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Contact Number: 9971932488

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29_11_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED

- 1. GRAP-IV curbs to continue in Delhi-NCR till Dec. 2: SC (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
- 2. 'Railway Board has formed committee to probe CRS report on new Pamban bridge' (PCS)**
- 3. Kashmiri, Central Asian artisans reconnect under one roof in Srinagar (PCS)**
- 4. Odisha police on high alert as Pannun issues threat to meet of DGPs (GS Paper-III: Internal Security)**
- 5. NOW YOU DON'T (GS Paper-III: Cyber Security)**
- 6. Census 2025 as a comprehensive citizen registry (GS Paper-I: Population and Census)**
- 7. Do new schemes ahead of elections amount to 'voter bribes'? (GS Paper-II: Polity)**
- 8. Wikipedia and ANI's defamation suit (GS Paper-II: Defamation)**
- 9. The Dhanush-Nayanthara dispute and copyright law (GS Paper-III: Science and Technology)**
- 10. Economic historian Amiya Kumar Bagchi passes away (PCS)**
- 11. In Busan, India says it will not back 'use' of plastic alternatives (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
- 12. Lithuanian drama Toxic wins Golden Peacock (PCS)**
- 13. Farmers must get high-quality seeds, fertilizers, says Agriculture Minister (PCS)**

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14. **Stigma of HIV and birth of biomedical waste regulations (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
15. **Using body's defences against cancer (GS Paper-III: Science and Technology)**

GRAP-IV curbs to continue in Delhi-NCR till Dec. 2: SC

GS Paper III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the continuation of heightened restrictions under stage IV of the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** to deal with air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region till December 2.

The court, however, maintained that the decision of the **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)** to ease the curbs in Delhi-NCR schools will continue to be in effect.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Augustine George Masih asked the CAQM to meet and consider further easing of restrictions from GRAP-IV to GRAP-III or GRAP-II, and report to the court in the next hearing



The court said the move to ease curbs in schools will continue to be in effect. FILE PHOTO

on December 2. It asked the CAQM to examine if a "combination" of GRAP-IV, GRAP-III, and GRAP-II curbs could be put in force.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the CAQM, informed the court that the air quality index had improved considerably.

The Bench said it would hear on December 2 submissions from the States concerned on the sugges-

tion to impose a perennial ban on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR.

'Abject failure'

The apex court noted that the Court Commissioners' report showed an "abject failure" by authorities to control the flow of trucks and other inter-State vehicles into Delhi during the GRAP-IV period.

The CAQM's submission that show-cause notices had been issued to authorities, including the Delhi Police Commissioner, under Section 14 of the CAQM Act, 2021, was taken on record. It said its notices had asked the authorities to respond by December 2.

The court noted that its November 25 order to **provide building workers weekly subsistence allowance, during the con-**

struction ban necessitated by the enforcement of GRAP-IV, from the labour cess funds collected for their welfare was not implemented by the States.

The Bench reiterated that the welfare measures should be implemented and compliance of the order reported on Monday.

It also mooted 24-hour data collection and reporting on stubble burning. Ms. Bhati assured the Bench that ISRO was working on a new protocol.

The court took note of a media report that authorities in Punjab had advised farmers to burn crop residue after 4 p.m. to avoid satellite surveillance. Noting that it did not know if the news was correct, the court said if true, it was a "very serious" issue and farmers could not be al-

lowed to take advantage of such situations.

Entry of trucks

The Bench took note of the submissions made by the *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, that heavy trucks ought to be stopped at NCR borders and not allowed to enter Delhi limits. The *amicus curiae* submitted that trucks were allowed to enter the national capital's limits and eventually stopped, making them take a U-turn and return to where they came from.

The court also clarified that the ban on the entry of trucks would not apply to those carrying essential commodities, vehicles such as ambulances that provide essential services, and all LNG, CNG, electric, and BS-VI diesel vehicles.

GRAP-IV Curbs to Continue in Delhi-NCR till Dec. 2: SC

GRAP-IV के प्रतिबंध दिल्ली-एनसीआर में 2 दिसंबर तक जारी रहेंगे: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

- The Supreme Court on **Thursday** directed the continuation of heightened restrictions under **Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** to address air pollution in Delhi-NCR till **December 2**.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को ग्रेडेड रिस्पांस एक्शन प्लान (GRAP) के चरण IV के तहत वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने के लिए 2 दिसंबर तक प्रतिबंध जारी रखने का निर्देश दिया।

- The **decision of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** to ease curbs in **Delhi-NCR schools** will continue.





वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (CAQM) का दिल्ली-एनसीआर के स्कूलों में प्रतिबंधों में ढील देने का निर्णय जारी रहेगा।

- A Bench of **Justices A.S. Oka and Augustine George Masih** asked the **CAQM** to consider easing restrictions to **GRAP-III or GRAP-II** and report back by **December 2**.
न्यायमूर्ति ए.एस. ओका और ऑगस्टिन जॉर्ज मसीह की पीठ ने **CAQM** से **GRAP-III या GRAP-II** तक प्रतिबंधों में ढील देने पर विचार करने और **2 दिसंबर** तक रिपोर्ट देने को कहा।
- The court suggested a possible **combination of GRAP-IV, GRAP-III, and GRAP-II** curbs.
अदालत ने **GRAP-IV, GRAP-III और GRAP-II** प्रतिबंधों के संयोजन का सुझाव दिया।

Air Quality Improvement and Firecrackers Ban

वायु गुणवत्ता में सुधार और पटाखों पर प्रतिबंध

- **Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati**, representing CAQM, informed the court about a **considerable improvement in air quality index**.
अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल ऐश्वर्या भाटी, जो CAQM का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रही थीं, ने अदालत को वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक में उल्लेखनीय सुधार के बारे में सूचित किया।
- The court will hear submissions from states on a **perennial ban on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR on December 2**.
अदालत **2 दिसंबर** को दिल्ली-एनसीआर में पटाखों पर स्थायी प्रतिबंध पर राज्यों से प्रस्तुतियाँ सुनेगी।

Failure in Regulating Vehicle Flow

वाहनों के प्रवाह को नियंत्रित करने में विफलता

- The Supreme Court noted an **“object failure” by authorities** to control the entry of trucks and inter-state vehicles into Delhi during the **GRAP-IV period**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **GRAP-IV अवधि** के दौरान दिल्ली में ट्रकों और अंतर-राज्यीय वाहनों के प्रवेश को नियंत्रित करने में प्राधिकरणों की **“पूर्ण विफलता”** को नोट किया।
- The CAQM stated that **show-cause notices** were issued to authorities, including the **Delhi Police Commissioner**, under **Section 14 of the CAQM Act, 2021**, asking for responses by **December 2**.
CAQM ने कहा कि **CAQM अधिनियम, 2021** की धारा 14 के तहत **दिल्ली पुलिस आयुक्त** सहित अधिकारियों को **2 दिसंबर** तक जवाब देने के लिए **शोकाज़ नोटिस** जारी किए गए।

Welfare Measures for Construction Workers

निर्माण श्रमिकों के लिए कल्याणकारी उपाय

- The court criticized states for failing to implement its **November 25 order** directing **weekly subsistence allowances** for construction workers during the construction ban under **GRAP-IV**.





अदालत ने राज्यों की आलोचना की कि उन्होंने **GRAP-IV** के तहत निर्माण प्रतिबंध के दौरान निर्माण श्रमिकों के लिए **साप्ताहिक भरण-पोषण भत्ता** प्रदान करने के अपने **25 नवंबर के आदेश** को लागू नहीं किया।

- The Bench reiterated that **welfare measures** must be implemented, and compliance should be reported on **Monday**.

पीठ ने दोहराया कि **कल्याणकारी उपाय** लागू किए जाने चाहिए और **सोमवार** को अनुपालन की रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की जानी चाहिए।

Stubble Burning and ISRO's Efforts

पराली जलाना और इसरो के प्रयास

- The court mooted **24-hour data collection** on stubble burning and noted a media report alleging Punjab authorities advised farmers to burn residue after **4 p.m.** to evade satellite surveillance.

अदालत ने पराली जलाने पर **24 घंटे डेटा संग्रह** का प्रस्ताव दिया और एक मीडिया रिपोर्ट का उल्लेख किया जिसमें कहा गया कि पंजाब के अधिकारियों ने किसानों को **4 बजे के बाद** अवशेष जलाने की सलाह दी ताकि उपग्रह निगरानी से बचा जा सके।

- The court remarked this would be a **“very serious” issue** if true.

अदालत ने कहा कि यदि यह सच है, तो यह एक **“बहुत गंभीर” मुद्दा** होगा।

- **Amicus curiae Aparajita Singh** submitted that heavy trucks should be stopped at **NCR borders** instead of being allowed to enter Delhi and then being turned back.

अमिकस क्यूरी अपराजिता सिंह ने प्रस्तुत किया कि भारी ट्रकों को दिल्ली में प्रवेश करने देने के बजाय **एनसीआर सीमा** पर रोका जाना चाहिए।

- The ban does not apply to **essential commodities, ambulances, and BS-VI, LNG, CNG, or electric vehicles**.

प्रतिबंध **आवश्यक वस्तुओं, एम्बुलेंस, और BS-VI, LNG, CNG या इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों** पर लागू नहीं होता।



‘Railway Board has formed committee to probe CRS report on new Pamban bridge’

PCS

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

Top railway officials have said the Railway Board has formed a five-member technical committee to probe the findings of the report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Southern Circle, which flagged “glaring lapses” in the construction of the new Pamban rail bridge connecting the town of Rameswaram to mainland India.

The members of the committee are Principal Executive Director (PED), Bridges; PED, Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO); Chief Bridge Engineer (Southern Railway); Director of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited; and an independent safety expert. “The committee will submit its report in a month and a half,” a senior official said.

In its remarks on the CRS’s observations, the Ministry of Railways said the



Contentious issue: The move comes after the Commissioner of Safety listed lapses in the construction of the bridge. L. BALACHANDAR

steel bridge was designed by an international consultant, and proof-checked by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras. (IIT-Madras).

‘Checked by IIT’

“Having been designed by a foreign consultant, the Railway Board envisaged technical limitations in the examination of design by the Railways and the RDSO. Hence, an additional proof-check of the design was conducted by IIT-Bombay,”

a spokesperson of the Railway Ministry said.

The spokesperson further said the modifications made to the RDSO design for approach girders and the welding of structures had been checked through the Phase Array Ultrasonic Testing, and by the Welding Research Institute, Tiruchi, and Southern Railway.

For protection from corrosion, a special painting scheme that makes use of polysiloxane paint with a

design life of 35 years – used in areas prone to extreme corrosion – has been implemented, the spokesperson added.

“Use of stainless steel reinforcement in reinforced concrete construction, a fully welded box section in the lift span, avoiding splice joints in approach span girders, inspection arrangements and hand rails are among the features to counter corrosion...”

‘Best practices followed’

Meanwhile, Southern Railway has clarified that the new bridge had been built with state-of-the-art design and best construction practices.

“The 2.05-km-long bridge, with a unique 72-metre-long vertical lift span, was cleared for operation of trains by the CRS. The other points raised by the official would be complied with,” it said in a statement.

Railway Board forms committee to probe CRS report on new Pamban bridge

रेलवे बोर्ड ने नई पंबन ब्रिज पर सीआरएस रिपोर्ट की जांच के लिए समिति बनाई

- The **Railway Board** has formed a **five-member technical committee** to probe the findings of the **Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS)**, Southern Circle, which flagged “**glaring lapses**” in the construction of the **new Pamban rail bridge connecting Rameswaram to mainland India**.

रेलवे बोर्ड ने नई पंबन रेल ब्रिज के निर्माण में “स्पष्ट खामियों” को लेकर दक्षिण सर्कल के रेलवे





सुरक्षा आयुक्त (सीआरएस) की रिपोर्ट की जांच के लिए पांच-सदस्यीय तकनीकी समिति का गठन किया है।

- The committee includes:

समिति में शामिल हैं:

- Principal Executive Director (PED), Bridges
प्रमुख कार्यकारी निदेशक (पीईडी), ब्रिजेस
 - PED, **Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**
पीईडी, अनुसंधान डिजाइन और मानक संगठन (आरडीएसओ)
 - Chief Bridge Engineer, Southern Railway
मुख्य पुल अभियंता, दक्षिण रेलवे
 - Director, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
निदेशक, रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड
 - Independent safety expert
स्वतंत्र सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञ
- The committee is expected to submit its report in **one and a half months**.
समिति को अपनी रिपोर्ट डेढ़ महीने में प्रस्तुत करनी है।
 - The Ministry of Railways stated that the **steel bridge** was designed by an **international consultant** and **proof-checked** by IIT-Madras.
रेल मंत्रालय ने कहा कि स्टील ब्रिज को एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय सलाहकार द्वारा डिज़ाइन किया गया और आईआईटी-मद्रास द्वारा प्रमाणित किया गया था।
 - Additionally, the design was **proof-checked by IIT-Bombay** to address technical limitations identified by the Railways and RDSO.
इसके अलावा, डिज़ाइन को रेल और आरडीएसओ द्वारा पहचानी गई तकनीकी सीमाओं को संबोधित करने के लिए आईआईटी-बॉम्बे द्वारा भी प्रमाणित किया गया।
 - **Modifications** to the RDSO design for approach girders and welding of structures were tested using **Phase Array Ultrasonic Testing** and verified by:
आरडीएसओ डिज़ाइन में एप्रोच गर्डर और संरचनाओं की वेल्डिंग के संशोधनों को फेज़ एरे अल्ट्रासोनिक टेस्टिंग का उपयोग कर परीक्षण किया गया और इसे निम्नलिखित ने सत्यापित किया:
 - **Welding Research Institute, Tiruchi**
वेल्डिंग अनुसंधान संस्थान, तिरुचि
 - **Southern Railway**
दक्षिण रेलवे
 - A special **corrosion-protection scheme** was implemented using **polysiloxane paint** with a design life of **35 years**, suitable for areas prone to extreme corrosion.
क्षरण-प्रतिरोधी योजना में पॉलिसिलोक्सेन पेंट का उपयोग किया गया, जिसकी डिज़ाइन उम्र 35 वर्ष है और यह अत्यधिक क्षरण-प्रवण क्षेत्रों के लिए उपयुक्त है।
 - Features to counter corrosion include:
क्षरण का मुकाबला करने के लिए विशेषताएं शामिल हैं:
 - Use of **stainless steel reinforcement** in reinforced concrete construction
सुदृढ़ कंक्रीट निर्माण में स्टेनलेस स्टील सुदृढीकरण का उपयोग



- Fully **welded box section** in the lift span
लिफ्ट स्पैन में पूरी तरह से वेल्डेड बॉक्स सेक्शन
- Avoidance of **splice joints** in approach span girders
एप्रोच स्पैन गर्डर में स्प्लाइस जॉइंट से बचाव
- **Inspection arrangements and handrails**
निरीक्षण व्यवस्था और हैंडरेल
- **Southern Railway** clarified that the new bridge was built using **state-of-the-art design and best construction practices.**

दक्षिण रेलवे ने स्पष्ट किया कि नया पुल उन्नत डिज़ाइन और सर्वश्रेष्ठ निर्माण प्रथाओं का उपयोग करके बनाया गया था।

- The **bridge is 2.05 km long**, featuring a **unique 72-meter-long vertical lift span.**
पुल की लंबाई **2.05 किलोमीटर** है, जिसमें एक अद्वितीय **72 मीटर लंबा वर्टिकल लिफ्ट स्पैन** शामिल है।
- The bridge was cleared for train operations by the **CRS**, and compliance with other points raised is underway. पुल को **सीआरएस** द्वारा ट्रेन संचालन के लिए मंजूरी दी गई है, और उठाए गए अन्य बिंदुओं का अनुपालन किया जा रहा है।

Kashmiri, Central Asian artisans reconnect under one roof in Srinagar

PCS

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Artisans from Kashmir witnessed a rare reunion with master craftspeople from Central Asia after a gap of about 500 years at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre in Srinagar at an event held in the backdrop of the **‘World Craft City’ tag being awarded to the J&K capital earlier this year.**

While artisans from Kashmir traced the roots of many handicrafts to Central Asian countries, their counterparts were mesmerised by the traditional processes preserved by Kashmiri craftspeople. Majed Shahriari, a suit-wearing woodcarver from Iran, and Ghulam Nabi Dar, a ‘Khan suit’-wearing master woodcarver from Srinagar, had only heard stories about each other’s art

forms and geographies.

“It’s my first trip to Kashmir. There is a lot of similarity in the wood carving though the techniques do differ. Kashmir’s intricate wood carving uses two tools – chisel and hammer – while in Iran, just one chisel is employed to carve flowers and patterns on wood,” Mr. Shahriari told *The Hindu*. “Art, and not craft, is very central to artworks of Iran,” he added.

According to popular history, Zain-ul-Abidin, the ninth sultan of the Kashmir Sultanate from the 15th Century, promoted the local wood-carving industry with the help of master artisans from Central Asia’s Samarkand, Bukhara and Persia. After his death, however, craft interactions between Kashmir and Central Asia dwindled with the passage of time, and almost



Meeting of masters: Iranian artisan Hamid Mahmoudi displays his works at a World Crafts Council event in Srinagar. IMRAN NISSAR

came to an end by 1947, when borders were fortified around Kashmir.

Seventeen artisans, who have travelled from Iran, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Russia to Srinagar, have revived lost crafts and cultural links between Kashmir and Central Asia. The artisans came to Srinagar as part of a rare three-day craft exchange initia-

tion, which concluded on Wednesday.

The World Crafts Council (WCC) granted Srinagar the tag of ‘World Craft City’ in June this year.

‘Lot of similarity’

“There is a lot of similarity between crafts in Uzbekistan and Kashmir. I would like artisans from my country to see how artisans in Kashmir have preserved

many processes for centuries. We look forward to more such exchanges in the future too,” Aziz Murtazaev, a delegate from Uzbekistan, who has earned fame for ikat fabrics, said.

Uzbekistan’s *suzani* work, which apparently travelled to Kashmir, is widely known as *sozini* art here, and uses the same techniques, colours and floral schemes. “For me, it was going back to our roots as I observed the Central Asian art form. Our aesthetics and exquisite designs match a lot, from carpets to shawls,” Nazima Jan, a *sozni* artisan from Srinagar, said.

The stall set up by Hamid Mahmoudi and Marjan Kakouei, an Iranian couple dealing in woollen carpets, attracted the attention of carpet dealers and artisans from Kashmir. In the family of knots, Kashmir,

for centuries, preferred Farsi baffle and the Persian system known as the Sehna knot to weave woollen and silk carpets. Sehna is a style of knotting where the ends of the yarn loop around a warp thread, and appears at each of the interstices between adjacent threads to produce a compact and relatively even pile effect.

‘Links with Iran’

“The Kashmir carpet industry’s link with Iran is evident from the fact that carpet patterns are named after Iranian cities, including Kashan, Kirman, Tabriz, Isfahan, and Meshed. It is, however, the first time that artisans from these cities, and Kashmir, get to see each other’s work and observe it closely. It will help artisans in Kashmir upskill and inspire them to do better,” said Saleem Beg, head of the Indian Na-

tional Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage-Kashmir.

Other talking points came up as the artisans conversed. “Kashmir is very beautiful. The place is mesmerising, closer to the stories we heard about Kashmir back home,” Feruza Kulmatova, a *suzani* artisan from Uzbekistan, said.

Buoyed by the interest generated among artisans, WCC president Saad Al-Qaddumi urged the government to throw its weight behind such initiatives and organise more such interactions. “Such initiatives need handholding from governments,” Mr. Qaddumi said.

J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo said the tag of ‘World Craft City’ was going to be a game changer. “The event is going to connect the artisans of Kashmir with global markets,” Mr. Dulloo said.





Kashmiri, Central Asian artisans reconnect under one roof in Srinagar

श्रीनगर में कश्मीरी और मध्य एशियाई कारीगरों का पुनर्मिलन

- Artisans from Kashmir reunited with master craftspeople from **Central Asia** after a gap of about **500 years** at the **Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre in Srinagar**.

कश्मीर के कारीगरों ने 500 साल के अंतराल के बाद मध्य एशिया के मास्टर कारीगरों के साथ शेर-ए-कश्मीर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन केंद्र, श्रीनगर में पुनर्मिलन किया।

- This event was held in the backdrop of the **'World Craft City'** tag being awarded to Srinagar earlier this year.

यह आयोजन इस साल श्रीनगर को 'वर्ल्ड क्राफ्ट सिटी' का टैग मिलने की पृष्ठभूमि में आयोजित किया गया।

- Kashmiri artisans traced the roots of many handicrafts to **Central Asian countries**, while Central Asian craftspeople admired the traditional processes preserved by Kashmiri artisans.

कश्मीरी कारीगरों ने कई हस्तशिल्प की जड़ों को मध्य एशियाई देशों से जोड़ा, जबकि मध्य एशियाई कारीगरों ने कश्मीरी कारीगरों द्वारा संरक्षित पारंपरिक प्रक्रियाओं की प्रशंसा की।

- Majed Shahriari**, a woodcarver from **Iran**, and **Ghulam Nabi Dar**, a master woodcarver from Srinagar, met for the first time and exchanged knowledge about their art forms. **माजेद शाहरियारी**, जो ईरान के एक लकड़ी के कारीगर हैं, और **गुलाम नबी दार**, श्रीनगर के मास्टर वुडकार्वर, पहली बार मिले और अपने कला रूपों पर ज्ञान का आदान-प्रदान किया।

- Shahriari noted that **Kashmir's intricate wood carving** uses **two tools: chisel and hammer**, while in **Iran**, only one chisel is used.

शाहरियारी ने बताया कि कश्मीर की जटिल लकड़ी की नक्काशी में दो उपकरण: छेनी और हथौड़ा का उपयोग होता है, जबकि ईरान में केवल एक छेनी का उपयोग किया जाता है।

- According to history, **Zain-ul-Abidin**, the **ninth sultan of the Kashmir Sultanate in the 15th Century**, promoted the local wood-carving industry with the help of artisans from **Samarkand, Bukhara, and Persia**.

इतिहास के अनुसार, जैन-उल-आबिदीन, जो 15वीं शताब्दी में कश्मीर सल्तनत के नौवें सुल्तान थे, ने समरकंद, बुखारा और फारस के कारीगरों की मदद से स्थानीय लकड़ी की नक्काशी उद्योग को बढ़ावा दिया।

- Craft interactions between **Kashmir and Central Asia** declined after Zain-ul-Abidin's death and almost ended by **1947** due to the fortification of borders around Kashmir.

कश्मीर और मध्य एशिया के बीच हस्तशिल्प संबंध जैन-उल-आबिदीन की मृत्यु के बाद घट गए और 1947 में कश्मीर के चारों ओर सीमाओं के मजबूत होने के कारण लगभग समाप्त हो गए।

- Seventeen artisans** from **Iran, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Russia** visited Srinagar to revive lost crafts and cultural links during a **three-day craft exchange initiative**.

ईरान, ताजिकिस्तान, किर्गिस्तान, उज्बेकिस्तान, तुर्कमेनिस्तान और रूस के सत्रह कारीगर खोई हुई





शिल्प और सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए श्रीनगर आए। यह तीन-दिवसीय शिल्प विनिमय पहल का हिस्सा था।

- The **World Crafts Council (WCC)** granted Srinagar the 'World Craft City' tag in **June** this year.

वर्ल्ड क्राफ्ट काउंसिल (WCC) ने इस साल जून में श्रीनगर को 'वर्ल्ड क्राफ्ट सिटी' का टैग प्रदान किया।

Similarity Between Crafts in Uzbekistan and Kashmir

उज्बेकिस्तान और कश्मीर के शिल्प में समानता

- "There is a lot of **similarity** between crafts in **Uzbekistan** and **Kashmir**," said **Aziz Murtazaev**, a delegate from Uzbekistan known for **ikat fabrics**.
"उज्बेकिस्तान और कश्मीर के शिल्प में बहुत समानता है," उज्बेकिस्तान के प्रतिनिधि अज़ीज़ मुरतज़ायेव ने कहा, जो इकत कपड़ों के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं।
- He expressed a desire for **artisans from Uzbekistan** to observe how **Kashmiri artisans** have preserved **traditional processes** for centuries.
उन्होंने इच्छा व्यक्त की कि उज्बेकिस्तान के कारीगर देखें कि कैसे कश्मीरी कारीगरों ने पारंपरिक प्रक्रियाओं को सदियों तक संरक्षित रखा है।
- Uzbekistan's **suzani work**, widely known in Kashmir as **sozini art**, uses similar **techniques, colors, and floral schemes**.
उज्बेकिस्तान का सुझानी शिल्प, कश्मीर में व्यापक रूप से सोज़नी कला के रूप में जाना जाता है, और यह समान तकनीकों, रंगों और फूलों की डिज़ाइन का उपयोग करता है।

Observation by Kashmiri Artisans

कश्मीरी कारीगरों की टिप्पणियाँ

- "For me, it was like going back to our **roots**, as I observed the **Central Asian art form**," said **Nazima Jan**, a **sozini artisan** from Srinagar.
"मेरे लिए यह हमारी जड़ों की ओर लौटने जैसा था," श्रीनगर की सोज़नी कारीगर नज़ीमा जान ने कहा।
- She noted that **aesthetics and designs** of **Central Asian and Kashmiri crafts** match significantly, ranging from **carpets to shawls**.
उन्होंने कहा कि मध्य एशियाई और कश्मीरी शिल्प के सौंदर्य और डिज़ाइन में काफी समानता है, जैसे कालीनों से शॉल तक।

Iranian Influence on Kashmiri Carpets

कश्मीरी कालीनों पर ईरानी प्रभाव

- The stall by **Hamid Mahmoudi** and **Marjan Kakouei**, an Iranian couple, drew significant attention from **carpet dealers** and **artisans** in Kashmir.





हमिद महमूदी और मरजान काकूई, एक ईरानी जोड़े के स्टॉल ने कश्मीर के कालीन विक्रेताओं और कारीगरों का ध्यान आकर्षित किया।

- Kashmiri carpets have historically adopted the **Farsi baaf** and **Sehna knot systems**, prevalent in **Persian weaving** traditions.

कश्मीरी कालीनों ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से **फारसी बाफ** और **सेहना गाँठ प्रणाली** को अपनाया है, जो **फारसी बुनाई** परंपराओं में प्रचलित हैं।

Cultural Link with Iran

ईरान के साथ सांस्कृतिक संबंध

- Kashmiri carpet patterns are named after **Iranian cities** like **Kashan, Kirman, Tabriz, Isfahan, and Meshed**.

कश्मीरी कालीन डिज़ाइनों के नाम **काशान, किर्मान, तबरेज़, इस्फ़हान, और मेशद** जैसे **ईरानी शहरों** के नाम पर हैं।

- For the first time, artisans from **these Iranian cities** and **Kashmir** could closely observe each other's work, fostering inspiration and skill enhancement.

पहली बार, **इन ईरानी शहरों** और **कश्मीर** के कारीगर एक-दूसरे के काम को करीब से देख सके, जिससे प्रेरणा और कौशल-वृद्धि हुई।

International Perspectives on Kashmiri Art

कश्मीरी कला पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण

- Uzbek delegate **Feruz Kulmatova**, a **suzani artisan**, shared that **Kashmir** matched the **beautiful stories** she had heard in her homeland.

उज्बेक प्रतिनिधि **फेरुज़ा कुलमतोवा**, जो एक **सुझानी कारीगर** हैं, ने साझा किया कि **कश्मीर** उनके देश में सुनी गई **सुनहरी कहानियों** से मेल खाता है।

Call for Government Support

सरकारी समर्थन की मांग

- **WCC president Saad Al-Qaddumi** urged governments to **support such initiatives** for the **growth of artisans** and international exchanges.

डब्ल्यूसीसी के अध्यक्ष **साद अल-क़द्दूमि** ने कारीगरों की प्रगति और अंतरराष्ट्रीय आदान-प्रदान के लिए ऐसे प्रयासों को सरकारों द्वारा समर्थन देने का आह्वान किया।

- **J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo** emphasized that the **'World Craft City'** title would connect **Kashmiri artisans** to **global markets**, transforming their craft industry.

जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुख्य सचिव **अतुल दुल्लू** ने जोर देकर कहा कि **'वर्ल्ड क्राफ्ट सिटी'** का खिताब **कश्मीरी कारीगरों** को वैश्विक बाजारों से जोड़ेगा, और उनकी शिल्प उद्योग को बदल देगा।





Odisha police on high alert as Pannun issues threat to meet of DGPs

GS Paper III: Internal Security
Satyastunna Barik
BHUBANESWAR

U.S.-based Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has threatened to disrupt a three-day meet starting in Bhubaneswar on Friday that will focus on India's internal security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval are set to attend the conference.

Odisha Police is on high alert after the video threat issued by Mr. Pannun.

"We are on high alert and implementing security measures as needed," said S. Dev Datta Singh, Commissioner of Police for Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Extensive security measures have been put in place for the DGP-IGP conference.

Public movement will be restricted from November 29 to December 1, with 70 platoons of police deployed across the city, which has also been declared a no-fly and no-drone zone.

President in Puri

As Mr. Modi is expected to spend a few hours at the State BJP office on Friday, the area has been heavily barricaded. President Droupadi Murmu is set to be in the State to attend Navy Day celebrations in Puri on December 4.

In the video message, the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) chief had termed Mr. Modi, Mr. Shah, and Mr. Doval the "three axes of evil". He alleged that Mr. Shah had



Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

Modi, Shah, Doval scheduled to attend conference starting today; Bhubaneswar declared no-fly zone

directed the assassination of Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

'Disrupt conference'

Mr. Pannun, a designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, also urged pro-Khalistan Sikhs, Kashmiri fighters, and Naxals to take cover in temples in Bhubaneswar and hotels to internationalise their issue.

He also called upon them to disrupt and stop the conference.

"While Indian terrorists are using violence, you use your voice and talk about your sovereignty and freedom. On December 1, terror city Bhubaneswar will be the ground zero. SFJ's mission is to disintegrate and balkanise the Union of India. We are going for referendum in Punjab and will liberate it from Indian occupation," the SFJ chief said in the video message.

Odisha Police on High Alert as Pannun Issues Threat to Meet of DGPs

ओडिशा पुलिस सतर्क, पन्नू ने डीजीपी की बैठक को लेकर दी धमकी

• U.S.-based Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has threatened to disrupt a three-day meet starting in Bhubaneswar on Friday, focusing on India's internal security.

अमेरिका स्थित खालिस्तानी अलगाववादी गुरपतवंत सिंह पन्नू ने शुक्रवार से भुवनेश्वर में शुरू हो रही तीन दिवसीय बैठक को बाधित करने की धमकी दी है, जो भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा पर केंद्रित होगी।

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval are set to attend the conference.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी, केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह, और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल इस सम्मेलन में भाग लेने वाले हैं।

• Odisha Police is on high alert after the video threat issued by Mr. Pannun.

पन्नू द्वारा वीडियो में दी गई धमकी के बाद ओडिशा पुलिस सतर्क है।

• "We are on high alert and implementing security measures as needed," said S. Dev Datta Singh, Commissioner of Police for Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

भुवनेश्वर और कटक के पुलिस आयुक्त एस. देव दत्ता सिंह ने कहा, "हम उच्च सतर्कता पर हैं और आवश्यकता अनुसार सुरक्षा उपाय लागू कर रहे हैं।"

• Extensive security measures have been put in place for the DGP-IGP conference.

डीजीपी-आईजीपी सम्मेलन के लिए विस्तृत सुरक्षा उपाय किए गए हैं।

- Public movement will be restricted from November 29 to December 1, with 70 platoons of police deployed across the city.





29 नवंबर से 1 दिसंबर तक सार्वजनिक आवाजाही प्रतिबंधित रहेगी, और शहर भर में 70 प्लाटून पुलिस तैनात की गई है।

- The city has also been declared a **no-fly and no-drone zone**.
शहर को नो-फ्लाई और नो-ड्रोन ज़ोन घोषित किया गया है।

President in Puri

राष्ट्रपति पुरी में

- **President Droupadi Murmu is set to attend Navy Day celebrations in Puri on December 4.**

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू 4 दिसंबर को पुरी में नेवी डे समारोह में शामिल होंगी।

- As **PM Modi** is expected to spend a few hours at the State BJP office on **Friday**, the area has been heavily barricaded.

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के शुक्रवार को राज्य भाजपा कार्यालय में कुछ घंटे बिताने की संभावना को देखते हुए क्षेत्र को कड़ी बैरिकेडिंग की गई है।

Threat by Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) Chief

सिख्स फॉर जस्टिस (SFJ) प्रमुख की धमकी

- In a video message, SFJ chief **Gurpatwant Singh Pannun** termed **Modi, Shah, and Doval** as the "three axes of evil."
वीडियो संदेश में एसएफजे प्रमुख गुरपतवंत सिंह पन्नू ने मोदी, शाह और डोभाल को "तीन बुराईयों के ध्रुव" कहा।
- He alleged that **Amit Shah** directed the assassination of **Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar**.
उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि अमित शाह ने खालिस्तान कार्यकर्ता हरदीप सिंह निज्जर की हत्या का निर्देश दिया था।
- **Mr. Pannun called on pro-Khalistan Sikhs, Kashmiri fighters, and Naxals to take cover in temples and hotels in Bhubaneswar to internationalize their issue.**
पन्नू ने प्रो-खालिस्तान सिखों, कश्मीरी लड़ाकों और नक्सलियों से भुवनेश्वर के मंदिरों और होटलों में शरण लेने और अपने मुद्दे को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर उठाने का आह्वान किया।
- He urged them to **disrupt and stop the conference**.
उन्होंने उनसे सम्मेलन को बाधित और रोकने का आह्वान किया।
- "SFJ's mission is to **disintegrate and balkanize the Union of India**," he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "एसएफजे का मिशन भारत संघ को विखंडित और खंडित करना है।"
- SFJ is planning a **referendum in Punjab** to "liberate it from Indian occupation."
एसएफजे पंजाब में जनमत संग्रह की योजना बना रहा है, ताकि इसे "भारतीय कब्जे से मुक्त" किया जा सके।



SPOTLIGHT



NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T

'Digital arrests' are the newest form of cyber fraud that has affected more than 92,000 Indians this year. Criminals posing as law enforcement officials make video calls to people they believe are vulnerable, extracting money through online transfers under the guise of resolving tax or legal dues. Vijaita Singh speaks to victims, the police, and officials to understand how the crime is perpetuated

ES Paper III: Cyber Security

Over the past three months, Ruchi Garg, 44, a stay-at-home mother of two in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, has preferred offline transactions to digital ones. In August, a 15-minute WhatsApp audio call changed the way she uses the Internet and social media. Like many others in her circle, Garg used to spend up to eight hours on her phone on various social media apps, especially WhatsApp.

One morning, after her second son had gone to school and her husband to office, Garg got a WhatsApp call from a number displaying the photo of a police officer in uniform. "I couldn't understand why a police officer would be calling me," she says.

"The man spoke quickly, saying that my elder son, who is studying engineering in a college in Vellore (in Tamil Nadu), had been arrested in a major scam. He told me that if I wanted to save his reputation, I would have to pay ₹80,000," she says. The money, he said, was to prevent her son's photograph from being widely circulated.

"He didn't let me hang up. He insisted that if I wanted to consult my husband, I should call him from another number," says Garg. She panicked and sent the money to the Unified Payments Interface number the scammer had given her. "I could hear my son's screams in the background," she recalls. "Maybe they used AI to generate his voice."

"When the caller asked for more money, something felt odd, and she called her son from another number. "He said he was in class. I understood that I had been scammed and hung up," she says.

Garg is overwhelmed by what happened to her; shocked that the scammer had profiled her, and knew where and what her son was studying. There is fear of being scammed again. "I verbally informed the Senior Superintendent of Police in Vellore as I was worried about my son, but they did not pursue the case as the [scammer's] number was from Pakistan," she says.

Garg is among thousands of Indians who have been the target of a scam known colloquially as 'digital arrest'. From January 1 to November 15 this year, as many as 92,323 'digital arrests' have been reported across the country with people collectively being cheated of ₹2,140.59 crore, as per the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) that operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and is the nodal body for monitoring, analysing, and investigating cybercrime trends. There are many more like Garg who have not filed police complaints.

On October 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned people against the new cybercrime. He described what Garg and others like her have gone through. Criminals collect personal information and make phone or video calls to prospective victims. They pose as officials from various law enforcement agencies, and at times from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and extort money by creating an atmosphere of fear.

"Digital arrests" are just one of the many large-scale organised cybercrimes in India. According to I4C, Indians are likely to lose over 1.2 lakh crore, roughly 0.7% of the GDP, over the next year due to cyber frauds.

Through 2024, until November 11, financial fraud in the country reported via MHA's cyber-

crime portal, cybercrime.gov.in, stood at ₹19,888.42 crore. The 1930 helpline to report such fraud received 14.41 lakh calls. In 2023, up to 15.56 lakh calls were received and India's total cybercrime financial fraud was reported at ₹92.59 crore. As per I4C, cybercrimes witnessed an increase of 11% from 2021 to 2022 and 61% from 2022 to 2023.

Held hostage digitally
Sanita Mehta (name changed upon request), a 57-year-old Central government employee, was travelling on work on May 24 this year during the Lok Sabha election. Back home in Delhi, her husband was alone.

"As soon as I left, my husband, Rajesh (name changed to protect identity), received an automated call stating that his parcel was stuck in the Customs department. But we were not expecting any parcel," Mehta recalls. The call was then forwarded to a person who claimed that banned items had been found in the parcel and that the call was being transferred to the Crime Branch.

The caller instructed Rajesh to download Skype. Once he did, a person in a police uniform appeared on screen and informed him that documents pertaining to his identity were being misused for money laundering. The caller showed him a photograph of a Minister in jail and alleged that four bank accounts in Rajesh's name were used by someone involved in financial crimes.

"Another person in a police uniform appeared on screen and showed Rajesh a letter bearing the logos of the Crime Branch, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and other probe agencies. They told him that RBI rules stipulated he would need to transfer 96% of his money to a government bank account for verification. They said after three days, the money would be returned," Mehta says.

The call continued for more than 24 hours as the scammers said they needed to monitor Rajesh 24x7, Mehta says. They even asked him to show them the bathroom before he entered in order to check if anyone else was around. "The moment he paused, another person would appear on the video and start talking. They ter-



Cheerful residents C. Jeebaraj and his wife Shanthi were scammed by men claiming to be from TRAI. R. BINDRAN

ried him. They claimed to be watching our home with drones and warned him that if he turned off the video, the police would arrest him," she says.

The next morning, Rajesh went to a bank near his home in south Delhi's Saket with the Skype video still on. He transferred ₹5.68 lakh to a so-called surveillance bank account of the government. When he questioned the scammer about it being a savings bank account, the scammer assured him that it was done intentionally so that money launderers would not be alerted.

At one point, Rajesh said he would speak to his lawyer. The caller grew angry and warned him that all his money would be seized, and that he would be sent to jail. "They assured him that the money would be returned within 20 minutes.

However, after 2-3 hours, when the money didn't come back, we immediately called the cyber-crime helpline," Mehta says.

She adds that the police only placed the account under surveillance on May 30. "By then, the money had been transferred through several bank accounts."

Mehta says when they took the case to court, "the bank argued that the money remaining in the account belonged to other victims and our bank funds had already been moved to other bank accounts." In court, it was revealed that on the same day at least 30 people had been given that account number to transfer funds to.

Scam compound 'learning'

On August 20, around 450 km from Delhi, a physician in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, fell victim to an identical crime. He was held hostage digitally for 48 hours and lost ₹48 lakh. On November 14, U.P. Police's Special Task Force (STF) arrested five

persons from Gurugram, Haryana, who had cheated the physician.

"While investigating, we found that the money from the Lucknow doctor was deposited in two bank accounts and subsequently transferred to 178 other bank accounts," says Vishal Vikram Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), STF, U.P. Police. The main accused was identified as Pankaj Surekha, 28, a graduate and resident of Alwar, Rajasthan.

Singh says Surekha had gone to work in a 'scam compound' in Cambodia in March. The outfit was owned by five or six Chinese nationals, with staff hired from Pakistan, Nepal, and India. "They received training in how to cheat people by posing as CBI, police, Crime Branch, and narcotics department officials," the ASP says.

The suspects were arrested on charges of cheating, forgery, and criminal conspiracy under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The I4C has identified 'scam compounds' in Asian countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, and Azerbaijan that resemble call centres. These compounds used to be casinos that shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a United Nations report from October, Indian youth are being recruited with offers of IT or administrative work, often based in Thailand. On arrival, they are met by agents who transfer them to counterparts, who take them across the border into Cambodia, Myanmar, and Lao PDR. Around 1,500 Indians have been rescued from 'scam compounds' between May and August this year.

On January 3, Rajesh Kumar, chief executive officer of I4C, said at a press conference that around 50% of cybercrime complaints on the national helpline every day have their origin in China and pockets of Cambodia and Myanmar.

Sureka told the STF that the 'scam compound' operators have local conduits in India. He was working for Chinese operators after returning from Cambodia, where he stayed for 15-20 days. "Up to 30% of the commission is assured to the holder of the bank account where the money is parked. It is not only male accounts, people are also renting their accounts out," Singh says.

According to I4C, about 4,000 male bank accounts are identified every day by investigating agencies. Over the past year, over seven lakh male bank accounts have been blocked. Officials say the defrauded money may be used for terror financing and money laundering, and is often pushed out of the country in the form of cryptocurrencies.

"They exploit a person's inner fear. If the victim shares their Aadhaar number, they misuse the information and convince the person that they are involved in a crime. If you appear weak, they play with the mind and the person succumbs to the fraud," Singh says.

The golden hour for reporting the crime is within 24 hours. The helpline and the portal run by the I4C are linked to State police apparatuses in addition to over 300 financial intermediaries, banks, and wallets. Real-time alerts are sent to banks and payment wallets by I4C after a financial fraud is reported, asking them to block or freeze the amount.

However, data from I4C show that out of the ₹1,269 crore that was reported to have been defrauded in the first six months of the year, ₹1,361 crore was blocked by banks, but only ₹1,157 crore was returned to the victims. Until June, I4C had asked Microsoft to block 1,500 Skype IDs involved in digital frauds.

Fraud alert
On October 28, the I4C issued an alert against illegal payment gateways facilitated by male bank accounts following raids by the Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh police forces.

Visakhapatnam Commissioner of Police Shanka Brata Bagchi says the police identified the main accused who brought the scam from China to India. The illegal set-up was running from a flat in the city in the guise of a cosmetics company.

"The extent of the scam can be uncovered only when the masterminds, who are hiding in the U.S. and Taiwan, are caught. All of them have Chinese passports," Bagchi says.

Five persons, including four women, were arrested in Visakhapatnam. Two primary suspects - Sairam and Girish - had hired people for ₹25,000 each. Bagchi suggests that a certain percentage of police inquiries should be reserved for cybersecurity experts.

Meanwhile, in Chennai, C. Jeebaraj, 75, a retired university professor, and his wife Shanthi, 71, almost became victims of a 'digital arrest' on November 5. "We were on a video call with men who initially claimed to be from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India," says Shanthi, a homemaker. "Then they told us that my husband's name had appeared in a major money laundering scam involving politicians and policemen, and that we needed to cooperate to save him. One of the callers was even wearing a police uniform," she adds.

After the call went on for a couple of hours, their daughter, who also lives in the city, called Jeebaraj. He told her that they couldn't speak and briefly explained what was happening.

"She rushed home. When she arrived, the call was still going on with the logo of Delhi Police's Crime Branch on the screen. She immediately disconnected the call. Later, we received a threatening message saying that if we didn't take the call, we would be arrested," Shanthi says. Her daughter then reported the incident to the cyber-crime helpline, informed the bank, and requested a password change for their accounts.

A police officer said people's personal information is on sale on the dark web and apps like Telegram for as low as 10 paise. According to Ashish Khetan, founder of AU Corporate Advisory and Legal Services that also offers financial services, black market data trading must be tackled jointly by the government and technology platforms. He calls for stronger penalties for violations to deter illegal sale of data.

As of March 31, 2024, there are at least 95 crore Internet users in India.





‘Digital Arrests’: A New Form of Cyber Fraud

‘डिजिटल अरेस्ट्स’: साइबर धोखाधड़ी का नया रूप

- Over the past three months, Ruchi Garg, a 44-year-old stay-at-home mother in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, has avoided online transactions after a 13-minute WhatsApp audio call in August changed her perspective.
पिछले तीन महीनों में, उत्तर प्रदेश के गाजियाबाद की 44 वर्षीय गृहिणी रुचि गर्ग ने अगस्त में 13 मिनट की व्हाट्सएप ऑडियो कॉल के बाद ऑनलाइन लेन-देन से बचना शुरू कर दिया।
- Garg received a **WhatsApp call from a number displaying a police officer’s photo**, claiming her elder son was involved in a scam and demanding ₹80,000 to avoid his photo being circulated.
गर्ग को एक पुलिस अधिकारी की फोटो वाला व्हाट्सएप कॉल आया, जिसमें कहा गया कि उनके बड़े बेटे का एक घोटाले में नाम है और उनकी फोटो वायरल होने से रोकने के लिए ₹80,000 मांगे गए।
- The **scammer used AI to mimic her son’s voice, creating a sense of urgency**, but when more money was demanded, she called her son and discovered the scam.
ठग ने एआई का उपयोग करके उनके बेटे की आवाज़ नकल की, जिससे उन्होंने जल्दी पैसा भेजा, लेकिन जब और पैसे मांगे गए तो उन्होंने बेटे से संपर्क किया और धोखाधड़ी का पता चला।
- Garg verbally informed the **Senior Superintendent of Police in Vellore**, but no action was taken as the scammer’s number originated from **Pakistan**.
गर्ग ने वेल्लोर के वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक को मौखिक रूप से सूचित किया, लेकिन कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हुई क्योंकि ठग का नंबर पाकिस्तान का था।
- From January 1 to November 15, 2024, 92,323 ‘digital arrests’ cases** were reported in India, amounting to a loss of ₹2,140.99 crore, as per the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).
1 जनवरी से 15 नवंबर 2024 तक, भारत में 92,323 'डिजिटल अरेस्ट' के मामले दर्ज किए गए, जिनमें ₹2,140.99 करोड़ की हानि हुई, भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र (I4C) के अनुसार।
- On **October 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi** warned against such crimes, explaining how criminals create fear by impersonating law enforcement officials.
27 अक्टूबर को, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने ऐसे अपराधों के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी, यह बताते हुए कि अपराधी कानून प्रवर्तन अधिकारियों का रूप धारण कर डर पैदा करते हैं।

Held Hostage Digitally

डिजिटली बंधक बनाए गए

- Sunita Mehta (name changed), a 57-year-old Central government employee, faced a scam when her husband received a call about a **parcel stuck in Customs** after she left for work on May 24.
सुनिता मेहता (परिवर्तित नाम), 57 वर्षीय केंद्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारी, को तब धोखाधड़ी का सामना





करना पड़ा जब कस्टम्स में अटके पार्सल की कॉल उनके पति को मिली, जब वह 24 मई को काम के लिए गई थीं।

- The caller made her husband download **Skype**, showed him police uniforms on video calls, and claimed his **identity documents were used for money laundering**.
कॉलर ने उनके पति को **स्काइप डाउनलोड करने** के लिए कहा, वीडियो कॉल पर पुलिस की वर्दी दिखाई, और कहा कि उनके **पहचान दस्तावेज मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग में उपयोग किए गए हैं**।
- They demanded that **96% of his money** be transferred to a government account for verification, promising it would be returned.
उन्होंने कहा कि उनके **पैसे का 96%** सरकारी खाते में सत्यापन के लिए ट्रांसफर किया जाए और इसे वापस कर दिया जाएगा।
- In **2024, until November 11**, financial frauds reported via MHA's portal amounted to ₹19,888.42 crore, with **14.41 lakh calls received on the 1930 helpline**.
2024 में, 11 नवंबर तक, एमएचए के पोर्टल के माध्यम से रिपोर्ट किए गए वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी ₹19,888.42 करोड़ थी, और **1930 हेल्पलाइन पर 14.41 लाख कॉल प्राप्त हुईं**।
- From **2021 to 2022**, cybercrimes increased by **113%**, and from **2022 to 2023**, they rose by **60%**, indicating an alarming growth in such crimes.
2021 से 2022 के बीच साइबर अपराधों में **113%** की वृद्धि हुई, और **2022 से 2023** के बीच यह **60%** बढ़ा, जो इन अपराधों में खतरनाक वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।

Scam Call Incident in Delhi

दिल्ली में ठगी की घटना

- The call **continued for more than 24 hours** as the scammers claimed they needed to monitor Rajesh 24x7.
कॉल **24 घंटे से अधिक समय तक जारी रहा** क्योंकि ठगों ने दावा किया कि उन्हें राजेश की 24x7 निगरानी करनी थी।
- They even asked him to show the **bathroom** before entering to ensure no one else was around.
उन्होंने राजेश से **बाथरूम दिखाने** के लिए कहा ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि आसपास कोई और नहीं है।
- Whenever he paused, another person would **appear on the video** and continue the conversation.
जब भी वह रुका, एक और व्यक्ति **वीडियो पर आ जाता** और बातचीत जारी रखता।
- The scammers claimed to be **watching their home with drones** and warned him that if the video was turned off, the **police would arrest him**.
ठगों ने दावा किया कि वे **ड्रोन के माध्यम से उनके घर की निगरानी कर रहे हैं** और चेतावनी दी कि यदि वीडियो बंद हुआ तो **पुलिस उसे गिरफ्तार कर लेगी**।
- The next morning, Rajesh went to a **bank in Saket** and transferred **₹5.68 lakh** to a "government surveillance account."
अगली सुबह, राजेश ने **साकेत के एक बैंक में जाकर ₹5.68 लाख** एक "सरकारी निगरानी खाते" में स्थानांतरित कर दिए।





- When he questioned why it was a **savings account**, the scammers claimed it was to avoid alerting **money launderers**.
जब उन्होंने पूछा कि यह बचत खाता क्यों है, तो ठगों ने कहा कि यह धन शोधनकर्ताओं को सतर्क करने से बचने के लिए है।

Legal Threats and Aftermath

कानूनी धमकियां और परिणाम

- Rajesh suggested speaking to his **lawyer**, but the scammer **grew angry** and threatened that all his money would be seized, and he would be **jailed**.
राजेश ने अपने वकील से बात करने का सुझाव दिया, लेकिन ठग गुस्से में आ गए और धमकी दी कि उसकी सारी संपत्ति जब्त हो जाएगी और वह जेल भेजा जाएगा।
- The scammers assured him the money would be returned within **20 minutes**, but it did not come back even after **2-3 hours**.
ठगों ने आश्वासन दिया कि पैसा 20 मिनट के भीतर वापस कर दिया जाएगा, लेकिन 2-3 घंटे के बाद भी पैसा वापस नहीं आया।
- The family contacted the **cybercrime helpline**, but by then, the money had already been **transferred through several accounts**.
परिवार ने साइबर अपराध हेल्पलाइन से संपर्क किया, लेकिन तब तक पैसा कई खातों में स्थानांतरित हो चुका था।

Scam Modus Operandi and Expansion

ठगी का तरीका और विस्तार

- The scam account was found to be used by at least **30 victims** on the same day.
जांच में पाया गया कि उसी दिन कम से कम 30 पीड़ितों से इस खाते में पैसे जमा कराए गए।
- A similar case occurred in **Lucknow**, where a physician was **digitally held hostage for 48 hours** and lost **₹48 lakh**.
लखनऊ में एक ऐसा ही मामला हुआ, जहां एक चिकित्सक को 48 घंटे तक डिजिटल रूप से बंधक बनाया गया और उन्होंने ₹48 लाख गंवाए।
- On **November 14**, U.P. Police's **Special Task Force (STF)** arrested five persons in **Gurugram** related to this crime.
14 नवंबर को, उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस के स्पेशल टास्क फोर्स (एसटीएफ) ने गुरुग्राम में इस अपराध से जुड़े पांच लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया।

International Connections and Scam Compounds

अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध और ठगी केंद्र

- The prime accused, **Pankaj Surela**, worked in a **scam compound in Cambodia** owned by **Chinese nationals**.





मुख्य आरोपी पंकज सुरेला ने कंबोडिया में एक ठगी केंद्र में काम किया, जो चीनी नागरिकों के स्वामित्व में था।

- The compounds, often **former casinos**, are located in **Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, and Azerbaijan** and used for training scammers.

ये केंद्र, जो पहले कैसीनो थे, कंबोडिया, म्यांमार, लाओस, और अज़रबैजान में स्थित हैं और ठगों को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए उपयोग किए जाते हैं।

Implications and Actions by I4C

आई4सी द्वारा प्रभाव और कार्यवाही

- **I4C** identified these scam compounds, and around **1,300 Indians** were rescued from such facilities between **May and August**.

आई4सी ने इन ठगी केंद्रों की पहचान की और मई से अगस्त के बीच लगभग **1,300 भारतीयों** को इन सुविधाओं से बचाया।

- Over the past year, **7 lakh mule accounts** have been blocked, and **4,000 mule accounts** are identified daily.

पिछले वर्ष में, **7 लाख म्यूल खाते** ब्लॉक किए गए हैं और प्रतिदिन **4,000 म्यूल खाते** पहचाने जा रहे हैं।

- The **defrauded money** is often used for **terror financing, money laundering, and converted into cryptocurrencies**.

ठगी से अर्जित पैसा अक्सर आतंक वित्तपोषण, धन शोधन, और क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी में परिवर्तित किया जाता है।

Exploitation of a Person's Inner Fear

व्यक्ति के आंतरिक भय का शोषण

- Criminals exploit a person's **inner fear** by misusing their **Aadhaar number**, convincing victims they are involved in crimes.

अपराधी व्यक्ति के आंतरिक भय का शोषण करते हैं, उनके आधार नंबर का दुरुपयोग करते हुए उन्हें यह विश्वास दिलाते हैं कि वे किसी अपराध में शामिल हैं।

- **If victims appear weak, they manipulate their minds, leading them to succumb to fraud.**

यदि पीड़ित कमजोर दिखते हैं, तो वे उनके दिमाग को नियंत्रित करते हैं और उन्हें धोखाधड़ी का शिकार बनाते हैं।

Golden Hour for Reporting Crime

अपराध की रिपोर्ट करने का स्वर्ण समय

- The **golden hour** for reporting cybercrime is within **24 hours**.

साइबर अपराध की रिपोर्ट करने का स्वर्ण समय **24 घंटे** के भीतर होता है।

- The **I4C helpline** and portal are linked to **State police, 300+ financial intermediaries, banks, and wallets**.





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Contact Number: 9971932488

आई4सी हेल्पलाइन और पोर्टल राज्य पुलिस, 300+ वित्तीय मध्यस्थों, बैंकों और वॉलेट्स से जुड़े हुए हैं।

- **Real-time alerts** are sent to banks and wallets to block or freeze amounts after financial fraud is reported.

वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी की रिपोर्ट होने के बाद बैंकों और वॉलेट्स को **रियल-टाइम अलर्ट** भेजे जाते हैं ताकि राशि को ब्लॉक या फ्रीज किया जा सके।

Fraud Statistics and Recovery

धोखाधड़ी के आंकड़े और वसूली

- From January to June 2024, ₹11,269 crore was reported as defrauded; ₹1,361 crore was blocked, and only ₹11.97 crore was returned to victims.
जनवरी से जून 2024 के बीच ₹11,269 करोड़ की धोखाधड़ी की रिपोर्ट की गई; ₹1,361 करोड़ को ब्लॉक किया गया और केवल ₹11.97 करोड़ पीड़ितों को वापस किया गया।
- I4C instructed **Microsoft** to block 1,500 **Skype** IDs involved in fraud until June 2024.
आई4सी ने जून 2024 तक धोखाधड़ी में शामिल 1,500 **स्काइप आईडी** ब्लॉक करने के लिए **माइक्रोसॉफ्ट** को निर्देश दिया।

Fraud Alert Issued on October 28, 2024

28 अक्टूबर 2024 को धोखाधड़ी अलर्ट जारी किया गया

- The I4C warned against **illegal payment gateways using mule bank accounts** after raids by Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh police.
आई4सी ने गुजरात और आंध्र प्रदेश पुलिस द्वारा छापों के बाद मूल बैंक खातों का उपयोग कर रहे अवैध भुगतान गेटवे के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी।



Chennai residents C. Jebaraj and his wife Shanthy were scammed by men claiming to be from TRAI. R. RAVINDRAN

Uncovering a Scam in Visakhapatnam

विशाखापत्तनम में एक घोटाले का खुलासा

- **Visakhapatnam police** discovered a scam brought from **China**, run under the guise of a **cosmetics company**.

Website: patrioticias.in

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





विशाखापत्तनम पुलिस ने चीन से लाए गए एक घोटाले का पता लगाया, जो कॉस्मेटिक कंपनी की आड़ में चल रहा था।

- The masterminds are suspected to be in the **U.S.** and **Taiwan**, all with **Chinese passports**.

मास्टरमाइंड के अमेरिका और ताइवान में होने का संदेह है, जिनके पास सभी के चीनी पासपोर्ट हैं।

Need for Cybersecurity Experts in Police

पुलिस में साइबर सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञों की आवश्यकता

- Visakhapatnam Commissioner of Police suggested reserving a **percentage of police hirings** for **cybersecurity experts**.

विशाखापत्तनम पुलिस आयुक्त ने साइबर सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञों के लिए पुलिस भर्ती का प्रतिशत आरक्षित करने का सुझाव दिया।

Case of 'Digital Arrest' in Chennai

चेन्नई में 'डिजिटल गिरफ्तारी' का मामला

- A retired professor and his wife were targeted via a **video call** where callers impersonated the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**. एक सेवानिवृत्त प्रोफेसर और उनकी पत्नी को वीडियो कॉल के जरिए निशाना बनाया गया, जहां कॉल करने वालों ने भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण (ट्राई) के रूप में खुद को प्रस्तुत किया।
- They were falsely accused of involvement in a **money laundering scam** and threatened with arrest. उन्हें मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग घोटाले में शामिल होने का झूठा आरोप लगाया गया और गिरफ्तारी की धमकी दी गई।

Dark Web and Data Trading

डार्क वेब और डेटा व्यापार

- **Personal information** is sold on the **dark web** and apps like **Telegram** for as low as **10 paise**. व्यक्तिगत जानकारी डार्क वेब और टेलीग्राम जैसे ऐप्स पर मात्र 10 पैसे में बेची जाती है।
- Experts suggest joint action by the **government** and **technology platforms** with stronger penalties for data violations. विशेषज्ञ सरकार और प्रौद्योगिकी प्लेटफार्मों द्वारा संयुक्त कार्रवाई और डेटा उल्लंघनों के लिए कड़े दंड की सलाह देते हैं।

Internet Users in India

भारत में इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता





- As of March 31, 2024, India has at least 95 crore Internet users.
31 मार्च 2024 तक भारत में कम से कम 95 करोड़ इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता हैं।

Census 2025 as a comprehensive citizen registry

GS Paper I: Population and Census

The 2025 Census includes an exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR), which is the first step for the establishment of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC). Grasping the full scope and implications of this initiative is essential.

The NRIC draws its mandate from the Citizenship Act 1955. Initially conceptualised after the 1951 Census, the NRIC gained renewed significance following recommendations by the Subrahmanyam Committee in the aftermath of the Kargil war (1999), which highlighted the need for a robust database that includes both citizens and non-citizens. These recommendations eventually led to the addition of Section 14A to the Act, mandating the compulsory registration of all Indian citizens and authorising the issuance of identity cards to officially document their citizenship status. Several pilot projects such as the Multi-Purpose National Identity Card (MNIC) and fishermen identity card have since been implemented with varying degrees of success.

As a verified registry with more benefits

The NRIC aims primarily to enhance national security by maintaining a verified citizen registry but also offers additional benefits, such as streamlining identity verification, reducing identity fraud and duplication, and enabling targeted welfare programmes that ensure benefits reach only eligible recipients. The NPR serves as the initial step in achieving these objectives by differentiating citizens from non-citizens through a multi-phase process that collects demographic and biometric data on all usual residents.

This multi-phase process includes several key steps. First, a comprehensive database is created by compiling demographic data during houselisting operations in the Census. Next, biometric data is collected to eliminate duplicate



C. Chandramouli

the former Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India

One objective is to update the National Population Register as a prelude to the creation of the National Register of Indian Citizens

records. Public claims and objections are then invited to ensure transparency, followed by a verification and appeals process allowing residents to challenge records, thereby enhancing accuracy and authenticity. Detailed inquiries into citizenship status are conducted to finalize the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which distinguishes citizens from non-citizens. The process culminates in the issuance of identity cards as mandated by the Citizenship Act.

In the 2011 Census details about individuals, including name, gender, date of birth, marital status, place of birth, nationality, family relationships, residency, and socio-economic indicators were collected. The 2025 Census is anticipated to follow a similar pattern. Biometric data collection, however, will probably be excluded, as this information is already available in the Aadhaar database.

Aadhaar versus NRIC

A question often raised in this connection is the need for this exercise when the Aadhaar already exists. It is essential to note that the Aadhaar and the NRIC serve distinct purposes. Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to residents of India, regardless of citizenship. It primarily serves as a biometric-based identity verification tool, linking residents to services such as banking, subsidies, and digital identity. The NRIC aims to establish a comprehensive citizen registry. While Aadhaar is focused on identity verification and can be held by any resident, the NRIC is a citizenship verification system, mandating proof of citizenship. Thus, Aadhaar is broadly inclusive for all residents, whereas the NRIC serves as a definitive record for citizens. They play complementary but distinct roles in India's

governance and security infrastructure.

The Assam exercise and privacy concerns

Assam is the only state where the National Register of Citizens (NRC) has been updated (2019). Intended to identify illegal immigrants, particularly from Bangladesh, the process raised concerns over its accuracy and fairness due to stringent documentation requirements that left many rural and less-educated residents unable to meet the criteria. Unlike the proposed national NRIC, Assam's NRC was guided by the Assam Accord, which imposed unique conditions. However, Assam's experience highlights the significant humanitarian and administrative challenges that could arise from implementing a nationwide NRIC.

Concerns about data privacy and the potential misuse of demographic and biometric information persist, despite the Supreme Court's guidelines in the Aadhaar case. The need for robust data protection remains critical. Exclusion fears, particularly for communities with limited documentation, must also be addressed.

Verifying citizenship on such a large scale poses significant logistical and administrative challenges, underscoring the importance of streamlined procedures and targeted public awareness campaigns.

The NRIC initiative calls for citizens to stay vigilant and actively engaged throughout the process. Given the scale of this effort, transparency and fairness depend on citizens being well-informed, proactive, and diligent in verifying their records. By understanding their rights, providing accurate information, and voicing concerns, citizens can help ensure that the NRIC is inclusive, equitable, and effective.

The views expressed are personal

Census 2025 as a Comprehensive Citizen Registry

जनगणना 2025: एक व्यापक नागरिक रजिस्ट्री

- The 2025 Census includes an exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR), which is the first step for establishing the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC).

2025 की जनगणना में राष्ट्रीय जनसंख्या रजिस्टर (NPR) को अपडेट करने का कार्य शामिल है, जो भारतीय नागरिकों की राष्ट्रीय रजिस्ट्री (NRIC) स्थापित करने का पहला कदम है।

- The NRIC draws its mandate from the Citizenship Act, 1955. Initially conceptualized after the 1951 Census, the NRIC gained renewed significance after the Subrahmanyam Committee recommendations post the Kargil War (1999).

NRIC का अधिकार नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955 से लिया गया है। इसे सबसे पहले 1951 की जनगणना के बाद परिकल्पित किया गया था, और कारगिल युद्ध (1999) के बाद सुबरहमण्यम समिति की सिफारिशों के कारण इसकी अहमियत बढ़ गई।





- **Section 14A** was added to the Act, mandating the **compulsory registration of all Indian citizens** and authorizing the issuance of **identity cards**.
अधिनियम में धारा 14A जोड़ी गई, जिसमें सभी भारतीय नागरिकों का अनिवार्य पंजीकरण और पहचान पत्र जारी करने का प्रावधान किया गया।
- Pilot projects like the **Multi-Purpose National Identity Card (MNIC)** and **fishermen identity card** have been implemented with varying degrees of success.
मल्टी-पर्पज नेशनल आइडेंटिटी कार्ड (MNIC) और मछुआरा पहचान पत्र जैसे पायलट प्रोजेक्ट्स को अलग-अलग सफलता के साथ लागू किया गया।

As a Verified Registry with More Benefits

एक सत्यापित रजिस्ट्री के रूप में और अधिक लाभ

- The **NRIC** aims to enhance **national security** by maintaining a **verified citizen registry** and offers benefits like **streamlining identity verification**, reducing **identity fraud**, and enabling **targeted welfare programmes**.
NRIC का उद्देश्य राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को बढ़ाना है, एक सत्यापित नागरिक रजिस्ट्री बनाए रखना और पहचान सत्यापन को सुगम बनाना, पहचान धोखाधड़ी को कम करना, और लक्षित कल्याण कार्यक्रम सक्षम करना।
- The **NPR** serves as the initial step, collecting **demographic and biometric data** to differentiate **citizens from non-citizens**.
NPR पहला कदम है, जो जनसांख्यिकीय और बायोमेट्रिक डेटा एकत्र करता है ताकि नागरिकों को गैर-नागरिकों से अलग किया जा सके।
- **Key Steps** in the process:
प्रमुख चरण:
 - Compilation of **demographic data** during houselisting operations in the Census.
जनगणना में घर सूचीकरण कार्यों के दौरान **जनसांख्यिकीय डेटा** का संग्रह।
 - Collection of **biometric data** to eliminate duplicate records (already available in Aadhaar).
डुप्लिकेट रिकॉर्ड समाप्त करने के लिए **बायोमेट्रिक डेटा** का संग्रह (आधार में पहले से उपलब्ध)।
 - **Public claims and objections** are invited for transparency, followed by a **verification and appeals process**.
पारदर्शिता के लिए **सार्वजनिक दावे और आपत्तियां** आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, इसके बाद **सत्यापन और अपील प्रक्रिया** होती है।
 - Detailed inquiries into **citizenship status** finalize the NRIC, culminating in the issuance of **identity cards**.
नागरिकता की स्थिति की विस्तृत जांच के बाद NRIC को अंतिम रूप दिया जाता है और पहचान पत्र जारी किए जाते हैं।

Census Data Collection and 2025 Updates

जनगणना डेटा संग्रह और 2025 के अपडेट





- In the **2011 Census**, details like **name, gender, date of birth, marital status, place of birth, nationality, and socio-economic indicators** were collected.
2011 की जनगणना में नाम, लिंग, जन्म तिथि, वैवाहिक स्थिति, जन्मस्थान, राष्ट्रीयता, और सामाजिक-आर्थिक संकेतक जैसे विवरण एकत्र किए गए।
- The **2025 Census** is likely to follow a similar pattern but **exclude biometric data**, as it is already available in the **Aadhaar database**.
2025 की जनगणना इसी पैटर्न का अनुसरण करेगी, लेकिन बायोमेट्रिक डेटा शामिल नहीं होगा, क्योंकि यह पहले से आधार डेटाबेस में उपलब्ध है।

Aadhaar versus NRIC

आधार बनाम एनआरआईसी

- **Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identification number** issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to **residents of India**, regardless of citizenship.
आधार एक 12-अंकीय विशिष्ट पहचान संख्या है जो भारत के निवासी नागरिकों को UIDAI द्वारा जारी की जाती है, चाहे वे नागरिक हों या नहीं।
- **Aadhaar primarily serves as a biometric-based identity verification tool**, linking residents to services such as **banking, subsidies, and digital identity**.
आधार मुख्य रूप से एक बायोमेट्रिक आधारित पहचान सत्यापन उपकरण के रूप में कार्य करता है, जो निवासियों को बैंकिंग, सब्सिडी और डिजिटल पहचान जैसी सेवाओं से जोड़ता है।
- The NRIC aims to establish a **comprehensive citizen registry**, mandating **proof of citizenship**.
एनआरआईसी का उद्देश्य एक समग्र नागरिक रजिस्टर स्थापित करना है, जिसमें नागरिकता का प्रमाण अनिवार्य है।
- **Aadhaar is inclusive for all residents**, while NRIC serves as a **definitive record for citizens**.
आधार सभी निवासियों के लिए समावेशी है, जबकि एनआरआईसी केवल नागरिकों के लिए एक निश्चित रिकॉर्ड है।
- Aadhaar and NRIC play **complementary but distinct roles** in India's **governance and security infrastructure**.
आधार और एनआरआईसी भारत के शासन और सुरक्षा ढांचे में पूरक लेकिन अलग-अलग भूमिकाएँ निभाते हैं।

The Assam exercise and privacy concerns

असम का अभ्यास और गोपनीयता चिंताएँ

- **Assam is the only state where the National Register of Citizens (NRC) has been updated (2019)**.
असम एकमात्र राज्य है जहाँ राष्ट्रीय नागरिक रजिस्टर (NRC) को 2019 में अपडेट किया गया है।
- The process aimed to identify **illegal immigrants**, particularly from **Bangladesh**, but raised concerns about its **accuracy and fairness** due to stringent documentation requirements.





यह प्रक्रिया अवैध प्रवासियों, विशेष रूप से बांग्लादेश से आए लोगों की पहचान के लिए थी, लेकिन दस्तावेजीकरण की कड़ी आवश्यकताओं के कारण इसकी सटीकता और निष्पक्षता पर सवाल उठे।

- Assam's NRC was guided by the **Assam Accord**, which imposed **unique conditions**. असम का एनआरसी असम समझौते द्वारा निर्देशित था, जिसमें विशिष्ट शर्तें लगाई गई थीं।
- The **Assam experience highlights humanitarian and administrative challenges** that could arise from implementing a nationwide NRIC. असम का अनुभव बताता है कि देशव्यापी एनआरआईसी लागू करने में मानवीय और प्रशासनिक चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।
- Concerns about **data privacy** and potential misuse of **demographic and biometric information** persist, despite the Supreme Court's guidelines in the Aadhaar case.

डेटा गोपनीयता और जनसांख्यिकीय और बायोमेट्रिक जानकारी के संभावित दुरुपयोग को लेकर चिंताएँ बनी हुई हैं, भले ही आधार मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए हों।

- There is a **critical need** for robust **data protection** measures. मजबूत डेटा सुरक्षा उपायों की महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता है।
- Exclusion fears exist, especially for communities with **limited documentation**, emphasizing the need for **streamlined procedures** and **targeted public awareness campaigns**.

विशेष रूप से कम दस्तावेज वाले समुदायों के लिए बहिष्कार की आशंका है, जिससे सुव्यवस्थित प्रक्रियाओं और लक्षित जन-जागरूकता अभियानों की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया गया है।

Citizen engagement and vigilance

नागरिक भागीदारी और सतर्कता

- The NRIC initiative calls for **citizens to stay vigilant** and actively engaged in the process. एनआरआईसी पहल में नागरिकों से सतर्क रहने और प्रक्रिया में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लेने की अपील की गई है।
- Given the scale of this effort, **transparency and fairness** depend on citizens being **well-informed** and diligent in **verifying their records**. इस प्रयास के पैमाने को देखते हुए, पारदर्शिता और निष्पक्षता इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि नागरिक जानकारीयुक्त और अपने रिकॉर्ड सत्यापित करने में मेहनती हों।
- Citizens can ensure that the NRIC is **inclusive, equitable, and effective** by understanding their **rights**, providing **accurate information**, and voicing **concerns**. नागरिक अपने अधिकारों को समझकर, सटीक जानकारी देकर और अपनी चिंताओं को व्यक्त करके यह सुनिश्चित कर सकते हैं कि एनआरआईसी समावेशी, न्यायसंगत और प्रभावी हो।



Do new schemes ahead of elections amount to 'voter bribes'?

GS Paper II: Polity

PARLEY



Reetika Khhera

a development economist working on social policy in India and a professor of economics at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi



Vikas Rawal

Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University

In November 23, the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party-led Mahayuti alliance won a landslide victory in Maharashtra's State elections. Among several reasons cited for this victory are the implementation of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana – a direct benefit transfer programme introduced by the Maharashtra government in July 2024 – four months ahead of the polls. The scheme, much like its Madhya Pradesh counterpart, which was also introduced ahead of the Assembly elections there, aims to provide monthly financial assistance of ₹1,500 to poor women between the ages of 21 and 65 whose incomes are less than ₹2.5 lakh annually. Critics say such schemes amount to bribing voters and giving the incumbent government an unfair advantage. To discuss this, **Kunal Shankar** spoke to Reetika Khhera and Vikas Rawal. Edited excerpts:

Your initial thoughts.

Vikas Rawal: I think implementing social welfare programmes in response to popular needs, reflected through the political processes is necessary. That said, if this happens just before elections, if it is accompanied by weakening systems of evaluation, independent regulation and so on... And if it does not result in establishing a robust system of social welfare and merely ends in providing election soaps, then there is a problem.

Reetika Khhera: Not so long ago in the southern States, parties promised mixer grinders. At that time too, the media labelled these manifesto promises as freebies. I think of cash transfers as a modern avatar of those electoral promises. Labelling them as bribes would be wrong, just as it was wrong to label electoral promises as freebies. I do have reservations about certain cash transfers, though I support other kinds of cash transfers, like old age pensions and maternity benefits. What you're probably getting at is that these promises reflect the flaw in our democracy. The only time that ordinary people get a hearing and are remembered by political parties is during elections and it is a pity that electoral promises are reduced to small, visible and short-term gains such as these cash transfers. But for those who are on the margins and largely ignored by the powers that be, they'll just take what they get right?

There's a related question - how much do such promises – mixer-grinder or cash transfers, actually influence voter behaviour? I don't know



At a 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme event, in Solapur, Maharashtra. File PTI

the answer to that, but as a voter, what would stop me from taking what is due to me through such interventions and yet apply my mind independently to what is a pressing issue for the country and decide who to vote for?

Are DBTs then a failure of the government's attempt to provide better livelihoods, and substitute it with one-time cash transfer schemes?

R.K.: The question arises, do these cash transfers displace spending on health and education? From the point of view of the women who get these cash transfers, they have welcomed it, because they are often vulnerable. But what are cash transfers taking away from, if anything? Fiscally, that's one important question. I was looking at the objectives for the cash transfers to women – what are they trying to achieve? There are three objectives which I've come across – one is they (governments) say economic independence for women, another to improve their health and nutrition. And the third, especially in Tamil Nadu, that it was compensation for all the unpaid domestic work. Each of these raise questions. Take economic independence. Isn't that better achieved by making employment opportunities available to them? Why is the central government starving MNREGA (the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) of funds? It would give women much more money. In Tamil Nadu for instance, they're getting ₹12,000 a year (as part of the State's cash transfer scheme). If women were to get 100 days of MNREGA employment, they would get ₹29,000 a year - more than double what they get through these cash transfers. I talked to a woman recently in Chengalpattu and she absolutely prefers employment over cash transfers. The second objective of health and



As far as the promises of cash are concerned, the media should reflect on its tendency to term them as bribes or freebies. That doesn't mean these cash transfers are without any concerns. The main issue to me is – are cash transfers taking away from welfare spending of other kinds?

REETIKA KHERA

nutrition can also be achieved much better through providing eggs in anganwadis and midday meals. In many North Indian States children are not getting nutritious food. The third objective is compensation for unpaid domestic work: are you then saying that if women are supposed to be doing domestic work only, then they should just be given some money for it? Wouldn't it be much better to think harder about how to change gender norms? So, the problem with these cash promises is not that it is a "bribe", but rather what are they trying to achieve? Where do they fit into our conception of a welfare state?

MNREGA was largely credited for the return of the UPA alliance to power for the second term. Could this question then be twisted to say that even the 100-day job scheme amounted to a bribe? Or is it reducing the larger conception of welfare itself as being opportunistic?

V.R.: I think we both have agreed that at least it's not correct to term these as bribes. You have created such a robust framework with MNREGA, that even a government that's completely ideologically opposed to it has not been able to undo it. It has been forced to acknowledge its importance and to carry forward the programme. The point is that in India, social welfare spending is just too little.

R.K.: As far as the promises of cash are concerned, the media should reflect on its tendency to term them as bribes or freebies. That doesn't mean these cash transfers are without any concerns. The main issue to me is – are cash transfers taking away from welfare spending of other kinds? To give you an example - Karnataka's cash transfer budget for this financial year is ₹28,000 crore – that's twice as much as the Union's budget on mid-day meals. Like I said, I have reservations about some cash transfers while I support others. The national Food Security Act, for instance, which is taking a sort of a life cycle approach: maternity benefits for pregnant and lactating women, anganwadis

for children under 6, midday meals for school going children. And then there's the PDS. Now the maternity benefits is a cash transfer programme – it's ₹6,000 through the Pradhan Mantri Mathrubhumi Dhana Yojana. That is fixing a big gap in our welfare architecture. We had the maternity benefits for women in the organised sector since 1961. But most women work in the unorganised sector and their right to maternity benefits was not recognised until this 2013 Food Security Act. I support the cash transfer because women get it at a very vulnerable time of their life.

V.R.: If you look at the implementation of welfare schemes since the 1980s, we had various systems of independent evaluation. The Planning Commission used to have an evaluation wing. The National Sample Survey would have survey questions that one could use to assess. CAG would do performance audits of different schemes. All these have been undermined now. We have a situation where evaluation of government programmes has been systematically undermined, and that's a very serious problem, particularly during these kinds of cash transfers. You have evidence to suggest there may be massive corruption in some of these schemes. Historically, schemes that have involved provisioning of goods and services, employment, health facilities, schooling, are where leakages have been less.

R.K.: I have a slightly different view. Corruption and targeting were two big issues with earlier interventions. Corruption was a serious issue with the PDS. It has been an issue with MNREGA. And it remains an issue with the new cash transfers. We must be vigilant no matter which scheme, what form the transfer takes. In the case of cash transfers, it has created a whole army of middle-men through whom these so-called "direct" benefits are transferred. They're actually not direct at all, because in many rural areas there is no proper banking network. And so you have banking correspondents who people have to go and withdraw their money from. These business correspondents are just like the earlier middle-men, who cheated on cement and bricks and wages. On targeting, with MNREGA, the attraction was, those who were not getting minimum wage work would show up. But in these cash transfers, there aren't such robust self-targeting mechanisms...



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Do new schemes ahead of elections amount to 'voter bribes'?

क्या चुनावों से पहले नए योजनाएं 'वोटर रिश्वत' होती हैं?

- On **November 23, 2024**, the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party-led Mahayuti alliance won a **landslide victory** in Maharashtra's State elections.

23 नवंबर 2024 को, मौजूदा भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नेतृत्व वाले महायूति गठबंधन ने महाराष्ट्र राज्य चुनावों में भारी जीत हासिल की।

- Among several reasons cited for this victory are the implementation of the **Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana** — a direct benefit transfer programme introduced by the Maharashtra government in **July 2024** – four months ahead of the polls.

इस जीत के लिए कई कारणों में से एक कारण **मुख्यमंत्री माझी लडकी बहिन योजना** है – एक





सीधा लाभ हस्तांतरण कार्यक्रम जिसे महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने जुलाई 2024 में चुनाव से चार महीने पहले शुरू किया था।

- **The scheme aims to provide monthly financial assistance of ₹1,500 to poor women between the ages of 21 and 65 whose incomes are less than ₹2.5 lakh annually.**
इस योजना का उद्देश्य ₹1,500 की मासिक वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना है गरीब महिलाओं को, जिनकी उम्र 21 से 65 वर्ष के बीच है और जिनकी वार्षिक आय ₹2.5 लाख से कम है।
- **Critics say such schemes amount to bribing voters and giving the incumbent government an unfair advantage.**
आलोचकों का कहना है कि ऐसी योजनाएं वोटर्स को रिश्वत देने के समान हैं और मौजूदा सरकार को अनुचित लाभ प्रदान करती हैं।
- **Vikas Rawal: Implementing social welfare programmes in response to popular needs, reflected through the political processes, is necessary.**
विकास रावल: सामाजिक कल्याण कार्यक्रमों को लोकप्रिय आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप लागू करना आवश्यक है, जो राजनीतिक प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से परिलक्षित होते हैं।
- **If this happens just before elections, accompanied by weak evaluation systems and independent regulation, then it is problematic.**
अगर यह केवल चुनावों से पहले होता है, और साथ ही मूल्यांकन प्रणालियों और स्वतंत्र विनियमन की कमी होती है, तो यह समस्या उत्पन्न करता है।
- **If it does not result in a robust system of social welfare, it will end in providing election soaps.**
अगर इसका परिणाम सामाजिक कल्याण के एक मजबूत प्रणाली के रूप में नहीं होता है, तो यह चुनाव सामग्री देने में समाप्त हो जाएगा।
- **Reetika Khara:** Not so long ago, in southern States, parties promised **mixer-grinders.**
कुछ समय पहले, दक्षिणी राज्यों में पार्टियों ने **मिक्सर-ग्राइंडर** का वादा किया था।
- **Cash transfers are a modern avatar of those electoral promises.**
नकद हस्तांतरण उन चुनावी वादों का एक आधुनिक रूप है।
- **Labeling cash transfers as bribes is wrong, just as it was wrong to label electoral promises as freebies.**
नकद हस्तांतरण को रिश्वत कहना गलत है, जैसे चुनावी वादों को मुफ्त की चीजें कहना गलत था।
- **Electoral promises** are reduced to small, visible, and short-term gains such as cash transfers.
चुनावी वादे छोटे, दृश्यमान और छोटे-समय के लाभों में जैसे नकद हस्तांतरण में घटित हो जाते हैं।
- **For those on the margins, they will just take what they get, but they can still independently decide who to vote for.**
जो लोग हाशिए पर हैं, वे बस वही लेंगे जो उन्हें मिलता है, लेकिन वे फिर भी स्वतंत्र रूप से यह तय कर सकते हैं कि किसे वोट दें।





- Reetika Khara: **Cash transfers** aim for three objectives:
रीतिका खेरा: नकद हस्तांतरण के तीन उद्देश्यों का लक्ष्य है:
 - **Economic independence for women.**
महिलाओं के लिए आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता।
 - **Improving health and nutrition.**
स्वास्थ्य और पोषण में सुधार।
 - **Compensation for unpaid domestic work** (especially in Tamil Nadu).
अवैतनिक घरेलू कार्य के लिए मुआवजा (विशेष रूप से तमिलनाडु में)।
- Is economic independence better achieved by creating **employment opportunities** for women, rather than cash transfers?
क्या महिलाओं के लिए रोजगार के अवसर उत्पन्न करना आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता को बेहतर तरीके से प्राप्त कर सकता है, बजाय नकद हस्तांतरण के?
- **If women got 100 days of MNREGA employment, they would earn ₹29,000 a year, more than double the ₹12,000 provided in the cash transfer scheme.**
अगर महिलाओं को मनरेगा रोजगार के 100 दिन मिलते, तो वे ₹29,000 सालाना कमा सकतीं, जो नकद हस्तांतरण योजना में ₹12,000 से दोगुना है।
- The second objective of improving health and nutrition can be achieved better through **providing eggs** in anganwadis and midday meals.
स्वास्थ्य और पोषण में सुधार का दूसरा उद्देश्य अंगनवाड़ियों और मध्याह्न भोजन के जरिए बेहतर तरीके से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।
- Compensation for **unpaid domestic work** raises questions about changing **gender norms**.
अवैतनिक घरेलू कार्य के लिए मुआवजे से लिंग मानदंडों को बदलने के सवाल उठते हैं।
- The issue with cash promises is not that they are **"bribes"**, but what they are trying to achieve.
नकद वादों की समस्या यह नहीं है कि ये "रिश्वत" हैं, बल्कि यह है कि ये क्या हासिल करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

MNREGA and Electoral Promises

मनरेगा और चुनावी वादे

- **MNREGA** was largely credited for the return of the **UPA alliance** to power for a second term.
मनरेगा को बड़ी हद तक यूपीए गठबंधन के दूसरे कार्यकाल में वापसी का श्रेय दिया गया था।
- Could this question then be twisted to say that even the **100-day job scheme** amounted to a bribe?
क्या इस सवाल को इस तरह मोड़ा जा सकता है कि **100-दिन की नौकरी योजना** भी रिश्वत के समान थी?
- Or is it reducing the larger conception of **welfare** itself as being opportunistic?
या क्या यह कल्याण की बड़ी धारणा को अवसरवादी के रूप में घटित कर रहा है?





- **V.R.:** At least it's not correct to term these as **bribes**.
कम से कम इसे रिश्वत कहना सही नहीं है।
- You have created such a **robust framework** with **MNREGA**, that even a government ideologically opposed to it has not been able to undo it.
आपने **मनरेगा** के साथ एक **मजबूत ढांचा** तैयार किया है, कि इसके खिलाफ वैचारिक रूप से विरोधी सरकार भी इसे पलटने में असमर्थ रही है।
- It has been forced to acknowledge its **importance** and carry forward the programme.
इसे इसके **महत्व** को स्वीकार करने और कार्यक्रम को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा है।
- The point is that in India, **social welfare spending** is just too little.
मुद्दा यह है कि भारत में **सामाजिक कल्याण खर्च** बहुत कम है।
- **R.K.:** As far as the promises of **cash** are concerned, the **media** should reflect on its tendency to term them as **bribes** or **freebies**.
जहां तक **नकद** वादों का सवाल है, **मीडिया** को इसे रिश्वत या **मुफ्त चीजें** कहने की प्रवृत्ति पर विचार करना चाहिए।
- That doesn't mean these **cash transfers** are without any concerns.
इसका यह मतलब नहीं है कि ये **नकद हस्तांतरण** बिना किसी चिंता के हैं।
- The main issue to me is — are **cash transfers** taking away from **welfare spending** of other kinds?
मेरे लिए मुख्य मुद्दा यह है — क्या **नकद हस्तांतरण** अन्य प्रकार के **कल्याण खर्च** को घटित कर रहे हैं?
- **Karnataka's cash transfer budget** for this financial year is **₹28,000 crore** — that's twice as much as the Union's budget on **mid-day meals**.
इस वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए **कर्नाटक का नकद हस्तांतरण बजट ₹28,000 करोड़** है — जो **मध्याह्न भोजन** के लिए संघ के बजट से दोगुना है।
- I have reservations about some **cash transfers** while I support others.
कुछ **नकद हस्तांतरण** के प्रति मेरी आपत्तियां हैं, जबकि मैं अन्य का समर्थन करती हूँ।
- The **National Food Security Act** is taking a **life cycle approach**: maternity benefits for **pregnant and lactating women**, anganwadis for children under **6**, **mid-day meals** for school-going children.
राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम जीवन चक्र दृष्टिकोण अपना रहा है: **गर्भवती और स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाओं** के लिए मातृत्व लाभ, **6 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों** के लिए अंगनवाड़ी, स्कूल जाने वाले बच्चों के लिए **मध्याह्न भोजन**।
- The **maternity benefits** is a **cash transfer programme** — it's **₹6,000** through the **Pradhan Mantri Mathrubhumi Dhana Yojana**.
मातृत्व लाभ एक **नकद हस्तांतरण कार्यक्रम** है — यह **₹6,000** है, जो **प्रधानमंत्री मातृभूमि धन योजना** के तहत है।
- This is fixing a big gap in our welfare architecture.
यह हमारे **कल्याण संरचना** में एक बड़ा अंतर भर रहा है।
- Women in the **unorganised sector** were not recognised for maternity benefits until the **2013 Food Security Act**.





असंगठित क्षेत्र की महिलाओं को 2013 खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम से पहले मातृत्व लाभ के लिए मान्यता नहीं मिली थी।

- I support the **cash transfer** because women get it at a very **vulnerable time** of their life. मैं नकद हस्तांतरण का समर्थन करती हूँ क्योंकि महिलाएं इसे अपने जीवन के एक बहुत ही संवेदनशील समय में प्राप्त करती हैं।
- **V.R.:** If you look at the implementation of welfare schemes since the **1980s**, we had various systems of **independent evaluation**. अगर आप **1980 के दशक** से कल्याण योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन को देखें, तो हमारे पास **स्वतंत्र मूल्यांकन** के विभिन्न प्रणालियां थीं।
- The **Planning Commission** used to have an evaluation wing. **योजना आयोग** के पास एक मूल्यांकन विंग हुआ करता था।
- The **National Sample Survey** would have survey questions that one could use to assess. **राष्ट्रीय नमूना सर्वेक्षण** में सर्वे प्रश्न होते थे जिनका उपयोग मूल्यांकन के लिए किया जा सकता था।
- **CAG** would do performance audits of different schemes. **सीएजी** विभिन्न योजनाओं के प्रदर्शन ऑडिट करता था।
- All these have been undermined now. इन सभी को अब कमजोर कर दिया गया है।
- Evaluation of government programmes has been systematically undermined, and that's a serious problem, particularly during cash transfers. सरकारी कार्यक्रमों का मूल्यांकन व्यवस्थित रूप से कमजोर किया गया है, और यह एक गंभीर समस्या है, विशेष रूप से नकद हस्तांतरण के दौरान।
- There is evidence suggesting **massive corruption** in some of these schemes. कुछ योजनाओं में **भारी भ्रष्टाचार** के संकेत हैं।
- Historically, schemes that have involved provisioning of **goods and services, employment, health facilities, and schooling** have had fewer leakages. ऐतिहासिक रूप से, योजनाओं में जो **सामान और सेवाओं, रोजगार, स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं, और स्कूली शिक्षा** की व्यवस्था करती हैं, उनमें लीकएजेस कम रहे हैं।
- **R.K.:** Corruption and **targeting** were two big issues with earlier interventions. भ्रष्टाचार और **लक्ष्यीकरण** पिछले हस्तक्षेपों के दो बड़े मुद्दे थे।
- **Corruption** was a serious issue with the **PDS** and **MNREGA**. **भ्रष्टाचार पीडीएस और मनरेगा** में एक गंभीर मुद्दा था।
- Corruption remains an issue with the new **cash transfers**. भ्रष्टाचार नए **नकद हस्तांतरण** में भी एक मुद्दा बना हुआ है।
- We must be vigilant no matter which scheme, what form the **transfer** takes. हमें सतर्क रहना चाहिए चाहे कोई भी योजना हो, **हस्तांतरण** किस रूप में हो।
- In the case of **cash transfers**, it has created a whole army of **middle-men** through whom these so-called "direct" benefits are transferred.





PATRIOTIC IAS: Near Rajbanshi Hospital, Paidleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Contact Number: 9971932488

नकद हस्तांतरण के मामले में, यह एक पूरी सेना को मध्यस्थों का निर्माण कर चुका है, जिनके माध्यम से यहाँ के "प्रत्यक्ष" लाभ हस्तांतरित होते हैं।

- In many rural areas, there is no proper **banking network**, so people have to go through **banking correspondents** to withdraw their money.

कई ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कोई उचित बैंकिंग नेटवर्क नहीं है, इसलिए लोगों को अपना पैसा निकालने के लिए बैंकिंग संवाददाताओं से गुजरना पड़ता है।

- These business correspondents are just like the earlier **middle-men**, who cheated on **cement and bricks** and **wages**.

ये व्यापार संवाददाता पहले के मध्यस्थों की तरह हैं, जिन्होंने सीमेंट और ईंटों और मजदूरी में धोखाधड़ी की थी।

- With **MNREGA**, the attraction was that those not getting **minimum wage work** would show up.

मनरेगा में आकर्षण यह था कि जो लोग न्यूनतम मजदूरी का काम नहीं पा रहे थे, वे सामने आते थे।

- But in these **cash transfers**, there aren't such robust **self-targeting mechanisms**.

लेकिन इन नकद हस्तांतरण में, ऐसे मजबूत स्वयं-लक्ष्यीकरण तंत्र नहीं हैं।



In Andhra Pradesh, a day well spent



Farmers cleaning an ancient well near the historic Cumbum tank in Cumbum, Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh. The Cumbum tank, which is the second-largest man-made reservoir in Asia used for agriculture, was built by Princess Varadarajamma, wife of King Sri Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagar, in the 15th century. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

GS Paper I: History

India to Assist Sudan's Industrialisation

भारत सूडान के औद्योगिकीकरण में मदद करेगा

- A five-year agreement for economic, scientific, and technical co-operation and a cultural agreement for a similar period were signed.
पाँच साल का समझौता आर्थिक, वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी सहयोग के लिए और एक सांस्कृतिक समझौता समान अवधि के लिए हस्ताक्षरित किया गया।
- The signing ceremony was held in the presence of Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the Sudanese President Mr. Jaafar Mohammed Nmery.
हस्ताक्षर समारोह में प्रधानमंत्री श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी और सूडानी राष्ट्रपति श्री जाफर मोहम्मद निमेरी की उपस्थिति में हुआ।
- The agreements are automatically renewable for another term of five years unless terminated by either party.
समझौते पाँच साल की अवधि के लिए स्वचालित रूप से नवीकरणीय हैं, जब तक कि किसी एक पक्ष द्वारा इन्हें समाप्त न किया जाए।



- The economic agreement involves **feasibility studies** for establishing **cement, textile, and sugar industries** in Sudan.
आर्थिक समझौते में संभाव्यता अध्ययन शामिल हैं, जो सूडान में सीमेंट, वस्त्र और चीनी उद्योगों की स्थापना के लिए हैं।
- India agreed to supply equipment on a **deferred payment basis** for such industries.
भारत ने इन उद्योगों के लिए **स्थगित भुगतान आधार** पर उपकरण आपूर्ति करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

Wikipedia and ANI's defamation suit

What are the charges levelled by ANI in the defamation suit filed by the news agency against Wikimedia Foundation Inc. and three Wikipedia administrators?
Who is allowed to edit Wikipedia pages and what are the guidelines to be followed while carrying out edits?

GS Paper II: Defamation

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

Earlier this year, Indian news agency Asian News International (ANI) filed a defamation suit against Wikimedia Foundation Inc. and three Wikipedia administrators before the Delhi High Court. A single-judge Bench subsequently directed Wikimedia on August 20 to disclose the administrators' details.

What is Wikipedia?

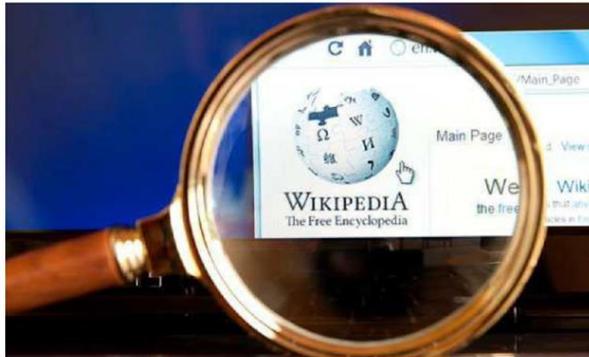
Wikipedia is a community-driven encyclopaedia freely available on the Internet. Volunteers from around the world work together to populate and maintain it.

While not all pages on Wikipedia are of equal quality, it has acquired a reputation of being reliable because its editors include field experts and the platform allows anyone to communicate their knowledge freely as long as they abide by the guidelines.

How is Wikipedia populated?

Following the single-judge Bench's direction to reveal the identities of the three administrators, Wikimedia, which hosts Wikipedia, filed an appeal before the Division Bench. Through a consent order, the court directed Wikimedia to submit the subscriber information of these individuals in sealed covers.

According to the suit filed by ANI, some of the statements on its Wikipedia page are defamatory. For example: "The news agency has been criticised for having served as a propaganda tool for the incumbent central government, distributing materials from a vast network



Wikipedia has a reputation of being reliable because its editors include field experts. GETTY IMAGES

of fake news websites, and misreporting events". According to ANI, the defendants "have collectively tarnished the reputation of the plaintiff by publishing false, misleading and defamatory content on the ANI page, and discredit the plaintiffs impeccable professional standing."

When editors associated with ANI attempted to edit the allegedly defamatory statements, other (independent) editors reversed or modified them. ANI has contended that Wikimedia, through the administrators, has "actively participated in removing any edits that sought to reverse the false and misleading content framed against the Plaintiffs".

Wikipedia later changed the page's status to 'extended confirmed protection', which prevented ANI-associated editors from further changing those statements. ANI has alleged that this implies Wikimedia violated the obligations of an intermediary under the **safe-harbour**

provisions of the Information Technology Act 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

Will Wikimedia lose safe-harbour protection?

Wikimedia Foundation Inc., a non-profit organisation based in the U.S. that's been impleaded as the first defendant, does not play a role in determining the contents on Wikipedia. Its role is limited to providing the technical infrastructure to run the platform and ensure editors don't face technical hurdles as they create new pages, all while abiding by guidelines developed by the community.

These guidelines specifically remind editors Wikipedia is an encyclopaedia and that therefore all statements on any page need to be backed by reliable, verifiable sources. Most of the allegedly defamatory statements on ANI's Wikipedia page also have references to reliable sources. Original research is not allowed on

Wikipedia and editors continuously remove previously unpublished arguments, ideas or analyses.

Second, pages on controversial topics are often extensively edited for propriety. Any member of the Wikipedia community can ask for a page's status to be protected, and the editors may subsequently place the page in a state of 'extended confirmed protection' or 'full protection'. Once a page is placed in 'extended confirmed protection', only editors whose accounts have the 'Extended Confirmed Users' badge can edit it. For pages under full protection, only administrators can make changes.

Wikimedia plays no role in the selection of 'Extended Confirmed Users' or administrators. Any editor who has a sufficiently long-standing account and a minimum number of edits to their name can apply to become an administrator, and community members elect them.

Finally, Wikimedia is not involved in these elections.

What effect will loss of safe-harbour status have?

In sum, Wikipedia has acquired its reputation for reliability through its democratic architecture, its support for editors to anonymously edit articles without fear of retaliation or consequences, and by enforcing a policy of desisting from generating first-hand knowledge.

Any intervention from the judiciary or legislature to force the disclosure of editor information – including those designated with administrator status – is bound to hamper the platform's reputation. Future editors may not be able to operate in confidence: they could be moved by the threat of reprisals from affected parties and/or uncertainty over how Indian courts might interpret the particulars of Wikipedia's setup.

THE GIST

Wikipedia is a community-driven encyclopaedia freely available on the Internet. Volunteers from around the world work together to populate and maintain it

Following a complaint by ANI, a single-judge Bench of the Delhi High Court directed Wikimedia on August 20 to disclose the administrators' details

Any intervention from the judiciary or legislature to force the disclosure of editor information – including those designated with administrator status – is bound to hamper the platform's reputation. Future editors may not be able to operate in confidence

Wikipedia and ANI's Defamation Suit

विकिपीडिया और एनआई का मानहानि मामला





Earlier this year, Indian news agency Asian News International (ANI) filed a defamation suit against Wikimedia Foundation Inc. and three Wikipedia 'administrators' before the Delhi High Court.

इस साल की शुरुआत में, भारतीय समाचार एजेंसी एशियन न्यूज इंटरनेशनल (एएनआई) ने विकिमीडिया फाउंडेशन इंक. और तीन विकिपीडिया 'प्रशासकों' के खिलाफ दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में एक मानहानि का मुकदमा दायर किया।

- A single-judge Bench directed Wikimedia on August 20 to disclose the administrators' details.

एकल-न्यायाधीश बेंच ने विकिमीडिया को 20 अगस्त को प्रशासकों के विवरण का खुलासा करने का निर्देश दिया।

What is Wikipedia?

विकिपीडिया क्या है?

- Wikipedia is a **community-driven encyclopaedia** freely available on the Internet, with volunteers from around the world contributing.
विकिपीडिया एक सामुदायिक-आधारित विश्वकोश है जो इंटरनेट पर मुफ्त उपलब्ध है, जिसमें दुनिया भर से स्वयंसेवक योगदान करते हैं।
- It is known for being **reliable**, as it includes field experts, and allows anyone to share knowledge freely if they follow the guidelines.
यह विश्वसनीय माना जाता है, क्योंकि इसमें क्षेत्र विशेषज्ञों का योगदान होता है, और यह किसी को भी नियमों का पालन करने के शर्त पर स्वतंत्र रूप से ज्ञान साझा करने की अनुमति देता है।

How is Wikipedia populated?

विकिपीडिया कैसे भरा जाता है?

- Following the court's direction, **Wikimedia** filed an **appeal** before the **Division Bench**, and the court directed **Wikimedia** to submit the subscriber information of the administrators in **sealed covers**.
अदालत के निर्देश के बाद, विकिमीडिया ने विभागीय बेंच के सामने अपील दायर की, और अदालत ने विकिमीडिया को प्रशासकों की सदस्यता जानकारी को सीलबंद कवरों में प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया।

Defamatory Content on Wikipedia

विकिपीडिया पर मानहानिपूर्ण सामग्री

- **ANI** claimed some statements on its **Wikipedia page** were defamatory, such as: "The news agency has been criticised for having served as a **propaganda tool** for the incumbent **central government**."





एएनआई ने दावा किया कि उसके विकिपीडिया पृष्ठ पर कुछ बयान मानहानिपूर्ण थे, जैसे: "समाचार एजेंसी को मौजूदा केंद्रीय सरकार के लिए एक प्रचार उपकरण के रूप में काम करने के लिए आलोचना की गई है।"

- **ANI** contended that the **administrators** "actively participated in removing any edits" aimed at reversing false content.
एएनआई ने कहा कि प्रशासकों ने "किसी भी संपादन को हटाने में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लिया", जो झूठी सामग्री को पलटने का प्रयास करते थे।
- **Wikipedia** changed the page's status to '**extended confirmed protection**', preventing ANI-associated editors from making further changes.
विकिपीडिया ने पृष्ठ की स्थिति को '**विस्तारित पुष्टि संरक्षण**' में बदल दिया, जिससे एएनआई से संबंधित संपादकों को आगे कोई बदलाव करने से रोक दिया गया।

Alleged Violations by Wikimedia

विकिमीडिया द्वारा कथित उल्लंघन

- **ANI** alleged that **Wikimedia** violated the obligations of an intermediary under the **Information Technology Act 2000** and the **IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021**.
एएनआई ने आरोप लगाया कि विकिमीडिया ने सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम 2000 और आईटी (इंटरमीडियरी गाइडलाइन्स और डिजिटल मीडिया एथिक्स कोड) नियम 2021 के तहत एक मध्यस्थ की जिम्मेदारियों का उल्लंघन किया।

Will Wikimedia lose safe-harbour protection?

क्या विकिमीडिया सुरक्षित-आश्रय संरक्षण खो देगा?

- **Wikimedia Foundation Inc.**, a **non-profit organization** based in the U.S., is the **first defendant** in the defamation suit. It does not play a role in determining the contents on **Wikipedia**.
विकिमीडिया फाउंडेशन इंक., जो अमेरिका में स्थित एक गैर-लाभकारी संगठन है, मानहानि मुकदमे में पहला प्रतिवादी है। यह विकिपीडिया पर सामग्री निर्धारित करने में कोई भूमिका नहीं निभाता है।
- Its role is limited to providing the **technical infrastructure** to run the platform and ensure editors don't face **technical hurdles** as they create new pages.
इसकी भूमिका तकनीकी बुनियादी ढांचा प्रदान करने तक सीमित है और यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि संपादकों को तकनीकी कठिनाइयों का सामना न करना पड़े।
- The guidelines on **Wikipedia** remind editors that Wikipedia is an **encyclopedia**, so all statements need to be backed by **reliable, verifiable sources**.
विकिपीडिया पर दिशानिर्देश संपादकों को याद दिलाते हैं कि विकिपीडिया एक विश्वकोश है, इसलिए सभी बयान विश्वसनीय, सत्यापित स्रोतों से समर्थित होने चाहिए।
- Most of the allegedly defamatory statements on **ANI's Wikipedia page** also have references to **reliable sources**.





ANI के विकिपीडिया पृष्ठ पर अधिकांश कथित रूप से मानहानिकारक बयान भी विश्वसनीय स्रोतों से संदर्भित हैं।

- **Original research** is not allowed on **Wikipedia**, and editors remove **unpublished arguments**, ideas, or analyses.

विकिपीडिया पर मौलिक शोध की अनुमति नहीं है, और संपादक अप्रकाशित तर्कों, विचारों या विश्लेषणों को हटा देते हैं।

- Pages on **controversial topics** are often extensively edited for **propriety**.

विवादास्पद विषयों पर पृष्ठों को अक्सर शिष्टता के लिए विस्तृत रूप से संपादित किया जाता है।

- Any member of the **Wikipedia community** can ask for a page's status to be protected, and editors may place it under '**extended confirmed protection**' or '**full protection**'.

विकिपीडिया समुदाय का कोई भी सदस्य एक पृष्ठ की स्थिति को संरक्षित करने के लिए अनुरोध कर सकता है, और संपादक उसे 'विस्तृत पुष्टि संरक्षण' या 'पूर्ण संरक्षण' में रख सकते हैं।

- Once a page is placed in '**extended confirmed protection**', only editors with the '**Extended Confirmed Users**' badge can edit it.

एक बार जब एक पृष्ठ को 'विस्तृत पुष्टि संरक्षण' में रखा जाता है, तो केवल 'विस्तृत पुष्टि उपयोगकर्ता' बैज वाले संपादक ही इसे संपादित कर सकते हैं।

- For pages under **full protection**, only '**administrators**' can make changes.

पूर्ण संरक्षण वाले पृष्ठों के लिए, केवल 'प्रशासक' ही बदलाव कर सकते हैं।

- **Wikimedia** plays no role in the selection of '**Extended Confirmed Users**' or '**administrators**'.

विकिमीडिया 'विस्तृत पुष्टि उपयोगकर्ताओं' या 'प्रशासकों' के चयन में कोई भूमिका नहीं निभाता है।

- Any editor with a sufficiently long-standing account and a minimum number of **edits** can apply to become an **administrator**, and community members elect them.

कोई भी संपादक, जिसकी खाता स्थिरता पर्याप्त हो और जिसके नाम पर न्यूनतम संपादन संख्या हो, प्रशासनिक पद के लिए आवेदन कर सकता है, और समुदाय के सदस्य उन्हें चुन सकते हैं।

- **Wikimedia** is not involved in these **elections**.

विकिमीडिया इन चुनावों में शामिल नहीं है।

What effect will loss of safe-harbour status have?

सुरक्षित-आश्रय स्थिति खोने का क्या प्रभाव होगा?

- **Wikipedia** has gained its reputation for **reliability** through its **democratic architecture**, supporting **anonymous editing** without fear of retaliation or consequences.

विकिपीडिया ने अपनी प्रतिष्ठा विश्वसनीयता के लिए लोकतांत्रिक संरचना के माध्यम से प्राप्त की है, जो गुमनाम संपादन का समर्थन करती है बिना प्रतिशोध या परिणामों के डर के।

- If the **judiciary** or **legislature** forces the disclosure of editor information, including administrators, it could harm the platform's **reputation**.

यदि न्यायपालिका या विधायिका संपादक की जानकारी का खुलासा करने के लिए मजबूर करती है, जिसमें प्रशासक भी शामिल हैं, तो यह प्लेटफॉर्म की प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है।





- Future editors may be deterred from editing due to the threat of **reprisals** or uncertainty about how **Indian courts** might interpret **Wikipedia's structure**.

भविष्य के संपादक संपादन करने से प्रतिशोध के डर या यह स्पष्ट नहीं होने के कारण

हतोत्साहित हो सकते हैं कि भारतीय अदालतें विकिपीडिया की संरचना को कैसे व्याख्यायित करेंगी।

The Dhanush-Nayanthara dispute and copyright law

GS Paper III: S&T

In the context of previous claims, where does the copyright infringement suit filed by Dhanush against Nayanthara fit in? How are the different parts of a film copyrighted?

Arul George Scaria

History has shown copyright can be misused to suppress speech that does not conform to one's views. Numerous takedown requests on platforms like YouTube demonstrate how this strategy is widely used by political parties, corporations, and individuals to silence opponents and critics. While many of these actions are intentional, there is a widespread misconception of copyright law as a framework designed to protect the rights of copyright owners.

The copyright infringement suit initiated by South Indian actor and producer Dhanush against his peer Nayanthara could fall into either of these categories: a wilful attempt to threaten someone that one dislikes or an action arising out of ignorance of the framework of copyright law.

What is the Dhanush-Nayanthara controversy?

The 2015 film *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan* ('I'm a rowdy, too') was directed by Vignesh Shivan, who married Nayanthara in 2022.

The film has been credited with encouraging their union. It was produced by Dhanush's company Wunderbar Films. When Netflix prepared to produce a biopic based on Nayanthara's life, it wished to include excerpts from that film.

On November 16, in a public letter addressed to Dhanush, Nayanthara wrote that she had sought Dhanush's permission to use these excerpts about two years ago but had been met with silence. As an alternative Netflix et al. decided to use a short video clip that Nayanthara claimed to have captured with her mobile phone during the film's making to use in the biopic.

Dhanush responded to this use with the lawsuit.

How are films copyrighted?

Depending on one's perspective – particularly on the power and gender dynamics within India's film industries – there are two sides available to take. Which side depends on the answers to two questions: (i) **Copyright in which work has been infringed and who is the copyright owner in that work?**; (ii) **whether a copyright owner has the right**

to completely control the use of some copyrighted work?

Copyright law treats a film as an amalgamation of various copyrightable components. So while **copyright law vests the copyright of a cinematographic product with its producer, not all copyrights related to a movie necessarily lie with the producer.**

Thus it's important to ascertain which copyrighted work has been infringed by the video clipping. Information in the public domain (as of November 28, 2024) indicates no part of the original cinematographic work has been reproduced. If no parts of the original recordings of the movie have been used, **the use of the clipping is unlikely to have violated the producer's rights vis-à-vis the cinematographic film.** This would also mean one has to carefully check the copyright statuses of the other components amalgamating in the **behind-the-scenes (BTS) footage, including music.**

Next, even if we assume Dhanush owns the copyright to the entire work, it isn't an absolute right. The rights granted to copyright holders to control access to

their work is counterbalanced by providing **certain rights to society to access that work.** Section 52 of the **Copyright Act 1957 embodies this fair balance of rights within the copyright system – and Indian courts have consistently held that uses falling within the ambit of this section don't constitute copyright infringement.**

What is 'fair dealing'?

The concept of 'fair dealing' as enshrined in Section 52(1)(a) is pertinent. The 'fair dealing; section allows the people at large to use a copyrighted work for certain purposes as long as the use is 'fair'. In determining whether a use was fair, a court may consider factors including the extent of use of the copyrighted work and the context of use.

In the present case, the **clipping was used for a biopic of Nayanthara. Since the life of an actress is closely intertwined with her films, the use of short clippings from or related to her films may be deemed essential.**

It's also relevant that a movie producer may have entered into contracts to **control BTS recordings.** But the producer will have to **show before a court the contracts that restrained artists from making or sharing BTS recordings and the courts should also check whether they are legally valid contracts.**

The courts need to take a strong stance **against unjustified legal threats using copyright law, particularly because copyright infringements are also subject to criminal remedies.**

Arul George Scaria is a professor of law at National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

The Dhanush-Nayanthara Dispute and Copyright Law

धनुष-नयनतारा विवाद और कॉपीराइट कानून

The copyright infringement suit initiated by Dhanush against Nayanthara could fall into categories of either a wilful attempt to threaten someone or an action arising out of ignorance of copyright law.

धनुष द्वारा नयनतारा के खिलाफ दायर कॉपीराइट उल्लंघन का मुकदमा या तो





किसी को धमकाने का इरादा हो सकता है या कॉपीराइट कानून की अज्ञानता से उत्पन्न एक कार्रवाई हो सकती है।

- The 2015 film **Naanum Rowdy Dhaan** was directed by **Vignesh Shivan**, who married Nayanthara in 2022.
2015 में रिलीज़ हुई फिल्म **नानुम राउडी थान** का निर्देशन **विग्नेश शिवन** ने किया था, जिन्होंने 2022 में नयनतारा से शादी की।
- The film was produced by **Dhanush's company Wunderbar Films**.
फिल्म का निर्माण **धनुष की कंपनी वंडरबार फिल्मस** ने किया था।
- Nayanthara wanted to use excerpts from the film for a **Netflix biopic** about her life, and claimed she had sought **Dhanush's permission** two years ago but received no response.
नयनतारा अपनी जिंदगी पर आधारित **नेटफ्लिक्स बायोपिक** के लिए फिल्म से अंश इस्तेमाल करना चाहती थीं, और उन्होंने **धनुष से अनुमति** मांगी थी, लेकिन दो साल पहले कोई जवाब नहीं मिला था।
- Instead, Netflix used a **short video clip** from behind-the-scenes footage that Nayanthara had captured on her mobile phone.
इसके बजाय, नेटफ्लिक्स ने **बिहाइंड-द-सीन फुटेज** में से एक **छोटी वीडियो क्लिप** का उपयोग किया, जो नयनतारा ने अपनी मोबाइल फोन पर फिल्म की शूटिंग के दौरान कैप्चर की थी।
- Dhanush filed a **copyright infringement lawsuit** in response to the use of this clip.
धनुष ने इस क्लिप के उपयोग के खिलाफ **कॉपीराइट उल्लंघन का मुकदमा** दायर किया।
- A film is considered a combination of various **copyrightable components**.
फिल्म को विभिन्न **कॉपीराइट योग्य घटकों** का संयोजन माना जाता है।
- Copyright law vests the copyright of a cinematographic product with its **producer**, but not all copyrights related to a movie necessarily belong to the producer.
कॉपीराइट कानून सिनेमैटोग्राफिक उत्पाद का **निर्माता** के पास कॉपीराइट देता है, लेकिन फिल्म से संबंधित सभी कॉपीराइट्स स्वाभाविक रूप से निर्माता के पास नहीं होते।
- If no part of the original cinematographic work has been reproduced, the use of the clipping is unlikely to violate the **producer's rights** over the film.
यदि मूल सिनेमैटोग्राफिक कार्य का कोई हिस्सा पुनः उत्पादित नहीं किया गया है, तो क्लिपिंग का उपयोग **निर्माता के अधिकारों** का उल्लंघन करने की संभावना नहीं है।
- The copyright status of other components like **music** in behind-the-scenes footage should also be checked.
बिहाइंड-द-सीन फुटेज में **संगीत** जैसे अन्य घटकों की कॉपीराइट स्थिति की भी जांच की जानी चाहिए।
- Even if Dhanush owns the copyright, it is not an **absolute right**. Copyright law also provides certain **rights to society** to access copyrighted works.
यहां तक कि यदि धनुष के पास कॉपीराइट है, तो यह एक **पूर्ण अधिकार** नहीं है। कॉपीराइट कानून समाज को **कॉपीराइट कार्यों** तक पहुंच प्राप्त करने के कुछ अधिकार भी प्रदान करता है।
- **Section 52** of the **Copyright Act, 1957** allows the **fair use** of copyrighted works for certain purposes.



कॉपीराइट एक्ट 1957 की धारा 52 कुछ उद्देश्यों के लिए कॉपीराइट कार्यों के उचित उपयोग की अनुमति देती है।

- The concept of **fair dealing** under Section 52(1)(a) permits the use of copyrighted works, considering factors like **extent of use** and **context of use**.

धारा 52(1)(a) के तहत उचित सौदे की अवधारणा कॉपीराइट कार्यों के उपयोग की अनुमति देती है, जिसमें उपयोग की सीमा और उपयोग का संदर्भ जैसे कारकों को ध्यान में रखा जाता है।

- The use of the clipping in a **biopic** about Nayanthara's life might be deemed **essential** due to the close relationship between an actress and her films.

नयनतारा के जीवन पर आधारित बायोपिक में क्लिपिंग का उपयोग आवश्यक माना जा सकता है, क्योंकि अभिनेत्री और उसकी फिल्मों के बीच गहरा संबंध होता है।

- The movie producer may have contracts to control **BTS recordings**, but will need to show the contracts are **legally valid**.

फिल्म निर्माता के पास बीटीएस रिकॉर्डिंग्स को नियंत्रित करने के लिए अनुबंध हो सकते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें यह दिखाना होगा कि वे अनुबंध कानूनी रूप से वैध हैं।

- Courts should take a strong stance against **unjustified legal threats** using copyright law, as violations can have **criminal remedies**.

Economic historian Amiya Kumar Bagchi passes away

PCS

Prabhat Patnaik

Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, who passed away on Thursday evening, was one of the most outstanding economists, scholars, and public intellectuals of our time. A rebel all his life, he left the college where he had been admitted originally for speaking out against some injustice, and joined Presidency College, Kolkata, which had a freer atmosphere. After his Master's in economics from Presidency, he went to Cambridge University on a West Bengal government scholarship, where he not only finished his doctoral work but also joined the Faculty of Economics and Politics, with a Fellowship at Jesus College.

He had started out as a mathematical economist, in fact a Game Theorist, but changed course while writing his Ph.D. dissertation and, on the advice of one of his mentors, turned to economic histo-

ry, a turn for which we must be highly grateful. He was not an economic historian in the narrow sense; rather, he was a macroeconomist working on historical data.

Seeing patterns in data

While digging up new and hitherto unavailable data with a diligence that could match that of the most industrious of the historians, he saw patterns in data which only his macroeconomics could enable him to see. He was thus an altogether new kind of an economist, *au fait* both in economic theory and in applied economics, including economic history. The first outstanding product of his prodigious scholarship was his book *Private Investment in India 1900-1939*, which many reviewers, even critics unsympathetic to his argument, have compared to the monumental works of anti-colonial historiography, such as those by Dadabhai



Amiya Kumar Bagchi

Naoroji, Romesh Chunder Dutt, and D.R.Gadgil. This work was followed by his research on "Deindustrialization in the Indian economy in the Colonial Period" which again provided definitive evidence to clinch a long-standing debate that had gone on since the days of Naoroji and Dutt.

Among his numerous books and articles, most of which are path-breaking, the one that stands out for me is a piece he wrote in the *Economic and Political Weekly* in 1972, in which he provided a superb and original outline of the dialectics of development and under-development in a historical setting in the world economy. This work, in its simplicity and its persuasiveness, can be considered a true descendant of Paul Baran's masterly book *The Political Economy of Growth*. It provides a pithy introduction to the argument developed more elaborately, though perhaps with less immediate impact, in his later work, *The Political Economy of Underdevelopment*. His last magnum opus was *Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendancy of Capital* in which he covered a range of experiences of countries in the Global South, focusing on the demographic collapse initiated by imperialism.

for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta, of which he subsequently became the Director. A staunch believer in Left politics, Bagchi served for a long time as a member and then as the Vice-Chairman of the West Bengal State Planning Board, under the Left Front government. After leaving the government, he established and directed the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata. He remained attached to this institution as a Professor Emeritus till his last days.

Admired and respected by legions of students whom he taught and guided for Ph.D. work, he was an institution-builder who was an institution himself. He was a pioneer who re-established on a firmer footing the propositions first advanced by the Indian nationalist writers, and in the process illuminated with extraordinary clarity the

An institution-builder

workings of imperialism in producing underdevelopment. All his life however Bagchi remained loyal to Kolkata, never permanently leaving this favourite city of his, even though he had numerous offers of prestigious jobs elsewhere, including in Delhi. Indeed, he was for a long time a remarkable bridge between Kolkata and Cambridge, a friend of distinguished Cambridge economists like Maurice Dobb, Piero Sraffa, Richard Goodwin, and Joan Robinson; he also took great pleasure in listening to Rabindra Sangeet and discussing the latest poem of Shakti Chattopadhyay (his exact contemporary) and the latest play of Utpal Dutt. Above all however, he never lost his faith in a future where there will be a world free of exploitation.

Prabhat Patnaik is Professor Emeritus, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU

Prabhat Patnaik is Professor Emeritus, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU





कोर्ट्स को अवांछनीय कानूनी धमकियों के खिलाफ एक मजबूत रुख अपनाना चाहिए, क्योंकि उल्लंघन पर अपराधात्मक उपचार हो सकते हैं।

Economic historian Amiya Kumar Bagchi passes away

आर्थिक इतिहासकार अमिया कुमार बागची का निधन

Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, who passed away on Thursday evening, was one of the most outstanding economists, scholars, and public intellectuals of our time.

प्रोफेसर अमिया कुमार बागची, जो गुरुवार शाम को निधन हो गए, हमारे समय के सबसे उत्कृष्ट अर्थशास्त्रियों, विद्वानों और सार्वजनिक बौद्धिकों में से एक थे।

- A **rebel** all his life, he left the college where he had been admitted originally for speaking out against some injustice, and joined **Presidency College, Kolkata**, which had a freer atmosphere.

अपने जीवन भर एक **विद्रोही**, उन्होंने जिस कॉलेज में पहले दाखिला लिया था, वहां कुछ अन्याय के खिलाफ बोलने के कारण उसे छोड़ दिया और **प्रेसिडेंसी कॉलेज, कोलकाता** में शामिल हो गए, जहां एक अधिक स्वतंत्र माहौल था।

- After his **Master's in economics** from Presidency, he went to **Cambridge University** on a **West Bengal government scholarship**, where he not only finished his doctoral work but also joined the Faculty of Economics and Politics, with a Fellowship at **Jesus College**.

प्रेसिडेंसी कॉलेज से अर्थशास्त्र में **मास्टर्स** के बाद, वह **कैम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय** गए, **पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार की छात्रवृत्ति** पर, जहां उन्होंने न केवल अपनी डॉक्टोरल कार्य समाप्त किया, बल्कि **जीसस कॉलेज** में एक फेलोशिप के साथ **आर्थशास्त्र और राजनीति** विभाग में भी शामिल हो गए।

- He had started out as a **mathematical economist**, in fact a **Game Theorist**, but changed course while writing his **Ph.D. dissertation** and, on the advice of one of his mentors, turned to **economic history**.

उन्होंने **गणितीय अर्थशास्त्री** के रूप में शुरुआत की, वास्तव में एक **गेम थ्योरिस्ट**, लेकिन अपनी पीएचडी थीसिस लिखते समय मार्ग बदलते हुए और अपने एक सलाहकार के सुझाव पर, उन्होंने **आर्थिक इतिहास** की ओर रुख किया।

- His first outstanding product of his prodigious scholarship was his book **Private Investment in India 1900-1939**, which many reviewers, even critics unsympathetic to his argument, have compared to the monumental works of **anticolonial historiography**, such as those by **Dadabhai Naoroji, Romesh Chunder Dutt, and D.R. Gadgil**.

उनकी जबरदस्त विद्वत्ता का पहला प्रमुख उत्पाद उनकी किताब **Private Investment in India 1900-1939** थी, जिसे कई समीक्षकों ने, यहां तक कि उनके तर्कों के प्रति असहमत आलोचकों ने भी, **एंटीकोलोनियल इतिहासलेखन** के स्मारकीय कार्यों से तुलना की है, जैसे **दादाभाई नौरोजी, रमेश चंद्र दत्त, और डी.आर. गडगिल** के कार्य।





- This work was followed by his research on "**Deindustrialization in the Indian economy in the Colonial Period**" which again provided definitive evidence to clinch a long-standing debate that had gone on since the days of **Naoroji** and **Dutt**.
इस कार्य के बाद उन्होंने "उपनिवेशी काल में भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में पुनः औद्योगिकीकरण की समस्या" पर शोध किया, जिसने फिर से नौरोजी और दत्त के दिनों से चल रही एक लंबी बहस को निर्णायक प्रमाण प्रदान किया।
- Among his numerous books and articles, most of which are path-breaking, the one that stands out for me is a piece he wrote in the **Economic and Political Weekly** in **1972**, in which he provided a superb and original outline of the dialectics of development and under-development in a historical setting in the world economy.
उनकी कई किताबों और लेखों में, जिनमें से अधिकांश पथ-प्रदर्शक हैं, वह लेख जो मुझे विशेष रूप से याद आता है, वह उन्होंने **Economic and Political Weekly** में **1972** में लिखा था, जिसमें उन्होंने विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था के ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ में विकास और अविकास की विरोधात्मक प्रक्रिया का एक शानदार और मौलिक खाका प्रस्तुत किया था।
- His last magnum opus was **Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendency of Capital**, in which he covered a range of experiences of countries in the **Global South**, focusing on the **demographic collapse initiated by imperialism**.
उनकी आखिरी महत्वपूर्ण कृति **Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendency of Capital** थी, जिसमें उन्होंने ग्लोबल साउथ के देशों के अनुभवों की एक श्रृंखला को कवर किया, जिसमें साम्राज्यवाद द्वारा उत्पन्न जनसांख्यिकीय पतन पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।
- After his stint at Cambridge, Bagchi returned to Kolkata to take up a teaching position in his alma mater, the **Presidency College**, from where he shifted after some years to the then newly established **Centre for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta**, of which he subsequently became the **Director**.
कैम्ब्रिज में अपनी अवधि के बाद, बागची कोलकाता लौटे और अपनी मातृ संस्था प्रेसिडेंसी कॉलेज में शिक्षण कार्य शुरू किया, जहां से कुछ वर्षों बाद उन्होंने स्थापित **Centre for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta** में स्थानांतरित होने के बाद इसके निदेशक के रूप में कार्य किया।
- A staunch believer in **Left politics**, Bagchi served for a long time as a member and then as the **Vice-Chairman of the West Bengal State Planning Board**, under the **Left Front government**.
लेफ्ट राजनीति में दृढ़ विश्वास रखने वाले बागची ने लंबे समय तक पश्चिम बंगाल राज्य योजना बोर्ड के सदस्य और फिर उपाध्यक्ष के रूप में सेवा की, लेफ्ट फ्रंट सरकार के तहत।
- After leaving the government, he established and directed the **Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata**.
सरकार से हटने के बाद, उन्होंने **Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata** की स्थापना की और इसके निदेशक के रूप में कार्य किया।
- He remained attached to this institution as a **Professor Emeritus** till his last days.
उन्होंने अपनी आखिरी दिनों तक इस संस्थान से प्रोफेसर एमेरेटस के रूप में जुड़ा रहा।
- An **institution-builder**, admired and respected by legions of students whom he taught and guided for Ph.D. work, he was an institution himself.
एक संस्थान निर्माता, जिन्हें उन्होंने सिखाया और पीएचडी कार्य के लिए मार्गदर्शन किया, उनके द्वारा प्रशंसा और सम्मानित छात्रों की बड़ी संख्या थी, वह स्वयं एक संस्थान थे।





- He was a **pioneer** who re-established on a firmer footing the propositions first advanced by the **Indian nationalist writers**, and in the process illuminated with extraordinary clarity the workings of **imperialism** in producing **underdevelopment**.
वह एक पथप्रदर्शक थे जिन्होंने भारतीय राष्ट्रीयतावादी लेखकों द्वारा पहले प्रस्तुत प्रस्तावों को मजबूती से पुनः स्थापित किया, और इसके प्रक्रिया में साम्राज्यवाद के कार्यों को असाधारण स्पष्टता से उजागर किया, जो **अविकास** पैदा करने में सहायक था।
- All his life however, Bagchi remained loyal to **Kolkata**, never permanently leaving this favourite city of his, even though he had numerous offers of prestigious jobs elsewhere, including in **Delhi**.
हालांकि बागची ने अपना पूरा जीवन **कोलकाता** के प्रति निष्ठावान रहते हुए बिताया, उन्होंने कभी भी इस प्रिय शहर को स्थायी रूप से नहीं छोड़ा, हालांकि उन्हें **दिल्ली** सहित अन्य जगहों से कई प्रतिष्ठित नौकरियों के प्रस्ताव मिले थे।
- Indeed, he was for a long time a remarkable **bridge** between Kolkata and **Cambridge**, a friend of distinguished **Cambridge economists** like **Maurice Dobb, Piero Sraffa, Richard Goodwin, and Joan Robinson**;
वास्तव में, वह लंबे समय तक कोलकाता और **कैम्ब्रिज** के बीच एक अद्वितीय **सेतु** थे, distinguished **कैम्ब्रिज अर्थशास्त्रियों** जैसे **मॉरिस डॉब, पिएरो स्राफा, रिचर्ड गुडविन, और जोआन रॉबिन्सन** के मित्र थे;
- He also took great pleasure in listening to **Rabindra Sangeet** and discussing the latest poem of **Shakti Chattopadhyay** (his exact contemporary) and the latest play of **Utpal Dutt**.
उन्होंने **रवींद्र संगीत** सुनने और **शक्ति चट्टोपाध्याय** (जो उनके समकालीन थे) की नवीनतम कविता और **उत्पल दत्त** के नवीनतम नाटक पर चर्चा करने में भी आनंद लिया।
- Above all, however, he never lost his faith in a future where there will be a world free of **exploitation**. लेकिन सबसे बढ़कर, उन्होंने कभी भी एक ऐसे भविष्य में अपने विश्वास को नहीं खोया, जहां **शोषण** से मुक्त एक दुनिया होगी।





In Busan, India says it will not back 'use' of plastic alternatives

Though the national stand is against plastic waste and for alternative materials, country will not allow itself to be 'pushed into using certain products or materials' during global plastic talks; despite four days of negotiations, disagreements prevail

Jacob Koshy

BUSAN

GS Paper III: Environment

While India may have banned single-use plastic in 2022 and called for employing "sustainable" alternatives, the nation has struck a contradictory note at the ongoing UN-led Global Plastic Treaty negotiations here.

During formal submissions on Thursday, India said that while it "encourages the research, innovation, and development of sustainable alternatives and non-plastic substitutes", it would rather not support the "use" of these products, technologies, and services.

India has pushed back against a suggestion by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) to "reduce the use of primary plastic polymers and associated chemicals of concern in plastic products". Chemicals of concern are used in making goods but which are associated with harm.

Semantics at play

While the reasoning behind India's stance was not



Of the 15 million tonnes of plastic used in consumer products and becoming waste within a year, only about 20% is collected. H. VIBHU

spelt out, these submissions are not cast in stone. Sources privy to the negotiations told *The Hindu* that the word "use" smacked of irritation at being told what to do.

While India's national stand was against plastic waste and pollution and promoting alternative, sustainable materials, India would not allow itself to be "pushed into using" certain products or materials, they said. However, wording could change and depending on how the negotiations progressed, more conciliatory terms could be considered, the sources said. Single-use plastics are

only a subset of the wide variety of plastics made from polymer, and different grades of plastic lend themselves to varying degrees of recycling.

In its multiple submissions on Thursday, India stressed that any final agreement on addressing plastic pollution should not contravene other multilateral agreements; should respect "national priorities, capabilities and priorities and right to development"; and "developing countries must get financial and technical assistance including technology transfer in line with the principle of common

but differentiated responsibilities". The latter is a principle derived from climate negotiations, where developed countries, which are counted as responsible for emitting the bulk of atmospheric carbon, are asked to pay up for minimising future global emissions.

Plastic alternatives

There is little clarity on whether sustainable alternatives to plastic exist. While India has, on paper, allowed the use of "biodegradable" and "compostable" plastic, lack of clarity on whether such plastic is actually degradable and whether compostable versions are being composted has hindered their widespread adoption. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has frequently worn jackets made from recycled PET bottles and spoken about the benefits of doing so.

An investigation by the Centre for Science and Environment estimates that since 2022, nearly 24 million tonnes of plastic packaging has been introduced into India with a mechanical recycling capacity of only 9.8 million tonnes. Of

the 15 million tonnes of plastic that are used in consumer products and become waste within a year, only about 20% is collected. While this is not a uniquely Indian problem, the inability to manage plastic waste after it is used as a product has led to calls, such as in the INC negotiations, to check the production of plastic itself.

The INC-5 Chair, Luis Vayas Valdivieso, before the start of negotiations on Monday, presented a text, called a "non paper", that laid out a reference document containing 32 "Articles" dealing with multiple dimensions of plastic waste, pollution, and curbing sources of production.

While countries are largely on board, there are disagreements. China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and the U.S. see the cessation of plastic production as potentially disruptive, so there has been pushback, though this is nuanced and varies country by country. The net result is that every sentence in the 18-page document is contested, with countries demanding their own modifications.

India's Stand on Plastic Alternatives in Global Talks

भारत का ग्लोबल प्लास्टिक वार्ता में प्लास्टिक विकल्पों पर रुख

India banned single-use plastic in 2022 and called for sustainable alternatives.





भारत ने 2022 में सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक पर प्रतिबंध लगाया और सतत विकल्पों की वकालत की।

- India participated in the **UN-led Global Plastic Treaty negotiations** in Busan.
भारत ने यूएन-नेतृत्व वाली ग्लोबल प्लास्टिक संधि वार्ताओं में बुसान में भाग लिया।
- India encourages **research, innovation, and development of sustainable alternatives and non-plastic substitutes**.
भारत सतत विकल्पों और गैर-प्लास्टिक विकल्पों के अनुसंधान, नवाचार और विकास को बढ़ावा देता है।
- India **refused to support** the “use” of certain products and materials during the negotiations.
भारत ने वार्ताओं के दौरान कुछ उत्पादों और सामग्रियों के “उपयोग” का समर्थन करने से **इनकार** किया।
- India **pushed back against** a suggestion by the **Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) to reduce the use of primary plastic polymers and associated chemicals**.
भारत ने इंटरगवर्नमेंटल नेगोशियेटिंग कमेटी (INC-5) के अध्यक्ष द्वारा की गई उस सलाह का विरोध किया जिसमें **प्राथमिक प्लास्टिक पॉलिमर और संबंधित रसायनों** के उपयोग को घटाने का प्रस्ताव था।
- **Chemicals of concern** are harmful chemicals used in plastic products.
चिंताजनक रसायन वे हानिकारक रसायन हैं जो प्लास्टिक उत्पादों में उपयोग होते हैं।
- India’s **stance** is that it does not want to be “**pushed into using**” certain products during global plastic discussions.
भारत का **रुख** है कि वह वैश्विक प्लास्टिक चर्चाओं में कुछ उत्पादों के “उपयोग” के लिए **धक्का** नहीं दिया जाना चाहता।
- India wants a final **agreement on plastic pollution to respect national priorities, capabilities, and the right to development**.
भारत चाहता है कि प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण पर अंतिम समझौता **राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं, क्षमताओं और विकास के अधिकार** का सम्मान करे।
- India stressed the need for **financial and technical assistance**, including **technology transfer** for developing countries.
भारत ने विकासशील देशों के लिए **आर्थिक और तकनीकी सहायता**, जिसमें **प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण** की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- India emphasized the **principle of common but differentiated responsibilities**, similar to climate negotiations.
भारत ने **सामान्य लेकिन विभेदित जिम्मेदारियों** के सिद्धांत पर बल दिया, जो जलवायु वार्ता के समान है।

Plastic Alternatives

प्लास्टिक विकल्प





- There is little **clarity** on whether **sustainable alternatives to plastic** exist.
प्लास्टिक के लिए सतत विकल्पों के होने पर बहुत कम स्पष्टता है।
- India has allowed the use of "**biodegradable**" and "**compostable**" plastics, but there is **uncertainty** about whether these plastics are actually **degradable** or if compostable versions are being **composted**.
भारत ने "बायोडिग्रेडेबल" और "कंपोस्टेबल" प्लास्टिक के उपयोग की अनुमति दी है, लेकिन यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि क्या ये प्लास्टिक वास्तव में सड़ने योग्य हैं या क्या कंपोस्टेबल संस्करणों को सचमुच कंपोस्ट किया जा रहा है।
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has frequently worn jackets made from **recycled PET bottles** and spoken about the **benefits** of doing so.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने अक्सर रीसायकल PET बोतलों से बने जैकेट पहने हैं और इस प्रकार करने के फायदों के बारे में बात की है।
- An investigation by the **Centre for Science and Environment** estimates that **since 2022**, nearly **24 million tonnes** of **plastic packaging** has been introduced into India, with a **mechanical recycling capacity** of only **9.8 million tonnes**.
सेंटर फॉर साइंस एंड एनवायरनमेंट की एक जांच के अनुसार 2022 से, भारत में लगभग 24 मिलियन टन प्लास्टिक पैकेजिंग लाई गई है, जबकि यांत्रिक रीसाइक्लिंग क्षमता केवल 9.8 मिलियन टन है।
- Of the **15 million tonnes** of plastic used in consumer products that become waste within a year, only about **20%** is collected.
15 मिलियन टन प्लास्टिक में से जो उपभोक्ता उत्पादों में उपयोग होते हैं और एक वर्ष में कचरे में बदल जाते हैं, केवल लगभग 20% एकत्रित किया जाता है।
- **Plastic waste management** after use remains a **challenge**, leading to calls for checking plastic production itself.
उपयोग के बाद प्लास्टिक कचरा प्रबंधन एक चुनौती बना हुआ है, जिससे प्लास्टिक उत्पादन को ही नियंत्रित करने की मांग की जा रही है।
- The **INC-5 Chair, Luis Vayas Valdivieso**, presented a "**non-paper**" before negotiations, containing **32 Articles** on plastic waste, pollution, and curbing production sources.
INC-5 के अध्यक्ष, लुइस वायस वाल्दिविएसो ने वार्ताओं से पहले "नॉन-पेपर" पेश किया, जिसमें प्लास्टिक कचरे, प्रदूषण, और उत्पादन स्रोतों को नियंत्रित करने पर आधारित 32 अनुच्छेद थे।
- Countries like **China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and the U.S.** see the cessation of plastic production as potentially **disruptive**.
चीन, भारत, रूस, सऊदी अरब, ईरान, इराक और अमेरिका जैसे देशों का मानना है कि प्लास्टिक उत्पादन का बंद होना विघटनकारी हो सकता है।
- The **18-page document** is contested, with countries demanding their own **modifications**.
18 पृष्ठों का दस्तावेज विवादित है, जिसमें देशों ने अपनी संशोधन की मांग की है।





Lithuanian drama *Toxic* wins Golden Peacock

PCS

The Hindu Bureau

PANAJI

The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which was kick-started with a star-studded opening ceremony at the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, on Wednesday has come to a close.

The nine-day festival presented over 180 international titles from 81 countries, which include 16 premieres in World, three in International, 43 in Asian, and 109 in Indian categories.

Toxic won the Golden Peacock Award for the Best Film for “exploring adolescence and the harsh realities of growing up in an economically deprived society.” *Toxic* is the debut feature of Saulė Bliuvaitė, a Lithuanian filmmaker.

Vikrant Massey won the Indian Film Personality of the Year award. The actor had starred in *12th Fail*, the blockbuster Hindi film of 2023. Bogdan Muresanu won the best director award for his Romanian tragic comedy *The New Year That Never Came*. Australian director Phillip Noyce received the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering cinematic legacy.

Lithuanian Drama *Toxic* Wins Golden Peacock

लिथुआनियाई ड्रामा *Toxic* को गोल्डन पीकाँक पुरस्कार मिला

- The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was inaugurated with a star-studded opening ceremony at the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji on Wednesday. भारतीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फिल्म महोत्सव (IFFI) का 55वां संस्करण बुधवार को पणजी स्थित डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी इंडोर स्टेडियम में एक स्टार-स्टडेड उद्घाटन समारोह के साथ प्रारंभ हुआ।
- The nine-day festival presented over 180 international titles from 81 countries, including 16 premieres in World, 3 in International, 43 in Asian, and 109 in Indian categories. यह नौ दिवसीय महोत्सव 81 देशों से 180 से अधिक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शीर्षक प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें विश्व स्तर पर 16 प्रीमियर, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय में 3, एशियाई में 43, और भारतीय श्रेणियों में 109 शामिल थे।
- **Toxic won the Golden Peacock Award for the Best Film** for “exploring adolescence and the harsh realities of growing up in an economically deprived society.” *Toxic* को सर्वश्रेष्ठ फिल्म के लिए गोल्डन पीकाँक पुरस्कार मिला, जो “किशोरावस्था और एक आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़ी समाज में बड़े होने की कठोर वास्तविकताओं को उजागर करने” के लिए था।
- **Toxic** is the debut feature of **Saulė Bliuvaitė**, a Lithuanian filmmaker. *Toxic* सॉले ब्लीवाइटे द्वारा निर्देशित एक लिथुआनियाई फिल्म निर्माता की पहली फीचर फिल्म है।
- **Vikrant Massey** won the **Indian Film Personality of the Year** award for his role in the blockbuster Hindi film **12th Fail** (2023). विक्रान्त मैसी को भारतीय फिल्म पर्सनैलिटी ऑफ द ईयर पुरस्कार मिला, जो उन्होंने 2023 की ब्लॉकबस्टर हिंदी फिल्म **12th Fail** में अपने अभिनय के लिए प्राप्त किया।
- **Bogdan Muresanu** won the **Best Director** award for his Romanian tragic comedy **The New Year That Never Came**. बोगदान मुरेशानू को अपनी रोमानियाई ट्रैजिक कॉमेडी **The New Year That Never Came** के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ निर्देशक पुरस्कार मिला।





- Australian director Phillip Noyce received the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering cinematic legacy.
ऑस्ट्रेलियाई निर्देशक फिलिप नॉयस को उनके पायनियरिंग सिनेमा योगदान के लिए सत्यजीत रे लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड प्राप्त हुआ।

Farmers must get high-quality seeds, fertilizers, says Agriculture Minister

PCS

A. M. Jigeesh
VARANASI

The 13th National Seed Congress, a three-day conclave of policymakers, scientists, and farmers that began here on Thursday, is seeking transformative solutions, especially in the wake of climate change and increasing diseases in various crops.

While the seed industry demanded “one nation, one licence” to promote research and development and use of hybrid seeds introduced by the private sector, the Union government said it was committed to ensuring best-quality seeds for farmers.

The main organisers of the seed congress are the Union Agriculture Ministry, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Ministry, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), National Seed Research and Training



Union Agriculture Minister says that there can be no greater service to agriculture than providing good seeds to farmers. MOORTHY.M

Centre, and Federation of Seed Industries of India (FSSI). Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who addressed the gathering virtually, said the most critical factor for farming was good seeds. “If we are able to provide good seeds to the farmers then there can be no greater service to agriculture than this,” he said and asked officials to take strict action against those who

provide low quality seeds and fertilizers to farmers. The Minister released an “Abstract Compendium” and the “Rice Fallow Web-page and Atlas” for Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. Yvonne Pinto, Director-General, IRRI, said the theme of the seed congress – “Fostering regional cooperation, partnerships, and knowledge in the seed sector” – could not be more relevant as the

world faced challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and the need for sustainable agriculture.

Talking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines, FSII Chairman Ajai Rana said the private sector spent 10% of its income on research and development.

“We have requested the Centre to bring a policy of one nation, one licence by accepting data from companies from different agricultural zones. If the data are verified and accepted, we don’t have to deal with the difficulties of obtaining licences in every State,” he said, and added that private seed companies were working on hybrid seeds that are resistant to pink bollworm, a major pest that affects cotton crops. “But policies have become an impediment to test the results of these innovations,” he said.

Farmers Must Get High-Quality Seeds, Fertilizers, Says Agriculture Minister

कृषि मंत्री का कहना है कि किसानों को उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले बीज और उर्वरक मिलना चाहिए





- The **13th National Seed Congress**, a three-day conclave of policymakers, scientists, and farmers, began on **Thursday** and seeks transformative solutions, especially in the wake of **climate change** and increasing diseases in various crops.
13वां राष्ट्रीय बीज कांग्रेस, जो नीति निर्माताओं, वैज्ञानिकों और किसानों का तीन दिवसीय सम्मेलन है, **गुरुवार** को शुरू हुआ और **जलवायु परिवर्तन** और विभिन्न फसलों में बढ़ती बीमारियों के संदर्भ में परिवर्तनकारी समाधान की तलाश कर रहा है।
- The seed industry demanded "**one nation, one licence**" to promote research and development and use of hybrid seeds introduced by the private sector.
बीज उद्योग ने "**एक देश, एक लाइसेंस**" की मांग की है ताकि अनुसंधान और विकास को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके और निजी क्षेत्र द्वारा पेश किए गए संकर बीजों का उपयोग किया जा सके।
- The **Union government** said it was committed to ensuring **best-quality seeds** for farmers.
केंद्र सरकार ने कहा कि वह किसानों के लिए **उत्कृष्ट गुणवत्ता वाले बीज** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।
- The main organisers of the seed congress are the **Union Agriculture Ministry, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Ministry, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), National Seed Research and Training Centre, and Federation of Seed Industries of India (FSSI)**.
बीज कांग्रेस के मुख्य आयोजक हैं **केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्रालय, उत्तर प्रदेश कृषि मंत्रालय, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान (IRRI), राष्ट्रीय बीज अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण केंद्र, और भारत के बीज उद्योग महासंघ (FSSI)**।
- **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, who addressed the gathering virtually, said the most critical factor for farming was **good seeds**.
केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान, जिन्होंने आभासी रूप से सभा को संबोधित किया, ने कहा कि कृषि के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तत्व **अच्छे बीज** हैं।
- He said, "If we are able to provide good seeds to the farmers, then there can be no greater service to agriculture than this," and asked officials to take strict action against those who provide **low-quality seeds** and **fertilizers**.
उन्होंने कहा, "अगर हम किसानों को अच्छे बीज प्रदान करने में सक्षम होते हैं, तो कृषि के लिए इससे बड़ा कोई सेवा नहीं हो सकता," और अधिकारियों से उन लोगों के खिलाफ कठोर कार्रवाई करने को कहा जो **निम्न गुणवत्ता वाले बीज** और **उर्वरक** प्रदान करते हैं।
- The Minister released an "**Abstract Compendium**" and the "**Rice Fallow Webpage and Atlas**" for **Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal**.
मंत्री ने "**सारांश संकलन**" और "**चावल के अवकाश वेबपेज और एटलस**" को **बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड, और पश्चिम बंगाल** के लिए जारी किया।
- **Yvonne Pinto**, Director-General, IRRI, said the theme of the seed congress, "**Fostering regional cooperation, partnerships, and knowledge in the seed sector**," could not be more relevant as the world faced challenges such as **climate change, food insecurity**, and the need for **sustainable agriculture**.
इवोन पिंटो, निदेशक-जनरल, IRRI, ने कहा कि बीज कांग्रेस का विषय, "**क्षेत्रीय सहयोग, साझेदारी और बीज क्षेत्र में ज्ञान को बढ़ावा देना**," अधिक प्रासंगिक नहीं हो सकता क्योंकि दुनिया को **जलवायु परिवर्तन, खाद्य सुरक्षा और सतत कृषि** जैसे चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।



- Talking to **The Hindu** on the sidelines, **FSII Chairman Ajai Rana** said the private sector spent **10%** of its income on **research and development**.

The Hindu से बात करते हुए, **FSII चेयरमैन अजय राणा** ने कहा कि निजी क्षेत्र अपने आय का **10% अनुसंधान और विकास पर खर्च करता है।**

- He added that the private seed companies were working on hybrid seeds that are resistant to **pink bollworm**, a major pest that affects **cotton crops**.

उन्होंने कहा कि निजी बीज कंपनियाँ **गुलाबी गोह** (pink bollworm) के प्रतिरोधी संकर बीजों पर काम कर रही हैं, जो **कपास की फसल** को प्रभावित करने वाला एक प्रमुख कीट है।

- However, he mentioned that policies have become an **impediment** to test the results of these innovations.

हालाँकि, उन्होंने कहा कि नीतियाँ इन नवाचारों के परिणामों का परीक्षण करने में **अवरोध** बन गई हैं।

Stigma of HIV and birth of biomedical waste regulations

In 1983, two scientists, Luc Montagnier and Robert Gallo, had independently identified the virus responsible for AIDS. By the mid-1980s, HIV/AIDS was viewed as a biological death sentence. The virus's primary target is immune cells, and medical intervention was extraordinarily challenging then. The epidemic rapidly became a symbol of fear

C. Aravinda

GS Paper III: Environment

In August 1987, the beaches of the United States witnessed a chilling phenomenon dubbed the "Syringe Tide." Used syringes and other medical waste, such as blood vials and body tissues, began appearing on the Jersey shore and New York City beaches along the Atlantic coast. The sight of children playing with syringes became a vivid image that spurred a national outcry. The scene, reminiscent of a biological apocalypse, rattled the American public.

The disaster was traced back to New York City's improper waste disposal, dumping hazardous refuse into fresh landfills (now closed). Though hospital waste has always been unpleasant, its hazardous potential was grossly underestimated. This incident unfolded in the shadow of HIV/AIDS epidemic as a mounting crisis. Just four years earlier, in 1983, two scientists, Luc Montagnier from France and Robert Gallo from the United States, had independently identified the virus responsible for AIDS. By the mid-1980s, HIV/AIDS was viewed as a biological death sentence, with little hope for a cure or vaccine. The virus's primary target is immune cells, and medical intervention was extraordinarily challenging then. The epidemic rapidly became a symbol of fear, ignorance, and stigma.

The stigma around HIV, fuelled by a lack of understanding and rampant misinformation, was palpable. Syringes on the shorelines were not just a sanitary issue anymore. With the beaches deserted, tourism suffered immensely, leading to economic losses of up to \$7.7 billion. The stigma surrounding HIV, linked with syringes and hospital waste, amplified public anxiety. The confluence of these events—the syringe tide and the HIV epidemic—created a perfect storm.

Public outrage mounted, pushing the Ronald Reagan administration to act. In 1988, the United States passed the Medical Waste Tracking Act, introducing stringent guidelines for medical waste disposal. This was the first time hospital waste was formally categorised as hazardous, requiring systematic regulation and oversight.

The Act marked a turning point, shaping public health policies and environmental safety norms in the years to come. This legislation introduced stringent regulations for the handling, transporting, and disposing of medical waste, forever changing the healthcare



Silent hazard: Alleged medical waste found near Coimbatore Corporation limits. FILE PHOTO

system's approach to waste management.

India's journey

While the United States responded swiftly to the syringe tide in the backdrop of the HIV crisis, India's path to addressing biomedical waste management was slower and marked by distinct challenges. In 1986, India took its first major step toward environmental protection by enacting the Environmental Protection Act, almost 40 years after gaining independence. Coincidentally, 1986 was the year in which the HIV case in India was identified at Madras Medical College in India. However, hospital waste was not yet recognised as hazardous. The Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules of 1989 did not mention biomedical waste, missing an opportunity for regulation. Thereby leaving biomedical waste disposal to local bodies.

The inadequacies of this system became glaring in the 1990s, particularly in urban areas like Delhi, where pollution levels were soaring. In the landmark case of Dr. B.L. Wadhwa vs. Union of India (1996), the Supreme Court lamented that the capital city of Delhi had turned into an "open garbage dump." The judgment spurred nationwide conversations about waste management, including the critical

Mishandling of biomedical waste still poses risks, particularly in resource-limited settings. Healthcare professionals continue to face occupational hazards. Yet, the progress made is undeniable

issue of biomedical waste. This judicial intervention spurred legislative action. In 1998, Parliament introduced the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, marking the first time hospital waste was recognised as hazardous and distinct. The Act empowered the Central and State Pollution Control Boards to monitor and regulate waste disposal, ushering in an era of accountability.

The HIV link

In hindsight, the discovery of HIV and the associated public fear catalysed a global reckoning with healthcare practices. For India, it highlighted the urgent need to protect not just the environment but also the occupational health of its medical workforce. While India charted its own course, it is undeniable that the global response to HIV and the lessons from the U.S. influenced the trajectory of

biomedical waste management reforms.

Biomedical waste management in India has come a long way since the 1990s. The rules have undergone four amendments, with major updates in 2016 and minor revisions in 2020, reflecting the evolving development in waste management technology. Stringent protocols are in place today, ensuring that hospital waste is segregated, treated, and disposed of responsibly.

However, challenges remain. Mishandling of biomedical waste still poses risks, particularly in rural and resource-limited settings. Healthcare professionals continue to face occupational hazards, and gaps in compliance persist. Yet, the progress made is undeniable.

The story of biomedical waste management reminds us that progress often emerges from the depths of crisis. The stigma, fear, and tragedy surrounding HIV/AIDS indirectly gave rise to a cleaner, safer healthcare environment. In the words of Winston Churchill, "Never let a good crisis go to waste", and so was the HIV crisis.

(Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. The views expressed are personal. aravindaaimsr10@hotmail.com)

THE GIST

In 1988, the U.S. passed the Medical Waste Tracking Act, introducing stringent guidelines for medical waste disposal

In 1986, India took its first major step toward environmental protection by enacting the Environmental Protection Act. Coincidentally, 1986 was the year in which the HIV case in India was identified

In 1998, Parliament introduced the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, marking the first time hospital waste was recognised as hazardous and distinct. The Act empowered the Central and State Pollution Control Boards to monitor and regulate waste disposal





Stigma of HIV and birth of biomedical waste regulations

एचआईवी का कलंक और जैविक चिकित्सा कचरा नियमों का जन्म

In 1983, two scientists, Luc Montagnier and Robert Gallo, had independently identified the virus responsible for AIDS.

1983 में, दो वैज्ञानिकों, लुक मोंटाग्नियर और रॉबर्ट गैलो, ने स्वतंत्र रूप से एड्स के लिए जिम्मेदार वायरस की पहचान की थी।

- By the mid-1980s, HIV/AIDS was viewed as a biological death sentence.
1980 के मध्य तक, एचआईवी/एड्स को जैविक मृत्यु दंड के रूप में देखा जाता था।
- The virus's primary target is **immune cells**, and medical intervention was extraordinarily challenging then.
वायरस का मुख्य लक्ष्य प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाएँ हैं, और उस समय चिकित्सा हस्तक्षेप असाधारण रूप से चुनौतीपूर्ण था।
- The epidemic rapidly became a symbol of **fear, ignorance, and stigma**.
महामारी जल्दी से डर, अज्ञानता, और कलंक का प्रतीक बन गई।
- In **August 1987**, the beaches of the **United States** witnessed a chilling phenomenon dubbed the "**Syringe Tide**."
अगस्त 1987 में, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के समुद्र तटों पर एक डरावनी घटना देखी गई जिसे "सिरिंज टाइड" कहा गया।
- Used **syringes** and other **medical waste**, such as **blood vials** and **body tissues**, began appearing on the **Jersey shore** and **New York City beaches** along the **Atlantic coast**.
प्रयुक्त सिरिंज और अन्य चिकित्सा कचरा, जैसे रक्त की बोतलें और शरीर के ऊतक, जर्सी तट और न्यूयॉर्क शहर के समुद्र तटों पर अटलांटिक तट के साथ दिखाई देने लगे।
- The sight of children playing with syringes became a vivid image that spurred a national outcry.
सिरिंज के साथ खेलते बच्चों का दृश्य एक जीवंत छवि बन गया, जिसने राष्ट्रीय विरोध को जन्म दिया।
- The disaster was traced back to **New York City's** improper waste disposal, dumping hazardous refuse into fresh **landfills** (now closed).





इस आपदा का पता **न्यूयॉर्क शहर** के गलत कचरा निपटान से चला, जिसमें खतरनाक कचरा ताजे **लैंडफिल्स** (जो अब बंद हैं) में डाला गया था।

- This incident unfolded in the shadow of the **HIV-AIDS epidemic** as a mounting crisis. यह घटना **एचआईवी-एड्स महामारी** की छाँव में एक बढ़ती हुई संकट के रूप में सामने आई।
- Just four years earlier, in **1983**, two scientists, **Luc Montagnier** from **France** and **Robert Gallo** from the **United States**, had independently identified the virus responsible for **AIDS**.

बस चार साल पहले, **1983** में, दो वैज्ञानिकों, **लुक मोंटाग्नियर** (फ्रांस) और **रॉबर्ट गैलो** (संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका), ने स्वतंत्र रूप से **एड्स** के लिए जिम्मेदार वायरस की पहचान की थी।

- The stigma around **HIV**, fueled by a lack of understanding and rampant misinformation, was palpable.

एचआईवी के आसपास का कलंक, जो समझ की कमी और फैली हुई गलत जानकारी से बढ़ा था, स्पष्ट था।

- **Syringes** on the shorelines were not just a sanitary issue anymore. समुद्र तटों पर **सिरिंज** अब सिर्फ एक स्वच्छता समस्या नहीं रह गई थी।
- With the beaches deserted, **tourism** suffered immensely, leading to **economic losses** of up to **\$7.7 billion**.

समुद्र तटों के सुनसान होने के कारण, **पर्यटन** को बहुत नुकसान हुआ, जिससे **\$7.7 बिलियन** तक का **आर्थिक नुकसान** हुआ।

- The stigma surrounding **HIV**, linked with **syringes** and **hospital waste**, amplified public anxiety.

एचआईवी के आसपास का कलंक, जो **सिरिंज** और **अस्पताल के कचरे** से जुड़ा था, ने सार्वजनिक चिंता को बढ़ा दिया।

- The confluence of these events—the **syringe tide** and the **HIV epidemic**—created a perfect storm. इन घटनाओं का संगम—**सिरिंज टाइड** और **एचआईवी महामारी**—ने एक पूर्ण तूफान पैदा किया।
- Public outrage mounted, pushing the **Ronald Reagan administration** to act.

जनता का आक्रोश बढ़ा, जिससे **रोनाल्ड रीगन प्रशासन** को कार्रवाई करने के लिए प्रेरित किया गया।

- In **1988**, the **United States** passed the **Medical Waste Tracking Act**, introducing stringent guidelines for medical waste disposal.

1988 में, **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने **मेडिकल वेस्ट ट्रैकिंग एक्ट** पास किया, जिसमें चिकित्सा कचरा निपटान के लिए कठोर दिशा-निर्देश पेश किए गए।

- This was the first time hospital waste was formally categorized as **hazardous**, requiring systematic regulation and oversight.

यह पहली बार था जब अस्पताल का कचरा आधिकारिक रूप से **खतरनाक** के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया, जिसके लिए व्यवस्थित नियमन और निगरानी की आवश्यकता थी।

- The Act marked a turning point, shaping **public health policies** and **environmental safety norms** in the years to come.

यह अधिनियम एक मोड़ था, जिसने आने वाले वर्षों में **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य नीतियों** और **पर्यावरण सुरक्षा मानकों** को आकार दिया।





- This legislation introduced stringent regulations for the handling, transporting, and disposing of medical waste, forever changing the healthcare system's approach to waste management.

इस कानून ने चिकित्सा कचरे के हैंडलिंग, परिवहन, और निपटान के लिए कठोर नियमों की शुरुआत की, जिसने स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली के कचरा प्रबंधन दृष्टिकोण को हमेशा के लिए बदल दिया।

India's journey

भारत की यात्रा

- While the **United States** responded swiftly to the syringe tide in the backdrop of the **HIV crisis**, India's path to addressing biomedical waste management was slower and marked by distinct challenges.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने एचआईवी संकट के संदर्भ में सिरिज टाइड के प्रति तेजी से प्रतिक्रिया दी, वहीं भारत का जैविक चिकित्सा कचरा प्रबंधन का मार्ग धीमा था और इसमें विशिष्ट चुनौतियाँ थीं।

- In **1986**, India took its first major step toward environmental protection by enacting the **Environmental Protection Act**, almost 40 years after gaining independence.

1986 में, भारत ने स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त करने के लगभग 40 साल बाद पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम को लागू करके पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में अपना पहला प्रमुख कदम उठाया।

- Coincidentally, **1986** was the year in which the **HIV case** in India was identified at **Madras Medical College** in India.

सहज संयोग से, 1986 वह वर्ष था जब भारत में एचआईवी का मामला मद्रास मेडिकल कॉलेज में पहचाना गया।

- However, **hospital waste** was not yet recognized as hazardous.

हालाँकि, अस्पताल का कचरा अभी तक खतरनाक के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त नहीं था।

- The **Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules of 1989** did not mention biomedical waste, missing an opportunity for regulation.

1989 के खतरनाक कचरा (प्रबंधन और हैंडलिंग) नियम में जैविक चिकित्सा कचरे का उल्लेख नहीं था, जिससे विनियमन का अवसर चूक गया।

- Thereby leaving biomedical waste disposal to **local bodies**.

इसके परिणामस्वरूप जैविक चिकित्सा कचरा निपटान स्थानीय निकायों के पास छोड़ दिया गया।

- The inadequacies of this system became glaring in the **1990s**, particularly in urban areas like **Delhi**, where pollution levels were soaring.

इस प्रणाली की अपर्याप्तताएँ 1990 के दशक में स्पष्ट हो गईं, विशेषकर शहरी क्षेत्रों जैसे दिल्ली में, जहाँ प्रदूषण स्तर बढ़ रहे थे।

- In the landmark case of **Dr. B.L. Wadehra vs. Union of India (1996)**, the **Supreme Court** lamented that the capital city of **Delhi** had turned into an "**open garbage dump**."

डॉ. बी.एल. वढेरा बनाम भारत संघ (1996) के ऐतिहासिक मामले में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अफसोस जताया कि दिल्ली की राजधानी "खुला कचरा ढेर" में बदल गई थी।





- The judgment spurred nationwide conversations about waste management, including the critical issue of biomedical waste.
निर्णय ने कचरा प्रबंधन पर राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर चर्चा को बढ़ावा दिया, जिसमें जैविक चिकित्सा कचरे का महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा भी शामिल था।
- This judicial intervention spurred legislative action.
इस न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप ने विधायी कार्रवाई को प्रेरित किया।
- In **1998**, Parliament introduced the **Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules**, marking the first time hospital waste was recognized as hazardous and distinct.
1998 में, संसद ने **जैविक चिकित्सा कचरा (प्रबंधन और हैंडलिंग) नियम** पेश किए, जिससे यह पहली बार हुआ जब अस्पताल के कचरे को खतरनाक और अलग-अलग के रूप में पहचाना गया।
- The Act empowered the **Central and State Pollution Control Boards** to monitor and regulate waste disposal, ushering in an era of accountability.
इस अधिनियम ने **केंद्रीय और राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड** को कचरा निपटान की निगरानी और विनियमन का अधिकार दिया, जिससे जिम्मेदारी का एक युग शुरू हुआ।

The HIV link

एचआईवी संबंध

- In hindsight, the discovery of **HIV** and the associated public fear catalysed a global reckoning with healthcare practices.
पिछले विचार से, **एचआईवी** की खोज और संबंधित सार्वजनिक भय ने स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रथाओं के साथ वैश्विक पुनःसमीक्षा को उत्प्रेरित किया।
- For India, it highlighted the urgent need to protect not just the environment but also the **occupational health** of its **medical workforce**.
भारत के लिए, इसने न केवल पर्यावरण की रक्षा करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता को उजागर किया, बल्कि इसके **चिकित्सा कार्यबल** के **व्यावसायिक स्वास्थ्य** की रक्षा की आवश्यकता को भी उजागर किया।
- While India charted its own course, it is undeniable that the global response to **HIV** and the lessons from the **U.S.** influenced the trajectory of biomedical waste management reforms.
हालाँकि भारत ने अपनी अलग राह बनाई, यह नकारा नहीं जा सकता कि **एचआईवी** के प्रति वैश्विक प्रतिक्रिया और **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** से प्राप्त पाठों ने जैविक चिकित्सा कचरा प्रबंधन सुधारों की दिशा को प्रभावित किया।
- Biomedical waste management in India has come a long way since the **1990s**.
1990 के दशक से भारत में जैविक चिकित्सा कचरा प्रबंधन काफी दूर बढ़ चुका है।
- The rules have undergone **four amendments**, with major updates in **2016** and minor revisions in **2020**, reflecting the evolving development in waste management technology.
नियमों में **चार संशोधन** किए गए हैं, जिनमें **2016** में प्रमुख अपडेट और **2020** में छोटे संशोधन शामिल हैं, जो कचरा प्रबंधन तकनीकी विकास को दर्शाते हैं।
- Stringent protocols are in place today, ensuring that hospital waste is segregated, treated, and disposed of responsibly.





आज कठोर प्रोटोकॉल लागू हैं, जो यह सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि अस्पताल का कचरा जिम्मेदारी से अलग किया, उपचारित किया और निपटाया जाता है।

- However, challenges remain.

हालांकि, चुनौतियाँ बनी हुई हैं।

- **Mishandling** of biomedical waste still poses risks, particularly in **rural** and **resource-limited** settings.

जैविक चिकित्सा कचरे का गलत हैंडलिंग अभी भी जोखिम उत्पन्न करता है, विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण और संसाधन-सीमित स्थानों में।

- Healthcare professionals continue to face **occupational hazards**, and gaps in compliance persist.

चिकित्सा पेशेवरों को व्यावसायिक खतरे का सामना करना पड़ता है, और अनुपालन में अंतराल बने रहते हैं।

- Yet, the progress made is undeniable.

फिर भी, जो प्रगति हुई है वह नकारा नहीं जा सकता।

- The story of biomedical waste management reminds us that progress often emerges from the depths of crisis.

जैविक चिकित्सा कचरा प्रबंधन की कहानी हमें याद दिलाती है कि प्रगति अक्सर संकट की गहराई से उभरकर आती है।

- The stigma, fear, and tragedy surrounding **HIV/AIDS** indirectly gave rise to a cleaner, safer healthcare environment.

एचआईवी/एड्स के चारों ओर का कलंक, डर और त्रासदी अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से एक साफ, सुरक्षित स्वास्थ्य देखभाल वातावरण का निर्माण करने में सहायक बने।

- In the words of **Winston Churchill**, “**Never let a good crisis go to waste**,” and so was the **HIV crisis**.

विंस्टन चर्चिल के शब्दों में, “कभी भी एक अच्छे संकट को बर्बाद न होने दें,” और यही था एचआईवी संकट।



Using body's defences against cancer

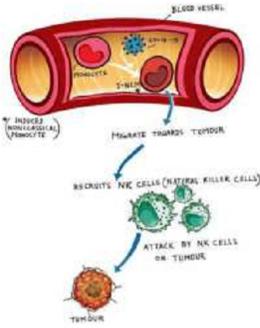
GS Paper S&T

Rajeev Jayadevan

Cancer, often called the “emperor of all maladies,” remains a formidable adversary despite decades of scientific progress. However, research in recent years has brought us closer to unlocking new ways to combat it. A study from Northwestern University in Chicago, published in the November issue of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, has gained attention for discovering that white blood cells activated by severe COVID-19 demonstrate cancer-fighting abilities.

Working with laboratory mice, researchers showed that the spread of cancer, also known as metastasis, could be slowed by a specialised type of white blood cell called induced non-classical monocytes (I-NCMs). These cells can be generated through severe infections like COVID-19 or by using certain chemicals. Once activated, I-NCMs are able to leave blood vessels and migrate to tumours, where they launch an attack on cancer cells.

A 2023 study by De Nigris and colleagues in the *Journal of Translational Medicine* described 16 such cases involving different types of cancer, including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and kidney cancer. However, it is unclear if these outcomes were directly caused by COVID-19 or were part of the natural progression of the disease. This raises the question: Can cancers go away on their own? While extremely rare, the answer is yes. The most well-studied example is neuroblastoma, a rare childhood tumour that occasionally disappears without treatment. Such spontaneous improvement may be due to a newly-



activated immune system gaining the ability to target cancer cells.

Potential of immunotherapy

Over the past decade, immunotherapy has emerged as a promising approach to cancer treatment.

Broadly speaking, cancer is a rogue colony of body cells that grow uncontrollably, feed on the body's resources, and spread to other parts of the body through the bloodstream. Cancer cells often reprogramme the body's immune system to protect themselves from detection and destruction. Immunotherapy aims to overcome these defences by empowering the body's immune cells to fight back. The Northwestern University research showed that injecting a specific type of white blood cell, I-NCMs, into mice was effective in combating cancer metastasis.

I-NCMs are derived from monocytes which circulate in the bloodstream. Monocytes are involved with fighting off infections, immune regulation and repairing damaged tissue. When exposed to certain bacterial or viral infections or

chemicals, a small number of these monocytes transform into I-NCMs.

Unlike regular monocytes, I-NCMs possess a unique receptor, CCR2, which acts like a specialised antenna to detect signals emitted by certain types of cancer cells or inflamed tissues. These signals guide I-NCMs to the source, where they perform specific tasks. For example, at an infection site, they help eliminate pathogens. At a tumour site, they recruit other immune cells called natural killer (NK) cells, which are effective at destroying cancer cells. Natural killer cells are a vital component of the immune system, directly targeting and eliminating abnormal-appearing cells, such as cancer cells or virus-infected cells.

The Northwestern University study found that I-NCMs play a crucial role in summoning these NK cells to tumour sites. Another form of immunotherapy is the use of CAR-T where the patient's own T cells are reprogrammed in the lab and reintroduced into the body to attack the cancer.

Not all cancers respond to immunotherapy, and even when treatments show initial success, cancer cells can adapt and develop resistance.

(Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan is Chairman, Research Cell, Kerala State Indian Medical Association
rajeevjayadevan@gmail.com)



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Using Body's Defences Against Cancer

कैंसर के खिलाफ शरीर की रक्षा का उपयोग

Cancer is often called the “emperor of all maladies”.

कैंसर को अक्सर "सभी बिमारियों का सम्राट" कहा जाता है।

Despite decades of scientific progress, cancer remains a formidable adversary.

विज्ञान में दशकों की प्रगति के बावजूद, कैंसर एक मजबूत शत्रु बना हुआ है।

A 2023 study from Northwestern University, published in the November issue of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, discovered that white blood cells activated by severe

COVID-19 demonstrate cancer-fighting abilities.

2023 में नॉर्थवेस्टर्न यूनिवर्सिटी द्वारा किए गए एक अध्ययन ने, जो नवंबर के अंक में *The Journal of Clinical Investigation* में प्रकाशित हुआ, पाया कि गंभीर COVID-19 द्वारा सक्रिय किए गए सफेद रक्त कणिकाएं कैंसर से लड़ने की क्षमता दिखाती हैं।

- The spread of cancer, known as **metastasis**, could be slowed by a specialized type of white blood cell called **induced non-classical monocytes (I-NCMs)**.

कैंसर के फैलने को, जिसे **मेटास्टेसिस** कहा जाता है, एक विशेष प्रकार की सफेद रक्त कणिका प्रेरित गैर-परंपरागत मोनोसाइट्स (I-NCMs) द्वारा धीमा किया जा सकता है।

- I-NCMs can be generated through severe infections like **COVID-19** or by using certain chemicals.

COVID-19 जैसी गंभीर संक्रमणों या कुछ रसायनों का उपयोग करके I-NCMs उत्पन्न किए जा सकते हैं।





- Once activated, I-NCMs leave blood vessels and migrate to **tumours**, where they attack cancer cells.
एक बार सक्रिय हो जाने पर, I-NCMs रक्त वाहिकाओं से बाहर निकलते हैं और **ट्यूमर्स** (गांठों) की ओर बढ़ते हैं, जहां वे कैंसर कोशिकाओं पर हमला करते हैं।
- A **2023 study** by **De Nigris** and colleagues in the **Journal of Translational Medicine** described 16 cases involving different types of cancer, including **leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and kidney cancer**.
De Nigris और उनके सहयोगियों द्वारा **2023** में किए गए एक अध्ययन में **Journal of Translational Medicine** में विभिन्न प्रकार के कैंसर के 16 मामलों का वर्णन किया गया, जिनमें **ल्यूकेमिया, लिंफोमा, मायेलोमा, और किडनी कैंसर** शामिल हैं।
- However, it is unclear if these outcomes were directly caused by **COVID-19** or were part of the natural progression of the disease.
हालाँकि, यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि क्या इन परिणामों का कारण सीधे **COVID-19** था या यह बीमारी की प्राकृतिक प्रगति का हिस्सा था।
- **Neuroblastoma**, a rare childhood tumour, sometimes disappears without treatment, potentially due to an activated immune system targeting cancer cells.
न्यूरोब्लास्टोमा, एक दुर्लभ बचपन का ट्यूमर, कभी-कभी बिना इलाज के गायब हो जाता है, जो संभवतः एक सक्रिय इम्यून सिस्टम के कारण होता है जो कैंसर कोशिकाओं को लक्षित करता है।

Potential of Immunotherapy

इम्यूनोथेरेपी की संभावना

- Over the past decade, **immunotherapy** has emerged as a promising approach to cancer treatment.
पिछले दशक में, **इम्यूनोथेरेपी** कैंसर उपचार के लिए एक आशाजनक दृष्टिकोण के रूप में उभरी है।
- Cancer is a rogue colony of body cells that grow uncontrollably, feed on the body's resources, and spread to other parts of the body through the bloodstream.
कैंसर शरीर की कोशिकाओं का एक अव्यवस्थित समूह है जो अनियंत्रित रूप से बढ़ता है, शरीर के संसाधनों का उपयोग करता है, और रक्तप्रवाह के माध्यम से शरीर के अन्य हिस्सों में फैलता है।
- Cancer cells often reprogram the body's immune system to protect themselves from detection and destruction.
कैंसर कोशिकाएं अक्सर शरीर की इम्यून सिस्टम को पुनः प्रोग्राम करती हैं ताकि वे पहचान से बच सकें और नष्ट न हो सकें।
- The **Northwestern University** research showed that injecting I-NCMs into mice was effective in combating cancer metastasis.
नॉर्थवेस्टर्न यूनिवर्सिटी के शोध ने दिखाया कि चूहों में I-NCMs का इंजेक्शन लगाने से कैंसर मेटास्टेसिस से लड़ने में प्रभावी था।
- I-NCMs are derived from **monocytes**, which are involved with fighting infections, immune regulation, and repairing damaged tissue.





I-NCMs **मोनोसाइट्स** से उत्पन्न होते हैं, जो संक्रमणों से लड़ने, इम्यून प्रणाली को नियंत्रित करने और क्षतिग्रस्त ऊतकों को ठीक करने में शामिल होते हैं।

- A small number of monocytes transform into I-NCMs when exposed to certain bacterial or viral infections or chemicals.

कुछ मोनोसाइट्स विशेष बैक्टीरियल या वायरल संक्रमणों या रसायनों के संपर्क में आने पर I-NCMs में बदल जाते हैं।

- Unlike regular monocytes, I-NCMs possess a unique receptor, **CCR2**, which helps them detect signals from cancer cells or inflamed tissues.

सामान्य मोनोसाइट्स के विपरीत, I-NCMs में एक विशेष रिसेप्टर **CCR2** होता है, जो उन्हें कैंसर कोशिकाओं या सूजन वाले ऊतकों से संकेत प्राप्त करने में मदद करता है।

- These signals guide I-NCMs to the source, where they perform specific tasks, such as eliminating pathogens at infection sites and recruiting **natural killer (NK) cells** to tumour sites.

ये संकेत I-NCMs को स्रोत की ओर मार्गदर्शन करते हैं, जहां वे विशिष्ट कार्य करते हैं, जैसे संक्रमण स्थलों पर रोगजनकों को नष्ट करना और **नेचुरल किलर (NK) कोशिकाओं** को ट्यूमर स्थलों पर आकर्षित करना।

- **Natural killer (NK) cells** are crucial for targeting and eliminating abnormal cells, including cancer cells and virus-infected cells.

नेचुरल किलर (NK) कोशिकाएं असामान्य कोशिकाओं को लक्षित करने और नष्ट करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होती हैं, जिनमें कैंसर कोशिकाएं और वायरस से संक्रमित कोशिकाएं शामिल हैं।

- The **Northwestern University study** found that I-NCMs play a crucial role in summoning **NK cells** to tumour sites.

नॉर्थवेस्टर्न यूनिवर्सिटी के अध्ययन ने पाया कि I-NCMs **NK कोशिकाओं** को ट्यूमर स्थलों पर बुलाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

- Another form of immunotherapy is **CAR-T**, where the patient's own T cells are reprogrammed in the lab and reintroduced into the body to attack the cancer.

इम्यूनोथेरेपी का एक और रूप **CAR-T** है, जिसमें मरीज की अपनी T कोशिकाओं को लैब में पुनः प्रोग्राम किया जाता है और उन्हें शरीर में फिर से पेश किया जाता है ताकि वे कैंसर पर हमला कर सकें।

- Not all cancers respond to immunotherapy, and even when treatments show initial success, cancer cells can adapt and develop resistance.

सभी कैंसर इम्यूनोथेरेपी पर प्रतिक्रिया नहीं करते हैं, और जब उपचार प्रारंभिक सफलता दिखाते हैं, तब भी कैंसर कोशिकाएं अनुकूलित हो सकती हैं और प्रतिरोध विकसित कर सकती हैं।

