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19_01_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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1. A survivor's crusade to break the stigma surrounding sexual violence / यौन हिंसा के आसपास कलंक तोड़ने के लिए एक सर्वाइवर का अभियान
2. Need for revisiting history of anti-caste cultural assertion / जातिवाद विरोधी सांस्कृतिक अस्मिता के इतिहास को फिर से देखे जाने की आवश्यकता
3. The bull and the brave / बैल और बहादुर
4. Why are fertility levels declining in India / भारत में प्रजनन स्तर क्यों घट रहा है?

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A survivor's crusade to break the stigma surrounding sexual violence

Trafficking is worst form of sex crime, says Sunitha Krishnan and calls upon people to fight scourge; she says people's attitude is her biggest challenge and stresses the need for unconditional acceptance; it's important to differentiate people from the problem and it requires a daily fight, she adds

GS Paper I: Society

Soma Basu
CHENNAI

Even as the session with Sunitha Krishnan, survivor, crusader, and fighter against sex trafficking, was on at The Pavilion on Saturday at *The Hindu* Lit for Life, the court verdict in the R.G. Kar case came in holding Sanjoy Roy guilty of rape and murder. "This is one case of speedy justice, but there are billions of cases of sex crimes that don't even reach the chargesheet stage," said Ms. Krishnan, who has positively helped change the lives of 27,500 women and young girls forced into sex work.

In conversation with writer and scholar Swarna Rajagopalan, she talked about what it takes to fight for others. Gang-raped 37 years ago at the age of 15, Ms. Krishnan, who turned women's rights advocate, said the biggest challenge she faced in her work was the attitude of people. "Pe-



Fighting on: Activist Sunitha Krishnan (right) in conversation with writer Swarna Rajagopalan during the *The Hindu* Lit for Life event in Chennai on Saturday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

ople do not miss a chance or forget to remind you where you come from. One of my biggest pain is to be constantly identified as a rape survivor and not the work I do. Every survivor needs unconditional acceptance," she said and called upon the audience

to involve in citizen engagement.

Every individual needs to understand what a victim requires to come back to the mainstream of healing and recovery. Prostitution is defined by law as commercial sexual exploitation. But confusion is

created by combining prostitution, sex work, and sex trafficking which are components of parallel struggles. "Each is a set of different people with different stories and trafficking of a person is the worst form of sex crime; it is an organised crime and the

fastest growing criminal enterprise," she said.

Ms. Krishnan pointed out that an enabling environment needs to be built to help the victims of sex trafficking. "It is important to differentiate the people from the problem and it requires a daily fight against

the attitude that a woman's honour is located in her vagina," she said.

Ms. Krishnan said that pornography was the biggest contributor to sex trafficking and if everybody put out a social message daily condemning it or at least talk to one person a day engaged in pornography, it would change the world.

"You do not necessarily have to be an activist but understand the fundamental nuances of the sex business and the constrained choices women are compelled to make. Lots of bodies, minds, and souls are crushed and beaten daily," said Ms. Krishnan, whose memoir *I am What I am* is her personal story of grit and determination having been sexually assaulted.

But, she said she openly speaks about her experiences to break the stigma surrounding sexual violence and to empower other survivors.



A survivor's crusade to break the stigma surrounding sexual violence

यौन हिंसा के आसपास कलंक तोड़ने के लिए एक सर्वाइवर का अभियान

- **Sunitha Krishnan**, a survivor, crusader, and fighter against sex trafficking, highlighted that **trafficking** is the **worst form of sex crime**.

सुनीता कृष्णन, एक सर्वाइवर, अभियानकर्मी, और सेक्स तस्करी के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ने वाली, ने यह बताया कि तस्करी यौन अपराधों का सबसे बुरा रूप है।

- She stressed the need to fight this **scourge** and mentioned that people's **attitudes** are her **biggest challenge**.

उन्होंने इस समस्या से लड़ने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया और कहा कि लोगों का रवैया उनकी सबसे बड़ी चुनौती है।



- She emphasized the importance of **unconditional acceptance** and differentiating people from the problem.
उन्होंने **अप्रत्याशित स्वीकृति** और लोगों को समस्या से अलग करने के महत्व को रेखांकित किया।
- She mentioned that it requires a **daily fight** and explained that **victims** need to be **accepted unconditionally** to heal.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह **दैनिक संघर्ष** की आवश्यकता है और बताया कि **पीड़ितों** को ठीक होने के लिए **अप्रत्याशित स्वीकृति** की आवश्यकता है।
- Ms. Krishnan shared that she has positively helped **27,500 women and young girls** forced into **sex work**.
सुनीता कृष्णन ने साझा किया कि उन्होंने **27,500 महिलाओं और युवतियों** की मदद की है जो **सेक्स काम** में मजबूर थीं।
- She pointed out that **sex trafficking** is an **organized crime** and one of the **fastest growing criminal enterprises**.
उन्होंने यह बताया कि **सेक्स तस्करी** एक संगठित अपराध है और यह सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ता हुआ **आपराधिक उद्यम** है।
- She emphasized the need to **differentiate** people from the problem and called it a **daily fight** against societal attitudes.
उन्होंने कहा कि लोगों को समस्या से **अलग** करना आवश्यक है और इसे सामाजिक रवैये के खिलाफ **दैनिक संघर्ष** कहा।
- **Pornography** was identified by Ms. Krishnan as the biggest contributor to **sex trafficking**.
सुनीता कृष्णन ने **पोर्नोग्राफी** को **सेक्स तस्करी** का सबसे बड़ा कारण बताया।
- She called for **social messages** to condemn **pornography** and stated that speaking to just one person a day engaged in pornography could change the world.
उन्होंने **पोर्नोग्राफी** की निंदा करने के लिए **सामाजिक संदेशों** का आह्वान किया और कहा कि हर दिन पोर्नोग्राफी में संलग्न एक व्यक्ति से बात करने से दुनिया बदल सकती है।
- She stressed the importance of understanding the **nuances** of the **sex business** and the **constrained choices** women are forced to make.
उन्होंने **सेक्स व्यवसाय** की **जटिलताओं** और महिलाओं द्वारा किए गए **सीमित विकल्पों** को समझने के महत्व पर जोर दिया।
- Ms. Krishnan openly speaks about her **experiences** to break the **stigma** surrounding **sexual violence** and to empower other survivors.
सुनीता कृष्णन अपने **अनुभवों** के बारे में खुले तौर पर बोलती हैं ताकि **यौन हिंसा** के आसपास के **कलंक** को तोड़ा जा सके और अन्य सर्वाइवर्स को सशक्त बनाया जा सके।
- Her memoir, **I am What I Am**, is a personal story of **grit** and **determination** after being **sexually assaulted**.
उनकी जीवनी **I am What I Am**, एक व्यक्तिगत कहानी है जो **धैर्य** और **दृढ़ संकल्प** की है, जब वह **यौन उत्पीड़न** का शिकार हुई थीं।



Need for revisiting history of anti-caste cultural assertion



Looking back: Historian Stalin Rajangam with *Neelam* editor Vasuki Bhaskar in Chennai on Saturday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

GS Paper I: Society

b. korappan
 CHENNAI

Writer and historian Stalin Rajangam said though Dalit politics and culture could sail together, political compulsions and electoral politics have denied a space for Dalit culture.

“Even those who can acquire a space for Dalit culture in politics are not allowed to do so because it could embarrass the alliance partners,” he said while interacting with Vasuki Bhaskar, Editor, *Neelam*, on “Revisiting the history of anti-caste cultural assertion” at *The Hindu Lit For Life* on Saturday.

Mr. Rajangam said even though culture was an integral part of politics, even those who were involved in anti-caste crusades had failed to accommodate Dalit culture. Pointing out that there was negative projection and humiliation of Dalits and their culture which had resulted in creating an opinion that “Dalits lack culture or they suffer from paucity of culture”, he said on the con-

trary, Dalits had the cultural capital.

“But the anti-caste crusade in the last decades had negatively viewed Dalit culture or its various aspects,” he said and drew the attention to the colonial records on the space accorded to Dalits in Mariamman, Ekathamman and Pidariamman temples in Chennai.

Stressing the need for working in the cultural space, Vasuki Bhaskar spoke about the advice given by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s father to the Constitution architect to study the Mahabharata and Ramayana.

“When Ambedkar questioned the need for reading the works full of irrational beliefs, his father had reminded him that though Valmiki, the author of the Ramayana, was a tribal, he had received wider acceptance and it could act as an impetus to Ambedkar’s thinking,” he said.

He also spoke in favour of Dalits creating a counter path while adopting the policy of “inversion and reversion” towards others.

Need for revisiting history of anti-caste cultural assertion

जातिवाद विरोधी सांस्कृतिक अस्मिता के इतिहास को फिर से देखे जाने की आवश्यकता

• Writer and historian **Stalin Rajangam** said that although **Dalit politics and culture** could go hand in hand, **political compulsions and electoral politics** have denied space for Dalit culture.

लेखक और इतिहासकार **स्टालिन राजंगम** ने कहा कि हालांकि दलित राजनीति और संस्कृति एक साथ चल सकती हैं, लेकिन राजनीतिक मजबूरियां और चुनावी राजनीति ने दलित संस्कृति के लिए स्थान का मना कर दिया।

• “Even those who can acquire space for Dalit culture in politics are not allowed to do so because it could embarrass the alliance partners,” he said.

“यहां तक कि जो लोग राजनीति में दलित संस्कृति के लिए स्थान प्राप्त कर सकते हैं, उन्हें ऐसा करने की अनुमति नहीं दी जाती क्योंकि इससे गठबंधन सहयोगियों को शर्मिंदगी हो सकती है,” उन्होंने कहा।

• He highlighted that even though culture is an integral part of politics, those involved in **anti-caste crusades** failed to accommodate Dalit culture.

उन्होंने यह रेखांकित किया कि हालांकि संस्कृति राजनीति का अभिन्न हिस्सा है, जातिवाद विरोधी मुहिम में शामिल लोग दलित संस्कृति को समायोजित करने में असफल रहे।

• Rajangam pointed out that there is **negative projection and humiliation** of Dalits and their culture, leading to the belief that “**Dalits lack culture** or suffer from a lack of culture.”

राजंगम ने यह बताया कि दलितों और उनकी संस्कृति का नकारात्मक चित्रण और अपमान किया गया, जिससे यह विश्वास बना कि “दलितों के पास संस्कृति नहीं है या उन्हें संस्कृति की कमी है।”

• On the contrary, Dalits had **cultural capital**, but the anti-caste crusade in recent decades had viewed Dalit culture and its aspects negatively.

इसके विपरीत, दलितों के पास सांस्कृतिक पूंजी थी, लेकिन पिछले



दशकों में जातिवाद विरोधी मुहिम ने दलित संस्कृति और उसके पहलुओं को नकारात्मक रूप से देखा।

- He drew attention to the **colonial records** on the space given to Dalits in **Mariamman, Ekathamman, and Pidariamman temples** in **Chennai**.

उन्होंने कॉलोनियल रिकॉर्ड्स की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया जिसमें चेन्नई के मैरियमन, एकात्ममन, और पिदरियमन मंदिरों में दलितों को दी गई जगह का जिक्र है।

- **Vasuki Bhaskar**, Editor of *Neelam*, spoke about **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's father's advice** to Ambedkar to study the **Mahabharata and Ramayana**.

वसुकी भास्कर, नीलम की संपादक, ने डॉ. बी.आर. आंबेडकर के पिता की सलाह के बारे में बात की कि आंबेडकर को महाभारत और रामायण का अध्ययन करना चाहिए।

- Bhaskar shared how when Ambedkar questioned the need to read works full of **irrational beliefs**, his father reminded him that though **Valmiki**, the author of *Ramayana*, was a tribal, he received **wider acceptance**.

भास्कर ने बताया कि जब आंबेडकर ने अविवेकपूर्ण विश्वासों से भरे कामों को पढ़ने की आवश्यकता पर सवाल उठाया, उनके पिता ने उन्हें याद दिलाया कि हालांकि वाल्मीकि, जो रामायण के लेखक थे, एक आदिवासी थे, फिर भी उन्हें व्यापक स्वीकृति मिली।

- Bhaskar also advocated for Dalits to create a **counter path** while adopting the policy of **"inversion and reversion"** towards others.

भास्कर ने यह भी कहा कि दलितों को प्रतिवादात्मक मार्ग बनाना चाहिए, जबकि दूसरों के प्रति "उलटाव और पलटाव" की नीति अपनानी चाहिए।



Why are fertility levels declining in India?

What has a global study shown about the total fertility rate in India? Why are the southern States worried?

GS Paper I: Population

The story so far:

A comprehensive demographic analysis of global fertility in 204 countries and territories from 1950-2021 has found that fertility is declining globally and that future fertility rates will continue to decline worldwide, remaining low even under successful implementations of pro-natal policies.

What has it noted about India?

The Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2021, noted that India has moved from a fertility rate of 6.18 in the 1950s to a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 1.9 in 2021. This, it pointed out, was below the replacement fertility level of 2.1 (which is the average number of children a woman should have to replace herself and her generation, for population stability). The GBD study projected that the TFR could fall further to 1.04 – barely one child per woman – by 2100.

The steep fall in fertility levels has triggered concerns about the political and socio-economic fallout, especially in the southern States, which fear the loss of parliamentary seats post the delimitation exercise in 2026.

Why is fertility falling?

Even though the country has had one of the oldest birth control/family planning programmes, increased female literacy, workforce participation of women, women's empowerment and improved aspirations could have contributed more to the steady drop in fertility rates over the decades than the faithful adoption of family planning initiatives.

With an ageing population, increased demands on healthcare, a migrating youth, the consequences of declining fertility are being acutely felt in States such as Kerala

The decline in fertility rate has also a lot to do with changing societal attitudes towards marriage and reproduction, with women increasingly exercising their choice. They often

prefer to marry late or not at all, often choosing career and financial independence over motherhood. Rising rates of infertility in both men and women and abortions are important factors which could be contributing to this decline in fertility though no absolute data is available. With an increasing number of young men and women opting to go abroad for higher studies and jobs and choosing to settle down and raise their families there, migration is another key factor that could be in play when one considers the decline in fertility levels.

What are the implications?

Declining fertility rates have resulted in a rapid demographic transition in many southern States. The consequences of this – an ageing population, a declining young workforce and increased demands on healthcare and social security measures for the care of an increasing population of the elderly – are being acutely felt in States such as Kerala. Migration of youngsters in search of better prospects is also an issue.

What is happening in the southern States?

There is concern over the irreversible fertility decline across the country, but more so in the southern States, where fertility rates had dropped below the replacement levels much earlier than the rest of India.

Kerala led the demographic transition in the South, achieving the replacement level fertility rate in 1988, with the other four States achieving this by mid-2000. Along with education and women's empowerment and development in the social and health sectors, which were the hallmark of Kerala's high human development index, the State has also seen low economic investments and growth. Educated youth are leaving the State; the proportion of the aged population is expected to surpass that of children (23% in 2036). Changed attitudes towards marriage and motherhood are beginning to reflect in the health of women, leading to an increasing proportion of older mothers and pregnancy-related morbidities.

Kerala's high labour wages and high quality of life index are attracting internal migration from other States to supplant a shrinking workforce. The State Planning Board reckons that by 2030, the proportion of migrant labour could be close to 60 lakh, about one-sixth of the State's population.

What is the way forward?

Fertility decline is almost always irreversible and the graph, once it starts going down, may never bounce back. Countries like South Korea, which tried to stem the demographic crisis by pumping in millions have failed and the fertility rate plunged from 0.78 in 2022 to 0.73 in 2023.

Demographers suggest that socio-economic policies that propel the growth of the economy, improve job prospects for the youth and tap the potential of a growing population of senior citizens, can help in reducing the impact of a long spell of low, sub-replacement level fertility rates on countries.



Why are fertility levels declining in India?

भारत में प्रजनन स्तर क्यों घट रहा है?

- A **global study** covering 204 countries from **1950-2021** found that fertility rates are **declining globally** and are expected to remain low even under **pro-natal policies**.
1950-2021 के दौरान 204 देशों का एक वैश्विक अध्ययन बताता है कि प्रजनन दर विश्व स्तर पर घट रही है और यह प्रजनन-संवर्धक नीतियों के तहत भी कम बनी रहेगी।

What has it noted about India?

भारत के बारे में क्या बताया गया है?

- The **Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) Study 2021** reported that India's **fertility rate** dropped from **6.18** in the **1950s** to a **TFR of 1.9** in **2021**, which is below the **replacement level of 2.1**.
Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) Study 2021 ने बताया कि भारत की प्रजनन दर 1950 के दशक में 6.18 से घटकर 2021 में 1.9 हो गई, जो 2.1 के प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से कम है।
- The study projects that by **2100**, the TFR could fall further to **1.04**, nearly **one child per woman**.
अध्ययन में अनुमान है कि 2100 तक प्रजनन दर और गिरकर 1.04 हो सकती है, यानी प्रति महिला लगभग एक बच्चा।
- Southern States fear **loss of parliamentary seats** after the **delimitation exercise in 2026** due to falling fertility.
दक्षिणी राज्यों को 2026 में परिसीमन प्रक्रिया के बाद संसदीय सीटों के नुकसान का डर है।

Why is fertility falling?

प्रजनन दर क्यों घट रही है?

- Factors contributing to the decline include **increased female literacy, women's empowerment, workforce participation**, and changing societal attitudes toward **marriage and reproduction**.
प्रजनन दर में गिरावट के लिए महिलाओं की साक्षरता, सशक्तिकरण, कार्यबल में भागीदारी, और विवाह व प्रजनन के प्रति बदलते सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण जिम्मेदार हैं।
- Many women prefer to **marry late** or **focus on careers**, contributing to the decline.
कई महिलाएं देर से विवाह करना या करियर पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना पसंद करती हैं, जिससे गिरावट हो रही है।
- Rising **infertility rates** in men and women and **migration** for education and jobs are other factors.
पुरुषों और महिलाओं में बढ़ती बांझपन दर और शिक्षा व नौकरियों के लिए प्रवासन अन्य कारण हैं।



What are the implications?

इसके प्रभाव क्या हैं?

- Declining fertility has caused **rapid demographic transition** in southern States, leading to an **ageing population**, fewer young workers, and higher **demands on healthcare**.
घटती प्रजनन दर ने दक्षिणी राज्यों में तेज जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तन किया है, जिससे बुजुर्ग आबादी बढ़ रही है, युवा श्रमिकों की संख्या घट रही है और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की मांग बढ़ रही है।
- States like Kerala face challenges due to a **shrinking workforce** and migration of **educated youth**.
केरल जैसे राज्य श्रमिक संख्या घटने और शिक्षित युवाओं के प्रवासन की चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे हैं।

What is happening in the southern States?

दक्षिणी राज्यों में क्या हो रहा है?

- Kerala achieved **replacement-level fertility** in **1988**, with other southern States following by the **mid-2000s**.
केरल ने 1988 में प्रतिस्थापन स्तर की प्रजनन दर प्राप्त की, और अन्य दक्षिणी राज्य 2000 के दशक के मध्य तक इसे हासिल कर चुके थे।
- Kerala's **aged population** is expected to surpass **children** by **2036** (23%).
केरल में बुजुर्गों की आबादी 2036 तक बच्चों से ज्यादा हो जाएगी (23%)।
- By **2030**, **migrant labor** could form about **one-sixth** (60 lakh) of Kerala's population.
2030 तक, प्रवासी श्रमिक केरल की आबादी का लगभग छठा हिस्सा (60 लाख) हो सकते हैं।

What is the way forward?

आगे का रास्ता क्या है?

- Fertility decline is often **irreversible**, and **countries like South Korea** have failed to reverse it despite investing heavily in pro-natal policies.
प्रजनन दर में गिरावट अक्सर अपरिवर्तनीय होती है, और दक्षिण कोरिया जैसे देश भारी निवेश के बावजूद इसे पलटने में असफल रहे हैं।
- Socio-economic policies that **boost the economy**, **job prospects**, and **senior citizens' potential** can help mitigate the impact of low fertility.
ऐसी सामाजिक-आर्थिक नीतियां जो अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित करें, नौकरी की संभावनाएं बढ़ाएं, और वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की क्षमता का उपयोग करें, वे कम प्रजनन दर के प्रभाव को कम कर सकती हैं।



The bull and the brave

Jallikattu attracts thousands of spectators during the Pongal festival each year; despite its cultural significance, the event has faced controversy due to safety concerns

GS Paper I: A&C

The Tamil festival of Pongal is celebrated with great enthusiasm in districts such as Madurai, notably hosting the ancient sport of jallikattu.

The traditional bull-taming event, believed to date back to the Sangam period, attracts thousands of spectators from around the world each year. Avaniapuram, Palamedu, and Alanganallur are some of the places famed for the event.

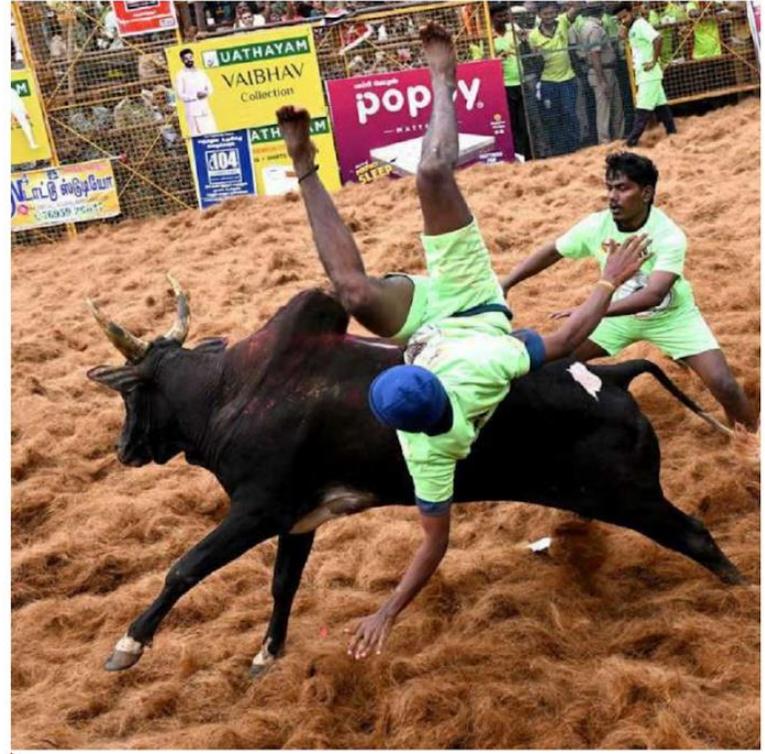
From men waiting in long queues to release their bulls into the arena, to bull-tamers preparing to jump in, photographers with sharp eyes waiting to capture the right moment, and cheering spectators watching from terraces, parapets, and galleries, jallikattu undoubtedly is a vibrant celebration.

The event is promoted as a tourist attraction by the State government and it holds appeal as a symbol of Tamil culture. Tourists from the U.S., the U.K., Australia, France, Belgium, Austria, Brazil, and other countries registered and witnessed this year's event with much joy and enthusiasm.

Traditionally a male-dominated sport, jallikattu has seen increased participation from women and transgender persons in recent years. Each year, alongside men who wait for their turn to untie their bulls in the field, hundreds of women, and transgender persons too train and wait for their turn to tackle their bulls. Many women and a few transgender people who participated in this year's jallikattu events were seen celebrating their victory by kissing or embracing the bulls.

Once looked upon as an event to test the prowess of the young men in the region, jallikattu soon evolved into a competitive sport with high stakes, and, more recently, controversy. Despite its cultural significance, jallikattu has faced criticism due to safety concerns. The event has been associated with numerous injuries and fatalities among both participants and spectators over the years. Animal activists have also alleged that the sport involves cruelty to the bulls.

As the echoes of celebration and spirit settle for now, it is time to consider ways to preserve this tradition with more safety for participants and welfare measures for the animals.



Intense moments: A participant is thrown over during jallikattu at Palamedu in Madurai on January 15. G. MOORTHY

The bull and the brave

बैल और बहादुर

Jallikattu attracts thousands of spectators during the Pongal festival each year; despite its cultural significance, the event has faced controversy due to safety concerns

जल्लिकट्टू हर साल पोंगल त्योहार के दौरान हजारों दर्शकों को आकर्षित करता है; इसके सांस्कृतिक महत्व के बावजूद, इस आयोजन को सुरक्षा चिंताओं के कारण विवादों का सामना करना पड़ा है

The Tamil festival of Pongal is celebrated with great enthusiasm in districts such as Madurai, notably hosting the ancient sport of jallikattu.

तमिल पर्व पोंगल को मदुरै जैसे जिलों में बहुत उत्साह के साथ मनाया जाता है, खासकर यहां प्राचीन खेल जल्लिकट्टू का आयोजन होता है।

- The traditional bull-taming event, believed to date back to the **Sangam period**, attracts thousands of spectators from around the world each year. पारंपरिक बैल-पालन खेल, जो **संगम काल** से जुड़ा माना जाता है, हर साल दुनिया भर से हजारों दर्शकों को आकर्षित करता है।



- Avaniapuram, Palamedu, and Alanganallur are some of the places famed for the event.

अवनीपुरम, पलामेडु, और अलंगानल्लुर कुछ ऐसे स्थान हैं जो इस आयोजन के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं।



On the mat: A young man trying to tame a bull during the event held at Koolamedu in Salem district in Tamil Nadu on January 17. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Raging spirit: A bull tamer struggles during the Avaniapuram Jallikattu in Madurai on January 14. G. MOORTHY



Festive roar: A bull enters the arena during the jallikattu event held at Palamedu in Tamil Nadu on January 15. G. MOORTHY



Price of tradition: An injured bull is transferred into an ambulance for medical treatment during the jallikattu event held at Koolamedu on January 17. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

From men waiting in long queues to release their bulls into the arena, to bull-tamers preparing to jump in, photographers with sharp eyes waiting to capture the right moment, and cheering spectators watching from terraces, parapets, and galleries, jallikattu undoubtedly is a vibrant celebration.

लंबी कतारों में खड़े पुरुषों से लेकर जो अपने बैल को अखाड़े में छोड़ने के लिए इंतजार करते हैं, बैलपालकों से लेकर जो कूदने की तैयारी करते हैं, पैनी नजरों वाले फोटोग्राफरों से लेकर जो सही पल को कैद करने का इंतजार करते हैं, और छतों, बालकनियों और दीर्घाओं से उत्साही दर्शकों तक, जल्लीकट्टू निस्संदेह एक जीवंत उत्सव है।



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The event is promoted as a tourist attraction by the State government and it holds appeal as a symbol of Tamil culture.

राज्य सरकार द्वारा इस आयोजन को एक पर्यटक आकर्षण के रूप में बढ़ावा दिया जाता है और यह तमिल संस्कृति का प्रतीक होने के रूप में आकर्षण रखता है।

- **Tourists from the U.S., the U.K., Australia, France, Belgium, Austria, Brazil, and other countries** registered and witnessed this year's event with much joy and enthusiasm.

अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, फ्रांस, बेल्जियम, ऑस्ट्रिया, ब्राजील और अन्य देशों के पर्यटकों ने इस साल के आयोजन में बहुत खुशी और उत्साह के साथ पंजीकरण किया और इसे देखा।

Traditionally a male-dominated sport, jallikattu has seen increased participation from women and transgender persons in recent years.

परंपरागत रूप से एक पुरुष-प्रधान खेल, जल्लीकट्टू में हाल के वर्षों में महिलाओं और ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों की भागीदारी में वृद्धि हुई है।

- Each year, alongside men who wait for their turn to untie their bulls in the field, **hundreds of women, and transgender persons** too train and wait for their turn to tackle their bulls.
हर साल, उन पुरुषों के साथ जो अपने बैल को खेत में खोलने के लिए इंतजार करते हैं, **सैकड़ों महिलाएं और ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्ति भी प्रशिक्षण लेते हैं और अपने बैल को काबू करने के लिए अपनी बारी का इंतजार करते हैं।**
- Many women and a few transgender people who participated in this year's jallikattu events were seen celebrating their victory by kissing or embracing the bulls.
इस साल के जल्लीकट्टू आयोजनों में भाग लेने वाली कई महिलाएं और कुछ ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों को अपनी जीत का जश्न मनाते हुए बैल को चूमते या गले लगाते हुए देखा गया।

Once looked upon as an event to test the prowess of the young men in the region, jallikattu soon evolved into a competitive sport with high stakes, and, more recently, controversy.

पहले इसे क्षेत्र के युवकों की क्षमता को परखने के रूप में देखा जाता था, लेकिन जल्लीकट्टू जल्द ही एक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक खेल के रूप में विकसित हो गया, जिसमें उच्च दांव होते हैं, और हाल ही में यह विवादों में घिरा हुआ है।

- Despite its cultural significance, jallikattu has faced criticism due to **safety concerns**. इसके सांस्कृतिक महत्व के बावजूद, जल्लीकट्टू को **सुरक्षा चिंताओं** के कारण आलोचनाओं का सामना करना पड़ा है।
- The event has been associated with numerous **injuries and fatalities** among both participants and spectators over the years.
इस आयोजन को वर्षों में भागीदारों और दर्शकों दोनों में **चोटों और मृत्यु** से जोड़ा गया है।

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- Animal activists have also alleged that the sport involves **cruelty to the bulls**.
पशु अधिकार कार्यकर्ताओं ने यह भी आरोप लगाया है कि यह खेल बैलों के प्रति क्रूरता को बढ़ावा देता है।

As the echoes of celebration and spirit settle for now, it is time to consider ways to preserve this tradition with more safety for participants and welfare measures for the animals.

जब उत्सव और भावना की गूंज अब शांत हो जाती है, तब यह समय है कि हम इस परंपरा को भागीदारों के लिए अधिक सुरक्षा और जानवरों की भलाई के उपायों के साथ संरक्षित करने के तरीकों पर विचार करें।

A confluence of faith and culture

GS Paper I: A&C

Maha Kumbh

The 45-day gathering of Hindu ascetics, saints, ash-smeared Naga Sadhus, skeleton-donning Aghoris and other pilgrims is expected to have a footfall of 450 million this year, nearly twice the population of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous State

Ishita Mishra

Monday, January 13, marked the first day of 45-day long Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, listed by UNESCO as the largest peaceful religious congregation of pilgrims on earth, where devotees walk miles to take a dip at 'Sangam', the convergence of the holy rivers Ganga and Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati. The fair is visited by Hindu ascetics, saints, ash-smeared Naga Sadhus, skeleton-donning Aghoris and other pilgrims. It is expected to have a footfall of 450 million this year, nearly twice the population of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous State.

Kumbh, derived from a Sanskrit word which means a pitcher, is rotationally held every three years at the four riverside cities of Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik. Its schedule is based on the planetary alignments, mainly of that of Sun and Jupiter. The Ardh (half) Kumbh is held every six years at Haridwar and Prayagraj while the Purna (complete) Kumbh takes place in all four cities, every 12 years. The Maha Kumbh happens after 12 Purna Kumbhs in Prayagraj, once in 144 years and is considered the most auspicious.

The mythological beliefs say that drops of *Amrit* (essence of immortality) were spilled at these sites from an urn which came out during the *Samudra Mantha* (churning of the ocean) done by the gods and demons.

The central ritual of the fair remains bathing in icy cold waters of the sacred rivers where millions immerse themselves with the belief that the act will cleanse them of their sins and liberate them from the cycle of birth and death and will attain spiritual liberation.

A gathering of ascetics

Religious texts also link Kumbh Mela's origins to the 8th-century philosopher, Adi Shankaracharya, who established this practice of gatherings of ascetics from across the country, for discussion on religion. It was Shankaracharya who instituted the monastery system and the 13 Akharas (warrior-saint



PHOTO: PTI

sects) – Nirvani, Atal, Niranjani, Anand, Juna, Awahan and Agni, Nirmohi, Digambar Ani and Nirvani Ani, the two Udasin Akharas (Naya and Bada) and the Nirmala Akhara. The saints from these sects, who sport weapons such as tridents, swords, and lances, are the main attraction at the Kumbh.

The latest in the line of Akharas is the Kinnar (transgender) Akhara, established in 2015 by transgender rights activist Laxmi Narayan Tripathi. The Akhara is still competing for space between the community of religious leaders but remains one of the most visited Akharas in Kumbh.

The Akharas use the fair as an opportunity to elect their chiefs and divide powers at its council meeting called the Dharam Sansad. This year, the meeting, scheduled on January 27, may pass a proposal for the formation of a 'Sanatan Board' (a board

dedicated to safeguard the Hindu religious sites), which will be sent to the government with a request for implementation.

The seers have already placed wishes such as no entry for Muslims and non-Hindus at the Kumbh, which was partially supported by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who says that those who don't believe in Sanatan Dharma should not visit the event.

Mahatma Gandhi had visited the Kumbh Mela in 1918. Political parties today capitalise on this event to win over Hindus. The fair was also used by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad to chalk out the blueprint for the Ram temple construction in Ayodhya in 1989.

With the BJP being in power at the Centre and State, this year's Kumbh is one of the most well-funded religious gatherings being held in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dubbed it as "A Maha Yagya of Unity", as the

Centre approved a special grant of ₹2,100 crore for it. About ₹7,500 crore was devoted to ensure proper logistics to host millions.

A sprawling tent city has been carved out within the limits of Prayagraj district, spread across an approximately 4,000-hectare area and divided in 25 sectors, 12 ghats for bathing. A large group of bureaucrats were deployed at the site to ensure smooth management of the fair. The airport was expanded to accommodate more flights while the Indian Railways has announced that it will run 13,000 trains to Prayagraj to ensure maximum devotees arrive at the Kumbh putting immense pressure on the town which exceeds its carrying capacity every time the fair is organised. In the 2019 Kumbh, this gathering generated 18,000 metric tonnes of solid waste.

Approximately 1,60,000 tent shelters have been constructed this

time to accommodate 15-20 lakh *Kalpwas* – devotees who spend around a month in the fair living a minimalistic life. Although the tents are free for the *Kalpwas*, they do bear the brunt of rocketing price of groceries, travel and other needs.

Apart from the cubical-shaped hiking tents for *Kalpwas*, the government has also set aside luxury cottages across the Sangam bank to drive tourism. These cottages cost ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh per night.

With 1,50,000 toilets, deployment of police offices, hospitals, banks, and eateries, the State has not left any stone unturned to make the Maha Kumbh an event like never before.

The fair has gigantic posters of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, advertising schemes and achievements of the BJP government, including the LPG schemes, Swachh Bharat, solar energy, among others.

Business opportunities

The fair presents business opportunities to both local traders as well as multinationals who set up kiosks to expand businesses. From Domino's pizza to Cafe Coffee Day, from RBI to LIC and from medicines to clothes, agriculture products and gadgets, the Maha Kumbh has a stall selling everything. The State has projected to generate up to ₹2 lakh crore from this 45-day long gathering, which will end on February 26.

With millions gathering at the river banks, the Kumbh Melas had seen accidents such as stampedes in the past, which led to the deaths of hundreds of pilgrims. With the humongous footfall at the site, incidents of missing cases too have become synonymous with the fair. Several Bollywood movies have drawn their plots from the Kumbh where heroes get separated from families at the fair and then dramatically reunited decades later.

After the end of the gathering, Sangam city will once again turn into a barren land, which will be used by the farmers to grow melons and children to play, leaving the sand banks to wait for another Kumbh to feel lively again.

THE GIST

Kumbh, derived from a Sanskrit word which mean pitcher, is rotationally held every three years at the four riverside cities of Prayagraj Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik

The Ardh (half) Kumbh is held every six years at Haridwar Prayagraj while the Purna (complete) Kumbh takes place in all four cities, every 12 years

The Maha Kumbh happens after 12 Purna Kumbhs in Prayagraj, once in 144 years and is considered the most auspicious



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A confluence of faith and culture

आस्था और संस्कृति का संगम

The 45-day gathering of Hindu ascetics, saints, ash-smeared Naga Sadhus, skeleton-donning Aghoris and other pilgrims is expected to have a footfall of 450 million this year, nearly twice the population of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous State

हिंदू तपस्वियों, संतों, राख से लिपटे नागा साधुओं, कंकाल धारण करने वाले अघोरियों और अन्य तीर्थयात्रियों के 45 दिवसीय समागम में इस वर्ष 450 मिलियन लोगों के आने की उम्मीद है, जो भारत के सबसे अधिक आबादी वाले राज्य उत्तर प्रदेश की आबादी से लगभग दोगुना है।

Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj

प्रयागराज में महा कुम्भ

- Monday, January 13, marked the first day of 45-day long Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, listed by UNESCO as the largest peaceful religious congregation of pilgrims on earth.
13 जनवरी, सोमवार को प्रयागराज में 45 दिनों तक चलने वाले महा कुम्भ का पहला दिन था, जिसे यूनेस्को ने पृथ्वी पर तीर्थयात्रियों का सबसे बड़ा शांतिपूर्ण धार्मिक मेला माना है।
- Devotees walk miles to take a dip at 'Sangam', the convergence of the holy rivers Ganga and Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati.
श्रद्धालु 'संगम' में डुबकी लगाने के लिए मीलों चलकर पहुँचते हैं, जो कि पवित्र नदियों गंगा और यमुना तथा पौराणिक सरस्वती का संगम है।
- The fair is visited by Hindu ascetics, saints, ash-smeared Naga Sadhus, skeleton-donning Aghoris and other pilgrims.
मेला हिंदू तपस्वियों, संतों, राख से सने नाग साधुओं, हड्डी पहने अघोरी और अन्य तीर्थयात्रियों द्वारा दौरा किया जाता है।
- It is expected to have a footfall of 450 million this year, nearly twice the population of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.
इस साल इसकी 450 मिलियन की उपस्थिति का अनुमान है, जो कि उत्तर प्रदेश की जनसंख्या से लगभग दोगुना है, जो भारत का सबसे अधिक जनसंख्या वाला राज्य है।
- Kumbh, derived from a Sanskrit word which means a pitcher, is rotationally held every three years at the four riverside cities of Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik.
कुम्भ, जो एक संस्कृत शब्द है जिसका अर्थ है घड़ा, हर तीन साल में चार नदी किनारे स्थित शहरों प्रयागराज, हरिद्वार, उज्जैन और नासिक में घूम-घूम कर आयोजित किया जाता है।
- Its schedule is based on the planetary alignments, mainly of that of Sun and Jupiter.
इसका कार्यक्रम ग्रहीय संरेखणों पर आधारित है, मुख्य रूप से सूर्य और बृहस्पति के संरेखणों पर।
- The Ardh (half) Kumbh is held every six years at Haridwar and Prayagraj while the Purna (complete) Kumbh takes place in all four cities, every 12 years.

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अर्ध (आधा) कुम्भ हर छह साल में हरिद्वार और प्रयागराज में आयोजित होता है, जबकि पूर्ण (पूर्ण) कुम्भ हर 12 साल में चारों शहरों में होता है।

- The **Maha Kumbh** happens after **12 Purna Kumbhs** in Prayagraj, once in **144 years** and is considered the most auspicious.

महा कुम्भ 12 पूर्ण कुम्भ के बाद प्रयागराज में होता है, जो 144 साल में एक बार होता है और इसे सबसे शुभ माना जाता है।

- The mythological beliefs say that drops of **Amrit** (essence of immortality) were spilled at these sites from an urn which came out during the **Samudra Mantha** (churning of the ocean) done by the gods and demons.

पौराणिक विश्वासों के अनुसार, **अमृत** (अमरत्व का सार) की बूँदें इन स्थलों पर एक कलश से गिरीं, जो **समुद्र मंथन** (देवों और राक्षसों द्वारा समुद्र मंथन) के दौरान निकला था।

- The central ritual of the fair remains bathing in icy cold waters of the sacred rivers where millions immerse themselves with the belief that the act will cleanse them of their sins and liberate them from the cycle of birth and death and will attain spiritual liberation. मेले का केंद्रीय अनुष्ठान पवित्र नदियों के बर्फीले पानी में स्नान करना है, जहाँ लाखों लोग अपने पापों से मुक्ति और जन्म-मृत्यु के चक्र से उबरने के विश्वास के साथ स्नान करते हैं और आत्मिक मुक्ति प्राप्त करते हैं।

A gathering of ascetics

तपस्वियों का एकत्र होना

- Religious texts also link **Kumbh Mela's origins** to the **8th-century philosopher, Adi Shankaracharya**, who established this practice of gatherings of ascetics from across the country for discussion on religion.

धार्मिक ग्रंथों में कुम्भ मेला की उत्पत्ति को आठवीं सदी के दार्शनिक, आदि शंकराचार्य से जोड़ा गया है, जिन्होंने पूरे देश से तपस्वियों के एकत्र होने की परंपरा शुरू की थी, ताकि वे धर्म पर चर्चा कर सकें।

- It was **Shankaracharya** who instituted the monastery system and the **13 Akharas** (warrior-saint sects)—**Nirvani, Atal, Niranjani, Anand, Juna, Awahan and Agni, Nirmohi, Digambar Ani and Nirvani Ani**, the two **Udasin Akharas** (Naya and Bada) and the **Nirmala Akhara**.

शंकराचार्य ही थे जिन्होंने मठ प्रणाली और **13 अखाड़ों** (योद्धा-संत संप्रदायों)—**निर्वाणी, अटल, निर्जानी, आनंद, जुना, आवाहन और अग्नि, निर्मोही, दिगंबर अनी और निर्वाणी अनी**, दो उदासीन अखाड़े (नया और बड़ा) और **निर्मला अखाड़ा** की स्थापना की थी।

- The saints from these sects, who sport weapons such as **tridents, swords, and lances**, are the main attraction at the Kumbh.

इन संप्रदायों के संत, जो **त्रिशूल, तलवार, और भालों** जैसे हथियारों को धारण करते हैं, कुम्भ में मुख्य आकर्षण होते हैं।

- The latest in the line of **Akharas** is the **Kinnar (transgender) Akhara**, established in **2015** by transgender rights activist **Laxmi Narayan Tripathi**.



अखाड़ों की शृंखला में नवीनतम किन्नर (ट्रांसजेंडर) अखाड़ा है, जिसकी स्थापना 2015 में ट्रांसजेंडर अधिकार कार्यकर्ता लक्ष्मी नारायण त्रिपाठी ने की थी।

- The Akhara is still competing for space between the community of religious leaders but remains one of the most visited **Akhara** in **Kumbh**.

अखाड़ा अभी भी धार्मिक नेताओं के समुदाय में जगह के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहा है, लेकिन यह कुम्भ में सबसे अधिक दौरा किए गए अखाड़ों में से एक बना हुआ है।

- The Akharas use the fair as an opportunity to elect their chiefs and divide powers at its council meeting called the **Dharam Sansad**.

अखाड़े इस मेले का उपयोग अपने प्रमुखों का चुनाव करने और उसकी धर्म संसद नामक परिषद बैठक में शक्तियों का विभाजन करने के अवसर के रूप में करते हैं।

- This year, the meeting, scheduled on **January 27**, may pass a proposal for the formation of a '**Sanatan Board**' (a board dedicated to safeguard the Hindu religious sites), which will be sent to the government with a request for implementation.

इस साल, बैठक, जो 27 जनवरी को निर्धारित है, एक 'सनातन बोर्ड' (हिंदू धार्मिक स्थलों की सुरक्षा के लिए समर्पित बोर्ड) के गठन का प्रस्ताव पारित कर सकती है, जिसे कार्यान्वयन के लिए सरकार को भेजा जाएगा।

Religious and Political Dynamics at Kumbh

कुम्भ में धार्मिक और राजनीतिक परिप्रेक्ष्य

- The seers have already placed wishes such as no entry for **Muslims and non-Hindus** at the Kumbh, which was partially supported by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** who says that those who don't believe in **Sanatan Dharma** should not visit the event.

साधु-संतों ने पहले ही कुम्भ में मुसलमानों और गैर-हिंदुओं के प्रवेश पर पाबंदी लगाने की इच्छा जताई है, जिसे मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने आंशिक रूप से समर्थन दिया है, जो कहते हैं कि जो लोग सनातन धर्म में विश्वास नहीं करते, उन्हें इस आयोजन में नहीं आना चाहिए।

- **Mahatma Gandhi** had visited the Kumbh Mela in **1918**.

महात्मा गांधी ने 1918 में कुम्भ मेला का दौरा किया था।

- Political parties today capitalize on this event to win over **Hindus**.

राजनीतिक दल आज इस आयोजन का उपयोग हिंदुओं को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करने के लिए करते हैं।

- The fair was also used by the **Vishwa Hindu Parishad** to chalk out the blueprint for the **Ram temple construction** in **Ayodhya** in **1989**.

इस मेले का उपयोग विश्व हिंदू परिषद ने 1989 में अयोध्या में राम मंदिर निर्माण का खाका तैयार करने के लिए किया था।

- With the **BJP** being in power at the **Centre and State**, this year's Kumbh is one of the most well-funded religious gatherings being held in the country.

केंद्र और राज्य में बीजेपी के सत्ता में होने के कारण इस साल का कुम्भ देश में आयोजित होने वाला सबसे संचालित और भव्य धार्मिक मेला है।



- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dubbed it as “**A Maha Yagya of Unity**”, as the Centre approved a special grant of **₹2,100 crore** for it.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने इसे “**एकता का महा यज्ञ**” करार दिया, क्योंकि केंद्र सरकार ने इसके लिए **₹2,100 करोड़** का विशेष अनुदान मंजूर किया।
- About **₹7,500 crore** was devoted to ensure proper logistics to host millions.
लाखों लोगों की मेज़बानी के लिए उचित लॉजिस्टिक्स सुनिश्चित करने के लिए लगभग **₹7,500 करोड़** खर्च किए गए।
- A sprawling **tent city** has been carved out within the limits of **Prayagraj district**, spread across an approximately **4,000-hectare** area and divided into **25 sectors**, with **12 ghats** for bathing.
प्रयागराज जिले की सीमा के भीतर एक विशाल **तंबू नगर** बनाया गया है, जो लगभग **4,000 हेक्टेयर** क्षेत्र में फैला हुआ है और इसे **25 सेक्टरों** में विभाजित किया गया है, जिनमें **12 घाट** स्नान के लिए हैं।
- A large group of bureaucrats were deployed at the site to ensure smooth management of the fair.
मेले के सुचारू प्रबंधन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए साइट पर एक बड़ा समूह **कर्मचारी** तैनात किया गया था।
- The airport was expanded to accommodate more flights while the **Indian Railways** has announced that it will run **13,000 trains** to Prayagraj to ensure maximum devotees arrive at the Kumbh.
हवाई अड्डे का विस्तार किया गया है ताकि अधिक **विमान** आ सकें, जबकि **भारतीय रेलवे** ने घोषणा की है कि वह **13,000 ट्रेनें** प्रयागराज भेजेगी ताकि अधिक से अधिक श्रद्धालु कुम्भ तक पहुँच सकें।
- This puts immense pressure on the town, which exceeds its carrying capacity every time the fair is organised.
इससे शहर पर भारी दबाव पड़ता है, क्योंकि जब भी मेला आयोजित होता है, शहर अपनी सहन क्षमता से अधिक पहुँच जाता है।
- In the **2019 Kumbh**, this gathering generated **18,000 metric tonnes** of solid waste.
2019 कुम्भ में इस आयोजन से **18,000 मीट्रिक टन** ठोस कचरा उत्पन्न हुआ था।
- Approximately **1,60,000 tent shelters** have been constructed this time to accommodate **15-20 lakh Kalpwasis** — devotees who spend around a month in the fair living a minimalistic life.
इस बार लगभग **1,60,000 तंबू आवास** बनाए गए हैं ताकि **15-20 लाख कल्पवासी** — श्रद्धालु जो मेला में लगभग एक महीना बिता कर न्यूनतम जीवन जीते हैं, उन्हें समायोजित किया जा सके।
- Although the tents are free for the **Kalpwasis**, they do bear the brunt of rocketing price of groceries, travel, and other needs.
हालांकि **कल्पवासी** के लिए तंबू मुफ्त हैं, लेकिन उन्हें किराने, यात्रा और अन्य आवश्यकताओं की **बढ़ती कीमतों** का सामना करना पड़ता है।
- Apart from the cubical-shaped hiking tents for **Kalpwasis**, the government has also set aside luxury cottages across the **Sangam** bank to drive tourism.



कल्पवासी के लिए घनाकार आकार के हाइकिंग तंबू के अलावा, सरकार ने संगम किनारे पर पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए लक्जरी कॉटेज भी आवंटित किए हैं।

- These cottages cost ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh per night.
इन कॉटेज की कीमत ₹50,000 से ₹1 लाख प्रति रात है।
- With 1,50,000 toilets, deployment of police officers, hospitals, banks, and eateries, the State has not left any stone unturned to make the Maha Kumbh an event like never before.

1,50,000 शौचालय, पुलिस अधिकारियों, अस्पतालों, बैंकों और खाने-पीने की दुकानों की तैनाती के साथ राज्य ने महाकुम्भ को पहले कभी न देखे गए आयोजन के रूप में सफल बनाने के लिए कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी है।

- The fair has gigantic posters of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, advertising schemes and achievements of the BJP government, including the LPG schemes, Swachh Bharat, solar energy, among others.

मेले में प्रधानमंत्री और मुख्यमंत्री के विशाल पोस्टर हैं, जो बीजेपी सरकार की योजनाओं और उपलब्धियों को प्रचारित करते हैं, जिनमें एलपीजी योजनाएं, स्वच्छ भारत, सौर ऊर्जा और अन्य शामिल हैं।

Business Opportunities at Kumbh

कुम्भ में व्यापार के अवसर

- The fair presents business opportunities to both local traders as well as multinationals who set up kiosks to expand businesses.

मेला स्थानीय व्यापारियों और बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों दोनों के लिए व्यापार के अवसर प्रस्तुत करता है, जो अपने व्यवसायों का विस्तार करने के लिए कियोस्क स्थापित करती हैं।

- From Domino's pizza to Cafe Coffee Day, from RBI to LIC and from medicines to clothes, agriculture products and gadgets, the Maha Kumbh has a stall selling everything.

डोमिनोज़ पिज़्ज़ा से लेकर कैफ़े कॉफ़ी डे, आरबीआई से लेकर एलआईसी, और दवाइयों से लेकर कपड़े, कृषि उत्पाद और गैजेट्स, महाकुम्भ में हर चीज़ का एक स्टॉल है।

- The State has projected to generate up to ₹2 lakh crore from this 45-day long gathering, which will end on February 26.

राज्य ने इस 45 दिन लंबे आयोजन से ₹2 लाख करोड़ तक का राजस्व उत्पन्न करने का अनुमान लगाया है, जो 26 फरवरी को समाप्त होगा।

- With millions gathering at the river banks, the Kumbh Melas had seen accidents such as stampedes in the past, which led to the deaths of hundreds of pilgrims.

लाखों लोग नदी के किनारे एकत्र होते हैं, कुम्भ मेलों में अतीत में हड़बड़ी जैसी घटनाएं देखी गई हैं, जिनसे सैकड़ों श्रद्धालुओं की मौत हुई।

- With the humongous footfall at the site, incidents of missing cases too have become synonymous with the fair.

स्थल पर भारी भीड़ के कारण, गुम होने की घटनाएँ भी मेले के साथ जुड़ी हुई हैं।



- Several **Bollywood movies** have drawn their plots from the Kumbh, where heroes get separated from families at the fair and then dramatically reunited decades later.
कई बॉलीवुड फिल्मों कुम्भ से अपनी कथाएँ लेती हैं, जहाँ नायक मेले में अपने परिवारों से अलग हो जाते हैं और फिर दशकों बाद नाटकीय रूप से मिल जाते हैं।
- After the end of the gathering, **Sangam city** will once again turn into barren land, which will be used by the farmers to grow **melons** and children to play, leaving the sand banks to wait for another Kumbh to feel lively again.
आयोजन के समाप्त होने के बाद, **संगम नगर** फिर से बंजर भूमि में बदल जाएगा, जिसे किसान तरबूज उगाने के लिए और बच्चे खेलने के लिए इस्तेमाल करेंगे, जबकि बालू के किनारे अगले कुम्भ का इंतजार करेंगे।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, and International Relations)

1. **Israel-Gaza Ceasefire to Begin Today: Officials** / इज़राइल-गाज़ा संघर्षविराम आज से शुरू होने के लिए: अधिकारी
2. **Mankind needs a mix of capitalism and socialism, says Jenny Erpenbeck** / मानवता को पूंजीवाद और समाजवाद का मिश्रण चाहिए, कहती हैं जेनी एरपेनबेक
3. **'Cancer of terrorism is consuming body politic of Pakistan'** / 'आतंकवाद का कैंसर पाकिस्तान की राजनीतिक शरीर को खा रहा है'
4. **India, EU expected to make 'meaningful' progress on FTA talks in 2025: diplomats** / भारत, यूरोपीय संघ को 2025 में FTA वार्ताओं पर 'महत्वपूर्ण' प्रगति की उम्मीद
5. **In a first, doctors use tele-robotic system to do two heart surgeries, over a distance of 286 km** / पहली बार, डॉक्टरों ने 286 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर दो हृदय सर्जरी करने के लिए टेली-रोबोटिक सिस्टम का उपयोग किया



6. Congress will remove quota cap if elected to power, says Rahul / राहुल गांधी ने कहा, कांग्रेस सत्ता में आने पर कोटा सीमा हटाएगी

7. New caste census / नई जाति जनगणना

8. Before ceasefire takes effect in Gaza, Yemen's Houthis fire missiles at Israel / गाजा में संघर्ष विराम के प्रभावी होने से पहले, यमन के हौथियों ने इजरायल पर मिसाइलें दागीं

9. Return of the Begum / बेगम की वापसी

Israel-Gaza ceasefire to begin today: officials

GS Paper II: West Asia

JERUSALEM

The ceasefire between Hamas and Israel will go into effect on Sunday at 8.30 a.m. local time, mediator Qatar announced on Saturday, as families of hostages held in Gaza braced for news of loved ones, Palestinians prepared to receive freed detainees, and humanitarian groups rushed to set up a surge of aid.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later warned that a ceasefire would not go forward unless Israel received the names of hostages to be released, as had been

agreed.

His statement came almost three hours after Israel had expected to receive the names, which Hamas was to give to Qatar. There was no immediate response from Hamas or Qatar.

The overnight approval of the ceasefire agreement by Israel's Cabinet, in a rare meeting during the Jewish Sabbath, set off a flurry of activity and a fresh wave of emotions as relatives wondered whether hostages would be returned alive or dead.

MORE REPORTS ON
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Israel-Gaza Ceasefire to Begin Today: Officials

इज़राइल-गाज़ा संघर्षविराम आज से शुरू होने के लिए: अधिकारी

The ceasefire between Hamas and Israel will go into effect on Sunday at 8.30 a.m. local time, as announced by Qatar on Saturday.

हमीस और इज़राइल के बीच संघर्षविराम रविवार को सुबह 8:30 बजे स्थानीय समय पर लागू होगा, जैसा कि कतर ने शनिवार को घोषणा की थी।

• Families of **hostages** held in Gaza are bracing for news of their loved ones. गाज़ा में कैद **बंधकों** के परिवार अपने प्रियजनों की खबर का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।



Website: patrioticias.in

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



- **Palestinians** are preparing to receive freed detainees.
फिलिस्तीनी मुक्त किए गए बंदियों का स्वागत करने की तैयारी कर रहे हैं।
- Humanitarian groups are rushing to set up a surge of aid.
मानवीय संगठनों ने सहायता का बड़ा प्रवाह स्थापित करने के लिए जल्दी की है।
- **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** later warned that the ceasefire would not proceed unless **Israel** received the names of hostages to be released, as agreed.
इज़राइल के प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू ने बाद में चेतावनी दी कि संघर्षविराम तब तक नहीं होगा जब तक इज़राइल को वह नाम नहीं मिलते जो रिहा किए जाने वाले बंधकों के थे, जैसा कि सहमति हुई थी।
- His statement came almost three hours after Israel had expected to receive the names, which **Hamas** was to give to **Qatar**.
उनका बयान लगभग तीन घंटे बाद आया जब इज़राइल को उम्मीद थी कि वह नाम प्राप्त करेगा, जो हमीस ने कतर को देने थे।
- There was no immediate response from **Hamas** or **Qatar**.
हमीस या कतर से कोई तत्काल प्रतिक्रिया नहीं आई।
- The overnight approval of the ceasefire agreement by **Israel's Cabinet**, in a rare meeting during the **Jewish Sabbath**, set off a flurry of activity and emotions.
इज़राइल की कैबिनेट द्वारा संघर्षविराम समझौते को यहूदी सबात के दौरान एक दुर्लभ बैठक में रातोंरात स्वीकृति मिलना एक गतिविधियों और भावनाओं की लहर का कारण बना।
- Relatives wondered whether hostages would be returned alive or dead.
रिश्तेदार यह सोच रहे थे कि बंधक जीवित या मृत लौटेंगे।

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Mankind needs a mix of capitalism and socialism, says Jenny Erpenbeck

GS Paper II: Preamble

East Berlin-born writer Jenny Erpenbeck waited 30 years to write about the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the changes that it brought to a region – German Democratic Republic or East Germany – which ceased to exist as a country.

In a conversation with historian Ira Mukhoty, Ms. Erpenbeck and Michael Hofmann – who translated her International Booker Prize-winning novel *Kairos* into English – unravelled the reasons why it took so long to tell a story close to her heart.

During the session titled “Love in the time of uncertainty” at *The Hindu* Lit for Life, Ms. Erpenbeck said the issue was too close for comfort and that writing a novel about the transition that was taking place in her country needed some distance. “I was busy taking part in everything... facing new things and new rules; I was busy making a living,” she contended, pointing out that adjusting to the new system, which came as a surprise and a shock, took time.

She sets the story of *Kai-*



Jenny Erpenbeck, left, and Michael Hofmann, centre, in conversation with Ira Mukhoty. R. RAGU

ros a few years before the fall of the Berlin Wall, around a destructive love story between a 19-year-old Katerina and 50-something-old Hans.

Ms. Erpenbeck said that in a way, the division of Germany gave the structure to the book – two parts mirroring each other, the good and the bad, of a love story, and a wall dividing Berlin.

Mr. Hofmann, whose parents left East Germany in the 1950s, said he found the details outlined by Ms. Erpenbeck “endlessly fascinating”.

The translation, he said, also gave him an opportunity to bring to English read-

ers an experience of post-war Germany which they are not aware of, where “everything seems to be in a flux”.

Asked why after reunification post 1989, there seemed to be a hurry to erase East German memories, Ms. Erpenbeck said the process to make a “united memory” after 40 years of a split history between East and West Germany is an ongoing process.

Ms. Erpenbeck said she wanted to narrate the story of East Germany in all its complexity, including its Fascist past, and tell readers a bit more about the country than what Florian

Henckel von Donnersmarck’s 2006 film *The Lives of Others* conveyed.

Different perspectives

Different parts of the world have different experiences with Communism, said Ms. Mukhoty, asking how then should the fall of the Berlin Wall be viewed. Ms. Erpenbeck said there are still some discussions going on about the advantages of a society based on political freedom and a society based on social achievements and justice.

“I think what we should keep thinking about is if freedom needs to be connected with Capitalism. Freedom is a very important achievement – freedom of speech, and not being put into prison for your thoughts – but if it is connected to a state which has a steep gap between the poor and rich, the best freedom does not reach the people. If the poor has to think about how to make a living, they cannot make any use of the freedom of speech. I think a mixture of both systems, their advantages, is what we need for mankind,” she pointed out.



Mankind needs a mix of capitalism and socialism, says Jenny Erpenbeck

मानवता को पूंजीवाद और समाजवाद का मिश्रण चाहिए, कहती हैं जेनी एरपेनबेक

East Berlin-born writer Jenny Erpenbeck waited 30 years to write about the fall of the Berlin Wall and the changes that it brought to the region, German Democratic Republic or East Germany.

ईस्ट बर्लिन में जन्मी लेखिका जेनी एरपेनबेक ने बर्लिन दीवार के गिरने और उस क्षेत्र में आए बदलावों के बारे में लिखने में 30 साल का समय लिया, जो जर्मन डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक या पूर्वी जर्मनी था।

- Ira Mukhoty, historian, interviewed Ms. Erpenbeck and Michael Hofmann, who translated her International Booker Prize-winning novel "Kairos" into English. इतिहासकार ईरा मुखोती ने मिसेज एरपेनबेक और माइकल होफमैन से साक्षात्कार किया, जिन्होंने उनकी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बुकर पुरस्कार जीतने वाली उपन्यास "काइरोस" का अंग्रेजी में अनुवाद किया।
- Ms. Erpenbeck said the issue was too close for comfort and required some distance to write about the transition in her country. मिसेज एरपेनबेक ने कहा कि यह मुद्दा बहुत करीब था और अपनी देश में परिवर्तन के बारे में लिखने के लिए कुछ दूरी की आवश्यकता थी।
- The story of "Kairos" is set a few years before the fall of the Berlin Wall, revolving around a destructive love story between 19-year-old Katerina and 50-something Hans. "काइरोस" की कहानी बर्लिन दीवार के गिरने से कुछ साल पहले सेट है, जो 19 वर्षीय कटरिना और 50 के करीब हांस के बीच एक विनाशकारी प्रेम कहानी पर आधारित है।
- Ms. Erpenbeck states that the division of Germany gave the structure to the book, with two parts reflecting the good and bad of a love story and the Berlin Wall dividing the city. मिसेज एरपेनबेक का कहना है कि जर्मनी का विभाजन किताब को संरचना देता है, जिसमें दो भागों में प्रेम कहानी की अच्छाई और बुराई और बर्लिन दीवार शहर को विभाजित करती है।
- Michael Hofmann, whose parents left East Germany in the 1950s, found Ms. Erpenbeck's details "endlessly fascinating." माइकल होफमैन, जिनके माता-पिता 1950 के दशक में पूर्वी जर्मनी छोड़कर चले गए थे, ने मिसेज एरपेनबेक के विवरणों को "अंतहीन आकर्षक" बताया।
- The translation provided English readers with an experience of postwar Germany, a period when "everything seems to be in flux."



अनुवाद ने अंग्रेजी पाठकों को युद्धोत्तर जर्मनी का अनुभव प्रदान किया, जब "सब कुछ परिवर्तनशील लगता था।"

- After **1989 reunification**, Ms. Erpenbeck commented on the rush to erase **East German memories** and the ongoing process of creating a **united memory** between **East and West Germany**.

1989 में एकीकरण के बाद, मिसेज एरपेनबेक ने पूर्वी जर्मनी की यादों को मिटाने की जल्दी और पूर्व और पश्चिम जर्मनी के बीच एक संयुक्त स्मृति बनाने की चल रही प्रक्रिया पर टिप्पणी की।

- She wanted to narrate the story of **East Germany's** complexity, including its **Fascist past** and more than what was portrayed in **Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's 2006 film "The Lives of Others."**

वह पूर्वी जर्मनी की जटिलता की कहानी सुनाना चाहती थीं, जिसमें इसके फासीवादी अतीत को भी शामिल किया गया है और जो कुछ भी फ्लोरियन हेंकेल वॉन डॉनेर्समार्क की 2006 की फिल्म "द लाइव्स ऑफ अदर्स" में दिखाया गया उससे अधिक।

- Discussing different experiences of **Communism** around the world, Ms. Erpenbeck said there are ongoing discussions about the advantages of a society based on **political freedom** versus a society based on **social achievements and justice**.

दुनिया भर में समाजवाद के विभिन्न अनुभवों पर चर्चा करते हुए, मिसेज एरपेनबेक ने कहा कि राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता पर आधारित समाज बनाम सामाजिक उपलब्धियों और न्याय पर आधारित समाज के फायदों पर चर्चा जारी है।

- Ms. Erpenbeck emphasized that **freedom** should not be connected with **Capitalism**, as **freedom of speech** does not reach the people if there is a **steep gap between the rich and poor**.

मिसेज एरपेनबेक ने यह बताया कि स्वतंत्रता को पूंजीवाद से नहीं जोड़ा जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि यदि अमीर और गरीब के बीच एक गहरी खाई हो, तो बोलने की स्वतंत्रता लोगों तक नहीं पहुंच पाती।

- She suggests a **mix of both systems** to ensure that freedom, social achievements, and justice benefit **mankind**.

वह यह सुझाव देती हैं कि दोनों प्रणालियों का मिश्रण किया जाए ताकि स्वतंत्रता, सामाजिक उपलब्धियाँ और न्याय मानवता को लाभ पहुंचा सकें।



‘Cancer of terrorism is consuming body politic of Pakistan’

GS Paper II:
 India-Politics

MUMBAI

Pakistan’s support of cross-border terrorism is like a cancer, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday.

“Pakistan remains the exception in our neighbourhood in view of its support for cross-border terrorism, and that cancer is now consuming its own body politic. Obviously, the entire sub-continent has a shared interest in Pakistan abjuring that approach.” Mr. Jaishankar said, while delivering the 19th Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Lecture.

India also needs to prepare itself for China’s growing capabilities, the Minister said. “Right now, the relationship is trying to disentangle itself from the complications arising from the post-2020 border situation. Even as that is being addressed, more thought needs to be given to the longer-term evolution of ties,” he said.

Nations on the rise

India faces a particular challenge in establishing an equilibrium with China, Mr. Jaishankar said. “As immediate neighbours and the only two societies with over a billion people, their



S. Jaishankar

dynamic could never have been easy. But it has been further sharpened by a boundary dispute, by some baggage of history and by differing socio-political systems. Misreadings by past policymakers, whether driven by idealism or absence of realpolitik, has helped neither cooperation nor competition with China. That has clearly changed in the last decade,” he said.

Highlighting India’s friendly relationship with Sri Lanka, he said, “India’s challenge has been to rebuild the neighbourhood in the aftermath of the Partition. It is now doing so through a generous and non-reciprocal approach, funding and supporting energy, rail and road connectivity, expanding trade and investment and intensifying exchanges and contacts.”

‘Cancer of terrorism is consuming body politic of Pakistan’

‘आतंकवाद का कैंसर पाकिस्तान की राजनीतिक शरीर को खा रहा है’

•Pakistan’s support of cross-border terrorism is like a cancer, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday.

पाकिस्तान का सीमा पार आतंकवाद का समर्थन एक कैंसर की तरह है, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने शनिवार को कहा।

•“Pakistan remains the exception in our neighbourhood in view of its support for cross-border terrorism, and that cancer is now consuming its own body politic. Obviously, the entire sub-continent has a shared interest in Pakistan abjuring that approach.”

“पाकिस्तान अपने पड़ोस में एक अपवाद बना हुआ है क्योंकि वह सीमा पार आतंकवाद का समर्थन करता है, और यह कैंसर अब उसके अपने राजनीतिक शरीर को खा रहा है। स्पष्ट रूप से, पूरे उपमहाद्वीप का साझा हित है कि पाकिस्तान इस दृष्टिकोण से बचने का विचार करें।”

•Mr. Jaishankar said, while delivering the 19th Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Lecture.

जयशंकर जी ने 19वीं नानी ए. पालखिवाला स्मृति व्याख्यान देते हुए यह कहा।

•India also needs to prepare itself for China’s growing capabilities, the Minister said. मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत को चीन की बढ़ती क्षमताओं के लिए भी खुद को तैयार करना होगा।

•“Right now, the relationship is trying to disentangle itself from the complications arising from the post-2020 border situation. Even as that is being addressed, more thought needs to be given to the longer-term evolution of ties,” he said.

“अब ही, संबंध खुद को 2020 के बाद की सीमा स्थिति से उत्पन्न जटिलताओं से अलग करने की कोशिश कर रहा



है। जबकि इसे संबोधित किया जा रहा है, दीर्घकालिक संबंधों के विकास पर भी अधिक विचार करने की आवश्यकता है,” उन्होंने कहा।

Nations on the rise

विकसित हो रहे राष्ट्र

- India faces a particular challenge in establishing an equilibrium with **China**, Mr. Jaishankar said.
जयशंकर जी ने कहा कि भारत को **चीन** के साथ संतुलन स्थापित करने में विशेष चुनौती का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
- “As immediate neighbours and the only two societies with over a billion people, their dynamic could never have been easy. But it has been further sharpened by a boundary dispute, by some baggage of history and by differing socio-political systems. Misreadings by past policymakers, whether driven by idealism or absence of realpolitik, has helped neither cooperation nor competition with China. That has clearly changed in the last decade,” he said.
“निकटतम पड़ोसी के रूप में और एक अरब से अधिक लोगों वाली दो समाजों के रूप में, उनका तालमेल कभी भी आसान नहीं हो सकता था। लेकिन यह सीमा विवाद, कुछ ऐतिहासिक बोझ और भिन्न सामाजिक-राजनीतिक प्रणालियों के कारण और अधिक तीव्र हो गया है। पिछले नीति निर्धारकों द्वारा की गई गलतियाँ, चाहे वे आदर्शवाद से प्रेरित हों या वास्तविक राजनीति की कमी के कारण, न तो चीन के साथ सहयोग में मदद की और न ही प्रतिस्पर्धा में। यह स्पष्ट रूप से पिछले एक दशक में बदल गया है,” उन्होंने कहा।
- Highlighting India's friendly relationship with **Sri Lanka**, he said, “India's challenge has been to rebuild the neighbourhood in the aftermath of the **Partition**. It is now doing so through a generous and non-reciprocal approach, funding and supporting energy, rail and road connectivity, expanding trade and investment and intensifying exchanges and contacts.”
श्रीलंका के साथ भारत के मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंधों को रेखांकित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा, “भारत की चुनौती **विभाजन** के बाद पड़ोस को फिर से बनाना रही है। अब यह ऐसा एक उदार और एकतरफा दृष्टिकोण के माध्यम से कर रहा है, जो ऊर्जा, रेलवे और सड़क संपर्क को वित्त पोषित और समर्थन कर रहा है, व्यापार और निवेश को बढ़ा रहा है और आदान-प्रदान और संपर्कों को प्रगाढ़ कर रहा है।”



India, EU expected to make 'meaningful' progress on FTA talks in 2025: diplomats

GS Paper II: India-EU

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

"Meaningful progress" on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected in 2025, said senior European diplomats in New Delhi, as Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal began his three-day visit to Brussels on Saturday. An EU-India strategic road map is also taking shape, as part of which the EU-India summit will take place at the end of the year, the diplomats added.

Mr. Goyal will have a high-level dialogue with Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner of the European Commission for Trade and Economic Security in Brussels.

"We are hoping to have the EU-India summit this year. This is an important meeting that should bring



Piyush Goyal

the two regions, the EU and India, together. And Poland is hoping to facilitate and support the EU delegation and the EU commission in their efforts to bridge the gap and bring the two partners together," said Sebastian Domzalski, Chargé d'Affaires of Polish Embassy in India. "We also hope to see some progress on the EU-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations. This is a hot topic, something that we have been dis-

cussing for a long time... So not only the summit, but also meaningful progress on the FTA negotiations [is likely], an effort Poland is committed to supporting during our Presidency."

Poland, which has been a part of the EU for 21 years, took over the organisation's Presidency on January 1.

Hervé Delphin, Ambassador of the EU delegation in India, said in an environment fraught with challenges, what stands out is that the Union and India are natural partners and stabilising powers in this threat environment. "So indeed, it would be a very rich year. Probably 2025 will be the EU-India year. It has been marked as a priority by the EU. A new strategic agenda with India is being prepared. It will culminate with the EU-India summit," he observed.

India, EU expected to make 'meaningful' progress on FTA talks in 2025: diplomats

भारत, यूरोपीय संघ को 2025 में FTA वार्ताओं पर 'महत्वपूर्ण' प्रगति की उम्मीद

"Meaningful progress" on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected in 2025, said senior European diplomats in New Delhi, as Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal began his three-day visit to Brussels on Saturday.

"महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति" भारत-

यूरोपीय संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) पर 2025 में होने की उम्मीद है, नई दिल्ली में वरिष्ठ यूरोपीय राजनयिकों ने कहा, जब केंद्रीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने शनिवार को अपनी तीन दिवसीय यात्रा की शुरुआत ब्रसेल्स से की।

- An EU-India strategic road map is also taking shape, as part of which the EU-India summit will take place at the end of the year, the diplomats added.

EU-भारत रणनीतिक रोडमैप भी आकार ले रहा है, जिसके तहत EU-भारत शिखर सम्मेलन वर्ष के अंत में आयोजित होगा, राजनयिकों ने जोड़ा।



- Mr. Goyal will have a high-level dialogue with **Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner of the European Commission for Trade and Economic Security in Brussels.**
पीयूष गोयल का ब्रसेल्स में **यूरोपीय आयोग के व्यापार और आर्थिक सुरक्षा आयुक्त मारोश शेफकोविक के साथ उच्च-स्तरीय संवाद होगा।
- “We are hoping to have the EU-India summit this year. This is an important meeting that should bring the two regions, the EU and India, together. And Poland is hoping to facilitate and support the EU delegation and the EU commission in their efforts to bridge the gap and bring the two partners together,” said **Sebastian Domzalski, Chargé d’Affaires of Polish Embassy in India.**
“हम इस वर्ष EU-भारत शिखर सम्मेलन की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं। यह एक महत्वपूर्ण बैठक है जो दो क्षेत्रों, EU और भारत, को एक साथ लानी चाहिए। और पोलैंड EU प्रतिनिधिमंडल और EU आयोग के प्रयासों में मदद करने और दोनों भागीदारों को एकजुट करने के लिए समर्थन देने की उम्मीद कर रहा है,” भारत में पोलिश दूतावास के चार्ज द’अफेयर सेबेस्टियन डोमज़ल्स्की ने कहा।
- “We also hope to see some progress on the **EU-India Free Trade Agreement** negotiations. This is a **hot topic**, something that we have been discussing for a long time... So not only the summit, but also **meaningful progress on the FTA negotiations** [is likely], an effort Poland is committed to supporting during our **Presidency.**”
“हम EU-भारत मुक्त व्यापार समझौते वार्ताओं में कुछ प्रगति की भी उम्मीद करते हैं। यह एक गर्म विषय है, जिसे हम लंबे समय से चर्चा कर रहे हैं... तो न केवल शिखर सम्मेलन, बल्कि FTA वार्ताओं में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति [की संभावना है], एक प्रयास है जिसे पोलैंड अपनी अध्यक्षता के दौरान समर्थन देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।”
- **Poland**, which has been a part of the EU for **21 years**, took over the organisation’s **Presidency on January 1.**
पोलैंड, जो 21 वर्षों से EU का हिस्सा है, ने 1 जनवरी को संगठन की अध्यक्षता संभाली।
- **Hervé Delphin, Ambassador of the EU delegation in India**, said in an environment fraught with challenges, what stands out is that the **Union and India are natural partners** and stabilising powers in this threat environment.
Hervé Delphin, भारत में EU प्रतिनिधिमंडल के राजदूत, ने कहा कि चुनौतियों से भरे वातावरण में जो बात सबसे महत्वपूर्ण है वह यह है कि **संघ और भारत स्वाभाविक साझेदार** और इस खतरे के वातावरण में स्थिरता लाने वाली शक्तियाँ हैं।
- “So indeed, it would be a very rich year. Probably **2025** will be the **EU-India year**. It has been marked as a priority by the **EU**. A new **strategic agenda with India** is being prepared. It will culminate with the **EU-India summit**,” he observed.
“इसलिए वास्तव में, यह एक बहुत समृद्ध वर्ष होगा। शायद **2025 EU-भारत वर्ष** होगा। इसे **EU** द्वारा एक प्राथमिकता के रूप में चिह्नित किया गया है। **भारत के साथ एक नया रणनीतिक एजेंडा** तैयार किया जा रहा है। यह **EU-भारत शिखर सम्मेलन** के साथ समापन होगा,” उन्होंने अवलोकन किया।



In a first, doctors use tele-robotic system to do two heart surgeries, over a distance of 286 km

GS Paper II: Health Sector

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Combining cutting-edge technology with medical innovation, doctors used India's first indigenous surgical tele-robotic system to successfully conduct two complex heart surgeries over a distance of 286 kilometres - the longest, physical separation so far achieved in India between a patient and the operating surgeon.

The surgical-robotic system, SSI Mantra, developed by the medical technology company, SSI Ltd, is the first-of-its-kind system in India. It conducted two surgeries on January 9 and 10 on two men, aged 59 and 56, with a team stationed at the SSI's robotics control in Gurugram and



Dr. Lalitaditya Malik and his team after the two successful heart surgeries. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

another at the Manipal Hospital in Jaipur.

The first procedure was an internal mammary artery harvesting, which involves removing the artery for a coronary artery bypass grafting. The second was a total endoscopic coronary artery bypass, which is considered a complex cardiac surgery as the

surgeon has to work on the artery while the heart is still beating.

Speaking to *The Hindu* about the surgeries, Dr. Lalitaditya Malik, cardiothoracic vascular surgery consultant at the Manipal Hospital in Jaipur, said his team of 10 medical staff and five from an Information Technology support

team did mock drills for these operations for nearly a week every day before the actual procedures.

Better precision

"Latency time, ensuring good connectivity, anticipating and being prepared for medical and technical problems are the challenges associated with the procedure. The advantages include reduced time of operation, better precision, minimal operation trauma to the body in terms of incision, blood loss, recovery time and chances of infection," he said.

The surgeries were successful because the underlying technology enabled a latency of 35-40 milliseconds (one-20th of a second), meaning that actions executed in

Gurugram were almost instantaneously transmitted to the robotic surgical instruments in Jaipur. The patients have been discharged.

The surgeon involved, Sudhir Srivastava, founder of SSI Innovations, and who specialises in robotic cardiac surgery, told *The Hindu* that MantraSync was a proprietary tele-surgical network module specifically designed to work seamlessly with the SSI Mantra surgical-robot system.

"The technology has been approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation in India under Class B and Class C surgical devices. These approvals affirm the safety, efficacy, and regulatory compliance of the system for use in hospitals across India," said Dr. Srivastava.

In a first, doctors use tele-robotic system to do two heart surgeries, over a distance of 286 km

पहली बार, डॉक्टरों ने 286 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर दो हृदय सर्जरी करने के लिए टेली-रोबोटिक सिस्टम का उपयोग किया

Doctors used India's first indigenous surgical tele-robotic system to successfully conduct two complex heart surgeries over a distance of 286 kilometres.

डॉक्टरों ने भारत के पहले स्वदेशी सर्जिकल टेली-रोबोटिक सिस्टम का उपयोग करके 286 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर दो जटिल हृदय सर्जरी सफलतापूर्वक की।

- The surgeries were conducted using the **SSI Mantra** robotic system, developed by **SSI Ltd**.



सर्जरी **SSI मंतर** रोबोटिक सिस्टम का उपयोग करके की गई, जिसे **SSI लिमिटेड** द्वारा विकसित किया गया है।

- The surgeries took place on **January 9 and 10**, 2024, on two men aged **59 and 56**.

सर्जरी **9 और 10 जनवरी 2024** को दो पुरुषों पर की गई, जिनकी उम्र **59 और 56** वर्ष थी।

- The first procedure was **internal mammary artery harvesting** for coronary artery bypass grafting.

पहला प्रॉसिजर **इंटर्नल मैमरी आर्टरी हार्वेस्टिंग** था, जो कोरोनरी आर्टरी बाइपास ग्राफ्टिंग के लिए किया गया था।

- The second surgery was **total endoscopic coronary artery bypass**, a complex cardiac surgery.

दूसरी सर्जरी **कुल एंडोस्कोपिक कोरोनरी आर्टरी बाइपास** थी, जो एक जटिल हृदय सर्जरी मानी जाती है।

- The surgeries were conducted with teams in **Gurugram** (control centre) and **Jaipur** (patient location).

सर्जरी **गुरुग्राम** (कंट्रोल सेंटर) और **जयपुर** (रोगी स्थान) में स्थित टीमों द्वारा की गई।

- **Dr. Lalitaditya Malik**, cardiothoracic vascular surgery consultant, said mock drills were conducted for a week before the surgeries.

डॉ. ललितादित्य मलिक, कार्डियोथोरेसिक वैस्कुलर सर्जरी कंसल्टेंट, ने कहा कि सर्जरी से पहले एक सप्ताह तक मॉक ड्रिल्स की गई थीं।

- **Latency time** of 35-40 milliseconds allowed near-instantaneous transmission of surgical actions from **Gurugram to Jaipur**.

लेटेंसी समय 35-40 मिलीसेकंड था, जिसने **गुरुग्राम से जयपुर** तक सर्जिकल क्रियाओं के त्वरित प्रसारण को सक्षम किया।

- The technology was approved by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** in India under **Class B and Class C** surgical devices.

इस तकनीकी को भारत में **केंद्रीय औषधि मानक नियंत्रण संगठन** द्वारा **कक्षा B और कक्षा C** सर्जिकल उपकरणों के तहत मंजूरी प्राप्त है।

- The patients from the surgeries have been successfully **discharged**.

सर्जरी के बाद रोगियों को **सफलतापूर्वक छुट्टी** दी गई।

- The surgeon involved, **Sudhir Srivastava**, founder of **SS Innovations**, specializes in robotic cardiac surgery.

शामिल सर्जन, **सुधीर श्रीवास्तव**, **SS इनोवेशन** के संस्थापक, रोबोटिक कार्डियक सर्जरी में विशेषज्ञ हैं।



Congress will remove quota cap if elected to power, says Rahul

GS Paper II: Quota in Reservation

PATNA

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, on his first visit to Bihar after becoming the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, on Saturday slammed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Bharatiya Janata Party for being “anti-Constitution”, and said 20-25 billionaires own the wealth of the country.

The 50% reservation barrier would be removed and caste census conducted across the country when the Congress returns to power at the Centre, Mr. Gandhi said while addressing Congress functionaries and workers at the party’s State headquarters in Patna, the Sadaqat Ashram.

New caste census

While slamming the Bihar government led by Chief Minister Nitish Ku-



Rahul Gandhi

mar, Mr. Gandhi said, “The caste survey done by the Bihar government [released in 2023] was fake and when our government returns to power, a caste census will be held across the country to know the exact population of castes and their representation in governance”.

Earlier, he addressed the ‘Samvidhan Suraksha Sammelan’ (Save Constitution Conclave) organised by social organisations at the Babu Sabhagar auditorium in the city.

कार्यकर्ताओं और नेताओं को संबोधित करते हुए दिया।

Congress will remove quota cap if elected to power, says Rahul

राहुल गांधी ने कहा, कांग्रेस सत्ता में आने पर कोटा सीमा हटाएगी

• Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, on his first visit to Bihar after becoming the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, slammed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for being “anti-Constitution”.

पूर्व कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी, लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता बनने के बाद अपनी बिहार यात्रा में, ने राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ (RSS) और भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP) को “संविधान विरोधी” करार दिया।

• He said that 20-25 billionaires own the wealth of the country.

उन्होंने कहा कि 20-25 अरबपतियों के पास देश की संपत्ति है।

• The 50% reservation barrier would be removed and a caste census would be conducted across the country when Congress returns to power at the Centre.

50% आरक्षण सीमा को हटाया जाएगा और जब कांग्रेस केंद्र में सत्ता में लौटेगी, तो पूरे देश में जाति जनगणना कराई जाएगी।

• Mr. Gandhi made these statements while addressing Congress functionaries and workers at the party’s State headquarters in Patna, at Sadaqat Ashram.

राहुल गांधी ने यह बयान पटना स्थित पार्टी के राज्य मुख्यालय, सदाकत आश्रम में कांग्रेस



Will the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip hold?

How did Israel and Hamas come to an agreement? Why did it take 15 months for a deal? What will it entail? What role did Qatar, Egypt and the U.S. play? How will it affect other countries in the region? How will things change with Trump in the White House?

GS Paper II: West Asia

The story so far:

After 15 months of fighting, which was triggered by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack in which about 1,200 people were killed, Israel and Hamas have accepted a ceasefire in Gaza. On Saturday, Israel's 24-member cabinet gave approval to the agreement, which is expected to be implemented in three phases. The deal, which came into force on Sunday, was reached in talks mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the U.S. If it holds, it would provide a desperately needed relief for Gaza, the tiny strip along the Mediterranean Sea which was relentlessly bombed by Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) over the past 15 months in which over 46,000 Palestinians were killed and almost the entire population of the enclave displaced.

What are the terms?

The deal is to be implemented in three phases. In the 42-day first phase, Hamas will release 33 hostages, most of those alive, and Israel will free roughly 1,000 Palestinian security prisoners. Israel will also partially withdraw the IDF from Gaza, and allow the entry of about 600 trucks of humanitarian aid into the enclave every day. The IDF is expected to withdraw from the Netzarim Corridor, which separates northern Gaza, which has seen massive Israeli bombardment from Day one of the war, from the south, where most of the enclave's population have been pushed into. If the Israeli troops withdraw from Netzarim, it

Arab and Israeli media claim that the Trump factor played a key part

would allow some of the displaced Gazans to move from the south and centre to the north.

But in the first phase, Israeli troops will remain in the Philadelphi Corridor on the Rafah crossing – which means Israel will continue to monitor Gaza's border with Egypt. On the 16th day of the first phase, discussions are expected to begin on the second phase. If the first phase is implemented as per plan, 65 hostages will still be in Hamas's captivity and Israeli troops will still be there at Philadelphi and some buffer zones in Gaza. In the second stage, Hamas will be required to release most of the remaining living hostages and both sides should declare a permanent end to the hostilities. The third phase will involve discussions on the 'day after'.

Why did both parties accept a ceasefire now?

The deal accepted by both parties is not essentially different from the deal offered eight months ago. Hamas had announced earlier that it would accept a deal, provided the war is brought to a permanent end.

In May, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed the agreement, saying Israel would continue its military offensive in Gaza until it meets its objectives.

But a lot has changed in the region since. Israel now believes its regional standing has become stronger. Hezbollah, the Lebanese militia organisation, has lost most of its top leadership in Israeli attacks. The IDF has killed most of the leaders of Hamas, including Yahya Sinwar. Israel carried out a massive air strike in Iran in October, targeting the Islamic Republic's air defences and other military facilities (to which Iran hasn't responded yet). More importantly, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria has further weakened Iran's so-called 'axis of resistance' in West Asia. Mr. Assad's Syria was the land bridge between Iran and Hezbollah. Since this land bridge is disrupted, Hezbollah will find it difficult to rearm itself. These developments have also strengthened Mr. Netanyahu's political standing at home.

These factors probably influenced him to change his position about a deal with Hamas. But that's not all.

After months of fighting, Israel failed to meet its declared objectives in Gaza. When he launched the war, Mr. Netanyahu said Israel would dismantle Hamas. Israeli attacks have degraded Hamas's militant infrastructure, but Hamas reinvented itself as an insurgency, its original avatar. Antony Blinken, the U.S. Secretary of State, recently said the American assessment was that Hamas recruited as many fighters as it had lost.

The inability to meet its objectives through

military means might also have influenced Israel's leaders to take a more pragmatic view of pausing the conflict and getting the hostages freed. Then, there is the Trump factor.

What role did the U.S. play?

The Biden administration has been pushing for a ceasefire for long, but it also offered full support to Israel's war in Gaza. Washington continues to supply weapons to Israel and offer diplomatic protection to Israel at global fora. Mr. Biden's refusal to use effective pressure tactics on Israel meant that the latter continued the war despite Washington's public call and private diplomatic push for a ceasefire. But now, Mr. Biden can claim that a ceasefire was reached just days before he left the White House. Arab and Israeli media claim that the Trump factor also played a key role. Donald Trump had earlier said that "all hell will break loose" if there was no agreement between Israel and Hamas before he takes office on January 20 as the 47th President of the U.S. Mr. Trump's West Asia envoy Steve Witkoff had met the negotiators and the Israeli leadership last week. *Times of Israel* reported, quoting Arab officials, that Mr. Witkoff managed to achieve in a single meeting more than what President Biden did the whole year.

Mr. Trump is known for his pro-Israel positions. But he had promised during his campaign that he would bring the wars in West Asia and Ukraine to an end if returned to the White House. If the war is brought to an end, besides the humanitarian angle, it would offer some stability to West Asia. Mr. Trump may not like the U.S. being drawn into another never-ending war in the region. Also, if the Israel-Hamas war pauses, the Houthis of Yemen could stop attacking Israel and the ships passing through the Red Sea. Both the U.S. and Israel carried out air strikes against the Houthis in recent months but failed to stop their attacks.

If the Red Sea calms down, normal freight traffic through the Suez Canal could resume, tamping down the inflationary pressure on the global economy.

Why is Phase 3 going to be a challenge?

As of now, the focus of both parties would be on implementing the first phase – which has a fair chance of being implemented. The second phase could see the exchange of more hostages for prisoners. But the real challenge would be Phase 3. Hamas has demanded a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Israel now realises that it cannot dismantle Hamas – the organisation would survive in one way or another. On a more practical note, Israel doesn't want to leave Hamas as a ruling or fighting force in Gaza. This poses a dilemma for Israel. If it agrees to end the war and leave Gaza, Hamas would remain a militant insurgency in Gaza. If Israel continues to stay in Gaza, there won't be a lasting ceasefire agreement and a war of attrition will go on.



In ruins: Smoke rises over the Gaza Strip after an Israeli strike, as seen from the Israeli border on January 17. GETTY IMAGES



New caste census

नई जाति जनगणना

- While criticizing the **Bihar government** led by **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar**, Mr. Gandhi called the **caste survey** done by the Bihar government (released in **2023**) as fake.
मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार द्वारा नेतृत्व किए गए बिहार सरकार को आलोचना करते हुए, राहुल गांधी ने बिहार सरकार द्वारा की गई जाति सर्वेक्षण (जो 2023 में जारी हुआ) को झूठा कहा।
- He further stated that when their government returns to power, a **caste census** will be held across the country to determine the exact **population of castes** and their **representation in governance**.
उन्होंने आगे कहा कि जब उनकी सरकार सत्ता में लौटेगी, तो पूरे देश में जाति जनगणना कराई जाएगी ताकि जातियों की सही जनसंख्या और उनके शासन में प्रतिनिधित्व का पता चल सके।
- Earlier, he addressed the '**Samvidhan Suraksha Sammelan**' (Save Constitution Conclave) organized by **social organizations** at the **Bapu Sabhagar auditorium** in the city.
इससे पहले, उन्होंने शहर में स्थित बापू सभा घर में सामाजिक संगठनों द्वारा आयोजित 'संविधान सुरक्षा सम्मेलन' (संविधान बचाओ सम्मेलन) को संबोधित किया।

Ceasefire in the Gaza Strip

गाजा पट्टी में युद्धविराम

- **After 15 months of fighting**, triggered by **Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack**, where about **1,200 people were killed**, **Israel and Hamas have accepted a ceasefire** in Gaza.
15 महीने के संघर्ष के बाद, जो 7 अक्टूबर, 2023 को हमास के हमले से शुरू हुआ, जिसमें लगभग 1,200 लोग मारे गए, इज़राइल और हमास ने गाजा में युद्धविराम स्वीकार किया।
- On **Saturday**, **Israel's 24-member cabinet** approved the agreement, and it started on **Sunday**.
शनिवार को, इज़राइल की 24-सदस्यीय कैबिनेट ने समझौते को मंजूरी दी, और यह रविवार से लागू हुआ।
- The agreement was reached through talks mediated by **Qatar, Egypt, and the U.S.**
यह समझौता कतर, मिस्र और अमेरिका द्वारा मध्यस्थता की गई बातचीत के माध्यम से हुआ।
- If successful, the ceasefire will provide relief to Gaza, which faced relentless bombing by the **Israeli Defence Forces (IDF)** over the **past 15 months**, resulting in **46,000 Palestinian deaths** and the displacement of almost the **entire population**.
यदि यह सफल होता है, तो युद्धविराम गाजा को राहत देगा, जिसे पिछले 15 महीनों में इज़राइली डिफेंस फोर्स (IDF) द्वारा लगातार बमबारी का सामना करना पड़ा, जिसमें 46,000 फिलिस्तीनी मारे गए और लगभग पूरी आबादी विस्थापित हो गई।



What are the terms?

शर्तें क्या हैं?

- The agreement will be implemented in **three phases**.
यह समझौता तीन चरणों में लागू किया जाएगा।
 - **First Phase (42 days):**
Hamas will release 33 hostages, and Israel will free roughly 1,000 Palestinian security prisoners.
पहला चरण (42 दिन): हमास 33 बंधकों को रिहा करेगा, और इज़राइल लगभग 1,000 फिलिस्तीनी सुरक्षा कैदियों को रिहा करेगा।
 - **Israel will partially withdraw the IDF from Gaza and allow the entry of 600 trucks of humanitarian aid daily.**
इज़राइल गाजा से IDF को आंशिक रूप से वापस ले लेगा और 600 मानवीय सहायता ट्रकों की दैनिक प्रवेश की अनुमति देगा।
 - **The IDF will withdraw from the Netzarim Corridor, separating northern Gaza (heavily bombed) and the south (where most of the population has fled).**
IDF नेटजारिम कॉरिडोर से पीछे हटेगा, जो उत्तरी गाजा (जहां भारी बमबारी हुई) और दक्षिण (जहां अधिकांश जनसंख्या चली गई) को अलग करता है।
 - **Some displaced Gazans will be able to move from the south and center to the north.**
कुछ विस्थापित गज़ावासी दक्षिण और केंद्र से उत्तर की ओर जा सकेंगे।
 - **However, Israeli troops will remain in the Philadelphi Corridor near the Rafah crossing, continuing to monitor Gaza's border with Egypt.**
हालांकि, इज़राइली सैनिक रफाह क्रॉसिंग के पास फिलाडेल्फी कॉरिडोर में रहेंगे और मिस्र के साथ गाजा की सीमा की निगरानी जारी रखेंगे।
 - On the **16th day of the first phase**, discussions on the **second phase** are expected to begin.
पहले चरण के 16वें दिन, दूसरे चरण पर चर्चा शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।
 - If the first phase succeeds, **65 hostages will remain in Hamas captivity**, and Israeli troops will still control parts of Gaza.
यदि पहला चरण सफल होता है, तो 65 बंधक हमास की कैद में रहेंगे, और इज़राइली सैनिक गाजा के कुछ हिस्सों पर नियंत्रण बनाए रखेंगे।
 - **Second Phase:**
 - **Hamas will release most remaining hostages, and both sides will declare a permanent end to hostilities.**
दूसरा चरण:
 - **हमास अधिकांश बचे हुए बंधकों को रिहा करेगा, और दोनों पक्ष शत्रुता को स्थायी रूप से समाप्त करने की घोषणा करेंगे।**
 - **Third Phase:**



- Focused on discussions about the 'day after'.
तीसरा चरण:
 - 'अगले दिन' पर चर्चा पर केंद्रित होगा।

Why did both parties accept a ceasefire now?

दोनों पक्षों ने अभी संघर्ष विराम क्यों स्वीकार किया?

- The deal accepted by both parties is not **essentially different** from the deal offered **eight months ago**.
दोनों पक्षों द्वारा स्वीकार किया गया समझौता आठ महीने पहले पेश किए गए समझौते से मूल रूप से अलग नहीं है।
- **Hamas** had announced earlier that it would accept a deal provided the war is brought to a **permanent end**.
हमस ने पहले घोषणा की थी कि वह समझौते को स्वीकार करेगा, बशर्ते युद्ध को **स्थायी रूप से समाप्त** कर दिया जाए।
- In **May**, Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** dismissed the agreement, stating that Israel would continue its military offensive in Gaza until it meets its **objectives**.
मई में, इजरायली प्रधानमंत्री **बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू** ने इस समझौते को खारिज कर दिया था, यह कहते हुए कि इजरायल तब तक गाजा में अपना सैन्य अभियान जारी रखेगा जब तक कि वह अपने **लक्ष्यों** को पूरा नहीं कर लेता।
- Israel now believes its **regional standing** has become stronger due to key developments:
इजरायल अब मानता है कि उसके **क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव** में कुछ मुख्य घटनाक्रमों के कारण मजबूती आई है:
 - **Hezbollah's top leadership** in Lebanon has been mostly eliminated in Israeli attacks.
लेबनान में **हिज़बुल्लाह** के शीर्ष नेतृत्व को इजरायली हमलों में लगभग समाप्त कर दिया गया है।
 - Most of the leaders of **Hamas**, including **Yahya Sinwar**, have been killed by the **Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)**.
हमस के अधिकांश नेताओं, जिनमें **यहया सिनवार** शामिल हैं, को इजरायली रक्षा बलों (IDF) ने मार दिया है।
 - In **October**, Israel conducted a **massive air strike** in Iran, targeting the **Islamic Republic's air defences** and military facilities, to which **Iran has not responded yet**.
अक्टूबर में, इजरायल ने ईरान पर एक **भारी हवाई हमला** किया, जिसमें **इस्लामी गणराज्य की वायु रक्षा** और सैन्य सुविधाओं को निशाना बनाया गया। ईरान ने अभी तक इसका कोई जवाब नहीं दिया है।



- The **fall of the Assad regime in Syria** disrupted Iran's so-called '**axis of resistance**' in West Asia.
सीरिया में असद शासन का पतन ने पश्चिम एशिया में ईरान के कथित 'प्रतिरोध के धुरी' को बाधित कर दिया है।
- **Hezbollah** now faces challenges in **rearming** itself without Syria's support as a **land bridge**.
हिज़बुल्लाह अब सीरिया के समर्थन के बिना पुनः हथियारबंद होने में कठिनाइयों का सामना कर रहा है क्योंकि भूमि मार्ग बाधित हो गया है।
- These developments have strengthened **Netanyahu's political standing** at home.
इन घटनाक्रमों ने देश में नेतन्याहू की राजनीतिक स्थिति को मजबूत किया है।
- Despite these, **Israel failed to dismantle Hamas**, which has reinvented itself as an **insurgency** after months of fighting.
इन सबके बावजूद, इजरायल हमास को खत्म करने में विफल रहा, जिसने लड़ाई के महीनों बाद खुद को विद्रोह के रूप में पुनः संगठित किया।
- **U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken** noted that Hamas recruited as many **fighters** as it had lost, reflecting Israel's **inability to meet its objectives** militarily.
अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री एंटनी ब्लिंकन ने कहा कि हमास ने उतने ही लड़ाके फिर से भर्ती किए जितने उसने खो दिए थे, जो इजरायल की सैन्य उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने में विफलता को दर्शाता है।

What role did the U.S. play?

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की क्या भूमिका रही?

- The **Biden administration** pushed for a **ceasefire** but continued **military and diplomatic support** for Israel, including **weapons supply** and **protection at global fora**.
बाइडन प्रशासन ने संघर्ष विराम के लिए दबाव डाला लेकिन इजरायल को सैन्य और कूटनीतिक समर्थन जारी रखा, जिसमें हथियारों की आपूर्ति और वैश्विक मंचों पर सुरक्षा शामिल थी।
- President Biden can now claim credit for a ceasefire **before leaving office**, as the agreement was reached just days before he leaves.
राष्ट्रपति बाइडन अब पद छोड़ने से पहले संघर्ष विराम का श्रेय ले सकते हैं, क्योंकि यह समझौता उनके पद छोड़ने से ठीक पहले हुआ।
- **Donald Trump's influence** played a key role. Trump warned that "**all hell will break loose**" if no agreement was reached before his inauguration as the **47th President on January 20**.
डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के प्रभाव ने अहम भूमिका निभाई। ट्रंप ने चेतावनी दी थी कि यदि 20 जनवरी को 47वें राष्ट्रपति के रूप में उनके शपथ ग्रहण से पहले कोई समझौता नहीं हुआ तो "स्थिति बेहद खराब हो जाएगी।"



Why did both parties accept a ceasefire now?

क्यों दोनों पक्षों ने अब युद्धविराम स्वीकार किया?

- The deal accepted by both parties is **not different** from the deal offered eight months ago.
दोनों पक्षों द्वारा स्वीकार किया गया समझौता आठ महीने पहले प्रस्तावित समझौते से भिन्न नहीं है।
- Hamas had announced earlier that it would accept a deal, provided the war is brought to a **permanent end**.
हमास ने पहले घोषणा की थी कि वह एक समझौता स्वीकार करेगा, बशर्ते युद्ध का **स्थायी अंत** हो।
- In May, Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** dismissed the agreement, saying Israel would continue its **military offensive in Gaza** until its objectives are met.
मई में, इज़राइल के प्रधानमंत्री **बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू** ने समझौते को खारिज कर दिया था और कहा था कि इज़राइल तब तक गाजा में अपनी **सैन्य कार्रवाई** जारी रखेगा जब तक उसके लक्ष्य पूरे नहीं हो जाते।
- **Hezbollah**, the Lebanese militia organization, has lost most of its top leadership in Israeli attacks.
इजरायली हमलों में **हिज़बुल्लाह**, लेबनानी मिलिशिया संगठन, ने अपने अधिकांश शीर्ष नेतृत्व को खो दिया।
- The **fall of the Assad regime** in Syria has further weakened Iran's so-called '**axis of resistance**' in West Asia.
सीरिया में **असद शासन का पतन** ईरान के तथाकथित '**प्रतिरोध के ध्रुव**' को पश्चिम एशिया में और कमजोर कर दिया है।
- **Netanyahu's political standing** has been strengthened due to these regional changes.
इन क्षेत्रीय परिवर्तनों के कारण **नेतन्याहू की राजनीतिक स्थिति** मजबूत हो गई है।

What role did the U.S. play?

अमेरिका ने क्या भूमिका निभाई?

- The **Biden administration** pushed for a ceasefire while offering **full support to Israel's war** in Gaza.
बाइडेन प्रशासन ने युद्धविराम के लिए दबाव डाला और साथ ही गाजा में **इज़राइल के युद्ध को पूर्ण समर्थन** दिया।
- Donald Trump claimed, "**all hell will break loose**" if no agreement was reached before **January 20**, the day he takes office.
डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा कि यदि **20 जनवरी** से पहले कोई समझौता नहीं हुआ तो "**सब कुछ बर्बाद हो जाएगा।**"



- **Trump's envoy** managed to achieve more in a single meeting than what Biden did in a year, as per reports.
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, ट्रंप के दूत ने एक ही बैठक में वह हासिल कर लिया जो बाइडेन पूरे साल में नहीं कर पाए।

Why is Phase 3 going to be a challenge?

फेज 3 क्यों चुनौतीपूर्ण होगा?

- Hamas has demanded a **complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza**.
हमास ने गाजा से इज़रायली सैनिकों की पूर्ण वापसी की मांग की है।
- Israel doesn't want to leave Hamas as a ruling or fighting force in Gaza, posing a **dilemma**.
इज़राइल गाजा में हमास को शासक या लड़ाकू ताकत के रूप में छोड़ना नहीं चाहता, जिससे दुविधा उत्पन्न होती है।
- If Israel continues to stay in Gaza, there won't be a **lasting ceasefire agreement**, and a **war of attrition** will go on.
यदि इज़राइल गाजा में बना रहता है, तो स्थायी युद्धविराम समझौता नहीं हो सकेगा, और थकाऊ युद्ध जारी रहेगा।

Before ceasefire takes effect in Gaza, Yemen's Houthis fire missiles at Israel

The militants 'carried out a specific military operation targeting the Ministry of Defence of the Israeli enemy'; the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas is to take effect on the eve of Trump's inauguration for a second term as U.S. President

GS Paper II: West Asia

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said it intercepted two missiles fired from Yemen on Saturday, a day before a ceasefire is set to take effect in war-battered Gaza.

The military activated air raid sirens in Jerusalem and in parts of central and southern Israel ahead of the interceptions during the day, with the first projectile shot down in the morning.

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed the morning attack, hours after the Israeli military intercepted the incoming missile.

The Houthis "carried



Tense region: Israeli armoured personnel carriers park near the Israel-Gaza border on Saturday, before the ceasefire deal. REUTERS

out a specific military operation targeting the so-called Ministry of Defence of the Israeli enemy... using a ballistic missile" in central Israel, the rebels said in a statement.

The morning attack had triggered explosions over Jerusalem as the military intercepted the missile.

Later, sirens blared across southern Israel as a second missile was fired

from Yemen and intercepted by the Israeli air force, the military said.

"Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in the areas of Eilat and Arava, a missile that was launched from Yemen was intercepted" before crossing into Israeli territory, it said.

The latest launches from Yemen came as a ceasefire in the war in Gaza would take effect from 0630 GMT (1200 IST) on Sunday.

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, announcing the ceasefire agreement on Wednesday, said an initial 42-day ceasefire would see

33 hostages released by militants in Gaza.

The truce is to take effect on the eve of Donald Trump's inauguration for a second term as U.S. President.

'Ready for duties'

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the Palestinian Authority, which has partial administrative control in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has completed preparations "to assume full responsibility in Gaza" after the war.

Israel has no definitive stance on post-war governance beyond rejecting any role for both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.



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Before ceasefire takes effect in Gaza, Yemen's Houthis fire missiles at Israel

गाजा में संघर्ष विराम के प्रभावी होने से पहले, यमन के हौथियों ने इजरायल पर मिसाइलें दागीं

The militants 'carried out a specific military operation targeting the Ministry of Defence of the Israeli enemy'; the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas is to take effect on the eve of Trump's inauguration for a second term as U.S. President

उग्रवादियों ने 'इजरायली दुश्मन के रक्षा मंत्रालय को निशाना बनाकर एक विशेष सैन्य अभियान चलाया'; इजरायल और हमास के बीच संघर्ष विराम समझौता ट्रम्प के अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति के रूप में दूसरे कार्यकाल के लिए शपथ ग्रहण की पूर्व संध्या पर प्रभावी होगा।

The Israeli military said it intercepted two missiles fired from Yemen on Saturday, a day before a ceasefire is set to take effect in war-battered Gaza.

इजरायल की सेना ने शनिवार को यमन से दागे गए दो मिसाइलों को इंटरसेप्ट करने की बात कही, जो युद्ध से प्रभावित गाजा में युद्धविराम लागू होने से एक दिन पहले था।

- The military activated **air raid sirens** in **Jerusalem** and in parts of **central** and **southern Israel** ahead of the interceptions during the day, with the first projectile shot down in the **morning**.

सेना ने दिन के दौरान इंटरसेप्शन से पहले यरुशलम और केंद्रीय और दक्षिणी इजराइल के कुछ हिस्सों में एयर रैड सायरन सक्रिय कर दिए, जिसमें पहला प्रक्षिप्त सुबह के समय गिराया गया।

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed the morning attack, hours after the Israeli military intercepted the incoming missile.

यमन के हूथी विद्रोहियों ने सुबह के हमले का दावा किया, कुछ घंटे बाद इजरायली सेना ने Incoming मिसाइल को इंटरसेप्ट किया।

- The Houthis "carried out a specific military operation targeting the so-called **Ministry of Defence of the Israeli enemy**... using a ballistic missile" in **central Israel**, the rebels said in a statement.

हूथियों ने एक बयान में कहा कि उन्होंने केंद्रीय इजराइल में इजरायली दुश्मन के तथाकथित रक्षा मंत्रालय को लक्षित करते हुए एक बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल का इस्तेमाल करके एक विशिष्ट सैन्य ऑपरेशन किया।

- The morning attack had triggered **explosions** over **Jerusalem** as the military intercepted the missile.

सुबह के हमले ने यरुशलम में विस्फोट किए, क्योंकि सेना ने मिसाइल को इंटरसेप्ट किया।

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- Later, sirens blared across **southern Israel** as a **second missile** was fired from **Yemen** and intercepted by the Israeli air force, the military said.
बाद में, दक्षिणी इजराइल में सायरन की आवाज़ गूँज उठी, जब एक दूसरा मिसाइल यमन से दागा गया और इजरायली वायु सेना द्वारा इंटरसेप्ट किया गया, सेना ने कहा।
- “Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in the areas of **Eilat** and **Arava**, a missile that was launched from Yemen was intercepted” before crossing into Israeli territory, it said.
“ईलात और अरावा के क्षेत्रों में कुछ समय पहले जो सायरन बजे थे, उसके बाद एक मिसाइल जो यमन से दागी गई थी, उसे इजरायली सीमा में प्रवेश करने से पहले इंटरसेप्ट किया गया,” सेना ने कहा।

The latest launches from Yemen came as a ceasefire in the war in Gaza would take effect from 0630 GMT (1200 IST) on Sunday.

यमन से हुई ताजा मिसाइल लॉन्चों का वक़्त ऐसा था कि गाजा में युद्धविराम 0630 GMT (1200 IST) रविवार से लागू होने वाला था।

- **Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani**, announcing the ceasefire agreement on **Wednesday**, said an initial **42-day ceasefire** would see **33 hostages** released by militants in Gaza.
क़तरी प्रधानमंत्री शेख मोहम्मद बिन अब्दुलरहमान बिन जस्सिम अल-थानी, जिन्होंने बुधवार को युद्धविराम समझौते की घोषणा की, ने कहा कि प्रारंभिक 42 दिन का युद्धविराम गाजा में आतंकवादियों द्वारा 33 बंधकों की रिहाई को सुनिश्चित करेगा।
- The truce is to take effect on the eve of **Donald Trump's inauguration** for a second term as **U.S. President**.
यह युद्धविराम डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के उद्घाटन के एक दिन पहले प्रभावी होगा, जो अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति के रूप में उनका दूसरा कार्यकाल होगा।

'Ready for duties'

'कर्तव्यों के लिए तैयार'

- Palestinian President **Mahmud Abbas** said the **Palestinian Authority**, which has partial administrative control in the **Israeli-occupied West Bank**, has completed preparations “to assume full responsibility in Gaza” after the war.
फिलिस्तीनी राष्ट्रपति महमूद अब्बास ने कहा कि फिलिस्तीनी प्राधिकरण, जो इजरायल द्वारा कब्जे वाले पश्चिमी तट में आंशिक प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण रखता है, ने युद्ध के बाद “गाजा में पूर्ण जिम्मेदारी लेने” के लिए तैयारियां पूरी कर ली हैं।
- Israel has no definitive stance on **post-war governance** beyond rejecting any role for both **Hamas** and the **Palestinian Authority**.
इजराइल के पास युद्ध के बाद के शासन पर कोई स्पष्ट रुख नहीं है, सिवाय इसके कि वह हमास और फिलिस्तीनी प्राधिकरण दोनों के लिए कोई भूमिका अस्वीकार करता है।



Return of the Begum

Khaleda Zia

The BNP politician, who has been acquitted in a corruption case, is now back in the limelight as her party is preparing for the next election in Bangladesh

GS Paper II:
India-Bangladesh

Kallor on 2024/05/30

Early morning of May 30, 1981, clouds from the Bay of Bengal lashed Chittagong. Through the heavy pitter-patter of rain on the roof of the Circuit House of Chittagong, President Ziaur Rahman heard the sound of gunfire. A man of action known for his bravery as a Pakistani soldier in the 1965 India-Pakistan war and later as a nationalist officer who rebelled against the Pakistani Army in 1971, Rahman was not someone to hide. Dressed in his night suit, Rahman came out to check the source of the gun fire and just then a hail of bullets literally sliced him into two halves.

The killers, however, failed in their plot to seize power as Abdus Sattar, a seasoned political figure, quickly took charge as President with Army Chief Hossein Mohammed Ershad's support.

It was in this dramatic situation that Khaleda Zia, widow of Rahman, entered the political spectrum. She had reportedly fainted on hearing the news of the assassination of Rahman, but two and a half years later, Ms. Zia took over from Abdus Sattar. On January 13, 1984, Ms. Zia took charge of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) that was founded by Rahman.

The death of Rahman also came at a critical time for the volatile country. On



May 17, Mujib's daughter Sheikh Hasina returned to Bangladesh.

Ms. Zia and Ms. Hasina came from different backgrounds. The former was the young wife of a Bengali officer in the Pakistani military and Ms. Hasina was the daughter of a firebrand anti-Pakistan figure. But in 1984, the two emerged as leaders of the two political alliances that opposed President Ershad.

Ms. Zia led a seven-party alliance and Ms. Hasina led a 15-party alliance against Ershad. In 1986, Ershad held a fraudulent election. Infuriated by the sham polling, the two alliances joined hands and finally dislodged Ershad from power in 1990.

After the fall of Ershad, the February 1991 election was won by the BNP and Ms. Zia, also known as Begum Khaleda, became the first woman Prime Minister of Bangladesh. But even as Ms. Zia was getting a grasp of the problems, a monstrous cyclonic storm killed nearly half a million people. Ms. Hasina sensed

an opportunity and termed the BNP government incompetent. Despite the opposition, the BNP managed to win the 1996 election but had to give up power after the Awami League accused it of rigging the polls. Then Ms. Hasina became PM for the first time.

From 1991 till 2006, Ms. Zia dominated Bangladesh's politics, along with her rival Ms. Hasina. She returned to power with the support of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh at the turn of the century and remained in office till 2006.

Boycott of elections

Though Ms. Zia was kept out of power by Ms. Hasina during the next 15 years, the BNP remained strong on the ground. While Ms. Zia took a backseat during the Hasina era, the day-to-day affairs of the party were handled by Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir and Amir Khasru Mahmud Choudhury, who maintained the combative attitude of the party which boycotted election thrice –

2014, 2018 and 2024.

After being freed from detention following the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, 2024, Ms. Zia reiterated that she does not harbour any ill-will towards the currently exiled Ms. Hasina, giving a hint that she is waiting and watching how long the interim government led by Mohammad Yunus would last. While the BNP boycotted polls in the past, it is also known that the Hasina regime did not stop doctors from Johns Hopkins Hospital in the U.S. from flying into Dhaka to conduct a complex surgery on Ms. Zia in 2021.

With Hasina out of Bangladesh and the BNP enthused by the prospects of returning to power, Ms. Zia, 79, is once again in the limelight, but this time she is far more cautious. Earlier this month, an air ambulance from Qatar flew her for special medical care in London where she was reunited with her elder son Tarique Rahman who has been in exile since he was reportedly tortured by the military during the 2006-08 caretaker rule. Last week, Ms. Zia was acquitted in a 2008 corruption case, overturning a previous 10-year sentence.

In Bangladesh's fractious politics, Ms. Zia has been seen as a survivor. And her tactics will be tested once again whenever the interim government calls for elections.



Return of the Begum

बेगम की वापसी

The BNP politician, who has been acquitted in a corruption case, is now back in the limelight as her party is preparing for the next election in Bangladesh

भ्रष्टाचार के एक मामले में बरी हो चुकी बीएनपी की यह राजनीतिज्ञ अब फिर से सुर्खियों में हैं, क्योंकि उनकी पार्टी बांग्लादेश में अगले चुनाव की तैयारी कर रही है।

The assassination of Ziaur Rahman and the rise of Khaleda Zia
ज़ियाउर रहमान की हत्या और खालिदा जिया का उदय

- On the **early morning of May 30, 1981**, clouds from the **Bay of Bengal** lashed **Chittagong**.
30 मई 1981 की सुबह, बंगाल की खाड़ी से बादल चिटगांव पर बरसे।
- Through the heavy **pitter-patter** of rain on the roof of the **Circuit House of Chittagong**, **President Ziaur Rahman** heard the sound of **gunfire**.
चिटगांव के सर्किट हाउस की छत पर भारी बारिश की आवाज के बीच राष्ट्रपति ज़ियाउर रहमान को बंदूक की गोलीबारी की आवाज सुनाई दी।
- **Rahman**, known for his bravery as a **Pakistani soldier** in the **1965 India-Pakistan war** and later as a nationalist officer in **1971**, was not someone to hide.
रहमान, जिन्हें 1965 के भारत-पाकिस्तान युद्ध में एक पाकिस्तानी सैनिक के रूप में और बाद में 1971 में एक राष्ट्रीय अधिकारी के रूप में बहादुरी के लिए जाना जाता था, वह छिपने वाले व्यक्ति नहीं थे।
- Dressed in his **night suit**, **Rahman** came out to check the source of the **gunfire**, and just then a hail of bullets literally **sliced him into two halves**.
रहमान अपने नाइट सूट में बाहर निकले ताकि वे गोलीबारी का स्रोत देख सकें, और तभी गोलियों की बौछार ने उन्हें सचमुच दो हिस्सों में काट दिया।
- The killers failed in their plot to seize power, and **Abdus Sattar**, a seasoned political figure, quickly took charge as President with **Army Chief Hossein Mohammed Ershad's support**.
हत्यारे सत्ता पर काबू पाने में असफल रहे, और अब्दुस सत्तार, एक अनुभवी राजनीतिक व्यक्ति, ने सेना प्रमुख होसैन मोहम्मद एर्शाद के समर्थन से राष्ट्रपति का पद ग्रहण किया।
- It was in this dramatic situation that **Khaleda Zia**, widow of Rahman, entered the political spectrum.
इसी नाटकीय स्थिति में खालिदा जिया, जो रहमान की विधवा थीं, ने राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में कदम रखा।
- She had reportedly **fainted** on hearing the news of Rahman's assassination, but two and a half years later, **Ms. Zia** took over from Abdus Sattar.



- रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, **खालिदा जिया रहमान** की हत्या की खबर सुनकर बेहोश हो गई थीं, लेकिन ढाई साल बाद, **सुश्री जिया** ने अब्दुस सत्तार से पदभार संभाला।
- On **January 13, 1984**, **Ms. Zia** took charge of the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)**, which was founded by Rahman.
13 जनवरी 1984 को, **सुश्री जिया** ने **बांग्लादेश नेशनलिस्ट पार्टी (BNP)** का पदभार संभाला, जिसे रहमान ने स्थापित किया था।
 - The death of **Rahman** came at a critical time for the volatile country, and on **May 17**, **Mujib's daughter Sheikh Hasina** returned to Bangladesh.
रहमान की मौत उस अस्थिर देश के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण समय पर हुई, और **17 मई** को **मुजिब की बेटी, शेख हसीना** बांग्लादेश लौटीं।
 - **Ms. Zia** and **Ms. Hasina** came from different backgrounds. The former was the young wife of a **Bengali officer** in the **Pakistani military**, and **Ms. Hasina** was the daughter of a **firebrand anti-Pakistan figure**.
सुश्री जिया और सुश्री हसीना अलग-अलग पृष्ठभूमियों से आईं। पूर्व पाकिस्तानी सेना में एक बंगाली अधिकारी की युवा पत्नी थीं, जबकि सुश्री हसीना एक उग्र विरोधी पाकिस्तान व्यक्तित्व की बेटी थीं।
 - In **1984**, the two emerged as leaders of the two political alliances opposing **President Ershad**.
1984 में, दोनों राष्ट्रपति **एर्शाद** के खिलाफ दो राजनीतिक गठबंधनों के नेताओं के रूप में उभरीं।
 - **Ms. Zia** led a **seven-party alliance** and **Ms. Hasina** led a **15-party alliance** against Ershad.
सुश्री जिया ने सात-पार्टी गठबंधन का नेतृत्व किया और सुश्री हसीना ने एर्शाद के खिलाफ 15-पार्टी गठबंधन का नेतृत्व किया।
 - In **1986**, **Ershad** held a **fraudulent election**.
1986 में, **एर्शाद** ने **धांधली चुनाव** कराया।
 - Infuriated by the **sham polling**, the two alliances joined hands and finally dislodged **Ershad** from power in **1990**.
झूठे मतदान से क्रोधित होकर, दोनों गठबंधन एकजुट हुए और अंततः **1990** में **एर्शाद** को सत्ता से उखाड़ फेंका।
 - After the fall of **Ershad**, the **February 1991 election** was won by the **BNP**, and **Ms. Zia** became the first **woman Prime Minister of Bangladesh**.
एर्शाद के पतन के बाद, **फरवरी 1991 के चुनाव** में **BNP** ने जीत हासिल की, और **सुश्री जिया** बनीं बांग्लादेश की पहली महिला प्रधानमंत्री।
 - However, during her tenure, a **monstrous cyclonic storm** killed nearly **half a million** people.
हालांकि, उनके कार्यकाल के दौरान, एक भयंकर चक्रवाती तूफान ने लगभग **आधी मिलियन** लोगों की जान ले ली।
 - **Ms. Hasina** sensed an opportunity and termed the **BNP government** incompetent.
सुश्री हसीना ने एक अवसर का आभास किया और **BNP सरकार** को अक्षम बताया।
 - Despite opposition, the **BNP** managed to win the **1996 election** but had to give up power after the **Awami League** accused it of rigging the polls.



विरोध के बावजूद, **BNP** ने **1996** के चुनाव में जीत हासिल की, लेकिन **आवामी लीग** ने उसे चुनाव में धांधली करने का आरोप लगाया और उसे सत्ता छोड़नी पड़ी।

- After the fall of the **Hasina government** in **August 2024**, **Ms. Zia** reiterated that she does not harbor any ill-will towards the currently exiled **Ms. Hasina**.

हसीना सरकार के अगस्त **2024** में पतन के बाद, **सुश्री जिया** ने दोहराया कि वह वर्तमान में निर्वासित **सुश्री हसीना** के प्रति कोई दुर्भावना नहीं रखतीं।

- The **BNP** boycotted the elections in **2014, 2018, and 2024**.

BNP ने **2014, 2018, और 2024** के चुनावों का बहिष्कार किया।

- After being freed from detention, **Ms. Zia** is once again in the **limelight**, but this time she is far more cautious.

हिरासत से मुक्त होने के बाद, **सुश्री जिया** एक बार फिर **मुख्यधारा** में हैं, लेकिन इस बार वह अधिक सतर्क हैं।

- Earlier this month, an **air ambulance from Qatar** flew her for **special medical care in London**, where she was reunited with her elder son **Tarique Rahman**, who has been in exile since he was reportedly tortured by the military during the **2006-08 caretaker rule**. इस महीने की शुरुआत में, कतर से एक एयर एम्बुलेंस ने उन्हें लंदन में विशेष चिकित्सा देखभाल के लिए भेजा, जहां वह अपने बड़े बेटे तारीक रहमान से मिलीं, जो **2006-08** के अंतरिम शासन के दौरान कथित रूप से सेना द्वारा प्रताड़ित होने के बाद निर्वासन में हैं।
- Last week, **Ms. Zia** was acquitted in a **2008 corruption case**, overturning a previous **10-year sentence**.

पिछले सप्ताह, **सुश्री जिया** को **2008** के भ्रष्टाचार मामले में बरी किया गया, जिससे पहले की **10 साल की सजा** को पलट दिया गया।

- In Bangladesh's **fractious politics**, **Ms. Zia** has been seen as a **survivor**, and her tactics will be tested once again whenever the interim government calls for elections.

बांग्लादेश की विवादित राजनीति में, **सुश्री जिया** को एक सर्वाइवर के रूप में देखा गया है, और उनके रणनीतियाँ एक बार फिर से परीक्षण में होंगी जब भी अंतरिम सरकार चुनाव बुलाएगी।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Economy, Science & Technology, Environment, Disaster Management, Internal Security)

1. Third Party Help Mooted to Broker Manipur Peace /

मणिपुर शांति के लिए तीसरे पक्ष की मदद की चर्चा

2. Dust, Despair Settle on Maharashtra's Chinchavli Village

as Quarrying Continues Unabated / महाराष्ट्र के चिंचवली

गांव में खनन जारी रहने से धूल और निराशा छाई



Website: patrioticias.in

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3. **From a frozen mass to climate crisis: mapping earth's journey** / एक बर्फीले ग्रह से जलवायु संकट तक: पृथ्वी की यात्रा का मानचित्रण
4. **Doctors transport brain-dead man's heart in 13 minutes** / चिकित्सकों ने ब्रेन-डेड व्यक्ति का दिल 13 मिनट में पहुंचाया
5. **Survey adds 24 new species to Munnar's faunal stock** / मुनार के जीव-जंतुओं की सूची में 24 नई प्रजातियाँ जोड़ी गईं
6. **Shah, Naidu to take part in NDRF Raising Day celebrations today** / शाह, नायडू आज एनडीआरएफ रेजिंग डे समारोह में भाग लेंगे
7. **RNA, not DNA, is the main cause of acute sunburn** / आरएनए, डीएनए नहीं, तीव्र सनबर्न का मुख्य कारण है
8. **On the Wing** / पंखों पर
9. **Bhopal Waste Disposal and Hazardous Gas Leak Waste Management** / भोपाल कचरे का निपटान और खतरनाक गैस रिसाव कचरे का प्रबंधन

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Third party help mooted to broker Manipur peace

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

At the first-ever integration training organised by the Assam Rifles for the Manipur Police last month, recruits from all three communities – Meitei, Kuki-Zo and Naga – concurred that peace in the ethnic violence-affected State should be brokered by a “neutral third party”, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

Most recruits were “disillusioned with the inability of their leaders to find a

solution to the issue” and stressed on a larger role by the Central government to tackle the crisis.

The integration training was organised in the first week of December for around 1,900 select police officials in Manipur on the directions of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The need for an integration programme was discussed first at a meeting on June 17, 2024, when Mr. Shah reviewed the security situation in Manipur. One of the issues discussed at the meet was polarisa-



Big picture: Recruits at integration training stress on a larger role by the Central government to tackle the crisis. PTI

tion of the police on ethnic lines.

The meeting highlighted that despite the ongo-

ing tensions, personnel from both the communities who are deployed in the Assam Rifles and the

Army existed in harmony. As many as 1,300 recruits from the Meitei community, 350 Nagas and 260 members from the Kuki-Zo community were identified for the integration programme.

Fake news

The recruits who were already undergoing training at the Lachit Borphukan Police Training Centre in Assam for a year were involved in the programme.

CONTINUED ON

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Third Party Help Mooted to Broker Manipur Peace

मणिपुर शांति के लिए तीसरे पक्ष की मदद की चर्चा

- At the **first-ever integration training** organised by the **Assam Rifles** for the **Manipur Police** last month, recruits from all three communities — **Meitei, Kuki-Zo, and Naga** — agreed that peace in the ethnic violence-affected State should be brokered by a “**neutral third party**”, a senior government official told **The Hindu**.

पिछले महीने असम राइफल्स द्वारा मणिपुर पुलिस के लिए आयोजित पहले एकीकरण प्रशिक्षण में तीनों समुदायों – मैतेई, कुकी-जो, और नागा — के प्रशिक्षुओं ने सहमति व्यक्त की कि जातीय हिंसा प्रभावित राज्य में शांति की मध्यस्थता “न्यूट्रल थर्ड पार्टी” द्वारा की जानी चाहिए, एक वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी ने द हिंदू को बताया।

- Most recruits were “**disillusioned with the inability of their leaders to find a solution to the issue**” and stressed on a larger role by the **Central government** to tackle the crisis.

अधिकांश प्रशिक्षु “अपने नेताओं द्वारा समस्या का समाधान खोजने में असमर्थता से निराश” थे और संकट से निपटने के लिए केंद्र सरकार की बड़ी भूमिका पर जोर दिया।

- The integration training was organised in the **first week of December** for around **1,900 select police officials** in Manipur on the directions of **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**.

दिसंबर के पहले सप्ताह में 1,900 चयनित पुलिस अधिकारियों के लिए मणिपुर में एकीकरण प्रशिक्षण आयोजित किया गया था, जो केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह के निर्देशों पर था।

- The need for an integration programme was discussed first at a meeting on **June 17, 2024**, when **Mr. Shah** reviewed the security situation in **Manipur**.



एकीकरण कार्यक्रम की आवश्यकता को सबसे पहले 17 जून 2024 को एक बैठक में चर्चा की गई थी, जब शाह साहब ने मणिपुर में सुरक्षा स्थिति की समीक्षा की थी।

- One of the issues discussed at the meeting was the **polarisation of the police on ethnic lines**.
 बैठक में चर्चा किए गए मुद्दों में से एक था **जातीय रेखाओं पर पुलिस का धुवीकरण**।
- The meeting highlighted that despite the ongoing tensions, personnel from both the communities who are deployed in the **Assam Rifles** and the **Army** existed in harmony. बैठक में यह बताया गया कि चल रही तनावों के बावजूद, दोनों समुदायों के कर्मी जो **असम राइफल्स और सेना** में तैनात हैं, सामंजस्यपूर्ण तरीके से कार्य कर रहे थे।
- As many as **1,300 recruits** from the **Meitei community**, **350 Nagas**, and **260 members** from the **Kuki-Zo community** were identified for the integration programme.
1,300 प्रशिक्षु मैतेई समुदाय से, 350 नागा, और 260 सदस्य कुकी-जो समुदाय से, एकीकरण कार्यक्रम के लिए पहचाने गए थे।
- The recruits who were already undergoing training at the **Lachit Borphukan Police Training Centre** in **Assam** for a year were involved in the programme.
 जो प्रशिक्षु पहले से ही **असम में लखित बोरफुकन पुलिस प्रशिक्षण केंद्र** में एक साल से प्रशिक्षण ले रहे थे, वे इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल थे।

Dust, despair settle on Maharashtra's Chinchavli village as quarrying continues unabated

GS Paper III: Environment

SPOTLIGHT

Purnima Sah

Soni Varku Warghada, 55, remembers the day in 2007 when she saw the first trucks enter Koparyachiwadi hamlet in Chinchavli village, Thane district, Maharashtra.

"We had never seen such heavy vehicles. Around 25 to 30 men got out of the vehicles and then entered the forest. Some of them took out large blades (tree cutters) and axes," Soni recalls.

Within a year, she says, the forest cover around the village was cleared and levelling of the Chanderi Dhar hill began. "By 2010, rocks were blasted and cut. A big machine began to crush the stones," she says.

A member of the Thakar tribe, which worships the forest as its nurturing mother, Soni says the experience was traumatic.

Residents say the forest

earlier provided the population of about 2,000 food and livelihood, but they could no longer depend on it. They claim quarrying has affected their health, depleted natural resources, and upset biodiversity.

In 2015, Laxmi Stone Industries was granted a quarry lease for five years for extraction and sale of stone and earth across four hectares. This was renewed for five years in 2019. However, officials from the Forest Department say the company had never sought permission to start stone quarrying. The company did not respond to requests for comment.

Health trouble

Soni's son, Bhaskar Warghada, 30, points to a well in the hamlet and says, "We stopped drawing water from here since the quarrying began. Many fell sick drinking water from it in the initial years. Within a year, the water bodies started releasing a strong



Toxic air: Mining dust rises from the stone quarry in Chinchavli village, Thane district, western Maharashtra. PURNIMA SAH

stench, and many felt nausea, dizziness, uneasiness, and breathing difficulties."

Bhaskar claims the quarrying company was releasing untreated effluents into the Ulhas river, which flows through the hamlet and supplies drinking water to over three million people in Badlapur and Thane. His son, who is about a year-and-a-half old, has remained unwell

since he was born.

For over 35 years, Dr. Vivek Eknath Redkar has been working closely with people exposed to quarrying dust and published research papers on the ill-effects of mining dust on human health. "It is government norm to appoint permanent healthcare practitioners and set up a medical facility in mining and quarrying areas to reg-

ularly check on the health of people," he says.

Village struggles

Social worker Dhanaji Irmali, 42, says none of the residents were consulted before the stone quarry work began. "Laxmi Stone Industries is owned by Vishvanath Ramchandra Panvelkar, a familiar name in Thane and Badlapur as the Panvelkar Group is known for real estate projects. The tehsildar, gram panchayat, and Collector granted him permission to set up a stone-crushing unit and make ready-mix concrete," he says, adding that it now has four units.

In 2019 and 2023, the members of the gram panchayat opposed the decision and permission granted by two consecutive sarpanches for the stone quarry to operate.

Gram panchayat member and Dhanaji's wife, Usha Dhanaji Irmali, 39, says the villagers wrote to former Chief Minister Ek-

nath Shinde, the District Collector, State Environment Department, and Governor. The villagers claim they then started receiving threats from the quarry owner. This year, the village was to get its first water tank for a central supply, but the work abruptly stopped, and they say Panvelkar is responsible for it.

Panvelkar has released a series of videos on YouTube rubbishing the allegations. He was not available for comment.

Court rulings

On July 8, 2024, Ambernath tehsildar Prashanti Mane issued a notice to Panvelkar to stop quarrying in the village citing health hazards. It warned that the company's licence would be revoked. Mane was transferred soon after the notice was issued.

In 2022, a reply to an RTI query by activist-environmentalist Nandakumar Waman Pawar revealed that stone quarrying was

being done in the Matheran Eco-Sensitive Zone (MESZ). Matheran is a hill station near Mumbai where motor vehicles are banned. As per the Supreme Court notification dated February 4, 2003, any quarrying within the MESZ is prohibited under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

It also states that no mining or quarrying activity can take place in Matheran and its surrounding region - 214.73 sq km and a 200-metre buffer zone.

The RTI response also revealed that the quarry site was located inside the buffer zone of the MESZ, which includes a part of Chinchavli village, as per the zonal master plan prepared by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority in 1987.

On September 4, 2024, a public interest litigation (PIL) plea was filed in the Bombay High Court claiming that though the mining lease and environment

clearance had been granted for operations in four hectares, satellite imagery showed that it covered 9.88 hectares. The PIL stated that this made the area vulnerable to erosion and "the entire village susceptible to landslides while causing extremely high air and water pollution".

In a subsequent order, the High Court directed that the stay order by the tehsildar continue and that the matter be probed. This month, the Thane Collector submitted an affidavit in the court stating that the firm had mined beyond its licence. For this, the State government levied penalties and a fine of over ₹180 crore on the firm.

Despite the court order, when *The Hindu* visited the village in December last year, the sound of stones being crushed and the sight of trucks transporting them continued.

LINK TO FULL STORY
 » <https://bit.ly/3DY3Y8V>

Dust, Despair Settle on Maharashtra's Chinchavli Village as Quarrying Continues Unabated

महाराष्ट्र के चिंचवली गांव में खनन जारी रहने से धूल और निराशा छाई



- **Soni Varku Warghada**, 55, remembers the day in **2007** when she saw the first trucks enter **Koparyachiwadi hamlet** in **Chinchavli village, Thane district, Maharashtra**.
सोनी वर्कू वारघाड़ा, 55, को 2007 का वह दिन याद है जब उन्होंने चिंचवली गांव, ठाणे जिला, महाराष्ट्र में कोपरयाचिवाड़ी हेमलेट में पहली बार ट्रकों को आते देखा।
- “We had never seen such **heavy vehicles**. Around **25 to 30 men** got out of the vehicles and then entered the forest. Some of them took out large blades (tree cutters) and axes,” **Soni recalls**.
“हमने कभी ऐसी भारी वाहन नहीं देखी थीं। लगभग 25 से 30 लोग वाहनों से उतरे और फिर जंगल में घुस गए। उनमें से कुछ लोगों ने बड़े ब्लेड (पेड़ काटने वाले औजार) और कुल्हाड़ी निकाली,” सोनी याद करती हैं।
- Within a year, she says, the **forest cover** around the village was cleared and levelling of the **Chanderi Dhar hill** began.
वह कहती हैं कि एक साल के भीतर, गांव के आसपास के जंगल का आवरण हटा दिया गया और चंदरि धार पहाड़ी का समतलीकरण शुरू हो गया।
- “By **2010**, rocks were blasted and cut. A big machine began to crush the stones,” she says.
“2010 तक, चट्टानों को उड़ाया और काटा गया। एक बड़ी मशीन ने पत्थरों को कुचलना शुरू कर दिया,” वह कहती हैं।
- A member of the **Thakar tribe**, which worships the forest as its nurturing mother, **Soni** says the experience was traumatic.
ठाकर जनजाति की एक सदस्य, जो जंगल को अपनी पालनहार मां के रूप में पूजा करती है, सोनी कहती हैं कि यह अनुभव बहुत कष्टकारी था।
- Residents say the **forest** earlier provided the population of about **2,000** food and livelihood, but they could no longer depend on it.
निवासियों का कहना है कि पहले जंगल लगभग 2,000 की जनसंख्या को भोजन और आजीविका प्रदान करता था, लेकिन अब वे इस पर निर्भर नहीं रह सकते।
- They claim **quarrying** has affected their health, depleted **natural resources**, and upset **biodiversity**.
उनका कहना है कि खनन ने उनके स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव डाला है, प्राकृतिक संसाधनों को खत्म किया है, और जैवविविधता को नुकसान पहुंचाया है।
- In **2015**, **Laxmi Stone Industries** was granted a **quarry lease for five years** for extraction and sale of stone and earth across four hectares.
2015 में, लक्ष्मी स्टोन इंडस्ट्रीज को चार हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में पत्थर और माटी निकालने और बेचने के लिए पाँच साल का खनन पट्टा प्रदान किया गया था।
- This was renewed for five years in **2019**.
इसे 2019 में पांच साल के लिए नवीनीकरण किया गया।
- However, officials from the **Forest Department** say the company had never sought permission to start **stone quarrying**.



हालांकि, वन विभाग के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि कंपनी ने कभी पत्थर खनन शुरू करने के लिए अनुमति नहीं मांगी थी।

- The company did not respond to requests for comment.
कंपनी ने टिप्पणी के लिए अनुरोधों का जवाब नहीं दिया।

Health Trouble

स्वास्थ्य की समस्या

- **Soni's son, Bhaskar Warghada, 30**, points to a well in the hamlet and says, "We stopped drawing water from here since the quarrying began. Many fell sick drinking water from it in the initial years."
सोनी के बेटे, भास्कर वारघाड़ा, 30 ने हेमलेट में एक कुएं की ओर इशारा करते हुए कहा, "हमने यहां से पानी निकालना तब से बंद कर दिया जब से खनन शुरू हुआ। कई लोग पहले वर्षों में इससे पानी पीकर बीमार हो गए।"
- "Within a year, the **water bodies** started releasing a strong stench, and many felt **nausea, dizziness, uneasiness, and breathing difficulties.**"
"एक साल के भीतर, जलाशय से एक तेज दुर्गंध आने लगी, और कई लोगों को उलटी, चक्कर आना, असहजता और सांस लेने में कठिनाई महसूस होने लगी।"
- **Bhaskar** claims the quarrying company was releasing **untreated effluents** into the **Ulhas river**, which flows through the hamlet and supplies drinking water to over **three million people** in **Badlapur** and **Thane**.
भास्कर का कहना है कि खनन कंपनी अपरिष्कृत अपशिष्ट उल्हास नदी में बहा रही थी, जो हेमलेट से होकर बहती है और बदलापुर और ठाणे में तीन मिलियन से अधिक लोगों को पीने का पानी आपूर्ति करती है।
- His son, who is about a year-and-a-half old, has remained unwell since he was born. उनका बेटा, जो लगभग डेढ़ साल का है, जन्म के बाद से ही अस्वस्थ बना हुआ है।
- For over **35 years**, **Dr. Vivek Eknath Redkar** has been working closely with people exposed to quarrying dust and published research papers on the ill-effects of **mining dust** on human health.
35 वर्षों से, डॉ. विवेक एकनाथ रेडकर खनन धूल के संपर्क में आए लोगों के साथ करीबी से काम कर रहे हैं और मानव स्वास्थ्य पर खनन धूल के दुष्प्रभावों पर शोध पत्र प्रकाशित कर चुके हैं।
- "It is **government norm** to appoint permanent healthcare practitioners and set up a medical facility in **mining and quarrying areas** to regularly check on the health of people," he says.
"यह सरकारी मानक है कि खनन और खनन क्षेत्रों में स्थायी स्वास्थ्यकर्मी नियुक्त किए जाएं और एक चिकित्सा सुविधा स्थापित की जाए ताकि लोगों के स्वास्थ्य की नियमित जांच की जा सके," वह कहते हैं।



Village struggles

गांव की कठिनाइयाँ

- Social worker **Dhanaji Irmali**, 42, says none of the residents were consulted before the stone quarry work began.
सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता **धनाजी इर्माली**, 42, कहते हैं कि गांववासियों से पत्थर खनन कार्य शुरू होने से पहले कोई परामर्श नहीं लिया गया था।
- **Laxmi Stone Industries** is owned by **Vishvanath Ramchandra Panvelkar**, a familiar name in **Thane** and **Badlapur** as the **Panvelkar Group** is known for real estate projects. **लक्ष्मी स्टोन इंडस्ट्रीज** के मालिक **विश्वनाथ रामचंद्र पंवलकर** हैं, जो **ठाणे** और **बदलापुर** में जाने-माने नाम हैं क्योंकि **पंवलकर ग्रुप** रियल एस्टेट प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिए जाना जाता है।
- The **tehsildar**, **gram panchayat**, and **Collector** granted him permission to set up a stone-crushing unit and make ready-mix concrete.
तहसीलदार, **ग्राम पंचायत** और **कलेक्टर** ने उन्हें पत्थर तोड़ने का संयंत्र स्थापित करने और रेडी-मिक्स कंक्रीट बनाने की अनुमति दी।
- In **2019** and **2023**, the members of the **gram panchayat** opposed the decision and permission granted by two consecutive **sarpanches** for the stone quarry to operate. **2019** और **2023** में, **ग्राम पंचायत** के सदस्यों ने दो लगातार **सरपंचों** द्वारा पत्थर खदान के संचालन के लिए दी गई अनुमति का विरोध किया।
- **Gram panchayat member** and Dhanaji's wife, **Usha Dhanaji Irmali**, 39, says the villagers wrote to former **Chief Minister Eknath Shinde**, the **District Collector**, **State Environment Department**, and **Governor**.
ग्राम पंचायत सदस्य और **धनाजी** की पत्नी, **उषा धनाजी इर्माली**, 39, कहती हैं कि गांववासियों ने पूर्व **मुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे**, **जिला कलेक्टर**, **राज्य पर्यावरण विभाग**, और **राज्यपाल** को पत्र लिखा।
- The villagers claim they then started receiving threats from the quarry owner.
गांववाले दावा करते हैं कि उन्हें खदान मालिक से धमकियां मिलने लगीं।
- This year, the village was to get its first water tank for a central supply, but the work abruptly stopped, and they say **Panvelkar** is responsible for it.
इस साल, गांव को केंद्रीय आपूर्ति के लिए पहला पानी टैंक मिलने वाला था, लेकिन काम अचानक रुक गया और उनका कहना है कि **पंवलकर** इसके लिए जिम्मेदार हैं।
- **Panvelkar** has released a series of videos on **YouTube** rubbishing the allegations. He was not available for comment.
पंवलकर ने **यूट्यूब** पर आरोपों का खंडन करते हुए कई वीडियो जारी किए हैं। वह टिप्पणी देने के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं थे।

Court rulings

न्यायालय के आदेश

- On **July 8, 2024**, **Ambernath tehsildar Prashanti Mane** issued a notice to **Panvelkar** to stop quarrying in the village citing health hazards.



8 जुलाई 2024 को अंबरनाथ तहसीलदार प्रशांती माने ने पंवेलकर को गांव में खनन बंद करने का नोटिस जारी किया, जिसमें स्वास्थ्य खतरों का हवाला दिया गया।

- It warned that the company's licence would be revoked. **Mane** was transferred soon after the notice was issued.

इसमें चेतावनी दी गई थी कि कंपनी का लाइसेंस रद्द कर दिया जाएगा। नोटिस जारी होने के बाद माने का तबादला कर दिया गया।

- In 2022, a reply to an **RTI query** by activist-environmentalist **Nandakumar Waman Pawar** revealed that stone quarrying was being done in the **Matheran Eco-Sensitive Zone (MESZ)**.

2022 में, सक्रियता-पर्यावरणविद नंदकुमार वामन पवार द्वारा एक RTI सवाल के जवाब में यह खुलासा हुआ कि पत्थर खनन माथेरान इको-सेंसिटिव जोन (MESZ) में किया जा रहा था।

- **Matheran** is a hill station near **Mumbai** where motor vehicles are banned. **माथेरान** एक हिल स्टेशन है जो **मुंबई** के पास स्थित है जहाँ मोटर वाहन प्रतिबंधित हैं।
- As per the **Supreme Court notification dated February 4, 2003**, any quarrying within the MESZ is prohibited under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**.

4 फरवरी 2003 की सुप्रीम कोर्ट के नोटिफिकेशन के अनुसार, MESZ के भीतर कोई भी खनन पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 के तहत प्रतिबंधित है।

- The RTI response also revealed that the quarry site was located inside the buffer zone of the MESZ, which includes a part of **Chinchavali village**, as per the zonal master plan prepared by the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority** in 1987.

RTI के जवाब में यह भी खुलासा हुआ कि खदान स्थल MESZ के बफर जोन के भीतर स्थित था, जिसमें चिंचवली गांव का एक हिस्सा शामिल है, जैसा कि मुंबई मेट्रोपोलिटन रीजन डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी द्वारा 1987 में तैयार किए गए जोनल मास्टर प्लान में दर्शाया गया है।

- On **September 4, 2024**, a **public interest litigation (PIL)** plea was filed in the **Bombay High Court** claiming that though the mining lease and environment clearance had been granted for operations in four hectares, satellite imagery showed that it covered **9.88 hectares**.

4 सितंबर 2024 को मुंबई उच्च न्यायालय में एक लोकहित याचिका (PIL) दायर की गई, जिसमें यह दावा किया गया कि हालांकि खनन पट्टा और पर्यावरण मंजूरी चार हेक्टेयर के संचालन के लिए दी गई थी, लेकिन उपग्रह चित्रों से यह पता चला कि यह **9.88 हेक्टेयर** में फैला हुआ था।

- The PIL stated that this made the area vulnerable to erosion and "the entire village susceptible to landslides while causing extremely high air and water pollution".
PIL में यह कहा गया कि इससे क्षेत्र कटाव के लिए संवेदनशील हो गया और "पूरा गांव भूस्खलन के लिए संवेदनशील हो गया, जबकि अत्यधिक उच्च वायु और जल प्रदूषण उत्पन्न हो रहा है।"

- In a subsequent order, the **High Court** directed that the stay order by the **tehsildar** continue and that the matter be probed.

एक subsequent आदेश में, उच्च न्यायालय ने निर्देश दिया कि तहसीलदार द्वारा जारी स्थगन आदेश जारी रहे और इस मामले की जांच की जाए।

- This month, the **Thane Collector** submitted an affidavit in the court stating that the firm had mined beyond its licence.



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इस महीने, ठाणे कलेक्टर ने अदालत में एक हलफनामा प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें यह कहा गया कि फर्म ने अपने लाइसेंस से बाहर खनन किया था।

- For this, the **State government** levied penalties and a fine of over **₹180 crore** on the firm.

इसके लिए, राज्य सरकार ने फर्म पर जुर्माना और ₹180 करोड़ से अधिक का जुर्माना लगाया।

- Despite the court order, when **The Hindu** visited the village in **December** last year, the sound of stones being crushed and the sight of trucks transporting them continued. न्यायालय के आदेश के बावजूद, जब दि हिंदू ने पिछले साल दिसंबर में गांव का दौरा किया, तो पत्थरों के टूटने की आवाज और उन्हें परिवहन करने वाले ट्रकों का दृश्य जारी था।

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From a frozen mass to climate crisis: mapping earth's journey



Historian Peter Frankopan speaking at *The Hindu Lit for Life* event in Chennai on Saturday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

GS Paper I: Geography
GS Paper III: Environment

Historian Peter Frankopan began his talk at *The Hindu Lit for Life* by showing the image of a gray celestial body and asking the audience to identify it. "Moon," came the answer. But Mr. Frankopan, amused, said, "No, that's the frozen earth." And with that, he launched into his exploration of *The Earth Transformed*, taking the audience from a lifeless planet to the world that set the stage for civilisation.

Mr. Frankopan highlighted how natural forces, such as monsoons and mountains, have influenced trade, agriculture, and settlement patterns. He discussed the effect of the Rocky Mountains on rainfall in North America and the role of the Himalayas in shaping Indian rivers and farmlands. Such geographical features, shaped millions of years ago, continue to dictate global climate and human activity, he said.

Mr. Frankopan delved into the rise of early civilisations, explaining how geography and resources spurred the growth of cities near rivers such as the Indus, Nile and the Yellow River. These settlements developed sanitation systems, hierarchies and governance. He stressed how humans have always sought to manage natural challenges, with early societies relying on religion and rituals to explain and adapt to the environment.

Moving to the 20th century, decisions made in response to climatic and environmental challenges often exacerbated those challenges, he said. For instance, the Bengal famine of the 1940s saw grain being exported even as people starved. These decisions show the consequences of human choices during crises and remind us that understanding the broader context of climate and environmental changes is important, he added.

Drawing a connection between the rise of empires, such as the Cholas and the Vikings, and climate stability, Mr. Frankopan noted how the current climate crisis exacerbates social inequalities, particularly in regions such as South Asia, where air quality and water scarcity are severe.

Linking the past to the present, Mr. Frankopan reflected on how climate change and resource distribution remain central to global challenges. He said that the work done today, from addressing air quality in cities such as Chennai to responding to climate change globally, can set the stage for a more sustainable future.

The renewable energy transition, if managed correctly, could help us stay within ecological limits, as our current trajectory could lead to dire consequences.

"It's about changing the structure of the world around us, trying to improve where we are, trying to live within our ecological limits rather than push them too far," he said.

From a frozen mass to climate crisis: mapping earth's journey

एक बर्फीले ग्रह से जलवायु संकट तक: पृथ्वी की यात्रा का मानचित्रण

- Historian **Peter Frankopan** began his talk at *The Hindu Lit for Life* by showing the image of a gray celestial body and asking the audience to identify it.

इतिहासकार पीटर फ्रैंकोपान ने द हिंदू लिट फॉर लाइफ में अपनी बात की शुरुआत एक ग्रे आकाशीय पिंड की छवि दिखाकर की और दर्शकों से उसे पहचानने के लिए कहा।

- "Moon," came the answer. But Mr. Frankopan, amused, said, "No, that's the frozen earth."

"चाँद," जवाब आया। लेकिन श्री फ्रैंकोपान, हंसी में कहते हैं, "नहीं, वह बर्फीली पृथ्वी है।"

- With that, he launched into his exploration of *The Earth Transformed*, taking the audience from a lifeless planet to the world that set the stage for civilization.

इसके साथ, उन्होंने द अर्थ ट्रांसफॉर्म्ड की अपनी खोज की शुरुआत की, जिसमें दर्शकों को एक निर्जीव ग्रह से उस दुनिया तक ले गए जिसने सभ्यता की नींव रखी।

- Mr. Frankopan highlighted how natural forces, such as monsoons and mountains, have influenced trade, agriculture, and settlement patterns.

श्री फ्रैंकोपान ने यह रेखांकित किया कि प्राकृतिक बलों जैसे मानसून और पहाड़ों ने व्यापार, कृषि और बस्तियों के पैटर्न को कैसे प्रभावित किया।

- He discussed the effect of the Rocky Mountains on rainfall in North America and the role of the Himalayas in shaping Indian rivers and farmlands.

उन्होंने राँकी पर्वतों के प्रभाव और उत्तर अमेरिका में वर्षा पर और हिमालय की भूमिका पर चर्चा की, जो भारतीय नदियों और कृषि भूमि को आकार देती हैं।

- Such geographical features, shaped millions of years ago, continue to dictate global climate and human activity, he said.

ऐसी भौगोलिक विशेषताएँ, जो लाखों साल पहले आकार ली गईं, आज भी वैश्विक जलवायु और मानवीय गतिविधियों को निर्धारित करती हैं, उन्होंने कहा।

- Mr. Frankopan delved into the rise of early civilizations, explaining how geography and resources spurred the growth of cities near rivers such as the Indus, Nile, and the Yellow River.

श्री फ्रैंकोपान ने प्रारंभिक सभ्यताओं के उदय में गहराई से विचार किया, यह बताते हुए कि भूगोल और संसाधनों ने सिंधु, नील और येलो नदी जैसी नदियों के पास शहरों के विकास को कैसे प्रेरित किया।



- These settlements developed **sanitation systems, hierarchies, and governance**.
इन बस्तियों ने **स्वच्छता प्रणालियाँ, पदानुक्रम, और शासन प्रणालियाँ** विकसित की।
- He stressed how humans have always sought to manage natural challenges, with early societies relying on **religion and rituals** to explain and adapt to the environment.
उन्होंने यह जोर दिया कि मनुष्य हमेशा प्राकृतिक चुनौतियों का प्रबंधन करने की कोशिश करते रहे हैं, प्रारंभिक समाजों ने **धर्म और अनुष्ठानों** पर निर्भर किया ताकि वे पर्यावरण को समझ सकें और उसमें अनुकूलन कर सकें।
- Moving to the **20th century**, decisions made in response to climatic and environmental challenges often exacerbated those challenges, he said.
20वीं सदी की ओर बढ़ते हुए, श्री फ्रैंकोपान ने कहा कि जलवायु और पर्यावरणीय चुनौतियों के जवाब में किए गए निर्णय अक्सर उन चुनौतियों को और बढ़ा देते थे।
- For instance, the **Bengal famine** of the **1940s** saw grain being exported even as people starved.
उदाहरण के तौर पर, **1940 के दशक में बंगाल का अकाल** में अनाज का निर्यात किया जा रहा था जबकि लोग भूख से मर रहे थे।
- These decisions show the consequences of human choices during crises and remind us that understanding the broader context of **climate and environmental changes** is important, he added.
ये निर्णय संकट के दौरान मानव विकल्पों के परिणामों को दर्शाते हैं और हमें याद दिलाते हैं कि **जलवायु और पर्यावरणीय परिवर्तनों** के व्यापक संदर्भ को समझना महत्वपूर्ण है, उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- Drawing a connection between the rise of empires, such as the **Cholas** and the **Vikings**, and **climate stability**, Mr. Frankopan noted how the current climate crisis exacerbates social inequalities, particularly in regions such as **South Asia**, where **air quality and water scarcity** are severe.
चोलों और विकिंग्स जैसे साम्राज्यों के उत्थान और **जलवायु स्थिरता** के बीच संबंध जोड़ते हुए, श्री फ्रैंकोपान ने यह रेखांकित किया कि कैसे वर्तमान जलवायु संकट सामाजिक असमानताओं को बढ़ाता है, विशेषकर **दक्षिण एशिया** जैसे क्षेत्रों में, जहाँ **वायु गुणवत्ता और जल की कमी** गंभीर है।
- Linking the past to the present, Mr. Frankopan reflected on how **climate change** and **resource distribution** remain central to global challenges.
अतीत को वर्तमान से जोड़ते हुए, श्री फ्रैंकोपान ने विचार किया कि कैसे **जलवायु परिवर्तन और संसाधनों का वितरण** वैश्विक चुनौतियों के केंद्र में बना रहता है।
- He said that the work done today, from addressing **air quality** in cities such as **Chennai** to responding to **climate change** globally, can set the stage for a more sustainable future.
उन्होंने कहा कि आज जो काम किए जा रहे हैं, जैसे कि **चेन्नई** जैसे शहरों में **वायु गुणवत्ता** को सुधारना और वैश्विक स्तर पर **जलवायु परिवर्तन** का मुकाबला करना, वह एक अधिक टिकाऊ भविष्य की नींव रख सकते हैं।
- The **renewable energy transition**, if managed correctly, could help us stay within **ecological limits**, as our current trajectory could lead to dire consequences.
नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा संक्रमण, यदि सही तरीके से प्रबंधित किया जाए, तो हमें **पारिस्थितिकीय**



सीमाओं के भीतर रहने में मदद कर सकता है, क्योंकि हमारी वर्तमान दिशा गंभीर परिणामों का कारण बन सकती है।

- “It’s about changing the structure of the world around us, trying to improve where we are, trying to live within our **ecological limits** rather than push them too far,” he said.
 “यह हमारे चारों ओर की दुनिया की संरचना को बदलने के बारे में है, जहाँ हम हैं, वहाँ सुधारने की कोशिश करना, और **पारिस्थितिकीय सीमाओं** के भीतर रहने की कोशिश करना, बजाय इसके कि हम उन्हें बहुत दूर तक बढ़ा दें,” उन्होंने कहा।

Doctors transport brain-dead man’s heart in 13 minutes

GS Paper III: S&T

Siddharth Kumar Singh
 HYDERABAD

Two green corridors were created on the Metro line and the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Hyderabad on Friday to rush organs taken from a 34-year-old brain-dead man to recipients in different hospitals.

Malga Naveen had met with an accident and was taken to a private hospital in Hyderabad. Despite medical teams’ efforts, his condition worsened and the doctors declared him brain-dead on Friday. Subsequently, his family consented to donate his organs.

The Green Corridor on



A team transporting the harvested heart in a Hyderabad Metro train on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Metro line facilitating the transportation of Naveen’s heart to Gleneagles Hospital at Lakdikapul. A distance of 13 km was covered in 13 minutes across 13 stations. Hyderabad Metro Rail, L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited, hospital managements and the

doctors worked together.

Simultaneously, another team transported Naveen’s lungs to the Yashoda Hospital in Hitec City via the Green Corridor on the ORR. The 39-minute journey began at 9.45 p.m. and the team reached their destination by 10.24 p.m.

को विभिन्न अस्पतालों में प्राप्तकर्ताओं तक शीघ्र पहुंचाया जा सके।

- **Malga Naveen** had met with an accident and was taken to a private hospital in **Hyderabad**. Despite medical teams’ efforts, his condition worsened, and the doctors declared him **brain-dead** on Friday.

मलगा नवीन का एकसीडेंट हुआ था और उन्हें हैदराबाद के एक निजी अस्पताल में भर्ती किया गया था। चिकित्सक टीमों के प्रयासों के बावजूद, उनकी हालत बिगड़ गई और शुक्रवार को उन्हें ब्रेन-डेड घोषित किया गया।

- Subsequently, his family consented to donate his organs. इसके बाद, उनके परिवार ने उनके अंग दान करने की सहमति दी।
- The **Green Corridor** on the **Metro line** facilitated the transportation of **Naveen’s heart** to **Gleneagles Hospital** at **Lakdikapul**. A distance of **13 km** was covered in **13 minutes** across **13 stations**.

+ Doctors transport brain-dead man’s heart in 13 minutes

चिकित्सकों ने ब्रेन-डेड

व्यक्ति का दिल 13 मिनट में पहुंचाया

- Two **green corridors** were created on the **Metro line** and the **Outer Ring Road (ORR)** in **Hyderabad** on Friday to rush organs taken from a **34-year-old brain-dead man** to recipients in different hospitals.

हैदराबाद में शुक्रवार को दो ग्रीन कॉरिडोर बनाए गए थे, एक मेट्रो लाइन पर और एक आउटर रिंग रोड (ORR) पर, ताकि 34 वर्षीय ब्रेन-डेड व्यक्ति से लिए गए अंगों



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मेट्रो लाइन पर ग्रीन कॉरिडोर ने नवीन का दिल ग्लिनईगल्स अस्पताल लक्कीदीपुल में पहुंचाने में मदद की। 13 किलोमीटर की दूरी 13 मिनट में 13 स्टेशनों के बीच तय की गई।

- **Hyderabad Metro Rail, L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited**, hospital managements, and the doctors worked together.

हैदराबाद मेट्रो रेल, L&T मेट्रो रेल हैदराबाद लिमिटेड, अस्पताल प्रबंधन और डॉक्टरों ने मिलकर काम किया।

- Simultaneously, another team transported **Naveen's lungs** to **Yashoda Hospital** in **Hitec City** via the Green Corridor on the **ORR**.

साथ ही, एक अन्य टीम ने नवीन के फेफड़े को यशोदा अस्पताल हाइटेक सिटी में ORR पर ग्रीन कॉरिडोर के माध्यम से पहुंचाया।

- The **39-minute journey** began at **9:45 p.m.** and the team reached their destination by **10:24 p.m.**

39 मिनट की यात्रा 9:45 बजे रात में शुरू हुई और टीम 10:24 बजे रात अपने गंतव्य पर पहुंची।

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Survey adds 24 new species to Munnar's faunal stock

**GS Paper III:
Environment**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A faunal survey in the Munnar Wildlife Division has led to the addition of 24 new species of birds, butterflies, and odonates to its checklist.

The exercise, undertaken by the Forest Department in association with the Travancore Nature History Society, simultaneously surveyed the Mathikettan Shola National Park (MSNP), Pambadum Shola National Park (PSNP), Anamudi Shola National Park (ANP), Kurinjimala Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS), Eravikulam National Park (ENP), and Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (CWLS) from January 8 to 12. The area, lying between 500 and 2,800 metres in elevation, was surveyed by 21 teams comprising 78 delegates.

A total of 217 species of birds were documented



Anamalai Sholakili. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

during the survey, including 11 new species, thereby increasing the bird population in the Munnar Wildlife Division to 258. The additions include the Brown Hawk Owl, Barred Buttonquail, Spotted Owlet, Mottled Wood Owl, Baya Weaver, Red Munia (Red Avadavat), Richard's Pipit, Jerdon's Bushlark, Golden-Headed Cisticola, Large Grey Babbler, and Chestnut-Bellied Nuthatch.

Other notable species spotted included the Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Great Eared Nightjar, Steppe Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Montagu's Harrier, Eurasian Sparrow Hawk, Lesser Fish Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Indian Eagle Owl, Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, Indian Grey Hornbill, and Blue-eared Kingfisher.

The MSNP recorded 84 species, PSNP recorded 72,

ANP 53, KWLS 68, ENP 115, and CWLS 173 species.

8 new butterfly species

Munnar continues to be home to several species of butterflies with 166 species recorded, including eight new records, bringing the checklist to 246 species. The highest number of butterflies was recorded at Chinnar with 148 species, followed by Eravikulam (79 species), and Mathikettan Shola (57 species).

Endemic butterflies such as the Red-disc Bush-brown, Palni Bush-Brown, Palni Fritillary, Palni four-ring, Nilgiri four-ring, Nilgiri Clouded Yellow, and Nilgiri Tiger were observed. Grass Jewel, the smallest butterfly in the State, was abundant at Chinnar. The largest Indian butterfly, the Southern Birdwing, was also recorded in most of the camps. As many as 33 species were observed, des-

pite the cold weather prevailing in the region. With an addition of five new records, the total number of odonates in Munnar has increased to 58 species.

Five relatively common odonates of lower elevations, which were previously unrecorded in Munnar, were also reported. These include *Cratilla lineata calverti* (Forster, 1903), *Macrodiplax cora* (Kaup in Brauer, 1867), *Palpopleura sexmaculata* (Fabricius, 1787), *Tholymis tillarga* (Fabricius, 1798), and *Lestes elatus* Hagen in Selys, 1862.

In addition to these, the researchers documented mammals such as the Nilgiri tahrs, tigers, leopards, Nilgiri martens, gaurs, elephants and 12 species of reptiles and amphibians. The survey was formally launched by Harikrishnan K.V., Wildlife Warden, Munnar Wildlife Division.

Survey adds 24 new species to Munnar's faunal stock

मुन्नार के जीव-जंतुओं की सूची में 24 नई प्रजातियाँ जोड़ी गईं

- A faunal survey in the Munnar Wildlife Division has led to the addition of 24 new species of birds, butterflies, and odonates to its checklist.

मुन्नार वन्यजीव प्रभाग में किए गए जीव सर्वेक्षण से इसके सूची में 24 नई प्रजातियाँ जोड़ने में मदद मिली, जिनमें पक्षी, तितलियाँ और ओडोनेट्स शामिल हैं।

- The exercise was undertaken by the Forest Department in association with the Travancore Nature History Society, simultaneously surveying the Mathikettan Shola National Park (MSNP), Pambadum Shola National Park (PSNP), Anamudi Shola National Park (ANP), Kurinjimala Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS), Eravikulam National Park (ENP), and Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (CWLS) from January 8 to 12.

यह कार्य वन विभाग ने ट्रावणकोर नेचर हिस्ट्री सोसाइटी के साथ मिलकर किया, और 8 जनवरी से 12 जनवरी तक मैथिकेट्टन शोल राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (MSNP), पंबाडुम शोल राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (PSNP), अनामुडी शोल राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (ANP), कुरिंजिमाला वन्यजीव अभयारण्य (KWLS),



एराविकुलम राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (ENP), और चिन्नार वन्यजीव अभयारण्य (CWLS) का सर्वेक्षण किया।

- The area, lying between **500 and 2,800 meters** in elevation, was surveyed by **21 teams** comprising **78 delegates**.

यह क्षेत्र **500 से 2,800 मीटर** की ऊंचाई पर स्थित है और इसका सर्वेक्षण **21 टीमों** द्वारा किया गया था, जिसमें **78 प्रतिनिधि** शामिल थे।

- A total of **217 species of birds** were documented during the survey, including **11 new species**, thereby increasing the bird population in the **Munnar Wildlife Division to 258**. सर्वेक्षण के दौरान कुल **217 पक्षियों की प्रजातियाँ** दस्तावेजीकृत की गईं, जिनमें **11 नई प्रजातियाँ** शामिल हैं, जिससे **मुनार वन्यजीव प्रभाग** में पक्षियों की संख्या बढ़कर **258** हो गई।

- The additions include the **Brown Hawk Owl, Barred Buttonquail, Spotted Owllet, Mottled Wood Owl, Baya Weaver, Red Munia (Red Avadavat), Richard's Pipit, Jerdon's Bushlark, Golden-Headed Cisticola, Large Grey Babbler, and Chestnut-Bellied Nuthatch**.

नवीन प्रजातियों में **ब्राउन हॉक उल्लू, बार्ड बटनक्वेल, स्पॉटेड आउलेट, मॉटल्ड वुड उल्लू, बाया वीवर, रेड मुनिया (रेड अवदावत), रिचर्ड्स पिपिट, जर्डन का बुशलार्क, गोल्डन-हेडेड सिस्टिकोल, लार्ज ग्रे बैबलर, और चेस्टनट-बेल्ली न्यूथैच** शामिल हैं।

- Other notable species spotted included the **Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Great Eared Nightjar, Steppe Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Montagu's Harrier, Eurasian Sparrow Hawk, Lesser Fish Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Indian Eagle Owl, Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, Indian Grey Hornbill, and Blue-eared Kingfisher**.

अन्य महत्वपूर्ण प्रजातियाँ जिनका पता चला, उनमें **नीलगिरी वुड पिजन, माउंटेन इंपीरियल पिजन, ग्रेट ईयर्ड नाइटजार्, स्टेप ईगल, बोनेली का ईगल, मोंटागू का हैरियर, यूरेशियन स्पैरो हॉक, लेसर फिश ईगल, पेरेग्रीन फाल्कन, इंडियन ईगल उल्लू, स्पॉट-बेल्ली ईगल उल्लू, इंडियन ग्रे हॉर्नबिल, और ब्लू-ईयर्ड किंगफिशर** शामिल हैं।

- The **MSNP** recorded **84 species**, **PSNP** recorded **72**, **ANP** recorded **53**, **KWLS** recorded **68**, **ENP** recorded **115**, and **CWLS** recorded **173 species**.

MSNP ने **84 प्रजातियाँ** रिकॉर्ड की, **PSNP** ने **72 प्रजातियाँ**, **ANP** ने **53 प्रजातियाँ**, **KWLS** ने **68 प्रजातियाँ**, **ENP** ने **115 प्रजातियाँ**, और **CWLS** ने **173 प्रजातियाँ** रिकॉर्ड की।

- Munnar continues to be home to several species of butterflies with **166 species recorded**, including **eight new records**, bringing the checklist to **246 species**.

मुनार में कई प्रकार की तितलियाँ पाई जाती हैं, और **166 प्रजातियाँ** रिकॉर्ड की गईं, जिनमें **आठ नई रिकॉर्ड** शामिल हैं, जिससे सूची में कुल **246 प्रजातियाँ** हो गईं।

- The highest number of butterflies was recorded at **Chinnar** with **148 species**, followed by **Eravikulam (79 species)**, and **Mathikettan Shola (57 species)**.

तितलियों की सबसे अधिक संख्या **चिन्नार** में **148 प्रजातियाँ** रिकॉर्ड की गईं, इसके बाद **एराविकुलम (79 प्रजातियाँ)** और **मैथिकेट्टन शोला (57 प्रजातियाँ)** का स्थान है।

- Endemic butterflies such as the **Red-disc Bushbrown, Palni Bush-Brown, Palni Fritillary, Palni fourring, Nilgiri four-ring, Nilgiri Clouded Yellow, and Nilgiri Tiger** were observed.



स्थानीय तितलियों में रेड-डिस्क बुशब्राउन, पालनी बुश-ब्राउन, पालनी फ्रिटिलरी, पालनी फोररिंग, नीलगिरी फोर-रिंग, नीलगिरी क्लाउडेड येलो, और नीलगिरी टाइगर देखी गई।

- **Grass Jewel**, the smallest butterfly in the State, was abundant at **Chinnar**. राज्य में सबसे छोटी तितली **ग्रास ज्वेल चिन्नार** में प्रचुर मात्रा में पाई गई।
- The largest Indian butterfly, the **Southern Birdwing**, was also recorded in most of the camps. भारत की सबसे बड़ी तितली **साउथर्न बर्डविंग** भी अधिकांश शिविरों में रिकॉर्ड की गई।
- As many as **33 species** were observed, despite the cold weather prevailing in the region.

33 प्रजातियाँ देखी गईं, हालांकि क्षेत्र में ठंडा मौसम था।

- With an addition of **five new records**, the total number of **odonates** in Munnar has increased to **58 species**. **पाँच नई रिकॉर्ड** जोड़ने के साथ, मुन्नार में **ओडोनेट्स** की कुल संख्या **58 प्रजातियाँ** हो गई हैं।
- Five relatively common **odonates of lower elevations**, which were previously unrecorded in Munnar, were also reported. These include **Cratilla lineata calverti**, **Macrodiplax cora**, **Palpopleura sexmaculata**, **Tholymis tillarga**, and **Lestes elatus**. मुन्नार में पहले रिकॉर्ड नहीं की गई **निचली ऊँचाई वाले पाँच सामान्य ओडोनेट्स** भी रिपोर्ट किए गए। इनमें **Cratilla lineata calverti**, **Macrodiplax cora**, **Palpopleura sexmaculata**, **Tholymis tillarga**, और **Lestes elatus** शामिल हैं।
- In addition to these, the researchers documented mammals such as the **Nilgiri tahrs**, **tigers**, **leopards**, **Nilgiri martens**, **gaurs**, **elephants** and **12 species of reptiles and amphibians**. इनके अलावा, शोधकर्ताओं ने **नीलगिरी ताहर**, **बाघ**, **तेंदुए**, **नीलगिरी मार्टेन्स**, **गौर**, **हाथी** और **12 प्रजातियाँ उभयचरों और सरीसृपों की दस्तावेजीकृत कीं।**
- The survey was formally launched by **Harikrishnan K.V., Wildlife Warden, Munnar Wildlife Division**. सर्वेक्षण की औपचारिक शुरुआत **हरिकृष्णन के.वी.**, **वन्यजीव वार्डन, मुन्नार वन्यजीव प्रभाग** द्वारा की गई।



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Shah, Naidu to take part in NDRF Raising Day celebrations today

GS Paper III: Disaster Management

The 10th battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will celebrate the 20th Raising Day on its premises at Kondapavuluru in Gannavaram mandal of Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is participating in the event as the chief guest and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will be the guest of honour.

Addressing mediapersons on Saturday, Piyush Anand, Director General of the NDRF, said it was an occasion to rededicate to ensure zero casualties in disasters in close coordination with States and Union Territories.

The NDRF came into existence on January 19,

2006 after the enactment of the Disaster Management Act of 2005. It started with eight battalions and the number increased to 16. It was present at 68 locations, including 28 Regional Response Centres and 24 Tactical Pre-Positioning Locations.

Each NDRF battalion had 18 specialised Search and Rescue teams consisting of specialists like engineers, technicians, electricians, medical, paramedical personnel, and dog squads. The sanctioned strength was 18,556.

Key tasks

Mr. Anand said the NDRF was mandated to deal with all natural and man-made disasters except fires. It would conduct collapsed structure search and rescue during earthquakes,

undertake rescue in building collapses and landslides, floods and incidents of boat capsizing, and tackle chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear contingencies.

Controlling forest fires was assigned to it in 2022, for which three teams were formed on a pilot basis. One team each was positioned in Uttarakhand, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.

The NDRF conducted more than 12,000 operations, rescued more than 1.58 lakh persons and evacuated more than 8.50 lakh persons during various disasters. It also organised more than 13,000 community awareness programmes and about 8,000 school safety programmes, benefiting more than 93 lakh students and adults, Mr. Anand said.

Shah, Naidu to take part in NDRF Raising Day celebrations today

शाह, नायडू आज एनडीआरएफ रेजिंग डे समारोह में भाग लेंगे

The 10th battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will celebrate its 20th Raising Day at Kondapavuluru in Gannavaram Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday.

नेशनल डिजास्टर रिस्पॉन्स फोर्स (एनडीआरएफ) की

10वीं बटालियन अपना 20वां रेजिंग डे कोंडपावुलुरु, गन्नावरम मंडल, कृष्णा जिला, आंध्र प्रदेश में रविवार को मनाएगी।

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah is the chief guest, and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will be the guest of honour.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह मुख्य अतिथि होंगे और मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू सम्मानित अतिथि होंगे।

- The occasion is a rededication to ensure zero casualties in disasters in close coordination with States and Union Territories.

यह एक पुनः समर्पण है ताकि दुर्घटनाओं में शून्य हताहत सुनिश्चित किया जा सके, और यह राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के साथ करीबी समन्वय में किया जाएगा।

- NDRF was formed on January 19, 2006, after the enactment of the Disaster Management Act of 2005.

एनडीआरएफ का गठन 19 जनवरी 2006 को आपदा प्रबंधन अधिनियम 2005 के बाद किया गया था।

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- Initially, NDRF started with **eight battalions**; the number increased to **16**.
प्रारंभ में, एनडीआरएफ आठ बटालियनों के साथ शुरू हुआ था; संख्या बढ़कर 16 हो गई।
- NDRF is present at **68 locations**, including **28 Regional Response Centres** and **24 Tactical Pre-Positioning Locations**.
एनडीआरएफ 68 स्थानों पर मौजूद है, जिसमें 28 क्षेत्रीय प्रतिक्रिया केंद्र और 24 सामरिक पूर्व-स्थिति स्थान शामिल हैं।
- Each battalion has **18 specialised Search and Rescue teams** consisting of specialists like **engineers, technicians, electricians, medical, paramedical personnel, and dog squads**.
प्रत्येक बटालियन में 18 विशेष खोज और बचाव टीम होती हैं, जिसमें इंजीनियर, तकनीशियन, इलेक्ट्रीशियन, चिकित्सक, पैरा-मेडिकल कर्मी और कुत्ते की टीम शामिल होती हैं।
- The **sanctioned strength** of NDRF is **18,556**.
एनडीआरएफ की स्वीकृत शक्ति 18,556 है।
- NDRF handles all natural and man-made disasters except **fires**.
एनडीआरएफ आग को छोड़कर सभी प्राकृतिक और मानव निर्मित आपदाओं से निपटता है।
- Tasks include **collapsed structure search, earthquake rescues, building collapses, landslides, floods, and boat capsizing incidents**.
कार्यों में बंगाल संरचना खोज, भूकंप बचाव, इमारत ढहने, भूस्खलन, बाढ़, और नाव पलटने की घटनाएँ शामिल हैं।
- NDRF was tasked with controlling **forest fires** in **2022**, and three teams were formed as a pilot in **Uttarakhand, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh**.
एनडीआरएफ को 2022 में वन्य आग पर नियंत्रण करने का कार्य सौंपा गया था, और उत्तराखंड, असम, और आंध्र प्रदेश में तीन टीमों का गठन किया गया था।
- NDRF has conducted **12,000 operations**, rescued **1.58 lakh** persons, and evacuated **8.50 lakh** persons during various disasters.
एनडीआरएफ ने 12,000 ऑपरेशंस किए हैं, 1.58 लाख व्यक्तियों को बचाया है, और विभिन्न आपदाओं के दौरान 8.50 लाख व्यक्तियों को निकाला है।
- NDRF has also organised **13,000 community awareness programmes** and about **8,000 school safety programmes**, benefiting more than **93 lakh students and adults**.
एनडीआरएफ ने 13,000 सामुदायिक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम और लगभग 8,000 स्कूल सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए हैं, जिनसे 93 लाख से अधिक छात्रों और वयस्कों को लाभ हुआ है।

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RNA, not DNA, is the main cause of acute sunburn

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

Over the years, we have been told that sunburn damages the DNA leading to cell death and inflammation. However, a new study conducted on mice as well as human skin cells has found that is not the full truth. The researchers found that instead of the DNA, the acute effects of sunburn were actually caused due to damage to the RNA. The objective of

the study was to describe the impact of UV radiation on the skin and what causes this damage. The researchers found the same skin response to UV radiation exists in both mice and human cells. The results of the study were published in the journal *Molecular Cell*.

mRNA damage triggers a response in ribosomes (protein complexes that "read" the mRNA to synthesise protein), orches-

trated by a protein known as ZAK-alpha – the so-called ribotoxic stress response – the new study shows. The response can be described as a surveillance system within the cells, which registers the RNA damage, leading to inflammatory signalling and recruitment of immune cells, which then leads to inflammation of the skin.

"We found that the first thing the cells respond to after being exposed to UV

radiation is damage to the RNA and that this is what triggers cell death and inflammation of the skin. In mice exposed to UV radiation, we found responses such as inflammation and cell death, but when we removed the ZAK gene, these responses disappeared, which means that ZAK plays a key role in the skin's response to UV-induced damage," Dr. Simon Bekker-Jensen from the Department of Cellular

and Molecular Medicine and a coauthor of the study said in a release.

He adds: "So you could say that everything depends on this one response, which monitors all protein translations occurring. The cells respond to the RNA damage, realising that something is wrong, and this is what leads to cell death."

"Our work highlights ribosomes and the ZAK gene as the most proximal

stress-signal-sensor pair that kickstarts the well-established acute skin reactions to acute UVB irradiation. Our findings also indicate that there are different, or at least temporally and phenotypically distinct, roles for the RSR [ribotoxic stress response] and DNA damage signaling in sun-exposed skin, which likely has implications for skin immunity and skin carcinogenesis," the authors write.

RNA, not DNA, is the main cause of acute sunburn

आरएनए, डीएनए नहीं, तीव्र सनबर्न का मुख्य कारण है

Over the years, it was believed that sunburn damages the DNA, leading to cell death and inflammation.

वर्षों से यह माना जाता था कि सनबर्न डीएनए को नुकसान पहुंचाता है, जिससे कोशिका मृत्यु और सूजन होती है।

- A new study conducted on **mice and human skin cells** revealed that **RNA damage**, not DNA, causes the acute effects of sunburn.

चूहों और मानव त्वचा कोशिकाओं पर किए गए एक नए अध्ययन में पाया गया कि तीव्र सनबर्न के प्रभाव डीएनए के बजाय आरएनए के नुकसान के कारण होते हैं।

- The study aimed to describe the **impact of UV radiation** on the skin and the cause of the damage.

अध्ययन का उद्देश्य यूवी विकिरण के प्रभाव और त्वचा को हुए नुकसान के कारण को समझना था।

- Researchers found that the **same skin response** to UV radiation exists in both **mice and human cells**.

शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि चूहों और मानव कोशिकाओं में यूवी विकिरण पर समान त्वचा प्रतिक्रिया होती है।

- The study was published in the journal **Molecular Cell**.

यह अध्ययन **मॉलेक्यूलर सेल** पत्रिका में प्रकाशित हुआ।

mRNA damage and the role of ZAK-alpha

mRNA को क्षति और ZAK-alpha की भूमिका

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- mRNA damage triggers a response in **ribosomes**, orchestrated by a protein called **ZAK-alpha**.
mRNA को क्षति राइबोसोम्स में एक प्रतिक्रिया उत्पन्न करती है, जिसे ZAK-alpha नामक प्रोटीन द्वारा नियंत्रित किया जाता है।
- The response is a **surveillance system** within cells that registers **RNA damage** and initiates **inflammatory signaling**.
यह प्रतिक्रिया कोशिकाओं के भीतर एक निगरानी प्रणाली है, जो आरएनए क्षति को पहचानती है और सूजन संकेत शुरू करती है।
- Inflammation and recruitment of **immune cells** result in **skin inflammation**.
प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाओं की सक्रियता और सूजन से त्वचा में सूजन होती है।

Key findings and experiments

मुख्य निष्कर्ष और प्रयोग

- The **first response** of cells to UV radiation is to detect **RNA damage**, which triggers **cell death** and inflammation.
यूवी विकिरण पर कोशिकाओं की पहली प्रतिक्रिया आरएनए क्षति का पता लगाना है, जिससे कोशिका मृत्यु और सूजन होती है।
- In experiments on mice, removing the **ZAK gene** eliminated the inflammatory and cell death responses, proving its **key role**.
चूहों पर किए गए प्रयोगों में, ZAK जीन को हटाने से सूजन और कोशिका मृत्यु प्रतिक्रिया समाप्त हो गई, जो इसकी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका साबित करता है।
- Dr. Simon Bekker-Jensen stated, "Everything depends on this **one response**, which monitors **all protein translations** occurring."
डॉ. साइमन बेकर-जेनसन ने कहा, "सब कुछ इस एक प्रतिक्रिया पर निर्भर करता है, जो सभी प्रोटीन अनुवादों की निगरानी करता है।"

Implications for skin immunity and cancer

त्वचा की प्रतिरक्षा और कैंसर के लिए प्रभाव

- The study highlights **ribosomes and the ZAK gene** as the most proximal stress-signal-sensor pair for UVB-induced damage.
अध्ययन ने राइबोसोम्स और ZAK जीन को यूवीबी-प्रेरित क्षति के लिए सबसे निकटतम तनाव-संकेत-संवेदक युग्म के रूप में रेखांकित किया।
- The findings suggest distinct roles for **ribotoxic stress response (RSR)** and DNA damage signaling in **sun-exposed skin**, with implications for **skin immunity** and **carcinogenesis**.
निष्कर्ष यह बताते हैं कि राइबोटॉक्सिक तनाव प्रतिक्रिया (RSR) और डीएनए क्षति संकेत का धूप-



संक्रमित त्वचा में अलग-अलग, या कम से कम विशिष्ट भूमिकाएँ हैं, जो त्वचा की प्रतिरक्षा और कैसरजनन के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।



Question Corner

On the wing

GS Paper III: S&T

Do songbirds socialise during migration?

The flight paths of migrating songbirds may not be entirely innate, a new study has found. Evidence from over 18,300 hours of recorded flight calls suggests songbirds may “talk” to other species as they migrate, forming social connections and – just maybe – exchanging information about the journey. Using a machine learning tool allowed researchers to analyse 18,300 hours of acoustic recording to quickly detect the signature flight calls of 27 species. After identifying species, the team measured how often certain calls co-occurred in

time, testing intervals of 15, 30, and 60 seconds. Regardless of this, they found associations between species than expected by chance alone. Looking to explain these associations, the found species’ wing lengths and the similarity of their calls were the key factors. In contrast, birds that “buddy up” during stopovers were not maintaining those relationships in the air, and they were not necessarily flying with closely related species or birds that shared their preferences for specific habitats.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

प्रजातियों की पहचान करने के बाद, टीम ने मापा कि कुछ कॉल्स कितनी बार 15, 30 और 60 सेकंड के अंतराल में एक साथ होते हैं।

- Regardless of intervals, they found **associations between species** that were more frequent than expected by chance alone.

अंतराल की परवाह किए बिना, उन्होंने पाया कि प्रजातियों के बीच संबंध अपेक्षा से अधिक बार देखे गए।

- To explain these associations, they found that species’ **wing lengths** and the **similarity of their calls** were the key factors.

इन संबंधों को समझाने के लिए, उन्होंने पाया कि प्रजातियों के पंखों की लंबाई और उनके कॉल्स की समानता मुख्य कारक थे।

On the Wing पंखों पर

- The **flight paths of migrating songbirds** may not be entirely innate, a new study has found.

प्रवास करने वाले गीत पक्षियों के उड़ान मार्ग पूरी तरह से स्वाभाविक नहीं हो सकते, एक नए अध्ययन में यह पाया गया है।

- Evidence from over **18,300 hours of recorded flight calls** suggests songbirds may “talk” to other species as they migrate, forming **social connections** and possibly exchanging information about the journey.

18,300 घंटे से अधिक दर्ज उड़ान कॉल्स के प्रमाण से पता चलता है कि प्रवास करते समय गीत पक्षी अन्य प्रजातियों से संवाद कर सकते हैं, सामाजिक संबंध बना सकते हैं, और शायद यात्रा के बारे में जानकारी साझा कर सकते हैं।

- Researchers used a **machine learning tool** to analyse **18,300 hours of acoustic recordings** to detect the **signature flight calls of 27 species** quickly.

शोधकर्ताओं ने मशीन लर्निंग टूल का उपयोग करके **18,300 घंटे की ध्वनि रिकॉर्डिंग** का विश्लेषण किया और **27 प्रजातियों के विशिष्ट उड़ान कॉल्स** को जल्दी से पहचाना।

- After identifying species, the team measured how often **certain calls co-occurred** in intervals of **15, 30, and 60 seconds**.



- In contrast, birds that “buddy up” during stopovers were not maintaining those **relationships in the air** and were not necessarily flying with **closely related species** or birds sharing their preferences for specific habitats.

इसके विपरीत, जो पक्षी स्टॉपओवर के दौरान साथ रहते थे, वे इन संबंधों को उड़ान के दौरान बनाए नहीं रखते, और जरूरी नहीं कि वे संबंधित प्रजातियों या समान निवास स्थान पसंद करने वाले पक्षियों के साथ उड़ते हों।

Can Bhopal waste be safely disposed of?

What is the plan on the hazardous gas leak waste? How much has the Central government allocated to the Madhya Pradesh government to incinerate the waste and deposit the residue at a landfill in Pithampur? Why have there been protests?

GS Paper III: Pollution

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

In January 2, Madhya Pradesh government authorities moved 358 tonnes of hazardous waste from the defunct Union Carbide facility in Bhopal to the Pithampur industrial area in Dhar district. On December 3 last year, the Madhya Pradesh High Court had set a four-week deadline for authorities to dispose of this waste, nearly 40 years after the gas disaster that killed more than 4,000 people and injured or debilitated thousands more.

What is the waste's status?

The disaster on the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, was the result of poisonous gases leaking from the plant, which Union Carbide had set up to manufacture fertilizers. The waste at the facility is composed of the ingredients required to make these fertilizers.

After years of lying in Bhopal and multiple petitions from civil society groups, the Madhya Pradesh government was to incinerate the waste at a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF) in Pithampur more than 200 km away. Officials arranged for the waste to be packaged

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says composite liners at landfills with hazardous waste will degrade and have to be reinstalled at intervals

and transported in secure long-haul containers.

But protests in the industrial town by the local population fearing harmful emissions from the incineration have paused the State's plans.

On January 6, the Madhya Pradesh High Court gave the State government six weeks to safely dispose of the waste. The order came after State authorities had also sought time to spread awareness about the manner of disposal and measures to minimise its effects on health and the environment.

The Central government has allocated ₹126 crore to the State to incinerate the waste and deposit the residue in the TSDF landfill.

Why Pithampur?

In 2012, the Supreme Court selected the Pithampur facility as being the most suitable final destination for the waste. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it is the sole TSDF in the State and includes a landfill and an incinerator. The CPCB submitted an affidavit to the apex court in 2013 attesting to the TSDF's ability to 'handle' the waste.

In 2015, Madhya Pradesh organised a 'trial run' in which it incinerated 10.1 tonnes of the waste at the TSDF. The CPCB monitored the process with help from experts from private laboratories in Chennai and Hyderabad. Notably, the State had secretly advanced the incineration date by a few days to sidestep local resistance.

According to Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department director Swatantra Kumar Singh, the emissions from the trial were under stipulated limits. The State's public relations office also reported no adverse effects on the environment or on public health.

Is the waste harmful?

The 'trial' waste consisted of 4.8 tonnes of excavated waste, 1.6 tonnes of semi-processed residue, 1.3 tonnes of naphthol waste, 1.3 tonnes of carbaryl residue, and 0.8 tonnes of reactor residue. According to a December 2024 press release from the State's public relations office, the Regional Director (Central) of CPCB Bhopal had collected and tested five water samples from around the Pithampur TSDF. The report

(numbered WW24.25-188.189) indicated the water colour, chloride, sulphate, and fluoride concentrations, hardness, and the amount of total dissolved solids “exceeded permissible limits” specified in the IS 10500 standard in two open wells near the landfill.

However, the release said according to “scientists involved in the analysis” the higher values “reflect groundwater quality and don't appear to be linked to the TSDF operations”.

The release also said experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhopal and the Indian Council of Medical Research reportedly surveyed 12 villages and found the prevalence of skin and respiratory ailments to be lower than the national average.

Credible media reports in 2015 had said around four-times as much ash and residue as the waste combusted (by mass) had been generated and which the CPCB had said it would dispose of in the landfill, including protections to contain leachates.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said these protections can degrade and need to be reinstalled at periodic intervals.

What next?

Madhya Pradesh has temporarily put off incinerating the waste. Authorities have said the local protests, including two attempts at self-immolation, mean they would first like to improve public confidence in the safety of the disposal process.

“We are preparing 50-odd master trainers, including science teachers, professors, and officials,” PTI quoted Dhar collector Priyank Mishra as saying. “They will be informed about the exact status of the waste before they reach out to people to dispel misinformation.”

There will also be another trial run: a 90-kg batch will be incinerated at 1,200° C, Mr. Singh said. According to the EPA, most organic compounds (like naphthol) are destroyed when subjected to 590° to 650° C. Operating hazardous waste incinerators at 980-1,200° C would thus strip the waste of organics.

If the resulting emissions don't breach legal thresholds, the rest will be incinerated in batches of 270 kg each over three months. If the emissions exceed, Mr. Singh had told *The Hindu* the batch size would be reduced and the duration extended to nine months.

The next hearing in the High Court is set for February 18.

With inputs from Mehul Malpani.



Sensitive issue: Trucks with toxic waste inside Pithampur Industrial Waste Management Pvt Ltd in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh on January 11. A.M.FARUQUI



Bhopal Waste Disposal and Hazardous Gas Leak Waste Management

भोपाल कचरे का निपटान और खतरनाक गैस रिसाव कचरे का प्रबंधन

- On January 2, 2024, Madhya Pradesh government authorities moved **358 tonnes of hazardous waste** from the defunct Union Carbide facility in Bhopal to the **Pithampur industrial area in Dhar district**.
2024 में 2 जनवरी को, मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने 358 टन खतरनाक कचरे को भोपाल की निष्क्रिय यूनियन कार्बाइड सुविधा से धार जिले के पिथमपुर औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरित किया।
- The Madhya Pradesh High Court, on December 3, 2023, set a **four-week deadline** for authorities to dispose of this waste, which had remained nearly **40 years** after the disaster.
मध्य प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय ने 3 दिसंबर 2023 को इस कचरे के निपटान के लिए अधिकारियों को चार सप्ताह की समय सीमा दी थी, जो आपदा के लगभग 40 वर्षों बाद तक पड़ा रहा।

Status of the Waste

कचरे की स्थिति

- The **1984 Bhopal disaster**, on the night of **December 2-3**, occurred due to poisonous gases leaking from the Union Carbide plant.
1984 की भोपाल आपदा, 2-3 दिसंबर की रात, यूनियन कार्बाइड संयंत्र से जहरीली गैसों के रिसाव के कारण हुई थी।
- The waste at the facility consists of ingredients required to manufacture fertilizers.
सुविधा में कचरा उर्वरकों के निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक अवयवों से बना है।
- After lying in Bhopal for years and following petitions from civil society groups, the **Madhya Pradesh government planned to incinerate the waste** at the **Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF)** in **Pithampur**, about **200 km** away.
वर्षों तक भोपाल में पड़े रहने और नागरिक समाज समूहों की याचिकाओं के बाद, मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने पिथमपुर में कचरे को जलाने की योजना बनाई, जो 200 किमी दूर है।

Allocation and Protests

आवंटन और विरोध

- The **Central government allocated ₹126 crore** to the Madhya Pradesh government for incinerating the waste and depositing the residue in the TSDF landfill.
केंद्र सरकार ने कचरे को जलाने और अवशेष को TSDF लैंडफिल में जमा करने के लिए मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को ₹126 करोड़ आवंटित किए।
- Protests erupted in **Pithampur** due to fears of harmful emissions during incineration.
पिथमपुर में जलाने के दौरान हानिकारक उत्सर्जन की आशंका के कारण विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए।



- On January 6, the **High Court granted six weeks** to dispose of the waste, during which authorities were to spread awareness about safety measures.
6 जनवरी को उच्च न्यायालय ने कचरे के निपटान के लिए छह सप्ताह का समय दिया, जिसमें अधिकारियों को सुरक्षा उपायों के बारे में जागरूकता फैलानी थी।

Why Pithampur?

पिथमपुर क्यों?

- In **2012**, the **Supreme Court** selected the Pithampur facility as the **final destination** for the waste, based on a **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** recommendation.
2012 में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (CPCB) की सिफारिश पर पिथमपुर सुविधा को कचरे के अंतिम गंतव्य के रूप में चुना।
- A **trial run** in 2015 incinerated **10.1 tonnes** of waste. CPCB experts and laboratories in Chennai and Hyderabad monitored the emissions, which were reported to be within permissible limits.
2015 में 10.1 टन कचरे को जलाने के लिए परीक्षण किया गया। CPCB विशेषज्ञों और चेन्नई और हैदराबाद की प्रयोगशालाओं ने उत्सर्जन की निगरानी की, जिसे अनुमेय सीमा के भीतर बताया गया।

Harmfulness of the Waste

कचरे की हानिकारकता

- The trial waste included **4.8 tonnes of excavated waste**, **1.6 tonnes of semi-processed residue**, and other residues such as naphthol and carbaryl.
परीक्षण कचरे में 4.8 टन खोदा गया कचरा, 1.6 टन अर्ध-प्रसंस्कृत अवशेष, और नाफ्थॉल और कार्बारिल जैसे अन्य अवशेष शामिल थे।
- A **CPCB report** found water samples near the TSDF exceeding permissible limits for parameters like chloride and fluoride. However, scientists said these were due to groundwater quality and not TSDF operations.
एक **CPCB रिपोर्ट** ने TSDF के पास पानी के नमूनों को क्लोराइड और फ्लोराइड जैसे मापदंडों में अनुमेय सीमा से अधिक पाया। हालांकि, वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि यह भूजल की गुणवत्ता के कारण था, TSDF संचालन के कारण नहीं।
- Experts found no significant increase in skin or respiratory ailments in nearby villages compared to the national average.
विशेषज्ञों ने पाया कि आस-पास के गांवों में त्वचा या श्वसन रोगों में कोई महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि नहीं हुई थी।

Future Plans

भविष्य की योजनाएं



- Authorities plan to conduct a **90-kg trial run at 1,200°C**, which exceeds the temperature required to destroy most organic compounds.
 अधिकारियों ने 1,200°C पर 90 किलो परीक्षण चलाने की योजना बनाई है, जो अधिकांश जैविक यौगिकों को नष्ट करने के लिए आवश्यक तापमान से अधिक है।
- If emissions remain within permissible limits, incineration will proceed in **batches of 270 kg** over three months. Otherwise, the process will extend to nine months with reduced batch sizes.
 यदि उत्सर्जन अनुमेय सीमा के भीतर रहता है, तो जलाना 270 किलो के बैचों में तीन महीने में जारी रहेगा। अन्यथा, प्रक्रिया को नौ महीने के लिए बैच के आकार को कम करके बढ़ा दिया जाएगा।
- Public awareness campaigns are being planned to dispel misinformation and gain local confidence.
 जनता में गलत जानकारी दूर करने और स्थानीय विश्वास बढ़ाने के लिए जागरूकता अभियान की योजना बनाई जा रही है।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. Beauty of human beings is in their vulnerability:

Leander / मनुष्य की सुंदरता उसकी कमजोरी में है: लिण्डर

Beauty of human beings is in their vulnerability: Leander

GS Paper IV: Ethics

Nihit Sachdeva
 CHENNAI

Towards the end of a long first day of *The Hindu Lit for Life*, the Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall was still packed for the final session. Leander Paes, India's most-decorated tennis star, was in the house.

After a short video featuring some of the greatest moments of his career – from the Olympic bronze

at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta to multiple Grand Slam wins – the conversation began with Mr. Paes becoming the first Asian man to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the player category. In the session moderated by Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer of The Hindu Group, the 51-year-old star regaled the audience with his wit and humour. He had a lump in his throat



Tennis legend Leander Paes in conversation with Suresh Balakrishna in Chennai on Saturday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

when he recalled the sacrifices his parents, friends, and he himself had made. Sharing his experience of playing with Martina

Navratilova and Martina Hingis – with whom he won two and four Majors in mixed doubles, respectively – Mr. Paes gave a life lesson in leadership. “Martina Navratilova is a born leader. When we would go out into a match and the coin toss would be done, she would always want to choose whether to serve or receive,” said Mr. Paes. Ms. Hingis, who had formed a solid partnership with Mr. Paes during World Team

Tennis, was not sure about their pairing for the Grand Slams. “She said, ‘What if we lose? What if I am not ready and look bad on the court and the men hit harder;’” he recalled.

But Mr. Paes said the “beauty of human beings is in their vulnerability and the beauty of a partner is in how you protect your partner's vulnerability”. The Paes-Hingis pair clicked and clinched all four Majors in 18 months.

Beauty of human beings is in their vulnerability: Leander

मानवों की सुंदरता उनकी संवेदनशीलता में है: लीण्डर

- Towards the end of the long first day of *The Hindu Lit for Life*, the Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall was still packed for the final session.



द हिन्दू लिट फॉर लाइफ के पहले दिन के अंत में, सिर मुथा वेंकटसुब्बा राव कंसर्ट हॉल अंतिम सत्र के लिए अभी भी भरा हुआ था।

- **Leander Paes**, India's most-decorated tennis star, was present at the event.
लियेंडर पेस, भारत के सबसे अधिक सम्मानित टेनिस सितारे, इस कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित थे।
- After a short video featuring some of the greatest moments of his career — from the **Olympic bronze** at the **1996 Olympics** in **Atlanta** to multiple **Grand Slam** wins — the conversation began.
उनके करियर के कुछ महान क्षणों को दिखाने वाले एक छोटे वीडियो के बाद — जिसमें **1996 ओलंपिक** में **अटलांटा** में **ओलंपिक कांस्य** से लेकर कई **गैंड स्लैम** जीत शामिल हैं — बातचीत की शुरुआत हुई।
- The conversation began with **Mr. Paes** becoming the first **Asian man** to be inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame** in the player category.
बातचीत की शुरुआत **श्री पेस** के **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय टेनिस हॉल ऑफ फेम** में खिलाड़ी श्रेणी में पहले **एशियाई पुरुष** के रूप में नामित होने से हुई।
- In the session moderated by **Suresh Balakrishna**, Chief Revenue Officer of **The Hindu Group**, the 51-year-old star regaled the audience with his wit and humor.
द हिन्दू समूह के मुख्य राजस्व अधिकारी **सुरेश बालकृष्ण** द्वारा संचालित सत्र में, 51 वर्षीय सितारे ने दर्शकों का मनोरंजन अपनी चतुराई और हास्य से किया।
- **Mr. Paes** had a lump in his throat when he recalled the sacrifices his parents, friends, and he himself had made.
श्री पेस की आँखों में आँसू थे जब उन्होंने अपने माता-पिता, दोस्तों, और खुद द्वारा की गई बलिदानों को याद किया।
- Sharing his experience of playing with **Martina Navratilova** and **Martina Hingis** — with whom he won two and four **Majors** in mixed doubles, respectively — **Mr. Paes** gave a life lesson in leadership.
मार्टीना नवरतिलोवा और **मार्टीना हिंगिस** के साथ खेलने का अनुभव साझा करते हुए — जिनके साथ उन्होंने क्रमशः मिश्रित युगल में दो और चार **मेजर्स** जीते — **श्री पेस** ने नेतृत्व पर एक जीवन पाठ दिया।
- **Mr. Paes** described **Martina Navratilova** as a **born leader**, who would always want to decide whether to serve or receive after the coin toss.
श्री पेस ने **मार्टीना नवरतिलोवा** को एक **जन्मजात नेता** के रूप में बताया, जो हमेशा सिक्का उछालने के बाद यह तय करना चाहती थीं कि सर्व करना है या प्राप्त करना है।
- **Ms. Hingis**, who had formed a solid partnership with **Mr. Paes** during **World Team Tennis**, was not sure about their pairing for the **Grand Slams**.
सुश्री हिंगिस, जिन्होंने **वर्ल्ड टीम टेनिस** के दौरान **श्री पेस** के साथ एक मजबूत साझेदारी बनाई थी, वे **गैंड स्लैम्स** के लिए उनकी जोड़ी को लेकर सुनिश्चित नहीं थीं।
- She expressed concern saying, “What if we lose? What if I am not ready and look bad on the court and the men hit harder?”



उन्होंने चिंता जताते हुए कहा, “अगर हम हार गए तो? अगर मैं तैयार नहीं हूँ और कोर्ट पर बुरा दिखूँ और पुरुष ज्यादा ताकत से खेलें?”

- **Mr. Paes** emphasized that “**the beauty of human beings is in their vulnerability** and the beauty of a partner is in how you protect your partner’s vulnerability.”

श्री पेस ने यह जोर देते हुए कहा कि “मानवों की सुंदरता उनकी संवेदनशीलता में है और एक साथी की सुंदरता इस बात में है कि आप अपने साथी की संवेदनशीलता की कैसे रक्षा करते हैं।”

- The **Paes-Hingis pair** clicked and clinched all **four Majors** in **18 months**.

पेस-हिंगिस जोड़ी ने सफलता पाई और 18 महीने में सभी चार मेजर जीत लिए।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. **Inside Indira Bhavan, Cong. retains connect with the past through an array of photographs** / इंदिरा भवन में कांग्रेस ने अतीत से जुड़ाव बनाए रखा है एक श्रृंखलाबद्ध चित्रों के माध्यम से
2. **Impeached South Korean leader argues for his release in court** / महाभियोग लगाए गए दक्षिण कोरियाई नेता ने अदालत में अपनी रिहाई के लिए दलील दी
3. **Activist short-seller** / एक्टिविस्ट शॉर्ट-सेलर



Inside Indira Bhavan, Cong. retains connect with the past through an array of photographs

PCS

Sobhana K. Nair

NEW DELHI

Indira Bhavan, the new Congress headquarters in Delhi, strives to balance the past and the present. Amid Ikea furniture and energy-efficient fittings, the building recollects the party's history in 246 rare photographs, some of them a painful reminder of leaders who left after publicly decrying the Congress and its leadership.

Three days after inaugurating the new premises, the party threw it open to the media for a tour. The building has been in the making for 18 years. Land was allotted to the party in November 2007. The foundation stone was laid in 2009, and the final 'all clear' certificate from the



Legacy walls: The walls inside Indira Gandhi Bhavan in New Delhi reflect the party's journey since 1885, in 246 rare photographs. PTI

relevant authorities was secured only on January 14 this year.

Painted in shades of cream and brown, the building is spread over a total area of 2,100 square metres, and has its own auditorium, with 276 seats. There are 134 trees, 8,675

plants, and 264 works of art and paintings. Mr. Maken, party treasurer said that the building had been constructed at a cost of ₹200-₹225 crore, much of it with contributions by its regular workers.

The cafeteria features paintings by Nandalal

Bose, made on the request of Mahatma Gandhi for the Haripura Congress session of 1938. There are pictures of the meetings of the Planning Commission from 1985, with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi seen sitting along with three of the then future Prime Ministers – Narasimha Rao, V.P. Singh, and Manmohan Singh; and one future President of India, K.R. Narayanan.

Narasimha Rao, whose images found no space in the old party headquarters at 24 Akbar Road, has been given a pride of place in the new building.

But perhaps the most arresting pictures are the ones with the party's senior leaders, who defected to other parties looking for a brighter political future.

One such on the ground floor is that of Sonia Gandhi leading a march accompanied by Congress leaders, including Suresh Pachouri, Rita Bahuguna Joshi, and P. Sudhakar Reddy, all now with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The former Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, who quit the party after launching a stinging attack on Mr. Rahul Gandhi's leadership, makes an occasional appearance on the walls. Another interesting photograph is that of Ms. Sonia Gandhi and former party president Sitaram Kesari at a campaign rally in Rohtak in January 1998.

A few months later, Kesari was forced out and Ms. Gandhi took over as the party president.

Inside Indira Bhavan, Cong. retains connect with the past through an array of photographs

इंदिरा भवन में कांग्रेस ने अतीत से जुड़ाव बनाए रखा है एक शृंखलाबद्ध चित्रों के माध्यम से

- **Indira Bhavan**, the new Congress headquarters in Delhi, strives to balance the past and the present.

इंदिरा भवन, दिल्ली में नया कांग्रेस मुख्यालय, अतीत और वर्तमान के बीच संतुलन बनाने की कोशिश करता है।

- Amid **Ikea furniture** and **energy-efficient fittings**, the building recollects the party's history in **246 rare photographs**, some of them a painful reminder of leaders who left after publicly decrying the Congress and its leadership.

इकेआ फर्नीचर और ऊर्जा-कुशल फिटिंग्स के बीच, भवन पार्टी के इतिहास को 246 दुर्लभ तस्वीरों में याद करता है, जिनमें से कुछ नेताओं की दर्दनाक यादें हैं जिन्होंने कांग्रेस और उसके नेतृत्व की सार्वजनिक आलोचना के बाद पार्टी छोड़ दी।



Website: patrioticias.in

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- Three days after inaugurating the new premises, the party threw it open to the media for a tour.
नई परिसर का उद्घाटन करने के तीन दिन बाद, पार्टी ने मीडिया के लिए इसका दौरा करने का अवसर दिया।
- The building has been in the making for **18 years**.
भवन का निर्माण **18 वर्षों** से चल रहा था।
- **Land was allotted** to the party in **November 2007**.
पार्टी को **नवंबर 2007** में भूमि आवंटित की गई थी।
- The foundation stone was laid in **2009**, and the final 'all clear' certificate from the relevant authorities was secured only on **January 14 this year**.
नींव पत्थर **2009** में रखा गया था, और संबंधित अधिकारियों से अंतिम 'सभी मंजूरी' प्रमाणपत्र **14 जनवरी इस साल** को प्राप्त हुआ था।
- Painted in shades of **cream and brown**, the building is spread over a total area of **2,100 square meters**, and has its own auditorium, with **276 seats**.
क्रीम और भूरा रंगों में रंगा यह भवन **2,100 वर्ग मीटर** क्षेत्र में फैला हुआ है, और इसमें अपना ऑडिटोरियम है, जिसमें **276 सीटें** हैं।
- There are **134 trees**, **8,675 plants**, and **264 works of art and paintings**.
यहाँ **134 पेड़**, **8,675 पौधे**, और **264 कला कृतियाँ और चित्र** हैं।
- Mr. Maken, party treasurer said that the building had been constructed at a cost of **₹200-225 crore**, much of it with contributions by its regular workers.
श्री माकेन, पार्टी के कोषाध्यक्ष ने कहा कि भवन का निर्माण **₹200-225 करोड़** की लागत से किया गया था, जिसमें से अधिकांश योगदान इसके नियमित कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा था।
- The cafeteria features paintings by **Nandalal Bose**, made on the request of **Mahatma Gandhi** for the **Haripura Congress session of 1938**.
कैफेटेरिया में **नंदलाल बोस** द्वारा बनाई गई चित्रकला है, जो **महात्मा गांधी** की **1938 के हरिपुरा कांग्रेस सत्र** की अनुरोध पर बनाई गई थी।
- There are pictures of the meetings of the **Planning Commission from 1985**, with former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi** seen sitting along with three of the then future Prime Ministers — **Narasimha Rao**, **V.P. Singh**, and **Manmohan Singh**; and one future President of India, **K.R. Narayanan**.
1985 के योजना आयोग की बैठकों की तस्वीरें हैं, जिसमें पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **राजीव गांधी** तीन भविष्य के प्रधानमंत्रियों — **नरसिम्हा राव**, **वी.पी. सिंह**, और **मनमोहन सिंह** के साथ बैठे हुए हैं; और भारत के एक भविष्य के राष्ट्रपति, **के.आर. नारायणन**।
- **Narasimha Rao**, whose images found no space in the old party headquarters at **24 Akbar Road**, has been given a pride of place in the new building.
नरसिम्हा राव, जिनकी तस्वीरें पुराने पार्टी मुख्यालय **24 अकबर रोड** में जगह नहीं पा सकी थीं, उन्हें नए भवन में गर्व का स्थान दिया गया है।
- But perhaps the most arresting pictures are the ones with the party's senior leaders, who defected to other parties looking for a brighter political future.

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लेकिन शायद सबसे आकर्षक तस्वीरें वे हैं जिनमें पार्टी के वरिष्ठ नेता हैं, जिन्होंने उज्ज्वल राजनीतिक भविष्य की तलाश में अन्य पार्टियों में पलायन किया।

- One such on the ground floor is that of **Sonia Gandhi** leading a march accompanied by Congress leaders, including **Suresh Pachouri**, **Rita Bahuguna Joshi**, and **P. Sudhakar Reddy**, all now with the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**.

एक ऐसी तस्वीर भूमि तल पर है जिसमें **सोनिया गांधी** एक मार्च का नेतृत्व कर रही हैं, उनके साथ कांग्रेस नेता **सुरेश पचौरी**, **रीता बहुगुणा जोशी**, और **पी. सुधाकर रेड्डी** हैं, जो अब **भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP)** में हैं।

- The former Leader of the Opposition in the **Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad**, who quit the party after launching a stinging attack on Mr. **Rahul Gandhi's leadership**, makes an occasional appearance on the walls.

राज्य सभा में पूर्व नेता विपक्ष **घुलाम नबी आजाद**, जिन्होंने श्री **राहुल गांधी** के नेतृत्व पर तीव्र हमला करने के बाद पार्टी छोड़ दी थी, दीवारों पर कभी-कभी दिखाई देते हैं।

- Another interesting photograph is that of **Sonia Gandhi** and former party president **Sitaram Kesari** at a campaign rally in **Rohtak in January 1998**.

एक और दिलचस्प तस्वीर **सोनिया गांधी** और पूर्व पार्टी अध्यक्ष **सीताराम केसरी** की है, जो **जनवरी 1998 में रोहतक** में एक प्रचार रैली में हैं।

- A few months later, **Kesari was forced out** and **Ms. Gandhi took over** as the party president.

कुछ महीने बाद, **केसरी को बाहर किया गया** और **सोनिया गांधी** ने पार्टी अध्यक्ष के रूप में **कार्यभार संभाला**।

Impeached South Korean leader argues for his release in court

Associated Press

SEOUL

PCS

South Korea's impeached President on Saturday argued for his release before a Seoul judge as the court reviewed whether to grant a law enforcement request for his formal arrest.

Mr. Yoon, who has been in detention since he was apprehended on Wednesday in a massive law enforcement operation at his residence, **faces potential rebellion charges linked to his declaration of martial law on December 3**, which set off the country's most serious political crisis since its democratisation in the



Yoon Suk Yeol

late 1980s.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with the police and the military, requested the Seoul Western District Court to grant a warrant

for Mr. Yoon's formal arrest. Mr. Yoon's lawyers said he spoke for about 40 minutes to the judge during the nearly five-hour closed-door hearing.

Expected decision

The judge is expected to make a decision by late Saturday or early Sunday.

If Mr. Yoon is arrested, investigators can extend his detention to 20 days, during which they will transfer the case to public prosecutors for indictment. If the court rejects the investigators' request, Mr. Yoon will be released and return to his residence.

Impeached South Korean leader argues for his release in court

महाभियोग लगाए गए दक्षिण कोरियाई नेता ने अदालत में अपनी रिहाई के लिए दलील दी

South Korea's impeached President on Saturday argued for his release before a Seoul judge as the court reviewed whether to grant a law enforcement request for his formal arrest.

दक्षिण कोरिया के बर्खास्त राष्ट्रपति ने शनिवार को एक सियोल न्यायाधीश के सामने अपनी रिहाई के लिए दलील दी, क्योंकि



अदालत यह समीक्षा कर रही थी कि क्या उनके औपचारिक गिरफ्तारी के लिए कानून प्रवर्तन का अनुरोध मंजूर किया जाए।

- **Mr. Yoon**, who has been in detention since he was apprehended on **Wednesday** in a massive law enforcement operation at his residence, faces potential **rebellion charges** linked to his declaration of **martial law on December 3**, which set off the country's most serious **political crisis** since its democratisation in the late **1980s**.

श्री यून, जो बुधवार को अपने निवास पर एक बड़े कानून प्रवर्तन ऑपरेशन में गिरफ्तार होने के बाद से हिरासत में हैं, उन पर **विद्रोह का आरोप** लगाया गया है, जो उनके **3 दिसंबर को मार्शल लॉ** की घोषणा से जुड़ा है, जिसने देश के सबसे गंभीर राजनीतिक संकट को जन्म दिया, जो **1980 के दशक के अंत** में इसके लोकतांत्रिकरण के बाद का है।

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with the police and the military, requested the Seoul Western District Court to grant a warrant for Mr. Yoon's formal arrest.

उच्च-स्तरीय अधिकारियों के लिए भ्रष्टाचार जांच कार्यालय, जो पुलिस और सेना के साथ एक संयुक्त जांच का नेतृत्व कर रहा है, ने सियोल पश्चिमी जिला अदालत से श्री यून की औपचारिक गिरफ्तारी के लिए वारंट जारी करने का अनुरोध किया।

- **Mr. Yoon's lawyers** said he spoke for about **40 minutes** to the judge during the nearly five-hour **closed-door hearing**.

श्री यून के वकीलों ने कहा कि उन्होंने न्यायाधीश से लगभग **40 मिनट** बात की, जो लगभग पांच घंटे की गोपनीय सुनवाई के दौरान हुई थी।

Expected decision

अपेक्षित निर्णय

- The judge is expected to make a decision by late **Saturday** or early **Sunday**.
न्यायाधीश के **शनिवार** के अंत या **रविवार** की शुरुआत तक निर्णय लेने की संभावना है।
- If Mr. Yoon is arrested, investigators can extend his detention to **20 days**, during which they will transfer the case to public prosecutors for **indictment**.

यदि श्री यून को गिरफ्तार किया जाता है, तो जांचकर्ता उनकी हिरासत को **20 दिन** तक बढ़ा सकते हैं, इस दौरान वे मामले को **सार्वजनिक अभियोजकों** को आरोपपत्र दाखिल करने के लिए सौंपेंगे।

- If the court rejects the investigators' request, **Mr. Yoon will be released** and return to his residence.

यदि अदालत जांचकर्ताओं के अनुरोध को अस्वीकार कर देती है, तो श्री यून को रिहा कर दिया जाएगा और वह अपने निवास पर वापस लौटेंगे।



Activist short-seller

PCS

Nate Anderson

Known for investigative reports on publicly listed companies, the founder of Hindenburg Research says he is disbanding the group

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

G. Sampath

Nate Anderson, ‘activist’ short-seller and founder of Hindenburg Research, has decided to disband the U.S.-based investment research group known for its investigative reports on publicly listed companies. In a note shared on the Hindenburg website, he addressed the speculation on what triggered the move. “The plan has been to wind up after we finished the pipeline of ideas we were working on. And as of the last Ponzi cases we just completed and are sharing with regulators, that day is today.”

Short-sellers are a rare breed in general, and in what has been a bullish market for the past several years, even more so. Mr. Anderson, with a small team of 11 people, built Hindenburg into a reputed research group that has caused over 100 individuals, including billionaires, to be civilly or criminally charged, and wiped out billions of dollars in companies’ market values.

The son of a college professor and a nurse, Mr. Anderson obtained a business degree and started off with a job providing technical and sales advice to a financial analytics company. Subsequently, he moved on to auditing and verification of potential deals for investment firms of wealthy families. But all



along, he had nursed a singular passion: unearthing scams. Aware that translating it into a full-fledged career would not be easy, he set up a brokerage firm that did due diligence for hedge funds, while pursuing “forensic financial research” in his personal time.

But as his brokerage firm failed to take off, debts mounted, and he faced eviction by his landlord, Mr. Anderson sold his brokerage licence and in 2017, plunged into his passion by setting up Hindenburg.

First major success

Short-selling involves borrowing the shares of a given company and selling them in the expectation that its price would fall, and when its price duly fell, buying them back at the lower price, and pocketing the difference as profit. The magnitude of the losses if the shorted share prices rose instead of tanking, are potentially unlimited.

Mr. Anderson’s first big success came with Nikola,

a maker of electric trucks. Hindenburg claimed that its management was lying about the technology status of its product. It famously exposed the fact that its truck, which in a video seemed to be cruising at good speed, was actually rolling downward on a slope in neutral gear. Nikola’s shares plunged 15%, its chairman was charged with securities fraud, and Hindenburg made a killing on its short position.

He famously took on the billionaire oligarch Elon Musk by announcing a short position on Twitter following Mr. Musk’s deal to buy the social media firm. Mr. Anderson bet that Mr. Musk would walk away from the deal. When four days after the agreement, Mr. Musk tried to do just that, Hindenburg made money.

When the case went to court, Hindenburg covered its short and “went long”, believing that “Musk’s arguments for backing out” won’t win. They did not, and as Mr. Musk closed the deal at the

originally agreed price, Hindenburg gained yet again.

Mr. Anderson made news in India for the first time in January 2023 when Hindenburg alleged that the Adani Group was using entities registered in Mauritius to perpetrate stock manipulation and accounting fraud. The Adani Group has denied the allegations.

Hindenburg hit the headlines again last August when it alleged that the Securities and Exchange Bureau of India (SEBI) chief Madhabi Buch and her husband held stakes in offshore funds linked to the Adanis. Ms. Buch and the Adanis have denied these allegations. But the Adani group has lost \$150 billion from its market value since the Hindenburg report came out in 2023, and last November, Gautam Adani was indicted on securities fraud charges by U.S. regulators.

Mr. Anderson has now promised to “open-source” his methods of investigations so that others can take the Hindenburg legacy forward. Investors are typically not fond of short-sellers, given the existential danger they pose to the value of their holdings. But there is no denying the immense public interest value of Mr. Anderson’s unique contributions in exposing what the state’s regulatory apparatus should have prevented in the first place.



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Activist short-seller

एक्टिविस्ट शॉर्ट-सेलर

Known for investigative reports on publicly listed companies, the founder of Hindenburg Research says he is disbanding the group

सार्वजनिक रूप से सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों पर खोजी रिपोर्टों के लिए जाने जाने वाले हिंडनबर्ग रिसर्च के संस्थापक ने कहा कि वह समूह को भंग कर रहे हैं

Nate Anderson's decision to disband Hindenburg Research

नेट एंडरसन का हिंडनबर्ग रिसर्च को समाप्त करने का निर्णय

- **Nate Anderson**, 'activist' short-seller and founder of **Hindenburg Research**, has decided to disband the U.S.-based investment research group known for its investigative reports on publicly listed companies.

नेट एंडरसन, 'एक्टिविस्ट' शॉर्ट-सेलर और हिंडनबर्ग रिसर्च के संस्थापक, ने अमेरिकी आधारित निवेश अनुसंधान समूह को समाप्त करने का निर्णय लिया, जो सार्वजनिक रूप से सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों पर अपनी जांच रिपोर्ट के लिए जाना जाता था।

- In a note shared on the **Hindenburg website**, he addressed the speculation on what triggered the move. "The plan has been to wind up after we finished the pipeline of ideas we were working on. And as of the last **Ponzi cases** we just completed and are sharing with regulators, that day is today."

हिंडनबर्ग वेबसाइट पर साझा किए गए एक नोट में, उन्होंने इस कदम को लेकर चल रही अटकलों पर जवाब दिया। "योजना यह थी कि हम तब तक काम करेंगे जब तक हम जिन विचारों पर काम कर रहे थे, उन्हें पूरा नहीं कर लेते। और जैसे ही हम अंतिम पॉन्जी मामले को पूरा करके नियामकों के साथ साझा कर रहे हैं, वह दिन आज है।"

- **Short-sellers** are a rare breed in general, and in what has been a **bullish market** for the past several years, even more so.

शॉर्ट-सेलर सामान्यतः एक दुर्लभ जाति होती है, और पिछले कई वर्षों से जो बुलिश बाजार रहा है, उसमें और भी कम।

- **Mr. Anderson**, with a small team of **11 people**, built Hindenburg into a reputed research group that has caused over **100 individuals**, including billionaires, to be civilly or criminally charged, and wiped out **billions of dollars** in companies' market values.

श्री एंडरसन, जिन्होंने 11 लोगों की एक छोटी टीम के साथ हिंडनबर्ग को एक प्रसिद्ध शोध समूह में बदला, ने 100 से अधिक व्यक्तियों को, जिसमें अरबपति भी शामिल हैं, नागरिक या आपराधिक आरोपों का सामना कराया, और कंपनियों के बिलियनों डॉलर के बाजार मूल्य को समाप्त कर दिया।

- The son of a **college professor** and a **nurse**, Mr. Anderson obtained a business degree and started off with a job providing **technical and sales advice** to a financial analytics company.

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कॉलेज प्रोफेसर और एक नर्स के बेटे श्री एंडरसन ने एक व्यापार डिग्री प्राप्त की और एक वित्तीय विश्लेषण कंपनी को तकनीकी और बिक्री सलाह प्रदान करने वाली नौकरी से शुरुआत की।

- Subsequently, he moved on to auditing and verification of potential deals for investment firms of wealthy families.

इसके बाद, वह धनिक परिवारों के निवेश फर्मों के लिए संभावित सौदों का ऑडिट और सत्यापन करने में चले गए।

- But all along, he had nursed a singular passion: **unearthing scams**.

लेकिन हमेशा, उनके मन में एक अद्वितीय जूनून था: **धोखाधड़ी का खुलासा करना**।

- Aware that translating it into a full-fledged career would not be easy, he set up a brokerage firm that did **due diligence** for hedge funds, while pursuing “**forensic financial research**” in his personal time.

यह जानते हुए कि इसे एक पूर्ण पेशेवर करियर में बदलना आसान नहीं होगा, उन्होंने एक ब्रोकरिज फर्म स्थापित की जो हेज फंड्स के लिए **निष्ठापूर्वक जांच** करती थी, जबकि वह अपने व्यक्तिगत समय में “**फॉरेंसिक वित्तीय शोध**” कर रहे थे।

- But as his brokerage firm failed to take off, debts mounted, and he faced **eviction** by his landlord, Mr. Anderson sold his brokerage licence and in **2017**, plunged into his passion by setting up **Hindenburg**.

लेकिन जब उनकी ब्रोकरिज फर्म उड़ान नहीं भर पाई, कर्ज बढ़े, और उन्हें अपने मकान मालिक द्वारा **निकाले जाने** का सामना करना पड़ा, श्री एंडरसन ने अपनी ब्रोकरिज लाइसेंस बेच दी और **2017** में अपनी जुनून में डुबकी लगाते हुए **हिंडेनबर्ग** की स्थापना की।

- **Short-selling** involves borrowing the shares of a given company and selling them in the expectation that its price would fall, and when its price duly fell, buying them back at the lower price, and pocketing the difference as profit.

शॉर्ट-सेलिंग में किसी कंपनी के शेयर उधार लेकर उन्हें इस उम्मीद में बेचना कि उनकी कीमत गिरेगी, और जब उनकी कीमत गिरती है, तो उन्हें कम कीमत पर फिर से खरीदना और अंतर को लाभ के रूप में रखना शामिल है।

- The magnitude of the losses if the shorted share prices rose instead of tanking, are potentially unlimited.

अगर शॉर्ट किए गए शेयर की कीमतें गिरने की बजाय बढ़ जाएं, तो नुकसान की सीमा **अनंत** हो सकती है।

- Mr. Anderson's first big success came with **Nikola**, a maker of electric trucks.

श्री एंडरसन की पहली बड़ी सफलता **निकोला** के साथ आई, जो इलेक्ट्रिक ट्रकों का निर्माता था।

- Hindenburg claimed that its management was lying about the technology status of its product.

हिंडेनबर्ग ने आरोप लगाया कि उसकी प्रबंधन टीम अपने उत्पाद की तकनीकी स्थिति के बारे में झूठ बोल रही थी।

- It famously exposed the fact that its truck, which in a video seemed to be cruising at good speed, was actually rolling downward on a slope in neutral gear.



इसने प्रसिद्ध रूप से यह खुलासा किया कि उसका ट्रक, जो एक वीडियो में अच्छी गति से दौड़ता हुआ प्रतीत हो रहा था, वास्तव में ढलान पर न्यूट्रल गियर में नीचे की ओर लुड़क रहा था।

- Nikola's shares plunged **15%**, its chairman was charged with **securities fraud**, and Hindenburg made a killing on its short position.

निकोलाज के शेयर **15%** गिर गए, इसके चेयरमैन पर **सुरक्षात्मक धोखाधड़ी** का आरोप लगा, और हिंडनबर्ग ने अपनी शॉर्ट पोजीशन पर भारी मुनाफा कमाया।

- He famously took on the billionaire oligarch **Elon Musk** by announcing a short position on **Twitter** following **Mr. Musk's** deal to buy the social media firm.

उन्होंने प्रसिद्ध रूप से अरबपति ओलिगार्क **एलोन मस्क** को चुनौती दी, जब उन्होंने **ट्विटर** पर **मि. मस्क** के सोशल मीडिया फर्म को खरीदने के सौदे के बाद शॉर्ट पोजीशन की घोषणा की।

- Mr. Anderson bet that Mr. Musk would walk away from the deal.

श्री एंडरसन ने दांव लगाया कि मि. मस्क इस सौदे से बाहर हो जाएंगे।

- When four days after the agreement, Mr. Musk tried to do just that, Hindenburg made money.

जब समझौते के चार दिन बाद मि. मस्क ने ठीक वही करने की कोशिश की, तो हिंडनबर्ग ने पैसा कमाया।

- When the case went to court, Hindenburg covered its short and "went long," believing that "Musk's arguments for backing out won't win."

जब मामला अदालत में गया, तो हिंडनबर्ग ने अपनी शॉर्ट पोजीशन को कवर किया और "लॉन्ग पोजीशन" लिया, यह मानते हुए कि "मस्क के बाहर जाने के तर्क सफल नहीं होंगे।"

- They did not, and as Mr. Musk closed the deal at the originally agreed price, Hindenburg gained yet again.

ऐसा नहीं हुआ, और जब मि. मस्क ने सौदा मूल रूप से तय कीमत पर बंद किया, तो हिंडनबर्ग को फिर से लाभ हुआ।

- Mr. Anderson made news in **India** for the first time in **January 2023** when Hindenburg alleged that the **Adani Group** was using entities registered in **Mauritius** to perpetrate stock manipulation and accounting fraud.

श्री एंडरसन ने **भारत** में पहली बार **जनवरी 2023** में खबर बनाई जब हिंडनबर्ग ने आरोप लगाया कि **अदानी समूह मॉरीशस** में पंजीकृत संस्थाओं का उपयोग कर रहा था ताकि वह स्टॉक मैनिपुलेशन और लेखांकन धोखाधड़ी कर सके।

- The **Adani Group** has denied the allegations.

अदानी समूह ने इन आरोपों का खंडन किया है।

- Hindenburg hit the headlines again last **August** when it alleged that the **Securities and Exchange Bureau of India (SEBI)** chief **Madhabi Buch** and her husband held stakes in offshore funds linked to the **Adanis**.

हिंडनबर्ग फिर से **अगस्त** में सुर्खियों में आया जब उसने आरोप लगाया कि **भारत के सिक्योरिटीज और एक्सचेंज ब्यूरो (SEBI)** की प्रमुख **माधवी बुच** और उनके पति ने **अदानी** से जुड़े ऑफशोर फंड्स में हिस्सेदारी रखी थी।



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- Ms. Buch and the Adanis have denied these allegations.
सुश्री बुच और अदानी ने इन आरोपों का खंडन किया है।
- But the **Adani group** has lost **\$150 billion** from its market value since the Hindenburg report came out in **2023**, and last **November**, **Gautam Adani** was indicted on **securities fraud charges** by U.S. regulators.
लेकिन अदानी समूह ने 2023 में हिंडनबर्ग रिपोर्ट के आने के बाद अपने बाजार मूल्य से **\$150 बिलियन** खो दिए हैं, और पिछले नवंबर में, गौतम अदानी पर अमेरिकी नियामकों द्वारा **सुरक्षा धोखाधड़ी** के आरोप लगाए गए थे।
- Mr. Anderson has now promised to “opensource” his methods of investigations so that others can take the **Hindenburg legacy** forward.
श्री एंडरसन ने अब अपनी जांच विधियों को “ओपनसोर्स” करने का वादा किया है ताकि अन्य लोग **हिंडनबर्ग की धरोहर** को आगे बढ़ा सकें।
- Investors are typically not fond of **short-sellers**, given the existential danger they pose to the value of their holdings.
निवेशक सामान्यतः **शॉर्ट-सेलर** से पसंद नहीं करते हैं, क्योंकि वे उनके निवेशों के मूल्य के लिए **जीवन-मरण** का खतरा उत्पन्न करते हैं।
- But there is no denying the immense public interest value of Mr. Anderson’s unique contributions in exposing what the state’s regulatory apparatus should have prevented in the first place.
लेकिन यह नकारा नहीं जा सकता कि श्री एंडरसन के अनूठे योगदानों का सार्वजनिक हित के लिए अत्यधिक मूल्य है, जो राज्य के नियामक तंत्र को पहले स्थान पर रोकना चाहिए था।

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