constitution of India. The Indian Union is a federal union. States are the federating units. Most States find their basis in language and many States of the Indian Union are continuations of ethno-linguistic homelands that have existed for centuries or even millennia. This is precisely why the Supreme Court of India has termed States as political units and not arbitrary administrative units.

Indian unity was forged in the anti-imperialist struggle against British imperialism and that unity continues in independent India through a delicate balance of power distribution between federating units and ongoing dialogue between diverse peoples of the Indian subcontinent.

What is delimitation? Article 82 of the Indian Constitution requires that the number of Lok Sabha seats per State is recalibrated after each Census by the Delimitation Commission, in accordance with the population. Delimitation last happened based on the 1971 census, when in 1976, the Indira Gandhi government suspended the delimitation process for 25 years, until 2001. It was further suspended for another 25 years by the A.B. Vajpayee government, and would lapse by 2026, unless another amendment is introduced. The freezing of delimitation was done in order not to disincentive States that were effective in population control. However, the Narendra Modi government has given hints about undertaking fresh delimitation before the elections in 2029.

Delimitation as a threat

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is a demographic indicator that estimates the average number of children a woman gives birth to during her reproductive years. Even today, TFR of non-Hindi States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal is in the 1.6-1.8 range, below the replacement level of 2.1. The TFR of Hindi heartland States such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, at about 3.5, is well above the replacement level. This has been true for many decades and thus by now, a recalibration via delimitation will mean a radical decrease in the proportion of non-Hindi State seats in the Lok Sabha. For example, if



Salem Dharanidharan

a spokesperson of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party and the Deputy Secretary of the party's IT wing



Garga Chatterjee

General Secretary, Bangla Pokkho

Under the existing formulation of delimitation, there is a grave risk of some 'unsuccessful' States becoming the 'owners of an imperial centre', imperilling 'successful' States

delimitation takes place, the proportion of seats in Parliament for the southern States would be reduced from 25% to 17% and the number of seats from Hindi heartland States where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has electoral dominance would increase from 40% to 60%.

States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu already receive only about 30% of the total funds that contribute as direct taxes, while Bihar and Uttar Pradesh receive between 250% and 350% of their overall contribution. The decision of 16th Finance Commission to include the 2011 Census instead of the 1971 Census to devolve funds to States will be even more discriminatory to developed States. It is cause for worry that continuation of the same pattern would profoundly exacerbate the already existing bias against the non-Hindi States.

Fostering discrimination

India was conceived as a permanent, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual federal union, and not as a mono ethno-linguistic majoritarianism territory. The difference with states such as China and Russia is that they are only federal in name, the population being made of an ethno-linguistic group with a majority of upwards of 80% and several other small minority nationalities. In India's case, however, there never was a majority ethno-linguistic group. India is a federation of various ethno-linguistic stakeholders, none of whom is a majority in India. But the major ones among them form the basis of various linguistic States, where they are super majority. But with long-term differences of TFR among States, and thereby, ethno-linguistic groups, this long-settled pattern faces the threat of being unsettled. Since 1947, the population proportion of Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu have all decreased while the population proportion of one language, Hindi, has massively increased, from 36% to nearly 43%; 43% is not too far away from the majority.

The ratio of Lok Sabha seats allocated to a State to the total number of Lok Sabha seats represents the Stakeholdership Index of a State in matters of the Union. Delimitation will reward the non-performers of population control policies that will effectively dominate and determine the policy of the Union. The performers will have a declining say and will be reduced to being mere revenue contributors. The proportion of GDP and revenue from non-Hindi States is much greater than their population percentage while the proportion of GDP and revenue from Hindi States is lesser than their population percentage.

Post delimitation, States such as Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, where the BJP is dominant, will have their Stakeholdership Index nearly double, whereas States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu where the BJP has one to zero seats will see it being reduced by 30%-40%. Such a situation would skew Indian democracy in favour of the

Hindi States, with other regions risking a loss of electoral dominance. Without electoral dominance and representation in the Union, this would further alienate the non-Hindi states.

Thus, the implementation of delimitation will create the perfect cocktail of layered discrimination. Non-Hindi States that have implemented population control measures successfully will lose a say in Union affairs. Non-Hindi States that contribute a majority of GDP, resources, revenue and taxes will lose say in how their monies are used. The 'unsuccessful' will create policies for the 'successful' with money from the 'successful'. No taxation without representation was the cry in the Boston Tea Party. In a similar vein, delimitation will further shrink the representation of States that produce taxes. This is a very risky and dangerous path to pursue. There is no place for any system in India where some States increasingly look like owners of an imperial centre while others mimic colonies. Therefore, it is necessary to balance two competing constitutional values: formal equality in voting and federalism.

Possible solutions

There can be many solutions. First, just follow what Mrs Gandhi and A.B. Vajpayee did and extend the freeze by another 25 years and defer to a future generation.

Second, permanently freeze delimitation as far as the India-wide redistribution of seats across States is concerned.

Third, go through with delimitation as envisaged. But supplement it with a long-due new grand federal compact such that the Concurrent List is abolished in favour of an expanded State list, all residual powers vested to the States and large-scale transfer of subjects are made from the Union list to the State list, keeping external defence, external affairs and currency in Delhi's hands. This would balance delimitation with decentralisation, softening the majoritarian blow inherent in delimitation.

Fourth, preserve the present seat proportion between States in the Lok Sabha but increase the number of seats in each State to partially offset the representational deficit of population explosion States.

India is a unique experiment. It is not an ethnic-linguistic majoritarian empire like Russia or China. It is not a mono-linguistic nation state such as Bangladesh and Thailand. India is like Africa or Europe, a tapestry of languages, ethnicities, cultures, civilisations and faiths, but with a crucial difference. It is bound in an inseparable political Union born in the crucible of anti-imperialist struggle with one, unified voice when speaking to others. India is the grandest experiment of plurality in modern human history. Majoritarianism and partisanship cannot be allowed to undo it and threaten its unity. History will not forgive us.



The perfect cocktail of layered discrimination

स्तरित भेदभाव का उत्तम मिश्रण

Delimitation: The Biggest Elephant in the Room Called the Indian Union

सीमा निर्धारण: भारतीय संघ का सबसे बड़ा हाथी

- **Delimitation**, the biggest elephant in the room called the **Indian Union**, is about to take **centre stage**.
सीमा निर्धारण, भारतीय संघ के नाम से जाना जाने वाला सबसे बड़ा हाथी, केंद्र स्तर पर आने वाला है।
- **Statesmen** such as **Indira Gandhi** and **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** appreciated the explosive potential of delimitation and kicked the can down the road, as it were, to be handled by a future generation.
राजनेताओं जैसे इंदिरा गांधी और अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी ने सीमा निर्धारण की विस्फोटक क्षमता को सराहा और इसे भविष्य की पीढ़ी द्वारा संभालने के लिए टाल दिया।
- Here we are as that future generation. Do we kick the can further down the road? Do we detonate it? Or do we defuse it? We, the people of **India**, are at a **historical crossroad**.
हम यहाँ उस भविष्य की पीढ़ी के रूप में हैं। क्या हम इसे और टालें? क्या हम इसे विस्फोटित करें? या क्या हम इसे निष्क्रिय करें? हम, भारत के लोग, एक ऐतिहासिक मोड़ पर हैं।
- Will **India** remain a **federal union**? Or will it become an ethno-linguistic majoritarian mega state with minority ethno-linguistic mutinies? क्या भारत एक संघीय संघ बना रहेगा? या क्या यह जातीय-भाषायी बहुसंख्यक मेगा राज्य बन जाएगा, जिसमें संख्यात्मक रूप से छोटे समूहों के जातीय-भाषायी विद्रोह होंगे?
- **Federalism** is part of the inviolable basic structure of the **Constitution of India**. The **Indian Union** is a **federal union**. States are the federating units.
संघवाद भारत के संविधान की अपराजेय बुनियादी संरचना का हिस्सा है। भारतीय संघ एक संघीय संघ है। राज्य संघटक इकाइयाँ हैं।
- Most **States** find their basis in **language** and many **States** of the Indian Union are continuations of **ethno-linguistic homelands** that have existed for **centuries or even millennia**.
अधिकांश राज्य अपनी भाषा में अपना आधार पाते हैं और भारतीय संघ के कई राज्य ऐसे जातीय-भाषायी मातृभूमियों के निरंतर विस्तार हैं, जो सदियों या यहां तक कि सहस्राब्दियों से अस्तित्व में हैं।
- This is precisely why the **Supreme Court of India** has termed **States** as **political units** and not arbitrary **administrative units**.
यही कारण है कि भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने राज्यों को राजनीतिक इकाइयाँ कहा है, न कि मनमाने प्रशासनिक इकाइयाँ।
- **Indian unity** was forged in the **anti-imperialist struggle** against **British imperialism** and that unity continues in **independent India** through a delicate balance of **power distribution** between **federating units** and ongoing dialogue between **diverse peoples** of the Indian subcontinent.
भारतीय एकता ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद के खिलाफ प्रतिराष्ट्रवाद संघर्ष में बनाई गई थी और वह एकता स्वतंत्र भारत में संघटक इकाइयों के बीच शक्ति वितरण और भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के विविध लोगों के बीच निरंतर संवाद के माध्यम से बनी रहती है।
- What is **delimitation**? **Article 82** of the **Indian Constitution** requires that the number of **Lok Sabha seats** per **State** is recalibrated after each **Census** by the **Delimitation Commission**, in accordance with the **population**.
सीमा निर्धारण क्या है? भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 82 के तहत प्रत्येक जनगणना के बाद लोकसभा सीटों की संख्या को सीमा निर्धारण आयोग द्वारा जनसंख्या के अनुसार फिर से निर्धारित किया जाता है।
- **Delimitation** last happened based on the **1971 census**, when in **1976**, the **Indira Gandhi** government suspended the delimitation process for **25 years**, until **2001**.
सीमा निर्धारण आखिरी बार 1971 की जनगणना के आधार पर हुआ था, जब 1976 में, इंदिरा गांधी सरकार ने 25 वर्षों के लिए सीमा निर्धारण प्रक्रिया को निलंबित कर दिया था, जो 2001 तक था।
- It was further suspended for another **25 years** by the **A.B. Vajpayee government**, and would lapse by **2026**, unless another amendment is introduced.
इसे अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी सरकार द्वारा एक और 25 वर्षों के लिए निलंबित कर दिया गया था, और यह 2026 तक समाप्त हो जाएगा, जब तक कोई और संशोधन न किया जाए।
- The **freezing of delimitation** was done in order not to disincentive **States** that were effective in **population control**.
सीमा निर्धारण को स्थगित करना इस उद्देश्य से किया गया था ताकि वे राज्य जो जनसंख्या नियंत्रण में प्रभावी थे, प्रोत्साहित होते रहें।
- However, the **Narendra Modi government** has given hints about undertaking fresh **delimitation** before the elections in **2029**.
हालांकि, नरेन्द्र मोदी सरकार ने 2029 में चुनावों से पहले नई सीमा निर्धारण की ओर इशारा किया है।

Delimitation as a threat

सीमा निर्धारण के रूप में खतरा

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** is a demographic indicator that estimates the average number of children a woman gives birth to during her reproductive years.
कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR) एक जनसांख्यिकीय संकेतक है जो यह अनुमान लगाता है कि एक महिला अपने प्रजनन काल के दौरान औसतन कितने बच्चों को जन्म देती है।
- Even today, TFR of non-Hindi States such as **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal** is in the **1.6-1.8 range**, below the replacement level of **2.1**.
आज भी, गैर-हिंदी राज्यों जैसे केरल, तमिलनाडु, और पश्चिम बंगाल की कुल प्रजनन दर 1.6-1.8 रेंज में है, जो 2.1 के प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से नीचे है।
- The TFR of Hindi heartland States such as **Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**, at about **3.5**, is well above the replacement level.
हिंदी हृदय प्रदेश राज्यों जैसे बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, और उत्तर प्रदेश की कुल प्रजनन दर लगभग 3.5 है, जो प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से काफी अधिक है।
- This has been true for many decades and thus by now, a recalibration via delimitation will mean a radical decrease in the proportion of non-Hindi State seats in the **Lok Sabha**.



यह कई दशकों से सच है और इस प्रकार अब, सीमा निर्धारण के माध्यम से एक पुनः गणना का मतलब होगा गैर-हिंदी राज्यों की लोकसभा सीटों के अनुपात में साहसिक कमी।

- For example, if delimitation takes place, the proportion of seats in Parliament for the **southern States** would be reduced from **25%** to **17%** and the number of seats from **Hindi heartland States** where the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** has electoral dominance would increase from **40%** to **60%**.
उदाहरण के लिए, यदि सीमा निर्धारण होता है, तो दक्षिणी राज्यों में संसद की सीटों का अनुपात 25% से घटकर 17% हो जाएगा और हिंदी हृदय प्रदेशों की सीटों की संख्या, जहां भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP) का चुनावी प्रभुत्व है, 40% से बढ़कर 60% हो जाएगी।
- States such as **Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu** already receive only about **30%** of the total funds that contribute as direct taxes, while **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** receive between **250%** and **350%** of their overall contribution.
राज्य जैसे कर्नाटका, महाराष्ट्र, और तमिलनाडु पहले ही कुल फंड का केवल लगभग 30% प्राप्त करते हैं, जो प्रत्यक्ष कर के रूप में योगदान करते हैं, जबकि बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश अपनी कुल योगदान का 250% से 350% तक प्राप्त करते हैं।
- The decision of the **16th Finance Commission** to include the **2011 Census** instead of the **1971 Census** to devolve funds to States will be even more discriminatory to developed States.
16वीं वित्त आयोग के **2011 की जनगणना** को **1971 की जनगणना** की जगह शामिल करने का निर्णय, राज्यों को निधियाँ वितरित करने के लिए, विकसित राज्यों के लिए और भी भेदभावपूर्ण होगा।
- It is cause for worry that continuation of the same pattern would profoundly exacerbate the already existing bias against the non-Hindi States.
यह चिंता का कारण है कि उसी पैटर्न का जारी रहना पहले से मौजूद गैर-हिंदी राज्यों के खिलाफ भेदभाव को और बढ़ा देगा।

Fostering discrimination

भेदभाव को बढ़ावा देना

- India was conceived as a permanent, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual federal union, and not as a mono ethno-linguistic majoritarianism territory.
भारत को एक स्थायी, बहु-जातीय, बहु-भाषायी संघीय संघ के रूप में परिकल्पित किया गया था, न कि एक एकल जातीय-भाषायी बहुसंख्यक क्षेत्र के रूप में।
- The difference with states such as **China** and **Russia** is that they are only federal in name, the population being made of an ethno-linguistic group with a majority of upwards of **80%** and several other small minority nationalities.
चीन और रूस जैसे राज्यों में अंतर यह है कि वे नाम मात्र के संघीय हैं, उनकी जनसंख्या एक जातीय-भाषायी समूह से बनी होती है, जिसमें 80% से ऊपर बहुसंख्यक होते हैं और कुछ अन्य छोटे अल्पसंख्यक जातीयताएँ होती हैं।
- In India's case, however, there never was a majority ethno-linguistic group. India is a federation of various ethno-linguistic stakeholders, none of whom is a majority in India.
हालांकि, भारत के मामले में कभी भी कोई बहुसंख्यक जातीय-भाषायी समूह नहीं था। भारत विभिन्न जातीय-भाषायी भागीदारों का एक संघ है, जिनमें से कोई भी भारत में बहुसंख्यक नहीं है।
- But the major ones among them form the basis of various linguistic States, where they are super majority.
लेकिन उनमें से प्रमुख जातीय-भाषायी समूह विभिन्न भाषायी राज्यों का आधार बनाते हैं, जहां वे सुपर बहुसंख्यक होते हैं।
- But with long-term differences of TFR among States, and thereby, ethno-linguistic groups, this long-settled pattern faces the threat of being unsettled.
लेकिन राज्यों के बीच लंबे समय तक TFR के अंतर और इस प्रकार, जातीय-भाषायी समूहों के बीच, यह लंबी समय से स्थापित पैटर्न अस्थिर होने के खतरे का सामना कर रहा है।
- Since **1947**, the population proportion of **Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu** have all decreased while the population proportion of one language, **Hindi**, has massively increased, from **36%** to nearly **43%**; **43%** is not too far away from the majority.
1947 से, बंगाली, कन्नड़, मलयालम, मराठी, उड़िया, पंजाबी, तमिल, और तेलुगू की जनसंख्या अनुपात में सभी में कमी आई है, जबकि एक भाषा, हिंदी, का जनसंख्या अनुपात 36% से बढ़कर 43% के करीब पहुँच गया है; 43% बहुसंख्यक से ज्यादा दूर नहीं है।

Delimitation as a Threat

सीमा निर्धारण एक खतरे के रूप में

- The ratio of **Lok Sabha** seats allocated to a State to the total number of **Lok Sabha** seats represents the **Stakeholdership Index** of a State in matters of the Union.
राज्य को आवंटित लोकसभा सीटों का अनुपात और लोकसभा की कुल सीटों का अनुपात राज्य की संघीय मामलों में हिस्सेदारी सूचकांक (Stakeholdership Index) का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।
- **Delimitation** will reward the non-performers of **population control policies** that will effectively dominate and determine the policy of the Union.
सीमा निर्धारण जनसंख्या नियंत्रण नीतियों में असफल राज्यों को इनाम देगा, जो प्रभावी रूप से संघ की नीतियों पर प्रभुत्व बनाएंगे और निर्धारित करेंगे।
- The performers will have a declining say and will be reduced to being mere **revenue contributors**.
जो राज्य नीतियों को सफलतापूर्वक लागू करेंगे, उनका प्रभाव घटेगा और वे केवल राजस्व योगदानकर्ताओं में बदल जाएंगे।
- The proportion of **GDP** and **revenue** from **non-Hindi States** is much greater than their population percentage while the proportion of **GDP** and **revenue** from **Hindi States** is lesser than their population percentage.
गैर-हिंदी राज्यों का GDP और राजस्व उनके जनसंख्या प्रतिशत से कहीं अधिक है, जबकि हिंदी राज्यों का GDP और राजस्व उनके जनसंख्या प्रतिशत से कम है।
- Post **delimitation**, States such as **Bihar** and **Madhya Pradesh**, where the **BJP** is dominant, will have their **Stakeholdership Index** nearly double.
सीमा निर्धारण के बाद, बिहार और मध्य प्रदेश जैसे राज्यों, जहां बीजेपी का प्रभुत्व है, उनके हिस्सेदारी सूचकांक में लगभग दो गुना वृद्धि होगी।
- States such as **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu**, where the **BJP** has one to zero seats, will see it being reduced by **30%-40%**.
केरल और तमिलनाडु जैसे राज्यों, जहां बीजेपी की सीटें एक से शून्य हैं, उनके हिस्सेदारी सूचकांक में 30%-40% तक कमी आएगी।



- Such a situation would skew **Indian democracy** in favor of the **Hindi States**, with other regions risking a loss of **electoral dominance**.
ऐसी स्थिति भारतीय लोकतंत्र को हिंदी राज्यों के पक्ष में झुका देगी, जिससे अन्य क्षेत्रों को चुनावी प्रभुत्व खोने का खतरा होगा।
- Without **electoral dominance** and **representation** in the Union, this would further alienate the **non-Hindi states**.
चुनावी प्रभुत्व और संघ में प्रतिनिधित्व के बिना, यह गैर-हिंदी राज्यों को और अधिक परायापन का सामना कराएगा।
- Thus, the implementation of **delimitation** will create the perfect cocktail of layered **discrimination**.
इस प्रकार, सीमा निर्धारण का कार्यान्वयन परतदार भेदभाव का एक आदर्श मिश्रण उत्पन्न करेगा।
- Non-Hindi States** that have implemented **population control measures** successfully will lose a say in **Union affairs**.
जो गैर-हिंदी राज्य जनसंख्या नियंत्रण उपायों को सफलतापूर्वक लागू करते हैं, वे संघीय मामलों में अपनी राय खो देंगे।
- Non-Hindi States** that contribute a majority of **GDP, resources, revenue, and taxes** will lose say in how their **monies** are used.
जो गैर-हिंदी राज्य GDP, संसाधन, राजस्व, और करों का अधिकांश योगदान करते हैं, वे यह तय करने में अपनी भूमिका खो देंगे कि उनके पैसे कैसे इस्तेमाल होंगे।
- The 'unsuccessful' will create policies for the 'successful' with money from the 'successful'.
'असफल' राज्य 'सफल' राज्यों के पैसे से 'सफल' के लिए नीतियां बनाएंगे।
- No **taxation** without **representation** was the cry in the **Boston Tea Party**.
बोस्टन चाय पार्टी में 'प्रतिनिधित्व के बिना कराधान नहीं' यह नारा था।
- In a similar vein, **delimitation** will further shrink the **representation** of States that produce **taxes**.
इसी प्रकार, सीमा निर्धारण उन राज्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व और घटाएगा जो कर उत्पन्न करते हैं।
- This is a very risky and dangerous path to pursue.
यह एक बहुत ही जोखिमपूर्ण और खतरनाक मार्ग है।
- There is no place for any system in **India** where some States increasingly look like owners of an imperial center while others mimic colonies.
भारत में किसी भी ऐसे प्रणाली के लिए जगह नहीं हो सकती, जहां कुछ राज्य एक साम्राज्य केंद्र के मालिकों जैसे दिखने लगे और अन्य उपनिवेशों की नकल करें।
- Therefore, it is necessary to balance two competing constitutional values: formal equality in **voting** and **federalism**.
इसलिए, दो प्रतिस्पर्धी संवैधानिक मूल्यों का संतुलन बनाए रखना आवश्यक है: मतदान में औपचारिक समानता और संघवाद।

Possible solutions

संभावित समाधान

- There can be many solutions. First, just follow what Mrs. Gandhi and A.B. Vajpayee did and extend the freeze by another **25 years** and defer to a future generation.
कई समाधान हो सकते हैं। सबसे पहले, जैसा कि श्रीमती गांधी और अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी ने किया था, फ्रीज़ को और 25 वर्षों के लिए बढ़ा दें और इसे भविष्य की पीढ़ी के लिए स्थगित कर दें।
- Second, permanently freeze **delimitation** as far as the **India-wide redistribution** of seats across States is concerned.
दूसरा, सीमा निर्धारण को स्थायी रूप से फ्रीज़ कर दें, खासकर भारत भर में सीटों के पुनर्वितरण के संदर्भ में।
- Third, go through with **delimitation** as envisaged. But supplement it with a long-due new grand federal compact such that the **Concurrent List** is abolished in favour of an expanded **State list**, all residual powers vested to the States and large-scale transfer of subjects are made from the **Union list** to the **State list**, keeping **external defence, external affairs and currency** in Delhi's hands. This would balance delimitation with decentralisation, softening the **majoritarian blow** inherent in delimitation.
तीसरा, जैसा कि कल्पना की गई थी, सीमा निर्धारण को लागू करें। लेकिन इसे एक लंबित नए महान संघीय समझौते के साथ जोड़ें, ताकि समानांतर सूची (Concurrent List) को समाप्त कर दिया जाए और उसे विस्तारित राज्य सूची के पक्ष में किया जाए, सभी अवशिष्ट शक्तियां राज्यों को सौंप दी जाएं और संघ सूची से राज्य सूची में विषयों का बड़े पैमाने पर स्थानांतरण किया जाए, बाहरी रक्षा, बाहरी मामले और मुद्रा को दिल्ली के हाथों में रखा जाए। इससे सीमा निर्धारण के साथ विकेंद्रीकरण का संतुलन बनेगा, और सीमा निर्धारण में निहित बहुसंख्यकवाद के प्रभाव को नरम किया जाएगा।
- Fourth, preserve the present seat proportion between States in the **Lok Sabha** but increase the number of seats in each State to partially offset the representational deficit of population explosion States.
चौथा, लोकसभा में राज्यों के बीच वर्तमान सीट अनुपात को बनाए रखें, लेकिन जनसंख्या विस्फोट वाले राज्यों के प्रतिनिधित्व की कमी को आंशिक रूप से संतुलित करने के लिए प्रत्येक राज्य में सीटों की संख्या बढ़ाएं।

India is a unique experiment

भारत एक अद्वितीय प्रयोग है

- India is not an **ethnic-linguistic majoritarian empire** like **Russia** or **China**. It is not a **mono-linguistic nation-state** such as **Bangladesh** and **Thailand**.
भारत एक जातीय-भाषाई बहुसंख्यक साम्राज्य नहीं है जैसे कि रूस या चीन। यह एक एकल-भाषी राष्ट्र राज्य नहीं है जैसे कि बांग्लादेश और थाईलैंड।
- India is like **Africa** or **Europe**, a tapestry of languages, ethnicities, cultures, civilisations and faiths, but with a crucial difference.
भारत अफ्रीका या यूरोप की तरह है, जो भाषाओं, जातियों, संस्कृतियों, सभ्यताओं और विश्वासों का एक पैटर्न है, लेकिन इसमें एक महत्वपूर्ण अंतर है।
- It is bound in an inseparable political **Union** born in the crucible of **anti-imperialist struggle** with one, unified voice when speaking to others.
यह एक अटूट राजनीतिक संघ में बंधा हुआ है, जो औपनिवेशिक विरोधी संघर्ष के उबाल से उत्पन्न हुआ है और जब दूसरों से बात करता है तो एक एकीकृत आवाज के साथ बोलता है।
- India is the grandest experiment of **plurality** in modern human history. **Majoritarianism** and **partisanship** cannot be allowed to undo it and threaten its unity.
भारत आधुनिक मानव इतिहास का सबसे बड़ा बहुलता का प्रयोग है। बहुसंख्यकवाद और पक्षपाती दृष्टिकोण को इसे खत्म करने और इसकी एकता को खतरे में डालने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती।
- History** will not forgive us.
इतिहास हमें माफ नहीं करेगा।



- The **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Report** is a comprehensive annual assessment of health data worldwide, led by the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)** at the University of Washington.
- It provides critical insights into mortality, morbidity, and risk factors associated with various diseases, injuries, and health conditions across countries and demographics.

GS Paper III: Economy

Surprise spike

October's inflation pace surpasses expectations, dashing rate cut hopes

India's consumer prices have gained fresh momentum over September and October, rendering the tangible softening in inflation to a pace below the official median target of 4% in the two months preceding them, a fleeting reprieve. From 3.65% in August, retail price rise had hit a nine-month high of 5.5% in September. To be clear, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its October review, had termed the inflation moderation as slow and uneven, and anticipated a reversal in September. A sharp surge in vegetable prices, particularly tomato, from the onset of the festival-packed month of October, and an uptick in edible oil prices after nearly two years of decline, had stoked anticipation that the inflation may end up a tad higher than September. However, the Consumer Price Index for October beat all economists' projections by a wide margin, to rise 6.2%, the highest since August 2023 when it was up 6.8%.

Food prices remained the key bugbear as they have been through most high inflation periods this year. However, the uptick was alarming at 10.9%, the highest since last July, with urban consumers facing a sharper 11.1% uptick. Within the food basket, vegetable prices boomed 42.2%, the highest surge in almost five years, led by tomato prices that more than doubled year-on-year. Global edible oil price spikes also weighed in along with pricier fruits. The Finance Ministry, in its economic review late last month, had highlighted that the current bout of inflation is driven by a few food items and is not feeding into other items of consumption. Core inflation (excluding food and energy) has been well under the headline inflation rate and continued to be comfortable, and sufficient food grain buffers with a healthy *kharif* harvest, it said, would alleviate price pressures. These assumptions may need a rethink. The Governor of the RBI, Shaktikanta Das, had noted that core inflation had bottomed out, and is beginning to show – personal care and effects' prices were up 11% in October. Even if food prices cool with fresh crop arrivals in coming months, other components of the price gauge are heating up. A durable decline in inflation that the MPC is waiting for to mull interest rate cuts is now a poor prospect while hopes of a December rate cut are out of the window. That this coincides with a period of slackening growth momentum and notably waning demand in urban India bodes ill for private investments. Policymakers at the Centre must acknowledge the interlinked challenge of inflation and consumption, so that an attempt can be made to fix what they can with the fiscal tools at their disposal – be it tax cuts, or better food management.

- The **Finance Ministry**, in its economic review late last month, had highlighted that the current bout of inflation is driven by a few food items and is not feeding into other items of consumption.
वित्त मंत्रालय, अपनी आर्थिक समीक्षा में, ने पिछले महीने के अंत में यह बताया कि वर्तमान महंगाई कुछ खाद्य वस्तुओं द्वारा उत्पन्न हो रही है और यह अन्य उपभोग वस्तुओं में नहीं फैल रही है।
- Core inflation (excluding food and energy) has been well under the headline inflation rate and continued to be comfortable, and sufficient food grain buffers with a healthy *kharif* harvest, it said, would alleviate price pressures.
मुख्य महंगाई (खाद्य और ऊर्जा को छोड़कर) मुख्य महंगाई दर से काफी कम रही है और यह आरामदायक बनी रही है, और पर्याप्त खाद्यान्न बफर के साथ एक स्वस्थ खरीफ फसल, उसने कहा, मूल्य दबावों को कम करेगी।
- These assumptions may need a rethink.
इन अनुमानों पर पुनः विचार करने की आवश्यकता हो सकती है।
- The Governor of the **RBI, Shaktikanta Das**, had noted that core inflation had bottomed out, and is beginning to show — personal care and effects' prices were up 11% in **October**.

Surprise spike

आश्चर्य की बात

October's inflation pace surpasses expectations, dashing rate cut hopes

अक्टूबर में मुद्रास्फीति की गति उम्मीद से अधिक रही, ब्याज दरों में कटौती की उम्मीदें धूमिल

India's Inflation: Rising Consumer Prices

भारत की महंगाई: बढ़ती उपभोक्ता कीमतें

- India's consumer prices have gained fresh momentum over **September** and **October**, rendering the tangible softening in inflation to a pace below the official median target of 4% in the two months preceding them, a fleeting reprieve.
भारत की उपभोक्ता कीमतों में सितंबर और अक्टूबर के दौरान ताजगी आई है, जिससे महंगाई में जो 4% के सरकारी लक्ष्य से पहले की नरमी दिखी थी, वह अस्थायी राहत बन गई।
- From **3.65%** in **August**, retail price rise had hit a nine-month high of **5.5%** in **September**.
अगस्त में 3.65% से सितंबर में खुदरा मूल्य वृद्धि 9 महीने के उच्चतम स्तर 5.5% पर पहुँच गई।
- To be clear, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**'s **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**, in its **October** review, had termed the inflation moderation as slow and uneven, and anticipated a reversal in **September**.
स्पष्ट रूप से, **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI)** की **मॉनिटरी पॉलिसी कमेटी (MPC)** ने अपनी **अक्टूबर** समीक्षा में महंगाई में कमी को धीमी और असमान बताया था, और सितंबर में इसके पलटने की आशंका जताई थी।
- A sharp surge in vegetable prices, particularly **tomato**, from the onset of the festival-packed month of **October**, and an uptick in edible oil prices after nearly two years of decline, had stoked anticipation that the inflation may end up a tad higher than **September**.
अक्टूबर के त्योहारी महीने की शुरुआत से सब्जियों की कीमतों में तेज़ी, विशेष रूप से टमाटर की कीमतों में, और लगभग दो सालों के बाद खाद्य तेलों की कीमतों में वृद्धि ने यह उम्मीद जताई कि महंगाई सितंबर से थोड़ा अधिक हो सकती है।
- However, the **Consumer Price Index** for **October** beat all economists' projections by a wide margin, to rise **6.2%**, the highest since **August 2023** when it was up **6.8%**.
हालांकि, **अक्टूबर** के लिए **उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI)** ने सभी अर्थशास्त्रियों की भविष्यवाणियों को बड़े अंतर से मात दी, और 6.2% तक बढ़ गया, जो **अगस्त 2023** के बाद का उच्चतम था जब यह 6.8% था।
- Food prices remained the key bugbear as they have been through most high inflation periods this year. However, the uptick was alarming at **10.9%**, the highest since last **July**, with urban consumers facing a sharper **11.1%** uptick.
खाद्य कीमतें इस वर्ष उच्च महंगाई के अधिकांश समय तक मुख्य समस्या बनी रहीं। हालांकि, वृद्धि 10.9% तक पहुँच गई, जो पिछले जुलाई के बाद का उच्चतम था, और शहरी उपभोक्ताओं को 11.1% की अधिक वृद्धि का सामना करना पड़ा।
- Within the food basket, vegetable prices boomed **42.2%**, the highest surge in almost five years, led by **tomato** prices that more than doubled year-on-year.
खाद्य बास्केट में, सब्जियों की कीमतों में 42.2% की बढ़ोतरी हुई, जो लगभग पाँच वर्षों में सबसे बड़ी वृद्धि है, जिसमें टमाटर की कीमतें साल दर साल दोगुनी से अधिक हो गईं।
- Global edible oil price spikes also weighed in along with pricier fruits.
वैश्विक खाद्य तेल की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी ने भी महंगे फलों के साथ मिलकर प्रभाव डाला।



RBI के गवर्नर, **शक्तिकांत दास**, ने कहा था कि मुख्य महंगाई अपनी निचली स्थिति तक पहुँच चुकी थी, और अब यह दिखने लगी है - व्यक्तिगत देखभाल और प्रभाव की कीमतें अक्टूबर में 11% बढ़ी थीं।

- Even if food prices cool with fresh crop arrivals in coming months, other components of the price gauge are heating up. भले ही आने वाले महीनों में ताजे फसल के आगमन से खाद्य कीमतें ठंडी हों, अन्य मूल्य घटक गर्म हो रहे हैं।
- A durable decline in inflation that the MPC is waiting for to mull interest rate cuts is now a poor prospect while hopes of a **December rate cut** are out of the window. वह स्थायी महंगाई में गिरावट, जिस का इंतजार MPC ब्याज दरों में कटौती पर विचार करने के लिए कर रहा था, अब एक कमजोर संभावना बन चुकी है, जबकि **दिसंबर में दर कटौती** की उम्मीद समाप्त हो गई है।
- That this coincides with a period of slackening growth momentum and notably waning demand in **urban India** bodes ill for private investments. यह एक ऐसे समय में संयोग से हो रहा है जब विकास की गति धीमी हो रही है और विशेष रूप से **शहरी भारत** में मांग घट रही है, जो निजी निवेशों के लिए प्रतिकूल संकेत है।
- Policymakers at the **Centre** must acknowledge the interlinked challenge of inflation and consumption, so that an attempt can be made to fix what they can with the fiscal tools at their disposal — be it **tax cuts**, or better **food management**. केंद्र में नीति निर्धारकों को महंगाई और उपभोग के आपसी जुड़े हुए चुनौती को पहचानना चाहिए, ताकि वे अपनी वित्तीय उपकरणों का उपयोग करके जो सुधार कर सकते हैं, जैसे **कर में कटौती** या बेहतर **खाद्य प्रबंधन**, वह प्रयास किया जा सके।

The impact of PMUY in Jammu and Kashmir

GS Paper II: Government Schemes

The International Energy Agency says about 681 million people in India rely on solid fuels for cooking. This poses serious health and environmental concerns. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to promote the adoption of clean fuel by providing subsidised LPG connections to poor households. So far, the government has provided 10.3 crore LPG connections under this scheme. We studied the impact of the scheme in Jammu and Kashmir.

The study utilises primary survey data from 820 households across 48 villages in the districts of Kulgam and Rajouri, which are relatively disadvantaged. A systematic random sampling method was employed, with 24 villages selected from each district, ensuring coverage of all the tehsils within the districts. The number of villages chosen from each tehsil was proportional to its population size. The survey design ensures representation from different economic categories, including Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households. Comprehensive questionnaires were administered to female household members who were responsible for cooking.

LPG connection adoption

We found that in the rural areas of J&K, 85.07% of the households have official LPG connections. Nearly 68% of these were procured under the PMUY. Only 4.41% of households in rural areas, particularly in hilly regions such as Rajouri (in Jammu), do not have access to LPG, while 10.53% rely on unofficial connections.

However, despite this substantial increase in LPG availability, traditional cooking methods remain pervasive. About 92% of the households still maintain traditional chulhas, and 85% of the households engage in fuel stacking, using both solid fuels and LPG. This pattern is reflective of cultural attachment to



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Expanding the network of LPG distribution points in rural areas and extending financial support for refills could further increase clean fuel adoption

traditional cooking methods, as well as the problem of affordability, which limits exclusive reliance on LPG.

The average number of LPG cylinders consumed per household in the last six months is 3.56, which indicates moderate usage. In Kulgam, the PMUY beneficiary households reported a higher adoption rate (3.54 cylinders) than eligible non-PMUY consumer households (3.21). In Rajouri, the adoption rate among PMUY beneficiary households is lower than general consumer households. The reliance on solid fuels such as firewood, with an average consumption of 226 kilogrammes per household in six months, reflects the dual-use cooking system.

One of the primary objectives of PMUY is to alleviate the health burden on women by reducing their exposure to indoor smoke from traditional cooking fuels. The survey revealed significant health benefits for women in households that adopted LPG under the PMUY, in Kulgam. Among BPL households, the incidence of respiratory problems, such as coughing, chest infections, and headaches, showed a marked reduction. Non-PMUY beneficiary BPL households reported a 24% incidence of coughing during the one-month period immediately preceding the data collection, while PMUY beneficiaries saw a drop to 21%. The reduction is even more significant in AAY households, where non-beneficiaries reported a 13% incidence of coughing, but beneficiaries saw it drop to 10%. Similar trends were observed for headaches and chest infections.

Households with additional appliances such as rice cookers, and educated members, also experienced better health outcomes. For instance, PMUY beneficiaries with rice cookers reported a reduced incidence of coughing (20%) compared to non-beneficiaries. Households where the main cook had secondary or above education saw

the incidence of chest infections drop to 4% among BPL households.

Barriers to exclusive LPG usage

However, certain barriers continue to hinder exclusive reliance on clean cooking fuel. The first is the lack of awareness about the health benefits of LPG. In the survey, 47% of the households were unaware of the health risks associated with solid fuel use. This is compounded by the fact that 64% of the households do not own a TV, and 33% of households reported that the female members responsible for cooking do not possess a mobile phone. These gaps in communication highlight the need for targeted awareness campaigns.

The second barrier is financial. The cost of refilling LPG cylinders remains a burden for many households. This often leads to fuel stacking, where households resort to cheaper but more harmful solid fuels. Fuel stacking remains prevalent in 85% of the households, underscoring the need for more comprehensive financial support to make LPG refills more affordable.

The study highlights the importance of awareness and access to modern appliances in promoting clean fuels. Households with greater awareness of health benefits of LPG reported higher LPG consumption (3.73 cylinders on average) and lower firewood consumption (216 kg) compared to those without such awareness. Also, households that did not perceive a taste difference between food cooked on LPG and traditional fuels were more likely to rely solely on LPG, with an average consumption of 4.27 cylinders. The availability of rice cookers correlates with a higher LPG usage (3.59 cylinders) as compared to households without these appliances.

Expanding the network of LPG distribution points in rural areas and extending financial support for refills could further increase clean fuel adoption.



The impact of PMUY in Jammu and Kashmir

जम्मू और कश्मीर में पीएमयूवाई का प्रभाव

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) and its Impact in Jammu and Kashmir

प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना (PMUY) और जम्मू और कश्मीर में इसका प्रभाव

- The International Energy Agency says about **681 million people in India** rely on **solid fuels for cooking**, posing serious health and environmental concerns.
इंटरनेशनल एनर्जी एजेंसी कहती है कि भारत में लगभग 681 मिलियन लोग पारंपरिक ईंधन का उपयोग खाना बनाने के लिए करते हैं, जिससे स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरणीय समस्याएं उत्पन्न होती हैं।
- The **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** aims to promote the adoption of **clean fuel** by providing **subsidised LPG connections** to poor households.
प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना (PMUY) का उद्देश्य गरीब Haushholds को सस्ते एलपीजी कनेक्शन प्रदान करके स्वच्छ ईंधन अपनाने को बढ़ावा देना है।
- So far, the government has provided **10.3 crore LPG connections** under this scheme.
अब तक, सरकार ने इस योजना के तहत 10.3 करोड़ एलपीजी कनेक्शन प्रदान किए हैं।

Study in Jammu and Kashmir

जम्मू और कश्मीर में अध्ययन

- The study uses **primary survey data from 820 households** across **48 villages** in the districts of **Kulgam** and **Rajouri**, which are relatively disadvantaged.
अध्ययन में 820 परिवारों का प्राथमिक सर्वे डेटा उपयोग किया गया है, जो कुलगाम और राजौरी जिलों के 48 गांवों से लिया गया है, जो तुलनात्मक रूप से पिछड़े हुए हैं।
- A **systematic random sampling method** was employed, with **24 villages selected from each district**, ensuring coverage of all tehsils within the districts.
प्रणालीबद्ध यादृच्छिक नमूना विधि का उपयोग किया गया था, जिसमें प्रत्येक जिले से 24 गांवों का चयन किया गया, जिससे जिलों के सभी तहसीलों का प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित हो सके।
- The survey design ensures representation from **different economic categories**, including **Above Poverty Line (APL)**, **Below Poverty Line (BPL)**, and **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** households.
सर्वेक्षण डिजाइन विभिन्न आर्थिक श्रेणियों का प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित करता है, जिसमें गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर (APL), गरीबी रेखा से नीचे (BPL), और अंत्योदय अन्न योजना (AAY) के परिवार शामिल हैं।
- Comprehensive questionnaires were administered to **female household members** who were responsible for cooking.
खाना बनाने के लिए जिम्मेदार महिला घरलू सदस्यों को व्यापक प्रश्नावली वितरित की गई थी।

LPG Connection Adoption

एलपीजी कनेक्शन अपनाना

- In the rural areas of **Jammu and Kashmir**, **85.07% of the households** have official LPG connections.
जम्मू और कश्मीर के ग्रामीण इलाकों में 85.07% घरों में आधिकारिक एलपीजी कनेक्शन हैं।
- Nearly **68%** of these were procured under the **PMUY**.
इनमें से लगभग 68% कनेक्शन PMUY के तहत प्राप्त किए गए थे।
- Only **4.41% of households** in rural areas, particularly in **Rajouri**, do not have access to LPG, while **10.53%** rely on **unofficial connections**.
ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में केवल 4.41% घरों को, विशेषकर राजौरी में, एलपीजी की सुविधा नहीं है, जबकि 10.53% लोग गैर-आधिकारिक कनेक्शनों पर निर्भर हैं।
- Despite substantial increase in LPG availability, traditional cooking methods remain pervasive.
एलपीजी की उपलब्धता में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि के बावजूद, पारंपरिक खाना बनाने के तरीके व्यापक रूप से प्रचलित हैं।
- About **92% of the households** still maintain **traditional chulhas**, and **85%** engage in **fuel stacking**, using both solid fuels and LPG.
लगभग 92% घरों में अब भी पारंपरिक चुल्हे बनाए जाते हैं, और 85% घर ईंधन स्टैकिंग करते हैं, यानी दोनों पारंपरिक ईंधन और एलपीजी का उपयोग करते हैं।
- This pattern is reflective of **cultural attachment** to traditional cooking methods, as well as the problem of **affordability**, which limits exclusive reliance on LPG.
यह पैटर्न संस्कृतिक जुड़ाव और आर्थिक स्थिति का परिणाम है, जो एलपीजी पर पूर्ण निर्भरता को सीमित करता है।
- The average number of **LPG cylinders consumed per household** in the last six months is **3.56**, indicating moderate usage.
पिछले छह महीनों में औसतन 3.56 एलपीजी सिलेंडर प्रति घर उपयोग किए गए, जो मध्यम उपयोग को दर्शाता है।
- In **Kulgam**, PMUY beneficiary households reported a **higher adoption rate** (3.54 cylinders) than eligible non-PMUY consumer households (3.21).
कुलगाम में, PMUY लाभार्थी घरों ने उच्च अपनाने दर (3.54 सिलेंडर) रिपोर्ट की, जबकि पात्र गैर-PMUY उपभोक्ता घरों ने (3.21) का इस्तेमाल किया।
- In **Rajouri**, the adoption rate among PMUY beneficiary households is lower than general consumer households.
राजौरी में, PMUY लाभार्थी घरों में अपनाने की दर सामान्य उपभोक्ता घरों से कम है।
- The reliance on solid fuels such as **firewood**, with an average consumption of **226 kg** per household in six months, reflects the **dual-use cooking system**.



लकड़ी जैसे पारंपरिक ईंधन पर निर्भरता, जिसमें औसतन 226 किलोग्राम प्रति घर छह महीने में उपयोग किया जाता है, दोहरी-उपयोग खाना बनाने की प्रणाली को दर्शाता है।

Health Benefits of PMUY Adoption in Kulgam PMUY के लाभ स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव - कुलगाम में

- One of the primary objectives of PMUY is to alleviate the **health burden on women** by reducing their exposure to **indoor smoke from traditional cooking fuels**.
PMUY का एक प्रमुख उद्देश्य महिलाओं पर स्वास्थ्य का बोझ कम करना है, विशेष रूप से परंपरागत ईंधन से उत्पन्न इनडोर धुंआ से उनके संपर्क को कम करना।
- The survey revealed significant health benefits for women in households that adopted **LPG under the PMUY**, in **Kulgam**.
सर्वेक्षण में कुलगाम में PMUY के तहत LPG अपनाने वाले घरों में महिलाओं के लिए महत्वपूर्ण स्वास्थ्य लाभ दिखाए गए।
- Among **BPL households**, the incidence of respiratory problems such as **coughing, chest infections, and headaches** showed a marked reduction.
BPL परिवारों में श्वसन समस्याओं जैसे **खांसी, छाती में संक्रमण, और सिरदर्द** की घटनाओं में स्पष्ट कमी देखी गई।
- Non-PMUY beneficiary BPL households reported a **24% incidence of coughing** during the one-month period immediately preceding the data collection, while PMUY beneficiaries saw a drop to **21%**.
Non-PMUY लाभार्थी **BPL परिवारों** ने एक महीने की अवधि के दौरान **24% खांसी** की घटना बताई, जबकि PMUY लाभार्थियों में यह घटकर **21%** हो गई।
- The reduction is even more significant in **AAV households**, where non-beneficiaries reported a **13% incidence of coughing**, but beneficiaries saw it drop to **10%**.
यह कमी **AAV परिवारों** में और भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है, जहां गैर-लाभार्थियों ने **13% खांसी** की घटना बताई, जबकि लाभार्थियों में यह घटकर **10%** हो गई।
- Similar trends were observed for **headaches and chest infections**.
सिरदर्द और छाती में संक्रमण के लिए भी समान रुझान देखे गए।
- Households with additional appliances such as **rice cookers**, and educated members, also experienced better health outcomes.
जिन घरों में **चावल पकाने वाले उपकरण** जैसे अतिरिक्त उपकरण और **शिक्षित सदस्य** थे, उन्होंने भी बेहतर स्वास्थ्य परिणाम देखे।
- For instance, **PMUY beneficiaries** with rice cookers reported a reduced incidence of **coughing (20%)** compared to non-beneficiaries.
उदाहरण के लिए, **PMUY लाभार्थी** जिनके पास चावल पकाने वाले उपकरण थे, उन्होंने **खांसी** की घटना में कमी (**20%**) रिपोर्ट की, जो गैर-लाभार्थियों से कम थी।
- Households where the main cook had **secondary or above education** saw the incidence of **chest infections** drop to **4%** among BPL households.
जिन घरों में मुख्य रसोइया के पास **द्वितीयक या उससे ऊपर की शिक्षा** थी, उन्होंने **BPL परिवारों** में **छाती के संक्रमण** की घटना को घटकर **4%** देखा।

Barriers to Exclusive LPG Usage LPG के विशेष उपयोग में बाधाएँ

- However, certain barriers continue to hinder exclusive reliance on **clean cooking fuel**.
हालाँकि, कुछ बाधाएँ **स्वच्छ ईंधन** के विशेष उपयोग में रुकावट डालती रहती हैं।
- The first is the **lack of awareness** about the **health benefits of LPG**.
पहली बाधा **LPG के स्वास्थ्य लाभों** के बारे में **अवधारणा की कमी** है।
- In the survey, **47% of households** were unaware of the **health risks associated with solid fuel use**.
सर्वेक्षण में, **47% घरों** को **ठोस ईंधन के उपयोग से जुड़ी स्वास्थ्य जोखिमों** के बारे में जानकारी नहीं थी।
- This is compounded by the fact that **64% of households** do not own a **TV**, and **33% of households** reported that the **female members** responsible for cooking do not possess a **mobile phone**.
यह इस तथ्य से और बढ़ जाता है कि **64% घरों** के पास **टीवी** नहीं है, और **33% घरों** ने रिपोर्ट किया कि खाना पकाने की जिम्मेदार **महिला सदस्य** के पास **मोबाइल फोन** नहीं है।
- These gaps in communication highlight the need for **targeted awareness campaigns**.
संचार में ये अंतर **लक्षित जागरूकता अभियानों** की आवश्यकता को उजागर करते हैं।
- The second barrier is **financial**.
दूसरी बाधा **आर्थिक** है।
- The **cost of refilling LPG cylinders** remains a burden for many households.
LPG सिलेंडरों को फिर से भरने की लागत कई घरों के लिए एक बोझ बनी हुई है।
- This often leads to **fuel stacking**, where households resort to cheaper but more harmful solid fuels.
यह अक्सर **ईंधन संग्रहण** का कारण बनता है, जहां घर सस्ते लेकिन अधिक हानिकारक ठोस ईंधनों का उपयोग करते हैं।
- **Fuel stacking** remains prevalent in **85% of households**, underscoring the need for more comprehensive **financial support** to make LPG refills more affordable.
ईंधन संग्रहण 85% घरों में प्रचलित है, जो **LPG सिलेंडर** को अधिक किफायती बनाने के लिए अधिक व्यापक **आर्थिक समर्थन** की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।

Promoting Clean Fuels Through Awareness and Access

जागरूकता और पहुँच के माध्यम से स्वच्छ ईंधनों को बढ़ावा देना

- The study highlights the importance of **awareness and access to modern appliances** in promoting **clean fuels**.
अध्ययन यह दिखाता है कि **स्वच्छ ईंधन** को बढ़ावा देने में **जागरूकता और आधुनिक उपकरणों तक पहुँच** का महत्व है।
- Households with greater awareness of **health benefits of LPG** reported higher LPG consumption (**3.73 cylinders on average**) and lower **firewood consumption (216 kg)** compared to those without such awareness.
जिन घरों में **LPG के स्वास्थ्य लाभों** के प्रति अधिक जागरूकता थी, उन्होंने अधिक LPG उपयोग (**औसतन 3.73 सिलेंडर**) और कम **लकड़ी का उपयोग (216 किलोग्राम)** रिपोर्ट किया, जबकि जिनके पास ऐसी जागरूकता नहीं थी।



- Also, households that did not perceive a **taste difference** between food cooked on LPG and traditional fuels were more likely to rely solely on LPG, with an average consumption of **4.27 cylinders**.
 इसके अलावा, जिन घरों में LPG और पारंपरिक ईंधनों से पके भोजन के बीच स्वाद में कोई अंतर नहीं था, वे अधिकतर LPG पर निर्भर रहने की संभावना रखते थे, जिनका औसत उपभोग 4.27 सिलेंडर था।
- The availability of **rice cookers** correlates with a higher **LPG usage (3.59 cylinders)** as compared to households without these appliances. चावल पकाने वाले उपकरण की उपलब्धता LPG के उच्च उपयोग (3.59 सिलेंडर) के साथ मेल खाती है, जो उन घरों के मुकाबले जिनके पास ये उपकरण नहीं हैं।
- Expanding the network of **LPG distribution points** in **rural areas** and extending **financial support** for refills could further increase **clean fuel adoption**.
 ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में LPG वितरण केंद्रों का नेटवर्क बढ़ाने और पुनः भराई के लिए आर्थिक समर्थन बढ़ाने से स्वच्छ ईंधन के अपनाने में और वृद्धि हो सकती है।

Municipal corporations' tax revenue share rise in recent years

Corporations in the southern States – Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu – are on top of the list in terms of own tax revenue generation

GS Paper II: Local Governance

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

In FY24, municipal corporations in India are estimated to generate 50% of their revenue from their own taxes, fees, and user charges. A further 25% comes from revenue grants provided by the Central and State governments. The remaining portion comprises rental income, compensations, and investment income, according to a recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report.

The Report on Municipal Finances shows significant improvement since the first edition released two years ago. The latest report examines the fiscal position of 232 municipal corporations from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (Budget Estimates or BE), focusing on the theme 'Own Sources of Revenue Generation in Municipal Corporations: Opportunities and Challenges'. The scope of the report has been expanded to include more municipal corporations. It is further enriched by findings from a primary survey on property taxes.

Charts 1 and 2 compare the revenue sources of municipal corporations – own tax, non-tax, and transfers from the Centre/States – over two periods: the short term (FY24 compared to the year just before the pandemic) and the long term (FY24 compared to the year just before the implementation of GST). Transfers include revenue grants from the Finance Commission, State Finance Commission, State and Central government. In some cases, it may also include reimbursement for expenses and contribution towards schemes.

Short term: Chart 1 displays the components of revenue receipts for all municipal corporations in FY24 (BE) and FY20 (the year before the pandemic). As shown, the ability of municipal corporations to raise their own revenue through taxes, fees, and charges has improved in FY24

compared to FY20. Their dependence on Central and State government grants has decreased.

During this period, the share of revenue from own taxes increased from 27.3% to 30%, fees and user charges rose from 18.7% to 20.2%, while the share of revenue grants, contributions, and subsidies declined from 27.9% to 24.9%.

The share of compensations and rental incomes stayed the same (13% and 6% of the revenue receipts, respectively). Interest earned on loans and income from investments formed 1-2% of the overall revenue in both periods.

Long term: Chart 2 displays the components of revenue receipts for all municipal corporations between FY17 (the year before GST implementation) and FY24 (BE). Overall, in the post-GST period (from FY18 onwards), own tax revenue as a share of total revenue has declined for municipal corporations. Conversely, the share of transfers from Central and State governments has increased. In FY17, 43% of municipal corporations' revenue receipts came from their own tax revenue compared to only 30% in FY24. So, while there has been a short-term improvement in the revenue-raising capabilities of municipal corporations, the long-term decline in this potential has been substantial.

In FY24, own tax revenue which includes property tax, water tax, electricity tax, education tax, and other local taxes was highest in Karnataka (53.8%), followed by Telangana (50.3%), Tamil Nadu (44.3%), and Jharkhand (44.0%). Among major States, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Uttarakhand had the lowest ratios. **Chart 3** shows the State-wise split.

The quality of municipal corporations' expenditure is improving. The share of revenue expenditure in their total expenditure has declined from 43.9% in 2019-20 to 38.5% in 2023-24 (BE), with a corresponding increase in capital expenditure from 56.1% to 61.5% (**Chart 4**).

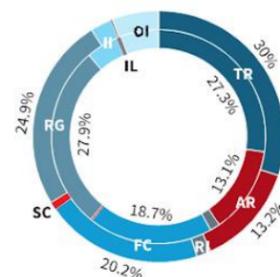
Income and expenditure statement

Charts were sourced from the Reserve Bank of India's 'Report on Municipal Finances'



Chart 1:

Components of revenue receipts of all municipal corporations. The inner circle corresponds to figures for 2019-20 while the outer circle corresponds to figures for 2023-24 (BE)



- TR: Tax revenue
- OI: Other income
- SC: Sale and hire charges
- II: Income from investment
- IL: Interest earned on loans
- FC: Fees and user charges
- AR: Assigned revenues, compensation
- RI: Rental income from properties
- RG: Revenue grants, contribution and subsidies

Chart 2: Composition of revenue receipts of municipal corporations. Figures in %

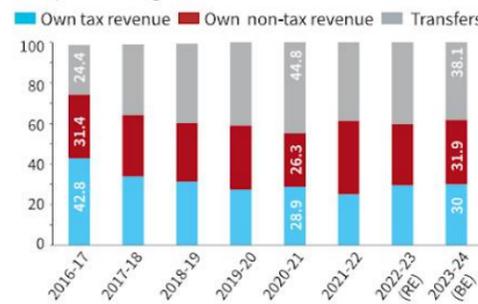


Chart 4: Revenue and capital expenditure of municipal corporations as a percentage of total expenditure

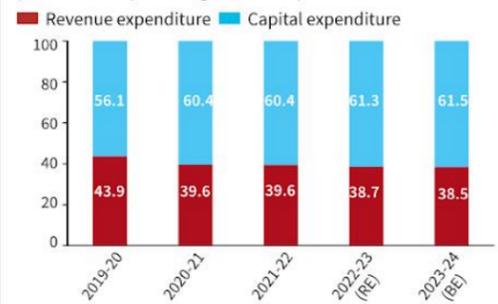
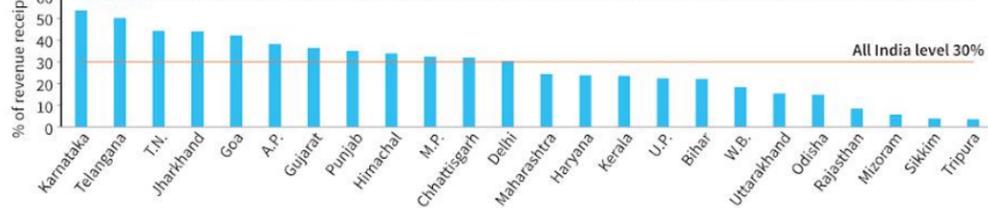


Chart 3: The chart shows the municipal corporations' own tax revenue as a share of revenue receipts in 2023-24 (BE)



Municipal corporations' tax revenue share rise in recent years

हाल के वर्षों में नगर निगमों के कर राजस्व में हिस्सेदारी बढ़ी

Corporations in the southern States — Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu — are on top of the list in terms of own tax revenue generation

दक्षिणी राज्यों - कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना और तमिलनाडु - की कंपनियां स्वयं कर राजस्व सृजन के मामले में सूची में शीर्ष पर हैं

Municipal Corporation Revenue in India for FY24

भारत में FY24 के लिए नगरपालिका निगमों की राजस्व स्थिति

- In **FY24**, municipal corporations in India are estimated to generate **50%** of their revenue from their own taxes, fees, and user charges. **FY24** में, भारत में नगरपालिका निगमों का अनुमान है कि वे अपने राजस्व का **50%** अपनी स्वयं की करों, शुल्कों और उपयोगकर्ता शुल्कों से उत्पन्न करेंगे।



- A further 25% comes from **revenue grants** provided by the **Central and State governments**.
25% अतिरिक्त केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा दिए गए राजस्व अनुदानों से आता है।
- The remaining portion comprises **rental income, compensations, and investment income**, according to a recent **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** report.
शेष हिस्सा किराये की आय, प्रतिपूर्ति, और निवेश आय से संबंधित है, जैसा कि हालिया भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) की रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है।

Report on Municipal Finances

नगरपालिका वित्त पर रिपोर्ट

- The **Report on Municipal Finances** shows **significant improvement** since the first edition released **two years ago**.
नगरपालिका वित्त पर रिपोर्ट में पिछले दो वर्षों में पहली संस्करण के जारी होने के बाद महत्वपूर्ण सुधार दिखाए गए हैं।
- The latest report examines the fiscal position of **232 municipal corporations** from **2019-20 to 2023-24 (Budget Estimates or BE)**, focusing on the theme '**Own Sources of Revenue Generation in Municipal Corporations: Opportunities and Challenges**'.
नवीनतम रिपोर्ट में 2019-20 से 2023-24 (बजट अनुमानों या BE) तक 232 नगरपालिका निगमों की वित्तीय स्थिति की समीक्षा की गई है, जो 'नगरपालिका निगमों में राजस्व उत्पन्न करने के स्वयं के स्रोत: अवसर और चुनौतियाँ' विषय पर केंद्रित है।
- The scope of the report has been expanded to include more municipal corporations.
रिपोर्ट के दायरे का विस्तार करके अधिक नगरपालिका निगमों को शामिल किया गया है।
- It is further enriched by findings from a primary survey on **property taxes**.
यह संपत्ति करों पर प्राथमिक सर्वेक्षण से प्राप्त निष्कर्षों से और भी समृद्ध है।

Revenue Sources of Municipal Corporations

नगरपालिका निगमों के राजस्व स्रोत

- **Charts 1 and 2** compare the revenue sources of municipal corporations — **own tax, non-tax, and transfers** from the **Centre/States** — over two periods: the short term (**FY24** compared to the year just before the pandemic) and the long term (**FY24** compared to the year just before the implementation of **GST**).
चार्ट 1 और 2 नगरपालिका निगमों के राजस्व स्रोतों — स्वयं के कर, गैर-कर, और केंद्र/राज्य से स्थानांतरण — की तुलना करते हैं दो अवधियों में: लघु अवधि (FY24 की तुलना महामारी से ठीक पहले के वर्ष से) और दीर्घ अवधि (FY24 की तुलना जीएसटी लागू होने से ठीक पहले के वर्ष से)।
- Transfers include **revenue grants** from the **Finance Commission, State Finance Commission, State, and Central government**. In some cases, it may also include **reimbursement** for expenses and **contribution** towards schemes.
स्थानांतरण में वित्त आयोग, राज्य वित्त आयोग, राज्य और केंद्रीय सरकार से राजस्व अनुदान शामिल हैं। कुछ मामलों में, इसमें खर्चों का प्रतिपूरक भुगतान और योजनाओं में योगदान भी शामिल हो सकता है।

Short Term Revenue Comparison

लघु अवधि में राजस्व की तुलना

- **Short term: Chart 1** displays the components of revenue receipts for all municipal corporations in **FY24 (BE)** and **FY20** (the year before the pandemic).
लघु अवधि: चार्ट 1 में FY24 (BE) और FY20 (महामारी से पहले का वर्ष) में सभी नगरपालिका निगमों के राजस्व प्राप्तियों के घटक को दर्शाया गया है।
- As shown, the ability of municipal corporations to raise their own revenue through **taxes, fees, and charges** has improved in **FY24** compared to **FY20**.
जैसा कि दिखाया गया है, नगरपालिका निगमों की स्वयं के राजस्व उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता स्वयं के करों, शुल्कों और शुल्कों के माध्यम से FY24 में FY20 की तुलना में बेहतर हुई है।
- Their dependence on **Central and State government grants** has decreased.
उनकी केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों से अनुदानों पर निर्भरता में कमी आई है।

Municipal Corporation Revenue Analysis for FY24

FY24 के लिए नगरपालिका निगमों के राजस्व विश्लेषण

- During this period, the share of revenue from **own taxes** increased from **27.3% to 30%**, **fees and user charges** rose from **18.7% to 20.2%**, while the share of **revenue grants, contributions, and subsidies** declined from **27.9% to 24.9%**.
इस अवधि के दौरान, स्वयं के करों से राजस्व का हिस्सा 27.3% से 30% तक बढ़ा, शुल्कों और उपयोगकर्ता शुल्कों में 18.7% से 20.2% तक वृद्धि हुई, जबकि राजस्व अनुदानों, योगदानों और सबसिडी का हिस्सा 27.9% से 24.9% तक घट गया।
- The share of **compensations** and **rental incomes** stayed the same (**13%** and **6%** of the revenue receipts, respectively).
प्रतिपूर्ति और किराये की आय का हिस्सा समान बना रहा (13% और 6% राजस्व प्राप्तियों का, क्रमशः)।
- **Interest** earned on loans and **income** from investments formed **1-2%** of the overall revenue in both periods.
ऋणों पर ब्याज और निवेशों से आय दोनों अवधियों में कुल राजस्व का 1-2% बनती है।

Long Term Revenue Comparison

दीर्घकालिक राजस्व की तुलना

- **Long term: Chart 2** displays the components of revenue receipts for all municipal corporations between **FY17** (the year before **GST** implementation) and **FY24 (BE)**.
दीर्घकालिक: चार्ट 2 में FY17 (जब जीएसटी लागू होने से पहले का वर्ष) और FY24 (BE) के बीच सभी नगरपालिका निगमों के राजस्व प्राप्तियों के घटकों को दर्शाया गया है।
- Overall, in the post-GST period (from **FY18** onwards), **own tax revenue** as a share of total revenue has declined for municipal corporations.



कुल मिलाकर, जीएसटी के बाद की अवधि में (FY18 से), स्वयं के कर राजस्व का कुल राजस्व में हिस्सा नगरपालिका निगमों के लिए घट गया है।

- Conversely, the share of **transfers** from **Central** and **State governments** has increased.
इसके विपरीत, केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों से स्थानांतरण का हिस्सा बढ़ा है।
- In **FY17**, **43%** of municipal corporations' revenue receipts came from their own tax revenue compared to only **30%** in **FY24**.
FY17 में, नगरपालिका निगमों की **43%** राजस्व प्राप्तियाँ उनके स्वयं के कर राजस्व से आईं, जबकि **FY24** में यह केवल **30%** थी।
- So, while there has been a **short-term improvement** in the revenue-raising capabilities of municipal corporations, the **long-term decline** in this potential has been substantial.
तो, जबकि नगरपालिका निगमों की राजस्व-उत्पन्न करने की क्षमताओं में लघु अवधि में सुधार हुआ है, इस दीर्घकालिक गिरावट में काफी कमी आई है।

Top States in Own Tax Revenue

स्वयं के कर राजस्व में शीर्ष राज्य

- In **FY24**, **own tax revenue** which includes **property tax**, **water tax**, **electricity tax**, **education tax**, and other local taxes was highest in **Karnataka (53.8%)**, followed by **Telangana (50.3%)**, **Tamil Nadu (44.3%)**, and **Jharkhand (44.0%)**.
FY24 में, स्वयं के कर राजस्व जिसमें संपत्ति कर, जल कर, बिजली कर, शिक्षा कर, और अन्य स्थानीय कर शामिल हैं, कर्नाटका (53.8%) में सबसे अधिक था, इसके बाद तेलंगाना (50.3%), तमिलनाडु (44.3%), और झारखंड (44.0%) थे।
- Among major States, **Rajasthan**, **Odisha**, and **Uttarakhand** had the lowest ratios.
प्रमुख राज्यों में, राजस्थान, उड़ीसा, और उत्तराखंड में सबसे कम अनुपात था।

Municipal Expenditure Quality

नगरपालिका व्यय की गुणवत्ता

- The quality of municipal corporations' expenditure is improving.
नगरपालिका निगमों के व्यय की गुणवत्ता में सुधार हो रहा है।
- The share of **revenue expenditure** in their total expenditure has declined from **43.9%** in **2019-20** to **38.5%** in **2023-24 (BE)**, with a corresponding increase in **capital expenditure** from **56.1%** to **61.5%**.
उनके कुल व्यय में राजस्व व्यय का हिस्सा 2019-20 में 43.9% से घटकर 2023-24 (BE) में 38.5% हो गया है, साथ ही पूंजीगत व्यय में 56.1% से बढ़कर 61.5% हो गया है।



Why is there discontent in Maharashtra?

Despite the Maratha community's political dominance, significant sections of the population face economic challenges due to agricultural distress and lack of employment. This has led to calls for reservation which in turn has caused anxiety within OBC and SC groups

GS Paper II: Polity

FULL CONTEXT

Sarthak Bagchi
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In Maharashtra, the extensive network of cooperatives, particularly in the banking, sugar, and dairy sectors, has been instrumental in forging strong patronage linkages that have reinforced the Maratha community's dominant hold on State power. These cooperatives serve not only as economic entities but also as vital socio-political institutions that facilitate control over resources, employment, and local governance.

By controlling such cooperatives, Maratha politicians can extend patronage to farmers, workers, and local businesses, thereby securing loyalty and support. The cooperative model works well for both the farmers and the rural elite. Being part of a cooperative meant the farmer was assured of a minimum price for the procurement of his crop and had a guaranteed market at the time of sowing. Thus, he could borrow with ease, and the banks were also assured of repayments in good time. Moreover, cooperatives have provided a platform for Maratha leaders to ascend to significant political positions.

However, this patronage system has marginalised other communities by concentrating economic and political power within the Maratha elite. This concentration has led to disparities in resource allocation and access to opportunities for non-Maratha groups, reinforcing social hierarchy. It has also allowed Maratha leaders to negotiate and form alliances that favour their interests, often at the expense of broader inclusive development. The cooperative model has not only played an important role in continuing the long dominance of Congress in the State but has also been used by other political parties to expand their electoral base, either by setting up their own cooperatives, or by co-opting and incorporating existing cooperative leaders into their party fold, facilitating rampant party switching between such cooperative doyens.

Reservations and dynasty politics

Despite the Maratha community's political dominance, significant sections of the population face economic challenges due to agricultural distress and lack of employment. This economic hardship has led to increased unemployment and financial instability within the community, fuelling discontent and a sense of marginalisation.

The demand for reservations in education and government employment has become a central issue for the Marathas. Feeling excluded from the benefits afforded to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Maratha youth have organised large-scale protests and agitations seeking inclusion in the reservation system. In 2016, the State witnessed several huge demonstrations known as Maratha 'mook morchas'. Although these 'mook morchas' claimed to be apolitical in nature, with political parties kept out and managed only by social organisations, the impact of these marches was felt in the political realm with leaders like Manoj Jarange-Patil emerging to advocate for Maratha reservations. This demand for reservation is expected to have adverse effects for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the region.



Fragmented arena: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being felicitated during the release of Mahavikas Aghadi (MVA) guarantees for the Maharashtra Assembly elections, in Mumbai on November 6. ANI

Factionalism and infighting within the Maratha community have also emerged as significant aspects of its politics. Internal divisions based on sub-regional loyalties, personal rivalries, and differing political affiliations have fragmented the community's unified political stance. This fragmentation weakens the collective bargaining power of the Marathas and complicates efforts to address common issues. Dynasty politics is another concern, with political leadership often concentrated within a few influential families. The perception that political power is inherited rather than earned contributed to the feeling of disillusionment among younger and less privileged Marathas.

The present elections in Maharashtra has one of the highest orders of nepotism ever played in the State. For example, in Nandurbar district, there are four constituencies, all reserved for STs. Dynasty politics reigns supreme in this belt, with all power alternating between two families at the central and State level. The Padavi and Gavit families have their members contesting from all four seats, with some of the remaining members of the family contesting on independent tickets. This is a long-term failure on behalf of the State and democracy at large. In most of the reserved constituencies, politics has failed to develop a new, decentralised class of leadership. Most of the communities, irrespective of their strength in the State population, have not had political representation in the past six to seven decades. For example, Lingayats, a numerically small caste like Malis, who have been actively assertive in recent times have not had significant representatives from the community.

The BJP's role in mobilising OBCs

The BJP has played a strategic role in

counter-mobilising OBCs against the Maratha community's demands for reservation in Maharashtra. Recognising the potential to expand its electoral base, the BJP has actively engaged with various OBC groups to consolidate support and position itself as a defender of their interests, which was made clear from the speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his initial election campaign in the State for the 2024 Assembly elections.

The Maratha demand for inclusion in the OBC category has raised concerns among existing OBC communities about the dilution of their reservation benefits. The BJP has capitalised on this anxiety by aligning with prominent OBC leaders and supporting their opposition to Maratha inclusion in the OBC quota.

The BJP's growth in Maharashtra through OBC mobilisation involves a combination of caste-based strategies and welfare policies aimed at addressing OBC concerns. The party has advocated for sub-categorisation within the OBCs to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits, further solidifying its support among marginalised sub-groups. The party has strategically fielded candidates from various OBC subgroups, such as the Malis, Dhangars, Vanjaris, and others, to resonate with these communities. The late Gopinath Munde, a prominent BJP leader from the Vanjari caste, was instrumental in mobilising OBC support, establishing the party's foothold in Marathwada. The BJP's role in counter-mobilising OBCs against Maratha reservation demands has been a calculated political strategy that has contributed to its growth in Maharashtra.

Dalit politics in the State

Dalit politics in Maharashtra has been a significant force, shaped by historical movements and contemporary leaders advocating for the rights and

empowerment of Dalit communities. Social and political consciousness among the Dalit communities has long been influenced by a history of social reformers in the State, from Jyotirao Phule and B.R. Ambedkar to Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, who implemented one of the first policies of affirmative action through reservations in the early twentieth century. The key players in Dalit politics include parties like the Republican Party of India's (RPI) factions and the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) and influential leaders such as Ramdas Athawale and Prakash Ambedkar.

Dalit politics in Maharashtra is not a unified category. For example, the BJP and the undivided Shiv Sena had successfully consolidated Hindu castes like Matangs, Chambhars, and Khatiks among the SCs. In comparison, Dalit voters, particularly from the Mahar community who have converted to Buddhism (Navayana Buddhists), have historically supported the Congress due to its association with social justice policies. However, the fragmentation of Dalit parties and alliances with major parties like the BJP and Congress have led to the dilution of a unified Dalit vote bank.

At present, the VBA, led by Prakash Ambedkar, grandson of B.R. Ambedkar, hopes to emerge as a force to reckon with for Bahujan politics in Maharashtra. Although the VBA's performance improved in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when they contested the polls in alliance with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), their electoral presence has not been significant. In the 2024 elections to the Lok Sabha, SC voters rallied behind the INDIA bloc over the issue of *samvidhaan bachao* (save the Constitution), and the VBA played third fiddle, gaining only a fraction of votes.

Since then, they have adapted their strategy from trying to consolidate SC, OBC, and Muslim votes to now exclusively focusing on Buddhist and Muslim votes. Additionally, the symbolism of Ambedkar is not lost in Maharashtra politics. Even Rahul Gandhi started his campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly elections with a copy of the Constitution in his hand, from the Dikshabhoomi in Nagpur, where Ambedkar had converted to Buddhism along with lakhs of his followers.

The RPI, originally founded by B.R. Ambedkar, has fragmented into several factions over the years. The two more prominent factions are RPI(A) Athawale faction and RPI(G) Gawai faction. Ramdas Athawale leads the RPI(A), which has always sided with the ruling party for engagement with power at the centre, whether it is the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) or the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance.

In Maharashtra, sub-classification of SCs has become a contentious issue. It is being used by the Mahayuti NDA bloc to further consolidate Hindu SCs, while the Congress is silent on the sub-classification debate. So far, only the VBA has vehemently opposed the sub-classification bill.

Key issues of electoral significance in Dalit mobilisation include the fight against caste-based discrimination, demand for land rights, access to education and employment opportunities etc. The assertion of Dalit pride, inspired by Ambedkarite ideology, remains central to their political engagement.

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THE GIST

▼ The extensive network of cooperatives, particularly in the banking, sugar, and dairy sectors, has been instrumental in forging strong patronage linkages that have reinforced the Maratha community's dominant hold on State power.

▼ The BJP has played a strategic role in counter-mobilising OBCs against the Maratha community's demands for reservation in Maharashtra. Recognising the potential to expand its electoral base, the BJP has actively engaged with various OBC groups to consolidate support and position itself as a defender of their interests.

▼ Dalit politics in Maharashtra has been a significant force, shaped by historical movements and contemporary leaders advocating for the rights and empowerment of Dalit communities.

Why is there discontent in Maharashtra?

महाराष्ट्र में असंतोष क्यों है?

Despite the Maratha community's political dominance, significant sections of the population face economic challenges due to agricultural distress and lack of employment. This has led to calls for reservation which in turn has caused anxiety within OBC and SC groups



मराठा समुदाय के राजनीतिक प्रभुत्व के बावजूद, आबादी के महत्वपूर्ण वर्गों को कृषि संकट और रोजगार की कमी के कारण आर्थिक चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इस वजह से आरक्षण की मांग उठ रही है, जिससे ओबीसी और एससी समूहों में चिंता पैदा हो गई है।

Cooperative Network and Maratha Community's Influence in Maharashtra

महाराष्ट्र में सहकारी नेटवर्क और मराठा समुदाय का प्रभाव

- In Maharashtra, the extensive network of cooperatives, particularly in the banking, sugar, and dairy sectors, has been instrumental in forging strong patronage linkages that have reinforced the Maratha community's dominant hold on State power.
महाराष्ट्र में, विशेष रूप से बैंकिंग, चीनी, और डेयरी क्षेत्रों में विस्तृत सहकारी नेटवर्क ने मजबूत पैट्रॉनिज़्म संबंधों को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है, जिससे मराठा समुदाय का राज्य सत्ता पर मजबूत पकड़ बनी है।
- These cooperatives serve not only as economic entities but also as vital socio-political institutions that facilitate control over resources, employment, and local governance.
ये सहकारी संस्थाएं केवल आर्थिक संस्थाएं नहीं हैं, बल्कि संसाधनों, रोजगार, और स्थानीय शासन पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने वाली महत्वपूर्ण सामाजिक-राजनीतिक संस्थाएं भी हैं।
- By controlling such cooperatives, Maratha politicians can extend patronage to farmers, workers, and local businesses, thereby securing loyalty and support.
ऐसे सहकारियों पर नियंत्रण करके, मराठा राजनेता किसानों, कर्मचारियों, और स्थानीय व्यवसायों को पैट्रॉनिज़्म प्रदान कर सकते हैं, जिससे वफ़ादारी और समर्थन हासिल होता है।
- The cooperative model works well for both the farmers and the rural elite.
सहकारी मॉडल किसानों और ग्रामीण अभिजात वर्ग दोनों के लिए उपयुक्त है।
- Being part of a cooperative meant the farmer was assured of a minimum price for the procurement of his crop and had a guaranteed market at the time of sowing.
सहकारी का हिस्सा होने का मतलब था कि किसान को अपनी फसल की न्यूनतम कीमत की गारंटी मिलती थी और बुआई के समय गारंटीशुदा बाज़ार मिलता था।
- Thus, he could borrow with ease, and the banks were also assured of repayments in good time.
इस प्रकार, वह आसानी से उधार ले सकता था, और बैंक को भी समय पर कर्ज़ चुकता होने की गारंटी मिलती थी।
- Moreover, cooperatives have provided a platform for Maratha leaders to ascend to significant political positions.
इसके अतिरिक्त, सहकारियों ने मराठा नेताओं को महत्वपूर्ण राजनीतिक पदों तक पहुँचने का मंच प्रदान किया है।
- However, this patronage system has marginalized other communities by concentrating economic and political power within the Maratha elite.
हालांकि, यह पैट्रॉनिज़्म प्रणाली अन्य समुदायों को हाशिए पर डालते हुए आर्थिक और राजनीतिक शक्ति को मराठा अभिजात वर्ग में संकेंद्रित करती है।
- This concentration has led to disparities in resource allocation and access to opportunities for non-Maratha groups, reinforcing social hierarchy.
इस संकेंद्रण ने संसाधनों के आवंटन और अवसरों तक पहुँच में असमानताओं को जन्म दिया है, जिससे सामाजिक पदानुक्रम को मजबूती मिली है।
- It has also allowed Maratha leaders to negotiate and form alliances that favor their interests, often at the expense of broader inclusive development.
इसने मराठा नेताओं को अपने हितों को प्राथमिकता देने वाले संधियों पर बातचीत करने और बनाने की अनुमति दी है, जो अक्सर व्यापक समावेशी विकास की कीमत पर होती है।
- The cooperative model has not only played an important role in continuing the long dominance of Congress in the State but has also been used by other political parties to expand their electoral base, either by setting up their own cooperatives, or by co-opting and incorporating existing cooperative leaders into their party fold, facilitating rampant party switching between such cooperative doyens.
सहकारी मॉडल ने न केवल राज्य में कांग्रेस के लंबे समय से चले आ रहे प्रभुत्व को बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है, बल्कि इसका उपयोग अन्य राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा भी अपने चुनावी आधार का विस्तार करने के लिए किया गया है, या तो अपने स्वयं के सहकारी स्थापित करके, या मौजूदा सहकारी नेताओं को अपने दल में सम्मिलित करके, इस प्रकार ऐसे सहकारी नेताओं के बीच पार्टी स्विचिंग को बढ़ावा दिया है।

Reservations and Dynasty Politics

आरक्षण और वंशवाद राजनीति

- Despite the Maratha community's political dominance, significant sections of the population face economic challenges due to agricultural distress and lack of employment.
मराठा समुदाय की राजनीतिक प्रभुत्व के बावजूद, जनसंख्या के महत्वपूर्ण हिस्से कृषि संकट और रोजगार की कमी के कारण आर्थिक चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे हैं।
- This economic hardship has led to increased unemployment and financial instability within the community, fueling discontent and a sense of marginalisation.
इस आर्थिक कठिनाई ने समुदाय के भीतर बेरोजगारी और आर्थिक अस्थिरता को बढ़ा दिया है, जिससे असंतोष और हाशियाकरण की भावना उत्पन्न हो रही है।
- The demand for reservations in education and government employment has become a central issue for the Marathas.
शिक्षा और सरकारी रोजगार में आरक्षण की मांग मराठा समुदाय के लिए एक केंद्रीय मुद्दा बन गया है।
- Feeling excluded from the benefits afforded to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Maratha youth have organised large-scale protests and agitations seeking inclusion in the reservation system.
अनुसूचित जातियों (SCs), अनुसूचित जनजातियों (STs), और अन्य पिछड़ी जातियों (OBCs) को मिलने वाले लाभों से बाहर महसूस करते हुए, मराठा युवा ने आरक्षण प्रणाली में समावेश की मांग को लेकर बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध प्रदर्शन और आंदोलन किए हैं।
- In 2016, the State witnessed several huge demonstrations known as Maratha 'mook morchas'.
2016 में, राज्य में मराठा 'मूक मोर्चा' के रूप में कई बड़े प्रदर्शनों का सामना करना पड़ा।



- Although these 'mook morchas' claimed to be apolitical in nature, with political parties kept out and managed only by social organisations, the impact of these marches was felt in the political realm with leaders like **Manoj Jarange-Patil** emerging to advocate for **Maratha reservations**.
हालांकि ये 'मूक मोर्चा' स्वभाव से राजनैतिक नहीं होने का दावा करते थे, जिसमें राजनीतिक पार्टियों को बाहर रखा गया और केवल सामाजिक संगठनों द्वारा प्रबंधित किया गया, फिर भी इन मार्चों का असर राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में पड़ा और नेताओं जैसे **मनोज जारंगे-पाटिल** ने **मराठा आरक्षण** के पक्ष में आवाज़ उठाई।
- This demand for **reservation** is expected to have **adverse effects** for the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** in the region.
आरक्षण की यह मांग क्षेत्र में **भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP)** के लिए **प्रतिकूल प्रभाव** डालने की संभावना है।
- **Factionalism** and **infighting** within the **Maratha** community have also emerged as significant aspects of its politics.
मराठा समुदाय के भीतर **गुटबाजी** और **आपसी संघर्ष** भी इसकी राजनीति के महत्वपूर्ण पहलू के रूप में उभर कर आए हैं।
- Internal divisions based on **sub-regional loyalties**, **personal rivalries**, and **differing political affiliations** have fragmented the community's unified political stance.
उप-क्षेत्रीय निष्ठाओं, **व्यक्तिगत प्रतिद्वंद्विताओं** और **विभिन्न राजनीतिक संबद्धताओं** पर आधारित आंतरिक विभाजन ने समुदाय की एकजुट राजनीतिक स्थिति को खंडित कर दिया है।
- This fragmentation weakens the collective **bargaining power** of the **Marathas** and complicates efforts to address common issues.
इस विखंडन से **मराठा समुदाय** की सामूहिक **सौदेबाजी** की ताकत कमजोर हो गई है और सामान्य मुद्दों को हल करने के प्रयासों को जटिल बना दिया है।
- **Dynasty politics** is another concern, with political leadership often concentrated within a few **influential families**.
वंशवाद राजनीति एक और चिंता का विषय है, जिसमें राजनीतिक नेतृत्व अक्सर कुछ **प्रभावशाली परिवारों** के भीतर संकेंद्रित होता है।
- The perception that **political power** is inherited rather than earned contributed to the feeling of **disillusionment** among younger and less privileged **Marathas**.
यह धारणा कि **राजनीतिक शक्ति** विरासत में मिलती है, न कि मेहनत से, युवा और कम सुविधायुक्त **मराठों** के बीच **निराशा** की भावना का कारण बनी।
- The present elections in **Maharashtra** has one of the highest orders of **nepotism** ever played in the State.
महाराष्ट्र में वर्तमान चुनावों में राज्य में अब तक का सबसे उच्चतम **भ्रष्टाचार** का स्तर देखा गया है।
- For example, in **Nandurbar district**, there are four constituencies, all reserved for **STs**.
उदाहरण के लिए, **नंदुरबार जिले** में चार निर्वाचन क्षेत्र हैं, जो सभी **अनुसूचित जनजातियों (STs)** के लिए आरक्षित हैं।
- **Dynasty politics** reigns supreme in this belt, with all power alternating between two families at the **central** and **State** level.
इस क्षेत्र में **वंशवाद राजनीति** सर्वोच्च है, जिसमें सभी शक्ति **केंद्रीय** और **राज्य** स्तर पर दो परिवारों के बीच बारी-बारी से बदलती है।
- The **Padavi** and **Gavit** families have their members contesting from all four seats, with some of the remaining members of the family contesting on independent tickets.
पदवी और **गावित** परिवारों के सदस्य चारों सीटों से चुनाव लड़ रहे हैं, और परिवार के कुछ अन्य सदस्य स्वतंत्र टिकटों पर भी चुनाव लड़ रहे हैं।
- This is a long-term failure on behalf of the **State** and **democracy** at large.
यह **राज्य** और **लोकतंत्र** की ओर से एक **दीर्घकालिक विफलता** है।
- In most of the reserved constituencies, politics has failed to develop a new, **decentralised** class of leadership.
अधिकांश आरक्षित निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में, राजनीति एक नई, **विकेंद्रीकृत** नेतृत्व वर्ग को विकसित करने में विफल रही है।
- Most of the communities, irrespective of their strength in the **State population**, have not had political representation in the past **six to seven decades**.
अधिकांश समुदायों, चाहे राज्य जनसंख्या में उनकी ताकत कैसी भी हो, **पिछले छह से सात दशकों** से राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं मिला है।
- For example, **Lingayats**, a numerically small caste like **Malis**, who have been actively assertive in recent times have not had significant representatives from the community.
उदाहरण के लिए, **लिंगायत** जैसे संख्यात्मक रूप से छोटे जाति समूह, जैसे **माली**, जो हाल के समय में सक्रिय रूप से **assertive** हुए हैं, उनके समुदाय से कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिनिधि नहीं बने हैं।

The BJP's role in mobilising OBCs

BJP का OBCs को संगठित करने में भूमिका

- The BJP has played a strategic role in counter-mobilising **OBCs** against the Maratha community's demands for **reservation** in **Maharashtra**.
भाजपा ने **मराठा समुदाय** की **आरक्षण** की मांग के खिलाफ **OBCs** को संगठित करने में एक रणनीतिक भूमिका निभाई है।
- Recognising the potential to expand its **electoral base**, the BJP has actively engaged with various **OBC groups** to consolidate support and position itself as a defender of their interests, which was made clear from the speeches of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in his initial election campaign in the State for the **2024 Assembly elections**.
अपने **चुनावी आधार** को बढ़ाने की संभावना को पहचानते हुए, भाजपा ने विभिन्न **OBC समूहों** के साथ सक्रिय रूप से संपर्क किया और उनका समर्थन जुटाया, और **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** के भाषणों से यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि उन्होंने राज्य के **2024 विधानसभा चुनावों** के लिए उनके हितों के रक्षक के रूप में अपनी स्थिति बनाई।
- The **Maratha** demand for inclusion in the **OBC** category has raised concerns among existing **OBC communities** about the dilution of their **reservation benefits**.
मराठा समुदाय की **OBC** श्रेणी में समावेश की मांग ने मौजूदा **OBC समुदायों** में उनके **आरक्षण लाभ** के पतला होने की चिंता पैदा की है।
- The BJP has capitalised on this **anxiety** by aligning with prominent **OBC leaders** and supporting their opposition to **Maratha** inclusion in the **OBC quota**.
भाजपा ने इस **चिंता** का फायदा उठाते हुए प्रमुख **OBC नेताओं** के साथ गठबंधन किया और **मराठा समुदाय** के **OBC कोटा** में समावेश के विरोध का समर्थन किया।
- The BJP's growth in **Maharashtra** through **OBC mobilisation** involves a combination of **caste-based strategies** and **welfare policies** aimed at addressing **OBC concerns**.
Maharashtra में भाजपा का **OBC संगठित करने** के माध्यम से विकास **जाति-आधारित रणनीतियों** और **कल्याणकारी नीतियों** का संयोजन है, जिसका उद्देश्य **OBC चिंताओं** का समाधान करना है।



- The party has advocated for **sub-categorisation** within the **OBCs** to ensure **equitable distribution of reservation benefits**, further solidifying its support among marginalised sub-groups.
पार्टी ने **OBCs** के भीतर **उप-श्रेणीकरण** की वकालत की है ताकि **आरक्षण लाभों का समान वितरण** सुनिश्चित किया जा सके, जो **हाशिये पर पड़े उप-समूहों** में इसके समर्थन को मजबूत करता है।
- The party has strategically fielded candidates from various **OBC sub-groups**, such as the **Malis, Dhangars, Vanjaris**, and others, to resonate with these communities.
पार्टी ने विभिन्न **OBC उप-समूहों**, जैसे **माली, धंगर, वांजारी** और अन्य से उम्मीदवारों को रणनीतिक रूप से उतारा है ताकि इन समुदायों के साथ उसका संबंध बने।
- The late **Gopinath Munde**, a prominent BJP leader from the **Vanjari caste**, was instrumental in mobilising **OBC support**, establishing the party's foothold in **Marathwada**.
गोपीनाथ मुंडे, वांजारी जाति से भाजपा के एक प्रमुख नेता, **OBC समर्थन** को संगठित करने में महत्वपूर्ण थे, और उन्होंने पार्टी की **मराठवाड़ा** में पकड़ बनाई।
- The BJP's role in counter-mobilising **OBCs** against **Maratha reservation** demands has been a **calculated political strategy** that has contributed to its growth in **Maharashtra**.
भाजपा की **OBCs** को **मराठा आरक्षण** की मांगों के खिलाफ संगठित करने की भूमिका एक **संगठित राजनीतिक रणनीति** रही है, जिसने **Maharashtra** में इसके विकास में योगदान दिया है।

Dalit politics in the State

राज्य में दलित राजनीति

- Dalit politics** in **Maharashtra** has been a significant force, shaped by historical movements and contemporary leaders advocating for the rights and empowerment of **Dalit communities**.
Maharashtra में **दलित राजनीति** एक महत्वपूर्ण ताकत रही है, जो ऐतिहासिक आंदोलनों और समकालीन नेताओं द्वारा दलित समुदायों के अधिकारों और सशक्तिकरण के लिए की गई वकालत से आकार ली है।
- Social and political consciousness among the **Dalit communities** has long been influenced by a history of **social reformers** in the State, from **Jyotirao Phule** and **B.R. Ambedkar** to **Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj**, who implemented one of the first policies of **affirmative action** through **reservations** in the early twentieth century.
राज्य में **दलित समुदायों** के बीच सामाजिक और राजनीतिक चेतना लंबे समय से **सामाजिक सुधारकों** के इतिहास से प्रभावित रही है, जैसे **ज्योतिराव फुले, डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर** और **छत्रपति शाहू महाराज**, जिन्होंने बीसवीं सदी की शुरुआत में **आरक्षण** के माध्यम से **सकारात्मक कार्रवाई** की पहली नीतियां लागू की थीं।
- The key players in **Dalit politics** include parties like the **Republican Party of India's (RPI)** factions and the **Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA)** and influential leaders such as **Ramdas Athawale** and **Prakash Ambedkar**.
दलित राजनीति में प्रमुख खिलाड़ी **भारतीय रिपब्लिकन पार्टी (RPI)** के गुट, **वंचित बहुजन आघाड़ी (VBA)** और प्रभावशाली नेता जैसे **रामदास आठवले** और **प्रकाश अंबेडकर** शामिल हैं।
- Dalit politics** in **Maharashtra** is not a unified category.
Maharashtra में **दलित राजनीति** एक एकीकृत श्रेणी नहीं है।
- For example, the BJP and the undivided **Shiv Sena** had successfully consolidated **Hindu castes** like **Matangs, Chambhars, and Khatiks** among the **SCs**.
उदाहरण के लिए, भाजपा और **अखंड शिव सेना** ने **हिंदू जातियों** जैसे **मातंग, चंभार और खटिक** को **SCs** के बीच सफलतापूर्वक एकजुट किया।
- In comparison, **Dalit voters**, particularly from the **Mahar** community who have converted to **Buddhism (Navayana Buddhists)**, have historically supported the **Congress** due to its association with **social justice policies**.
इसके विपरीत, **दलित मतदाता**, विशेष रूप से **महार** समुदाय के लोग जिन्होंने **बुद्ध धर्म (नवयाना बौद्ध)** अपनाया है, **कांग्रेस** का समर्थन करते आए हैं क्योंकि इसका संबंध **सामाजिक न्याय नीतियों** से रहा है।
- However, the fragmentation of **Dalit parties** and alliances with major parties like the BJP and Congress have led to the dilution of a unified **Dalit vote bank**.
हालांकि, **दलित पार्टियों** का विखंडन और भाजपा और कांग्रेस जैसी प्रमुख पार्टियों के साथ गठबंधन के कारण एक **एकीकृत दलित वोट बैंक** का पतला होना हुआ है।

VBA's Role in Bahujan Politics in Maharashtra

महाराष्ट्र में बहुजन राजनीति में VBA की भूमिका

- At present, the VBA, led by **Prakash Ambedkar**, grandson of **B.R. Ambedkar**, hopes to emerge as a force to reckon with for Bahujan politics in Maharashtra.
वर्तमान में, **प्रकाश अंबेडकर**, जो **B.R. अंबेडकर** के पोते हैं, VBA के नेतृत्व में महाराष्ट्र में बहुजन राजनीति में एक महत्वपूर्ण शक्ति बनने की उम्मीद रखते हैं।
- Although the VBA's performance improved in the **2019 Lok Sabha elections** when they contested the polls in alliance with the **All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM)**, their electoral presence has not been significant.
हालांकि **2019 लोकसभा चुनावों** में जब उन्होंने **ऑल इंडिया मजलिस-ए-इतेहादुल मुसलमीन (AIMIM)** के साथ गठबंधन कर चुनाव लड़ा, तब VBA की प्रदर्शन में सुधार हुआ था, लेकिन उनका चुनावी प्रभाव महत्वपूर्ण नहीं रहा।
- In the **2024 elections** to the **Lok Sabha**, SC voters rallied behind the **INDIA bloc** over the issue of **samvidhaan bachao (save the Constitution)**, and the VBA played third fiddle, gaining only a fraction of votes.
2024 लोकसभा चुनावों में **SC वोटर्स** ने **INDIA ब्लॉक** के पीछे अपना समर्थन दिया, **संविधान बचाओ** के मुद्दे पर, और VBA तीसरे नंबर पर रही, जिससे उन्हें केवल कुछ वोटों का ही हिस्सा मिला।
- Since then, they have adapted their strategy from trying to consolidate **SC, OBC, and Muslim** votes to now exclusively focusing on **Buddhist and Muslim** votes.
तब से, उन्होंने अपनी रणनीति को **SC, OBC, और मुसलमान** वोटों को एकजुट करने से बदलकर अब विशेष रूप से **बौद्ध और मुसलमान** वोटों पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर लिया है।
- Additionally, the **symbolism of Ambedkar** is not lost in Maharashtra politics. Even **Rahul Gandhi** started his campaign for the **Maharashtra Assembly elections** with a copy of the **Constitution** in his hand, from the **Dikshabhoomi in Nagpur**, where Ambedkar had converted to Buddhism along with lakhs of his followers.



इसके अतिरिक्त, अंबेडकर का प्रतीकवाद महाराष्ट्र राजनीति में स्पष्ट रूप से देखा जाता है। यहां तक कि राहुल गांधी ने महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा चुनावों के लिए अपनी प्रचार अभियान की शुरुआत संविधान की प्रति हाथ में लेकर नागपुर के दीक्षाभूमि से की, जहां अंबेडकर ने लाखों अनुयायियों के साथ बौद्ध धर्म अपनाया था।

Fragmentation of RPI and Sub-Classification Debate

RPI का विखंडन और उप-श्रेणीकरण बहस

- The **RPI**, originally founded by **B.R. Ambedkar**, has fragmented into several factions over the years. The two more prominent factions are **RPI(A) Athawale faction** and **RPI(G) Gawai faction**.
RPI, जिसे मूल रूप से **B.R. अंबेडकर** द्वारा स्थापित किया गया था, समय के साथ कई गुटों में विभाजित हो गया है। इसके दो प्रमुख गुट हैं **RPI(A) अठावले गुट** और **RPI(G) गवाई गुट**।
- **Ramdas Athawale** leads the **RPI(A)**, which has always sided with the ruling party for engagement with power at the center, whether it is the **BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** or the **Congress-led United Progressive Alliance**.
रामदास अठावले RPI(A) के नेतृत्व में हैं, जो हमेशा केंद्र में शक्ति प्राप्त करने के लिए सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी के साथ खड़ा रहा है, चाहे वह **BJP-नेतृत्व वाला राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन (NDA)** हो या कांग्रेस-नेतृत्व वाला संयुक्त प्रगतिशील गठबंधन।
- In Maharashtra, sub-classification of **SCs** has become a contentious issue. It is being used by the **Mahayuti NDA bloc** to further consolidate **Hindu SCs**, while the **Congress** is silent on the sub-classification debate.
महाराष्ट्र में SCs का उप-श्रेणीकरण एक विवादास्पद मुद्दा बन गया है। इसका उपयोग **महायुति NDA गठबंधन** द्वारा हिंदू SCs को और मजबूत करने के लिए किया जा रहा है, जबकि कांग्रेस उप-श्रेणीकरण बहस पर चुप है।
- So far, only the **VBA** has vehemently opposed the sub-classification bill.
अब तक, केवल **VBA** ने उप-श्रेणीकरण बिल का विरोध किया है।

Key Issues in Dalit Mobilisation

दलित आंदोलन के प्रमुख मुद्दे

- Key issues of electoral significance in Dalit mobilisation include the fight against **caste-based discrimination**, demand for **land rights**, access to **education** and **employment opportunities** etc.
दलित आंदोलन में चुनावी महत्व के प्रमुख मुद्दों में जातिवाद आधारित भेदभाव के खिलाफ संघर्ष, भूमि अधिकारों की मांग, शिक्षा और रोजगार के अवसरों तक पहुंच आदि शामिल हैं।
- The assertion of **Dalit pride**, inspired by **Ambedkarite ideology**, remains central to their political engagement.
अंबेडकरवादी विचारधारा से प्रेरित दलित गर्व की अभिव्यक्ति उनके राजनीतिक जुड़ाव का केंद्रीय पहलू बनी हुई है।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- **Sarthak Bagchi** teaches at **Ahmedabad University**; **Vignesh Karthik KR** is a postdoctoral research fellow at **KITLV-Leiden**; **Susmit Panzade**, **Pradip Kapse**, and **Sumeet Gurli** are researchers based in Maharashtra.
सार्थक बागची अहमदाबाद विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़ाते हैं; विग्नेश कार्तिक के.आर. KITLV-Leiden में पोस्टडॉक्टरल शोध फेलो हैं; सुस्मित पांजड़े, प्रदीप कापसे, और सुमीत गुरली महाराष्ट्र में स्थित शोधकर्ता हैं।
- This is the second article in a **two-part series** on **Maharashtra politics**.
यह महाराष्ट्र राजनीति पर दो-भागों वाली श्रृंखला का दूसरा लेख है।



GS paper II: FR

SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer culture'

The petitioners had complained that their properties were demolished by the State machinery without due process of law on the ground that they were accused of criminal offences. The petitions even claimed the demolitions had a communal tone. On September 17, the top court *suo motu* extended the ambit of the case and barred such demolitions across the country.

"The chilling sight of a bulldozer demolishing a building, when authorities have failed to follow the basic principles of natural justice and have acted without adhering to the principle of due process, reminds one of a lawless state of affairs, where might was right," the Bench said.

The latest directives would not be applicable in case of encroachment into public property or if the demolition was ordered by a court.

'Collective punishment'

Justice Gavai said the government could not transform itself into a judge to find an accused guilty without trial and deliver a "collective punishment" to him and his family by wrecking their home and their shared memories with a bulldozer. This would be a violation of the 'rule of law', which was a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The judge said destroying family homes, leaving entire families homeless, was nothing short of "anarchy". The executive actions of public officials must be consistent with maintaining public trust. "The greater the power to decide, the higher is the responsibility to be just and fair," Justice Gavai observed.

"If his spouse, children, parents live in the same house or co-own the same property, can they be penalised by demolishing the property without them even being involved in any crime? As is well known, a pious father may have a recalcitrant son and vice versa. Depriving innocent people of their right to life by removing shelter from their heads, in our considered view, would be wholly unconstitutional," Justice Gavai underscored. An accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, the court reminded the States.

'Separation of powers'

The principle of 'separation of powers' gave the courts, not the State, the authority to decide if a person was guilty of a crime or not. The State cannot take excessive measures even against convicts. There should be institutional accountability if public officials violate the rights of an accused or a convict through arbitrary exercise of power, the court held.

The 95-page judgment said the burden was on the authorities to disprove in court the presumption that they did not demolish a structure to penalise the accused owner or occupant. "When a particular structure is chosen all of a sudden for demolition and the rest of the similarly situated structures in the vicinity are not even touched, mala fide may loom large," Justice Gavai observed.

The court said for an average citizen, the construction of a house was often the culmination of years of hard work. "A house is not just a property but embodies the collective hopes of a family or individuals for stability, security, and a future... It gives a sense of dignity and a sense of belonging. If this is to be taken away, then the authority must be satisfied that this is the only option available," Justice Gavai noted.

'शक्ति विभाजन' और जवाबदेही

- The principle of 'separation of powers' grants courts, not the State, the authority to determine a person's guilt. 'शक्ति विभाजन' का सिद्धांत अदालतों को अधिकार देता है, न कि राज्यको, कि वे व्यक्ति की अपराधिता तय करें।
- The State cannot take excessive measures even against convicts, and public officials must be held accountable for rights violations. राज्य दोषियोंके खिलाफ भी अत्यधिक उपाय नहीं अपना सकता और सार्वजनिक अधिकारियों को अधिकारों के उल्लंघन के लिए जवाबदेह ठहराया जाना चाहिए।

Court's Burden of Proof and Presumption

अदालत का सबूत का भार और अनुमान

- The 95-page judgment placed the burden on authorities to disprove the presumption that demolitions weren't penalizing the accused. 95 पेज के निर्णयमें अधिकारियों पर यह साबित करने का भार डाला गया कि विध्वंस आरोपीको दंडित करने के लिए नहीं था।
- Selecting only certain structures for demolition could imply bad intentions. केवल कुछ संरचनाओं को विध्वंस के लिए चुनना दुर्भावना का संकेत दे सकता है।

SC puts brakes on 'bulldozer culture'

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 'बुलडोजर संस्कृति' पर रोक लगाई

Petition Against Demolition of Properties

संपत्ति विध्वंस के खिलाफ याचिका

- The petitioners complained that their properties were demolished by the State machinery without due process of law, based on accusations of criminal offenses. याचिकाकर्ताओं ने शिकायत की कि राज्य मशीनरी ने उनके अपराधके आरोपके आधार पर बिना कानूनी प्रक्रिया अपनाए उनकी संपत्तियों को ध्वस्त कर दिया।
- The petitions also claimed that the demolitions had a communal tone. याचिकाओं में यह भी दावा किया गया कि विध्वंस में सांप्रदायिक भावनाएं शामिल थीं।
- On September 17, the Supreme Court *suo motu* extended the case's scope and barred such demolitions across the country.

17 सितंबरको सुप्रीम कोर्टने स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए मामले का दायरा बढ़ाया और देश भर में ऐसे विध्वंसों पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।

- The Bench stated, "The sight of a bulldozer demolishing a building without following natural justice principles reminds one of a lawless state of affairs."

बेंचने कहा, "बुलडोजर से इमारत का विध्वंस करना, जब प्राकृतिक न्यायके सिद्धांतों का पालन नहीं किया गया हो, एक अराजक स्थिति की याद दिलाता है।"

Exceptions to Directives

निर्देशों के अपवाद

- These directives would not apply in cases of encroachment on public property or if a court ordered the demolition. ये निर्देश सार्वजनिक संपत्तिपर अतिक्रमण के मामलों या न्यायालय द्वारा आदेशित विध्वंस पर लागू नहीं होंगे।

'Collective Punishment' Statement

'सामूहिक दंड' का बयान

- Justice Gavai said the government could not act as a judge to find an accused guilty without trial and then punish them by demolishing their home, which would violate the 'rule of law'. न्यायमूर्ति गवईने कहा कि सरकार मुकदमेके बिना किसी आरोपी को अपराधी घोषित कर उसके घर को ध्वस्त करके दंड नहीं दे सकती, जो कानून के शासनका उल्लंघन होगा।
- Destroying family homes and leaving families homeless was termed as "anarchy" by the judge. परिवारोंको बेघर करने के लिए घरों का ध्वंस करना अराजकता की स्थिति है, न्यायाधीश ने कहा।
- Public officials must ensure actions are fair, with greater power comes higher responsibility. सार्वजनिक अधिकारियोंको यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि उनके कार्य न्यायपूर्ण हों, अधिक शक्ति के साथ अधिक जिम्मेदारी आती है।

Protection of Innocent Family Members

निर्दोष परिवार सदस्यों की सुरक्षा

- Justice Gavai emphasized that innocent family members should not suffer consequences if they were uninvolved in any crime. न्यायमूर्ति गवईने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि अगर परिवार के सदस्य किसी अपराध में शामिल नहीं हैं तो उन्हें दंड नहीं भुगतना चाहिए।
- He noted that depriving innocent people of shelter would be unconstitutional. उन्होंने कहा कि निर्दोष लोगों को आश्रय से वंचित करना असंवैधानिक होगा।
- The court reminded that an accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. अदालत ने याद दिलाया कि अपराधीको अदालत में दोषी सिद्ध होने तक निर्दोष माना जाता है।

'Separation of Powers' and Accountability



Importance of Homes for Citizens

नागरिकों के लिए घर का महत्व

- For an average citizen, building a house often represents years of hard work and embodies hopes for stability, security, and a future. एक सामान्य नागरिक के लिए घर बनाना कई वर्षों की मेहनत का प्रतीक होता है और स्थिरता, सुरक्षा, और भविष्य की आशाओं को दर्शाता है।
- Justice Gavai highlighted that if a house must be demolished, authorities must be fully convinced it is the only option. न्यायमूर्ति गवई ने कहा कि अगर किसी घर का विध्वंस आवश्यक है, तो अधिकारियों को पूरी तरह से संतुष्ट होना चाहिए कि यह एकमात्र विकल्प है।

Flights to Bali cancelled after volcanic eruption

GS Paper I:
Geography

NEW DELHI

IndiGo and Air India on Wednesday cancelled their flights to Bali due to ash clouds from a volcanic eruption in the Indonesian island.

The Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano located on a remote island in East Nusa Tenggara province erupted earlier this month and has resulted in ash clouds. These clouds could pose a threat to flight operations and as a result, many airlines have cancelled their services to Bali.

IndiGo and Air India operate daily flights to Bali from Bengaluru and Delhi, respectively.

Air India said its flights from Delhi to Bali and return (AI 2145 and AI 2146 respectively), scheduled to operate on Wednesday, have been cancelled due to unfavourable weather caused by the recent volcanic eruption.

Congress leader Pawan Khera tagged Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu in a post on X asking for help for passengers stuck in Bali.

In response, Mr. Naidu said the Ministry was working with Air India on the issue and would ensure the safety and convenience of the passengers.

Flights to Bali cancelled after volcanic eruption

ज्वालामुखी विस्फोट के बाद बाली के लिए उड़ानें रद्द

Cancellation of IndiGo and Air India Flights to Bali Due to Volcanic Ash Clouds

ज्वालामुखी राख के बादलों के कारण इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया की बाली के लिए उड़ानों का रद्द होना

- IndiGo and Air India on Wednesday cancelled their flights to Bali due to ash clouds from a volcanic eruption on the Indonesian island.

इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को इंडोनेशियाई द्वीप में ज्वालामुखी विस्फोट के राख के बादलों के कारण बाली के लिए अपनी उड़ानें रद्द कर दीं।

- The Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano located on a remote island in East Nusa Tenggara province erupted earlier this month and has resulted in ash clouds.

माउंट लेवोटोबी लकी लकी ज्वालामुखी, जो पूर्वी नुसा तेंगारा प्रांत के एक दूरस्थ द्वीप पर स्थित है, इस महीने की शुरुआत में फट गया और राख के बादल उत्पन्न हुए हैं।

- These clouds could pose a threat to flight operations, and as a result, many airlines have cancelled their services to Bali. ये बादल उड़ान संचालन के लिए खतरा पैदा कर सकते हैं और इस कारण, कई एयरलाइनों ने बाली के लिए अपनी सेवाएं रद्द कर दी हैं।

- IndiGo and Air India operate daily flights to Bali from Bengaluru and Delhi, respectively.

इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया क्रमशः बेंगलुरु और दिल्ली से बाली के लिए दैनिक उड़ानें संचालित करते हैं।

- Air India said its flights from Delhi to Bali and return (AI 2145 and AI 2146 respectively), scheduled to operate on Wednesday, have been cancelled due to unfavourable weather caused by the recent volcanic eruption.

एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि उसकी दिल्ली से बाली और वापसी की उड़ानें (AI 2145 और AI 2146 क्रमशः), जो बुधवार को संचालित होनी थीं, हालिया ज्वालामुखी विस्फोट से उत्पन्न अप्रकृतिक मौसम के कारण रद्द कर दी गई हैं।

- Congress leader Pawan Khera tagged Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu in a post on X asking for help for passengers stuck in Bali.

कांग्रेस नेता पवन खेड़ा ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू को एक्स पर एक पोस्ट में बाली में फंसे यात्रियों के लिए मदद मांगी।

- In response, Mr. Naidu said the Ministry was working with Air India on the issue and would ensure the safety and convenience of the passengers.

इसके जवाब में, श्री नायडू ने कहा कि मंत्रालय इस मुद्दे पर एयर इंडिया के साथ काम कर रहा है और यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और सुविधा सुनिश्चित करेगा।



Inaugural Indian Ocean Dialogue between U.S., India to be held today

GS Paper II: India-US

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Deepening the ongoing cooperation over the Indian Ocean Region, India and the U.S. are set to hold the inaugural U.S.-India Indian Ocean Dialogue on Thursday. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Principal Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer will take part in the event virtually.

They were originally scheduled to travel to New Delhi on November 13-14 but had to change plans due to "flight issues".

The two sides will "discuss measures to promote security and prosperity throughout the Indo-Pacific region," the U.S. State Department spokesperson said in a statement.

The Critical and Emerg-



Kurt Campbell

ing Technologies (iCET) Intersessional to further expand cooperation between the two countries on technological innovation and production is also scheduled to be held, the statement added.

In an update on Wednesday, the U.S. Embassy spokesperson added that "due to flight issues", Mr. Campbell and Mr. Finer will have meetings virtually with Indian counterparts. The dialogue comes just after the U.S. presiden-

tial elections in which former President Donald Trump secured a decisive victory, and the transition is now under way.

The India-U.S. cooperation over the Indo-Pacific goes back several years. In January 2015, during the visit of President Barack Obama to India as Chief Guest for the Republic Day parade, both sides had issued their Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region.

In addition to the bilateral cooperation, there is significant regional and multilateral cooperation. The Quad grouping, comprising India, Australia, Japan and the U.S., is focused on the IOR and has announced the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness initiative, as a global good for the entire region.

Inaugural Indian Ocean Dialogue between U.S., India to be held today

अमेरिका और भारत के बीच पहली हिंद महासागर वार्ता आज होगी

India-U.S. Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region
भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र में भारत-अमेरिका सहयोग

• Deepening the ongoing cooperation over the Indian Ocean Region, India and the U.S. are set to hold the inaugural U.S.-India Indian Ocean Dialogue on Thursday.

भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र में चल रहे सहयोग को गहरा करते हुए, भारत और अमेरिका ने गुरुवार को पहली अमेरिका-भारत भारतीय महासागर संवाद आयोजित करने की योजना बनाई है।

• U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Principal Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer will take part in the event virtually.

अमेरिकी उप विदेश सचिव कर्ट कैंपबेल और प्रमुख उप राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार जॉन फिनर इस कार्यक्रम में ऑनलाइन भाग लेंगे।

• They were originally scheduled to travel to New Delhi on November 13-14 but had to change plans due to "flight issues".

उन्हें 13-14 नवंबर को नई दिल्ली की यात्रा के लिए निर्धारित किया गया था, लेकिन "उड़ान संबंधी समस्याओं" के कारण योजनाओं में बदलाव करना पड़ा।

• The two sides will "discuss measures to promote security and prosperity throughout the Indo-Pacific region," the U.S. State Department spokesperson said in a statement.

अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग के प्रवक्ता ने एक बयान में कहा कि दोनों पक्ष "हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा और समृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के उपायों" पर चर्चा करेंगे।

- The Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) Intersessional to further expand cooperation between the two countries on technological innovation and production is also scheduled to be held, the statement added.

बयान में यह भी कहा गया कि आलोचनात्मक और उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों (iCET) अंतर-सत्रीय बैठक का आयोजन भी किया जाएगा, ताकि प्रौद्योगिकी नवाचार और उत्पादन में दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग को और बढ़ाया जा सके।

- In an update on Wednesday, the U.S. Embassy spokesperson added that "due to flight issues", Mr. Campbell and Mr. Finer will have meetings virtually with Indian counterparts.

बुधवार को एक अपडेट में, अमेरिकी दूतावास के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि उड़ान संबंधी समस्याओं के कारण श्री कैंपबेल और श्री फिनर भारतीय समकक्षों के साथ ऑनलाइन बैठक करेंगे।

- The dialogue comes just after the U.S. presidential elections in which former President Donald Trump secured a decisive victory, and the transition is now underway.

यह संवाद अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के तुरंत बाद हो रहा है, जिसमें पूर्व राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने निर्णायक जीत हासिल की, और स्थानांतरण की प्रक्रिया अब चल रही है।

- India-U.S. cooperation over the Indo-Pacific goes back several years. In January 2015, during the visit of President Barack Obama to India as Chief Guest for the Republic Day parade, both sides had issued their Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region.

हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत-अमेरिका सहयोग कई वर्षों पुराना है। जनवरी 2015 में राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा की गणतंत्र दिवस परेड में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में भारत यात्रा के दौरान, दोनों पक्षों ने एशिया-प्रशांत और भारतीय महासागर क्षेत्र के लिए अपना संयुक्त रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण जारी किया था।

- In addition to the bilateral cooperation, there is significant regional and multilateral cooperation.

द्विपक्षीय सहयोग के अलावा, महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रीय और बहुपक्षीय सहयोग भी है।

- The Quad grouping, comprising India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S., is focused on the IOR and has announced the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness initiative, as a global good for the entire region.

क्वाड समूह, जिसमें भारत, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जापान और अमेरिका शामिल हैं, आईओआर पर केंद्रित है और हिंद-प्रशांत समुद्री क्षेत्र जागरूकता पहल की घोषणा की है, जो पूरे क्षेत्र के लिए एक वैश्विक लाभ है।



'India, Saudi defence cooperation expanding'

GS Paper II:
 India-Saudi Arabia

NEW DELHI

The defence partnership between India and Saudi Arabia has witnessed several "firsts" in the past few years, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday, noting that the cooperation had "now expanded in the field of defence industry and exports as well".

During a meeting, both sides discussed avenues to strengthen the Strategic Partnership between India and Saudi Arabia in areas including trade, investment, energy, defence, security, culture, and consular matters, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. "They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest," the statement added.

'India, Saudi defence cooperation expanding'

'भारत, सऊदी अरब के बीच रक्षा सहयोग बढ़ रहा है'

Defence Partnership between India and Saudi Arabia

भारत और सऊदी अरब के बीच रक्षा साझेदारी

The defence partnership between India and Saudi Arabia has witnessed several "firsts" in the past few years, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday, noting that the cooperation had "now expanded in the field of defence industry and exports as well".

भारत और सऊदी अरब के बीच रक्षा साझेदारी ने पिछले कुछ वर्षों में कई "प्रथम" देखे हैं, बुधवार को विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने कहा, यह बताते हुए कि सहयोग "अब रक्षा उद्योग और निर्यात के क्षेत्र में भी विस्तारित हो गया है"।

During a meeting, both sides discussed avenues to strengthen the Strategic Partnership between India and Saudi Arabia in areas including trade, investment, energy, defence, security, culture, and consular matters, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

एक बैठक के दौरान, दोनों पक्षों ने भारत और सऊदी अरब के बीच रणनीतिक साझेदारी को मजबूत करने के उपायों पर चर्चा की, जिसमें व्यापार, निवेश, ऊर्जा, रक्षा, सुरक्षा, संस्कृति और वाणिज्यिक मुद्दे शामिल हैं, विदेश मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा।

"They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest," the statement added.

बयान में कहा गया, "उन्होंने आपसी रुचि के क्षेत्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर भी विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया"।

'Unwieldy' first draft at Baku sets 2030 goal of \$5 trillion for climate action

GS Paper III:
 Environment

NEW DELHI

Two days into 29th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP), the first major negotiating text that will decide if the two-week-long conclave will be a success has come out. While this is far from any semblance of finality, it lists out the universe of options before 190 countries that they must collectively whittle down – every country's vote is exactly as important as the other – and adopt before the conference ends.

The most prominent feature of the text is an ask of at least \$5-6.8 trillion un-



Building consensus: Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus, centre right, attends the COP29 summit in Baku on Wednesday. AP

til 2030, as the so called New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance, for developing countries to meet their Nationally Determined Con-

tribution (NDC), or voluntary targets that are updated periodically, where countries specify targeted action undertaken to reduce carbon emis-

sions and substitute fossil fuel energy sources with renewable energy ones.

A member of India's negotiating team told *The Hindu* that currently countries had formed blocks, or negotiating alliances, among themselves and demanded insertions of paragraphs that included everybody's demands.

"The new text does this but, unsurprisingly, it's now much longer and unwieldy, taking us back to the length the text was earlier in the year. It'll need to be streamlined again to be workable," Joe Thwaites, Senior Advocate, International Climate Finance, said in a statement.

'Unwieldy' first draft at Baku sets 2030 goal of \$5 trillion for climate action

बाकू में 'अनवील्ड' पहले मसौदे में जलवायु कार्रवाई के लिए 2030 तक 5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर का लक्ष्य रखा गया है

29th Edition of the Conference of Parties (COP)

पार्टियों के सम्मेलन (COP) का 29वां संस्करण

Two days into the 29th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP), the first major negotiating text that will decide if the two-week-long conclave will be a success has come out.

पार्टियों के सम्मेलन (COP) के 29वें संस्करण

के दो दिन बाद, पहला प्रमुख वार्ता पाठ जारी किया गया है जो यह तय करेगा कि दो सप्ताह लंबा सम्मेलन सफल होगा या नहीं।

While this is far from any semblance of finality, it lists out the universe of options before 190 countries that they must collectively whittle down.

यह किसी भी अंतिम रूप से दूर है, लेकिन यह 190 देशों के सामने मौजूद विकल्पों की पूरी सूची को प्रस्तुत करता है, जिन्हें सभी को मिलकर संक्षिप्त करना होगा।

Every country's vote is exactly as important as the other, and they must adopt these options before the conference ends. प्रत्येक देश का वोट दूसरे के बराबर महत्वपूर्ण है, और उन्हें सम्मेलन समाप्त होने से पहले इन विकल्पों को अपनाना होगा।

The most prominent feature of the text is an ask of at least \$5-6.8 trillion until 2030, as the so-called New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance.

पाठ का सबसे प्रमुख बिंदु 2030 तक कम से कम \$5-6.8 ट्रिलियन की मांग है, जिसे नई सामूहिक परिमाणित लक्ष्य (NCQG) जलवायु वित्त पर कहा गया है।

This funding is needed for developing countries to meet their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), or voluntary targets that are updated periodically.

यह वित्तपोषण विकासशील देशों के लिए आवश्यक है ताकि वे अपनी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDC) या समय-समय पर अद्यतन किए जाने वाले स्वैच्छिक लक्ष्यों को पूरा कर सकें।

In NDCs, countries specify targeted actions to reduce carbon emissions and substitute fossil fuel energy sources with renewable energy.

NDC में, देश कार्बन उत्सर्जन को कम करने और जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोतों को नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा से बदलने के लिए लक्षित कार्य निर्दिष्ट करते हैं।



- A member of **India's negotiating team** mentioned that currently, countries had formed **blocks** or **negotiating alliances** and demanded insertions of paragraphs including everyone's demands.
भारत की वार्ता टीम के एक सदस्य ने कहा कि वर्तमान में देशों ने **गठबंधन** या **वार्ता संघ** बनाए हैं और सभी की मांगों को शामिल करने वाले अनुच्छेदों की मांग की है।
- "The new text does this but, unsurprisingly, it's now much longer and unwieldy, taking us back to the length the text was earlier in the year," **Joe Thwaites, Senior Advocate, International Climate Finance**, said in a statement.
जो थ्वाइट्स, सीनियर एडवोकेट, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जलवायु वित्त ने एक बयान में कहा, "नया पाठ यह करता है, लेकिन आश्चर्य नहीं कि यह अब बहुत लंबा और अनुपयोगी हो गया है, जिससे हम उसी लंबाई पर वापस आ गए हैं जो पाठ की इस वर्ष के प्रारंभ में थी।"
- He added, "It'll need to be streamlined again to be workable."
 उन्होंने कहा, "इसे फिर से सुगठित करने की आवश्यकता होगी ताकि यह कार्यशील बन सके।"

British writer Harvey wins Booker Prize

PCS
 Reuters
 LONDON

Britain's **Samantha Harvey** won the **2024 Booker Prize** for *Orbital*, a story about a single day aboard the **International Space Station** which she wrote during **COVID-19 lockdowns**.

The novel, Harvey's fifth, was the top selling book on the shortlist of six finalists and has sold more copies than the past three Booker Prize winners combined, as readers lapped up her depiction of earth's beauty as seen from space.

'Intensity of attention'
 Judges of the prize praised her writing for the "intensity of attention to the pre-



Samantha Harvey

cious and precarious world".

Harvey said she wrote the novel while stuck at home during the pandemic watching footage of the earth in low orbit on her screen. She likened the experience of her six characters "trapped in a tin can" to that of lockdown.

लिए प्रशंसा की।

- Harvey said she wrote the novel while stuck at home during the pandemic, watching **footage of the earth in low orbit** on her screen. हार्वे ने कहा कि उन्होंने यह उपन्यास महामारी के दौरान घर में रहते हुए लिखा, अपनी स्क्रीन पर **कम कक्षा में पृथ्वी के फुटेज** को देखते हुए।
- She likened the experience of her **six characters** "trapped in a tin can" to that of lockdown. उन्होंने अपने **छह पात्रों** को "एक टिन के डिब्बे में फंसा" बताकर **लॉकडाउन** के अनुभव से जोड़ा।

British writer Harvey wins Booker Prize

ब्रिटिश लेखक हार्वे को बुकर पुरस्कार मिला

Samantha Harvey Wins the 2024 Booker Prize
सामंथा हार्वे ने 2024 का बुकर पुरस्कार जीता

- Britain's **Samantha Harvey** won the **2024 Booker Prize** for *Orbital*, a story about a single day aboard the **International Space Station** which she wrote during **COVID-19 lockdowns**.

ब्रिटेन की सामंथा हार्वे ने 2024 का बुकर पुरस्कार *ऑर्बिटल* के लिए जीता, जो अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर एक दिन की कहानी है, जिसे उन्होंने **COVID-19 लॉकडाउन** के दौरान लिखा।

- The novel, Harvey's fifth, was the top-selling book on the shortlist of six finalists and has sold more copies than the past three **Booker Prize winners** combined, as readers embraced her depiction of **earth's beauty as seen from space**.

यह उपन्यास, हार्वे का पाँचवां है और **छह फाइनलिस्टों की शॉर्टलिस्ट** में सबसे अधिक बिकने वाली किताब थी, जिसने पिछले तीन बुकर पुरस्कार विजेताओं की कुल प्रतियों से अधिक बिक्री की, क्योंकि पाठकों ने अंतरिक्ष से पृथ्वी की सुंदरता के उनके चित्रण को सराहा।

- **'Intensity of attention'**
'ध्यान की तीव्रता'

- Judges of the prize praised her writing for the "intensity of attention to the **precious and precarious world**".

पुरस्कार के निर्णायकों ने उनके लेखन की "कीमती और अस्थिर दुनिया पर ध्यान की तीव्रता" के

Qualifying for 2027 Asian Cup the bare minimum, says Gurpreet

PCS

FOOTBALL

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
 CHENNAI

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu trod the path of optimism while talking about the country's chances to qualify for the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

Talking to reporters before India's International friendly against Malaysia in Hyderabad on November 18, he said: "Qualifying for the Asian Cup is something we should be achieving. I think that is the minimum for us because we have done it in the last two editions. This should be a no-brainer for us."

India has had a year to forget in 2024 having played 10 matches and losing six of them, including a 1-2 drubbing to lower-



Gurpreet says the players, with every camp, are getting closer to what Marquez wants. FILE PHOTOS

ranked Afghanistan.

It now has a new coach in Manolo Marquez but the team has plummeted in the FIFA rankings, from 99 in July last year to 126 in



September. However, under Marquez, it has risen a spot in the latest rankings and Gurpreet feels the team will continue its ascent with time.

"I think a transition like this will always be difficult. Everything would have been fine if we had started winning games from day one.

"But the most important thing we need to remember is that since coach Manolo took over, we have played very competitive teams," he quipped.

Marquez, who won the Indian Super League Cup with Hyderabad FC in 2022, succeeded Igor Stimac as India coach but is yet to win a match, losing one and drawing two.

"What he wants to instil is always going to take time and as players, we are getting closer to what he wants with every camp," Gurpreet said.

"The closest reference would be the last game that we played, a 1-1 draw against Vietnam. With

training, time and his level of coaching and experience, I am sure that we will be a strong team in the qualifiers."

New faces

Marquez introduced several new faces in the squad for the clash against Malaysia like Irfan Yadwad, M.S. Jithin, Vibin Mohanan and Hmingthanmawia Ralte, looking to shape a brighter future.

Jithin, with four goals and three assists in six games, was the most important player for North-East United FC in the Durand Cup this season as the Highlanders won their maiden trophy in August 2024.

"These boys have done really well in the ISL and domestic circuit. So, it's important to have these new faces come in and get

a taste of what the National team is all about. To some, what might look very nice and green from the other side, turns out to be a whole different scenario once they come in," Gurpreet added.

India is the first national team assignment for Marquez and ending the year with no victories would be something the Spaniard will be desperate to avoid, with the Asian Cup Qualifiers beginning in March next year.

"It (the atmosphere in the camp) is very positive now but let's not expect too much and remain humble, keep our heads down and keep working because I don't think we have got even 30 days together in the few months coach Manolo has come. But with time, we will be there soon," Gurpreet said.



Qualifying for 2027 Asian Cup the bare minimum, says Gurpreet

2027 एशियाई कप के लिए क्वालीफाई करना न्यूनतम आवश्यकता: गुरप्रीत

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's Optimism on India's AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualification

गुरप्रीत सिंह संधू की भारत की AFC एशियाई कप 2027 में योग्यता के बारे में आशावाद

- Gurpreet Singh Sandhu trod the path of **optimism** while discussing the country's chances to qualify for the **AFC Asian Cup 2027**.
गुरप्रीत सिंह संधू ने देश की AFC एशियाई कप 2027 में योग्यता की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा करते हुए आशावाद का रास्ता अपनाया।
- Speaking to reporters before India's international friendly against **Malaysia in Hyderabad on November 18**, he said, "Qualifying for the Asian Cup is something we should be achieving."
18 नवंबर को हैदराबाद में मलेशिया के खिलाफ भारत के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दोस्ताना मैच से पहले पत्रकारों से बात करते हुए उन्होंने कहा, "एशियाई कप के लिए क्वालीफाई करना कुछ ऐसा है जो हमें हासिल करना चाहिए।"
- He added, "I think that is the **minimum** for us because we have done it in the **last two editions**. This should be a **no-brainer** for us."
उन्होंने कहा, "मुझे लगता है कि यह हमारे लिए न्यूनतम है क्योंकि हमने इसे पिछले दो संस्करणों में किया है। यह हमारे लिए स्पष्ट होना चाहिए।"
- India has had a **year to forget in 2024**, playing **10 matches** and losing **six**, including a **1-2 loss to Afghanistan**.
भारत के लिए 2024 में भूलने लायक साल रहा, जिसमें उसने 10 मैच खेले और छह हारे, जिसमें अफगानिस्तान से 1-2 की हार भी शामिल है।
- With new coach **Manolo Marquez**, the team dropped in **FIFA rankings** from **99 in July last year to 126 in September**. However, under Marquez, it has risen one spot in the latest rankings.
नए कोच मैनोलो मार्केज़ के साथ, टीम की फीफा रैंकिंग पिछले साल जुलाई में 99 से घटकर सितंबर में 126 हो गई। हालांकि, मार्केज़ के तहत, इसने नवीनतम रैंकिंग में एक स्थान ऊपर आ गई है।
- Gurpreet believes the team will continue its **ascent with time**.
गुरप्रीत का मानना है कि टीम समय के साथ अपनी प्रगति जारी रखेगी।
- "I think a **transition** like this will always be difficult. Everything would have been fine if we had started winning from day one."
"मुझे लगता है कि इस तरह का परिवर्तन हमेशा कठिन होता है। सब कुछ ठीक होता अगर हम पहले दिन से ही जीतना शुरू कर देते।"
- "The most important thing to remember is that since **coach Manolo** took over, we have played **very competitive teams**," he noted.
"याद रखने वाली सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि जब से कोच मैनोलो ने पद संभाला है, हमने बहुत प्रतिस्पर्धी टीमों के साथ खेला है," उन्होंने कहा।
- Marquez, who won the **Indian Super League Cup** with **Hyderabad FC in 2022**, replaced **Igor Stimac** but has yet to win a match, losing one and drawing two.
मार्केज़, जिन्होंने 2022 में हैदराबाद एफसी के साथ इंडियन सुपर लीग कप जीता था, ने इगोर स्टीमक की जगह ली है, लेकिन अभी तक उन्होंने कोई मैच नहीं जीता, एक हारा और दो ड्रॉ किए।
- "What he wants to **instil** is always going to take time, and we're getting closer to what he wants with each camp," Gurpreet said.
"वह जो कुछ भी प्रेरित करना चाहते हैं, उसमें समय लगेगा, और हम हर कैंप के साथ उनके लक्ष्य के करीब पहुंच रहे हैं," गुरप्रीत ने कहा।
- "The closest reference would be our last game, a **1-1 draw against Vietnam**. With more **training and his experience**, we will be a strong team in the qualifiers."
"सबसे करीबी उदाहरण हमारा आखिरी मैच है, जो वियतनाम के खिलाफ 1-1 से ड्रॉ रहा। प्रशिक्षण और उनके अनुभव के साथ, हम क्वालिफायर में एक मजबूत टीम होंगे।"

New Faces in the Squad

दस्ते में नए चेहरे

- Marquez introduced several **new players** for the match against Malaysia, including **Irfan Yadwad, M.S. Jithin, Vibin Mohanan**, and **Hmingthanmawia Ralte**, aiming for a bright future.
मार्केज़ ने मलेशिया के खिलाफ मैच के लिए इरफान यादवाड़, एम.एस. जितिन, विबिन मोहनन, और हिमिंगथनमविया राल्टे जैसे कई नए खिलाड़ियों को पेश किया, जिससे एक उज्ज्वल भविष्य की ओर देखा जा सके।
- Jithin, with **four goals and three assists in six games**, was crucial for **NorthEast United FC**, helping them win their **first Durand Cup** in **August 2024**.
जितिन, जिन्होंने छह मैचों में चार गोल और तीन असिस्ट किए, नॉर्थईस्ट यूनाइटेड एफसी के लिए महत्वपूर्ण रहे और उन्होंने अगस्त 2024 में पहला डुरंड कप जीतने में मदद की।
- "These boys have performed well in the **ISL and domestic circuit**. It's essential to give them a taste of **National team** experiences," said Gurpreet.
"इन लड़कों ने आईएसएल और घरेलू सर्किट में अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है। उन्हें राष्ट्रीय टीम के अनुभवों का स्वाद देना आवश्यक है," गुरप्रीत ने कहा।
- This is Marquez's **first assignment** with a national team, and he aims to avoid ending the year without a victory, especially with **Asian Cup qualifiers beginning in March** next year.
यह राष्ट्रीय टीम के साथ मार्केज़ का पहला कार्यकाल है, और उनका लक्ष्य है कि वह वर्ष को बिना जीत के समाप्त न करें, विशेषकर अगले वर्ष मार्च में एशियाई कप क्वालीफायर शुरू होने के साथ।
- "The atmosphere in the camp is very positive, but let's not expect too much and stay **humble**. We haven't had even **30 days together** since coach Manolo arrived, but with time, we will succeed," said Gurpreet.
"कैंप में माहौल बहुत सकारात्मक है, लेकिन ज्यादा उम्मीद न रखें और विनम्र रहें। कोच मैनोलो के आने के बाद से हमें 30 दिन भी साथ नहीं मिले हैं, लेकिन समय के साथ, हम सफल होंगे," गुरप्रीत ने कहा।



India's tea, sugar exports raise sustainability concerns at home

Agricultural commodity production in India lives in a unique context – high domestic consumption and now rapidly growing exports – that may benefit producers and consumers; but increasing dependencies between different parts of the supply chain compromise ecological sustainability

GS Paper III: Sustainable development

Dasari Giridhar
Manan Bhan

India is one of the world's largest agricultural product exporters. Indian agricultural export was valued at \$53.1 billion in 2022-23, up from \$8.7 billion in 2004-05, a six-fold increase in less than two decades. For an economically developing economy like India, exports play a significant role in strengthening the economy by increasing revenue, foreign exchange, and transactional options. But the rapid surge in exports poses multiple challenges to sustainability of the production, processing, and distribution systems of the respective commodities.

In this context, it's important to answer two questions regarding the sustainability of an agricultural commodity.

First, when can an agricultural commodity be considered truly sustainable? The sustainability of such a commodity isn't just about economic sustainability, which is driven by productivity. Ecological and social factors, aided by good governance, help build a sustainable production system, so the sustainability of an agricultural system depends on three pillars: ecological factors, economic aspects, and social aspects, underpinned by robust policies underlying all of them.

Second, should sustainability considerations only apply to production? No. Since the lifecycle of a commodity extends across pre-sowing, on-farm production, and post-harvest stages, sustainability applies to them all. Tea and sugar, two prominent commodities in India with a large domestic and export-oriented consumption base, offer good examples to illustrate the problems herein.

Tea

India is the world's fourth-largest tea exporter and second-largest producer, contributing 10% of global exports. The latter totalled 188.76 million kg in 2022, with a value of \$641.34 million, and an increase of 21.47% year on year in volume and 12.43% year on year in value. The total value of Indian tea exports for 2022-23 was \$793.78 million. Domestic consumption constitutes 80% of total production. The top export destinations of Indian tea are the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Iran, the U.S. and the U.K.

There is also growing evidence of stresses being imposed on production systems across the tea value chain. Three major challenges in the tea industry are the management of human-wildlife interactions, burgeoning chemical use, and labour concerns. An estimated 70% of tea plantations are situated at the periphery of forests and host the migratory routes elephants need to move around, resulting in frequent interactions with humans and human property and damage.

Likewise, synthetic pesticides constitute up to 85% of total pesticide use in tea plantations. This degree of reliance on such pesticides increases the chemical residue in the final product. Researchers have already documented an increase in the incidence of DDT, Endosulfan 35 EC, Dicofol 18.5 EC, and Cypermethrin 10 EC in tea. Exposure to these substances can increase the risk of cancer, diabetes, impaired neurodevelopment in children, and neurotoxicity.



Sweet and sour: Workers harvest sugar cane in Kolhapur district in Maharashtra. FILE PHOTO

Finally, the labour rights and working conditions of the tea estates cannot be undermined. More than half of tea plantation workers are women and they are often underpaid. The working conditions are also hazardous and workers often lack protective gear. Despite regulations under the Plantations Labour Act 1951 (amended in 2010 to strengthen worker safety), safety standards are almost never fully enforced. There is a critical need for better management practices in and around tea estates in India, stricter monitoring of the maximum residue limits for pesticides, and better enforcement of existing labour regulations.

Sugar

India is the world's second-largest sugar producer, with 34 million metric tonnes of production, which is about a fifth of the global production. India's sugar exports grew by 291% from \$1,177 million in FY 2013-14 to \$4,600 million in FY 2021-22 and 64.90% in 2021-22. The country exported sugar to 121 countries, according to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. About 50 million farmers depend on sugar cane cultivation in India. An additional half million depend on sugar and allied factories. According to NITI Aayog, the industry has an annual turnover of ₹1 lakh crore.

But for the exports' economic value and the industry's significant rural employment, it also has considerable adverse environmental effects – but in particular water resource management.

Sugar cane is well-known for requiring a lot of water to cultivate. On average, 1 kg of sugar requires between 1,500 and 2,000 kg of water. Sugar cane and paddy occupy around 25% of the gross cropped area in India and consume 60% of the country's total irrigation water, reducing the availability for other crops and also stressing groundwater resources. In the

There needs to be more focus on addressing environmental issues and safeguarding the health and safety, of both workers and consumers, to develop an inclusive agrarian economy that benefits both local communities and global markets

last six or seven years, the area under sugar cane cultivation has almost doubled in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Natural ecosystems like grasslands and savannahs in these states have also been converted to plant sugar cane. Along with the ensuing biodiversity loss, this change has increased the pressure on water resources and increased the need for sustainable water use and alternate cropping patterns. In fact, implementing drip irrigation in these States could lower water consumption by 40-50%.

The social dynamics of sugar industries narrate another story. Media reports have unearthed poor working conditions, including long working hours.

Rising temperatures in peninsular India acts as a threat multiplier, increasing the risks to workers' physical and mental well-being. Workers trapped in vicious debt cycles incur even more stress. Strengthening regulations and encouraging structured and responsible production practices are important to reduce these effects and promote sustainability.

Millets

Even as the sustainability challenges of these commodities persist, there are others that promote long-term ecological and socio-economic sustainability, and their successes could serve as templates to address the problems plaguing tea and sugar.

One prime example is millets, a sustainable option with which to increase

domestic consumption as well as exports. Millets are resilient to harsh conditions and don't require more inputs to weather resource constraints. They preserve soil health and ensure nutritional security.

The growing importance of millet export is evident in the export statistics. India reached a major milestone in 2021-22 when it exported millets valued at \$62.95 million, up from \$26.97 million in 2020-21, almost a 2.5-fold increase in a single year. In FY 2022-23, the country shipped 169,049.11 metric tonnes of millets and millet-related products worth \$75.45 million. This rising demand highlights their potential as a sustainable agricultural commodity contributing to economic growth and environmental resilience.

Agricultural commodity production in India lives in a unique context: a large domestic consumption base and now a rapidly growing export base. These dynamics may benefit producers and consumers but they could also yield a paradox: whereby increasing dependencies between different actors in the supply chain compromise ecological and social sustainability concerns. There are successful tales of increasing production and trade volumes but concerns also continue regarding the trickling down of some of those economic benefits to producers and farm labourers, and regarding the vitality of India's natural resources.

There needs to be more focus on addressing environmental issues and safeguarding the health and safety of both workers and consumers to develop an inclusive agrarian economy that benefits both local communities and global markets.

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India's tea, sugar exports raise sustainability concerns at home

2027 एशियाई कप के लिए क्वालीफाई करना न्यूनतम आवश्यकता: गुरप्रीत

Agricultural commodity production in India lives in a unique context — high domestic consumption and now rapidly growing exports — that may benefit producers and consumers; but increasing dependencies between different parts of the supply chain compromise ecological sustainability

भारत में कृषि जिंसों का उत्पादन एक अनोखे संदर्भ में होता है - उच्च घरेलू खपत और अब तेजी से बढ़ता निर्यात - जिससे उत्पादकों और उपभोक्ताओं को लाभ हो सकता है; लेकिन आपूर्ति श्रृंखला के विभिन्न भागों के बीच बढ़ती निर्भरता पारिस्थितिकी स्थिरता से समझौता करती है

India's Agricultural Exports and Sustainability भारत का कृषि निर्यात और स्थिरता

- India is one of the world's largest agricultural product exporters.
भारत दुनिया के सबसे बड़े कृषि उत्पाद निर्यातकों में से एक है।
- Indian agricultural export was valued at \$53.1 billion in 2022-23, up from \$8.7 billion in 2004-05, marking a six-fold increase in less than two decades.
भारतीय कृषि निर्यात का मूल्य 2022-23 में \$53.1 बिलियन था, जो 2004-05 में \$8.7 बिलियन से बढ़ा है, जो दो दशकों से भी कम समय में छह गुना वृद्धि दर्शाता है।
- For an economically developing economy like India, exports play a significant role in strengthening the economy by increasing revenue, foreign exchange, and transactional options.
भारत जैसी विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए निर्यात राजस्व, विदेशी मुद्रा और लेन-देन के विकल्प बढ़ाकर अर्थव्यवस्था को सशक्त बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- But the rapid surge in exports poses multiple challenges to the sustainability of production, processing, and distribution systems of these commodities.
लेकिन निर्यात में तेजी से वृद्धि उत्पादन, प्रसंस्करण और इन वस्तुओं की वितरण प्रणालियों की स्थिरता के लिए कई चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न करती है।

Key Questions on Sustainability of Agricultural Commodities

कृषि वस्तुओं की स्थिरता पर मुख्य प्रश्न

- First, when can an agricultural commodity be considered truly sustainable? The sustainability of such a commodity isn't just about economic sustainability, which is driven by productivity.
पहला, एक कृषि वस्तु को वास्तव में स्थायी कब माना जा सकता है? ऐसी वस्तु की स्थिरता केवल आर्थिक स्थिरता के बारे में नहीं है, जो उत्पादकता द्वारा प्रेरित होती है।
- Ecological and social factors, supported by good governance, help build a sustainable production system. Thus, sustainability depends on three pillars: **ecological factors, economic aspects, and social aspects**, backed by robust policies.
अच्छे शासन द्वारा समर्थित पारिस्थितिक और सामाजिक कारक एक स्थायी उत्पादन प्रणाली बनाने में मदद करते हैं। इस प्रकार, स्थिरता पारिस्थितिक कारकों, आर्थिक पहलुओं और सामाजिक पहलुओं पर निर्भर करती है, जो ठोस नीतियों से समर्थित हैं।
- Second, should sustainability considerations only apply to production? No. Since the lifecycle of a commodity extends across pre-sowing, on-farm production, and post-harvest stages, sustainability applies to them all.
दूसरा, क्या स्थिरता केवल उत्पादन पर लागू होनी चाहिए? नहीं। चूंकि एक वस्तु का जीवन चक्र बुवाई से पहले, खेत में उत्पादन और कटाई के बाद के चरणों में फैला होता है, इसलिए स्थिरता इन सभी पर लागू होती है।
- Tea and sugar**, two prominent commodities in India, offer good examples to illustrate the sustainability challenges due to their large domestic and export-oriented consumption bases.
चाय और चीनी, भारत की दो प्रमुख वस्तुएँ हैं, जो घरेलू और निर्यात-उन्मुख खपत आधार के कारण स्थिरता चुनौतियों को दर्शाने के लिए अच्छे उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करती हैं।

Tea

चाय

- India is the world's fourth-largest tea exporter and second-largest producer, contributing 10% of global exports. In 2022, Indian tea exports totaled 188.76 million kg with a value of \$641.34 million.
भारत दुनिया का चौथा सबसे बड़ा चाय निर्यातक और दूसरा सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है, जो वैश्विक निर्यात में 10% का योगदान करता है। 2022 में, भारतीय चाय का निर्यात कुल 188.76 मिलियन किग्रा था, जिसका मूल्य \$641.34 मिलियन था।
- The total value of Indian tea exports for 2022-23 was \$793.78 million. Domestic consumption makes up 80% of total production.
2022-23 में भारतीय चाय निर्यात का कुल मूल्य \$793.78 मिलियन था। घरेलू खपत कुल उत्पादन का 80% है।
- The main export destinations of Indian tea include the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Iran, the U.S., and the U.K.
भारतीय चाय के मुख्य निर्यात गंतव्यों में संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, रूस, ईरान, अमेरिका और यू.के. शामिल हैं।

Challenges in the Tea Industry

चाय उद्योग में चुनौतियाँ

- There is increasing evidence of stresses on production systems in the tea value chain. Three major challenges are **human-wildlife interactions, chemical use, and labor issues**.
चाय मूल्य श्रृंखला में उत्पादन प्रणालियों पर तनाव के बढ़ते सबूत हैं। तीन प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ मानव-वन्यजीव संपर्क, रासायनिक उपयोग और श्रम मुद्दे हैं।



- An estimated **70% of tea plantations** are located at the forest periphery and intersect **elephant migratory routes**, leading to frequent human-wildlife interactions and property damage.
अनुमानित 70% चाय बागान जंगल के किनारे पर स्थित हैं और हाथी प्रवासी मार्गों को काटते हैं, जिससे मानव-वन्यजीव संपर्क और संपत्ति की हानि होती है।

Pesticide Use in Tea Plantations

चाय बागानों में कीटनाशकों का उपयोग

- Synthetic pesticides constitute up to **85% of total pesticide use** in tea plantations.
कृत्रिम कीटनाशक चाय बागानों में कुल कीटनाशकों के उपयोग का 85% तक हिस्सा बनाते हैं।
- This degree of reliance on such pesticides increases the **chemical residue** in the final product.
इस हद तक कीटनाशकों पर निर्भरता अंतिम उत्पाद में रासायनिक अवशेष बढ़ाती है।
- Researchers have documented an increase in the incidence of **DDT, Endosulfan 35 EC, Dicofol 18.5 EC, and Cypermethrin 10 EC** in tea.
शोधकर्ताओं ने चाय में DDT, एंडोसल्फान 35 EC, डिकोफोल 18.5 EC, और साइपरमैथ्रीन 10 EC के बढ़ते प्रभाव का दस्तावेजीकरण किया है।
- Exposure to these substances can increase the risk of **cancer, diabetes, impaired neurodevelopment in children, and neurotoxicity**.
इन पदार्थों के संपर्क में आने से कैंसर, मधुमेह, बच्चों में तंत्रिका विकास में कमी, और तंत्रिका विषाक्तता का खतरा बढ़ सकता है।

Labour Rights and Working Conditions in Tea Estates

चाय बागानों में श्रमिक अधिकार और कार्य स्थितियाँ

- More than half of tea plantation workers are **women** and they are often **underpaid**.
चाय बागानों में श्रमिकों का आधे से अधिक हिस्सा महिलाएँ हैं और उन्हें अक्सर अल्प वेतन मिलता है।
- The working conditions are hazardous and workers often lack **protective gear**.
कार्य स्थितियाँ खतरनाक होती हैं और श्रमिकों के पास अक्सर सुरक्षात्मक उपकरण की कमी होती है।
- Despite regulations under the **Plantations Labour Act 1951** (amended in **2010**), safety standards are almost never fully enforced.
प्लांटेशंस लेबर एक्ट 1951 (जो 2010 में संशोधित किया गया) के बावजूद, सुरक्षा मानक कभी भी पूरी तरह से लागू नहीं होते हैं।
- There is a critical need for better management practices and stricter monitoring of pesticide residue limits.
बेहतर प्रबंधन प्रथाओं और कीटनाशक अवशेष सीमाओं की सख्त निगरानी की अत्यधिक आवश्यकता है।
- Existing labour regulations also need better enforcement.
मौजूदा श्रमिक नियमों को भी बेहतर तरीके से लागू करने की आवश्यकता है।

Sugar Production and Exports in India

भारत में चीनी उत्पादन और निर्यात

- India is the **world's second-largest sugar producer**, with **34 million metric tonnes** of production.
भारत दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा चीनी उत्पादक है, जिसके पास 34 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन उत्पादन है।
- India's sugar exports grew by **291%** from **\$1,177 million in FY 2013-14** to **\$4,600 million in FY 2021-22**, and **64.90%** in 2021-22.
भारत का चीनी निर्यात 291% बढ़ा, FY 2013-14 में \$1,177 मिलियन से बढ़कर FY 2021-22 में \$4,600 मिलियन हो गया, और 2021-22 में 64.90% वृद्धि हुई।
- The country exported sugar to **121 countries**, according to the **Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics**.
देश ने 121 देशों को चीनी निर्यात की, जैसा कि वाणिज्यिक खुफिया और सांख्यिकी निदेशालय के अनुसार।
- About **50 million farmers** depend on sugar cane cultivation in India.
भारत में लगभग 50 मिलियन किसान गन्ने की खेती पर निर्भर हैं।
- The industry has an annual turnover of **₹1 lakh crore**.
इस उद्योग का वार्षिक कारोबार ₹1 लाख करोड़ है।

Environmental Effects of Sugar Production

चीनी उत्पादन के पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव

- Sugar cane requires a lot of **water** to cultivate, with an average of **1,500 to 2,000 kg** of water required per **1 kg of sugar**.
गन्ने को उगाने के लिए बहुत अधिक पानी की आवश्यकता होती है, जिसमें औसतन 1 किलो चीनी के लिए 1,500 से 2,000 किलो पानी की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Sugar cane and paddy occupy around **25% of the gross cropped area in India** and consume **60% of the country's total irrigation water**, stressing groundwater resources.
गन्ना और धान भारत के कुल खेती क्षेत्र का लगभग 25% हिस्सा घेरते हैं और देश के कुल सिंचाई पानी का 60% उपयोग करते हैं, जिससे जलमग्न जल संसाधनों पर दबाव पड़ता है।
- In the last **six or seven years**, the area under sugar cane cultivation has almost doubled in **Karnataka and Maharashtra**.
पिछले छह या सात वर्षों में, कर्नाटका और महाराष्ट्र में गन्ने की खेती के क्षेत्र में लगभग दोगुना वृद्धि हुई है।

Sugar Industry and Its Environmental and Social Impacts

चीनी उद्योग और इसके पर्यावरणीय तथा सामाजिक प्रभाव

- **Natural ecosystems** like grasslands and savannahs in these states have also been converted to plant sugar cane.
इन राज्यों में प्राकृतिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र, जैसे घास के मैदान और सवाना, को भी गन्ना लगाने के लिए बदल दिया गया है।
- Along with the ensuing biodiversity loss, this change has increased the pressure on **water resources** and increased the need for **sustainable water use and alternate cropping patterns**.
इसके साथ ही जैव विविधता के नुकसान के परिणामस्वरूप जल संसाधनों पर दबाव बढ़ गया है और सतत जल उपयोग और वैकल्पिक खेती पैटर्न की आवश्यकता बढ़ गई है।



- In fact, implementing **drip irrigation** in these States could lower water consumption by **40-50%**.
वास्तव में, इन राज्यों में ड्रिप सिंचाई लागू करने से जल खपत 40-50% तक कम हो सकती है।
- The social dynamics of sugar industries narrate another story.
चीनी उद्योगों के सामाजिक पहलू एक अलग कहानी बताते हैं।
- Media reports have unearthed poor working conditions, including long working hours.
मीडिया रिपोर्टों ने खराब कार्य स्थितियों का खुलासा किया है, जिसमें लंबे कामकाजी घंटे शामिल हैं।
- Rising **temperatures** in **peninsular India** act as a **threat multiplier**, increasing the risks to workers' **physical and mental well-being**.
प्रायद्वीपीय भारत में तापमान में वृद्धि खतरे के गुणक के रूप में कार्य करती है, जिससे श्रमिकों की शारीरिक और मानसिक भलाई को खतरा बढ़ता है।
- Workers trapped in vicious debt cycles incur even more stress.
ऋण के जाल में फंसे श्रमिक और अधिक तनाव का सामना करते हैं।
- Strengthening **regulations** and encouraging **structured and responsible production practices** are important to reduce these effects and promote sustainability.
इन प्रभावों को कम करने और सततता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए **नियमों** को मजबूत करना और **संरचित और जिम्मेदार उत्पादन प्रथाओं** को बढ़ावा देना आवश्यक है।

Millets as a Sustainable Option

मिलेट्स (बाजरा) को एक स्थायी विकल्प के रूप में

- Even as the sustainability challenges of these commodities persist, there are others that promote long-term **ecological and socio-economic sustainability**, and their successes could serve as templates to address the problems plaguing tea and sugar.
जबकि इन वस्तुओं की सततता की चुनौतियाँ बनी रहती हैं, अन्य वस्तुएँ हैं जो दीर्घकालिक पारिस्थितिकी और सामाजिक-आर्थिक सततता को बढ़ावा देती हैं, और उनकी सफलताएँ चाय और चीनी की समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए उदाहरण के रूप में काम कर सकती हैं।
- One prime example is **millets**, a sustainable option with which to increase **domestic consumption** as well as **exports**.
एक प्रमुख उदाहरण **मिलेट्स (बाजरा)** है, जो घरेलू खपत और निर्यात बढ़ाने का एक सतत विकल्प है।
- Millets are resilient to harsh conditions and don't require more inputs to weather resource constraints.
मिलेट्स कठोर परिस्थितियों के प्रति लचीले होते हैं और संसाधन प्रतिबंधों से निपटने के लिए अधिक इनपुट की आवश्यकता नहीं होती।
- They preserve **soil health** and ensure **nutritional security**.
ये मृदा स्वास्थ्य को बनाए रखते हैं और पोषण सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करते हैं।
- The growing importance of **millet export** is evident in the **export statistics**.
बाजरा निर्यात का बढ़ता हुआ महत्व **निर्यात आँकड़ों** में स्पष्ट है।
- India reached a major milestone in **2021-22** when it exported **millets valued at \$62.95 million**, up from **\$26.97 million** in **2020-21**, almost a **2.5-fold increase** in a single year.
भारत ने **2021-22** में एक प्रमुख मील का पत्थर हासिल किया जब उसने **\$62.95 मिलियन** मूल्य का **बाजरा निर्यात** किया, जो **2020-21** में **\$26.97 मिलियन** था, लगभग **2.5 गुना वृद्धि** एक ही वर्ष में।
- In **FY 2022-23**, the country shipped **169,049.11 metric tonnes** of **millets and millet-related products** worth **\$75.45 million**.
2022-23 में देश ने **169,049.11 मीट्रिक टन बाजरा और बाजरा-संबंधित उत्पाद** निर्यात किए, जिनकी कीमत **\$75.45 मिलियन** थी।
- This rising demand highlights their potential as a **sustainable agricultural commodity** contributing to **economic growth** and **environmental resilience**.
इस बढ़ती मांग से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि वे **सतत कृषि वस्तु** के रूप में **आर्थिक विकास** और **पर्यावरणीय लचीलापन** में योगदान देने की संभावना रखते हैं।
- Agricultural commodity production in India lives in a unique context: a large **domestic consumption base** and now a rapidly growing **export base**.
भारत में कृषि वस्तु उत्पादन एक अद्वितीय संदर्भ में होता है: एक बड़ा **घरेलू खपत आधार** और अब एक तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ **निर्यात आधार**।
- These dynamics may benefit producers and consumers but they could also yield a paradox: whereby increasing dependencies between different actors in the supply chain compromise **ecological and social sustainability** concerns.
ये गतिशीलताएँ उत्पादकों और उपभोक्ताओं को लाभ पहुंचा सकती हैं, लेकिन यह एक विरोधाभास भी उत्पन्न कर सकती हैं: जिससे आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में विभिन्न अभिनेता के बीच बढ़ती निर्भरता **पर्यावरणीय और सामाजिक सततता** की चिंताओं से समझौता कर सकती है।
- There are successful tales of increasing production and trade volumes but concerns continue regarding the trickling down of some of those **economic benefits** to producers and **farm labourers**, and regarding the **vitality of India's natural resources**.
उत्पादन और व्यापार वॉल्यूम बढ़ाने की **सफल कहानियाँ** हैं, लेकिन कुछ **आर्थिक लाभों** का उत्पादकों और **कृषि श्रमिकों** तक नहीं पहुंचने और **भारत के प्राकृतिक संसाधनों** की जीवंतता को लेकर चिंताएँ बनी रहती हैं।
- There needs to be more focus on addressing **environmental issues** and safeguarding the **health and safety** of both workers and consumers to develop an inclusive agrarian economy that benefits both **local communities** and **global markets**.
पर्यावरणीय मुद्दों को हल करने और श्रमिकों और उपभोक्ताओं की **स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा** की रक्षा करने पर अधिक ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है, ताकि एक समावेशी कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था विकसित हो सके जो **स्थानीय समुदायों** और **वैश्विक बाजारों** दोनों को लाभ पहुंचाए।





Shrinking species: An African elephant with her calves in northern Kenya. FILE PHOTO

Alarming rate of decrease in African elephant count

GS Paper III:
Environment

African elephants, earth's largest land animals, are remarkable mammals that are very intelligent and highly social. They also are in peril. Fresh evidence of this comes in a study that documents alarming population declines at numerous sites across the African continent over about a half century.

Researchers unveiled on Monday what they called the most comprehensive assessment of the status of the two African elephant species – the savannah elephant and forest elephant – using data on population surveys conducted at 475 sites in 37 countries from 1964 through 2016.

Savannah elephant populations fell by about 70% on average at the surveyed sites and forest elephant populations dropped by about 90% on average at the surveyed sites, with poaching and habitat loss the main drivers. All told, there was a 77% population decrease on average at the various surveyed sites spanning both species. Elephants vanished at some sites while their populations increased in other places thanks to conservation efforts.

“A lot of the lost populations won't come back, and many low-density populations face continued pressures. We likely will lose more populations going forward,” said George Wittemyer, a Colorado State University professor of wildlife conservation who helped lead the study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Savannah elephant populations fell by about 70% on average at the surveyed sites and forest elephant populations dropped by about 90% on average at the surveyed sites

The forest elephant population is estimated to be about a third that of savannah elephants. Poaching has affected forest elephants disproportionately and has ravaged populations of both species in northern and eastern Africa.

“We have lost a number of elephant populations across many countries, but the northern Sahel region of Africa - for example in Mali, Chad, and Nigeria - has been particularly hard hit. High pressure and limited protection have culminated in populations being extirpated,” Wittemyer said. But in southern Africa, elephant populations rose at 42% of the surveyed sites. “We have seen real success in a number of places across Africa, but particularly in southern Africa, with strong growth in populations in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia. For populations showing positive trends, we have had active stewardship and management by the governments or outside groups that have taken on a management role,” Wittemyer said.

The study did not track a continent-wide population tally because the surveys used different methods over different time frames to estimate local elephant population density. Instead, it assessed population trends at each of the surveyed sites. A population estimate by conservationists conducted separately from this study put the two species combined at between 4,15,000 and 5,40,000 elephants as of 2016, the last year of the study period. It remains the most recent comprehensive continent-wide estimate.

savannah elephant population.

जंगल के हाथियों की जनसंख्या सवाना हाथियों की जनसंख्या का लगभग एक-तिहाई है।

- Poaching has particularly affected forest elephants, devastating populations in northern and eastern Africa. शिकार ने विशेष रूप से जंगल के हाथियों को प्रभावित किया है, और उत्तरी और पूर्वी अफ्रीका में उनकी जनसंख्या को नष्ट कर दिया है।
- The northern Sahel region, especially **Mali, Chad, and Nigeria**, has seen severe population loss due to high poaching pressure and limited protection. उत्तरी सहल क्षेत्र, विशेष रूप से **माली, चाड, और नाइजीरिया**, में उच्च शिकार दबाव और सीमित सुरक्षा के कारण जनसंख्या में गंभीर हानि देखी गई है।
- In contrast, southern Africa saw elephant populations increase at **42%** of surveyed sites, with notable growth in **Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Namibia**. इसके विपरीत, दक्षिणी अफ्रीका में सर्वेक्षण किए गए स्थलों पर हाथियों की जनसंख्या **42%** बढ़ी, और **बोत्सवाना, जिम्बाब्वे, और नामीबिया** में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि देखी गई।
- Active management by governments or outside groups has led to these positive trends in certain areas. कुछ क्षेत्रों में सरकारों या बाहरी समूहों द्वारा सक्रिय प्रबंधन ने इन सकारात्मक प्रवृत्तियों का नेतृत्व किया है।
- The study did not track continent-wide population figures, as different survey methods and timeframes were used at the sites. इस अध्ययन ने महाद्वीप-व्यापी जनसंख्या आंकड़ों का पालन नहीं किया, क्योंकि स्थलों पर विभिन्न सर्वेक्षण विधियों और समयसीमाओं का उपयोग किया गया था।
- A separate population estimate placed the combined population of both species between **415,000 and 540,000** elephants as of **2016**. एक अलग जनसंख्या अनुमान में दोनों प्रजातियों की संयुक्त जनसंख्या **415,000 और 540,000** हाथियों के बीच रखी गई थी, जैसा कि **2016** में था।
- This estimate remains the most recent comprehensive continent-wide population figure. यह अनुमान महाद्वीप-व्यापी जनसंख्या का सबसे हाल का व्यापक आंकड़ा बना हुआ है।

Alarming rate of decrease in African elephant count

अफ्रीकी हाथियों की संख्या में कमी की चिंताजनक दर

African Elephants: Population Decline and Conservation Efforts

अफ्रीकी हाथियों: जनसंख्या में गिरावट और संरक्षण प्रयास

• African elephants, the largest land animals, are intelligent, social, and now endangered.

अफ्रीकी हाथी, जो पृथ्वी के सबसे बड़े स्थल जीव हैं, बुद्धिमान, सामाजिक और अब संकटग्रस्त हैं।

• A study released on Monday highlights alarming population declines across Africa over the last **50 years**.

सोमवार को जारी एक अध्ययन में अफ्रीका में पिछले **50 वर्षों** में जनसंख्या में गिरावट की चौंकाने वाली जानकारी दी गई है।

• The study, considered the most comprehensive, used data from **475 sites** across **37 countries**, covering the years **1964–2016**.

इस अध्ययन को सबसे व्यापक माना गया है, जिसमें **475 स्थलों** से डेटा लिया गया है, जो **37 देशों** को कवर करता है, और यह **1964-2016** तक के वर्षों को शामिल करता है।

• Savannah elephant populations dropped by **70%**, and forest elephant populations by **90%** at surveyed sites, primarily due to poaching and habitat loss.

सवाना हाथियों की जनसंख्या **70%** और जंगल के हाथियों की जनसंख्या सर्वेक्षण किए गए स्थलों पर **90%** कम हुई, जो मुख्य रूप से शिकार और आवास की हानि के कारण है।

• Overall, the populations of both species decreased by **77%** on average across surveyed sites.

सर्वेक्षण किए गए स्थलों पर दोनों प्रजातियों की कुल जनसंख्या औसतन **77%** कम हो गई।

• In some areas, elephants vanished, while their populations grew in other regions thanks to conservation efforts.

कुछ क्षेत्रों में हाथी समाप्त हो गए, जबकि अन्य क्षेत्रों में संरक्षण प्रयासों के कारण उनकी जनसंख्या में वृद्धि हुई।

• George Wittemyer, a professor of wildlife conservation at Colorado State University, emphasized the likelihood of further population losses.

जॉर्ज विटेमेयर, जो कोलोराडो स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी में वन्यजीव संरक्षण के प्रोफेसर हैं, ने आगे की जनसंख्या हानि की संभावना पर जोर दिया।

• The forest elephant population is about **one-third** of the

