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12_12_2024 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS.

1. **Opposition plans motion to impeach U.P. judge** विपक्ष ने यूपी जज के खिलाफ महाभियोग प्रस्ताव की योजना बनाई (GS Paper-II: Judiciary)
2. **Subramania Bharati continues to inspire us: PM** सुब्रमण्यम भारती हमें प्रेरित करते रहेंगे: प्रधानमंत्री (GS Paper-I: A&C)
3. **Our drive against manual scavenging will continue: SC** / मैनुअल स्कैवेजिंग के खिलाफ हमारा अभियान जारी रहेगा: सुप्रीम कोर्ट (GS Paper-I: Society)
4. **Indian scientists develop novel gene therapy to provide one-time solution for haemophilia** / भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों ने हीमोफीलिया के लिए एकमुश्त समाधान प्रदान करने वाली नवीन जीन थेरेपी विकसित की (GS Paper-III: S&T)
5. **'Subramania Bharati's thoughts still inspire us'** / सुब्रमण्यम भारती के विचार आज भी हमें प्रेरित करते हैं' (GS Paper-I: A&C)
6. **The long and complex road to assisted dying** / सुब्रमण्यम भारती के विचार आज भी हमें प्रेरित करते हैं' (GS Paper-II: Right To Die With Dignity)
7. **A wide aisle** / एक चौड़ा गलियारा (GS Paper-II: Parliament)



8. **Vaikom — two States, two leaders and a tale of reform / वीकोम - दो राज्य , दो नेता और सुधार की कहानी (GS Paper-I: Vaikom Struggle)**
9. **The mosques which face survey petitions / वे मस्जिदें जो सर्वेक्षण याचिकाओं का सामना कर रही हैं (GS Paper-II: Protection of Places of Worship)**
10. **Has the government clarified its stance on ONOS? / क्या सरकार ने ONOS पर अपना रुख स्पष्ट किया है ? (GS Paper-II: Governance: ONOS)**
11. **Way in the world: how Muslim women travelled from 17th-20th centuries / क्या सरकार ने ONOS पर अपना रुख स्पष्ट किया है ? (Essay Paper: Women)**
12. **The First radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean took place on December 12, 1901. Here is a quiz on the event that transformed perceptions of communication, अटलांटिक महासागर के पार पहला रेडियो प्रसारण 12 दिसंबर, 1901 को हुआ था। यहाँ उस घटना पर एक प्रश्नोत्तरी दी गई है जिसने संचार की धारणाओं को बदल दिया (GS Paper-III: S&T)**
13. **India does not endorse Hasina's statements: Misri / भारत हसीना के बयानों का समर्थन नहीं करता: मिसरी (GS Paper-II: India-Bangladesh)**
14. **Amid din, Lok Sabha clears Railways Bill to enhance independence of Board / हंगामे के बीच लोकसभा ने रेलवे बोर्ड की स्वतंत्रता बढ़ाने वाले विधेयक को मंजूरी दी (GS Paper-II)**
15. **ILO report asks nations to uphold freedom of association at work / हंगामे के बीच लोकसभा ने रेलवे बोर्ड की स्वतंत्रता बढ़ाने वाले विधेयक को मंजूरी दी (GS Paper-II: International Organization and Bodies)**



16. **India accounts for half of malaria cases in Southeast Asia in 2023 / 2023 तक दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया में मलेरिया के आधे मामले भारत में होंगे (GS Paper-III: S&T: Malaria)**
17. **RBI Governor Malhotra vows best batting stance in public interest / आरबीआई गवर्नर मल्होत्रा ने जनहित में सर्वश्रेष्ठ रुख अपनाने का संकल्प लिया (GS Paper-III: Banking System in India)**
18. **How Ba'ath Party's six-decade-long rule in Syria came to a crashing end / सीरिया में बाथ पार्टी का छह दशक लंबा शासन कैसे खत्म हुआ? (GS Paper-II: Developing Countries)**
19. **Climate impact of exploring space passing below the radar / रडार के नीचे से गुजरते हुए अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण का जलवायु पर प्रभाव (GS Paper-III: Environment)**
20. **Webb confirms the cosmos is expanding at unexpected rate / वेब ने पुष्टि की है कि ब्रह्मांड अप्रत्याशित दर से फैल रहा है (GS Paper-III: S&T)**



‘Subramania Bharati’s thoughts still inspire us’

PM Modi pays tribute to the legendary poet, highlights Bharati’s contributions to India’s cultural, intellectual and social fabric; emphasises govt.’s efforts to elevate the status of Tamil language

GS Paper I: A&C

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

P rime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday released a compendium of the complete works of great Tamil poet and freedom fighter Subramania Bharati and hailed his contributions, saying a personality like him comes once in centuries.

Emphasising the efforts made in the past decade to elevate the status of the Tamil language, Mr. Modi said, “In the last 10 years, the country has worked with dedication to honour the pride of Tamil.” He said Bharati’s thoughts and intellectual brilliance continue to inspire people even today.

The Prime Minister released the compendium at his 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence here.

The 23-volume set has been compiled and edited by Seeni Viswanathan and published by Alliance Publishers. It contains details of the editions, explanations, documents, background information and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi releasing a compendium of complete works of Subramania Bharati in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

philosophical presentation of the writings of Bharati, among others.

Mr. Modi lauded the extraordinary, unprecedented and tireless work of six decades for the compilation of ‘Kaala Varisaiyil Bharathiyar Padaippugal’ in 21 volumes. He said the hard work of Mr. Viswanathan was such a penance, which would benefit many generations to come.

Mr. Viswanathan’s penance reminded him of Maha-Mahopadhyay Pandurang Vaman Kane, who had spent 35 years of his

life in writing the History of Dharmashastra, the Prime Minister said.

He expressed confidence that the work of Mr. Viswanathan will set a benchmark in the academic world and congratulated him and his colleagues for the seminal work.

‘Great thinker’

Lauding Bharati as a great thinker who worked with an eye on the needs of the country, Mr. Modi said that he worked in every direction that the country needed at that time.

He said Bharati was not

just the heritage of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil language, but a thinker whose every breath was dedicated to the service of Maa Bharati who dreamt of the rise and pride of India.

The Prime Minister underlined that the government worked continuously with a sense of duty to spread the contribution of Bharati to the people.

‘Spiritual bond’

Highlighting Kashi as the living and spiritual bond between himself and Bharati, Mr. Modi noted that the time spent and the relationship of Bharati had become a part of Kashi’s heritage.

Paying tribute to the legendary poet and visionary, Mr. Modi highlighted Bharati’s unparalleled contributions to India’s cultural, intellectual and social fabric.

“Subramania Bharati was a personality who graces this world perhaps once in centuries. Despite a life of only 39 years, he left an indelible mark on our nation,” the Prime Minister said.

Subramania Bharati continues to inspire us: PM
सुब्रमण्या भारती हमें प्रेरित करते रहते हैं: प्रधानमंत्री

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday released a compendium of the complete works of Tamil poet and freedom



fighter Subramania Bharati, stating that a personality like him comes once in centuries.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने बुधवार को तमिल कवि और स्वतंत्रता सेनानी सुब्रमण्या भारती के संपूर्ण कार्यों का संग्रह जारी किया, कहा कि उनके जैसे व्यक्तित्व सदियों में एक बार आते हैं।

- Emphasizing the efforts in the past **10 years** to elevate the Tamil language, Mr. Modi said the country has worked to honour the pride of Tamil. पिछले **10 वर्षों** में तमिल भाषा को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयासों पर जोर देते हुए, श्री मोदी ने कहा कि देश ने तमिल की प्रतिष्ठा को सम्मानित करने के लिए काम किया है।
- The compendium was released at **7, Lok Kalyan Marg**. यह संग्रह **7, लोक कल्याण मार्ग** पर जारी किया गया।

Details of the Compendium संग्रह के विवरण

- The **23-volume set**, compiled and edited by **Seeni Viswanathan**, was published by **Alliance Publishers**. **23 खंडों का सेट**, जिसे **सीनी विश्वनाथन** ने संकलित और संपादित किया, **एलायंस पब्लिशर्स** द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया।
- It includes details such as *editions, explanations, documents*, and the philosophical presentation of **Bharati's writings**. इसमें *संस्करण, व्याख्याएं, दस्तावेज़* और **भारती की रचनाओं** का दार्शनिक प्रस्तुतीकरण शामिल है।
- The compilation of '**Kaala Varisaiyil Bharathiyar Padaippugal**' took **six decades** of tireless effort. '**काल वरिसाईयिल भारथियार पदैप्पुगल**' के संकलन में **छह दशकों** की मेहनत लगी।
- Mr. Modi compared this effort to that of **Pandurang Vaman Kane**, who spent **35 years** writing the **History of Dharmashastra**. श्री मोदी ने इस प्रयास की तुलना **पांडुरंग वामन केन** से की, जिन्होंने **35 वर्षों** में **धर्मशास्त्र का इतिहास** लिखा।

Great Thinker and Visionary महान विचारक और दूरदर्शी

- Bharati was not just the pride of **Tamil Nadu** and the **Tamil language** but also dedicated his life to **Maa Bharati**. भारती केवल **तमिलनाडु** और **तमिल भाषा** की विरासत नहीं थे, बल्कि उन्होंने अपना जीवन **मां भारती** को समर्पित किया।
- The government continues to spread awareness about **Bharati's contributions**. सरकार **भारती के योगदानों** के प्रसार के लिए लगातार काम कर रही है।

Spiritual Bond with Kashi काशी के साथ आध्यात्मिक संबंध



- Bharati's relationship with **Kashi** is part of its **heritage**, noted Mr. Modi.
काशी के साथ भारती का संबंध इसकी **धरोहर** का हिस्सा है, श्री मोदी ने कहा।
- Despite living only **39 years**, Subramania Bharati made an **indelible mark** on India's **cultural, intellectual, and social fabric**.
केवल **39 वर्षों** के जीवनकाल में, सुब्रमण्या भारती ने भारत के सांस्कृतिक, बौद्धिक और सामाजिक ताने-बाने पर **अमिट छाप** छोड़ी।

Opposition plans motion to impeach U.P. judge

GS Paper II: Judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition has started efforts to move an **impeachment motion against Allahabad High Court judge Shekhar Kumar Yadav** for his controversial statements at a recent Vishwa Hindu Parishad event.

Independent MP and senior lawyer Kapil Sibal has initiated the work to submit separate notices to both Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to impeach Justice Yadav.

The **notice needs the endorsement of 50 MPs in the Rajya Sabha to be considered by the Chairman or 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha to be taken up as an impeachment motion in the Lok Sabha.**

Opposition plans motion to impeach U.P. judge विपक्ष ने यूपी के जज के खिलाफ महाभियोग प्रस्ताव की योजना बनाई

- The Opposition has started efforts to move an **impeachment motion against Allahabad High Court judge Shekhar Kumar Yadav** for his controversial statements at a recent **Vishwa Hindu Parishad** event.

विपक्ष ने **इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश शेखर कुमार यादव** के खिलाफ **विश्व हिंदू परिषद** के हालिया कार्यक्रम में दिए गए विवादास्पद बयानों को लेकर महाभियोग प्रस्ताव लाने के प्रयास शुरू कर दिए हैं।

- Independent MP and senior lawyer **Kapil Sibal** has initiated the work to submit separate notices to both **Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar** and **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** to impeach Justice Yadav.

स्वतंत्र सांसद और वरिष्ठ वकील **कपिल सिबल** ने **राज्यसभा के सभापति जगदीप धनखड़** और **लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिड़ला** को न्यायमूर्ति यादव के खिलाफ अलग-अलग नोटिस देने का काम शुरू कर दिया है।

- The **notice needs the endorsement of 50 MPs in the Rajya Sabha to be considered by the Chairman or 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha** to be taken up as an impeachment motion in the Lok Sabha. इस नोटिस को सभापति द्वारा विचार के लिए **राज्यसभा में 50 सांसदों** या लोकसभा में महाभियोग प्रस्ताव के रूप में उठाने के लिए **100 सांसदों** के समर्थन की आवश्यकता होती है।



Our drive against manual scavenging will continue: SC

GS Paper I: Society

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday vowed to go to “any extent possible” to ensure that manual scavenging and hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks are wiped out, saying the issue dealt with the question of human dignity.

“This is something very close to our hearts and minds. We will not leave it. We tell you, we will go to any extent to get our judgment of October 2023 complied with, come what may,” a Special Bench of Justices Sudanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar addressed the Central go-

vernment. The Centre was represented by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati.

October judgment

The Supreme Court was referring to its October 20, 2023 judgment in which it had issued directions to the Union and State governments to take measures to eradicate manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning across the country.

The court had noted that these “inhuman” occupations continue, often with fatal results when workers die of asphyxia.

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Our drive against manual scavenging will continue: SC

हमारा अभियान मैनुअल स्कैवेंजिंग के खिलाफ जारी रहेगा: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

- The **Supreme Court** on Wednesday vowed to go to “any extent possible” to ensure that **manual scavenging and hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks** are wiped out, as the issue dealt with the question of **human dignity**. सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए “किसी भी हद तक जाने” की बात कही कि मैनुअल स्कैवेंजिंग और खतरनाक तरीके से सीवर और सेप्टिक टैंक की सफाई समाप्त हो, क्योंकि यह मामला मानव गरिमा से जुड़ा है।
- A Special Bench of Justices **Sudanshu Dhulia** and **Aravind Kumar** assured the **Central government**, represented by

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, that they will not leave the matter unresolved.

न्यायमूर्ति सुदांशु धूलिया और अरविंद कुमार की विशेष पीठ ने अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल ऐश्वर्या भाटी द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व कर रही केंद्र सरकार को आश्वासन दिया कि वे इस मामले को अधूरा नहीं छोड़ेंगे।

- The court emphasized compliance with its **October 20, 2023 judgment**, which directed the **Union and State governments** to take measures to eradicate **manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning** across the country. अदालत ने अपने 20 अक्टूबर 2023 के निर्णय के पालन पर जोर दिया, जिसमें केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों को देशभर में मैनुअल स्कैवेंजिंग और खतरनाक सफाई को समाप्त करने के लिए कदम उठाने का निर्देश दिया गया था।
- The court noted that these “inhuman” occupations often result in fatalities when workers die of **asphyxia** during hazardous cleaning. अदालत ने कहा कि ये “अमानवीय” व्यवसाय अक्सर घातक साबित होते हैं, जब श्रमिक घुटन के कारण खतरनाक सफाई के दौरान अपनी जान गंवा देते हैं।
- Justice Dhulia questioned the lack of progress, stating, “Show us one model municipality where there is no hazardous cleaning.” न्यायमूर्ति धूलिया ने प्रगति की कमी पर सवाल उठाते हुए कहा, “हमें एक ऐसा मॉडल नगर निगम दिखाइए, जहां कोई खतरनाक सफाई नहीं होती।”



- **Amicus curiae** and senior advocate **K. Parameshwar** highlighted three recent **Delhi High Court judgments**, which **ordered enhanced compensation to families of sewer cleaning victims**.
एमिकस क्यूरी और वरिष्ठ वकील के. परमेश्वर ने दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के तीन हालिया फैसलों का उल्लेख किया, जिनमें सीवर सफाई पीड़ितों के परिवारों को बढ़ा हुआ मुआवजा देने का आदेश दिया गया।
- The court directed the **Social Justice Ministry to meet with the States within two weeks to formulate an action plan for implementing the October 2023 judgment**.
अदालत ने सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय को निर्देश दिया कि वह दो सप्ताह के भीतर राज्यों के साथ बैठक करे और **अक्टूबर 2023 के निर्णय** को लागू करने के लिए एक कार्य योजना तैयार करे।
- The court warned the government to resolve implementation issues or face **contempt action**.
अदालत ने सरकार को चेतावनी दी कि यदि कार्यान्वयन में समस्याएं हल नहीं हुईं तो **अवमानना कार्रवाई** का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

Indian scientists develop novel gene therapy to provide one-time solution for haemophilia

GS Paper III: S&T

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Scientists in India have reported success with using gene therapy to treat severe haemophilia A, a rare hereditary condition resulting from a faulty gene which triggers severe, spontaneous, and potentially fatal bleeding episodes.

Though only tested on five patients in Tamil Nadu so far, none of them have reported bleeding episodes over an average follow-up period of 14 months. It is not unusual for those with haemophilia to have weekly bleeding episodes, requiring frequent treatment. The results of the study were re-



Costly affair: Per-patient cost of treating haemophilia in India is reported to be ₹2.54 crore over a 10-year period. GETTY IMAGES

ported in the peer-reviewed *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) earlier this week.

The trial was led by Alok Srivastava of the Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR) at the Christian Medical

College in Vellore, and financially supported by the Union Department of Biotechnology.

One-time solution

The typical treatment for the condition requires in-

jections at frequent intervals, with infusions of a “clotting factor” to prevent bleeding. Gene therapy treatments, however, promise to be a one-time solution. A gene introduced into the body teaches it to create enough of the clotting factor that can prevent such haemorrhage.

Haemophilia can be classified as minor or severe depending on the percentage of clotting factor present. Haemophilia A, the more common version of the condition, is caused by the absence of a blood-clotting factor called Factor VIII. Even though haemophilia is a rare disorder, India has the world's second-largest patient pool, with an estimated 40,000

to 1,00,000 patients.

Those with Severe Haemophilia A have less than 1% of the clotting factor, and manage the condition with repeated Factor VIII replacement, monoclonal antibodies, or injecting substances that mimic Factor VIII to stop or prevent bleeding. Because of the nature of the condition and the relatively low numbers of patients, treatment can be expensive. A March 2024 research study in the journal *Heliyon* estimates the per-patient cost of treating a haemophilia patient in India to be \$300,000 (or ₹2.54 crore) over a 10-year period.

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Indian scientists develop novel gene therapy to provide the one-time solution for haemophilia
भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों ने हीमोफीलिया के लिए एक बार का समाधान प्रदान करने वाली नई जीन थेरेपी विकसित की

- Scientists in India have reported **success with using gene therapy to treat severe haemophilia A**, a rare hereditary condition causing severe and potentially fatal



bleeding episodes.

भारत के वैज्ञानिकों ने गंभीर **हीमोफीलिया A** के इलाज के लिए **जीन थेरेपी** के उपयोग में सफलता की रिपोर्ट दी है, जो एक दुर्लभ वंशानुगत स्थिति है और गंभीर व संभावित रूप से घातक रक्तस्राव का कारण बनती है।

- This therapy has been tested on **five patients in Tamil Nadu**, none of whom reported bleeding episodes during an average **14-month follow-up**.
इस थेरेपी का परीक्षण **तमिलनाडु के पांच मरीजों** पर किया गया, जिनमें से किसी ने भी औसतन **14 महीने के फॉलो-अप** के दौरान रक्तस्राव की शिकायत नहीं की।
- Patients with haemophilia often experience **weekly bleeding episodes**, requiring frequent treatment.
हीमोफीलिया से पीड़ित मरीजों को अक्सर **साप्ताहिक रक्तस्राव** का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिसके लिए बार-बार इलाज की आवश्यकता होती है।
- The study results were published in the **peer-reviewed New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)** earlier this week.
अध्ययन के परिणाम इस सप्ताह की शुरुआत में **समीक्षित पत्रिका न्यू इंग्लैंड जर्नल ऑफ मेडिसिन (NEJM)** में प्रकाशित किए गए।
- The trial was led by **Alok Srivastava** of the **Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR)**, Christian Medical College, Vellore, with financial support from the **Union Department of Biotechnology**.
यह परीक्षण वेल्लोर स्थित **क्रिश्चियन मेडिकल कॉलेज के सेंटर फॉर स्टेम सेल रिसर्च (CSCR)** के **आलोक श्रीवास्तव** के नेतृत्व में किया गया और इसे **केंद्रीय जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग** द्वारा वित्तीय समर्थन प्राप्त हुआ।

One-time solution एक बार का समाधान

- Traditional treatments for haemophilia require frequent injections of a **clotting factor** to prevent bleeding, while gene therapy offers a **one-time solution** by enabling the body to produce enough clotting factor.
हीमोफीलिया के पारंपरिक इलाज में रक्तस्राव को रोकने के लिए बार-बार **क्लॉटिंग फैक्टर** के इंजेक्शन की आवश्यकता होती है, जबकि जीन थेरेपी **एक बार का समाधान** प्रदान करती है और शरीर को पर्याप्त क्लॉटिंग फैक्टर बनाने में सक्षम बनाती है।
- Haemophilia A, the more common form of haemophilia, is caused by the **absence of Factor VIII**, a blood-clotting factor.
हीमोफीलिया A, जो हीमोफीलिया का अधिक सामान्य रूप है, **फैक्टर VIII** की अनुपस्थिति के कारण होता है, जो रक्त का थक्का बनाने वाला एक तत्व है।
- India has the **second-largest haemophilia patient pool** globally, with an estimated **40,000 to 1,00,000 patients**.
भारत में दुनिया में **हीमोफीलिया के दूसरे सबसे बड़े मरीज** हैं, जिनकी संख्या लगभग **40,000 से 1,00,000** के बीच है।
- Patients with **severe haemophilia A** have less than **1% of the clotting factor** and often require repeated Factor VIII replacement or other treatments.
गंभीर हीमोफीलिया A से पीड़ित मरीजों में **1% से कम क्लॉटिंग फैक्टर** होता है और उन्हें अक्सर फैक्टर VIII प्रतिस्थापन या अन्य उपचारों की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Treatment for haemophilia can be **expensive**, with an estimated cost of **\$300,000 (₹2.54 crore)** per patient over **10 years**, as per a March 2024 study in the journal **Heliyon**.



हीमोफीलिया का इलाज महंगा हो सकता है, और 10 वर्षों में प्रति मरीज की अनुमानित लागत \$300,000 (₹2.54 करोड़) है, जैसा कि मार्च 2024 में जर्नल **हेलियोन** के एक अध्ययन में बताया गया है।

The long and complex road to assisted dying

GS Paper II: Right to die with dignity

On November 29, 2024, while introducing the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill 2024-25 (The Assisted Dying Law) to the British House of Commons, the Member of Parliament, Kim Leadbeater told a rather distressing story of an "agonising death".

A 47-year-old music teacher with a young son, Ms. Leadbeater said, had suffered from bile duct cancer which obstructed his bowel. On his last day, this saw him vomit faecal matter for five consecutive hours, before he choked and died. The vomiting was so violent that he could not be sedated and, what is worse, he had stayed conscious through the ordeal. All the while, his wife pleaded with doctors to help. But the physicians treating him were helpless. The look of horror on his face as he died, his family say, is something that will never leave them.

Ms. Leadbeater narrated the teacher's case to illustrate the suffering that many others face from deadly illnesses, with no choice available to them to seek assistance in ending their pain. The draft law – which gives terminally-ill adults (in England and Wales), with less than six months to live, the right to die, once they have a request signed off by two doctors and a high court judge – was intensely debated. Eventually, the Bill was passed with a majority of 55 votes, with 330 members voting for it and 275 against.

In somewhat unusual circumstances, the Members of Parliament had been released from the tethers imposed on them by their party whips. They had been asked to decide as their conscience willed. As a result, what ensued was all manners of interesting voting patterns. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his Conservative predecessor Rishi Sunak voted in favour. The Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, and the Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, rejected the draft.

The complexity of the issue

With its passing in the Commons, the proposal is now slated for review by a Public Bill Committee, which will scrutinise, fine tune, and suggest amendments to its various clauses, before it returns the draft to Parliament for an ultimate sanction. Therefore, there is still some way to go. But seeing how previous efforts, to bring about a law to allow assisted dying, have floundered, the Bill's passing represents a milestone, a victory for those who consider the right to die, when faced with an intolerable ailment, as intrinsic to human liberty.

At the same time, the sharply divergent views expressed amongst lawmakers in Britain also shows us just how complex an issue this is. The debates contain in them lessons that the rest of the world can take, in deciding how best to allow



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people to both lead, and end, their lives, with dignity and compassion.

The opposition to the law primarily rests on two planks. First, opponents argue that the law is premised on a "slippery slope" – that it would be practically impossible to draw boundaries limiting the right to assisted death, and that the old and the disabled might be pressured into choosing to end their lives in the midst of fears that they might wind up becoming a burden on their loved ones.

Critics also claim that a similar law employed in Canada has produced worrying results. Originally, following a 2015 judgment of the country's Supreme Court, the government opened up avenues to allow assisted dying for those whose death was "reasonably foreseeable". But the law has since been expanded through judicial interpretation to make it applicable even to those facing a "grievous and irremediable medical condition". In so doing, the bright lines of the rule, the Bill's detractors say, have been dimmed.

'There are legitimate cases'

Proponents of the law counter the criticism by pointing to how the very invocation of a slippery slope suggests that those making the argument are offering a concession: that there are legitimate cases where it might be justifiable to help someone die. Moreover, the law, as drafted, they say, is carefully tailored: it only includes adults competent to make decisions, who are ailing from a terminal diagnosis and who have less than six months to live, to seek assistance in ending their lives.

Additionally, the person making the claim will be independently assessed by two doctors, with a 14-day reflection time afforded to them, and no decision will be sanctioned without the High Court's approval. Lord David Neuberger, the former President of the U.K. Supreme Court, argues that the Bill's clauses are tightly worded enough to ensure that the law respects people's right of personal autonomy, and that there really is no chance of its scope being enlarged through judicial challenge.

The second cause for opposition stems from rather more traditional, philosophical grounds, sometimes resting on considerations of religion and faith. The proposed law, these critics claim, is simply deceit disguised as compassion, and offends the inviolability of the right to life. In response, the Bill's supporters concede that in most cases, there ought to be serious objections to the taking of one's life, and to avoidably allowing people to die. In ordinary circumstances, objections founded on a person's right to life would prevail. But the conflict here, as they demonstrate, is not especially

irreconcilable. For, as Ms. Leadbeater and others have shown, the moral background in which the debate resides cannot permit a wholesale embargo on physician-assisted deaths. After all, every adult, we generally recognise, has the right to make significant decisions on how best to lead their respective lives. This freedom, grounded in the sovereignty of our bodies, may stem from religious faith or simply from conscience, but, regardless, it is something that is embedded in each of us as human beings.

The state, no doubt, owes to us a duty to ensure that we do not indulge in what Ronald Dworkin described as "irrevocable acts of self-destruction". But, equally, the exercise of this duty can under no circumstances "justify forcing a competent dying patient to live in agony a few weeks longer". To do so would impinge squarely on the freedom that each of us enjoys over our lives and bodies.

On choice and dignity

In many ways, the debates in Britain assume universal value. In India, the Supreme Court has previously recognised a limited freedom to die, a right both to passive euthanasia and a right to make an "advance medical directive" – that is a liberty to stipulate one's preferences for medical treatment, or the withdrawal thereof, should one become incapacitated in the future. In its judgment in *Common Cause (A Regd. Society) vs Union of India* (2018), the Court found this right as essential to liberty, as "an element of the privacy of the being".

The road from here to assisted dying is clearly a long one. But the reasons which compel one to hold in favour of individual dignity surely apply just as vigorously to how one might want to go about dealing with a terminal illness in their last days. The latter choice is as critical to one's dignity and independence as it is to any other decision that a person makes over her body and life.

Deliberations made in Britain's Parliament have shown us that making laws to govern assisted dying is a complicated affair. But the mere prospect of a slippery slope, or the possibility of abuse, cannot detract from the fact that at stake here is something central to human dignity – that is, the ability to allow people to make conscious choices to alleviate the most crushing forms of pain and suffering.

One can argue over the fine print of what a law that allows for assisted dying must contain. But there can be no doubt that the rudimentary principle on which such a legislation will inevitably rest is founded on ideas that are central to our existence, and to our freedom to lead meaningful lives, and to the rights to privacy, dignity, and autonomy.

The intricacies involved – as the debate in the United Kingdom shows – should not detract from the fact that this is also an issue linked to dignity and the alleviation of suffering

The Long and Complex Road to Assisted Dying सहायता प्राप्त मृत्यु की लंबी और जटिल प्रक्रिया

On November 29, 2024, the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill 2024-25 (The Assisted Dying Law)** was introduced in the British House of Commons by Kim Leadbeater, who narrated a distressing story to illustrate the need for the law.

29 नवंबर 2024 को किम लीडबीटर ने ब्रिटिश हाउस ऑफ कॉमन्स में टर्मिनली इल एडल्ड्स (एंड ऑफ लाइफ) बिल 2024-25 (सहायता प्राप्त मृत्यु कानून) पेश



किया और कानून की आवश्यकता को दर्शाने के लिए एक दर्दनाक कहानी सुनाई।

- The story was about a **47-year-old music teacher** suffering from **bile duct cancer**, which caused him to vomit fecal matter for **five consecutive hours** before he choked and died, despite his wife pleading for help.
यह कहानी एक **47 वर्षीय संगीत शिक्षक** की थी, जो **बाइल डक्ट कैंसर** से पीड़ित थे और उन्होंने **पांच घंटे तक लगातार** मल पदार्थ की उल्टी की, जिससे उनकी मृत्यु हो गई, जबकि उनकी पत्नी मदद की गुहार लगाती रहीं।
- The Bill proposes granting **terminally-ill adults** (in England and Wales) with **less than six months to live**, the right to die with a request approved by **two doctors and a high court judge**.
बिल में प्रस्ताव है कि **छह महीने से कम जीवन शेष** वाले **गंभीर रूप से बीमार वयस्कों** (इंग्लैंड और वेल्स में) को मरने का अधिकार दिया जाए, बशर्ते उनकी याचिका **दो डॉक्टरों और एक उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश** द्वारा स्वीकृत हो।
- The Bill was **passed in the Commons** with a **majority of 55 votes** (330 members for and 275 against).
यह बिल **कॉमन्स में 55 मतों के बहुमत** (330 पक्ष में और 275 विरोध में) से पारित हुआ।
- MPs were allowed to vote as per their **conscience**, leading to interesting voting patterns: **Prime Minister Keir Starmer** and **former PM Rishi Sunak** voted for it, while **Deputy PM Angela Rayner** and **Health Secretary Wes Streeting** opposed it.
सांसदों को अपने **विवेकानुसार मतदान** की अनुमति दी गई, जिसके कारण दिलचस्प मतदान पैटर्न देखे गए: **प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टार्मर** और **पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री ऋषि सुनक** ने पक्ष में मतदान किया, जबकि **उप प्रधानमंत्री एंजेला रेनर** और **स्वास्थ्य सचिव वेस स्ट्रीटिंग** ने विरोध किया।

The Complexity of the Issue मुद्दे की जटिलता

- After passing in the Commons, the Bill will now be scrutinized by a **Public Bill Committee** to suggest amendments before it is returned for **final approval**.
कॉमन्स में पारित होने के बाद, बिल को **पब्लिक बिल कमेटी** द्वारा जांचा जाएगा ताकि संशोधन सुझाए जा सकें और इसे **अंतिम मंजूरी** के लिए लौटाया जा सके।
- The Bill's passage marks a **milestone** for advocates of the **right to die**, considering it **intrinsic to human liberty**.
बिल का पारित होना **मानव स्वतंत्रता** के लिए इसे मौलिक मानने वालों के लिए एक **मील का पथर** है।
- Critics argue that the law might lead to a **"slippery slope"**, where it becomes hard to draw boundaries, and vulnerable groups (like the **elderly and disabled**) may feel pressured to choose assisted dying.
आलोचक तर्क देते हैं कि यह कानून **"फिसलन भरी ढलान"** का कारण बन सकता है, जहां सीमाएं खींचना कठिन हो जाएगा और **वृद्ध और विकलांग** जैसे कमजोर समूहों पर सहायता प्राप्त मृत्यु का चयन करने का दबाव हो सकता है।
- Opponents highlight the experience in **Canada**, where the law initially allowed assisted dying only for those whose death was **"reasonably foreseeable"**, but later expanded to include those with a **"grievous and irremediable medical condition"**.
विरोधियों ने **कनाडा** का उदाहरण दिया, जहां कानून ने शुरू में केवल उन लोगों के लिए सहायता प्राप्त



मृत्यु की अनुमति दी, जिनकी मृत्यु "उचित रूप से अनुमानित" थी, लेकिन बाद में इसे "गंभीर और अपरिवर्तनीय चिकित्सा स्थिति" वाले लोगों के लिए भी विस्तारित कर दिया गया।

'There are legitimate cases' 'कुछ वैध मामले हैं'

- Proponents of the law argue that the invocation of a **slippery slope** acknowledges there are legitimate cases where it might be justifiable to help someone die. कानून के समर्थक तर्क देते हैं कि **स्लिपरी स्लोप** का संदर्भ यह स्वीकार करता है कि ऐसे वैध मामले हो सकते हैं जहां किसी की मदद करना उचित हो सकता है।
- The law includes **adults** competent to make decisions, who are terminally ill with less than **six months to live**, to seek assistance in ending their lives. यह कानून उन **वयस्कों** को शामिल करता है जो निर्णय लेने में सक्षम हैं, जिन्हें घातक बीमारी है और जिनके पास **छह महीने से कम का समय** बचा है, अपनी जीवन समाप्ति में सहायता मांगने के लिए।
- The **claim will be independently assessed by two doctors, with a 14-day reflection period, and requires High Court approval.** दावे का मूल्यांकन **दो डॉक्टरों** द्वारा स्वतंत्र रूप से किया जाएगा, जिसमें **14-दिन का पुनर्विचार समय** होगा, और इसे **उच्च न्यायालय की स्वीकृति** की आवश्यकता होगी।
- Lord David Neuberger, former President of the U.K. Supreme Court, believes the Bill is tightly worded to ensure respect for personal autonomy without judicial overreach. यू.के. सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व अध्यक्ष **लॉर्ड डेविड न्यूबर्गर** का मानना है कि यह विधेयक व्यक्तिगत स्वायत्तता का सम्मान सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सख्ती से लिखा गया है और इसमें न्यायिक अतिक्रमण की कोई संभावना नहीं है।

Traditional Philosophical Grounds पारंपरिक दार्शनिक आधार

- Critics claim the law is **deceit disguised as compassion** and violates the inviolability of the **right to life.** आलोचक दावा करते हैं कि यह कानून **सहानुभूति के रूप में छिपा धोखा** है और **जीवन के अधिकार** की अक्षुण्णता का उल्लंघन करता है।
- Supporters argue that objections to taking one's life are valid in ordinary circumstances, but the debate here is about the **freedom to alleviate terminal suffering.** समर्थक तर्क देते हैं कि सामान्य परिस्थितियों में जीवन समाप्त करने के विरोध उचित हैं, लेकिन यहां **बहस घातक पीड़ा को कम करने की स्वतंत्रता** के बारे में है।
- Every **adult** has the right to make decisions about their life, rooted in the **sovereignty of their bodies**, whether through religious faith or personal conscience. हर **वयस्क** को अपने जीवन के बारे में निर्णय लेने का अधिकार है, जो **शरीर की संप्रभुता** में निहित है, चाहे वह धार्मिक विश्वास के माध्यम से हो या व्यक्तिगत अंतरात्मा से।

On Choice and Dignity चयन और गरिमा पर

- In **India**, the Supreme Court has recognized limited freedom to die, including **passive euthanasia** and the right to an **advance medical directive** (2018 judgment in *Common Cause v. Union of India*).



भारत में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मरने की सीमित स्वतंत्रता को मान्यता दी है, जिसमें **निष्क्रिय इच्छामृत्यु** और **एडवांस मेडिकल निर्देश** का अधिकार शामिल है (2018 का कॉमन कॉज़ बनाम भारत संघ निर्णय)।

- The right to make significant decisions, especially in terminal illness, is critical to one's **dignity and independence**. महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लेने का अधिकार, विशेष रूप से घातक बीमारी के मामले में, किसी की **गरिमा और स्वतंत्रता** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- While making laws on assisted dying is complex, **human dignity and autonomy** demand the ability to make conscious choices to alleviate suffering. सहायता-आधारित मृत्यु पर कानून बनाना जटिल है, लेकिन **मानवीय गरिमा और स्वायत्तता** पीड़ा को कम करने के लिए सचेत विकल्प चुनने की क्षमता की मांग करती है।
- The **rudimentary principle** of such legislation rests on the rights to **privacy, dignity, and autonomy**, central to human existence. ऐसे कानून का **मूल सिद्धांत गोपनीयता, गरिमा और स्वायत्तता के अधिकारों** पर आधारित है, जो मानवीय अस्तित्व के लिए केंद्रीय हैं।

Does the Right to life also mean the right to take one's own life?

- **Suicide law in India:** Under Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code, an attempt to commit suicide is punishable with simple imprisonment up to one year and/or a fine.
- The Supreme Court in 1994 not only decriminalized the attempt to suicide but also observed that the 'right to life' includes the 'right to die.'
- **Gian Kaur case (1996):** A five-judge bench headed by Justice J.S. Verma in Gian Kaur case (1996) made 'Right to die' unconstitutional. The Court held that the right to life under Article 21 does not include the right to die.
- In 2008, the **Law Commission** recommended that the suicide bids be decriminalized. It suggested that the intention to commit suicide should be seen as a manifestation of a diseased condition of mind, requiring care and treatment, not punishment. It also pointed out that only a handful of nations like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, and India have persisted with this undesirable.
- **Arguments against decriminalizing suicide**
- It is argued that no individual has complete autonomy with respect to life. His family does have a claim over him.
- A person may be the sole breadwinner of his family and if he commits suicide, his family would certainly be driven to destitution.
- Based on the individualistic tradition of life as opposed to a community way of life
- Govt has the responsibility to stop violence even if it is self-inflicted
- **Arguments in favor of decriminalizing suicide**
- It is unfortunate that this is the only law that penalizes for not being successful in committing an offense
- Anyone committing suicide certainly needs soft words and wise counseling, not stony dealing by a jailor following harsh treatment meted out by a heartless prosecutor.
- Some people argue that life is given by God and thus should also be taken by him and thus right to die is against religious values. Even by citing examples from the mythology of Lord Rama taking Jal Samadhi in the Sarayu to Buddha and Mahavira achieving death by seeking it, suicide could not be termed an irreligious act.



- Questions are also raised over the rights of those persons who are terminally ill and want to die with dignity.
- **Aruna shaunbaug Vs Uol:** Right to die with Dignity.



GS Paper II: Parliament

A wide aisle

Parliament must remain the forum for airing the views of all representatives

In a move that is unprecedented in India's parliamentary history, 60 Members of the Rajya Sabha have expressed a loss of confidence in the Chairman, Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is also the Vice-President of India. These Members of Parliament, from the Opposition, have given notice for a resolution seeking his removal from office. The resolution is unlikely to face a vote, and will be defeated if it does. But that is beside the point. What is real and damaging for democracy is the trust deficit between the Chair and the Opposition members. Mr. Dhankhar's rulings and his public statements have been cited by the Opposition as proof of his partisanship. Mr. Dhankhar's decision to allow Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs to speak on the subject of an adjournment motion that he himself had rejected on December 9 was the final trigger for the extreme step by the Opposition. These members also see, among other things, a pattern of the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, being disallowed to speak, and Mr. Dhankhar publicly amplifying views of the government and berating those of the Opposition. Most often, it is career politicians who are elected, through a partisan contest, to supposedly apolitical positions such as President, Vice-President and Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Once in office, they largely stay above the fray. Hence, the notice for a no-confidence motion against the Rajya Sabha Chairman marks an unfortunate turn for democracy.

It is no coincidence that all this comes against the backdrop of a constant campaign by the BJP to shrink the Opposition space. Criticism of the government is portrayed as an anti-national act, and institutions and individuals are often targeted through insinuations. There is little engagement between the BJP and the Opposition. If Parliament merely becomes yet another platform for political diatribe, it will erode rather than reinforce democracy. The message from parliamentary proceedings to the citizenry should be that the government is sensitive to their voices. The government's defence of Mr. Dhankhar included a reference to his caste, and condemnation of the principal Opposition party, with the insinuation that it was anti-India. While the government gets its way by virtue of its majority, the Opposition must have its say. When Parliament is held hostage to hostility between the government and the Opposition, the Chair is expected to mediate and find a way forward. This role of the Chair is possible only when its occupant is neutral and seen as such. Regardless of the merit of the grievances, the Chairman could take a proactive approach to reassure his critics that he is above the political fray for the sake of institutional integrity.

A Wide Aisle व्यापक गलियारा

- **Parliament must remain the forum for airing the views of all representatives.**
संसद सभी प्रतिनिधियों के विचारों को व्यक्त करने का मंच बनी रहनी चाहिए।

Unprecedented Move in India's Parliamentary History

भारत के संसदीय इतिहास में अभूतपूर्व कदम

- **60 Members of the Rajya Sabha** have expressed a loss of confidence in the Chairman, **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, who is also the Vice-President of India.

राज्यसभा के 60 सदस्यों ने अध्यक्ष जगदीप धनखड़, जो भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति भी हैं, के प्रति विश्वास की कमी व्यक्त की है।

- These Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Opposition have given notice for a **resolution seeking his removal from office.**

विपक्ष के इन सांसदों ने उन्हें पद से हटाने के लिए प्रस्ताव का नोटिस दिया है।

- The resolution is unlikely to face a vote and will be defeated if it does.

यह प्रस्ताव मतदान का सामना करने की संभावना नहीं है और यदि ऐसा होता है तो यह पराजित हो जाएगा।

- **What is damaging for democracy** is the trust deficit between the Chair and the Opposition members.

लोकतंत्र के लिए हानिकारक बात अध्यक्ष और विपक्षी सदस्यों के बीच विश्वास की कमी है।

Allegations of Partisanship Against the Chairman

अध्यक्ष पर पक्षपात के आरोप

- The Opposition has cited Mr. Dhankhar's **rulings and public statements** as proof of his **partisanship.**

विपक्ष ने श्री धनखड़ के निर्णयों और सार्वजनिक बयानों को उनके पक्षपात का प्रमाण बताया है।



- The **trigger** for the extreme step was his decision to allow BJP MPs to speak on an adjournment motion that he himself had rejected on **December 9**.
9 दिसंबर को उन्होंने एक स्थगन प्रस्ताव को खारिज करने के बावजूद बीजेपी सांसदों को बोलने की अनुमति दी, जो इस कदम का **मुख्य कारण** बना।
- The **Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge**, has often been disallowed to speak, and Mr. Dhankhar has been amplifying government views publicly.
राज्यसभा में विपक्ष के नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे को अक्सर बोलने की अनुमति नहीं दी गई, और श्री धनखड़ सार्वजनिक रूप से सरकार के विचारों को बढ़ावा देते रहे।

The Role of Apolitical Positions गैर-राजनीतिक पदों की भूमिका

- Most often, **career politicians** are elected to **supposedly apolitical positions** such as **President, Vice-President, and Speaker** of the Lok Sabha.
अक्सर राजनीतिक करियर वाले नेता राष्ट्रपति, उपराष्ट्रपति और लोकसभा अध्यक्ष जैसे गैर-राजनीतिक पदों पर चुने जाते हैं।
- Once in office, they largely **stay above the fray**.
पद पर आने के बाद वे आमतौर पर राजनीतिक मतभेदों से ऊपर रहते हैं।
- The **no-confidence motion** against the Rajya Sabha Chairman marks an **unfortunate turn for democracy**.
राज्यसभा अध्यक्ष के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव लोकतंत्र के लिए दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण मोड़ है।

Opposition Space Shrinking विपक्ष के स्थान का सिमटना

- The BJP is conducting a **constant campaign to shrink the Opposition space**.
भाजपा विपक्ष के स्थान को सीमित करने के लिए लगातार अभियान चला रही है।
- Criticism of the government is portrayed as an **anti-national act**, and institutions and individuals are targeted through **insinuations**.
सरकार की आलोचना को राष्ट्र-विरोधी कार्य के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जाता है, और संस्थानों और व्यक्तियों को संकेतों के माध्यम से निशाना बनाया जाता है।
- **Parliament must not become a platform** for political diatribe, as it will **erode democracy**.
संसद को राजनीतिक आलोचनाओं का मंच नहीं बनना चाहिए, क्योंकि इससे लोकतंत्र कमजोर होगा।

Chair's Role in Mediation मध्यस्थता में अध्यक्ष की भूमिका

- The Chair is expected to **mediate and find a way forward** when Parliament is held hostage to hostility between the government and the Opposition.
सरकार और विपक्ष के बीच शत्रुता के समय, अध्यक्ष से मध्यस्थता करने और आगे का रास्ता खोजने की उम्मीद की जाती है।
- This role is possible only when the Chair is seen as **neutral and above the political fray**.
यह भूमिका तभी संभव है जब अध्यक्ष को निष्पक्ष और राजनीति से ऊपर माना जाए।



Government's Defence and Institutional Integrity सरकार की रक्षा और संस्थागत अखंडता

- The government defended Mr. Dhankhar by **referring to his caste** and criticizing the Opposition with insinuations of being **anti-India**.
सरकार ने श्री धनखड़ का जाति का उल्लेख करके और विपक्ष की भारत-विरोधी होने की संकेतों से आलोचना करके उनका बचाव किया।
- Regardless of the grievances, the Chairman must **reassure critics** that he is above the political fray for the sake of **institutional integrity**.
शिकायतों की परवाह किए बिना, अध्यक्ष को संस्थागत अखंडता के लिए आलोचकों को यह आश्वासन करना चाहिए कि वे राजनीति से ऊपर हैं।

Vaikom — two States, two leaders and a tale of reform

GS Paper I: Vaikom Struggle

A little over a 100 years ago was a landmark socio-political moment like no other. The Vaikom Struggle, which culminated in the lifting of the barriers to the entry of backward caste Hindus to the local temple in the erstwhile Travancore princely state, would be the first of many mass movements that brought political attention to religious reform. Since then, the Dravidian Movement founded by Periyar E.V. Ramasamy and its self-respect principles have enabled wider reforms within the Hindu religion and paved the way for a more egalitarian society. What is less understood is that this was made possible only due to the insertion of a key clause in the Constitution by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Celebrating the centenary of Vaikom is not just a tribute to Periyar's persistence and B.R. Ambedkar's acumen but also a re-assertion of the strong reformist tendencies that continue to pervade through modern-day politik in South India.

The evolution of a mass movement

The Vaikom Struggle was fought against the prohibition of backward caste Hindus from walking on the streets adjacent to the Vaikom Mahadeva temple. When leaders of Kerala State Congress Committee and other social activist leaders began agitating against the injustice, they faced a clamp down by the administration. With the entry of Periyar in 1924, it slowly became a mass movement, bringing people from all classes within its fold. In November 1925, when the restrictions to walk on the streets finally lifted, the long arc of political movement began tilting towards social justice. In the decade that followed, movements erupted in other parts of the country, with B.R. Ambedkar leading protests to enter the Ambadevi Temple and Kalaram Mandir, where Dalits were denied entry. However, the trajectory of reform in South



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The Vaikom Struggle was a landmark socio-political moment like no other

India was progressing at a faster pace with the Legislative Assembly introducing a Bill to allow temple entry in 1932, followed by the Travancore Temple Entry Proclamation in 1936, the Malabar Temple Entry Bill 1938. There was also the entry of backward castes in the Madurai Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and the Thanjavur Brihadeeswara Temple in 1939. The Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act 1947 enabled Hindus of all castes to enter and offer worship in all temples within the then Madras Presidency.

Though many of these reforms took place prior to the adoption of the Constitution of India, the Constituent Assembly took great care in delimiting the right to freedom of religion. During discussions on December 7, 1948, B.R. Ambedkar included the prefix 'subject to public order, morality and health' restricting the extent of the fundamental right and thereby enabling state intervention when necessary.

These seven words went on to form the legal and legitimate basis for reforms within the fold of religion, thereby enabling constitutional courts to intercede when there was a contestation of fundamental rights, namely between those of equality and religion.

State and the issue of regulation

The larger issue has always been whether temples, and religion at large, can be regulated by the state. If this is allowed, some argue, then the government will lose its secular character. There can be nothing further from the truth or logic. The intervention of the State to regulate temples, which are public spaces, is to ensure equality and access. A long history, beginning with the enactment of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act 1927 to the present-day Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959, would make it apparent the legislative intent to manage religious affairs in

consonance with public order and morality. This position has been confirmed through various judgments beginning from *The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments, Madras vs Sri Lakshmindra Thirtha Swamiar of Sri Shirur Mutt* 1954 (Shirur Mutt case), where the Supreme Court of India upheld the proposition that the state can manage the secular affairs of the temple and propounded the test of essential religious practice.

Since then, successive governments in Tamil Nadu, beginning in 1970, have enacted laws to enable backward caste Hindus to be appointed as *archakas* (priests), which some have regarded as a contentious act of interference in religious affairs. In such instances, the Court has upheld the right of the State to manage secular matters in temples while carving out a special category of 'Agamic temples'.

Change and resistance

Over the last few years, Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu have appointed hundreds of trained *archakas*, Odhuvaars and Bhattacharyas from non-Brahmin castes. These have been met with resistance within and outside the courts of law. These reforms challenge orthodox religious beliefs and entrenched social dikats. Nevertheless, the push for reforms is stronger than before. One hundred years after Vaikom and over 75 years since the Constituent Assembly debate on this issue, there is a compelling moral consensus that is emerging. While the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have collaborated to commemorate the centenary of the Vaikom Struggle on December 12, 2024, they are also celebrating a historic event that brought together two States. They are paying tribute to the start of a social reform trajectory that was made possible due to the coming together of two of the greatest leaders.

Vaikom — Two States, Two Leaders and a Tale of Reform

वैकोम — दो राज्य, दो नेता और सुधार की कहानी

A little over 100 years ago, the Vaikom Struggle became a landmark socio-political moment, leading to the lifting of barriers for



backward caste Hindus to enter the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple in Travancore princely state.

100 साल पहले, वैकोम संघर्ष एक ऐतिहासिक सामाजिक-राजनीतिक क्षण बन गया, जिससे पिछड़ी जाति के हिंदुओं को त्रावणकोर रियासत में वैकोम महादेव मंदिर में प्रवेश की अनुमति मिली।

- This struggle brought political attention to **religious reform** and paved the way for **egalitarian society** through the **Dravidian Movement** initiated by **Periyar E.V. Ramasamy**.

इस संघर्ष ने धार्मिक सुधार की ओर राजनीतिक ध्यान आकर्षित किया और पेरियार ई.वी. रामासामी द्वारा शुरू किए गए द्रविड़ आंदोलन के माध्यम से समान समाज के लिए रास्ता बनाया।

- The inclusion of a **key clause** in the **Constitution** by **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** facilitated these reforms.

डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर द्वारा संविधान में एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधान जोड़ने से ये सुधार संभव हो सके।

The Evolution of a Mass Movement

एक जन आंदोलन का विकास

- The **Vaikom Struggle** opposed the prohibition of **backward caste Hindus** from **walking on streets near the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple**.
वैकोम संघर्ष ने वैकोम महादेव मंदिर के पास की सड़कों पर पिछड़ी जातियों के हिंदुओं के चलने पर प्रतिबंध का विरोध किया।
- When the **Kerala State Congress Committee** began the protest in **1924**, it faced a clampdown by the administration.
जब केरल राज्य कांग्रेस समिति ने 1924 में विरोध शुरू किया, तो प्रशासन द्वारा इसे दबा दिया गया।
- The **movement gained momentum with Periyar's entry** and became a **mass movement**, **culminating in November 1925** with the removal of restrictions.
पेरियार के प्रवेश से आंदोलन को गति मिली और यह एक जन आंदोलन बन गया, जो नवंबर 1925 में प्रतिबंध हटाने के साथ समाप्त हुआ।
- Subsequent temple reform movements in South India included:
 - **1932**: Legislative Assembly introduced a **Temple Entry Bill**.
 - **1936**: Travancore Temple Entry Proclamation.
 - **1938**: Malabar Temple Entry Bill.
 - **1939**: Entry of backward castes in **Madurai Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple** and **Thanjavur Brihadeeswara Temple**.
 - **1947**: **Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act**, allowing Hindus of all castes to enter temples in **Madras Presidency**.
बाद के मंदिर सुधार आंदोलनों में दक्षिण भारत में शामिल थे:
 - **1932**: विधान सभा ने मंदिर प्रवेश विधेयक पेश किया।
 - **1936**: त्रावणकोर मंदिर प्रवेश घोषणा।
 - **1938**: मालाबार मंदिर प्रवेश विधेयक।
 - **1939**: मदुरै मीनाक्षी सुंदरेश्वर मंदिर और तंजावुर बृहदेश्वर मंदिर में पिछड़ी जातियों का प्रवेश।
 - **1947**: मद्रास मंदिर प्रवेश प्राधिकरण अधिनियम, जिसने मद्रास प्रेसीडेंसी के मंदिरों में सभी जातियों के हिंदुओं को प्रवेश की अनुमति दी।



State and the Issue of Regulation राज्य और विनियमन का मुद्दा

- The **Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act 1927** and later legislations aimed to ensure **equality and access** in temples.
मद्रास हिंदू धार्मिक बंदोबस्ती अधिनियम 1927 और बाद के कानूनों का उद्देश्य मंदिरों में **समानता और पहुंच** सुनिश्चित करना था।
- The **Shirur Mutt case (1954)** upheld the state's right to manage the **secular affairs** of temples and introduced the **essential religious practice test**.
शिरूर मठ मामला (1954) ने मंदिरों के **धर्मनिरपेक्ष मामलों** को प्रबंधित करने के राज्य के अधिकार को मान्यता दी और **मूल धार्मिक प्रथाओं की जांच** की शुरुआत की।

Change and Resistance परिवर्तन और विरोध

- In **Tamil Nadu and Kerala, non-Brahmin caste members** have been appointed as **archakas (priests)**, despite resistance.
तमिलनाडु और केरल में **गैर-ब्राह्मण जाति के सदस्यों** को **अर्चक (पुरोहित)** नियुक्त किया गया, हालांकि विरोध हुआ।
- Governments of both States are commemorating **100 years of Vaikom Struggle** on **December 12, 2024**, marking the collaboration between **Periyar and Dr. Ambedkar**.
दोनों राज्यों की सरकारें **12 दिसंबर 2024** को **वैकोम संघर्ष के 100 वर्ष** मना रही हैं, जो **पेरियार और डॉ. अंबेडकर** के सहयोग को दर्शाता है।



The mosques which face survey petitions

Why has an oral observation made by Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud led to repercussions at the lower judiciary? What is the contestation against the origins of the Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra and the Ajmer dargah? What about the provisions of the Places of Worship Act, 1991?

GS Paper II: Protection of Places of Worship

EXPLAINER

Ziya Us Salam

The story so far:

During a hearing of the Gyanvapi petition in 2022, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud made an oral observation that Sections 3 and 4 of the Places of Worship Act, 1991 do not prohibit the “ascertainment of religious character” of any place of worship. His oral observation has had repercussions at the lower judiciary with a number of districts and sessions courts in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan admitting petitions seeking to “ascertain the religious character” of mosques and other places of worship built in medieval India and ordering their surveys. Among the places facing calls for survey are the Ajmer Dargah, Adhai Din ka Jhonpra, the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, the Teeleewali Masjid in Lucknow, the Shamsi Jama Masjid in Badaun, the Atala Masjid in Jaunpur besides the better known cases of Gyanvapi Masjid, and Eidgah in Mathura.

Are calls for surveys increasing?

Shortly after a civil judge in Sambhal ordered a survey of the town's Jama Masjid on November 19, there has been a slew of petitions calling for surveys of mosques and dargahs. On November 24, there was a repeat survey of the Sambhal mosque which led to violence in which six people were killed. Following the violence, the Supreme Court asked the report of the advocate commissioner to be kept in a sealed cover, and directed the mosque's committee to approach the Allahabad High Court to hear the case.

Around the same time, Ajmer's West Civil Court admitted a petition claiming that the Ajmer dargah was originally a Sankat Mochan Mandir. The demand led to uproar as the dargah is frequented by people of all religions and the Prime Minister himself sends a chador for its annual Urs in January. Disturbed by these



Historic site: People outside the Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Ajmer, Rajasthan, on November 28. PTI

petitions, a number of retired bureaucrats and Army personnel wrote to the Prime Minister asking him to curtail what they called, an “ideological assault on India's civilisational heritage”.

What about Adhai Din ka Jhonpra?

The dargah petition triggered demand for the restoration of the 12th century mosque Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra to its alleged pre-Islamic heritage. The mosque, located a few minutes away from the dargah, is an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected site. The demand came from Ajmer's Deputy Mayor Neeraj Jain who reiterated claims that the Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra was originally a Sanskrit college and a temple before being demolished towards the end of 12th century. Earlier the demand for a Sanskrit college and a temple at the site was raised

after a Jain monk visited the mosque along with some functionaries of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Soon after Rajasthan Assembly speaker Vasudev Devnani demanded an ASI survey at the historic site, arguing, “An ASI survey should immediately be done at Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra to find out whether the Jain delegates' claim is true. It's a subject to research whether it was occupied and converted into a mosque.”

The mosque was built by Qutubuddin Aibak around the time he built the Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid in the Qutub Minar complex in Delhi. Sultan Iltutmish beautified it in AD 1213 with a screen pierced by corbelled engrailed arches which appears in this country for the first time. A protected monument, its name stems from an *Urs* (fair) that used to be held here for two and a half days. Hence

the expression *Adhai Din* or two and a half days. However, the claim of the site being a mosque has been disputed by author Har Bilas Sardha who argued in his book, *Ajmer: Historical and Descriptive*, that Seth Viramdeva Kala built a Jain temple here in celebration of the Jain festival Panch Kalyan Mahotsava in 660 AD. The temple was destroyed by Afghans of Ghor in 1192, he claimed.

The ASI doesn't agree with the assertion. About the mosque, the ASI website states, “It was commenced by Qutubuddin Aibak in about 1200 AD with carved pillars used in colonnades... The pillared (prayer) chamber is divided into nine octagonal compartments and has two small minarets on top of the central arch. The three central arches carved with Kufic and Tughra inscriptions make it a splendid architectural masterpiece.”

What about the Shamsi Jama Masjid?

The 800-year-old Shamsi Jama Masjid is the latest mosque to face contestation. A fast-track court is hearing the claims of Mukesh Patel of the Hindu Mahasabha who filed a claim against the mosque, insisting it was an ancient Neelkanth Mahadev temple. In response, the Shamsi Shahi mosque's intezamia committee argued the suit was non-maintainable. Incidentally, the mosque is built on an elevated area called Sotha Mohalla, and is said to be the highest structure in Badaun town. After Quwwat-ul-Islam and Adhai Din ka Jhonpra, it is the third oldest mosque in north India.

After Badaun, cries are being made about the historic Jama Masjid in Delhi too – that it's built at the site of a Vishnu temple. With the districts and sessions courts continuing to freely admit such petitions, the provisions of the Places of Worship Act 1991 which prohibit changing the character of places of worship as they stood on August 15, 1947, stand ignored. Meanwhile, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board appealed to the Supreme Court to take suo moto notice of such petitions and bar the lower level judiciary from entertaining them in the future.

THE GIST

▼ Shortly after a civil judge in Sambhal ordered a survey of the town's Jama Masjid on November 19, there has been a slew of petitions calling for surveys of mosques and dargahs.

▼ Among the places facing calls for survey are the Ajmer Dargah, Adhai Din ka Jhonpra, the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, the Teeleewali Masjid in Lucknow besides the known cases of Varanasi's Gyanvapi Masjid, and the Eidgah in Mathura.

▼ The 800-year-old Shamsi Jama Masjid is the latest mosque to face contestation. A fast-track court is hearing the claims of Mukesh Patel of the Hindu Mahasabha who filed a claim against the mosque, insisting it was an ancient Neelkanth Mahadev temple.

The mosques which face survey petitions

वे मस्जिदें जो सर्वेक्षण याचिकाओं का सामना कर रही हैं

Why has an oral observation made by Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud led to repercussions at the lower judiciary? What is the contestation against the origins of the Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra and the Ajmer dargah? What about the provisions of the Places of Worship Act, 1991?

भारत के पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़ द्वारा की गई मौखिक टिप्पणी से निचली न्यायपालिका पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव क्यों पड़ा? अढ़ाई दिन का झोपड़ा और अजमेर दरगाह की उत्पत्ति के खिलाफ क्या विवाद है? पूजा स्थल अधिनियम, 1991 के प्रावधानों के बारे में क्या?



Gyanvapi Petition Hearing and Justice D.Y. Chandrachud's Observation ज्ञानवापी याचिका सुनवाई और न्यायमूर्ति डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़ की टिप्पणी

- During a hearing of the **Gyanvapi petition in 2022**, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud made an oral observation regarding **Sections 3 and 4 of the Places of Worship Act, 1991**, stating that these sections **do not prohibit** the “ascertainment of religious character” of any place of worship.
2022 में ज्ञानवापी याचिका की सुनवाई के दौरान, न्यायमूर्ति डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़ ने धार्मिक स्थलों के रूप की पहचान के बारे में मौखिक टिप्पणी की, यह कहते हुए कि स्थान पूजा अधिनियम, 1991 की धारा 3 और 4 किसी भी पूजा स्थल के धार्मिक रूप की पहचान करने से नहीं रोकती हैं।
- His observation triggered consequences in the **lower judiciary**, with **district and sessions courts in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan** admitting petitions to ascertain the **religious character of mosques** and other places of worship built in **medieval India**.
उनकी टिप्पणी ने निचली न्यायपालिका में प्रतिक्रियाएँ पैदा कीं, जिसमें उत्तर प्रदेश और राजस्थान के जिला और सत्र अदालतों ने मस्जिदों और अन्य धार्मिक स्थलों के धार्मिक रूप की पहचान करने की याचिकाएँ स्वीकार कीं, जो मध्यकालीन भारत में बने थे।
- **Places facing calls for surveys** include **Ajmer Dargah, Adhai Din ka Jhonpra, Shahi Jama Masjid** in Sambhal, **Teelwali Masjid** in Lucknow, **Shamsi Jama Masjid** in Badaun, **Atala Masjid** in Jaunpur, in addition to better-known cases like **Gyanvapi Masjid** and **Eidgah in Mathura**.
जिन स्थानों पर सर्वेक्षण की मांग की जा रही है, उनमें अजमेर दरगाह, अधाई दिन का झोंपड़ा, शाही जामा मस्जिद समभल में, टीले वाली मस्जिद लखनऊ में, शम्सी जामा मस्जिद बदायूँ में, अताला मस्जिद जौनपुर में, इसके अलावा ज्ञानवापी मस्जिद और ईदगाह मथुरा जैसे प्रसिद्ध मामले शामिल हैं।

Increase in Calls for Surveys सर्वेक्षणों की मांग में वृद्धि

- After a civil judge in **Sambhal** ordered a survey of the town's **Jama Masjid** on **November 19**, a number of petitions started seeking surveys of mosques and dargahs.
19 नवंबर को समभल में एक सिविल जज ने शहर की जामा मस्जिद का सर्वेक्षण करने का आदेश दिया, इसके बाद मस्जिदों और दरगाहों के सर्वेक्षण की मांग करने वाली कई याचिकाएँ आईं।
- On **November 24**, a **repeat survey** of the **Sambhal mosque** resulted in **violence**, leading to the deaths of **six people**.
24 नवंबर को समभल मस्जिद का दोहराया गया सर्वेक्षण में हिंसा में बदल गया, जिसमें छह लोग मारे गए।
- Following the violence, the **Supreme Court** directed the **advocate commissioner's report** to be kept in a **sealed cover** and instructed the mosque's committee to approach the **Allahabad High Court** to hear the case.
हिंसा के बाद, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अधिवक्ता आयोग के रिपोर्ट को सील कवर में रखने का आदेश दिया और मस्जिद की समिति को मामले की सुनवाई के लिए इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय में जाने का निर्देश दिया।
- Simultaneously, **Ajmer's West Civil Court** admitted a petition claiming the **Ajmer dargah** was originally a **Sankat Mochan Mandir**.



साथ ही, अजमेर की पश्चिमी सिविल कोर्ट ने एक याचिका स्वीकार की जिसमें यह दावा किया गया कि अजमेर दरगाह पहले एक संकट मोचन मंदिर था।

- The demand led to an uproar, as the **dargah** is frequented by people of all religions, and even the **Prime Minister** sends a chador for its annual **Urs** in January. इस मांग से बवाल मच गया, क्योंकि दरगाह सभी धर्मों के लोगों द्वारा जाती है और प्रधानमंत्री स्वयं इसकी वार्षिक उर्स के लिए जनवरी में चादर भेजते हैं।
- Disturbed by these petitions, a group of **retired bureaucrats** and **army personnel** wrote to the **Prime Minister**, urging him to curtail what they termed an “**ideological assault on India’s civilisational heritage.**”

इन याचिकाओं से परेशान होकर, सेवानिवृत्त ब्यूरोक्रेट्स और सैन्यकर्मियों ने प्रधानमंत्री को पत्र लिखकर उनसे “भारत की सभ्यता धरोहर पर वैचारिक आक्रमण” को रोकने का आग्रह किया।

Adhai Din ka Jhonpra Case अधाई दिन का झोंपड़ा मामला

- The petition regarding the **dargah** led to a demand for the restoration of the **12th century mosque, Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra**, to its alleged **pre-Islamic heritage**. दरगाह संबंधित याचिका ने 12वीं सदी की मस्जिद अधाई दिन का झोंपड़ा को उसके कथित पूर्व-इस्लामी धरोहर में बहाल करने की मांग शुरू कर दी।
- The mosque, located near the **Ajmer dargah**, is a **protected site** under the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**. यह मस्जिद, जो अजमेर दरगाह के पास स्थित है, भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (ASI) द्वारा संरक्षित स्थल है।
- The demand for restoration came from **Ajmer’s Deputy Mayor Neeraj Jain**, who reiterated that **Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra** was originally a **Sanskrit college and temple** before being demolished in the **late 12th century**. यह बहाली की मांग अजमेर के उपमहापौर नीराज जैन द्वारा उठाई गई, जिन्होंने दोहराया कि अधाई दिन का झोंपड़ा मूल रूप से एक संस्कृत कॉलेज और मंदिर था, जिसे 12वीं सदी के अंत में नष्ट कर दिया गया था।
- Previously, a claim was made by a **Jain monk** and some members of the **Vishwa Hindu Parishad** who visited the mosque, suggesting the same. पहले, एक जैन साधु और कुछ विश्व हिंदू परिषद के सदस्य जो मस्जिद का दौरा करने गए थे, ने यही दावा किया था।
- Following this, **Rajasthan Assembly speaker Vasudev Devnani** demanded an **ASI survey** at the historic site, arguing that it should be examined to see if the **Jain delegates’ claim** about the site being a Sanskrit college and temple is true. इसके बाद, राजस्थान विधानसभा के अध्यक्ष वासुदेव देवानी ने ऐतिहासिक स्थल पर ASI सर्वे की मांग की, यह तर्क देते हुए कि यह जांचा जाना चाहिए कि क्या जैन प्रतिनिधियों का दावा कि यह स्थल एक संस्कृत कॉलेज और मंदिर था, सही है।

The History and Debate Around Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra अधाई दिन का झोंपड़ा का इतिहास और बहस

- The **mosque** was built by **Qutubddin Aibak** around the same time he constructed the **Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid** in the **Qutub Minar complex** in **Delhi**. मस्जिद कुतुबद्दीन ऐबक द्वारा उसी समय बनाई गई थी जब उन्होंने कुतुब मीनार परिसर में कुव्वत उल इस्लाम मस्जिद का निर्माण किया।



- **Sultan Iltutmish** beautified it in **1213 AD** with a screen pierced by **corbelled engrailed arches**, which appeared in India for the **first time**.
सुलतान इल्तुतमिश ने इसे 1213 ईस्वी में कोरबेल्ड एंग्रेल्ड आर्चेस के साथ सजाया, जो भारत में पहली बार दिखते हैं।**
- It is a **protected monument**, and its name **Adhai Din** comes from the **Urs (fair)** held here for **two and a half days**.
यह एक संरक्षित स्मारक है, और इसका नाम अधाई दिन उस उर्स (मेला) से लिया गया जो यहां ढाई दिन तक आयोजित होता था।
- The claim of the site being a **mosque** has been disputed by **author Har Bilas Sarada**, who argued in his book **Ajmer: Historical and Descriptive** that a **Jain temple** was built here by **Seth Viramdeva Kala** in **660 AD**.
इस स्थल के मस्जिद होने के दावे को लेखक हरबिलास सरदा ने विवादित किया है, जिन्होंने अपनी किताब अजमेर: ऐतिहासिक और वर्णनात्मक में दावा किया कि सेठ वीरमदेव काल ने 660 ईस्वी में यहां जैन मंदिर बनवाया था।
- According to Sarada, the temple was destroyed by the **Afghans of Ghor** in **1192 AD**.
सरदा के अनुसार, मंदिर को घोर के अफगानों ने 1192 ईस्वी में नष्ट कर दिया था।
- The **ASI** does not agree with this assertion. According to the **ASI website**, the mosque was **commenced by Qutubuddin Aibak** around **1200 AD** with **carved pillars** used in **colonnades**.
ASI इस दावे से सहमत नहीं है। ASI वेबसाइट के अनुसार, मस्जिद का निर्माण कुतुबुद्दीन ऐबक ने लगभग 1200 ईस्वी में खुदी हुई स्तंभों के साथ किया था, जो कॉलोनेड्स में उपयोग किए गए थे।
- The **pillared prayer chamber** is divided into **nine octagonal compartments** and has **two small minarets** on top of the central arch.
स्तंभित प्रार्थना कक्ष को नौ अष्टकोणीय कक्षों में बांटा गया है और इसके केंद्रीय मेहराब के ऊपर दो छोटे मीनार हैं।
- The **three central arches** are carved with **Kufic** and **Tughra inscriptions**, making it a **splendid architectural masterpiece**.
तीन केंद्रीय मेहराबों पर कुफिक और तुगरा की खुदाई की गई है, जो इसे एक शानदार वास्तु कृति बनाती है।

Shamsi Jama Masjid Controversy शम्सी जामा मस्जिद विवाद

- The **800-year-old Shamsi Jama Masjid** is the latest mosque facing contestation.
800 साल पुरानी शम्सी जामा मस्जिद अब विवाद का सामना कर रही सबसे नई मस्जिद है।
- A **fast-track court** is hearing the claims of **Mukesh Patel** of the **Hindu Mahasabha**, who filed a claim that the mosque was originally an ancient **Neelkanth Mahadev temple**.
एक फास्ट-ट्रैक कोर्ट हिंदू महासभा के मुकेश पटेल द्वारा दायर की गई याचिका की सुनवाई कर रहा है, जिसमें दावा किया गया कि यह मस्जिद मूल रूप से एक प्राचीन नीलकंठ महादेव मंदिर थी।
- In response, the **Shamsi Shahi mosque's intezamia committee** argued that the suit was **non-maintainable**.
इसके जवाब में, शम्सी शाह मस्जिद के इंटेजामिया समिति ने कहा कि यह मुकदमा अस्वीकार्य है।
- The mosque is built on an **elevated area** called **Sotha Mohalla**, which is said to be the **highest structure** in **Badaun town**.



मस्जिद एक ऊंचे क्षेत्र पर स्थित है जिसे सोठा मोहल्ला कहा जाता है, और यह बदायूं शहर की सबसे ऊंची संरचना मानी जाती है।

- After **Quwwatul Islam** and **Adhai Din ka Jhonpra**, it is the **third oldest mosque** in **North India**.

कुव्वत उल इस्लाम और अधाई दिन का झोंपड़ा के बाद, यह उत्तर भारत की तीसरी सबसे पुरानी मस्जिद है।**

Claims on Jama Masjid in Delhi दिल्ली में जामा मस्जिद पर दावे

- After **Badaun**, claims are being made about the historic **Jama Masjid** in **Delhi**, alleging it was built at the site of a **Vishnu temple**.
बदायूं के बाद, दिल्ली की ऐतिहासिक जामा मस्जिद को लेकर भी यह दावा किया जा रहा है कि यह एक विष्णु मंदिर के स्थल पर बनाई गई थी।
- With **district and sessions courts** continuing to admit such petitions, the provisions of the **Places of Worship Act, 1991**, which prohibit changing the character of places of worship as they stood on **August 15, 1947**, are being ignored.
जिले और सत्र अदालतों द्वारा ऐसी याचिकाओं को स्वीकार किए जाने के साथ, स्थान पूजा अधिनियम, 1991 की धाराएँ, जो पूजा स्थलों के रूप को 15 अगस्त 1947 की स्थिति में बदलने से रोकती हैं, नजरअंदाज की जा रही हैं।
- Meanwhile, the **All India Muslim Personal Law Board** has appealed to the **Supreme Court** to take **suo motu notice** of such petitions and bar the **lower judiciary** from entertaining them in the future.
इस बीच, ऑल इंडिया मुस्लिम पर्सनल लॉ बोर्ड ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट से अपील की है कि वह ऐसी याचिकाओं का स्वतः संज्ञान ले और भविष्य में निचली न्यायपालिका को इन्हें स्वीकार करने से रोक दे।

Has the government clarified its stance on ONOS?

Why did the 'One Nation, One Subscription' plan invoke criticism after it was unveiled last month?

GS Paper II: Governance: ONOS

The Hindu Bureau

The story so far:

On November 25, the Indian government announced the launch of its 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) plan to improve access to research journals for the country's public education and research institutes. The announcement was accompanied with scant details and broached widespread criticism from the research community, especially over what was perceived to be its disproportionate expense and lack of support for open-access publishing. On December 11, government officials conducted a press conference in New Delhi that addressed many of these concerns.

What is ONOS's purpose?

When scientists conclude an experiment, they write up their methods and findings and publish it as a paper in a journal. The

journal collects, reviews, edits, publishes, and archives these papers as a service to other scholars and the people at large. In exchange, journals levy a fee. Subscription-based journals charge readers a fee to read papers. Some forms of Open-Access (OA) journals, called 'gold' OA, charge researchers to publish their paper. Institutes in India had subscribed to subscription journals through 10 or so consortia within the country. ONOS will replace these consortia as a single window through which all government-funded institutes in the country will be able to access more than 13,000 journals published by 30 major international publishers.

Why did ONOS provoke criticism?

At the time of announcement, a Ministry of Education press release didn't specify which journals would be part of ONOS, how ONOS would be implemented, how its allocation of ₹6,000 crore (for three

calendar years) would be spent, and how ONOS would support efforts to make research OA. Experts on the topic also asked whether the allocation for foreign journals could have been used to support domestic publishing efforts instead.

Also it wasn't clear whether ONOS would help scientists pay to publish in gold OA journals or whether these payments – called article processing charges (APCs) – could be discounted.

What was revealed on December 11?

The press conference was attended by officials from the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA), the Department of Science & Technology, and the Department of Higher Education.

The package: Students and staff at all public institutes will be able to access all papers in the journals participating in ONOS irrespective of their discipline. Negotiations are underway to bring in more journals.

Phases: Remya Haridasan, a scientist at the PSA's office, said the government would implement ONOS in three phases: (i) merge all the consortia and work to facilitate journal access in all public institutes; (ii) expand to include private institutions; (iii) create "universal access" to all citizens "through designated access points at public libraries".

Open access: In a pilot, ONOS would set aside ₹150 crore a year to pay for APCs. The government has also negotiated APC discounts for researchers to publish in certain OA journals. The officials said they are aware of transformative OA models and that ONOS would encompass them as it progressed. As of today, they said, around 65% of papers published by Indian scientists were in subscription-based journals.

Domestic efforts: Officials at the press conference acknowledged the need to support domestic publishers. They said there were five repositories in the country – servers where researchers could deposit digital copies of their papers and where others could freely access them – but that scientists were using them to a less-than-ideal degree. They added that other efforts need to take place, such as "enhancement, promotion, and support of Indian journals" and changes in how institutes evaluate the work of researchers, especially to reduce dependence on journal titles and increase focus on the merit of each person's work.

THE GIST

On November 25, the Indian government announced the launch of its 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) plan to improve access to research journals for the country's public education and research institutes.

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On December 11, government officials conducted a press conference that addressed many of these concerns.

Has the government clarified its stance on ONOS?



क्या सरकार ने ONOS पर अपना रुख स्पष्ट किया है?

Why did the 'One Nation, One Subscription' plan invoke criticism after it was unveiled last month?

पिछले महीने 'एक राष्ट्र, एक सदस्यता' योजना के अनावरण के बाद इसकी आलोचना क्यों हुई?

Launch of 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) Plan
'वन नेशन, वन सब्सक्रिप्शन' (ONOS) योजना का शुभारंभ

- On **November 25**, the Indian government announced the launch of the '**One Nation, One Subscription**' (ONOS) plan to improve access to **research journals** for the country's public education and research institutes.
25 नवम्बर को भारतीय सरकार ने 'वन नेशन, वन सब्सक्रिप्शन' (ONOS) योजना का शुभारंभ किया, जिसका उद्देश्य देश के सार्वजनिक शिक्षा और शोध संस्थानों के लिए **शोध पत्रिकाओं** तक पहुँच में सुधार करना है।
- The announcement was accompanied by **scant details** and faced widespread criticism from the **research community**, especially over its **disproportionate expense** and lack of support for **open-access publishing**.
इस घोषणा के साथ **कुछ ही विवरण थे और इसने **शोध समुदाय** से व्यापक आलोचना का सामना किया, विशेष रूप से इसके **असमान खर्च** और **ओपन-एक्सेस पब्लिशिंग** के लिए समर्थन की कमी के कारण।
- On **December 11**, government officials held a press conference in **New Delhi** to address many of these concerns.
11 दिसम्बर को, सरकारी अधिकारियों ने **नई दिल्ली** में एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस आयोजित की, जिसमें इन चिंताओं का समाधान किया गया।

What is ONOS's purpose?
ONOS का उद्देश्य क्या है?

- When scientists conclude an experiment, they write up their **methods** and **findings** and publish them as a **paper** in a journal.
जब वैज्ञानिक एक प्रयोग समाप्त करते हैं, तो वे अपनी विधियाँ और निष्कर्ष लिखते हैं और उन्हें एक पत्र के रूप में पत्रिका में प्रकाशित करते हैं।
- The journal collects, reviews, edits, publishes, and archives these papers as a service to other scholars and the people at large.
पत्रिका इन कागजातों को अन्य विद्वानों और सामान्य लोगों की सेवा में एकत्रित, समीक्षा, संपादित, प्रकाशित और संग्रहित करती है।
- In exchange, journals levy a **fee**. Subscription-based journals charge readers a fee to read papers.
इसके बदले में, पत्रिकाएँ एक शुल्क वसूल करती हैं। सब्सक्रिप्शन-आधारित पत्रिकाएँ पाठकों से कागजात पढ़ने के लिए शुल्क लेती हैं।
- Some forms of **Open-Access (OA)** journals, called '**gold OA**', charge researchers to publish their paper.
कुछ प्रकार की ओपन-एक्सेस (OA) पत्रिकाएँ, जिन्हें 'गोल्ड OA' कहा जाता है, शोधकर्ताओं से उनके कागजात प्रकाशित करने के लिए शुल्क लेती हैं।



- Institutes in India had subscribed to subscription journals through **10 consortia**.
भारत के संस्थानों ने 10 संघों के माध्यम से सब्सक्रिप्शन पत्रिकाओं की सदस्यता ली थी।
- **ONOS** will replace these consortia as a **single window** through which all **government-funded institutes** will access more than **13,000 journals** published by **30 major international publishers**.
ONOS इन संघों को एक सिंगल विंडो के रूप में प्रतिस्थापित करेगा, जिसके माध्यम से सभी सरकारी-फंडेड संस्थान 30 प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रकाशकों द्वारा प्रकाशित 13,000 से अधिक पत्रिकाओं तक पहुँच प्राप्त करेंगे।

Why did ONOS provoke criticism? ONOS पर आलोचना क्यों हुई?

- At the time of the announcement, a **Ministry of Education** press release didn't specify which journals would be part of **ONOS**, how **ONOS** would be implemented, and how its allocation of **₹6,000 crore** (for three calendar years) would be spent.
घोषणा के समय, शिक्षा मंत्रालय के प्रेस रिलीज़ में यह निर्दिष्ट नहीं किया गया था कि **ONOS** में कौन सी पत्रिकाएँ शामिल होंगी, **ONOS** को कैसे लागू किया जाएगा, और इसके लिए ₹6,000 करोड़ (तीन कैलेंडर वर्षों के लिए) का आवंटन कैसे खर्च किया जाएगा।
- Experts also questioned whether the allocation for **foreign journals** could have been used to support **domestic publishing efforts** instead.
विशेषज्ञों ने यह भी सवाल उठाया कि क्या विदेशी पत्रिकाओं के लिए आवंटित राशि का उपयोग घरेलू प्रकाशन प्रयासों को समर्थन देने में किया जा सकता था।
- It wasn't clear whether **ONOS** would help scientists pay to publish in **gold OA journals** or whether these **article processing charges (APCs)** could be discounted.
यह स्पष्ट नहीं था कि क्या **ONOS** वैज्ञानिकों को गोल्ड OA पत्रिकाओं में प्रकाशित करने के लिए मदद करेगा या क्या इन आर्टिकल प्रोसेसिंग चार्जस (APCs) में छूट दी जा सकती है।

What was revealed on December 11? 11 दिसम्बर को क्या खुलासा हुआ?

- The press conference was attended by officials from the office of the **Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA)**, the **Department of Science & Technology**, and the **Department of Higher Education**.
प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में प्रधान वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार (PSA) के कार्यालय, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, और उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के अधिकारी उपस्थित थे।
- The package: Students and staff at all **public institutes** will be able to access all papers in the journals participating in **ONOS**, irrespective of their **discipline**.
पैकेज: सभी सार्वजनिक संस्थानों के छात्र और कर्मचारी **ONOS** में भाग लेने वाली पत्रिकाओं में सभी कागजातों तक पहुँच प्राप्त कर सकेंगे, चाहे उनका विषय कोई भी हो।
- **Negotiations** are underway to bring in more journals.
अधिक पत्रिकाओं को शामिल करने के लिए सहमति प्रक्रियाएँ चल रही हैं।

Phases of ONOS Implementation ONOS कार्यान्वयन के चरण

- **Remya Haridasan**, a scientist at the **PSA's office**, stated that the government would implement **ONOS** in **three phases**:



रेम्या हरिदासन, जो **PSA कार्यालय** में एक वैज्ञानिक हैं, ने बताया कि सरकार **ONOS** को **तीन चरणों** में लागू करेगी:

- (i) **Merge all consortia** and facilitate journal access in all **public institutes**.
(i) **सभी संघों का विलय** करना और सभी **सार्वजनिक संस्थानों** में पत्रिका तक पहुँच को सुगम बनाना।
- (ii) **Expand** to include **private institutions**.
(ii) **विस्तार करना** और **निजी संस्थानों** को शामिल करना।
- (iii) Create **“universal access”** to all citizens through **designated access points at public libraries**.
(iii) सभी नागरिकों के लिए **“सार्वभौम पहुँच”** बनाना, **सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालयों** में निर्धारित पहुँच बिंदुओं के माध्यम से।

Open Access Plans under ONOS ONOS के तहत ओपन एक्सेस योजनाएँ

- In a **pilot, ONOS** will allocate **₹150 crore** annually to pay for **APCs** (Article Processing Charges).
एक पायलट प्रोजेक्ट में, **ONOS** हर साल **₹150 करोड़ APCs** (आर्टिकल प्रोसेसिंग चार्जेस) का भुगतान करने के लिए आवंटित करेगा।
- The government has negotiated **APC discounts** for researchers to publish in certain **OA journals**.
सरकार ने शोधकर्ताओं के लिए कुछ **OA पत्रिकाओं** में प्रकाशित करने के लिए **APC छूट** पर बातचीत की है।
- Officials mentioned that they are aware of **transformative OA models** and that **ONOS** would include them as it progresses.
अधिकारियों ने बताया कि वे **परिवर्तक OA मॉडलों** से परिचित हैं और **ONOS** के विकास के साथ इन्हें भी शामिल किया जाएगा।
- As of today, about **65%** of papers published by Indian scientists are in **subscription-based journals**.
आज तक, भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा प्रकाशित लगभग **65%** कागजात **सब्सक्रिप्शन-आधारित पत्रिकाओं** में हैं।

Support for Domestic Publishing Efforts घरेलू प्रकाशन प्रयासों के लिए समर्थन

- Officials at the press conference acknowledged the need to support **domestic publishers**.
प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में अधिकारियों ने **घरेलू प्रकाशकों** को समर्थन देने की आवश्यकता को स्वीकार किया।
- They mentioned that there are **five repositories** in the country where researchers can deposit digital copies of their papers for free access by others.
उन्होंने उल्लेख किया कि देश में **पाँच रिपॉजिटरी** हैं, जहाँ शोधकर्ता अपनी कागजात की डिजिटल प्रतियाँ जमा कर सकते हैं, जिसे अन्य लोग **मुफ्त में** एक्सेस कर सकते हैं।
- However, scientists are using these repositories to a **less-than-ideal degree**.
हालाँकि, वैज्ञानिक इन रिपॉजिटरी का उपयोग **कम-से-कम आदर्श तरीके** से कर रहे हैं।
- They added that further efforts are required to enhance, promote, and support **Indian journals**, and make changes in how institutes evaluate researchers' work.
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि अन्य प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है, जैसे कि **भारतीय पत्रिकाओं** का **सुधार, प्रचार और समर्थन**, और यह सुनिश्चित करना कि संस्थान शोधकर्ताओं के कार्य का मूल्यांकन कैसे करते हैं,



खासकर पत्रिका शीर्षकों पर निर्भरता को कम करना और हर व्यक्ति के कार्य की मेधावीता पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना।



AFP

Way in the world: how Muslim women travelled from 17th-20th centuries

In 45 essays, three editors gather multiple travel accounts by Muslim women who, alone or chaperoned, veiled or unveiled, travelling for work or pleasure, bust every stereotype. Apart from records of the new and the unexpected, there are also observations about all aspects of life

Essay Paper: Women

Rakhshanda Jalil

I began reading *Three Centuries of Travel Writing by Muslim Women* (Zubaan Books) chronologically, hoping rather ambitiously to read it from cover to cover, one essay at a time. That was a mistake, I think. The book is better served, and savoured, if the reader were to dip into it in no particular order. Each essay is so precisely contextualised by the immaculate 'Introduction' prefacing each entry and followed by 'Further Reading and 'Notes' that even a casual reader can dip into this richly documented, beautifully translated volume of disparate writings and partake of the spirit behind it.

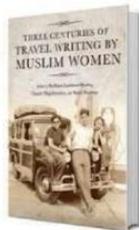
For the more serious reader/researcher, there is of course the scholarly introduction by Siobhan Lambert-Hurley and Daniel Majchrowicz who edited the book (along with Sunil Sharma). They write: "On the face of it, the premise of this volume is simple: a comparative study of travel narratives by Muslim women who travelled the world before the 'jet age' transformed modern mobility. Yet in our contemporary moment, the very juxtaposition of these terms – Muslim, women, travel mobility – instantly raises a number of questions."

Colonialism, gender, travel, religion, money come together in unexpected ways throughout this book. What is more, these accounts by educated and "privileged" Muslim women also contain descriptions – sometimes empathetic, occasionally derisive – of other Muslim women they meet during their travels

who are poor and disadvantaged and, being illiterate, could not have recorded their experiences or left written records of their lives. So, apart from records of the new and the unexpected, there are also observations about the different practices of child-rearing, food, cooking habits, dress, religious and social practices.

Multiple voices

These first-hand accounts, originally written in Urdu, Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Chaghtaai Turki, Punjabi, Bengali, Indonesian, German and English, span the 17th to 20th centuries thus presenting an array of experiences and impressions. Written variously as conventional travelogues (Halide Edib, Zainab Cobbold), excerpts from autobiographies (Salamah Bint Said/Emily Ruete, Huda Shaarawi), diary entries (Muhammadi Begum, Begum Hasrat Mohani), written for limited circulation as magazine articles (Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, Shams Pahlavi), recorded for family and friends (Begum Sarbuland Jung, Ummat al-Ghani Nur al-Nisa), or with a pronounced political overtone (Suharti Suwarto, Melek Hanim) quite naturally, therefore, present different voices and concerns. Chatty, informal, informed when the writing is for herself or her family members; or formal, structured, detailed, sometimes even didactic when she knows what she is writing is meant for public consumption.



Travel as life

There are 45 accounts in all, grouped under four headings: Travel as Pilgrimage, Travel as Emancipation and Politics, Travel as Education, and Travel as Obligation and Pleasure. While large numbers of Indian women have written haj accounts, there is only one Indian in the second section, Shareefah Hamid Ali, who

represented India at the United Nations and travelled by air. Several Indian Muslim women chose to travel for education, sometimes their own, or their husband's or sons'. There is Mehr-al-Nisa from Hyderabad who joined her doctor husband in Ohio to train as an x-ray nurse, and Zaib-un-Nisa from Karachi writing an account of her 60 days in America as a member of the U.S. Department of State-sponsored Foreign Leader Exchange Programme where she crosses the breadth of the United States in a hired car with her husband.

Safia Jabir Ali, daughter of the esteemed Tyabji clan, married Jabir Ali who travelled extensively for business from their home in Burma to Europe.

Her memoir, written in Urdu, is brimful with an easy confidence: "I had to travel by myself from Bombay to Marseilles, and that was the first time I had occasion to depend entirely on myself and spend more than three weeks among entire strangers. However, as probably some of you know by

experience, on board the steamer, one gets to know people very soon. I was lucky in being able to travel on the Loyalty, the steamer of an Indian company where there were a good many Indian passengers, and some of us soon became great friends."

Connecting the dots

The last part, 'Travel as Obligation and Pleasure', has by far the most interesting experiences: Mughal Princess Jahanara's mystical meeting in Kashmir; Salamah Bint Said, a princess of Zanzibar, who flees her home to unite with her German lover in Hamburg, converts to Christianity and takes the name Emily Ruete; and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's pleasure trip to the Himalayas, among others.

While most women travelled with a male (husband, father, son, brother), some travelled alone: "Safia Jabir Ali travelled alone from Bombay to meet her husband in post-First World War Britain, Sediqeh Dowlatabadi from Tehran in 1923 to study at the Sorbonne in Paris, Selma Ekram from 'Stamboul' to New York in 1924 on the promise of work, Muhammadi Begum with her infant child from Bonn to Oxford in the mid-1930s, and Herawati Diah en route to study at Barnard College in New York in 1937."

Alone or chaperoned, veiled or unveiled, travelling for work or pleasure, these accounts by Muslim women bust every stereotype. In one voice, these women seem to be saying: "only connect".

Rakhshanda Jalil is a translator and literary historian.



Way in the world: how Muslim women travelled from 17th-20th centuries

दुनिया में रास्ता: 17वीं-20वीं सदी में मुस्लिम महिलाओं ने कैसे यात्रा की

In 45 essays, three editors gather multiple travel accounts by Muslim women who, alone or chaperoned, veiled or unveiled, travelling for work or pleasure, bust every stereotype. Apart from records of the new and the unexpected, there are also observations about all aspects of life

45 निबंधों में, तीन संपादकों ने मुस्लिम महिलाओं के कई यात्रा वृत्तांत एकत्र किए हैं, जो अकेले या किसी के साथ, घूंघट में या बिना पर्दा किए, काम के लिए या मौज-मस्ती के लिए यात्रा करती हैं, हर रूढ़िवादिता को तोड़ती हैं। नए और अप्रत्याशित के रिकॉर्ड के अलावा, जीवन के सभी पहलुओं के बारे में अवलोकन भी हैं

Travel as Life

यात्रा को जीवन के रूप में देखना

- The book contains **45 accounts**, grouped under four headings:
 - **Travel as Pilgrimage**
 - **Travel as Emancipation and Politics**
 - **Travel as Education**
 - **Travel as Obligation and Pleasure**पुस्तक में **45** खातों को चार श्रेणियों में विभाजित किया गया है:
 - यात्रा को तीर्थयात्रा के रूप में
 - यात्रा को मुक्ति और राजनीति के रूप में
 - यात्रा को शिक्षा के रूप में
 - यात्रा को कर्तव्य और आनंद के रूप में
- Large numbers of **Indian women** have written **haj accounts**, but only one Indian, **Shareefah Hamid Ali**, is in the second section.
भारतीय महिलाओं ने बड़ी संख्या में **हज** के खाता लिखे हैं, लेकिन केवल एक भारतीय, **शरीफा हमीद अली**, दूसरे खंड में शामिल हैं।
- Shareefah Hamid Ali **represented India at the United Nations** and traveled by air.
शरीफा हमीद अली ने **भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व संयुक्त राष्ट्र** में किया और हवाई यात्रा की।
- Several **Indian Muslim women** traveled for **education**, sometimes for their own, or their **husband's or sons'** education.
कई **भारतीय मुस्लिम महिलाएं** **शिक्षा** के लिए यात्रा करती थीं, कभी अपनी, या उनके **पति या पुत्रों** की शिक्षा के लिए।
- **Mehr-al-Nisa** from **Hyderabad** traveled to **Ohio** to train as an **x-ray nurse** with her husband.



हैदराबाद की मेहर-उल-निसा अपने पति के साथ ओहायो गईं, जहाँ उन्होंने एक्स-रे नर्स के रूप में प्रशिक्षण लिया।

- **Zaib-un-Nisa** from **Karachi** wrote about her **60 days in America** as part of the **U.S. Department of State-sponsored Foreign Leader Exchange Programme**. कराची की जैब-उन-निसा ने अमेरिका में अपने 60 दिन के बारे में लिखा, जहाँ वह यूएस राज्य विभाग द्वारा प्रायोजित विदेशी नेता विनिमय कार्यक्रम का हिस्सा थीं।
- **Sa'a Jabir Ali**, from the **Tyabji clan**, traveled extensively with her husband. Her memoir reflects her easy confidence during her travel from **Bombay to Marseilles**. सआ जाबिर अली, जो तयबजी खानदान से थीं, अपने पति के साथ कई स्थानों की यात्रा करती थीं। उनकी यात्रा वृत्तांत में बॉम्बे से मार्सेइल्स की यात्रा के दौरान उनकी आत्मविश्वास की झलक मिलती है।
- In her memoir, **Sa'a Jabir Ali** recalls traveling alone, where she relied entirely on herself for the first time. अपने यात्रा वृत्तांत में सआ जाबिर अली ने अकेले यात्रा करने का अनुभव साझा किया, जहाँ उन्होंने पहली बार पूरी तरह से खुद पर निर्भर किया।

Connecting the Dots संबंध जोड़ना

- The section '**Travel as Obligation and Pleasure**' features the most **interesting experiences**.
'यात्रा को कर्तव्य और आनंद के रूप में' खंड में सबसे रोचक अनुभव हैं।
- **Mughal Princess Jahanara** had a **mystical meeting in Kashmir**. मुगल राजकुमारी जहांआरा की कश्मीर में रहस्यमय मुलाकात थी।
- **Salamah Bint Said**, a princess from **Zanzibar**, flees to **Hamburg** to unite with her German lover, converting to **Christianity** and changing her name to **Emily Ruete**. ज़ांज़ीबार की राजकुमारी सलमा बिनत सईद अपने जर्मन प्रेमी से मिलने के लिए हैम्बर्ग भाग जाती हैं, जहां वह ईसाई धर्म अपनाती हैं और अपना नाम एमीली रूते रखती हैं।
- **Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain** took a **pleasure trip to the Himalayas**. रोकिया सखावत होसैन ने हिमालयों में आनंद यात्रा की।
- Most women traveled with a **male companion** (husband, father, son, or brother), but some traveled alone.
ज्यादातर महिलाएं पुरुष साथी (पति, पिता, पुत्र, या भाई) के साथ यात्रा करती थीं, लेकिन कुछ महिलाओं ने अकेले यात्रा की।
- Examples of women who traveled alone include:
 - **Sa'a Jabir Ali** from **Bombay** to meet her husband in post-**World War I** **Britain**.
 - **Sediqeh Dowlatabadi** from **Tehran** in **1923** to study at the **Sorbonne in Paris**.
 - **Selma Ekram** from '**Stamboul**' to **New York** in **1924**.
 - **Muhammadi Begum** with her **infant child** from **Bonn** to **Oxford** in the mid-**1930s**.
 - **Herawati Diah** en route to study at **Barnard College in New York** in **1937**.
कुछ महिलाओं ने अकेले यात्रा की, जैसे:
 - सआ जाबिर अली बॉम्बे से अपने पति से मिलने के लिए प्रथम विश्व युद्ध के बाद के ब्रिटेन गईं।
 - सदीका दौलताबादी तेहरान से **1923** में पेरिस के सोरबोन विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़ाई के लिए गईं।



- सेल्मा एकराम 'स्तांबोल' से 1924 में न्यूयॉर्क गईं।
- मुहम्मदी बेगम अपने शिशु बच्चे के साथ बॉत्र से ऑक्सफोर्ड 1930 के दशक के मध्य में गईं।
- हेरावती दिआह 1937 में न्यूयॉर्क के बारनार्ड कॉलेज में पढ़ाई के लिए यात्रा कर रही थीं।
- These accounts by Muslim women **bust every stereotype** and show their diverse roles, whether traveling for **work or pleasure, veiled or unveiled**.
मुस्लिम महिलाओं द्वारा ये खाता **प्रत्येक स्टीरियोटाइप को तोड़ते हैं** और उनकी विभिन्न भूमिकाओं को दिखाते हैं, चाहे वह **काम** के लिए यात्रा कर रही हों या **आनंद** के लिए, **नकाब में या बिना नकाब**।
- In one voice, these women seem to say: **"only connect"**.
एक ही आवाज में, ये महिलाएं कहती हुई प्रतीत होती हैं: **"केवल जोड़ें"**।

India does not endorse Hasina's statements: Misri

Former Bangladesh PM's criticism of interim govt. a pinprick in bilateral ties, Foreign Secretary tells House panel; New Delhi's ties with Dhaka are not based on a 'single political party', he says

GS Paper II: India-Bangladesh

Suhasini Haidar
Sobhana K. Nair
Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Briefing the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Wednesday said India does not endorse deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's criticism of the interim government in Bangladesh and it remains a pinprick in India-Bangladesh relationship.

He said India's relation with Bangladesh was not limited to a "single political party" or a government and that India was focused on the "people of Bangladesh".

Mr. Misri said Ms. Hasina was using "private communication devices" to make her comments and that the Government of India was not involved in providing her with any platform or facility that enables her to carry out her political activity from Indian soil. This, he said, was



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met his Bangladesh counterpart, Mohammad Jashim Uddin, in Dhaka on Monday. AFP

part of India's traditional practice of avoiding interference in third countries.

Mr. Misri's remarks acquire significance as Ms. Hasina has been making video messages criticising the interim government in Bangladesh.

Mr. Misri informed the committee that during his visit to Dhaka on Monday, he informed the interim government that India's relation with Bangladesh went beyond "a particular political party" or a particular government and that India prioritised relation with the people of Bangladesh and would engage

with the government of the day.

Mr. Misri briefed the committee a day after returning from Dhaka, where he conveyed India's "concerns" about the "regrettable incidents" in Bangladesh.

The Foreign Secretary said India was concerned about the lack of acknowledgment of the alleged incidents of violence against minority communities but welcomed the latest report that authorities in Bangladesh had arrested 88 persons related to the violence against minority communities after the fall of the Ha-

sina government. Mr. Misri, according to sources, also said that there had been tangible improvement in the relationship after his visit.

Both sides, Mr. Misri said, explained their concerns.

For India, he said, the Bangladesh authorities' decision to release many of the convicted "terrorists" who are indulging in anti-India rhetoric, remained an issue of deep concern.

The Bangladesh authorities, meanwhile, flagged the "disinformation" campaign in the Indian press about the events unfolding in that country.

Many committee members raised the arrest of ISKCON monks in Bangladesh, but no reply, as per the sources, was forthcoming from Mr. Misri on the issue.

He, however, told the members that during his visit to Dhaka, he informed the authorities there that there had to be an "acknowledgment" of the incidents that involved attacks on temples and the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre.

India does not endorse Hasina's statements: Misri



भारत हसीना के बयानों का समर्थन नहीं करता: मिसरी

Former Bangladesh PM's criticism of interim govt. a pinprick in bilateral ties, Foreign Secretary tells House panel; New Delhi's ties with Dhaka are not based on a 'single political party', he says

विदेश सचिव ने सदन की समिति से कहा कि बांग्लादेश की अंतरिम सरकार की पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री की आलोचना द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में एक छोटी सी बाधा है; उन्होंने कहा कि ढाका के साथ नई दिल्ली के संबंध किसी एक राजनीतिक दल पर आधारित नहीं हैं।

India's Response on Sheikh Hasina's Criticism of Bangladesh Interim Government
बांग्लादेश अंतरिम सरकार की आलोचना पर भारत की प्रतिक्रिया

- Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri** briefed the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs**, headed by **Congress leader Shashi Tharoor**, on **Wednesday**. विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिस्री ने कांग्रेस नेता शशि थरूर की अध्यक्षता में बुधवार को विदेश मामले की संसदीय स्थायी समिति को जानकारी दी।
- Mr. Misri stated that India does not endorse **Sheikh Hasina's** criticism of the **interim government** in **Bangladesh** and described it as a **pinprick** in the India-Bangladesh relationship. मिस्री ने कहा कि भारत शेख हसीना की बांग्लादेश की अंतरिम सरकार की आलोचना का समर्थन नहीं करता और इसे भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों में एक चिढ़ाने वाली घटना बताया।
- He emphasized that **India's relationship with Bangladesh** is not limited to any **single political party** or government and that India focuses on the **people of Bangladesh**. उन्होंने कहा कि भारत का बांग्लादेश के साथ संबंध किसी भी एक राजनीतिक पार्टी या सरकार तक सीमित नहीं है, और भारत का ध्यान बांग्लादेश के लोगों पर है।
- **Sheikh Hasina** has been using **private communication devices** to make her comments, and the Indian government has not provided her any platform to carry out her **political activity** on Indian soil. शेख हसीना अपनी टिप्पणियां करने के लिए निजी संचार उपकरणों का उपयोग कर रही हैं, और भारतीय सरकार ने उन्हें भारतीय भूमि पर अपनी राजनीतिक गतिविधि करने के लिए कोई प्लेटफॉर्म नहीं प्रदान किया है।
- Mr. Misri reiterated that this is in line with **India's traditional practice** of avoiding interference in third countries' internal matters. मिस्री ने फिर से कहा कि यह भारत की पारंपरिक प्रथा के अनुरूप है, जिसमें तीसरे देशों के आंतरिक मामलों में हस्तक्षेप से बचने की नीति अपनाई जाती है।
- His remarks gained importance because **Sheikh Hasina** has been posting **video messages** criticizing the **interim government** in Bangladesh. उनकी टिप्पणियाँ महत्वपूर्ण हो गईं क्योंकि शेख हसीना बांग्लादेश की अंतरिम सरकार की आलोचना करते हुए वीडियो संदेश पोस्ट कर रही हैं।
- During his visit to **Dhaka** on **Monday**, Mr. Misri informed the interim government that India's relationship with Bangladesh is not confined to any specific **political party** or government but is focused on the **people** of Bangladesh.



सोमवार को ढाका में अपनी यात्रा के दौरान, मिस्री ने अंतरिम सरकार को बताया कि भारत का बांग्लादेश के साथ संबंध किसी विशेष राजनीतिक पार्टी या सरकार तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह बांग्लादेश के लोगों पर केंद्रित है।

- He also conveyed India's **concerns** regarding the **"regrettable incidents"** in Bangladesh during his visit.
अपनी यात्रा के दौरान, उन्होंने बांग्लादेश में "निराशाजनक घटनाओं" को लेकर भारत की चिंताएं भी व्यक्त कीं।
- Mr. Misri expressed concern over the **lack of acknowledgment** regarding incidents of violence against **minority communities** in Bangladesh.
मिस्री ने बांग्लादेश में नगण्य अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों के खिलाफ हुई हिंसा की घटनाओं के स्वीकृति की कमी को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की।
- He welcomed the report that **Bangladesh authorities** arrested **88 persons** connected to the violence against minorities.
उन्होंने इस रिपोर्ट का स्वागत किया कि बांग्लादेश अधिकारियों ने अल्पसंख्यकों के खिलाफ हिंसा से जुड़े **88 व्यक्तियों** को गिरफ्तार किया।
- According to sources, Mr. Misri stated that there had been a **tangible improvement** in India-Bangladesh relations after his visit.
स्रोतों के अनुसार, मिस्री ने कहा कि उनकी यात्रा के बाद भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों में स्पष्ट सुधार हुआ है।
- He also mentioned that both sides had explained their **concerns** during discussions.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि दोनों पक्षों ने चर्चा के दौरान अपनी चिंताओं को स्पष्ट किया।
- For India, the release of convicted **terrorists** involved in **anti-India rhetoric** by **Bangladesh authorities** remains a deep concern.
भारत के लिए, बांग्लादेश अधिकारियों द्वारा भारत विरोधी बयानबाजी में शामिल दोषी आतंकी व्यक्तियों की रिहाई गहरी चिंता का विषय बनी हुई है।
- Bangladesh authorities raised concerns about the **"disinformation" campaign** in the Indian press regarding events in Bangladesh.
बांग्लादेश अधिकारियों ने बांग्लादेश में हो रही घटनाओं को लेकर भारतीय प्रेस में चल रही "दुष्प्रचार" अभियान पर चिंता व्यक्त की।
- Many committee members raised the issue of the **arrest of ISKCON monks** in Bangladesh, but no response was provided by Mr. Misri.
कई समिति सदस्यों ने बांग्लादेश में ईश्वर कृपा संघ के साधुओं की गिरफ्तारी का मुद्दा उठाया, लेकिन मिस्री ने इस पर कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी।
- However, Mr. Misri informed the committee that during his visit to **Dhaka**, he told the authorities that there must be an **acknowledgment** of incidents involving attacks on temples and the **Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre**.
हालांकि, मिस्री ने समिति को सूचित किया कि अपनी ढाका यात्रा के दौरान उन्होंने वहां के अधिकारियों से कहा कि उन घटनाओं की स्वीकृति होनी चाहिए जिनमें मंदिरों और इंदिरा गांधी सांस्कृतिक केंद्र पर हमले शामिल हैं।



Amid din, Lok Sabha clears Railways Bill to enhance independence of Board

GS Paper II
The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was passed in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, despite disruptions to parliamentary proceedings. The Bill was passed five months after it was introduced on the floor of the House.

All the provisions in the erstwhile colonial-era Indian Railway Board Act, 1905, are proposed to be incorporated in the Railways Act, 1989, through this Bill. It is intended to simplify the legal framework and reduce the need to refer to two laws.

The Bill also proposes to amend the Railways Act, 1989, to provide statutory backing to the Railway Board, which has functioned without such a sanction since it began functioning.

The statutory powers seek to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board. The provisions added to the amended Bill authorise the Union government to decide the composition of the Railway Board. This includes the number of members, their terms of service, and their qualifications and experience.

The Bill also proposes to



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

improve operational efficiencies and decentralise powers, granting greater autonomy to railway zones. Increasing autonomy has been a long-standing demand, supported by various committees, including the 2014 Sreedharan Committee.

Independent regulator

The Bill proposes to establish an independent regulator to oversee tariffs, safety, and the participation of the private sector in the Railways. Recommendations to have an independent regulator were earlier made in 2015 by the Committee on Restructuring Railways.

The amendment is expected to speed up the approval process for train services that will help meet pending demands from various regions.

The Bill will allow the government to fast-track infrastructure and super-fast train operations: for instance, extending the Arunachal Express via the Siwan, Thawe, Kaptanganj, and Gorakhpur route, which will benefit regions such as Bihar.

The railway network was established as a branch of the Public Works Department before Independence. "When the network expanded, Indian Railways Act, 1890, was enacted to enable proper functioning of different railway entities," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated in the amendment.

Mr. Vaishnaw further said the railway organisation was separated from the Public Works Department and the Railway Board Act was enacted in 1905.



Amid din, Lok Sabha clears Railways Bill to enhance independence of Board

हंगामे के बीच लोकसभा ने रेलवे बोर्ड की स्वतंत्रता बढ़ाने वाले विधेयक को मंजूरी दे दी

The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024 रेलवे (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024

- The **Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, was passed in the **Lok Sabha on Wednesday**, despite disruptions in parliamentary proceedings.
रेलवे (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2024, बुधवार को लोकसभा में पारित हुआ, भले ही संसदीय कार्यवाही में विघ्न आए।
- The Bill was passed **five months** after it was introduced on the **floor of the House**.
विधेयक को पाँच महीने बाद पारित किया गया, जब इसे संसद में प्रस्तुत किया गया था।
- It proposes to incorporate all provisions of the **erstwhile colonial-era Indian Railway Board Act, 1905**, into the **Railways Act, 1989**.
यह पूर्वकालीन औपनिवेशिक भारतीय रेलवे बोर्ड अधिनियम, 1905 के सभी प्रावधानों को रेलवे अधिनियम, 1989 में शामिल करने का प्रस्ताव है।
- The Bill aims to **simplify** the legal framework and reduce the need to refer to **two laws**.
विधेयक का उद्देश्य कानूनी ढांचे को सरल बनाना और दो कानूनों का संदर्भ देने की आवश्यकता को कम करना है।
- It proposes to amend the **Railways Act, 1989** to provide **statutory backing** to the **Railway Board**, which has been functioning without such sanction.
यह रेलवे अधिनियम, 1989 में संशोधन का प्रस्ताव है, ताकि रेलवे बोर्ड को कानूनी समर्थन मिल सके, जो अब तक बिना किसी अनुमोदन के कार्य कर रहा है।
- The amendment seeks to enhance the **functioning** and **independence** of the Railway Board.
संशोधन का उद्देश्य रेलवे बोर्ड के कार्य करने और स्वायत्तता को बढ़ाना है।
- The Bill adds provisions that authorise the **Union government** to decide the **composition** of the Railway Board, including the **number of members**, their **terms of service**, and their **qualifications**.
विधेयक में ऐसे प्रावधान जोड़े गए हैं जो संघीय सरकार को रेलवे बोर्ड की संरचना निर्धारित करने का अधिकार देते हैं, जिसमें सदस्यों की संख्या, उनके सेवा काल, और उनके योग्यता शामिल हैं।
- It also proposes to improve **operational efficiencies** and **decentralise powers**, granting greater autonomy to **railway zones**.
यह संचालनात्मक दक्षताओं को सुधारने और शक्तियों का विकेंद्रीकरण करने का भी प्रस्ताव है, जिससे रेलवे जोनों को अधिक स्वायत्तता मिलेगी।
- **Increasing autonomy** has been a long-standing demand, supported by various committees, including the **2014 Sreedharan Committee**.
स्वायत्तता बढ़ाने की यह एक लंबे समय से चली आ रही मांग है, जिसे विभिन्न समितियों ने समर्थन किया है, जिसमें 2014 श्रीधरन समिति भी शामिल है।



Independent Regulator स्वतंत्र नियामक

- The Bill proposes to establish an **independent regulator** to oversee **tariffs, safety,** and the participation of the **private sector** in the **Railways**.
विधेयक में स्वतंत्र नियामक स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव है, जो दरें, सुरक्षा, और रेलवे में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी की निगरानी करेगा।
- Earlier, the **2015 Committee on Restructuring Railways** had recommended setting up an independent regulator.
पहले, **2015 रेलवे पुनर्गठन समिति** ने एक स्वतंत्र नियामक स्थापित करने की सिफारिश की थी।
- The amendment is expected to **speed up the approval process** for new train services to meet **pending demands** from various regions.
संशोधन से नई ट्रेन सेवाओं के अनुमोदन प्रक्रिया को तेज करने की उम्मीद है, ताकि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की लंबित मांगों को पूरा किया जा सके।
- The Bill will allow the government to **fast-track infrastructure and superfast train operations**, such as extending the **Arunachal Express** through the **Siwan, Thawe, Kaptanganj,** and **Gorakhpur** route, benefiting regions like **Bihar**.
विधेयक सरकार को इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और सुपरफास्ट ट्रेन संचालन को तेज करने की अनुमति देगा, जैसे कि अरुणाचल एक्सप्रेस को सीवान, थावे, कप्तगंज, और गोरखपुर मार्ग से बढ़ाना, जो बिहार जैसे क्षेत्रों को लाभ पहुंचाएगा।
- The **railway network** was initially established as part of the **Public Works Department** before **Independence**.
रेलवे नेटवर्क को स्वतंत्रता से पहले सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग के हिस्से के रूप में स्थापित किया गया था।
- **Indian Railways Act, 1890** was enacted to enable the proper functioning of various railway entities.
भारतीय रेलवे अधिनियम, 1890 को विभिन्न रेलवे संस्थाओं के उचित संचालन को सक्षम करने के लिए बनाया गया था।
- Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** stated that the railway organization was later separated from the Public Works Department and the **Railway Board Act** was enacted in **1905**.
रेलवे मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने कहा कि बाद में रेलवे संगठन को सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग से अलग किया गया और रेलवे बोर्ड अधिनियम को 1905 में लागू किया गया।



ILO report asks nations to uphold freedom of association at work

GS Paper II: International Organizations and Bodies

The Social Dialogue Report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), released in Geneva on Wednesday, has recommended the governments to uphold fundamental principles and rights at work, especially freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

The report, focusing on 'peak-level social dialogue' (PLSD), also asked the member countries to equip labour administrations and social partners with the necessary resources and technical capacities for effective participation in PLSD.

It found that countries' compliance with freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargain-



Workers' rights: The ILO has said that governments must recognise the right to collective bargaining. FILE PHOTO

ing had deteriorated by 7% between 2015 and 2022. "This decline was driven by an increase in violations of the fundamental civil liberties and bargaining rights of employers, workers, and their representative organisations," the report said.

The report argues that social dialogue can enable countries to pursue economic development alongside social progress, while

ensuring fair and inclusive low-carbon and digital transitions.

The report adds that PLSD involves processes that bring together representatives of governments, employers' and business membership organisations (EBMOs) and workers' organisations (the social partners) at the national and sectoral levels. "These processes are designed to facilitate negotiation, con-

sultation and information exchange on issues relating to labour, economic and social policy. PLSD includes bipartite processes - where only the social partners engage, notably for reaching collective agreements - as well as tripartite processes, which also involve government representatives," the report said.

"This edition of the Social Dialogue Report is published amid economic and geopolitical instability," said ILO's Assistant Director-General for Governance, Rights and Dialogue Manuela Tomei. "In a context where technological advances, climate change and demographic shifts are deeply transforming labour markets, social dialogue remains a credible governance model for navigating complexity and identifying fair solutions."

ILO report asks nations to uphold freedom of association at work

आईएलओ की रिपोर्ट में देशों से कार्यस्थल पर संघ की स्वतंत्रता को बनाए रखने को कहा गया है

The Social Dialogue Report सामाजिक संवाद रिपोर्ट

- The **Social Dialogue Report** of the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, released in **Geneva on Wednesday**, has recommended that governments uphold **fundamental principles and rights at work**, especially **freedom of association** and the effective recognition of the **right to collective bargaining**.
इंटरनेशनल लेबर ऑर्गनाइजेशन (ILO) की सामाजिक संवाद रिपोर्ट, जो बुधवार को जिनेवा में



जारी की गई, ने सरकारों से **कार्यस्थल पर मौलिक सिद्धांतों और अधिकारों** को बनाए रखने की सिफारिश की है, विशेष रूप से **संघ बनाने की स्वतंत्रता और सामूहिक सौदेबाजी के अधिकार** की प्रभावी मान्यता।

- The report, focusing on '**peak-level social dialogue**' (PLSD), also asked member countries to equip **labour administrations** and **social partners** with necessary **resources and technical capacities** for effective participation in **PLSD**.
रिपोर्ट, जो '**पीक-लेवल सामाजिक संवाद**' (PLSD) पर केंद्रित है, ने सदस्य देशों से **श्रम प्रशासन और सामाजिक भागीदारों को प्रभावी भागीदारी** के लिए आवश्यक **संसाधनों और तकनीकी क्षमताओं** से लैस करने का आग्रह किया है।
- It found that countries' compliance with **freedom of association** and the **effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining** had deteriorated by **7%** between **2015** and **2022**.
इसमें पाया गया कि देशों का **संघ बनाने की स्वतंत्रता और सामूहिक सौदेबाजी के अधिकार की प्रभावी मान्यता** में **2015** और **2022** के बीच **7%** की गिरावट आई है।
- The report said, "This decline was driven by an increase in **violations** of the **fundamental civil liberties** and **bargaining rights** of employers, workers, and their representative organisations."
रिपोर्ट ने कहा, "यह गिरावट **नियोक्ताओं, कर्मचारियों, और उनके प्रतिनिधि संगठनों के मौलिक नागरिक स्वतंत्रताओं और सौदेबाजी अधिकारों के उल्लंघन में वृद्धि के कारण** आई है।"
- The report argues that **social dialogue** can enable countries to pursue **economic development** alongside **social progress**, while ensuring **fair and inclusive low-carbon and digital transitions**.
रिपोर्ट का कहना है कि **सामाजिक संवाद** देशों को **आर्थिक विकास** के साथ-साथ **सामाजिक प्रगति** की दिशा में बढ़ने में सक्षम बना सकता है, जबकि **न्यायपूर्ण और समावेशी निम्न-कार्बन और डिजिटल संक्रमण** सुनिश्चित करता है।
- The report adds that **PLSD** involves processes that bring together representatives of **governments, employers' and business membership organisations (EBMOs), and workers' organisations** (the **social partners**) at the **national and sectoral levels**.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि **PLSD** ऐसी प्रक्रियाओं को शामिल करता है जो **सरकारों, नियोक्ता और व्यापार सदस्यता संगठनों (EBMOs), और कर्मचारी संगठनों** (जो **सामाजिक भागीदार** होते हैं) को **राष्ट्रीय और क्षेत्रीय स्तरों पर एक साथ लाती हैं**।
- These processes are designed to facilitate **negotiation, consultation, and information exchange** on issues relating to **labour, economic, and social policy**.
यह प्रक्रियाएं **संचालन, परामर्श, और सूचना विनिमय** को सुगम बनाने के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई हैं, जो **श्रम, आर्थिक, और सामाजिक नीति** से संबंधित मुद्दों पर होती हैं।
- **PLSD** includes **bipartite processes** – where only the **social partners** engage, notably for reaching **collective agreements** – as well as **tripartite processes**, which also involve **government representatives**.
PLSD में **द्विपक्षीय प्रक्रियाएं** शामिल हैं – जहाँ केवल **सामाजिक भागीदार** जुड़ते हैं, विशेष रूप से **सामूहिक समझौतों तक पहुँचने के लिए** – और साथ ही **त्रिपक्षीय प्रक्रियाएं**, जिनमें **सरकारी प्रतिनिधि** भी शामिल होते हैं।
- "This edition of the **Social Dialogue Report** is published amid **economic and geopolitical instability**," said **ILO's Assistant Director-General for Governance, Rights and Dialogue Manuela Tomei**.
"सामाजिक संवाद रिपोर्ट का यह संस्करण **आर्थिक और भू-राजनीतिक अस्थिरता** के बीच प्रकाशित हुआ है," **ILO के गवर्नेस, अधिकार और संवाद विभाग की सहायक महानिदेशक मैनुएला टोमि** ने कहा।



- “In a context where **technological advances, climate change, and demographic shifts** are deeply transforming **labour markets, social dialogue** remains a credible governance model for navigating **complexity** and identifying **fair solutions.**”
“एक ऐसे संदर्भ में जहाँ प्रौद्योगिकी में प्रगति, जलवायु परिवर्तन, और जनसांख्यिकीय बदलाव श्रम बाजारों को गहरे रूप से बदल रहे हैं, सामाजिक संवाद जटिलता को नेविगेट करने और न्यायपूर्ण समाधान पहचानने के लिए एक विश्वसनीय गवर्नेंस मॉडल बना रहता है।”

India accounts for half of malaria cases in Southeast Asia in 2023

**GS Paper III: S&T:
Malaria**

NEW DELHI

The World Health Organisation (WHO) South East Asia Region contributes about 1.5% of the burden of malaria cases globally and India accounted for about half of all estimated cases in 2023, followed by Indonesia, which carried just under one-third.

Estimated malaria deaths in the region fell by 82.9%, from 35,000 in 2000 to 6,000 in 2023. Together, India and Indonesia accounted for about 88% of malaria deaths in the region.

This is according to the WHO's latest World Malaria Report (2024) released on Wednesday.

The report notes that since 2000, the WHO South-East Asia Region has made remarkable progress against malaria and esti-



Preventive mode: A health employee gives a malaria injection to a child in Abidjan of Ivory Coast in West Africa. FILE PHOTO

mated malaria cases in the region fell from 22.8 million in 2000 to 4 million in 2023 - a reduction of 82.4%.

“In the period 2022-2023, four countries achieved reductions in their malaria caseload – Bangladesh (-9.2%), India (-9.6%), Indonesia (-5.7%) and Nepal (-58.3%). Meanwhile, three countries saw case increases – Democratic People’s Republic of Ko-

rea (+47.9%), Thailand (+46.4%) and Myanmar (45.1%).

In 2023, both Timor-Leste and Bhutan reported zero indigenous cases of malaria.

A reduction in case incidence of 87% was achieved between 2000 and 2023, from 17.7 to 2.3 per 1000 population at risk.

“These gains have been largely attributed to progress in India, which saw

17.7 million fewer estimated cases and a 93% decrease in case incidence since 2000,” the report said.

Meanwhile, new data from the WHO revealed that an estimated 2.2 billion cases of malaria and 12.7 million deaths have been averted since 2000, but the disease remains a serious global health threat, particularly in the WHO African Region.

According to WHO's latest World malaria report, there were an estimated 263 million cases and 5,97,000 malaria deaths worldwide in 2023. This represents about 11 million more cases in 2023 compared to 2022, and nearly the same number of deaths. Meanwhile, as of November 2024, 44 countries and one territory had been certified malaria-free by WHO.

India accounts for half of malaria cases in Southeast Asia in 2023

2023 में दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया में मलेरिया के आधे मामले भारत में होंगे



World Health Organisation (WHO) Malaria Report 2024 विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) मलेरिया रिपोर्ट 2024

- The **WHO South East Asia Region** contributes about **1.5%** of the burden of **malaria cases globally**, and **India accounted for about half** of all estimated cases in **2023**, followed by **Indonesia**, which carried just under **one-third**.
WHO दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया क्षेत्र वैश्विक स्तर पर **मलेरिया मामलों के बोझ का लगभग 1.5%** योगदान देता है, और **भारत ने 2023 में अनुमानित मामलों का लगभग आधा हिस्सा** लिया, इसके बाद **इंडोनेशिया** है, जिसने **तीन-चौथाई से थोड़ा कम मामलों का बोझ** उठाया।
- **Estimated malaria deaths** in the region fell by **82.9%**, from **35,000 in 2000** to **6,000 in 2023**. **India and Indonesia together accounted for about 88%** of malaria deaths in the region.
क्षेत्र में **अनुमानित मलेरिया मौतों में 82.9%** की गिरावट आई, **2000 में 35,000 से 2023 में 6,000** हो गई। **भारत और इंडोनेशिया** ने मिलकर क्षेत्र में **मलेरिया मौतों का लगभग 88%** हिस्सा लिया।
- This is according to the **WHO's latest World Malaria Report (2024)** released on **Wednesday**.
यह **WHO की नवीनतम विश्व मलेरिया रिपोर्ट (2024)** के अनुसार है, जो **बुधवार को जारी** की गई।
- The report notes that since **2000**, the **WHO South-East Asia Region** has made **remarkable progress against malaria**, with **estimated malaria cases** in the region falling from **22.8 million in 2000** to **4 million in 2023** – a **reduction of 82.4%**.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि **2000 से, WHO दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया क्षेत्र** ने **मलेरिया के खिलाफ असाधारण प्रगति** की है, क्षेत्र में **अनुमानित मलेरिया मामलों की संख्या 2000 में 22.8 मिलियन से घटकर 2023 में 4 मिलियन** हो गई है – जो कि **82.4%** की कमी है।
- In the period **2022-2023**, **four countries** achieved reductions in their malaria caseload — **Bangladesh (-9.2%), India (-9.6%), Indonesia (-5.7%), and Nepal (-58.3%)**.
2022-2023 के दौरान, चार देशों ने अपने मलेरिया मामलों में कमी की — **बांगलादेश (-9.2%), भारत (-9.6%), इंडोनेशिया (-5.7%), और नेपाल (-58.3%)**।
- Meanwhile, three countries saw case increases — **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (+47.9%), Thailand (+46.4%), and Myanmar (+45.1%)**.
इसी दौरान, तीन देशों में मामलों में **वृद्धि देखी गई** — **लोकप्रिय लोकतांत्रिक गणराज्य कोरिया (+47.9%), थाईलैंड (+46.4%), और म्यांमार (+45.1%)**।
- In **2023**, both **Timor-Leste** and **Bhutan** reported **zero indigenous cases** of malaria.
2023 में, तिमोर-लेस्ते और भूटान ने मलेरिया के शून्य स्वदेशी मामले रिपोर्ट किए।
- A **reduction in case incidence of 87%** was achieved between **2000 and 2023**, from **17.7 to 2.3 per 1000 population** at risk.
2000 और 2023 के बीच मामलों की घटनाओं में 87% की कमी आई, जो **1000 व्यक्तियों में 17.7 से घटकर 2.3** रह गई।
- "These gains have been largely attributed to progress in **India**, which saw **17.7 million fewer estimated cases** and a **93% decrease in case incidence** since **2000**," the report said.
"इन लाभों का मुख्य कारण **भारत** में हुई प्रगति को दिया गया है, जहां **17.7 मिलियन कम अनुमानित मामले** और **2000 से मामलों में 93% की कमी** आई है," रिपोर्ट ने कहा।
- New data from the WHO revealed that an estimated **2.2 billion cases of malaria** and **12.7 million deaths** have been averted since **2000**, but the disease remains a serious global health threat, particularly in the **WHO African Region**.
WHO से नए डेटा से पता चला कि **2000 से अनुमानित 2.2 बिलियन मलेरिया मामले और 12.7**



मिलियन मौतें टाली गई हैं, लेकिन यह बीमारी अभी भी एक गंभीर वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य खतरा बनी हुई है, विशेष रूप से **WHO अफ्रीकी क्षेत्र** में।

- According to WHO's latest **World malaria report**, there were an estimated **263 million cases** and **5,97,000 malaria deaths worldwide** in **2023**.
WHO की नवीनतम **विश्व मलेरिया रिपोर्ट** के अनुसार, **2023** में वैश्विक स्तर पर **263 मिलियन मलेरिया मामले** और **5,97,000 मलेरिया मौतें** अनुमानित थीं।
- This represents about **11 million more cases** in **2023** compared to **2022**, and nearly the same number of deaths.
यह **2022** की तुलना में **2023** में लगभग **11 मिलियन अधिक मामले** का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, और लगभग उतनी ही संख्या में मौतें हुई हैं।
- Meanwhile, as of **November 2024**, **44 countries** and **one territory** had been certified **malaria-free** by WHO.
इसी दौरान, **नवंबर 2024** तक, **44 देशों** और **एक क्षेत्र** को WHO द्वारा **मलेरिया-मुक्त** प्रमाणित किया गया है।

RBI Governor Malhotra vows best batting stance in public interest

Taking charge at Mint Street, the cricket-loving new central bank boss steers clears of outswingers on **growth and inflation**, vows to play with a straight bat after getting a flavour of the pitch; says focus would be on continuity, **stability and certainty**

GS Paper III: Banking System in India

MUMBAI

The 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Sanjay Malhotra took charge of Mint Street on Wednesday, opening his account with a straight bat, committing to uphold and strengthen public trust in the central bank while maintaining a sense of continuity and the commitment to take appropriate decisions at the right time in public interest.

"I can assure you that we will put the best foot forward in public interest to deliver what the public of India looks forward to, which is trust, growth, sta-



New Innings: Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra took charge as the 26th Governor of RBI for the next three years on Wednesday. ANI

bility and certainty in policy," Mr. Malhotra said.

The computer science engineer turned bureaucrat, who was named the new banking regulator this Monday, said emphasis would be placed on tech-

nology and innovations to enhance financial inclusion and expansion.

A cricket lover and coffee aficionado Mr. Malhotra, in his first press conference as Governor, shied away from commenting on

issues like growth and inflation. He said, "It is my first day and so if I start playing my shots from day one, from ball one, I don't think it will be appropriate on my part."

Agile to challenges

Mr. Malhotra said that while maintaining continuity and stability, the RBI would be alert and agile to challenges.

Mr. Malhotra, who is learnt to have been briefed about his appointment hours before it was made public, said it was "an honor to head this august institution and a huge responsibility" and that he would continue to uphold the legacy of the RBI.

With this appointment Mr. Malhotra, a Punjabi, who was born, raised and has worked in North India, will make Mumbai his home for at least three years and gain a first-hand experience of what makes the port city and India's financial capital tick.

Highlighting RBI's 90th anniversary theme of stability, trust and growth, he said these were pertinent for the economy. Noting the RBI has done a tremendous job in monetary policy management and financial inclusion, he said one needs to be conscious that one does not have a monopoly on all knowledge, so external expertise should also be tapped.

RBI Governor Malhotra vows best batting stance in public interest

आरबीआई गवर्नर मल्होत्रा ने जनहित में सर्वश्रेष्ठ बल्लेबाजी रुख अपनाने की कसम खाई



Taking charge at Mint Street, the cricket-loving new central bank boss steers clear of outswingers on growth and inflation, vows to play with a straight bat after getting a flavour of the pitch; says focus would be on continuity, stability and certainty

मिंट स्ट्रीट में कार्यभार संभालते हुए, क्रिकेट प्रेमी नए केंद्रीय बैंक के प्रमुख ने विकास और निवेश पर आउटस्विंगर से दूरी बनाए रखी, पिच का जायजा लेने के बाद सीधे बल्ले से खेलने की कसम खाई; कहा कि निरंतरता, स्थिरता और निश्चितता पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा

26th Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - Sanjay Malhotra Takes Charge
भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) के 26वें गवर्नर - संजय मल्होत्रा ने पदभार ग्रहण किया

- **Sanjay Malhotra, the 26th Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), took charge of Mint Street on Wednesday.**
संजय मल्होत्रा, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) के 26वें गवर्नर ने बुधवार को मिंट स्ट्रीट में पदभार ग्रहण किया।
- He committed to **uphold and strengthen public trust** in the central bank while **maintaining continuity** and making **appropriate decisions** at the right time in **public interest**.
उन्होंने केंद्रीय बैंक में जनता का विश्वास बनाए रखने और मजबूत करने की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की, जबकि निरंतरता बनाए रखते हुए और सार्वजनिक हित में सही समय पर उचित निर्णय लेने की बात की।
- "I can assure you that we will put the best foot forward in **public interest** to deliver what the public of **India looks forward to**, which is **trust, growth, stability, and certainty in policy**," Mr. Malhotra said.
"मैं आपको विश्वास दिला सकता हूँ कि हम जनता के हित में सबसे अच्छा कदम उठाएंगे, ताकि हम वही दे सकें जिसकी भारत की जनता उम्मीद करती है, यानी विश्वास, विकास, स्थिरता और नीति में निश्चितता," श्री मल्होत्रा ने कहा।
- Mr. Malhotra, a **computer science engineer turned bureaucrat**, emphasized the importance of **technology** and **innovation** to enhance **financial inclusion** and expansion.
श्री मल्होत्रा, जो एक कंप्यूटर साइंस इंजीनियर से ब्यूरोक्रेट बने हैं, ने वित्तीय समावेशन और विस्तार को बढ़ाने के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार के महत्व पर बल दिया।
- A **cricket lover** and **coffee aficionado**, Mr. Malhotra, in his first press conference as Governor, refrained from commenting on issues like **growth** and **inflation**.
क्रिकेट प्रेमी और कॉफी प्रेमी श्री मल्होत्रा ने, गवर्नर के रूप में अपनी पहली प्रेस कांफ्रेंस में, वृद्धि और मुद्रास्फीति जैसे मुद्दों पर टिप्पणी करने से परहेज किया।
- "It is my first day and so if I start playing my shots from day one, from ball one, I don't think it will be appropriate on my part," he said.
"यह मेरा पहला दिन है, और अगर मैं पहले दिन, पहले बॉल से ही अपने शॉट्स खेलना शुरू कर दूँ, तो मुझे नहीं लगता कि यह मेरे लिए उचित होगा," उन्होंने कहा।
- Mr. Malhotra stated that while maintaining **continuity** and **stability**, the **RBI** would be alert and **agile to challenges**.
श्री मल्होत्रा ने कहा कि निरंतरता और स्थिरता बनाए रखते हुए, RBI को चुनौतियों के प्रति सतर्क और चुस्त रहना होगा।



- Mr. Malhotra, who was briefed about his appointment **hours before it was made public**, said it was "an honor to head this august institution and a huge responsibility".
श्री मल्होत्रा, जिन्हें **नियुक्ति सार्वजनिक किए जाने के कुछ घंटे पहले ही सूचित किया गया था**, ने कहा कि यह "इस प्रतिष्ठित संस्था का प्रमुख बनना एक सम्मान और बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है।"
- He will continue to uphold the **legacy of RBI**.
वह **RBI की धरोहर** को बनाए रखेंगे।
- With this appointment, Mr. Malhotra, a **Punjabi**, who was born, raised, and has worked in **North India**, will make **Mumbai his home** for at least three years.
इस नियुक्ति के साथ, श्री मल्होत्रा, जो एक **पंजाबी** हैं, जिन्हें **उत्तर भारत** में जन्म, पालन-पोषण और कार्य करने का अनुभव है, **मुंबई को अपना घर** बनाएंगे, कम से कम तीन वर्षों के लिए।
- He will gain **first-hand experience** of what makes the **port city** and **India's financial capital tick**.
वह **पहला अनुभव** प्राप्त करेंगे कि क्या चीजें **पोर्ट सिटी** और **भारत की वित्तीय राजधानी** को चलाती हैं।
- Highlighting the **RBI's 90th anniversary theme of stability, trust, and growth**, he said these were essential for the economy.
RBI की 90वीं वर्षगांठ के विषय स्थिरता, विश्वास और विकास को उजागर करते हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि ये अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए आवश्यक हैं।
- Noting the **RBI's achievements in monetary policy management and financial inclusion**, he said one must be aware that **no one has a monopoly on all knowledge**, so **external expertise** should also be tapped.
मौद्रिक नीति प्रबंधन और वित्तीय समावेशन में RBI की उपलब्धियों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि हमें यह समझना चाहिए कि **कोई भी व्यक्ति सभी ज्ञान पर एकाधिकार नहीं रखता**, इसलिए **बाहरी विशेषज्ञता** का भी उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए।



How Ba'ath Party's six-decade-long rule in Syria came to a crashing end

NEWS ANALYSIS

GS Paper II: Developing Countries

The Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the Syrian Islamist militant group, had been preparing for months for a large-scale offensive against the forces of Bashar al-Assad. The HTS, formerly called al-Nusra Front, the Syrian arm of al-Qaeda, had built a statelet in northwestern Syria's Idlib under the leadership of its 'emir', Abu Muhammed al-Jolani. The HTS and its ally Syrian National Army (SNA) had informed Turkiye, their patron, at least six months ago about the offensive plan, according to a Reuters report.

Mr. Assad's troops were in a bad shape. Soldiers were poorly paid and lacked motivation. Under crippling American sanctions, its finances were in shambles. During the peak of the civil war, in 2015-16, Mr. Assad had heavily relied on his external allies for security – Russia, Iran and Hezbollah. Now, the situation was different. The Russians were focused on Ukraine. Iran lost a host of its Syria commanders to Israeli strikes. Hezbollah had been weakened in a year-long war with Israel.

The HTS launched its offensive on November 27, the day Israel and Lebanon signed a ceasefire. On the 12th day, the Assad regime fell.

Offensive begins

When they launched the offensive, the militants' initial target was the western suburbs of Aleppo, Syria's second largest city. When HTS and SNA militants advanced towards Aleppo, they faced little resistance



No challenge: HTS and SNA militants faced little resistance from the Army when they advanced towards Aleppo. AFP

from government forces. Within four days, they reached Aleppo's city centre.

The rapid collapse of government forces in Aleppo stunned both the militants and the regime alike. The HTS's victory triggered rebellion elsewhere in the country. In the south, local militias, who were backed by Jordan, started attacking government positions. In the northeast, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a Kurdish militia, started advancing towards the eastern city of Deir Ezzour. The HTS, the main militant group, marched south from Aleppo towards Hama. On December 5, they entered Hama.

Mr. Assad turned to Iran and Russia for help. But Syrian and other Arab officials say both Russia and Iran told the Syrian President that they could not help him much this time.

Mr. Assad's circle was shrinking. His troops were not fighting back. He was not getting any external help. The militants were on a march from multiple fronts. From Hama, the HTS advanced towards Homs, a strategically important city that sits at an intersection between Syria's Mediterranean coast

and Damascus, the seat of power. On December 7, HTS-linked militants entered Homs. The next day, the Southern Front, militants from the south who had already taken Daara, entered Damascus first, followed by the HTS. Syria's Prime Minister Muhammad al-Jalali said he would ensure a peaceful transition of power, bringing the 60-year rule of the Socialist Ba'ath Party to a dramatic end.

Different rebel groups

The fall of the regime leaves a huge vacuum in Syria. Today, there are four major rebel coalitions in the country. First, the HTS, led by Jolani. HTS telegram channels already call him 'President' Shara, referring to his real name, Ahmed Hussein al-Shara. The HTS has built a government in Idlib and has some 25,000 soldiers under its command. But that may not be enough to run a vast country like Syria. The HTS certainly wants to play a key role in the new Syria, and has sent reconciliatory messages to the country's different sects and militias. The SNA is an ally of the HTS and a proxy of Turkiye.

Second, the local mili-

tias in the south. That they entered Damascus first was a clear message to Jolani that he was not the only 'rebel' in the game. Third, is the SDF, the Kurdish militia. In the northeast, the Kurds have enjoyed relative autonomy since the beginning of the civil war. But Turkiye was alarmed by the Kurds's growing strength and had launched incursions into Syria in the past, grabbing territories on the border.

And finally, there are the Alawites, Mr. Assad's sect who live mostly in the mountainous coastal regions of Latakia and Tartus, and has enjoyed power for nearly 50 years. The Alawites were the backbone of the Syrian Army. They are unlikely to immediately trust Jolani, a committed Salafi Islamist militant, whose group in the past had carried out targeted attacks against Alawites.

Syria is a diverse country. It now has a diverse set of militias, without a central authority. And then there are external players. Turkiye, as the main supporter of northern militias (HTS and SNA), would seek to extend its influence in the government formation.

Jordan would like to see the southern militias getting their due. The Gulf Arabs, who are wary of both Islamists and Turkiye, would be alarmed by the developments. Iran risks losing its territorial link with Hezbollah. Russia's primary objective would be to safeguard its Tartus naval base and Khmeimim air base. And Israel has already sent troops to capture land in Syria's Golan Heights and is carrying out massive air strikes aimed at destroying Syria's military capabilities.



How Ba'ath Party's six-decade-long rule in Syria came to a crashing end

सीरिया में बाथ पार्टी का छह दशक लंबा शासन कैसे खत्म हो गया

HTS Launches Offensive Against Bashar al-Assad Forces

एचटीएस ने बशर अल-असद की सेनाओं के खिलाफ आक्रमण शुरू किया

- The **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**, a **Syrian Islamist militant group**, had been preparing for months for a large-scale **offensive against Bashar al-Assad's forces**. हयात तहरीर अल-शाम (एचटीएस), एक सीरियाई इस्लामिक उग्रवादी समूह, बशर अल-असद की सेनाओं के खिलाफ वर्षों से बड़े पैमाने पर आक्रमण की तैयारी कर रहा था।
- HTS, formerly known as **al-Nusra Front**, had built a statelet in **northwestern Syria's Idlib** under the leadership of **Abu Muhammed al-Jolani**. HTS, जिसे पहले **अल-नुसरा फ्रंट** के नाम से जाना जाता था, ने सीरिया के उत्तर-पश्चिमी इदलिब में **अबू मुहम्मद अल-जोलानी** के नेतृत्व में एक राज्य का निर्माण किया था।
- HTS and its ally, the **Syrian National Army (SNA)**, had informed **Turkey** about the offensive plan at least **six months ago**, according to a Reuters report. HTS और उसके सहयोगी **सीरियाई राष्ट्रीय सेना (SNA)** ने **तुर्की** को कम से कम **छह महीने पहले** आक्रमण योजना के बारे में सूचित किया था, एक रॉयटर्स रिपोर्ट के अनुसार।
- Assad's troops were in **poor shape**, with **low morale** and **poor pay**. Under crippling **American sanctions**, Syria's finances were in shambles. असद की सेनाएं **खराब स्थिति** में थीं, **कम वेतन** और **कम प्रेरणा** के साथ। **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों** के कारण सीरिया की वित्तीय स्थिति खराब हो गई थी।
- During the peak of the civil war in **2015-16**, Assad had relied heavily on **Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah** for security, but the situation was different now. **2015-16** के नागरिक युद्ध के चरम पर, असद ने सुरक्षा के लिए **रूस, ईरान, और हिज़बुल्लाह** पर भारी निर्भरता बनाई थी, लेकिन अब स्थिति अलग थी।
- The **Russians** were focused on **Ukraine**, and **Iran** lost many Syria commanders to **Israeli strikes**, while **Hezbollah** had been weakened in a **year-long war with Israel**. **रूस यूक्रेन** पर केंद्रित था, और **ईरान** ने **इस्राइल** द्वारा हमलों में अपने कई सीरियाई कमांडरों को खो दिया था, जबकि **हिज़बुल्लाह** **इस्राइल** के साथ एक साल लंबी युद्ध में कमजोर हो गया था।
- The HTS launched its **offensive on November 27**, the day **Israel** and **Lebanon** signed a ceasefire. HTS ने **27 नवम्बर** को अपना **आक्रमण शुरू किया**, उसी दिन जब **इज़राइल** और **लेबनान** ने एक **सीजफायर** पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
- On the **12th day** of the offensive, the **Assad regime fell**. आक्रमण के **12वें दिन**, **असद शासन गिर गया**।

Offensive Begins

आक्रमण की शुरुआत

- The initial target of the militants was the **western suburbs of Aleppo**, Syria's second-largest city.



आतंकवादियों का प्रारंभिक लक्ष्य **अलेप्पो के पश्चिमी उपनगर** थे, जो सीरिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा शहर है।

- When HTS and SNA militants advanced towards Aleppo, they faced **little resistance** from government forces.
जब HTS और SNA के उग्रवादी अलेप्पो की ओर बढ़े, तो उन्हें सरकारी सेनाओं से **बहुत कम प्रतिरोध** का सामना करना पड़ा।
- Within **four days**, they reached the **city center of Aleppo**.
चार दिनों के भीतर, वे **अलेप्पो के शहर केंद्र** तक पहुँच गए।
- The rapid collapse of government forces in Aleppo stunned both the militants and the Assad regime.
अलेप्पो में सरकारी सेनाओं का तेज़ पतन दोनों उग्रवादियों और असद शासन को **हैरान कर दिया**।
- The HTS's victory triggered **rebellion elsewhere in Syria**, with local militias in the **south** attacking government positions and the **SDF** advancing towards **Deir Ezzour**.
HTS की जीत ने **सीरिया के अन्य हिस्सों में विद्रोह** को जन्म दिया, जहाँ **दक्षिण में स्थानीय मिलिशिया** सरकार की स्थिति पर हमला कर रही थी और **SDF देयर एज़ज़ोर** की ओर बढ़ रहा था।
- HTS advanced **south towards Hama** and entered the city on **December 5**.
HTS **हामा की ओर दक्षिण बढ़ा** और **5 दिसंबर** को शहर में प्रवेश किया।
- Mr. Assad turned to **Iran** and **Russia** for help, but both told him they could not help him much.
श्री असद ने **ईरान** और **रूस** से मदद के लिए संपर्क किया, लेकिन दोनों ने उन्हें बताया कि वे इस बार उनकी मदद नहीं कर सकते।
- Mr. Assad's circle was shrinking, and his troops were not **fighting back**. The militants advanced from **multiple fronts**.
श्री असद का दायरा सिकुड़ रहा था, और उनकी सेनाएं **प्रतिरोध नहीं कर रही थीं**। उग्रवादी **कई मोर्चों से** बढ़ रहे थे।
- From **Hama**, HTS advanced towards **Homs**, a strategically important city. HTS-linked militants entered **Homs on December 7**.
हामा से, HTS **होम्स की ओर बढ़ा**, जो एक रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण शहर है। HTS से जुड़े उग्रवादी **7 दिसंबर** को **होम्स में प्रवेश कर गए**।
- On **December 8**, the **Southern Front** militants, who had taken **Daara**, entered **Damascus** first, followed by HTS militants.
8 दिसंबर को, **Southern Front** के उग्रवादी, जिन्होंने **दारा** पर कब्जा किया था, पहले **दमिश्क** में प्रवेश किए, इसके बाद HTS के उग्रवादी आए।
- Syria's **Prime Minister Muhammad al-Jalali** stated he would ensure a **peaceful transition of power**, ending the **60-year rule of the Ba'ath Party**.
सीरिया के **प्रधानमंत्री मोहम्मद अल-जालाली** ने कहा कि वह **शक्ति का शांतिपूर्ण हस्तांतरण** सुनिश्चित करेंगे, जिससे **बाथ पार्टी का 60 साल का शासन समाप्त** होगा।

Different Rebel Groups विभिन्न विद्रोही समूह

- The fall of the regime left a huge vacuum in Syria, with four major rebel coalitions: शासन के गिरने से सीरिया में एक विशाल शून्य उत्पन्न हुआ, जिसमें चार प्रमुख विद्रोही गठबंधन थे:
 - **HTS**, led by **Jolani**, has built a government in **Idlib** with **25,000 soldiers** but may not have enough strength to govern Syria.
HTS, जो **जोलानी** के नेतृत्व में है, ने **इदलिब** में एक सरकार बनाई है और इसके पास **25,000 सैनिक** हैं, लेकिन शायद सीरिया को शासन करने के लिए पर्याप्त शक्ति नहीं है।



- **SNA**, an ally of HTS and a proxy of **Turkey**, also plays a significant role. **SNA**, जो HTS का सहयोगी और **तुर्की** का प्रॉक्सी है, भी एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।
- **Local militias** in the **south** attacked government positions and challenged HTS's dominance.
दक्षिण के स्थानीय मिलिशिया ने सरकारी पदों पर हमला किया और HTS के प्रभुत्व को चुनौती दी।
- The **SDF**, a Kurdish militia, has enjoyed autonomy in **northeastern Syria** and is advancing towards **territory in the east**.
SDF, एक कुर्द मिलिशिया, ने **सीरिया के उत्तर-पूर्व** में स्वायत्तता का आनंद लिया है और **पूरब में** अपने क्षेत्र की ओर बढ़ रहा है।
- The **Alawites**, Assad's sect, are concentrated in the **coastal regions of Latakia and Tartus** and have been in power for nearly 50 years.
अलवाइट्स, असद के सम्प्रदाय, **लताकिया और तर्तूस के तटीय क्षेत्रों** में केंद्रित हैं और लगभग 50 वर्षों से सत्ता में हैं।
- **Turkey** seeks to extend its influence over the formation of the new government, and **Jordan** wants southern militias to gain recognition.
तुर्की नई सरकार के गठन में अपनी प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने की कोशिश कर रहा है, और **जॉर्डन** चाहता है कि दक्षिणी मिलिशिया को मान्यता मिले।
- The **Gulf Arabs** are wary of both **Islamists** and **Turkey**, while **Iran** risks losing its link with **Hezbollah**.
गुल्फ अरब इस्लामवादियों और **तुर्की** दोनों से सावधान हैं, जबकि **ईरान** हिज़बुल्लाह के साथ अपने संबंधों को खोने का जोखिम उठाता है।
- **Russia's** primary objective is to safeguard its **Tartus naval base** and **Khmeimim air base**.
रूस का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य अपनी **तर्तूस नौसैनिक अड्डा** और **खमीमिम हवाई अड्डा** की सुरक्षा करना है।
- **Israel** has already sent troops to capture land in **Syria's Golan Heights** and is carrying out massive air strikes to destroy Syria's military capabilities.
इज़राइल ने पहले ही **सीरिया के गोलान हाइट्स** में जमीन कब्जा करने के लिए सैनिक भेजे हैं और सीरिया की सैन्य क्षमताओं को नष्ट करने के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर हवाई हमले कर रहा है।

FIFA announces the hosts for the 2030 and 2034 men's World Cups



GETTY IMAGES

Saudi Arabia will host the men's football World Cup in 2034 while the 2030 edition will be held in Spain, Portugal and Morocco, FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced following a virtual extraordinary Congress. With both the editions having only a single bid, they were confirmed by acclamation.

FIFA announces the hosts for the 2030 and 2034 men's World Cups

फीफा ने 2030 और 2034 के पुरुष विश्व कप के मेजबान की घोषणा की

Saudi Arabia to Host Men's Football World Cup in 2034

2034 में सऊदी अरब पुरुष फुटबॉल विश्व कप की मेज़बानी करेगा



- **Saudi Arabia** will host the **men's football World Cup in 2034**.
सऊदी अरब 2034 में पुरुष फुटबॉल विश्व कप की मेज़बानी करेगा।
- The **2030 edition** of the tournament will be held in **Spain, Portugal, and Morocco**.
2030 संस्करण इस टूर्नामेंट का स्पेन, पुर्तगाल और मोरक्को में आयोजित होगा।
- **FIFA President Gianni Infantino** announced the decision following a **virtual extraordinary Congress**.
फीफा अध्यक्ष जियानी इंफेंटिनो ने इस फैसले की घोषणा एक आभासी असाधारण कांग्रेस के बाद की।
- Both the **2030** and **2034 editions** had only a **single bid**, and they were confirmed by **acclamation**.
2030 और 2034 संस्करणों के लिए केवल एक ही बोली थी, और इन्हें सर्वसम्मति से स्वीकार किया गया।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Climate impact of exploring space passing below the radar

Making satellites is an energy-intensive process. Every launch also releases carbon dioxide, black carbon, and water vapour. Rocket propellants deplete the ozone layer and disrupt atmospheric circulation. Satellites burning up in the air release ash into the atmosphere's middle layers

**GS Paper III:
Environment**

As the world becomes more reliant on space technology for vital functions like climate monitoring, the environmental consequences of space activities also become increasingly urgent and in need of more attention. The rapid growth of the number of satellites in orbit has led to concerns about interference with climate monitoring systems and the accumulation of orbital debris. With no specific international regulations addressing these challenges, it is crucial the world's governments act quickly to ensure space exploration doesn't drift into unsustainability.

How rockets affect the environment

Every rocket launch releases carbon dioxide, black carbon, and water vapour into the atmosphere. Black carbon is of particular concern because it absorbs sunlight 500 times more effectively than carbon dioxide does, amplifying global warming. As commercial space ventures become more common, the cumulative impact of these emissions will worsen.

Rocket propellants, especially those using chlorine-based chemicals, deplete the ozone layer at high altitudes, increasing exposure to ultraviolet radiation on the ground as well as disrupting atmospheric circulation – both of which affect the global climate.

According to a December 9 article in *MIT Tech Review*, when satellites "burn up in the atmosphere" once their missions end, they release "satellite ash in the middle layers of the earth's atmosphere. This metallic ash can harm the atmosphere and potentially alter the climate."

Next, like many other forms of manufacturing, the production of satellites demands energy-intensive processes involving metals and composite materials, whose extraction and preparation have large carbon footprints of their own. Satellites also use propulsion systems to adjust their location and orientation in orbit, and their emissions add to the overall count. Equally, the rise of space mining – e.g. extracting valuable (on the earth) minerals from asteroids – could lead to increased industrial activity both in space and on the ground. Such mining activities haven't begun yet, but they are sure to be part of the future.

While space technology supports essential climate monitoring and disaster management, the environmental costs for the earth's atmosphere and space are escalating, requiring urgent redressal.

Dangers of orbital debris

Orbital debris, or space junk, refers to defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, and pieces of satellites produced when they break apart in low earth orbit (LEO).

According to the European Space Agency, as of September 2024, there had been around 6,740 rocket launches since 1957 that placed 19,590 satellites in orbit. Around 13,230 are still in space, and of them 10,200 are still functional.

Since the space in earth's orbit is a resource just like water bodies and land masses on the ground, the occupation of orbits by non-functional objects constitutes a form of pollution as well – with the added threat of risk magnification.

For example, space surveillance



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. The rocket carried 23 Starlink satellites. AP

networks have catalogued around 36,860 space objects thus far, including those produced in the 650+ fragmentation events (break-ups, explosions, and collisions). The total mass of all space objects in orbit exceeds 13,000 tonnes. As this mass continues to increase, the collision risks to satellites increase as well. Most space junk can reach speeds of up to 29 km/hr. When moving so fast, even a minuscule piece of metal can smash through a satellite like a bullet, damaging critical components, including those used for communication, navigation, and to monitor climate parameters of merit.

Orbital debris also poses an indirect threat by interfering with scientists' ability to collect data about the earth – from tracking disasters to monitoring weather – from space, such as by interfering with radio waves. Such threats also obligate satellite operators to invest in shielding satellites and actively perform costly manoeuvres to avoid collisions; both requirements drive up mission cost.

The risks are even more significant for human-crewed missions. For example, the International Space Station frequently adjusts its orbit to avoid debris.

Barriers to space sustainability

Regulation is key to ensuring space remains accessible and space activities remain environmentally sustainable. Without clear guidelines, the unchecked growth of emissions and debris will harm the earth's climate and increase the barriers to future space exploration.

Space activities currently fall outside international sustainability instruments like the Paris Agreement, so governments need to establish standards for emissions from rockets and satellites to prevent them from becoming overlooked contributors to global warming.

Without regulations, the increasing number of satellites and debris will overcrowd LEO, rendering future missions more expensive, which in turn would subtract from space's identity as a shared global resource that needs to be

The mass of objects in orbit exceeds 13,000 tonnes. As this increases, the collision risks increase as well. Most space junk can reach speeds of up to 29 km/hr. Even a minuscule piece can smash through a satellite

equally accessible to everyone. International cooperation through bodies like the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS) is necessary to create enforceable standards in this context.

Governments can also ensure such frameworks align with the Outer Space Treaty's principles of responsible use of space while addressing the treaty's current lack of binding provisions. This unit is particularly crucial if countries are to address the environmental impacts of space activities.

Achieving sustainability

Achieving sustainability in space exploration requires innovative solutions, which also present challenges of their own. For example, reusable rockets like those developed by SpaceX and Blue Origin reduce manufacturing waste and lower costs by allowing engineers to reuse rocket components in multiple missions. But the reusable parts are often heavier, which increases fuel consumption. These also have limited applicability for high-orbit missions, and their wear and tear invokes costly refurbishments. Thus scaling this technology while maintaining efficiency remains a hurdle.

Second, transitioning to cleaner fuels like liquid hydrogen and/or biofuels can minimise harmful emissions during liftoffs. However, hydrogen is currently produced with non-renewable energy, negating its environmental benefits. Cryogenic fuels – which provide more thrust for the same mass – are more expensive and more complex to handle, keeping them out of reach of smaller

operators. Electric propulsion is another option, but its low thrust restricts its use to specific missions like in-orbit manoeuvres.

Third, designing satellites with biodegradable materials that naturally disintegrate during re-entry can prevent long-term debris accumulation. On the flip side, these materials currently lack the durability required for the extreme conditions of space. High development costs and limited adoption further slow progress. Autonomous debris removal (ADR) technologies such as robotic arms and laser systems also offer hope for cleaning up orbital debris, but again, they are currently expensive as well as need more legal clarity before they can begin to operate safely.

A global traffic system to monitor satellites and debris in real time could reduce collisions and optimise orbit use. Resistance to data sharing, including due to security and commercial concerns, and the lack of a unified international authority hinder its development, however.

None of these hurdles are permanent, of course. Moreover, whereas individual solutions face significant challenges, a combined approach may be more feasible.

For example, binding agreements through COPUOS can standardise emission limits, debris mitigation, and data-sharing practices; governments and private entities can prioritise funding for green technologies, ADR systems, and satellite biodegradability; and financial rewards, subsidies, or penalties can nudge private actors towards sustainable practices.

At the intersection of technological advancement and environmental responsibility, the choices we make today will define the future of space exploration.

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Climate impact of exploring space passing below the radar

रडार के नीचे से गुजरने वाले अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण का जलवायु पर प्रभाव

Making satellites is an energy-intensive process. Every launch also releases carbon dioxide, black carbon, and water vapour. Rocket propellants deplete the ozone layer and disrupt atmospheric circulation. Satellites burning up in the air release ash into the atmosphere's middle layers

उपग्रह बनाना एक ऊर्जा-गहन प्रक्रिया है। हर प्रक्षेपण से कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड, ब्लैक कार्बन और जल वाष्प भी निकलता है। रॉकेट प्रणोदक ओजोन परत को नष्ट करते हैं और वायुमंडलीय परिसंचरण को बाधित करते हैं। हवा में जलने वाले उपग्रह वायुमंडल की मध्य परतों में राख छोड़ते हैं

Environmental Consequences of Space Activities अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों के पर्यावरणीय परिणाम

- As the world becomes more reliant on **space technology** for **vital functions** like **climate monitoring**, the **environmental consequences** of space activities are becoming more urgent.
जैसे-जैसे दुनिया **जलवायु निगरानी** जैसी **महत्वपूर्ण कार्यों** के लिए **अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी** पर अधिक निर्भर होती जा रही है, अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों के **पर्यावरणीय परिणाम** और भी अधिक जरूरी होते जा रहे हैं।
- The **growth in the number of satellites** has raised concerns about interference with **climate monitoring systems** and the accumulation of **orbital debris**.
उपग्रहों की संख्या में वृद्धि ने **जलवायु निगरानी प्रणालियों** के साथ हस्तक्षेप और **कक्षीय मलबे** के संचय के बारे में चिंताएँ उत्पन्न की हैं।
- There are **no specific international regulations** addressing these challenges, making it crucial for **governments** to act quickly to ensure space exploration doesn't drift into **unsustainability**.
इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए **कोई विशेष अंतरराष्ट्रीय नियम** नहीं हैं, इसलिए यह जरूरी है कि **सरकारें** जल्दी से कार्रवाई करें ताकि अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण **असततता** की ओर न बढ़े।

How Rockets Affect the Environment रॉकेट पर्यावरण को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं

- Every **rocket launch** releases **carbon dioxide, black carbon, and water vapour** into the atmosphere.
हर रॉकेट प्रक्षेपण कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड, ब्लैक कार्बन और जलवाष्प को वायुमंडल में छोड़ता है।



- **Black carbon** is particularly concerning because it absorbs **sunlight 500 times more effectively** than **carbon dioxide**, increasing **global warming**.
ब्लैक कार्बन विशेष रूप से चिंताजनक है क्योंकि यह सूर्य के प्रकाश को 500 गुना अधिक प्रभावी तरीके से कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड से अधिक अवशोषित करता है, जिससे वैश्विक तापन बढ़ता है।
- **Rocket propellants**, especially those using **chlorine-based chemicals**, deplete the **ozone layer** at high altitudes, increasing exposure to **ultraviolet radiation**.
रॉकेट प्रणोदक, खासकर वे जो क्लोरीन-आधारित रसायनों का उपयोग करते हैं, उच्च ऊंचाई पर ओजोन परत को नष्ट करते हैं, जिससे पराबैंगनी विकिरण का जोखिम बढ़ता है।
- When satellites burn up in the atmosphere, they release **satellite ash**, which can harm the atmosphere and potentially alter the **climate**.
जब उपग्रह वातावरण में जलते हैं, तो वे उपग्रह की राख छोड़ते हैं, जो वायुमंडल को नुकसान पहुँचा सकती है और संभवतः जलवायु को बदल सकती है।
- The **production of satellites** demands **energy-intensive processes**, contributing to **large carbon footprints**.
उपग्रहों का उत्पादन ऊर्जा-गहन प्रक्रियाओं की मांग करता है, जो बड़े कार्बन फुटप्रिंट में योगदान करते हैं।
- Satellites use **propulsion systems** to adjust location and orientation, adding to the overall **emissions**.
उपग्रह प्रणोदन प्रणालियों का उपयोग करके अपनी स्थिति और अभिविन्यास को समायोजित करते हैं, जो विभागीय उत्सर्जन में जोड़ते हैं।
- **Space mining**, like extracting minerals from asteroids, could increase **industrial activity** both in space and on Earth, leading to higher environmental impact.
अंतरिक्ष खनन, जैसे कि क्षुद्रग्रहों से खनिजों का निष्कर्षण, उद्योग गतिविधि को अंतरिक्ष और पृथ्वी दोनों में बढ़ा सकता है, जिससे पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव में वृद्धि हो सकती है।

Dangers of Orbital Debris

कक्षीय मलबे के खतरें

- **Orbital debris**, also known as **space junk**, includes defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, and pieces of satellites from low Earth orbit (LEO).
कक्षीय मलबा, जिसे अंतरिक्ष कचरा भी कहा जाता है, में पुराने उपग्रह, खर्च हो चुके रॉकेट चरण, और लो अर्थ ऑर्बिट (LEO) से टूटे हुए उपग्रहों के टुकड़े शामिल हैं।
- As of **September 2024**, there had been around **6,740 rocket launches** placing **19,590 satellites** in orbit.
सितंबर 2024 तक, लगभग **6,740 रॉकेट प्रक्षेपण** हुए थे, जिन्होंने **19,590 उपग्रहों** को कक्षा में रखा।
- Around **13,230 satellites** are still in space, and **10,200** of them are still functional.
लगभग **13,230 उपग्रह** अभी भी अंतरिक्ष में हैं, और उनमें से **10,200** अभी भी कार्यशील हैं।
- The occupation of orbits by **non-functional objects** constitutes a form of **pollution**, with the added risk of **risk magnification**.
गैर-कार्यात्मक वस्तुओं द्वारा कक्षाओं पर कब्जा करना प्रदूषण का रूप है, जिसमें जोखिम के विस्तार का अतिरिक्त खतरा होता है।

Environmental Impact of Space Debris and Regulation Challenges

अंतरिक्ष मलबे और नियमन की चुनौतियाँ

- Space surveillance networks have catalogued **around 36,860 space objects** so far, including those from **650+ fragmentation events** such as break-ups, explosions,



and collisions.

अंतरिक्ष निगरानी नेटवर्क ने अब तक **लगभग 36,860 अंतरिक्ष वस्तुओं** को सूचीबद्ध किया है, जिसमें **650+ विखंडन घटनाओं** से उत्पन्न वस्तुएं जैसे टूटने, विस्फोट और टक्कर शामिल हैं।

- The total mass of all space objects in orbit exceeds **13,000 tonnes**, and as this mass increases, **collision risks to satellites** also rise.
कक्षा में सभी अंतरिक्ष वस्तुओं का कुल भार **13,000 टन** से अधिक है, और जैसे-जैसे यह भार बढ़ता है, **उपग्रहों से टक्कर का जोखिम** भी बढ़ता है।
- Most space junk can reach speeds of up to **29 km/hr**, and even a small piece of metal can damage a satellite like a bullet.
अधिकांश अंतरिक्ष कचरा **29 किमी/घंटा** की गति तक पहुँच सकता है, और यहां तक कि एक छोटा धातु का टुकड़ा भी उपग्रह को गोली की तरह नुकसान पहुँचा सकता है।
- The collision of space debris with satellites can damage critical components like **communication systems, navigation, and climate monitoring equipment**.
अंतरिक्ष मलबे का उपग्रहों से टकराना महत्वपूर्ण घटकों को नुकसान पहुँचा सकता है जैसे **संचार प्रणालियाँ, नेविगेशन, और जलवायु निगरानी उपकरण**।
- Orbital debris also interferes with scientists' ability to collect data from space, including monitoring **disasters and weather**, by disrupting **radio waves**.
कक्षीय मलबा वैज्ञानिकों की अंतरिक्ष से डेटा एकत्र करने की क्षमता में भी हस्तक्षेप करता है, जिसमें **आपदाओं और मौसम** की निगरानी शामिल है, क्योंकि यह **रेडियो तरंगों** को बाधित करता है।
- Satellite operators are forced to invest in **shielding satellites** and perform **costly manoeuvres** to avoid collisions, which increases mission costs.
उपग्रह ऑपरेटरों को **उपग्रहों को सुरक्षा कवच** देने और **महंगे संचालन** करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ता है ताकि टकराव से बच सकें, जिससे मिशन की लागत बढ़ती है।
- The risks are even more significant for **human-crewed missions**, such as the **International Space Station**, which frequently adjusts its orbit to avoid debris.
यह जोखिम **मानव-कू मिशनों** के लिए और भी महत्वपूर्ण हैं, जैसे कि **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन**, जो नियमित रूप से कक्षीय मलबे से बचने के लिए अपनी कक्षा को समायोजित करता है।

Barriers to Space Sustainability

अंतरिक्ष की सततता में बाधाएँ

- **Regulation** is essential to ensure that space remains accessible and space activities are **environmentally sustainable**.
नियमन यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक है कि अंतरिक्ष सुलभ बना रहे और अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियाँ **पर्यावरणीय रूप से सतत** हों।
- Without **clear guidelines**, unchecked emissions and debris growth will harm the **earth's climate** and increase barriers to future space exploration.
स्पष्ट दिशानिर्देशों के बिना, बिना नियंत्रित उत्सर्जन और मलबे की वृद्धि पृथ्वी के **जलवायु** को नुकसान पहुँचाएगी और भविष्य के अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण के लिए बाधाएँ बढ़ाएगी।
- Space activities currently fall outside international sustainability instruments like the **Paris Agreement**, so governments must establish standards for **rocket and satellite emissions** to prevent their overlooked contribution to **global warming**.
वर्तमान में अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियाँ अंतरराष्ट्रीय सततता उपकरणों जैसे **पेरिस समझौते** के दायरे से बाहर हैं, इसलिए सरकारों को **रोकेट और उपग्रह उत्सर्जन** के लिए मानक स्थापित करने होंगे ताकि उनके **वैश्विक तापन** में योगदान को नजरअंदाज न किया जाए।
- Without regulations, the increasing number of satellites and debris will overcrowd **low Earth orbit (LEO)**, making future missions **more expensive** and reducing space's identity as a **shared global resource**.



नियमों के बिना, उपग्रहों और मलबे की बढ़ती संख्या **निचली पृथ्वी की कक्षा (LEO)** को ओवरक्राउड कर देगी, जिससे भविष्य के मिशन **महंगे** हो जाएंगे और अंतरिक्ष की पहचान एक **साझा वैश्विक संसाधन** के रूप में घट जाएगी।

- International cooperation through bodies like the **Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS)** is necessary to create enforceable standards in this context.

अंतरिक्ष के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोग पर समिति (COPUOS) जैसे निकायों के माध्यम से अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग इस संदर्भ में लागू होने योग्य मानक बनाने के लिए आवश्यक है।

- Governments can align such frameworks with the **Outer Space Treaty's** principles of responsible space use, while addressing the treaty's lack of **binding provisions**. सरकारें ऐसे ढाँचों को **बाहरी अंतरिक्ष संधि** के जिम्मेदार अंतरिक्ष उपयोग के सिद्धांतों के साथ संरेखित कर सकती हैं, जबकि संधि के **बंधनकारी प्रावधानों** की कमी को संबोधित कर सकती हैं।
- International unity is crucial to address the **environmental impacts** of space activities.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय एकता अंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों के **पर्यावरणीय प्रभावों** से निपटने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

Achieving Sustainability सततता प्राप्त करना

- Achieving sustainability in space exploration requires **innovative solutions**, but these solutions come with their own set of challenges.
अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण में सततता प्राप्त करने के लिए **नवोन्मेषी समाधान** की आवश्यकता होती है, लेकिन ये समाधान अपनी चुनौतियों के साथ आते हैं।
- **Reusable rockets** like those developed by **SpaceX** and **Blue Origin** reduce manufacturing waste and lower costs by reusing rocket components in multiple missions.
स्पेसएक्स और **ब्लू ओरिजिन** द्वारा विकसित **पुनः प्रयोज्य रॉकेट** निर्माण अपशिष्ट को कम करते हैं और रॉकेट घटकों को कई मिशनों में फिर से उपयोग करके लागत को घटाते हैं।
- However, the **reusable parts** are often heavier, which increases **fuel consumption**, and they have limited applicability for **high-orbit missions**.
हालांकि, **पुनः प्रयोज्य भाग** अक्सर भारी होते हैं, जिससे **ईंधन की खपत** बढ़ जाती है, और इनका **उच्च कक्षा मिशनों** के लिए सीमित उपयोग होता है।
- The wear and tear on reusable components invoke costly **refurbishments**, which makes scaling this technology while maintaining efficiency a challenge.
पुनः प्रयोज्य घटकों की घिसाई और टूट-फूट महंगे **मरम्मत** की आवश्यकता पैदा करती है, जिससे इस प्रौद्योगिकी का पैमाना बढ़ाना और दक्षता बनाए रखना चुनौतीपूर्ण हो जाता है।
- Transitioning to **cleaner fuels** like **liquid hydrogen** or **biofuels** can minimize harmful emissions during **lifts**.
तरल हाइड्रोजन या **जैव ईंधन** जैसे **स्वच्छ ईंधन** में बदलाव **उत्थान** के दौरान हानिकारक उत्सर्जन को न्यूनतम कर सकता है।
- However, **hydrogen** is currently produced using **non-renewable energy**, which negates its environmental benefits.
हालांकि, **हाइड्रोजन** वर्तमान में **गैर-नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** का उपयोग करके उत्पादित किया जाता है, जो इसके पर्यावरणीय लाभों को नकारता है।
- **Cryogenic fuels**, which provide more thrust for the same mass, are **expensive** and complex to handle, limiting their use to **larger operators**.
स्रायोजेनिक ईंधन, जो समान द्रव्यमान के लिए अधिक संवेग प्रदान करते हैं, **महंगे** होते हैं और इन्हें संभालना जटिल है, जो उनके उपयोग को **बड़े ऑपरेटरों** तक सीमित कर देता है।



- **Electric propulsion** is another option, but its **low thrust** restricts its use to specific missions, like **in-orbit manoeuvres**.
विद्युत प्रणोदन एक और विकल्प है, लेकिन इसका कम संवेग इसके उपयोग को विशिष्ट मिशनों तक सीमित करता है, जैसे कि कक्षा में संचालन।
- Designing satellites with **biodegradable materials** that naturally disintegrate during re-entry can help prevent long-term debris accumulation.
जैविक रूप से विघटित होने वाले सामग्रियों के साथ उपग्रहों का डिज़ाइन करना जो पुनः प्रवेश के दौरान स्वाभाविक रूप से विघटित हो जाते हैं, दीर्घकालिक मलबे के संचय को रोकने में मदद कर सकता है।
- However, these materials currently lack the **durability** required for the extreme conditions of space.
हालांकि, इन सामग्रियों में वर्तमान में अंतरिक्ष की कठोर परिस्थितियों के लिए आवश्यक मजबूती की कमी है।
- **High development costs** and **limited adoption** further slow progress in implementing biodegradable materials.
उच्च विकास लागतें और सीमित अपनाना जैविक रूप से विघटित सामग्रियों को लागू करने में प्रगति को और धीमा कर देती हैं।
- **Autonomous debris removal (ADR)** technologies such as robotic arms and laser systems offer hope for cleaning up orbital debris, but they are currently **expensive** and lack legal clarity.
स्वायत्त मलबे हटाने (ADR) प्रौद्योगिकियाँ जैसे रोबोटिक हाथ और लेजर प्रणालियाँ कक्षीय मलबे को साफ करने की उम्मीद देती हैं, लेकिन ये वर्तमान में महंगी हैं और कानूनी स्पष्टता की कमी है।
- A global **traffic system** to monitor satellites and debris in real-time could reduce **collisions** and optimise **orbit use**.
उपग्रहों और मलबे की वास्तविक समय में निगरानी के लिए एक वैश्विक यातायात प्रणाली टकराव को कम कर सकती है और कक्षा के उपयोग को अनुकूलित कर सकती है।
- Resistance to **data sharing**, including security and commercial concerns, and the lack of a unified **international authority** hinder the development of such a system.
डेटा साझा करने के प्रति प्रतिरोध, जिसमें सुरक्षा और वाणिज्यिक चिंताएँ शामिल हैं, और एक एकीकृत अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्राधिकरण की कमी, ऐसी प्रणाली के विकास को बाधित करती है।
- None of these hurdles are **permanent**, and a **combined approach** may be more feasible.
इनमें से कोई भी बाधा स्थायी नहीं है, और एक संयुक्त दृष्टिकोण अधिक व्यावहारिक हो सकता है।
- Binding agreements through **COPUOS** can standardise emission limits, **debris mitigation**, and **data-sharing practices**; governments and private entities can prioritize funding for **green technologies, ADR systems, and satellite biodegradability**.
COPUOS के माध्यम से बंधनकारी समझौतों से उत्सर्जन सीमा, मलबे न्यूनीकरण, और डेटा साझा करने की प्रथाओं को मानकीकृत किया जा सकता है; सरकारें और निजी संस्थाएँ हरित प्रौद्योगिकियों, ADR प्रणालियों, और उपग्रह जैविक विघटनशीलता के लिए वित्तपोषण को प्राथमिकता दे सकती हैं।
- Financial **rewards, subsidies, or penalties** can encourage private actors to adopt more **sustainable practices**.
वित्तीय पुरस्कार, सबसिडी, या दंड निजी संस्थाओं को अधिक सतत प्रथाओं को अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर सकते हैं।
- At the intersection of technological advancement and environmental responsibility, the choices we make today will define the **future of space exploration**.



प्रौद्योगिकीय उन्नति और पर्यावरणीय जिम्मेदारी के बीच, जो विकल्प हम आज बनाते हैं, वे अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण के भविष्य को परिभाषित करेंगे।



Spiral galaxy NGC 628, located 32 million light-years away, in an image taken by the James Webb Space Telescope. REUTERS

Webb confirms the cosmos is expanding at unexpected rate

Reuters

GS Paper III: S&T

Fresh corroboration of the perplexing observation that the universe is expanding more rapidly than expected has scientists pondering the cause – perhaps some unknown factor involving the mysterious cosmic components – dark energy and dark matter.

Two years of data from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope have now validated the Hubble Space Telescope's earlier finding that the rate of the universe's expansion is faster – by about 8% – than would be expected based on what astrophysicists know of the initial conditions in the cosmos and its evolution over billions of years. The discrepancy is called the Hubble Tension.

The observations by Webb, the most capable space telescope ever deployed, appear to rule out the notion that the data from its forerunner Hubble was somehow flawed due to instrument error.

"This is the largest sample of Webb Telescope data – its first two years in space – and it confirms the puzzling finding from the Hubble Space Telescope that we have been wrestling with for a decade – the universe is now expanding faster than our best theories can explain," said astrophysicist Adam Riess of Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, lead author of the study published on Monday (December 9, 2024) in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

"Yes, it appears there is something missing in our understanding of the

The observations by Webb, the most capable space telescope ever deployed, appear to rule out the notion that the data from its forerunner Hubble was somehow flawed due to instrument error

universe," added Riess, a 2011 Nobel laureate in physics for the co-discovery of the universe's accelerating expansion. "Our understanding of the universe contains a lot of ignorance about two elements – dark matter and dark energy – and these make up 96% of the universe, so this is no small matter."

"The Webb results can be interpreted to suggest there may be a need to revise our model of the universe, although it is very difficult to pinpoint what this is at the moment," said Siyang Li, a Johns Hopkins doctoral student in astronomy and astrophysics and a study co-author.

Dark matter, thought to comprise about 27% of the universe, is a hypothesised form of matter that is invisible but is inferred to exist based on its gravitational effects on ordinary matter - stars, planets, moons, all the stuff on Earth - which accounts for roughly 5% of the universe.

Dark energy, believed to comprise approximately 69% of the universe, is a hypothesised form of energy permeating vast swathes of space that counteracts gravity and drives the universe's accelerating expansion.

What might explain the anomalous expansion rate? "There are many hypotheses that involve dark matter, dark energy, dark radiation – for example, neutrinos (a type of ghostly subatomic particle) – or gravity itself having some exotic properties as possible explanations," Riess said.

The researchers employed three different methods to measure a specific telltale metric – distances from the earth to galaxies where a type of pulsating star called Cepheids has been documented. The Webb and Hubble measurements were in harmony.

Webb confirms the cosmos is expanding at unexpected rate



वेब ने पुष्टि की है कि ब्रह्मांड अप्रत्याशित दर से फैल रहा है

Fresh Corroboration of the Perplexing Observation अजीबोगरीब अवलोकन का नया समर्थन

- **NASA's James Webb Space Telescope** has provided **two years of data** validating the **Hubble Space Telescope's** earlier finding that the **rate of the universe's expansion** is **faster by about 8%** than expected.
नासा के जेम्स वेब स्पेस टेलीस्कोप ने दो वर्षों का डेटा प्रदान किया है जो हबल स्पेस टेलीस्कोप की पहले की खोज की पुष्टि करता है कि ब्रह्मांड के विस्तार की दर लगभग 8% तेज़ है जितना अनुमानित था।
- This discrepancy is called the **Hubble Tension**.
इस असंगति को **हबल तनाव** कहा जाता है।
- The **Webb observations**, the most capable space telescope ever deployed, rule out the possibility of instrument error in the **Hubble data**.
वेब अवलोकन, जो अब तक का सबसे सक्षम स्पेस टेलीस्कोप है, **हबल डेटा** में उपकरण त्रुटि की संभावना को खारिज करता है।
- **Adam Riess**, an astrophysicist at **Johns Hopkins University**, stated that this data confirms the puzzling finding from **Hubble**: the universe is expanding faster than our best theories can explain.
एडम रीस, जो **जॉन्स हॉपकिन्स विश्वविद्यालय** में एक खगोल भौतिक विज्ञानी हैं, ने कहा कि ये डेटा **हबल** से मिले अजीबोगरीब निष्कर्ष की पुष्टि करता है: ब्रह्मांड हमारे सर्वोत्तम सिद्धांतों से तेज़ी से विस्तार कर रहा है।
- Riess, a **2011 Nobel laureate** in physics for co-discovery of the universe's accelerating expansion, emphasized the missing understanding of **dark matter** and **dark energy**.
रीस, जो **2011 के नोबेल पुरस्कार** विजेता हैं और ब्रह्मांड के तेज हो रहे विस्तार की सह-खोज के लिए जाने जाते हैं, ने **डार्क मैटर** और **डार्क एनर्जी** की समझ की कमी पर जोर दिया।
- **Dark matter** comprises about **27%** of the universe and is invisible but inferred based on its **gravitational effects** on visible matter.
डार्क मैटर ब्रह्मांड का लगभग **27%** हिस्सा बनता है और यह अदृश्य होता है लेकिन इसके **गुरुत्वाकर्षण प्रभावों** के आधार पर इसका अनुमान लगाया जाता है जो सामान्य पदार्थ पर पड़ते हैं।
- **Dark energy**, comprising about **69%** of the universe, is a hypothesized form of energy that counteracts gravity and drives the accelerating expansion of the universe.
डार्क एनर्जी, जो ब्रह्मांड का लगभग **69%** हिस्सा बनती है, एक अनुमानित ऊर्जा का रूप है जो गुरुत्वाकर्षण का विरोध करती है और ब्रह्मांड के तेज़ी से विस्तार को उत्प्रेरित करती है।
- There are many hypotheses involving **dark matter, dark energy, dark radiation** (such as **neutrinos**), or gravity itself having some exotic properties that could explain the anomaly.
बहुत से अनुमानों में **डार्क मैटर, डार्क एनर्जी, डार्क रेडिएशन** (जैसे **न्यूट्रीनो**) या गुरुत्वाकर्षण में कुछ अद्वितीय गुण शामिल हैं जो इस असामान्यता की व्याख्या कर सकते हैं।
- The researchers used three different methods to measure **distances from Earth to galaxies** with **Cepheid pulsating stars** as the telltale metric.
अनुसंधानकर्ताओं ने **सीफेड पल्सेटिंग सितारों** के साथ **पृथ्वी से आकाशगंगाओं तक की दूरियों** को मापने के लिए तीन अलग-अलग विधियों का उपयोग किया।





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- The **Webb** and **Hubble measurements** were in **harmony**.
वेब और हबल माप में संगति थी।

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