To watch an in-depth discussion on the topic, click on the YouTube link below: https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS

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24_01_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)

1. **Iron Age kicked off in 4th millennium BCE in T.N.: Stalin / लौह युग की शुरुआत चौथी सहस्राब्दी ईसा पूर्व में तमिलनाडु में हुई: स्टालिन**

2. **Drought, debt, and death in Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र में सूखा, कर्ज और मौत**

3. **Is poverty being underestimated in India? / क्या भारत में गरीबी को कम आंका जा रहा है?**

4. **Indian Navy finishes survey of Mauritius / भारतीय नौसेना ने मॉरीशस का सर्वेक्षण पूरा किया**

Iron Age kicked off in 4th millennium BCE in T.N.: Stalin

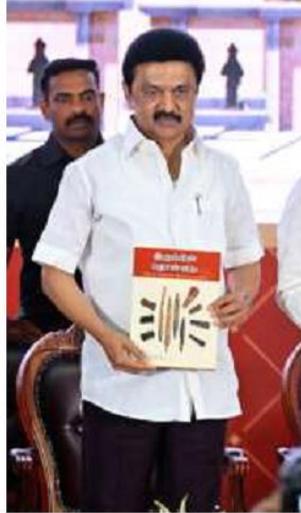## लौह युग की शुरुआत चौथी सहस्राब्दी ईसा पूर्व में तमिलनाडु में हुई: स्टालिन

GS Paper I: Iron Age

N. Sai Charan
Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

In a finding that may alter the understanding of the antiquity of iron in the Indian subcontinent, a report released by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday said introduction of iron in modern-day Tamil Nadu went back to the first quarter of the 4th millennium BCE. Samples were lifted from the Sivagalai site in Thoothukudi district.

Releasing the report, "Antiquity of iron: recent radiometric dates from Tamil Nadu", authored by K. Rajan and R. Sivanantham, Mr. Stalin said: "The Iron Age began on Tamil soil." He went on to cite carbon dating results from renowned institutions. The finding meant that iron usage was prominent in South India over 5,300 years ago, he said. Iron was

M.K. Stalin launches the report in Chennai. SRINATH M.

used on Tamil land in 3345 BCE, he said.

Experts suggested that the discovery proved that usage of smelted iron could go back to the middle of the third millennium BCE.

Introduction of Iron in Tamil Nadu
तमिलनाडु में लोहे का परिचय

- A report released by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday said introduction of **iron** in modern-day **Tamil Nadu** goes back to the **first quarter of the 4th millennium BCE**.
तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री म.के. स्टालिन द्वारा गुरुवार को जारी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि आधुनिक समय के **तमिलनाडु** में **लोहे** का परिचय **चौथी सहस्राब्दी ई.पू. के पहले तिमाही** में हुआ।

- Samples were lifted from the **Sivagalai site** in **Thoothukudi district**.
थूथुकुडी जिले के **सिवगलई स्थल** से सैंपल लिए गए थे।

- The report, titled "**Antiquity of iron: recent radiometric dates from Tamil Nadu**," was authored by **K. Rajan** and **R. Sivanantham**.
रिपोर्ट का शीर्षक "**लोहे की प्राचीनता: तमिलनाडु से हालिया रेडियोमेट्रिक तिथियां**" था, जिसे **के. राजन** और **आर. शिवानंथम** ने लिखा।

- Mr. Stalin said, "The **Iron Age** began on **Tamil soil**."
श्री स्टालिन ने कहा, "**लोहे का युग तमिल भूमि** पर शुरू हुआ।"

- The finding was based on **carbon dating results** from **renowned institutions**.
यह खोज **प्रसिद्ध संस्थानों** से प्राप्त **कार्बन डेटिंग परिणामों** पर आधारित थी।

- The finding meant that iron usage was prominent in **South India** over **5,300 years ago**.
इस खोज का मतलब था कि **दक्षिण भारत** में **5,300 साल पहले** लोहे का उपयोग प्रमुख था।

- Iron was used in **Tamil land** in **3345 BCE**.
तमिल भूमि में **3345 ई.पू.** में लोहे का उपयोग हुआ था।

- Experts suggested that the discovery proved that usage of **smelted iron** could go back to the **middle of the third millennium BCE**.

विशेषज्ञों ने सुझाव दिया कि यह खोज साबित करती है कि **पिघला हुआ लोहे** का उपयोग **तीसरी सहस्त्राब्दी ई.पू. के मध्य** तक हो सकता है।

Iron Age (1,000 BC onwards)

- **It is the latest metal age.**
  यह नवीनतम धातु युग है।
- **It started with the later Vedic age.**
  इसकी शुरुआत उत्तर वैदिक युग से हुई।
- **Later Vedic Aryans called Iron Krishna-Ayas (Black Metal).**
  उत्तर वैदिक आर्यों ने लोहे को कृष्ण-अयस (काला धातु) कहा।

Later Vedic Economy:

- **The most important development was the introduction of iron technology.**
  सबसे महत्वपूर्ण विकास लोहे की तकनीक का परिचय था।
- **The new metal iron was called Krishna-Ayas (Black Metal).**
  नई धातु लोहे को कृष्ण-अयस (काला धातु) कहा जाता था।
- **With cheaply available iron, tools and implements were manufactured and came within the reach of Shudras.**
  सस्ते लोहे की उपलब्धता से उपकरण बनाए गए और यह शूद्रों की पहुंच में आ गए।
- **Shudras, dependent on upper castes, became independent cultivators and expanded the agricultural economy.**
  ऊँची जातियों पर निर्भर शूद्र स्वतंत्र किसान बन गए और कृषि अर्थव्यवस्था का विस्तार हुआ।
- **As society became dependent on Shudras, they were given Varna status.**
  समाज शूद्रों पर निर्भर हो गया और उन्हें वर्ण का दर्जा दिया गया।
- **The three upper Varnas withdrew from agricultural activity.**
  तीन ऊँचे वर्ण कृषि कार्य से हट गए।
- **With surplus production, trade and commerce flourished, leading to new towns and cities; this era is called the second age of urbanization.**
  अधिशेष उत्पादन के साथ व्यापार और वाणिज्य फले-फूले, जिससे नए नगर और शहर बने; इस युग को शहरीकरण का दूसरा युग कहा जाता है।
- **Vaishyas entered into trade and commerce, forming guilds called Shrenis.**
  वैश्य व्यापार और वाणिज्य में प्रविष्ट हुए और श्रेणियों का गठन किया।
- **Merchant guilds were headed by Shreshthi (a rich merchant), and guilds of professionals were led by Jestaka.**
  व्यापारी श्रेणियों का नेतृत्व श्रेष्ठि (एक धनी व्यापारी) करते थे, और पेशेवरों की श्रेणियों का नेतृत्व जेष्ठक करते थे।

- **Each guild had its own code of conduct called Shreni Dharma.**
  प्रत्येक श्रेणी का अपना आचार संहिता होता था जिसे श्रेणी धर्म कहते थे।

- **Guilds enjoyed autonomy and decided on production, quality, and pricing.**
  श्रेणियों को स्वायत्तता प्राप्त थी और वे उत्पादन, गुणवत्ता और मूल्य निर्धारण का निर्णय करती थीं।

- **The state never interfered with the functioning of the guilds.**
  राज्य ने कभी भी श्रेणियों के कार्य में हस्तक्षेप नहीं किया।

- **A new type of pottery called Neel-Iohitha (Painted Grey Ware or PGW) emerged.**
  नील-लोहिता (पेंटेड ग्रे वेयर या पीजीडब्ल्यू) नामक एक नई प्रकार की मिट्टी की बर्तनों का उदय हुआ।

- **Earlier Rig-Vedic Aryans used Black-Red Ware (BRW) and Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP).**
  प्रारंभिक ऋग्वैदिक आर्य काले-लाल बर्तन (बीआरडब्ल्यू) और गेरुआ रंग की मिट्टी के बर्तन (ओसीपी) का उपयोग करते थे।

- **Money lending appeared for the first time; the money lender was called Kusada, and the borrower was Kusidin.**
  पहली बार धन उधार देने का कार्य प्रारंभ हुआ; धन उधार देने वाले को कुसादा और उधार लेने वाले को कुसिदिन कहा जाता था।

Drought, debt, and death in Maharashtra

In the State's Marathwada region, farmers struggle with many stressors. In 2024, there were over 800 suicides in just this area, leaving behind women and children who bear the brunt of poverty and stigma, finds **Abhinay Deshpande**

GS Paper I: Poverty

Trigger warning: the following article contains references to suicide; please avoid reading if you are disturbed by the subject.

Archana Chinchore's face is a picture of exhaustion. She sits quietly on a plastic chair in the centre of her modest kitchen in the family home at Bhadra village of Loha taluka, Nanded district, in Maharashtra's drought-stricken Marathwada region. Her shoulders are slumped and head dropped low as she avoids meeting anyone's gaze. Her voice is barely above a whisper, soft and fragile, as if it might break under the weight of her grief.

Once a mother who juggled household chores with caring for her four-year-old son, Archana, 30, now struggles to get through the day. Her life forever changed on August 6, 2024 – the day her husband, Hausaji, 32, a debt-ridden farmer, died by suicide. "Around 5.30 a.m., he kissed our son, who was fast asleep, and left to milk the buffaloes. It was just like any other day," Archana recounts, tears streaming down her face. "But this time, he never came back."

Their 10-acre agricultural land, barely a kilometre from the house, became the site of his final moments. In December, the cotton and sugarcane fields are lush, a stark contrast to scenes from May and June, when the summer heat cracks the black soil. The lanes in the village are cement-concrete but are narrow, and Archana's house is reachable only by a two-wheeler.

As she wipes her tears with her *pallu*, her son tugs at her sari, demanding attention. Hausaji had been burdened by loans: ₹4 lakh from private financiers and another ₹1 lakh from a bank. Heavy, unseasonal showers had destroyed his soya bean and cotton crops, leaving him unable to repay his debts. The pressure, according to his grieving family, became unbearable, driving him to take his life. Now, the debts have been carried forward to Archana.

Archana's mother, Sagarbai, has moved in from her village, about 60 km away, to help with chores and care for her grandson, and her in-laws go to work in the fields. "She doesn't eat properly or talk to anyone," says Sagarbai, her voice trembling. "She spends hours locked in a room, crying. So, I came to help her and try to get things back on track. I know, the loss is irreversible, but she now has a son to take care of."

Hausaji's story is one of many. In Nanded district alone, 146 farmers ended their lives in 2024, contributing to the 822 farmer suicides recorded in the Marathwada region between January and November, according to a report by the Divisional Commissioner's office in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad).

Beed district in the Marathwada region, which has had drought for over 10 years now, has seen 160 deaths, followed by Nanded, Dharashiv (Osmanabad) with 143, and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar with 132. Jalna, Latur, Parbhani, and Hingoli reported 76, 72, 64, and 29 farmer deaths by sui-

> My husband never told me about debt. Maybe he thought I was too sensitive. I have to start working. I am left to deal with everything on my own
>
> **ARCHANA CHINCHORE**
> Resident of Bhadra village, Loha taluka, Nanded district, Maharashtra

Coping with loss: (Clockwise from top left) Seema Jadhav in Degaon; Sadhana Kalaskar in Gidhada; Archana Chinchore in Bhadra, all from the Marathwada region in Maharashtra, have lost their husbands to suicide. ABHINAY DESHPANDE

cide, respectively. In 2023, 1,088 farmers ended their lives in eight districts of the region, say data from the Divisional Commissioner's office.

In 2022, Maharashtra recorded 38% of all suicides in the agricultural sector, the highest in India, going by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

Debt was the common thread tying all victims together. For the survivors, the financial burden persists – now compounded by the anguish of loss and the social stigma that comes with a loved one's suicide. Older children, especially girls, drop out of school to support mothers and younger siblings.

For Archana, who has grown up hearing about farmers taking their lives, the grim statistics mean little. Her son has just joined school and life ahead seems long. "My husband never told me about debt. Maybe he thought I was too sensitive. I have to start working. I am left to deal with everything on my own," she says, adding that she does have the support of her family.

Married in 2012, she remembers Hausaji as a quiet man who took charge of their family farm at a young age.

Cropping trouble

Senior journalist Himanshu Nitnaware, who reports on crises for *Down To Earth* magazine, says currently farmers, especially small-scale cultivators, are compelled to resort to non-banking financial corporations (NBFCs) that do not allow them to come out of the vicious debt cycle. "Loans with low interest rates from government banks can prevent farmers from approaching private moneylenders," he says.

In Degaon, over 50 km from Bhadra, in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district, Seema Jadhav, 32, is mourning her husband, Dinesh, 35, who died by suicide on December 13. A mother of three – two daughters and a son – Seema struggles to make sense of why her husband chose to take his life. On that morning, Dinesh had left their home without a word. "It was unusual, but I thought he

was just stressed and in a hurry, but when he didn't return for lunch, I started to worry," she recalls. By evening, her fear turned into reality.

Seema says the bank had refused to grant him a fresh loan as the previous loan was still reflected on documents. "But he had cleared this loan," she adds.

Two days after her husband's death, Seema's over-a-century-old family home is filled with relatives and neighbours trying to console her and Dinesh's parents. She sits on a plastic chair, her eyes vacant, trying to piece together her husband's final thoughts. "He had been quiet those last few days. I know it was about getting the loan to clear a few 'hand (emergency) loans' and get a motor for the borewell. But he didn't share the details. Maybe he didn't want to worry me," she says softly. Their turmeric crop across 2 acres had been damaged due to heavy rains in September, says Dinesh's uncle Sanjay Jadav.

"Apart from finances, extreme weather events such as drought and excess or unseasonal rainfall ruin standing crops, usually when they are about to be harvested," says Nitnaware. In 2021 and 2022, excessive and unseasonal rainfall destroyed crops, further deepening the crisis for cultivators. Ironically, within Maharashtra, Marathwada remains the most drought-prone region. In 2023, the then Eknath Shinde-led Mahayuti government declared 42 talukas as drought-hit, 14 of them in Marathwada. Two MLAs from the region, Abdul Sattar and Dhananjay Munde, had held the Agriculture portfolio.

According to NCRB data, 11,290 people involved in the farming sector died by suicide in 2022, including 5,207 farmers or cultivators, and 6,083 agricultural labourers. In 2021, up to 10,881 farming-related suicides were recorded, of which 5,318 were farmers.

Veteran journalist and author P. Sainath says the way farmer suicide data is being recorded, particularly for the NCRB, is problematic. "For the first 15 to 19 years (from 1995 to 2014), the errors in NCRB data were largely omissions," he ex-

plains. "They excluded many groups, especially women farmers. Whenever a farmer ended their life, officials conducting the *panchanama* (sequence of events) asked for the 7/12 document (land title deed). Tenant farmers, who didn't have a 7/12, were often left out. Dalits and Adivasis were also excluded as Dalits often operate redistributed government land, and Adivasis are viewed as encroachers. These exclusions drastically reduced the reported numbers," he says.

Sainath says since 2014, changes in methodology have impacted the data. "Now, these are sins of political omission. In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government introduced a new methodology for recording suicides and the result is that the data from 2014 to 2024 is entirely incomparable to earlier years. Farmers are now divided into categories –'farmers', 'tenant farmers', and 'agricultural labourers'. Most tenant farmers who end their lives are recorded as agricultural labourers, skewing the data," he says.

During the Lok Sabha and Assembly election campaigns last year, farmers' distress became a central issue for both the ruling Mahayuti and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The Prime Minister had promised a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹6,000 per quintal for soya bean, while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said his party would give ₹7,000 per quintal. Crop loan waivers, higher MSP, crop insurance, and free electricity had also topped their campaign agendas, highlighting the urgency to tackle the challenges faced by farmers in the State.

Systemic gaps

More than 200 km from Seema's village, a small trek leads to Meena Dhere's home in Pali, Beed district. Meena, who is the same age as Seema and also has three children, left her younger daughter and son with their grandmother, Ranjana, who recently underwent a cataract surgery, to work in onion fields for ₹250 per day. The money was needed to run the house and clear the debts her husband, Ashok, 35, had accumulated.

Ashok had taken a loan of around ₹3 lakh and took his own life on January 27, 2024. "Since then, we have been struggling to eat and pay the interest," says Ranjana, wearing dark glasses to shield her eyes from the light. "I'm at home now because of the surgery, but otherwise, we would have taken the children with us to work as there is no one else to care for them."

Chandigarh-based food policy expert Devinder Sharma says the root cause of the persistent distress in agriculture is that prices of farm produce are kept low to keep the industry buoyant. "Crops provide raw material for industries and supply cheap labour" as marginal, distressed farmers work as daily labourers in factories. "If farmers were paid fairly, industries would suffer losses, and profits would decline. The problem isn't that agriculture is unproductive – it's that we don't pay farmers what they deserve."

Sharma points out that many farmers are driven to suicide because they cannot recover production costs, leading to mounting debt. He cites the National Sample Survey Organisation's Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households and Land and Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019. The average income of an agricultural household is just ₹10,218 per month. "If you calculate income purely from farming, it amounts to only ₹27 per day. With such meagre earnings, how can farmers survive? When a farmer takes their own life, it's a stark indicator that we are denying them a fair income," he says.

Meanwhile, at Gidhada in Paithan taluka, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Sadhana Kalaskar, 45, lives in a house whose 'walls' are green nets usually used to shade plants. Over her head is a tin-sheet roof. Her husband, Ashok, 52, ended his life on November 24 last year, after he failed to clear a loan of around ₹6 lakh taken for their daughter's wedding and a crop that eventually failed. "Now, my son and I are toiling to clear the debts," she says, staring at Ashok's photo frame.

"While government schemes aim to address farmers' financial struggles, the gap between policy and reality continues to widen, leaving families to fend for themselves in a system that seems to have forgotten them," says Nitnaware.

If you are in distress, call these 24x7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019, Aasra 9820466726.

deshpande.abhinay@thehindu.co.in

Drought, debt, and death in Maharashtra
महाराष्ट्र में सूखा, कर्ज और मौत

Tragedy of Farmer Suicides in Maharashtra's Marathwada Region
महाराष्ट्र के मराठवाड़ा क्षेत्र में किसानों की आत्महत्याओं का त्रासदीपूर्ण दृश्य

Archana Chinchore's grief-stricken life
अर्चना चिंचोरे का शोकाकुल जीवन

- Archana Chinchore sits exhausted in her modest kitchen in Bhadra village, Loha taluka, Nanded district, Maharashtra.
  अर्चना चिंचोरे महाराष्ट्र के नांदेड़ जिले के लोहा तहसील के भद्रा गांव में अपनी साधारण रसोई में थकी हुई बैठी हैं।

- Her husband, Hausaji, a debt-ridden farmer, died by suicide on **August 6, 2024**.
  उनके पति हौसाजी, जो कर्ज में डूबे हुए किसान थे, ने **6 अगस्त 2024** को आत्महत्या कर ली।

- He had borrowed **₹4 lakh from private financiers** and **₹1 lakh from a bank** but was unable to repay after heavy rains destroyed their crops.
  उन्होंने **₹4 लाख निजी वित्तीय संस्थानों** और **₹1 लाख बैंक** से उधार लिया था, लेकिन भारी बारिश से फसलें बर्बाद होने के कारण इसे चुकाने में असमर्थ रहे।

Impact on Archana's life
अर्चना के जीवन पर प्रभाव

- Archana, now a widow at 30, struggles to care for her **4-year-old son**.
  अब 30 वर्ष की विधवा अर्चना को अपने **4 वर्षीय बेटे** की देखभाल में कठिनाई हो रही है।

- Her mother, Sagarbai, moved from her village 60 km away to help her daughter cope with the grief.
  उनकी मां, सागरबाई, अपनी बेटी की मदद के लिए अपने गांव से 60 किलोमीटर दूर आ गईं।

Statistics on farmer suicides in Marathwada
मराठवाड़ा में किसानों की आत्महत्याओं के आंकड़े

- In 2024, **146 farmer suicides** were reported in Nanded district alone, contributing to the **822 suicides** in the Marathwada region between **January and November 2024**.
  2024 में केवल नांदेड़ जिले में **146 किसानों की आत्महत्याएं** दर्ज की गईं, जो **जनवरी से नवंबर 2024** के बीच मराठवाड़ा क्षेत्र में **822 आत्महत्याओं** का हिस्सा हैं।

- Other districts reported the following suicides: **Beed (160)**, **Dharashiv (143)**, and **Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (132)**.
  अन्य जिलों में आत्महत्याओं के आंकड़े इस प्रकार हैं: **बीड (160)**, **धाराशिव (143)**, और **छत्रपति संभाजीनगर (132)**।

Debt: A common thread
कर्ज: एक सामान्य कारण

- In **2022**, **Maharashtra recorded 38% of all agricultural suicides** in India, the highest in the country (NCRB data).
  2022 में, महाराष्ट्र ने देश में **38% कृषि आत्महत्याओं** का योगदान दिया, जो भारत में सबसे अधिक है (एनसीआरबी डेटा)।
- Survivors often bear the financial burden along with the social stigma of suicide.
  आत्महत्या के बाद बचे हुए लोग अक्सर वित्तीय बोझ और सामाजिक कलंक दोनों का सामना करते हैं।

Archana's resolve amidst adversity
विपरीत परिस्थितियों में अर्चना का दृढ़ संकल्प

- Archana plans to start working to support her son, even as she struggles emotionally.
  अर्चना अपने बेटे की सहायता के लिए काम शुरू करने की योजना बना रही हैं, भले ही वह भावनात्मक रूप से संघर्ष कर रही हों।
- Her husband, who took charge of their farm at a young age, never told her about his debts.
  उनके पति, जिन्होंने कम उम्र में अपने खेत की जिम्मेदारी संभाल ली थी, ने कभी अपने कर्ज के बारे में नहीं बताया।

Cropping Trouble
फसलों की समस्या

Challenges of small-scale farmers
छोटे किसानों की चुनौतियां

- Senior journalist Himanshu Nitnaware highlights that small-scale farmers often rely on **non-banking financial corporations (NBFCs)**, trapping them in a vicious debt cycle.
  वरिष्ठ पत्रकार हिमांशु नितनवारे बताते हैं कि छोटे किसान अक्सर **गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों (NBFCs)** पर निर्भर रहते हैं, जो उन्हें कर्ज के दुष्चक्र में फंसा देता है।
- Loans with low-interest rates from government banks can prevent farmers from approaching private moneylenders.
  कम ब्याज दरों वाले सरकारी बैंक ऋण किसानों को निजी साहूकारों के पास जाने से रोक सकते हैं।

Farmer suicides in Degaon
देगांव में किसानों की आत्महत्या

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- In **Degaon, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district**, Seema Jadhav's husband, Dinesh (35), died by suicide on **December 13, 2024**.
छत्रपति संभाजीनगर जिले के देगांव में सीमा जाधव के पति दिनेश (35) ने **13 दिसंबर 2024** को आत्महत्या कर ली।

- Dinesh's turmeric crop across 2 acres was damaged due to heavy rains in September.
दिनेश की 2 एकड़ में लगी हल्दी की फसल सितंबर में भारी बारिश के कारण बर्बाद हो गई थी।

Unseasonal rainfall and drought
असमय बारिश और सूखा

- Excessive and unseasonal rainfall in **2021 and 2022** destroyed standing crops, worsening the crisis for farmers.
2021 और 2022 में अत्यधिक और असमय बारिश ने खड़ी फसलों को नष्ट कर दिया, जिससे किसानों का संकट और गहरा गया।

- **Marathwada remains the most drought-prone region** in Maharashtra.
महाराष्ट्र में **मराठवाड़ा सबसे अधिक सूखा प्रभावित क्षेत्र** बना हुआ है।

- In **2023**, the Eknath Shinde-led government declared **42 talukas as drought-hit**, including **14 talukas in Marathwada**.
2023 में, एकनाथ शिंदे के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार ने **42 तालुकों को सूखाग्रस्त** घोषित किया, जिनमें से **14 तालुके मराठवाड़ा** में हैं।

NCRB data on farmer suicides
किसानों की आत्महत्याओं पर एनसीआरबी डेटा

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- According to **NCRB data**, **11,290 people** involved in the farming sector died by suicide in **2022**, including **5,207 farmers** and **6,083 agricultural labourers**.
  एनसीआरबी डेटा के अनुसार, **2022** में खेती के क्षेत्र से जुड़े **11,290 लोगों** ने आत्महत्या की, जिनमें **5,207 किसान** और **6,083 कृषि मजदूर** शामिल हैं।

- In **2021**, **10,881 suicides** were recorded, including **5,318 farmers**.
  2021 में, **10,881 आत्महत्याएं** दर्ज की गईं, जिनमें **5,318 किसान** शामिल थे।

Issues with data recording
डेटा रिकॉर्डिंग में समस्याएं

- Veteran journalist **P. Sainath** points out that the **NCRB's methodology** for recording farmer suicides is problematic.
  वरिष्ठ पत्रकार **पी. साईनाथ** बताते हैं कि **एनसीआरबी की किसान आत्महत्याओं की रिकॉर्डिंग की विधि** समस्याग्रस्त है।

- Between **1995 and 2014**, tenant farmers, Dalits, and Adivasis were often excluded due to lack of land title documents (7/12 document).
  1995 से 2014 के बीच, भूमि शीर्षक दस्तावेज़ (7/12 दस्तावेज़) की कमी के कारण बटाईदार किसान, दलित और आदिवासी अक्सर बाहर रखे गए।

- Since **2014**, data collection methods have changed, categorizing farmers as 'farmers,' 'tenant farmers,' and 'agricultural labourers.'
  2014 के बाद से, डेटा संग्रह की विधियां बदल गईं और किसानों को 'किसान,' 'बटाईदार किसान,' और 'कृषि मजदूर' के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया।

- Tenant farmers who commit suicide are often recorded as agricultural labourers, skewing the data.
  आत्महत्या करने वाले बटाईदार किसानों को अक्सर कृषि मजदूर के रूप में दर्ज किया जाता है, जिससे डेटा प्रभावित होता है।

Farmers' Distress in Election Campaigns
चुनावी अभियानों में किसानों की परेशानियाँ

- During the Lok Sabha and Assembly election campaigns last year, **farmers' distress** became a central issue for both the ruling **Mahayuti** and the Opposition **Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)**.
  पिछले साल लोकसभा और विधानसभा चुनाव अभियानों के दौरान, **किसानों की परेशानी** सत्तारूढ़ **महा युति** और विपक्षी **महा विकास अघाड़ी (एमवीए)** दोनों के लिए एक प्रमुख मुद्दा बन गई।

- The Prime Minister promised a **minimum support price (MSP)** of **₹6,000 per quintal** for **soya bean**, while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi promised **₹7,000 per quintal**.
  प्रधानमंत्री ने **सोयाबीन** के लिए **₹6,000 प्रति क्विंटल** के **न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (एमएसपी)** का वादा किया, जबकि कांग्रेस नेता राहुल गांधी ने **₹7,000 प्रति क्विंटल** का वादा किया।

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- Campaign agendas also included **crop loan waivers**, higher MSP, **crop insurance**, and **free electricity**, highlighting the urgency of tackling farmers' challenges.

  चुनावी एजेंडे में **फसल ऋण माफी**, उच्च एमएसपी, **फसल बीमा**, और **मुफ्त बिजली** भी शामिल थीं, जो किसानों की समस्याओं को हल करने की तात्कालिकता को दर्शाती हैं।

Systemic Gaps in Agriculture
कृषि में प्रणालीगत खामियाँ

- In **Pali, Beed district**, **Meena Dhere**, aged 30, works in onion fields for **₹250 per day** to support her family and clear her husband Ashok's debt of **₹3 lakh**, after he **committed suicide on January 27, 2024**.

  बीड जिले के **पाली** में, **30 वर्षीय मीना धेरे** अपने परिवार का समर्थन करने और अपने पति अशोक के **₹3 लाख के कर्ज** को चुकाने के लिए प्याज के खेतों में **₹250 प्रति दिन** की मजदूरी करती हैं। अशोक ने **27 जनवरी 2024** को आत्महत्या कर ली थी।

- Her mother-in-law **Ranjana**, recovering from cataract surgery, said the family struggles to eat and pay the interest on the loan.

  उनकी सास **रंजना**, जो मोतियाबिंद की सर्जरी से उबर रही हैं, ने कहा कि परिवार खाने और कर्ज का ब्याज चुकाने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है।

- **Devinder Sharma**, a Chandigarh-based food policy expert, says the **root cause of farmers' distress** is the low price of farm produce, which benefits industries by keeping raw material costs low.

  चंडीगढ़ स्थित खाद्य नीति विशेषज्ञ **देविंदर शर्मा** कहते हैं कि **किसानों की परेशानियों का मुख्य कारण** कृषि उत्पादों की कम कीमत है, जो कच्चे माल की लागत कम रखने से उद्योगों को लाभ पहुंचाती है।

- **National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)** 2019 data reveals that the average income of an agricultural household is just **₹10,218 per month**, or **₹27 per day from farming alone**.

  राष्ट्रीय नमूना सर्वेक्षण संगठन (एनएसएसओ) 2019 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, एक कृषि परिवार की औसत आय केवल **₹10,218 प्रति माह** है, जिसमें से खेती से आय **₹27 प्रति दिन** है।

Impact of Debt and Crop Failures
कर्ज और फसल विफलताओं का प्रभाव

- At **Gidhada, Paithan taluka**, **Sadhana Kalaskar**, aged 45, lives in a house made of **green nets** with a tin-sheet roof.

  गिधाड़ा, पैठण तालुका में **45 वर्षीय साधना कलस्कर** हरे जालों से बने घर और टिन की छत में रहती हैं।

- Her husband, **Ashok**, aged 52, **committed suicide on November 24, 2023**, due to an unpaid loan of **₹6 lakh**, taken for their daughter's wedding and a failed crop.

  उनके पति, **52 वर्षीय अशोक**, ने **24 नवंबर 2023** को अपनी बेटी की शादी और फसल विफलता के लिए लिए गए **₹6 लाख के कर्ज** के कारण आत्महत्या कर ली।

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- Sadhana and her son are now working hard to clear the debts.
साधना और उनका बेटा अब कर्ज चुकाने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत कर रहे हैं।

Conclusion: Gaps Between Policy and Reality
निष्कर्ष: नीति और वास्तविकता के बीच की खाई

- Nitnaware emphasizes that while **government schemes** aim to address farmers' struggles, the gap between **policy and implementation** leaves families stranded in a broken system.
नितनवारे ने जोर दिया कि **सरकारी योजनाएँ** किसानों की समस्याओं को हल करने का लक्ष्य रखती हैं, लेकिन **नीति और कार्यान्वयन** के बीच की खाई परिवारों को एक टूटे हुए सिस्टम में फंसा देती है।

Is poverty being underestimated in India?

GS Paper I: Poverty
PARLEY

P.C. Mohanan
Former member of the National Statistical Commission

N.R. Bhanumurthy
Director of the Madras School of Economics

Last month, the government released a factsheet on the 2023-24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), which recorded a decline in poverty in urban and rural areas. Over the last few years, policymakers and academics have debated the issues of incomparable data sets, the unavailability of data, and the definition of an adequate consumption basket to determine a poverty line. Is poverty being underestimated in India? P.C. Mohanan and N.R. Bhanumurthy discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Samreen Wani**. Edited excerpts:

How do you define poverty? Is poverty being underestimated in India?

P.C. Mohanan: We had a stable definition of poverty from the late 1970s to 2005. We started with the expenditure required for sustaining a minimum calorie diet and that used to be updated every five years using the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data. When the NSSO started the whole exercise, its estimates of private expenditure and those of the National Accounts were very similar, so there was no controversy. But over the years, their estimates diverged so much that questions came up about the accuracy of the NSS data.

Then, the government appointed the Tendulkar Committee. At the same time, the NSSO also started experimenting with different methodologies to improve the collection of consumption expenditure and that meant using different recall periods. (A recall period is when a respondent is asked to recall their consumption expenditure over a specific time period.) After 2011-12, the government neither had official poverty estimates nor conducted a survey. People started using alternative estimates of expenditure and later, the multidimensional poverty index was used. So, using certain data sets, there have been claims that poverty has drastically come down. But that is questionable because it depends on the poverty line and the data.

N.R. Bhanumurthy: In the last two decades, the number of people below the poverty line has drastically come down, whatever line you take. But the delta between the two decades (the change in poverty estimation over a period of time) is very large for many reasons such as high GDP growth, increase in public expenditures through a number of flagship programmes introduced by the Union and State governments, and an improved public delivery system. In addition, we still have the National Food Security Act, which covers nearly 80 crore people. So, saying that people still live in

A beggar in Kozhikode city. K. RAGESH

extreme poverty would be counter-intuitive, if that is happening.

Initially, while defining poverty, we were talking about calorie consumption alone. Now, the definition has been broadened. And that is the way to go. If you use the Tendulkar line or the Rangarajan line, you might get different numbers, but the change between two rounds in both the methods would be more or less the same and close to 17% or 18%. Dr. Rangarajan himself estimated that poverty was close to 10% based on the 2022-23 survey. With the recent factsheet, I wouldn't be surprised if poverty would have come down further to single digits.

What are your concerns with the HCES data?

PCM: Over the years, there has been a divergence between the NSSO per capita household consumption expenditure data and those from the National Accounts. Some of the issues were because of the recall period. The NSSO started experimenting with different recall periods. While it set a seven-day recall period for certain items, it set a 30-day period for others. But these estimates then could not be compared with previous consumption estimates, which had different recall periods. We had the uniform reference period (URP), where we had 30 days of recall for all items, and the mixed reference period (MRP) using 30 days (food) and 365 days (for other goods). Tendulkar estimated poverty based on MRP. Then we had the modified mixed reference period (MMRP) – seven days for food items along with 30 days and 365 days for other items. This gives you a higher estimate of expenditure because your recall is better. If you use the higher expenditure distribution on a lower poverty line, which is what many researchers have done, naturally your poverty goes down. Rangarajan had suggested a different methodology in his committee report, but the government did not accept that. In the last two years, the NSSO has made a further modification

Very few people have tried to create a new poverty line for the new kind of methodology that the NSSO is following. This is a major gap.
P.C. MOHANAN

by visiting households in three sittings instead of one. This way, data reporting is better because respondents get more time and can recall better. The current methodology will still give us higher expenditure. But if you use this data on the older poverty line, your estimate will come down. Very few people have tried to create a new poverty line for the NSSO's new methodology. This is a major gap.

NRB: We need to improve the methodology. We cannot go with a URP because some expenditures would not have been made in the last seven days or the last month. Right now we are looking at a slightly broader aspect of consumption. If you look at the factsheet, food articles constitute less than 50% of the total consumption basket. So, it shows that we are not spending on food items alone and are looking at other services required for the household. In that sense, there is a need for us to re-examine the old methodology. The present criticism is with the estimate that suggests a decline in poverty by over 17% between two rounds. I would say that whatever poverty line we use, the decline in the number of poor between 2011-12 and 2023-24 would be closer to 17% or more.

What do we know about poverty in rural and urban regions?

PCM: The data show that the rural-urban differential in consumption is actually coming down. Rural areas are doing better. But the idea of a rural area that we have is based on the 2011 Census, so a significant portion of the rural areas is basically urban or peri-urban in character. Earlier, food expenditure used to be the major component of rural consumption patterns. But the 2022-23 data show that a substantial number of items are the same in urban and rural areas now, which means rural consumption has actually changed in terms of diversity. We need to put a statistical base in place, including a Census, so we know what is rural and urban.

NRB: There should be clear-cut separation of what is rural and urban. If we decide to shift peri-urban to urban areas, I think urban poverty would have declined much faster than the preliminary estimates we have now. In any case, at the aggregate, we see a sharp fall in the number of poor, but in terms of consumption,

we have to look at public policy interventions.

Where do you stand on an upward revision of the poverty line in India?

PCM: A research paper by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies used the Rangarajan methodology on the 2022-23 HCES data. They estimated around 25% poverty. I'm not clear that by just updating a poverty line in that fashion, we would have a definite estimation. But we need to have some agreement on a methodology and the government needs to stand behind that. That is unlikely to happen.

NRB: With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) laying down $2.15/day as a poverty line, even their estimates suggest poverty was just about 12.9% in 2019. So, I don't agree with the 25% figure that Dr. Mohanan is quoting. NITI Aayog's estimates also don't really support that number. However, I agree with him that we need to have a clear-cut methodology for a poverty line estimation, but at the same time we need to stick to a single poverty line.

There have been some criticisms against Niti Aayog's multidimensional poverty index. UNDP's index has 10 indicators and India's index has 12. Is this criticism valid?

NRB: The UNDP has one methodology for all countries. It is only a framework that suggests what needs to be part of your consumption basket. But it is left to the countries to customise that methodology. Broadening that basket is the right way to do it. We have rightly added bank accounts and maternal health to the 10 indicators that the UNDP includes in its index.

PCM: I am not sure about that because multidimensional poverty tells you whether you are deprived of that particular indicator or not. Now there are many indicators which may not be applicable to a household. When you don't have a child, all those indicators related to a child are not relevant, so that household is not deprived of those things. Many of the indicators actually don't go down. Once you have access to electricity, a bank account, etc., you don't get deprived of those indicators in future. This index will never go up. Poverty estimates will continue to stay low because of the way the indicators have been selected. There is no scope for getting deprived in future. We don't measure income vulnerability and we need to do that.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

Is poverty being underestimated in India?
क्या भारत में गरीबी को कम आंका जा रहा है?

Poverty and Consumption Expenditure in India
भारत में गरीबी और उपभोग व्यय

- The government released a **factsheet** on the **2023-24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)**, showing a decline in poverty in both **urban** and **rural areas**.
  सरकार ने **2023-24 घरेलू उपभोग व्यय सर्वेक्षण (HCES)** पर एक **तथ्यपत्र** जारी किया, जिसमें **शहरी** और **ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों** में गरीबी में गिरावट दिखाई गई।

- For years, there has been **debate** on the **incomparability of data**, the **unavailability of data**, and the **definition of an adequate consumption basket** to determine the poverty line.
  सालों से **डेटा की तुलनात्मकता**, **डेटा की अनुपलब्धता** और **गरीबी रेखा निर्धारित करने के लिए एक उपयुक्त उपभोग बैग का परिभाषा** पर **बहस** रही है।

- **P.C. Mohanan** states that poverty had a **stable definition** from the **late 1970s to 2005**, based on **calorie intake** and was updated every **five years** using the **NSSO data**.
  P.C. मोहनन का कहना है कि गरीबी की **स्थिर परिभाषा 1970 के दशक के अंत से 2005** तक थी, जो **कैलोरी सेवन** पर आधारित थी और हर **पाँच साल में** NSSO **डेटा** का उपयोग करके अद्यतन किया जाता था।

- However, over the years, the estimates of **private expenditure** and **National Accounts** diverged, leading to questions on the accuracy of **NSS data**.
  हालांकि, वर्षों में, **निजी व्यय** और **राष्ट्रीय खाता** के अनुमान अलग हो गए, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप NSS **डेटा** की सटीकता पर सवाल उठने लगे।

- The **Tendulkar Committee** was appointed to assess poverty, and different **methodologies** were experimented with to improve consumption expenditure data collection.
  गरीबी का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए **तेंदुलकर समिति** नियुक्त की गई थी, और उपभोग व्यय डेटा संग्रह को सुधारने के लिए विभिन्न **विधियों** का परीक्षण किया गया।

- After **2011-12**, there were no official **poverty estimates** nor surveys conducted. Instead, alternative expenditure estimates and the **multidimensional poverty index** were used.
  2011-12 के बाद, कोई आधिकारिक **गरीबी अनुमान** या सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया गया। इसके बजाय, वैकल्पिक खर्च अनुमानों और **बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक** का उपयोग किया गया।

- **N.R. Bhanumurthy** argues that the **poverty line** has drastically reduced in the last two decades due to factors such as **high GDP growth**, **public expenditure**, and improved **public delivery systems**.
  N.R. भानुमूर्ति का तर्क है कि पिछले दो दशकों में **गरीबी रेखा** में भारी कमी आई है, इसके पीछे **उच्च GDP वृद्धि**, **सार्वजनिक व्यय** और सुधरे हुए **सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणालियाँ** जैसे कारक हैं।

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- According to **Bhanumurthy**, while different poverty lines (Tendulkar, Rangarajan) may show varying figures, the **change** in poverty estimates over two decades is generally around **17-18%**.

  भानुमूर्ति के अनुसार, जबकि विभिन्न गरीबी रेखाओं (तेंदुलकर, रंगराजन) से अलग-अलग आंकड़े आ सकते हैं, दो दशकों में गरीबी अनुमानों में **परिवर्तन** सामान्यतः **17-18%** होता है।

- **Rangarajan's estimate** in the **2022-23 survey** showed that **poverty** was around **10%**. The latest factsheet suggests that poverty may have dropped further to **single digits**.

  रंगराजन का अनुमान 2022-23 सर्वेक्षण में यह दिखाता है कि **गरीबी 10%** के करीब थी। नवीनतम तथ्यपत्र में यह संकेत मिलता है कि गरीबी **एकल अंकों** तक गिर गई हो सकती है।

Concerns with the HCES Data
HCES डेटा से संबंधित चिंताएँ

- **P.C. Mohanan** mentions that over the years, there has been a **divergence** between the **NSSO per capita household consumption expenditure data** and the **National Accounts data**.

  P.C. मोहनन बताते हैं कि वर्षों में **NSSO प्रति व्यक्ति घरेलू उपभोग व्यय डेटा** और **राष्ट्रीय खाता डेटा** के बीच **विचलन** आया है।

- **Issues** arose due to the **recall period**: The **NSSO** experimented with different recall periods. For some items, a **seven-day recall period** was set, and for others, a **30-day recall period** was used.

  समस्याएँ रिकॉल अवधि के कारण उत्पन्न हुईं: NSSO ने विभिन्न **रिकॉल अवधियों** के साथ प्रयोग किया। कुछ वस्तुओं के लिए **सात दिन की रिकॉल अवधि** तय की गई, जबकि अन्य के लिए **30 दिन की रिकॉल अवधि** का उपयोग किया गया।

- The different recall periods made it difficult to compare the data with previous **consumption estimates**. The previous method had a **uniform reference period (URP)**, with **30 days** for all items.

  विभिन्न रिकॉल अवधियों ने पिछले **उपभोग अनुमानों** से डेटा की तुलना करना कठिन बना दिया। पिछले तरीके में **समान संदर्भ अवधि (URP)** थी, जिसमें सभी वस्तुओं के लिए **30 दिन** की रिकॉल अवधि थी।

- The **Tendulkar Committee** used a **modified mixed reference period (MMRP)** that included **seven days** for food items, with **30 days** and **365 days** for other goods. This led to a higher estimate of **expenditure**.

  तेंदुलकर समिति ने **संशोधित मिश्रित संदर्भ अवधि (MMRP)** का उपयोग किया, जिसमें खाद्य वस्तुओं के लिए **सात दिन**, और अन्य वस्तुओं के लिए **30 दिन** और **365 दिन** की अवधि शामिल थी। इससे **व्यय** का उच्च अनुमान प्राप्त हुआ।

- If you use higher expenditure estimates on a **lower poverty line**, the poverty estimate naturally comes down.

  यदि आप उच्च व्यय अनुमानों का उपयोग करते हैं और उसे **निम्न गरीबी रेखा** पर लागू करते हैं, तो गरीबी का अनुमान स्वाभाविक रूप से कम हो जाता है।

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- **N.R. Bhanumurthy** stresses the need to **improve the methodology** and not rely on the **URP**, as some expenditures may not be captured in a **seven-day or 30-day period**.
  N.R. भानुमूर्ति ने **विधि में सुधार** करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया और **URP** पर निर्भर न रहने की बात की, क्योंकि कुछ खर्चे **सात दिन या 30 दिन की अवधि** में कवर नहीं हो पाते हैं।

- The current data shows that **food items** now constitute **less than 50%** of the total consumption basket, highlighting a broader **consumption aspect** beyond just food.
  वर्तमान डेटा में दिखाया गया है कि **खाद्य वस्तुएं** अब कुल उपभोग बैग का **50% से कम** हिस्सा हैं, जो सिर्फ खाद्य सामग्री के अलावा एक विस्तृत **उपभोग पहलू** को रेखांकित करता है।

- **Rural areas** are improving, and there is less difference in **consumption patterns** between rural and urban areas now. The definition of **rural areas** based on the **2011 Census** needs to be re-examined.
  ग्रामीण क्षेत्र सुधर रहे हैं, और अब **ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों** के बीच उपभोग पैटर्न में कम अंतर है।
  2011 जनगणना के आधार पर **ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों** की परिभाषा का पुनः मूल्यांकन किया जाना चाहिए।

Concerns About the Poverty Line and Poverty Estimates in India
भारत में गरीबी रेखा और गरीबी अनुमान से संबंधित चिंताएँ

- **NRB** stresses the importance of a **clear-cut separation** between **rural** and **urban** areas. He believes that if peri-urban areas were reclassified as urban, **urban poverty** would have declined much faster.
  NRB ने **ग्रामीण** और **शहरी** क्षेत्रों के बीच **स्पष्ट विभाजन** की महत्ता पर जोर दिया। उनका मानना है कि अगर उपनगरीय क्षेत्रों को शहरी के रूप में फिर से वर्गीकृत किया जाता, तो **शहरी गरीबी** बहुत तेज़ी से घटती।

- **PCM** mentions a **research paper** by the **Foundation for Agrarian Studies** that used the **Rangarajan methodology** on the **2022-23 HCES data** and estimated around **25% poverty**.
  PCM ने **फाउंडेशन फॉर एग्रीकल्चर स्टडीज** द्वारा किए गए एक **शोध पत्र** का उल्लेख किया, जिसमें **2022-23 HCES डेटा** पर **रंगराजन पद्धति** का उपयोग किया गया और लगभग **25% गरीबी** का अनुमान लगाया गया।

- **NRB** disagrees with the **25% figure** quoted by **PCM** and mentions that the **UNDP** suggests that poverty was around **12.9%** in **2019** using the **$2.15/day** poverty line.
  NRB PCM द्वारा उद्धृत **25% आंकड़ा** से असहमत हैं और बताते हैं कि **UNDP** का सुझाव है कि **2019** में **$2.15/दिन** गरीबी रेखा का उपयोग करते हुए गरीबी लगभग **12.9%** थी।

- **NRB** further emphasizes the need for a **clear-cut methodology** for **poverty line estimation**, suggesting the importance of using a **single poverty line**.
  NRB आगे **गरीबी रेखा अनुमान** के लिए **स्पष्ट विधि** की आवश्यकता पर बल देते हैं और **एकल गरीबी रेखा** के उपयोग के महत्व को रेखांकित करते हैं।

- **PCM** points out that the **multidimensional poverty index** may not be accurate, as some indicators may not apply to certain households. Once certain indicators like **electricity** or **bank accounts** are accessed, they are not likely to decrease, making it harder to reflect true poverty.

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PCM यह बताते हैं कि **बहुआयामी गरीबी सूचकांक** सटीक नहीं हो सकता, क्योंकि कुछ संकेतक कुछ घरेलू इकाइयों पर लागू नहीं होते। एक बार जब कुछ संकेतक जैसे **बिजली** या **बैंक खाता** प्राप्त हो जाते हैं, तो उनका घटना असंभव होता है, जिससे वास्तविक गरीबी को परिलक्षित करना कठिन हो जाता है।

- **PCM** adds that **poverty estimates** may continue to stay low due to how the indicators have been selected, and there's a need to focus on **income vulnerability** in poverty measurement.

  PCM यह जोड़ते हैं कि **गरीबी अनुमान** इन संकेतकों के चयन के कारण लगातार कम रह सकते हैं, और गरीबी माप में **आय संवेदनशीलता** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता है।

Indian Navy finishes survey of Mauritius

GS Paper I: World Geography

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy's *INS Sarvekshak* completed the final phase of the hydrographic survey of Mauritius covering an extensive area of over 25,000 square nautical miles. The fair sheet of the survey, along with newly prepared nautical charts, were formally handed over to President Dharambeer Gokhool on Thursday.

"The creation of a new nautical chart will enable Mauritius to develop its maritime infrastructure, resource management and coastal development planning. It reflects the enduring partnership between India and Mauritius in fostering maritime development and regional cooperation," the Navy said.

Indian Navy finishes survey of Mauritius

भारतीय नौसेना ने मॉरीशस का सर्वेक्षण पूरा किया

Hydrographic Survey by Indian Navy
भारतीय नौसेना द्वारा हाइड्रोग्राफिक सर्वेक्षण

- The **Indian Navy's INS Sarvekshak** completed the final phase of the **hydrographic survey** of **Mauritius**, covering an area of over **25,000 square nautical miles**.

  भारतीय नौसेना के **आईएनएस सर्वेक्षक** ने **मॉरीशस** का **हाइड्रोग्राफिक सर्वेक्षण** का अंतिम चरण पूरा किया, जिसमें **25,000 वर्ग समुद्री मील** से अधिक क्षेत्र शामिल था।

- The **survey fair sheet** and **newly prepared nautical charts** were handed over to **President Dharambeer Gokhool** on **Thursday**.

  सर्वेक्षण का **निष्पक्ष पत्र** और **नए तैयार किए गए नाविक मानचित्र** राष्ट्रपति धर्मबीर गोखूल को **गुरुवार** को सौंपे गए।

- The creation of the new nautical chart will help **Mauritius** in developing its **maritime infrastructure**, **resource management**, and **coastal development planning**.

  नए नाविक मानचित्र के निर्माण से **मॉरीशस** को अपने **समुद्री बुनियादी ढांचे**, **संसाधन प्रबंधन** और **तटीय विकास योजना** में मदद मिलेगी।

- This project reflects the **enduring partnership** between **India** and **Mauritius** in promoting **maritime development** and **regional cooperation**.

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यह परियोजना **भारत** और **मॉरीशस** के बीच **समुद्री विकास** और **क्षेत्रीय सहयोग** को बढ़ावा देने में **स्थायी साझेदारी** को दर्शाती है।

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

1. **High Court order on Delhi govt.'s CAG reports today /** दिल्ली सरकार की CAG रिपोर्ट पर आज हाईकोर्ट का आदेश

2. **India's winding road to '#EndTB' /** भारत का '#EndTB' की ओर घुमावदार रास्ता

3. **A grey birthday for the Election Commission of India /** भारतीय चुनाव आयोग के लिए एक ग्रे जन्मदिन

4. **WHO is right /** कौन सही है?

5. **Is France's influence in West Africa over? /** क्या पश्चिम अफ्रीका में फ्रांस का प्रभाव ख़त्म हो गया है?

6. **How does Trump's 75-day order affect the TikTok ban? /** ट्रम्प का 75-दिवसीय आदेश TikTok प्रतिबंध को कैसे प्रभावित करता है?

7. **Stung by Puja Khedkar scam, govt. amends Civil Services Exam Rules /** पूजा खेडकर घोटाले से आहत सरकार ने सिविल सेवा परीक्षा नियमों में संशोधन किया

8. **NHRC orders new inquiry into hiring by Foxconn /** एनएचआरसी ने फॉक्सकॉन द्वारा नियुक्तियों की नई जांच के आदेश दिए

High Court order on Delhi govt.'s CAG reports today

High Court order on Delhi govt.'s CAG reports today

दिल्ली सरकार की CAG रिपोर्ट पर आज हाईकोर्ट का आदेश

GS Paper II: CAG

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court is scheduled to pronounce on Friday its order on a petition by several BJP MLAs seeking that the 14 CAG reports linked to policy initiatives of the AAP-led Delhi government be tabled at the State Assembly.

The Speaker's counsel and the Delhi government opposed the plea and said there was no urgency to table the reports when the Assembly poll is due in two weeks.

During a hearing held on January 13, the court said the CAG reports should have been promptly placed before the Assembly for discussion and the State government "dragging its feet" on the issue raised "doubts on its bonafides".

Delhi High Court to Pronounce Order on BJP MLAs Petition
दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय भाजपा विधायकों की याचिका पर आदेश सुनाएगा

- The **Delhi High Court** is scheduled to pronounce on **Friday** its order on a petition by several **BJP MLAs** seeking that the **14 CAG reports** linked to policy initiatives of the **AAP-led Delhi government** be tabled at the **State Assembly**.
दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय शुक्रवार को **बीजेपी विधायकों** द्वारा दायर याचिका पर अपना आदेश सुनाने वाला है, जिसमें उन्होंने **14 CAG रिपोर्ट्स** की मांग की है, जो **AAP-नेतृत्व वाली दिल्ली सरकार** की नीति पहलों से जुड़ी हैं, और इन्हें **राज्य विधानसभा** में रखा जाए।

- The **Speaker's counsel** and the **Delhi government** opposed the plea and said there was no **urgency** to table the reports when the **Assembly poll** is due in **two weeks**.
स्पीकर के वकील और **दिल्ली सरकार** ने याचिका का विरोध किया और कहा कि रिपोर्ट्स को प्रस्तुत करने में कोई **तत्कालता** नहीं है क्योंकि **विधानसभा चुनाव दो सप्ताह** में होने हैं।

- During a **hearing** held on **January 13**, the court said the **CAG reports** should have been **promptly placed** before the Assembly for **discussion** and the State government "dragging its feet" on the issue raised "doubted its **bona fides**".
13 जनवरी को हुई **सुनवाई** के दौरान, अदालत ने कहा कि **CAG रिपोर्ट्स** को **जल्द** विधानसभा में **चर्चा** के लिए रखा जाना चाहिए था और राज्य सरकार द्वारा इस मुद्दे पर "देर करने" से उसकी **ईमानदारी** पर **संदेह** उत्पन्न हुआ।

The Constitution of India (Article 148) and the Office of the CAG

भारतीय संविधान (अनुच्छेद 148) और भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) का कार्यालय

- The **Constitution of India (Article 148)** provides for an **independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)**. He heads the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department** and acts as the **guardian of the public purse**. His role is to **uphold the Constitution** and laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
भारतीय संविधान (अनुच्छेद 148) **नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG)** के **स्वतंत्र कार्यालय**

की व्यवस्था करता है। वह **भारतीय लेखा और लेखा विभाग** के प्रमुख हैं और **सार्वजनिक कोष के संरक्षक** के रूप में कार्य करते हैं। उनकी भूमिका **संविधान और संसद के कानूनों का पालन** सुनिश्चित करना है।

- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar referred to the CAG as the **most important officer** under the Constitution, given his critical responsibility in overseeing the **entire financial system of the country** at both the **Centre and the states**.

  डॉ. बी. आर. अंबेडकर ने CAG को संविधान के तहत **सबसे महत्वपूर्ण अधिकारी** कहा, क्योंकि वे **देश के पूरे वित्तीय तंत्र** की देखरेख करते हैं, केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों में।

- The CAG is one of the **pillars of India's democratic system**, along with the **Supreme Court**, **Election Commission**, and **Union Public Service Commission**.

  CAG भारत के **लोकतांत्रिक तंत्र के स्तंभों** में से एक हैं, जैसे कि **सुप्रीम कोर्ट**, **चुनाव आयोग**, और **संघ लोक सेवा आयोग**।

Appointment and Term
नियुक्ति और कार्यकाल

- The **CAG is appointed by the President of India** through a **warrant under his hand and seal**.

  CAG की नियुक्ति भारत के राष्ट्रपति द्वारा उनके हस्ताक्षर और मुहर के तहत एक आदेश के माध्यम से की जाती है।

- Before assuming office, the CAG takes an **oath of allegiance** to the Constitution of India, sovereignty, and integrity, and promises to perform duties **without fear or favor, affection, or ill-will**.

  कार्यालय ग्रहण करने से पहले, CAG **संविधान, संप्रभुता और अखंडता के प्रति निष्ठा की शपथ** लेते हैं और **निर्भीक, निष्पक्ष, और निष्कपट तरीके** से अपने कर्तव्यों का पालन करने का वचन देते हैं।

- The CAG holds office for **six years or until the age of 65**, whichever is earlier. He can resign by writing to the President or be removed by Parliament on grounds of **proven misbehavior or incapacity**, through a resolution passed by a **special majority** in both Houses of Parliament.

  CAG का कार्यकाल **छह वर्ष या 65 वर्ष की आयु तक**, जो भी पहले हो, तक होता है। वह राष्ट्रपति को लिखित पत्र द्वारा इस्तीफा दे सकते हैं या संसद द्वारा **विशेष बहुमत** के माध्यम से दोनों सदनों में **दुर्व्यवहार या अक्षमता** के आधार पर हटाए जा सकते हैं।

Independence
स्वतंत्रता

- The **CAG has security of tenure** and can only be removed as per the procedure mentioned in the Constitution.

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CAG को कार्यकाल की सुरक्षा प्राप्त होती है, और उन्हें केवल संविधान में वर्णित प्रक्रिया के तहत हटाया जा सकता है।

- The CAG is **not eligible for any further office** under the Government of India or any state after ceasing to hold office.

  CAG **भारत सरकार या किसी राज्य में किसी अन्य पद के लिए पात्र नहीं होते**, जब वे अपने कार्यालय से मुक्त हो जाते हैं।

- The CAG's **salary and service conditions** are determined by Parliament and are equal to that of a **Supreme Court judge**.

  CAG का **वेतन और सेवा शर्तें** संसद द्वारा निर्धारित की जाती हैं और **यह सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जज** के समान होती हैं।

- The **salary, pension, and rights related to leave** of the CAG cannot be altered to their disadvantage after appointment.

  CAG के **वेतन, पेंशन, और अवकाश से संबंधित अधिकारों** को नियुक्ति के बाद उनके नुकसान के लिए बदला नहीं जा सकता।

- The administrative expenses of the **CAG's office** are charged to the **Consolidated Fund of India** and are not subject to Parliament's vote.

  CAG कार्यालय का **प्रशासनिक खर्च** भारत की **संघटक निधि से लिया जाता है** और यह संसद के मतदान के अधीन नहीं होता।

- No minister can represent the CAG in Parliament, and **ministers cannot be held accountable for the CAG's actions**.

  कोई भी मंत्री संसद में CAG का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं कर सकता, और **मंत्रियों को CAG के कार्यों के लिए उत्तरदायी नहीं ठहराया जा सकता।**

Duties and Powers of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

1. Constitutional Provision for Duties and Powers (Article 149)

The **Constitution of India** empowers **Parliament** to define the duties and powers of the **CAG** regarding the accounts of the Union, States, and other authorities or bodies.

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 149 के तहत, **संसद** को यह अधिकार है कि वह **सीएजी** की जिम्मेदारियों और शक्तियों को निर्धारित करे, जो केंद्र, राज्यों और अन्य संस्थाओं के खातों से संबंधित हों।

2. CAG's (Duties, Powers, and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971

- **The CAG Act, 1971**, was enacted to specify the duties and powers of the CAG.
- The Act was **amended in 1976** to separate **accounts** from **audit** in the Central Government.

सीएजी अधिनियम, 1971 को सीएजी की जिम्मेदारियों और शक्तियों को निर्दिष्ट करने के लिए बनाया गया।

1976 में इस अधिनियम में संशोधन कर केंद्रीय सरकार में **लेखा कार्य** को **लेखा परीक्षण** से अलग किया गया

3. Functions and Duties of CAG

The duties and functions of the CAG as specified in the Act and the Constitution are:

सीएजी के कार्य और कर्तव्य, संविधान और अधिनियम के तहत निम्नलिखित हैं:

1. **Audit of Expenditure from Consolidated Fund**
   The CAG audits all expenditure from:
   - **Consolidated Fund of India**,
   - Consolidated Fund of each State, and
   - Consolidated Fund of Union Territories with Legislative Assemblies.
2. **सीएजी निम्नलिखित के व्यय का लेखा परीक्षण करता है:**
   - **भारत की संचित निधि**,
   - प्रत्येक राज्य की संचित निधि, और
   - उन संघ शासित प्रदेशों की संचित निधि जिनकी विधानसभाएं हैं।

2. **Audit of Contingency Fund and Public Account**
   The CAG audits all expenditure from:
   - **Contingency Fund of India**, and
   - **Public Account of India**, as well as similar funds of each State.
3. **सीएजी भारत की आकस्मिक निधि और सार्वजनिक लेखा** के साथ-साथ राज्यों की समान निधियों के व्यय का लेखा परीक्षण करता है।

3. **Audit of Departmental Accounts**
The CAG audits trading, manufacturing, profit & loss accounts, balance sheets, and subsidiary accounts of Central and State Government departments.

सीएजी केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों के विभागीय व्यापार, विनिर्माण, लाभ-हानि खाता, बैलेंस शीट और सहायक खातों का लेखा परीक्षण करता है।

4. **Audit of Revenue Receipts and Procedures**
The CAG audits:
   - Receipts and expenditure to ensure effective collection, assessment, and allocation of revenue.
5. **सीएजी राजस्व की प्राप्तियों और व्यय का लेखा परीक्षण करता है** ताकि प्रभावी संग्रह, आकलन और आवंटन सुनिश्चित हो सके।

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5. **Audit of Bodies Financed by the Government**

CAG audits receipts and expenditure of:
- o Bodies and authorities **substantially financed** by Central or State revenues.
- o Government companies and other corporations as required by law.

6. सीएजी उन निकायों और प्राधिकरणों के खातों का परीक्षण करता है, जो केंद्र या राज्य सरकार से वित्तपोषित हैं, साथ ही सरकारी कंपनियों और अन्य संस्थानों का भी।

6. **Audit of Debt, Sinking Funds, and Deposits**

CAG audits transactions related to:
- o Debt, sinking funds, deposits, advances, and suspense accounts.
- o Also audits receipts and stock accounts with Presidential approval.

7. सीएजी ऋण, संचय निधियों, जमा राशि, अग्रिम और निलंबन खातों के साथ-साथ राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति के साथ प्राप्तियों और स्टॉक खातों का परीक्षण करता है।

7. **Audit of Local Bodies (if requested)**

CAG audits accounts of any other authority (e.g., local bodies) when requested by the President or Governor.

सीएजी किसी अन्य प्राधिकरण (जैसे, स्थानीय निकायों) के खातों का परीक्षण करता है, जब राष्ट्रपति या राज्यपाल द्वारा अनुरोध किया जाता है।

8. **Advice on Forms of Accounts (Article 150)**

CAG advises the President on the **form and structure** of Union and State accounts.

सीएजी राष्ट्रपति को केंद्र और राज्यों के खातों के स्वरूप और संरचना पर परामर्श देता है।

9. **Submission of Audit Reports to Parliament (Article 151)**
- o The CAG submits audit reports on Central Government accounts to the **President**, who places them before Parliament.
- o Similarly, reports on State accounts are submitted to the **Governor**, who places them before the State Legislature.

10. सीएजी केंद्रीय सरकार के खातों की लेखा रिपोर्ट राष्ट्रपति को और राज्यों की रिपोर्ट राज्यपाल को प्रस्तुत करता है, जो इन्हें संसद और राज्य विधानमंडल के समक्ष रखते हैं।

10. **Certification of Net Proceeds (Article 279)**
- o CAG ascertains and certifies the net proceeds of taxes or duties.
- o Certification by the CAG is **final**.
- o **Net proceeds** refer to total tax revenue minus the cost of collection.

11. सीएजी करों या शुल्कों की शुद्ध आय का निर्धारण और प्रमाणीकरण करता है। यह प्रमाणन अंतिम होता है।

शुद्ध आय का अर्थ है कर राजस्व से संग्रहण लागत घटाकर शेष राशि।

11. **Role as Guide to Public Accounts Committee**

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- o CAG acts as a **guide, friend, and philosopher** to the **Public Accounts Committee** of Parliament.

12. **सीएजी संसद की लोक लेखा समिति के मार्गदर्शक, मित्र और दार्शनिक के रूप में कार्य करता है।**

12. **Compilation of State Accounts**
    - o CAG compiles and maintains accounts of State Governments.
    - o Since **1976**, the responsibility for Central Government accounts has been transferred to respective departments.

13. **सीएजी राज्य सरकारों के खातों का संकलन और रखरखाव करता है।**

1976 के बाद केंद्रीय सरकार के खातों की जिम्मेदारी संबंधित विभागों को सौंप दी गई।

Audit Reports Submitted by CAG

CAG submits three major audit reports to the President:

1. **Audit Report on Appropriation Accounts**
   - o Compares actual expenditure with Parliament-approved expenditure.
2. **अनुदान खाते पर लेखा रिपोर्ट** - वास्तविक व्यय और संसद द्वारा अनुमोदित व्यय की तुलना करती है।
3. **Audit Report on Finance Accounts**
   - o Displays annual receipts and disbursements of the Union Government.
4. **वित्त लेखा पर लेखा रिपोर्ट** - संघ सरकार की वार्षिक प्राप्तियां और व्यय दिखाती है।
5. **Audit Report on Public Undertakings**
   सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों पर लेखा रिपोर्ट।

These reports are examined by the **Public Accounts Committee** of Parliament, which presents its findings.

इन रिपोर्ट्स की जांच संसद की लोक लेखा समिति करती है और अपनी सिफारिशें प्रस्तुत करती है।

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India's winding road to '#EndTB'

GS Paper II: Health Sector

Last year, tuberculosis (TB) emerged, once again, as the leading infectious disease killer globally. The goals, i.e., End TB targets of 90% reduction in TB deaths, 80% reduction in new cases, and zero TB-affected families facing catastrophic costs by 2030, seem to be a distant dream. In 2018, India extended the highest level of political commitment for the cause by pledging to achieve End TB targets on an accelerated timeline by 2025. However, the COVID-19 pandemic was a huge pushback to the efforts.

According to the World Health Organization's Global Tuberculosis Report 2024, India continues to lead in the global TB burden (26% of cases) and is also the hub for drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) and TB deaths. While ambitious policies and initiatives are rolled out from the national level, the ground reality in India needs to be better understood to translate them into effective interventions.

Focus on vulnerable groups

India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) clearly defines the high-risk or vulnerable groups that are at risk of contracting TB and developing adverse outcomes.

Dr. Pavitra Mohan, paediatrician and founder of Basic Healthcare Services, a non-governmental organisation working in south Rajasthan, says, "We get around 1000 persons with TB in our clinics every year and many of them have severe lung damage owing to fine dust inhalation from mining and stone carving. They are at risk for TB due to contributory factors like silicosis, undernutrition, overcrowding, and uncontrolled co-morbidities like diabetes."

Migrant workers also have an added disadvantage of poor access to health-care facilities. Dr. Mohan says, "They prefer to go back to their native place if they fall ill and hence it is not easy for the healthcare delivery system also to keep track of their treatment."

While a lot of attention is being paid to tackling undernutrition among persons with TB (pwTB), a host of other contributory factors in each geography needs to be addressed, requiring multisectoral action.

TB is a curable disease with effective and free drugs from NTEP. A significant achievement for India is the treatment initiation in more than 95% of notified cases. This was possible, over the years, by establishing an exclusive procurement and supply chain system for the NTEP.

Swathi Krishna Njarekkattuvalappil is a public health physician and researcher based in Pune, working in tuberculosis, health policy and systems research

Parth Sharma is a community physician and public health researcher based in Delhi and is the founder of the public health advocacy organisation, Nivarana

The chances of ending TB by 2025 appear bleak, but there is some hope

However, in 2023, there was a country-wide break in the supply chain – it still continues in many parts. Shortage of key drugs in the centres, many of which are unavailable in the open market, left the beneficiaries and their families in a struggle. Nandita Venkatesan, data journalist and two-time TB survivor, says, "It takes many a mile for pwTB to reach the finishing line of treatment combating a wide range of side effects. Shortage of such critical medicines disrupts the treatment, risking resistance to antibiotics and poor disease outcomes. Moreover, having to buy drugs from outside leads to catastrophic health expenses."

On extrapulmonary TB

Extrapulmonary TB (EP-TB) affects any organ of the body – lymph nodes, the kidneys, the brain, the spinal cord, bones, joints, and skin. However, the NTEP's main focus has been on pulmonary TB affecting the lung, as it is most common and transmissible.

The share of EP-TB is about 24% of the notified cases, but with wide geographical variations. It is often missed/delayed from being diagnosed due to symptoms which are vague and mimic other diseases. Dr. Deepak Chandra Badhani, a surgeon working in rural Chhattisgarh, says, "Doctors in Indian settings should have a high index of suspicion for TB in the cases they see. Proper history taking, thorough clinical examination and simple tests such as pus staining from a non-healing ulcer can help diagnose TB. But sadly, we wait for expensive, advanced tests just to start treatment and depend heavily on specialists to diagnose, leading to substantial delays and advanced disease." He lays emphasis on the training of general practitioners to pick up EP-TB at the earliest and of the need to sensitise frontline workers and integrating EP-TB into their screening algorithms.

A study by Daniels and colleagues in Mumbai shows that only 35% of private practitioners and 75% of government doctors could correctly diagnose a patient presenting with classical symptoms of TB. Dr. Vasundhara Rangaswamy, a microbiologist working in rural Chhattisgarh, says the reluctance to notify the disease further impacts diagnosis as private practitioners prescribe antibiotics and refer without any diagnostic tests.

TB is an area where guidelines are updated quite frequently. However, studies done by Shah and colleagues and also Hiremath and colleagues show that a shortage of adequately trained human resources is a major challenge affecting implementation of the NTEP. Dr. Rangaswamy says, "Molecular tests are expensive and often take time to access as they are mostly available only at district level. Results take time due to the heavy workload and shortage of trained staff . In effect, patients have to travel and incur more expenses."

Dr. Mohan says, "The CBNAAT [Cartridge-based Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing] and Truenat machines are not available at many places, [as they are] mostly placed at [the] district level. And very often, when a machine is available, the lab technician will not be there and if the lab technician is there, cartridge supply for the test would not be there." The staff pattern within the NTEP does not meet the growing demands, with most now having more work.

What needs to be done

Ownership at all levels is essential to make programmes work. Idukki district in Kerala collaborated with Kudumbashree, one of the largest women's self-help networks in the world, for their TB elimination efforts. This resulted in widespread community participation and advocacy by government/leadership levels created a huge impact. "It helped us achieve our targets and sustain the activities," says Dr. Cency B., former District TB Officer of Idukki district, and current Assistant Director, Kerala Health Services.

She says, "Advocacy by political leadership helps in providing platforms for cross learning from best practices across geographies. But programme implementers will have to go beyond their routine work scope to achieve this."

While the chances of ending TB by 2025 look bleak, there is some hope. India's case notification reached the highest level and deaths due to TB declined by 24% as compared to 2015, which is way more than the global decline.

The administrative levels of the NTEP are designed to adapt to the innumerable contextual challenges. New bodies of knowledge from different parts of the world need to be considered. Vietnam, a high burden country, recently showed the effective use of active case finding for TB (advocated for high-risk groups) among the general population, so that targeted interventions could work better. Perhaps India too needs to restructure and redefine its many conventional frameworks, to combat this deadly disease.

India's winding road to '#EndTB'

भारत का '#EndTB' की ओर घुमावदार रास्ता

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Tuberculosis: A Persistent Global Health Challenge

क्षय रोग: एक स्थायी वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य चुनौती

- Last year, **tuberculosis (TB)** re-emerged as the **leading infectious disease killer globally**.

  पिछले वर्ष, **क्षय रोग (टीबी)** एक बार फिर से **विश्व स्तर पर प्रमुख संक्रामक रोग हत्यारा** बनकर उभरा।

- The **End TB targets** aim for **90% reduction in TB deaths**, **80% reduction in new cases**, and zero TB-affected families facing catastrophic costs by **2030**, but these goals remain distant.

  टीबी खत्म करने के लक्ष्य में टीबी से होने वाली मौतों में **90% कमी**, नए **मामलों में 80% कमी**, और टीबी-प्रभावित परिवारों के लिए **2030 तक कोई आर्थिक आपदा न होने** का लक्ष्य है, लेकिन ये लक्ष्य अभी भी दूर हैं।

- In **2018**, India pledged to achieve the **End TB targets** by **2025**, showcasing the **highest level of political commitment**.

  2018 में, भारत ने **टीबी खत्म करने के लक्ष्य** को **2025 तक** हासिल करने का संकल्प लिया, जो **सर्वोच्च राजनीतिक प्रतिबद्धता** को दर्शाता है।

- However, the **COVID-19 pandemic** significantly disrupted these efforts.

  हालांकि, **COVID-19 महामारी** ने इन प्रयासों को गंभीर रूप से बाधित किया।

India's TB Burden and Challenges

भारत में टीबी का बोझ और चुनौतियाँ

- According to the **WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2024**, India accounts for **26% of global TB cases** and is a hub for **drug-resistant TB (DR-TB)** and **TB deaths**.

  डब्ल्यूएचओ ग्लोबल ट्यूबरकुलोसिस रिपोर्ट 2024 के अनुसार, भारत **वैश्विक टीबी मामलों का 26%** हिस्सा है और **दवा-प्रतिरोधी टीबी (डीआर-टीबी)** और **टीबी से होने वाली मौतों** का केंद्र है।

- While national-level policies and initiatives are ambitious, they often fail to translate effectively into interventions on the ground.

  राष्ट्रीय स्तर की नीतियाँ और पहल महत्वाकांक्षी होती हैं, लेकिन वे ज़मीनी स्तर पर प्रभावी हस्तक्षेप में बदलने में विफल रहती हैं।

Focus on Vulnerable Groups

कमजोर समूहों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना

- The **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)** identifies high-risk groups vulnerable to TB due to factors like **silicosis**, **undernutrition**, overcrowding, and co-morbidities like **diabetes**.

  राष्ट्रीय क्षय रोग उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम (एनटीईपी) ने उन उच्च-जोखिम वाले समूहों की पहचान की है जो **सिलिकोसिस**, **कुपोषण**, अधिक भीड़भाड़, और **मधुमेह** जैसी सह-रुग्णताओं जैसे कारकों के कारण टीबी के प्रति संवेदनशील हैं।

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- **Dr. Pavitra Mohan**, working in south Rajasthan, reports that many TB patients in his clinics have **severe lung damage** from **mining and stone carving dust inhalation**.

  दक्षिण राजस्थान में कार्यरत **डॉ. पवित्र मोहन** बताते हैं कि उनके क्लीनिक में टीबी के कई मरीजों को **खनन और पत्थर तराशने से धूल के कारण फेफड़ों को गंभीर क्षति** हुई है।

- Migrant workers face **poor access to healthcare**, often returning to their native places for treatment, making follow-up difficult.

  प्रवासी श्रमिकों को **स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक सीमित पहुंच** का सामना करना पड़ता है और अक्सर इलाज के लिए अपने गांव लौट जाते हैं, जिससे उनकी देखरेख मुश्किल हो जाती है।

Drug Supply and Treatment Challenges
दवाओं की आपूर्ति और उपचार चुनौतियाँ

- TB is curable with **effective and free drugs** from the **NTEP**, and India achieves **treatment initiation in over 95% of notified cases**.

  टीबी को **एनटीईपी** द्वारा प्रदान की गई **प्रभावी और मुफ्त दवाओं** से ठीक किया जा सकता है, और भारत **सूचित मामलों में 95% से अधिक उपचार शुरू करने** में सफल है।

- In **2023**, a **nationwide supply chain breakdown** caused shortages of critical drugs, leaving patients struggling.

  2023 में, **देशव्यापी आपूर्ति शृंखला में टूट** से महत्वपूर्ण दवाओं की कमी हो गई, जिससे मरीज संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।

- **Nandita Venkatesan**, a two-time TB survivor, highlights that **drug shortages disrupt treatment**, risking **antibiotic resistance** and **poor outcomes**, along with **catastrophic health expenses**.

  नंदिता वेंकटेशन, जो दो बार टीबी से ठीक हो चुकी हैं, बताती हैं कि **दवाओं की कमी से उपचार बाधित होता है**, जिससे **एंटीबायोटिक प्रतिरोध** और **खराब परिणामों** का जोखिम बढ़ता है, साथ ही **भारी स्वास्थ्य खर्चे** भी होते हैं।

Extrapulmonary TB (EP-TB)
फेफड़ों के अलावा अन्य अंगों की टीबी (ईपी-टीबी)

- **Extrapulmonary TB (EP-TB)** affects organs like the **lymph nodes, kidneys, brain, spinal cord, bones, joints, and skin**, but the **NTEP focuses primarily on pulmonary TB** as it is **most common and transmissible**.

  फेफड़ों के अलावा अन्य अंगों की टीबी (ईपी-टीबी) **लसीका ग्रंथियों, गुर्दे, मस्तिष्क, रीढ़ की हड्डी, हड्डियों, जोड़ों, और त्वचा** को प्रभावित करती है, लेकिन **एनटीईपी मुख्य रूप से फेफड़ों की टीबी** पर केंद्रित है क्योंकि यह **सबसे आम और संक्रामक** है।

Extrapulmonary TB: Challenges and Diagnosis
फेफड़ों के अलावा अन्य अंगों की टीबी: चुनौतियाँ और निदान

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- The share of **Extrapulmonary TB (EP-TB)** is about **24% of notified cases**, but it varies widely across regions.

  फेफड़ों के अलावा अन्य अंगों की टीबी (ईपी-टीबी) का हिस्सा **सूचित मामलों का 24%** है, लेकिन यह विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में व्यापक रूप से भिन्न होता है।

- EP-TB diagnosis is often **missed or delayed** due to **vague symptoms** that mimic other diseases.

  ईपी-टीबी का निदान अक्सर **अस्पष्ट लक्षणों** के कारण **छूट जाता है या देर से होता है**, जो अन्य बीमारियों की नकल करते हैं।

- **Dr. Deepak Chandra Badhani**, a surgeon in rural Chhattisgarh, emphasizes proper **history taking, clinical examination**, and simple tests (e.g., pus staining from non-healing ulcers) for early diagnosis.

  ग्रामीण छत्तीसगढ़ के सर्जन **डॉ. दीपक चंद्र बधानी इतिहास लेने, नैदानिक परीक्षण**, और साधारण परीक्षण (जैसे न भरने वाले अल्सर से मवाद की जांच) पर जोर देते हैं।

- Dr. Badhani highlights that dependency on **advanced tests** and specialists causes **substantial delays** in treatment.

  डॉ. बधानी बताते हैं कि **उन्नत परीक्षणों** और विशेषज्ञों पर निर्भरता के कारण **उपचार में गंभीर देरी** होती है।

- Training **general practitioners** and sensitizing **frontline workers** is crucial to integrate EP-TB into screening algorithms.

  सामान्य चिकित्सकों को प्रशिक्षित करना और **फ्रंटलाइन कार्यकर्ताओं** को संवेदनशील बनाना आवश्यक है ताकि ईपी-टीबी को स्क्रीनिंग एल्गोरिदम में शामिल किया जा सके।

Diagnosis and Resource Gaps
निदान और संसाधनों की कमी

- A Mumbai study by **Daniels and colleagues** showed only **35% of private practitioners** and **75% of government doctors** could correctly diagnose TB with classical symptoms.

  मुंबई में **डैनियल्स और सहकर्मियों** के एक अध्ययन से पता चला कि केवल **35% निजी चिकित्सक** और **75% सरकारी डॉक्टर** टीबी के पारंपरिक लक्षणों का सही निदान कर सके।

- Reluctance among private practitioners to **notify the disease** results in delayed or missed diagnoses.

  निजी चिकित्सकों में **रोग को सूचित करने की अनिच्छा** के कारण निदान में देरी या चूक होती है।

- Studies by **Shah and Hiremath** revealed shortages of **adequately trained human resources**, which hinders NTEP implementation.

  शाह और हिरेमठ के अध्ययन ने **पर्याप्त प्रशिक्षित मानव संसाधन** की कमी को उजागर किया, जिससे एनटीईपी के कार्यान्वयन में बाधा आती है।

- **Molecular tests** like **CBNAAT and Truenat** are expensive, available only at **district levels**, and face **cartridge shortages** or lack of trained technicians.

  मॉलिक्यूलर परीक्षण जैसे **सीबीएनएएटी और ट्रूनैट** महंगे हैं, केवल **जिला स्तरों** पर उपलब्ध हैं और **कार्ट्रिज की कमी** या प्रशिक्षित तकनीशियन की अनुपस्थिति का सामना करते हैं।

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Successful Initiatives and Recommendations
सफल पहल और सिफारिशें

- **Idukki district, Kerala**, collaborated with **Kudumbashree**, a women's self-help network, for **TB elimination efforts**, achieving widespread community participation.
  केरल के इड्डुक्की जिले ने **कुदुम्बश्री** (महिलाओं के स्वयं सहायता नेटवर्क) के साथ **टीबी उन्मूलन प्रयासों** में सहयोग किया, जिससे व्यापक सामुदायिक भागीदारी सुनिश्चित हुई।
- **Advocacy by political leadership** provided platforms for cross-learning and best practices across regions.
  राजनीतिक नेतृत्व द्वारा वकालत ने क्षेत्रों में क्रॉस-लर्निंग और सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के लिए मंच प्रदान किया।
- India's **case notifications** reached the highest level, and **TB deaths declined by 24%** compared to 2015, exceeding the global decline.
  भारत में **मामलों की सूचना** उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुंच गई और **टीबी से मौतों में 2015 की तुलना में 24% की कमी** आई, जो वैश्विक गिरावट से अधिक है।

Way Forward
आगे का रास्ता

- India should consider **active case finding** strategies like Vietnam for **high-risk groups**, ensuring better-targeted interventions.
  भारत को वियतनाम जैसे **सक्रिय मामले खोजने** की रणनीतियों पर विचार करना चाहिए, जिससे **उच्च जोखिम समूहों** के लिए बेहतर लक्षित हस्तक्षेप सुनिश्चित हो सके।
- Restructuring and redefining **conventional frameworks** are essential to address TB challenges effectively.
  परंपरागत ढांचों का पुनर्गठन और पुनर्परिभाषा टीबी की चुनौतियों को प्रभावी ढंग से हल करने के लिए आवश्यक है।

Tuberculosis (TB)

- Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by **Mycobacterium tuberculosis** bacteria.
- It primarily affects the lungs but can impact other parts of the body, including the brain, kidneys, and spine.
- टीबी एक संक्रामक रोग है जो **मायकोबैक्टीरियम ट्यूबरकुलोसिस** बैक्टीरिया के कारण होता है।
- यह मुख्य रूप से फेफड़ों को प्रभावित करता है, लेकिन मस्तिष्क, किडनी और रीढ़ सहित शरीर के अन्य हिस्सों को भी प्रभावित कर सकता है।

1. Historical Background and Key Facts

- TB has been present since antiquity, with evidence found in Egyptian mummies.

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- It was referred to as "consumption" due to the severe weight loss it caused.
- In 1882, **Robert Koch** discovered the TB bacterium, earning him the Nobel Prize in 1905.

टीबी का अस्तित्व प्राचीन काल से है, और मिस्र की ममियों में इसके प्रमाण मिले हैं।

इसे "क्षय रोग" कहा जाता था क्योंकि यह भारी वजन घटाने का कारण बनता था।

1882 में, **रॉबर्ट कोच** ने टीबी बैक्टीरिया की खोज की, जिसके लिए उन्हें 1905 में नोबेल पुरस्कार मिला।

2. Epidemiology and Current Data

- According to the **World Health Organization (WHO) Global TB Report 2023**, **10.6 million cases** of TB were reported globally in 2022, with **India contributing to 28% of these cases**.
- TB remains a significant public health issue in India, accounting for **2.5 million cases annually** (National TB Elimination Programme).
- TB is the **13th leading cause of death globally** and the **second leading infectious killer** after COVID-19.
- **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (डब्ल्यूएचओ) ग्लोबल टीबी रिपोर्ट 2023** के अनुसार, 2022 में वैश्विक स्तर पर **10.6 मिलियन मामले** सामने आए, जिनमें से **28% मामले भारत में** थे।
- भारत में टीबी एक गंभीर सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य समस्या बनी हुई है, और प्रति वर्ष **2.5 मिलियन मामले** सामने आते हैं (राष्ट्रीय टीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम)।
-
  टीबी वैश्विक स्तर पर **मृत्यु का 13वां प्रमुख कारण** और **कोविड-19 के बाद दूसरा सबसे बड़ा संक्रामक हत्यारा** है।

3. Modes of Transmission

- TB spreads through airborne droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.
- It cannot spread by physical contact, sharing utensils, or touching surfaces.
- टीबी हवा के माध्यम से फैलता है जब कोई संक्रमित व्यक्ति खांसता, छींकता या बात करता है।
- यह शारीरिक संपर्क, बर्तन साझा करने, या सतहों को छूने से नहीं फैलता।

4. Types of Tuberculosis

- **Pulmonary TB:** Affects the lungs, the most common form.
- **Extrapulmonary TB:** Affects other organs like the lymph nodes, brain, or kidneys.
- **Latent TB:** The bacteria remain dormant and do not cause symptoms but can become active.
- **फेफड़ों का टीबी:** यह फेफड़ों को प्रभावित करता है और सबसे सामान्य प्रकार है।

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- **फेफड़ों के अलावा का टीबी:** यह लसीका ग्रंथियों, मस्तिष्क, या किडनी जैसे अन्य अंगों को प्रभावित करता है।
- **सुप्त टीबी:** इसमें बैक्टीरिया निष्क्रिय रहते हैं और लक्षण नहीं उत्पन्न करते, लेकिन सक्रिय हो सकते हैं।

5. Symptoms

- Persistent cough lasting more than two weeks
- Chest pain and difficulty breathing
- Fever, night sweats, and unexplained weight loss
- दो सप्ताह से अधिक समय तक बनी रहने वाली खांसी
- सीने में दर्द और सांस लेने में कठिनाई
- बुखार, रात में पसीना आना, और अज्ञात कारणों से वजन कम होना

6. National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)

- **Launched:** 1962 as the National TB Control Programme, renamed in 2020.
- **Goal:** Achieve TB elimination by **2025**, five years ahead of the WHO global target of 2030.
- **Nikshay Poshan Yojana:** Provides ₹500 per month to TB patients for nutritional support.
- **शुरूआत:** 1962 में राष्ट्रीय टीबी नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के रूप में, 2020 में इसका नाम बदलकर राष्ट्रीय टीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम कर दिया गया।
- **लक्ष्य: 2025 तक** टीबी उन्मूलन, जो डब्ल्यूएचओ के वैश्विक लक्ष्य 2030 से पांच वर्ष पहले है।
- **निक्षय पोषण योजना:** टीबी रोगियों को पोषण सहायता के लिए प्रति माह ₹500 प्रदान करती है।

7. Recent Updates

- In 2023, India launched the **TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan**, aiming to involve communities in TB eradication efforts.
- The **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan** encourages private sector participation in TB diagnosis and treatment.
- India's **AI-based diagnostics** and molecular testing (like GeneXpert) are being widely used for faster detection.
- 2023 में, भारत ने **टीबी मुक्त भारत अभियान** शुरू किया, जिसमें टीबी उन्मूलन के प्रयासों में समुदायों को शामिल करने पर जोर दिया गया।
- **प्रधानमंत्री टीबी मुक्त भारत अभियान** टीबी के निदान और उपचार में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करता है।

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- भारत में **एआई-आधारित निदान** और आणविक परीक्षण (जैसे GeneXpert) का तेजी से पता लगाने के लिए व्यापक रूप से उपयोग किया जा रहा है।

A grey birthday for the Election Commission of India

"The executive Government is instructing or managing things in such a manner that those people who do not belong to them either racially, culturally or linguistically, are being excluded from being brought on the electoral rolls. Electoral rolls are a most fundamental thing in a democracy... Independence of elections and avoidance of any interference by the executive should be regarded as a fundamental right," said Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in June 1949 in the Constituent Assembly while introducing the Constitutional provision to set up the Election Commission of India (ECI). All of India's founding leaders agreed with this unanimously. Tomorrow (January 25) is the 75th anniversary of the birth of the ECI – also celebrated as National Voters Day (January 25). Sadly, India's founding leaders will feel let-down by the ECI and not deem it to be a happy 75th birthday.

Praveen Chakravarty

is the Chairman of Professionals' and the Data Analytics wings of the Congress party

The case of Maharashtra

Dr. Ambedkar was prescient in his warnings about electoral roll manipulation by the executive. While he was more concerned about exclusion of voters through identity discrimination, government interference in electoral rolls can also be through a process of mass inclusion of voters to tilt an election – as seen in the recently held Maharashtra State elections.

The ECI enrolled 9.7 crore voters for the 2024 Maharashtra State election. The Narendra Modi government's Ministry of Health report estimated the entire adult population of Maharashtra (18-plus years), in 2024, as 9.54 crore. The ECI, by its own admission, registered 16 lakh more voters than the official estimate of the total adult population. Even if one were to accept that the government's estimate is only a projection, and can vary, it still implies that nearly 100% or more of all the adults in Maharashtra were registered as voters for the State election. This is very strange because the ECI neither enrolled nearly all adults as voters for the Maharashtra Lok Sabha election

The sanctity of electoral rolls is the foundation of India's electoral democracy; the Election Commission of India has nothing to celebrate on the anniversary of its founding day

held just six months earlier, nor ever before in any of the other large States. Then, how were more people than the entire estimated adult population of Maharashtra enrolled as voters only for the State election?

Mass enrolment in just months

This is because 48 lakh people were registered as new voters in just six months between the Lok Sabha and the State elections. For context, between 2019 to 2024, only 32 lakh new voters were enrolled. In other words, 50% more people were enrolled as voters in just six months *vis-à-vis* the previous five-year period. What led to this sudden, and intriguing, rush by Maharashtrians to register and vote in the State election alone?

Clues emerge upon careful analysis of the outcome. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance gained 72 lakh more votes in the State election compared to the Lok Sabha election. One would logically presume that this gain by the BJP alliance was largely due to voters that voted for the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in the Lok Sabha election who then shifted allegiance to the BJP alliance for the state election. But that is not the case. Only 24 lakh such voters moved away from the Congress alliance between the two elections. So, where did the BJP alliance get its remaining 48 lakh (72 lakh - 24 lakh) votes from for the State election?

It is not even the case that the BJP alliance got its remaining votes from other parties and independents, since this group too gained more votes in the State versus Lok Sabha election. It is then rational to impute that 48 lakh people who may not have voted in the Lok Sabha election, enrolled themselves as new voters for the State election and voted for the BJP alliance.

Astonishingly, the ECI has confirmed officially that it enrolled the exact same number, i.e., 48 lakh people, as new voters for the Maharashtra election. Is this a miraculous coincidence, a case of divine intervention or executive interference, as Dr. Ambedkar had warned 75 years ago?

What explains the sudden rush of new voters in six months for the State election? Are they real

voters? Or are they ghosts? Were their documents verified when they were enrolled as voters? How is it that all the new voters enrolled seem to have voted for just one alliance?

Regardless of one's political affiliations, to a rational mind, it is amply evident that there is something amiss with the electoral rolls in the Maharashtra election. Perhaps, there are sincere answers to these questions. If so, is it not logical to expect the ECI to release all the data in the public domain and issue clarifications in a transparent manner? But the ECI is conspicuously silent and arrogantly dismissive of these questions. A counter, which includes one by the Chief Election Commissioner, is that if there was such a large-scale addition of dubious or ghost voters, why were the Opposition parties with their war-rooms, not alert enough to catch this in time? This is a duplicitous way to absolve the ECI using the line of a political party's organisational inefficiencies.

It is unfair and illegal to add vast numbers of dubious voters to influence an election and its outcome. It is the ECI's constitutional responsibility to run a fair election. This is why India's founding leaders entrusted an independent ECI with the responsibility of preserving India's electoral sanctity and not to be reliant on political parties.

Use Aadhaar

The Maharashtra incident reveals the importance of using Aadhaar to 'unghost' and de-duplicate electoral rolls and use its biometric verification for voting. Of course, not even a single eligible citizen should be denied his vote, and an appropriate backup process can be evolved for those whose biometric verifications fail. The sanctity of electoral rolls is of supreme importance and is the foundation of India's electoral democracy. Aadhaar verification of electoral rolls and voting is the birthday cake that the ECI must be given to preserve and strengthen India's electoral democracy. It is an idea that even Dr. Ambedkar and other founding leaders may approve of.

A grey birthday for the Election Commission of India

भारतीय चुनाव आयोग के लिए एक ग्रे जन्मदिन

Electoral Integrity and Ambedkar's Vision
चुनावी ईमानदारी और अंबेडकर का दृष्टिकोण

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar highlighted in **June 1949** that **electoral rolls** are fundamental in a democracy and warned against **executive interference** in elections.
  डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर ने **जून 1949** में कहा कि **चुनावी सूची** लोकतंत्र में मौलिक है और चुनावों में **कार्यपालिका के हस्तक्षेप** के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी।

- He emphasized the **independence of elections** and the need to avoid executive interference, considering it a **fundamental right**.
  उन्होंने **चुनावों की स्वतंत्रता** और कार्यपालिका के हस्तक्षेप से बचने को **मौलिक अधिकार** माना।

- On **January 25, 2025**, India celebrates the **75th anniversary** of the Election Commission of India (ECI) as **National Voters Day**.
  25 जनवरी 2025 को भारत **भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ईसीआई)** की **75वीं वर्षगांठ** को **राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस** के रूप में मनाता है।

- However, **India's founding leaders** might feel disappointed with the ECI's performance on its **75th anniversary**.
  हालांकि, **भारत के संस्थापक नेता** ईसीआई के प्रदर्शन से उसकी **75वीं वर्षगांठ** पर निराश हो सकते हैं।

Dr. Ambedkar's Concerns and the Case of Maharashtra
डॉ. अंबेडकर की चिंताएँ और महाराष्ट्र का मामला

- Dr. Ambedkar foresaw the risk of **electoral roll manipulation**, including both **exclusion** and **mass inclusion** to tilt elections.
  डॉ. अंबेडकर ने **चुनावी सूची में हेरफेर** के जोखिम को पहले ही देखा था, जिसमें **बहिष्कार** और **जनसंख्या के सामूहिक समावेश** दोनों शामिल हैं।

- In the **2024 Maharashtra State election**, the **ECI enrolled 9.7 crore voters**, while the **Ministry of Health** estimated the **adult population** at **9.54 crore**.
  2024 महाराष्ट्र राज्य चुनाव में, ईसीआई ने **9.7 करोड़ मतदाताओं** को **पंजीकृत किया**, जबकि **स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय** ने वयस्क जनसंख्या को **9.54 करोड़** आंका।

- The ECI registered **16 lakh more voters** than the total estimated adult population, which raises concerns about **accuracy and integrity**.
  ईसीआई ने अनुमानित वयस्क जनसंख्या से **16 लाख अधिक मतदाताओं** को पंजीकृत किया, जो **सटीकता और ईमानदारी** पर सवाल उठाता है।

Unusual Voter Enrolment Patterns
असामान्य मतदाता पंजीकरण पैटर्न

- Between the **Lok Sabha and State elections**, **48 lakh new voters** were added in just **six months**.
  लोकसभा और राज्य चुनावों के बीच, केवल **छह महीनों** में **48 लाख नए मतदाता** जोड़े गए।

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- In contrast, only **32 lakh new voters** were added over the **five years (2019-2024)**.
इसके विपरीत, **पांच वर्षों (2019-2024)** में केवल **32 लाख नए मतदाता** जोड़े गए।

- The **BJP-led Mahayuti alliance** gained **72 lakh more votes** in the State election compared to the Lok Sabha election, despite only **24 lakh voters** shifting allegiance from the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi.
भाजपा-नेतृत्व वाली महायुति गठबंधन ने राज्य चुनाव में लोकसभा चुनाव की तुलना में **72 लाख अधिक वोट** हासिल किए, जबकि कांग्रेस-नेतृत्व वाली महा विकास अघाड़ी से केवल **24 लाख मतदाता** ने समर्थन बदला।

- This leaves an unexplained gap of **48 lakh votes**, coinciding with the surge in voter enrolment.
इससे **48 लाख वोटों** का अज्ञात अंतर बचता है, जो मतदाता पंजीकरण में वृद्धि के साथ मेल खाता है।

Electoral Roll Concerns in Maharashtra Elections
महाराष्ट्र चुनाव में मतदाता सूची से संबंधित चिंताएँ

- The **BJP alliance** did not gain the remaining votes from **other parties and independents**, as these groups also gained more votes in the State elections compared to the Lok Sabha elections.
भाजपा गठबंधन को शेष वोट **अन्य पार्टियों और निर्दलीयों** से नहीं मिले, क्योंकि इन समूहों को भी लोकसभा चुनाव की तुलना में राज्य चुनाव में अधिक वोट मिले।

- It appears that **48 lakh people** who did not vote in the Lok Sabha election registered as **new voters** specifically for the State election and voted for the BJP alliance.
ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि **48 लाख लोग**, जिन्होंने लोकसभा चुनाव में मतदान नहीं किया, उन्होंने विशेष रूप से राज्य चुनाव के लिए **नए मतदाता** के रूप में पंजीकरण किया और भाजपा गठबंधन के लिए मतदान किया।

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has confirmed that **48 lakh new voters** were enrolled for the Maharashtra election, raising concerns about **coincidence or executive interference**.
भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ईसीआई) ने पुष्टि की है कि महाराष्ट्र चुनाव के लिए **48 लाख नए मतदाताओं** को पंजीकृत किया गया, जिससे **संयोग या कार्यपालिका हस्तक्षेप** को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ गई हैं।

Questions and Transparency Issues
प्रश्न और पारदर्शिता से जुड़ी समस्याएँ

- Questions arise about whether these new voters are **real or ghost voters** and if their documents were properly verified during enrolment.
यह सवाल उठता है कि ये नए मतदाता **वास्तविक हैं या नकली मतदाता**, और पंजीकरण के दौरान उनके दस्तावेज़ों की सही तरह से जांच की गई थी या नहीं।

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- The fact that most of these new voters seemingly voted for **just one alliance** raises doubts about **electoral roll manipulation**.

  यह तथ्य कि इन नए मतदाताओं में से अधिकांश ने **सिर्फ एक गठबंधन** को वोट दिया, **मतदाता सूची में हेरफेर** पर संदेह पैदा करता है।

- Despite serious questions, the **ECI remains silent** and dismissive, avoiding releasing data or issuing clarifications in a **transparent manner**.

  गंभीर सवालों के बावजूद, **ईसीआई चुप और अस्वीकारात्मक** बनी हुई है और **पारदर्शी तरीके** से डेटा जारी करने या स्पष्टीकरण देने से बच रही है।

- The **Chief Election Commissioner** countered by blaming **Opposition parties** for not catching these discrepancies, a response that shifts the **ECI's responsibility**.

  मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त ने इसका जवाब देकर **विपक्षी पार्टियों** को इन विसंगतियों को पकड़ने में विफलता के लिए दोषी ठहराया, जो **ईसीआई की जिम्मेदारी** को स्थानांतरित करता है।

Ensuring Electoral Integrity
चुनावी ईमानदारी सुनिश्चित करना

- Adding **dubious voters** in large numbers to influence elections is **unfair and illegal**, violating the ECI's **constitutional responsibility** to run fair elections.

  चुनावों को प्रभावित करने के लिए **संदिग्ध मतदाताओं** को बड़ी संख्या में जोड़ना **अनुचित और अवैध** है और निष्पक्ष चुनाव कराने के **ईसीआई की संवैधानिक जिम्मेदारी** का उल्लंघन करता है।

- **India's founding leaders** entrusted the ECI to preserve the sanctity of elections, not rely on political parties' vigilance.

  भारत के संस्थापक नेताओं ने ईसीआई पर चुनावों की पवित्रता बनाए रखने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी, न कि राजनीतिक दलों की सतर्कता पर निर्भर होने की।

Using Aadhaar for Electoral Rolls
मतदाता सूची के लिए आधार का उपयोग

- The Maharashtra incident highlights the importance of using **Aadhaar** for **biometric verification** to 'unghost' and de-duplicate electoral rolls.

  महाराष्ट्र की घटना **आधार** का उपयोग करके **बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन** द्वारा मतदाता सूची को सही करने और डुप्लिकेट हटाने की आवश्यकता को उजागर करती है।

- Biometric verification must ensure that **no eligible citizen** is denied their vote, with **backup processes** for failed verifications.

  बायोमेट्रिक सत्यापन को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि **कोई भी पात्र नागरिक** अपने मताधिकार से वंचित न हो, और असफल सत्यापनों के लिए **बैकअप प्रक्रियाएँ** होनी चाहिए।

- **Aadhaar verification** would strengthen the **sanctity of electoral rolls**, ensuring a fair foundation for India's democracy.

  आधार सत्यापन से **मतदाता सूची की पवित्रता** मजबूत होगी और यह भारत के लोकतंत्र के लिए निष्पक्ष आधार सुनिश्चित करेगा।

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- Implementing **Aadhaar verification** would be a fitting way for the ECI to mark its **75th anniversary**, preserving India's electoral democracy.

  आधार सत्यापन को लागू करना ईसीआई के लिए अपनी **75वीं वर्षगांठ** मनाने का उपयुक्त तरीका होगा और भारत के चुनावी लोकतंत्र को संरक्षित करेगा।

WHO is right
The U.S. must return to WHO's fold in its own interest

President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO), based on charges of bias, is stunningly short sighted, and deeply concerning to the global health community. Pundits are predicting that this move, if not withdrawn, or reconsidered, may well unleash the butterfly effect – a cascading set of unpredictable consequences arising from even the smallest of changes in a system. Soon after his inauguration, Mr. Trump wasted no time in announcing the beginning of the process of ending the U.S.'s membership of WHO. In language that smacked of petulance, Mr. Trump, as he signed his first batch of executive orders, declared: "The World Health [Organization] ripped us off." The U.S. will now leave the United Nations health agency in 12 months' time and stop all financial contributions to its work. He accused the organisation of mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic, and of being partisan towards China, though the U.S. contributed more to its coffers. The move has not been entirely unexpected: during his previous term as U.S. President, he relentlessly criticised WHO for acting slow and being "owned and controlled by China"; in 2020 he initiated a move to halt funding to WHO, though it was scuppered as his term came to an end.

Why is the withdrawal of the U.S. significant? For starters, Mr. Trump is right – the U.S., which is a founding member of WHO, is also its biggest financial backer, contributing around 18% of its overall funding. Withdrawal of these funds will seriously impact health programmes being implemented across the world, including interventions for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and the eradication of certain infectious diseases. WHO is also involved in ensuring equity of access to life-saving drugs for people across the world, building stronger health systems, detecting and preventing disease outbreaks. If Mr. Trump could set his petulance aside, it would be clear that global health does not operate in silos, and neither a stern countenance nor physical boundaries can keep pathogens out of one's own geography. If any lessons have been learned at all from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is that no one is safe until everyone is safe, and that collaboration among nations, and open sharing of data and technology are essential to tackle pandemics. WHO has reached out to the U.S., hoping that it will reconsider its decision and engage once again with it. As fantastic as it may sound, medicine is no stranger to miracles of science, and the health community hopes one more will restore the U.S. back to WHO's fold.

WHO is right

कौन सही है?

The U.S. must return to WHO's fold in its own interest

अमेरिका को अपने हित में डब्ल्यूएचओ के पाले में वापस लौटना चाहिए

Donald Trump's Decision to Withdraw the U.S. from WHO
डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का डब्ल्यूएचओ से अमेरिका को हटाने का निर्णय

- **Donald Trump's decision** to withdraw the United States from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** is **short-sighted** and deeply concerning to the **global health community**.

  डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का निर्णय अमेरिका को **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (डब्ल्यूएचओ)** से हटाने का **दूरदर्शिता से रहित** और **वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य समुदाय** के लिए गंभीर चिंता का विषय है।

- Experts warn that this move may cause a **butterfly effect**, leading to unpredictable consequences in global health systems.

  विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि यह कदम **बटरफ्लाई प्रभाव** का कारण बन सकता है, जिससे वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों में अप्रत्याशित परिणाम हो सकते हैं।

- Shortly after his inauguration, Mr. Trump announced the process to end the **U.S.'s membership** in the WHO, accusing the organization of **bias** and mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic.

  शपथ ग्रहण के तुरंत बाद, ट्रंप ने **डब्ल्यूएचओ में अमेरिका की सदस्यता समाप्त** करने की प्रक्रिया की घोषणा की और संगठन पर **पक्षपात** और COVID-19 महामारी को गलत तरीके से संभालने का आरोप लगाया।

- Trump accused WHO of being **partisan towards China**, despite the **U.S. contributing more funds** than any other country.

  ट्रंप ने डब्ल्यूएचओ पर **चीन के प्रति पक्षपाती** होने का आरोप लगाया, जबकि **अमेरिका ने सबसे अधिक धनराशि** योगदान की।

Significance of U.S. Withdrawal from WHO
डब्ल्यूएचओ से अमेरिका के हटने का महत्व

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- The **U.S. is WHO's largest financial backer**, contributing **18% of its total funding**, making the withdrawal significant for global health programs.
  अमेरिका डब्ल्यूएचओ का सबसे बड़ा वित्तीय सहयोगी है और **18% कुल फंडिंग** का योगदान करता है, जिससे यह वापसी वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हो जाती है।

- Withdrawal will severely impact global programs for **HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis**, and eradication of infectious diseases.
  यह वापसी **एचआईवी/एड्स, क्षय रोग** और संक्रामक रोगों को समाप्त करने के वैश्विक कार्यक्रमों पर गंभीर प्रभाव डालेगी।

- WHO plays a critical role in ensuring **equitable access to life-saving drugs**, strengthening health systems, and preventing disease outbreaks.
  डब्ल्यूएचओ जीवन रक्षक दवाओं की **समान पहुंच सुनिश्चित करने**, स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों को मजबूत करने और रोग प्रकोप को रोकने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।

- The **COVID-19 pandemic** has proven that collaboration among nations and **open sharing of data and technology** are essential to tackling global health crises.
  COVID-19 महामारी ने यह साबित किया है कि राष्ट्रों के बीच सहयोग और **डेटा व प्रौद्योगिकी की खुली साझेदारी** वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य संकटों से निपटने के लिए आवश्यक है।

Hopes for U.S. Re-engagement with WHO
डब्ल्यूएचओ के साथ अमेरिका की पुनः भागीदारी की उम्मीदें

- WHO has reached out to the U.S., urging it to **reconsider its decision** and return to its fold.
  डब्ल्यूएचओ ने अमेरिका से संपर्क किया है और उसे **अपने निर्णय पर पुनर्विचार** करने और संगठन में लौटने का आग्रह किया है।

- The global health community hopes for a **miracle of science** that will bring the U.S. back to WHO.
  वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य समुदाय को **विज्ञान के चमत्कार** की उम्मीद है जो अमेरिका को डब्ल्यूएचओ में वापस ला सके।

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Is France's influence in West Africa over?

Why did Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal ask for the withdrawal of French troops? What does the withdrawal signify for Europe's waning influence in Africa? How has Russia benefited from this?

EXPLAINER

Anu Maria Joseph
Padmashree Anandhan

The story so far:

On January 1, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara announced that French troops would withdraw from the country by the end of the month. On December 26, in Chad, France handed over its military base in Faya-Largeau and began the withdrawal of troops following the termination of a defence cooperation agreement in November. On December 3, Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye called for the closure of all French military bases, commenting that their presence was "incompatible" with the country's national sovereignty. Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Chad have joined three West African countries – Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso – asking for French troop's withdrawal, marking a major blow to France's waning influence in the region.

Why did Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal ask for French troop's withdrawal?

First, the narrative on incompatibility with national sovereignty. France has around 1,000 troops in Chad, 600 in Ivory Coast, and 350 in Senegal. Since independence, France had colonial pacts with these former colonies to maintain economic, political, and military influences, referred to as 'Françafrique'. In Senegal and Ivory Coast, French troops have been stationed since 2014 as part of Operation Barkhane. For Chad, the defence pact existed for decades and does not align with its security requirements. Chad's President Mahamat Daby says ending the defence agreements is like taking back national sovereignty. Ivory Coast and Senegal have followed in similar footsteps for a reciprocal relationship that respects each other's independence and sovereignty.

Second, public dissatisfaction over French presence. French troops have been fighting insurgent groups linked to

Power shift: French troops have been fighting insurgent groups linked to the Islamic state and al Qaeda across West Africa since 2014. AFP

the Islamic state and al Qaeda across West Africa since 2014. Despite their military presence, French troops failed to quell the insurgency in the region. Besides, it has spread, degenerated, and intensified across the region. This raised anti-French sentiments alongside a public demand for their withdrawal.

Third, West Africa's quest to move beyond France. Recently, many West African countries have shown interest in diversifying their relations from traditional colonial to new partners. The military governments in West Africa, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, have built military ties with Russian mercenaries to fight insurgency. For military leaders, Russian mercenaries do not come with the baggage of adhering to democratic values. Besides, Russia has successfully spread an image as a better security provider in Africa.

What does French withdrawal mean for African countries?

For Africa, French withdrawal means the end of France's decades-long influence. However, in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, French withdrawal and Russia's arrival has not addressed or contained insurgency. Rather, these three countries rank among the top in the Global Terrorism Index 2024 by the Institute for Economics & Peace. The military regimes

have strengthened in the region with the new Alliance of Sahel states between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The common anti-French sentiments would likely bring Chad, Senegal, and Ivory Coast to join the Sahel alliance and an opportunity to boost regional counter-terrorism efforts.

What does the withdrawal mean for France?

The withdrawal would have four implications – first, the obituary of the 'Françafrique'. Under French President Emmanuel Macron, the withdrawal marks the end of "Françafrique," giving prominence to maintaining a strong economic and diplomatic foothold. Second, the decline in political influence affects economic relations. Since 2010, President Ouattara has been in term with support from France; however former president Gbagbo's reemergence in 2020 challenged political stability. Without political influence, fulfilling France's economic interests can be problematic. Third, a waning military presence would impact international reputation. The military has supported pro-France African leaders to maintain political and economic stability. French Armed Forces have been stationed in support of UN operations since the Ivorian Civil War. Therefore, projecting France as a global fighter against terrorism and a defender

of international values and human rights will be undermined in the new reality. Fourth, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have pushed out French troops involuntarily, which are now either replaced by Russian mercenaries or engulfed in a military coup, making French influence impossible. It is uncertain for the Ivory Coast, given its political and economic ties with France even after independence.

Is there a larger waning European influence in Africa?

In the geopolitical era of conflicts, Europe's declining presence and the competition from Russia and China in Africa were the least focused. The EU is struggling with the shifting political landscape, security issues from the war in Ukraine, and larger economic strain; therefore handling autocracies, migrants, and anti-Europe sentiments has been put on the back burner. In the last few decades, Germany, France, and the U.K. have called down their development funding, leading to increased military coups and greater involvement of external actors. To gain a political and security presence in Africa, Russia has filled the military vacuum, while China asserts its economic influence through the Belt and Road Initiative. The EU's trade surplus has declined by 15%, from 55 billion euros to 35 billion euros between 2022 and 2023. In comparison, China maintains a surplus of more than 70 billion euros.

Militarily, Russia has benefited from the troops' withdrawals. Whether this will change the right-wing governments in Europe is worth asking. The 2024 manifestos of these parties can be useful in this regard. Their policies are more security-oriented in managing borders and migrants, rather than being economically driven. In the coming years, Europe's foreign policy approach will be more inward-looking, with few EU members looking to expand markets into Africa while facing competition from China.

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THE GIST

▼

West African countries are moving away from traditional colonial ties with France, seeking partnerships with global powers for security and economic cooperation.

▼

Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal requested French troop withdrawals, citing incompatibility with national sovereignty and public dissatisfaction over France's failure to curb insurgencies.

▼

France's withdrawal marks the end of 'Françafrique', diminishing its political, military, and economic presence in Africa, while Russia and China continue to expand their influence in the region.

Is France's influence in West Africa over?

क्या पश्चिम अफ़्रीका में फ़्रांस का प्रभाव ख़त्म हो गया है?

Why did Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal ask for the withdrawal of French troops? What does the withdrawal signify for Europe's waning influence in Africa? How has Russia benefited from this?

चाड, आइवरी कोस्ट और सेनेगल ने फ्रांसीसी सैनिकों की वापसी की मांग क्यों की? अफ्रीका में यूरोप के घटते प्रभाव के लिए वापसी का क्या मतलब है? रूस को इससे क्या फायदा हुआ है?

French Troop Withdrawal from West Africa
पश्चिम अफ्रीका से फ्रांसीसी सैनिकों की वापसी

- On **January 1**, **Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara** announced that **French troops** would withdraw from the country by the end of the month.
  1 जनवरी को **आइवरी कोस्ट के राष्ट्रपति अलासने औत्तारा** ने घोषणा की कि **फ्रांसीसी सैनिक** महीने के अंत तक देश से हट जाएंगे।

- On **December 26**, in **Chad**, France handed over its military base in **Faya-Largeau**, following the termination of a **defence cooperation agreement** in November.
  26 दिसंबर को, **चाड** में फ्रांस ने **फाया-लार्ज़ाऊ** में अपना सैन्य अड्डा सौंप दिया, जो नवंबर में **रक्षा सहयोग समझौते** की समाप्ति के बाद हुआ।

- On **December 3**, **Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye** called for the closure of all **French military bases**, stating that their presence was **"incompatible" with national sovereignty**.
  3 दिसंबर को, **सेनेगल के राष्ट्रपति बासिरू डायोमाय फाए** ने सभी **फ्रांसीसी सैन्य अड्डों** को बंद करने का आह्वान किया और कहा कि उनकी उपस्थिति **"राष्ट्रीय संप्रभुता के अनुकूल नहीं"** है।

- Countries like **Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Chad** have joined **Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso** in asking for the withdrawal of **French troops**, marking a significant blow to **France's influence in the region**.
  सेनेगल, आइवरी कोस्ट और चाड ने **माली, नाइजर और बुर्किना फासो** के साथ **फ्रांसीसी सैनिकों** की वापसी की मांग में शामिल होकर क्षेत्र में **फ्रांस के प्रभाव** को बड़ा झटका दिया।

Reasons Behind the Demand for French Troop Withdrawal
फ्रांसीसी सैनिकों की वापसी की मांग के कारण

Incompatibility with National Sovereignty
राष्ट्रीय संप्रभुता के साथ असंगतता

- France has around **1,000 troops in Chad**, **600 in Ivory Coast**, and **350 in Senegal**, stationed under **colonial pacts** to maintain influence, known as **'Françafrique'**.
  फ्रांस के **चाड** में **1,000 सैनिक**, **आइवरी कोस्ट में 600**, और **सेनेगल में 350 सैनिक** हैं, जो **'फ्रांक्सअफ्रीक'** के तहत प्रभाव बनाए रखने के लिए तैनात हैं।

- In **Senegal** and **Ivory Coast**, French troops have been stationed since **2014** under **Operation Barkhane**, which no longer aligns with the security needs of these countries.
  सेनेगल और **आइवरी कोस्ट** में फ्रांसीसी सैनिक **2014 से ऑपरेशन बरखाने** के तहत तैनात हैं, जो अब इन देशों की सुरक्षा आवश्यकताओं के साथ मेल नहीं खाते।

- **Chad's President Mahamat Daby** emphasized that ending these agreements is essential for regaining **national sovereignty**.

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चाड के राष्ट्रपति महामत दाबी ने कहा कि इन समझौतों को समाप्त करना **राष्ट्रीय संप्रभुता** को वापस पाने के लिए आवश्यक है।

Public Dissatisfaction with French Presence
फ्रांसीसी उपस्थिति से जनता की असंतोष

- Since **2014**, French troops have been fighting insurgent groups linked to **Islamic State and al-Qaeda** across West Africa but failed to curb the insurgency.
  2014 से फ्रांसीसी सैनिक पश्चिम अफ्रीका में **इस्लामिक स्टेट और अल-कायदा** से जुड़े विद्रोही समूहों से लड़ रहे हैं, लेकिन विद्रोह को रोकने में विफल रहे।
- The insurgency has **spread, degenerated, and intensified**, leading to **anti-French sentiments** and public demand for troop withdrawal.
  विद्रोह ने **विस्तार, ह्रास और तीव्रता** प्राप्त की, जिससे **फ्रांस-विरोधी भावना** और सैनिकों की वापसी की सार्वजनिक मांग बढ़ी।

West Africa's Shift Away from France
पश्चिम अफ्रीका का फ्रांस से दूरी बनाना

- Many West African nations are diversifying their relations from **traditional colonial ties** to **new partners**.
  कई पश्चिम अफ्रीकी देश **पारंपरिक औपनिवेशिक संबंधों** से **नए साझेदारों** की ओर अपने संबंधों में विविधता ला रहे हैं।
- **Military governments** in **Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso** have developed military ties with **Russian mercenaries** to fight insurgencies.
  माली, नाइजर और बुर्किना फासो की **सैन्य सरकारों** ने विद्रोह से लड़ने के लिए **रूसी भाड़े के सैनिकों** के साथ सैन्य संबंध स्थापित किए हैं।
- Russian mercenaries do not enforce **democratic values** and are viewed as better security providers in Africa.
  रूसी भाड़े के सैनिक **लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों** को लागू नहीं करते और अफ्रीका में बेहतर सुरक्षा प्रदाता के रूप में देखे जाते हैं।

What does French withdrawal mean for African countries?
अफ्रीकी देशों के लिए फ्रांसीसी वापसी का क्या मतलब है?

- French withdrawal signifies the **end of France's decades-long influence** in Africa.
  फ्रांसीसी वापसी का अर्थ अफ्रीका में **फ्रांस के दशकों लंबे प्रभाव का अंत** है।
- In **Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso**, French withdrawal and **Russia's arrival** have not addressed insurgency, as these countries rank among the top in the **Global Terrorism Index 2024** by the **Institute for Economics & Peace**.
  माली, नाइजर और बुर्किना फासो में फ्रांसीसी वापसी और **रूस की उपस्थिति** के बावजूद विद्रोह का

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समाधान नहीं हुआ है, क्योंकि ये देश **इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर इकोनॉमिक्स एंड पीस** के **ग्लोबल टेररिज़्म इंडेक्स 2024** में शीर्ष स्थान पर हैं।

- **Military regimes** have strengthened in the region with the formation of the **Alliance of Sahel States** between **Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso**.
  इस क्षेत्र में **सैन्य शासन** ने **माली, नाइजर और बुर्किना फासो** के बीच **साहेल राज्यों के गठबंधन** के गठन के साथ मजबूती हासिल की है।

- Shared **anti-French sentiments** may bring **Chad, Senegal, and Ivory Coast** into the Sahel alliance, providing an opportunity to boost **regional counter-terrorism efforts**.
  साझा **फ्रांस-विरोधी भावना चाड, सेनेगल और आइवरी कोस्ट** को साहेल गठबंधन में ला सकती है और **क्षेत्रीय आतंकवाद विरोधी प्रयासों** को बढ़ावा दे सकती है।

What does the withdrawal mean for France?
फ्रांस के लिए वापसी का क्या मतलब है?

End of 'Françafrique'
'फ्रांक्सअफ्रीक' का अंत

- Under **French President Emmanuel Macron**, the withdrawal signifies the **end of 'Françafrique'**, transitioning to a focus on maintaining strong **economic and diplomatic ties**.
  फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों के नेतृत्व में, यह वापसी **'फ्रांक्सअफ्रीक' के अंत** को दर्शाती है और मजबूत **आर्थिक और राजनयिक संबंधों** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करती है।

Decline in Political Influence
राजनीतिक प्रभाव में गिरावट

- The decline in **political influence** may affect **economic relations**, as seen in **Ivory Coast**, where former president **Gbagbo's reemergence in 2020** challenged political stability.
  राजनीतिक प्रभाव में गिरावट से **आर्थिक संबंधों** पर असर पड़ सकता है, जैसा कि **आइवरी कोस्ट** में देखा गया, जहां पूर्व राष्ट्रपति **गबाग्बो का 2020 में पुन: उभरना** राजनीतिक स्थिरता के लिए चुनौती बना।

- Without political leverage, fulfilling **France's economic interests** in the region may become problematic.
  राजनीतिक प्रभाव के बिना, क्षेत्र में **फ्रांस के आर्थिक हितों** को पूरा करना कठिन हो सकता है।

Impact on International Reputation
अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिष्ठा पर प्रभाव

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- France's **waning military presence** undermines its image as a **global fighter against terrorism** and a defender of **human rights**.
  फ्रांस की **कमजोर होती सैन्य उपस्थिति** इसे **आतंकवाद के वैश्विक लड़ाके** और **मानवाधिकारों के रक्षक** के रूप में उसकी छवि को कमजोर करती है।

- French Armed Forces have supported pro-France leaders since the **Ivorian Civil War**, aiding **political and economic stability**.
  फ्रांसीसी सशस्त्र बलों ने **आइवरीयन गृहयुद्ध** के बाद से फ्रांस-समर्थक नेताओं का समर्थन किया है, जिससे **राजनीतिक और आर्थिक स्थिरता** सुनिश्चित हुई है।

Emergence of Russian Influence
रूसी प्रभाव का उदय

- In **Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger**, French troops have been **involuntarily replaced** by **Russian mercenaries**, reducing French influence in the region.
  माली, बुर्किना फासो और नाइजर में, फ्रांसीसी सैनिकों को **अनैच्छिक रूप से रूसी भाड़े के सैनिकों** ने बदल दिया है, जिससे क्षेत्र में फ्रांस का प्रभाव कम हुआ है।

- In **Ivory Coast**, the future remains uncertain despite its continued **political and economic ties** with France post-independence.
  आइवरी कोस्ट में स्वतंत्रता के बाद फ्रांस के साथ **राजनीतिक और आर्थिक संबंधों** के बावजूद भविष्य अनिश्चित बना हुआ है।

Is there a larger waning European influence in Africa?
क्या अफ्रीका में यूरोपीय प्रभाव का पतन हो रहा है?

- In the **geopolitical era of conflicts**, **Europe's declining presence** and competition from **Russia** and **China** in Africa were **previously overlooked**.
  वैश्विक संघर्षों के युग में, **यूरोप की घटती उपस्थिति** और **रूस** और **चीन** से प्रतिस्पर्धा को **पहले नजरअंदाज** किया गया था।

- The **EU** is struggling with **shifting political landscapes**, **security issues** from the war in **Ukraine**, and **larger economic strains**; therefore, managing **autocracies**, **migrants**, and **anti-Europe sentiments** has taken a **back seat**.
  ईयू राजनीतिक परिदृश्य में बदलाव, **यूक्रेन युद्ध से सुरक्षा मुद्दों**, और **बड़े आर्थिक दबावों** से जूझ रहा है; इसलिए **तानाशाही**, **माइग्रेंट्स**, और **यूरोप-विरोधी भावना** का प्रबंधन **पिछले स्थान** पर चला गया है।

- Over the last few decades, **Germany, France, and the U.K.** have reduced their **development funding**, leading to increased **military coups** and greater involvement of **external actors**.
  पिछले कुछ दशकों में, **जर्मनी, फ्रांस और यूके** ने अपना **विकास निधि** घटा दी, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **सैन्य तख्तापलट** में वृद्धि और **बाहरी तत्वों** की बढ़ी हुई भागीदारी हुई।

- To gain a **political and security presence** in Africa, **Russia** has filled the **military vacuum**, while **China** asserts its **economic influence** through the **Belt and Road**

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Initiative.

अफ्रीका में **राजनीतिक और सुरक्षा उपस्थिति** प्राप्त करने के लिए, **रूस** ने **सैन्य शून्यता** को भरा, जबकि **चीन बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव** के माध्यम से अपना **आर्थिक प्रभाव** स्थापित कर रहा है।

- The **EU's trade surplus** has **declined by 15%**, from **55 billion euros to 35 billion euros** between **2022 and 2023**. In comparison, **China maintains a surplus of more than 70 billion euros**.

  ईयू का व्यापार अधिशेष 15% घट गया है, **2022 और 2023** के बीच **55 अरब यूरो से 35 अरब यूरो** तक। तुलना में, **चीन का अधिशेष 70 अरब यूरो से अधिक** है।

- **Russia** has benefited from the **withdrawal of troops**, which raises questions about the **impact on right-wing governments** in Europe.

  रूस ने **सैनिकों की वापसी** से लाभ उठाया है, जो यूरोप में **दाएं-पक्षीय सरकारों** पर प्रभाव को लेकर सवाल खड़े करता है।

- The **2024 manifestos of right-wing parties** may indicate a shift towards more **security-focused policies** for managing **borders** and **migrants**, rather than economic-driven policies.

  2024 के दाएं-पक्षीय पार्टियों के घोषणापत्र से यह संकेत मिल सकता है कि **सीमा प्रबंधन** और **माइग्रेंट्स** के लिए **सुरक्षा-केन्द्रित नीतियों** में बदलाव हो रहा है, न कि आर्थिक-प्रेरित नीतियों में।

- In the coming years, **Europe's foreign policy** is expected to become more **inward-looking**, with fewer **EU members looking to expand markets** into Africa while facing competition from **China**.

  आने वाले वर्षों में, **यूरोप की विदेश नीति** अधिक **आंतरिक रूप से केंद्रित** होने की संभावना है, जिसमें कम **ईयू सदस्य अफ्रीका में बाजारों का विस्तार** करने की सोचेंगे, जबकि **चीन से प्रतिस्पर्धा** का सामना करेंगे।

How does Trump's 75-day order affect the TikTok ban?

What law led to the banning of TikTok in the U.S.? Can the President override a ban upheld by the court?

GS Paper II: Global World Order

The story so far:

On January 20, after taking office as the 47th President of the U.S., Donald Trump signed an order that gave TikTok a 75-day lifeline. The short-video sharing platform went offline for U.S.-based users just a day earlier following a protracted legal and political battle that ended in a federal ban. TikTok appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The court upheld the ban, making both Google and Apple remove the app from their app stores. Web-hosting platforms were also ordered to cut ties with the platform or face fines of as much as $5,000 per user.

Based on what law was TikTok banned?

The controversial law, 'Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act,' signed by former President Joe Biden aimed at blocking apps controlled by the U.S.'s foreign adversaries from operating in the country. It specifically targeted TikTok, owned and controlled by ByteDance, a Chinese firm. The goal is to prevent potential threats to national security from apps that may be used for espionage, data collection, and other harmful activities.

How does the law apply?

Under the law, some apps controlled by foreign adversaries can be prohibited from being distributed, maintained, or hosted in the U.S. However, it does allow an exception for apps that undergo a "qualified divestiture," meaning they can be sold or restructured in a way that reduces foreign control.

To enforce the ban, the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has been given the authority to investigate and impose penalties on any entity that violates the law. The penalties are determined based on how many users the app has. TikTok has over 170 million U.S.-based users. If the app is banned, users are entitled to request and receive all their account data – posts, photos, and videos–before the prohibition is enforced, ensuring they don't lose access to their content.

Any challenge to specific actions or decisions under the law must be made within 90 days of the decision. Legal disputes related to the law will be handled exclusively by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

What does Trump's order say?

Mr. Trump has noted that the timing of this enforcement is problematic as it doesn't give his administration enough time to assess the national security risks posed by TikTok or to negotiate a solution to address the risks without immediately shutting down the platform. And so, he has directed the Attorney General not to enforce the Act's provisions for 75 days. During this period, the DoJ is prohibited from imposing penalties on platforms distributing or maintaining the app.

Can the President override a ban upheld by the Supreme Court?

While a section of legal experts may recognise the broad authority granted to the President under the Constitution of the U.S. in matters of national security and foreign relations, others will raise concerns that Mr. Trump's order could undermine the Congress's authority to legislate.

Another way to look at the order is through the lens of political expediency given the popularity of TikTok. Mr. Trump may be attempting to balance national security with public relations and economic interests. In this context, the order is a temporary measure to avoid an immediate shutdown and give the new administration time to negotiate a solution with TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, or implement mitigation measures.

Ultimately, the Supreme Court may play a key role in determining whether Mr. Trump's order is consistent with constitutional principles, especially if this matter is challenged in court. If the case reaches the apex court, it could result in a landmark ruling on the separation of powers and executive authority in national security matters.

THE GIST

- TikTok was banned in the U.S. under the 'Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act,' which targets apps from foreign adversaries, to protect national security.

- President Donald Trump issued a 75-day order delaying the enforcement of the ban, citing insufficient time to assess national security risks and negotiate a solution, though legal experts debate whether this could interfere with Congress's authority.

How does Trump's 75-day order affect the TikTok ban?

ट्रम्प का 75-दिवसीय आदेश TikTok प्रतिबंध को कैसे प्रभावित करता है?

What law led to the banning of TikTok in the U.S.? Can the President override a ban upheld by the court?

अमेरिका में TikTok पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के पीछे कौन सा कानून था? क्या राष्ट्रपति न्यायालय द्वारा लगाए गए प्रतिबंध को रद्द कर सकते हैं?

Based on what law was TikTok banned?
किस कानून के आधार पर टिकटॉक पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया था?

- The law, **'Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act,'** was signed by **former President Joe Biden** to block apps controlled by foreign adversaries, specifically targeting **TikTok**, owned by **ByteDance**, a Chinese firm.
  'अमेरिकियों को विदेशी शत्रु द्वारा नियंत्रित अनुप्रयोगों से सुरक्षा प्रदान करने वाला कानून', जिसे **पूर्व राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन** ने हस्ताक्षरित किया, विदेशियों द्वारा नियंत्रित ऐप्स को रोकने के लिए था, विशेष रूप से **टिकटॉक**, जिसे **बाइटडांस**, एक चीनी कंपनी के स्वामित्व में है, को लक्षित किया गया था।

- The aim of the law is to prevent potential threats to **national security** through apps that could be used for **espionage**, **data collection**, and other harmful activities.
  इस कानून का उद्देश्य **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** के लिए संभावित खतरों को रोकना है, जिनके लिए ऐप्स का इस्तेमाल **जासूसी**, **डेटा संग्रहण**, और अन्य हानिकारक गतिविधियों के लिए हो सकता है।

How does the law apply?
कानून कैसे लागू होता है?

- Under the law, apps controlled by **foreign adversaries** can be prohibited from **distribution, maintenance, or hosting** in the U.S.
  कानून के तहत, **विदेशी शत्रुओं द्वारा नियंत्रित ऐप्स** को **वितरण, रखरखाव, या होस्टिंग** से प्रतिबंधित किया जा सकता है।

- The law allows an exception if the app undergoes a **"qualified divestiture"**, meaning it can be **sold or restructured** to reduce foreign control.
  कानून एक **"योग्य डिवेस्टिचर"** की अनुमति देता है, जिसका अर्थ है कि ऐप को **बेचा या पुनर्गठित** किया जा सकता है ताकि विदेशी नियंत्रण कम हो।

- The **U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ)** has the authority to **investigate and impose penalties** on any entity violating the law, with penalties based on the number of **users**.

अमेरिकी न्याय विभाग (DoJ) को इस कानून का उल्लंघन करने वाले किसी भी संगठन की **जांच करने और जुर्माना लगाने** का अधिकार है, जुर्माना **उपयोगकर्ताओं** की संख्या के आधार पर होगा।

- **TikTok** has over **170 million U.S.-based users**, and users are entitled to request all their **account data** before the ban is enforced.
  टिकटॉक के पास **170 मिलियन से अधिक अमेरिकी-आधारित उपयोगकर्ता** हैं, और उपयोगकर्ताओं को **प्रतिबंध लागू होने से पहले** उनका **खाता डेटा** प्राप्त करने का अधिकार है।

- Any challenge to specific actions or decisions under the law must be made within **90 days**, and disputes will be handled exclusively by the **U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia**.
  कानून के तहत विशिष्ट क्रियाओं या निर्णयों को चुनौती **90 दिनों** के भीतर दी जानी चाहिए, और विवादों का समाधान केवल **यू.एस. कोर्ट ऑफ अपील्स, डिस्ट्रीक्ट ऑफ कोलंबिया** द्वारा किया जाएगा।

What does Trump's order say?
ट्रंप के आदेश में क्या कहा गया है?

- **Trump** criticized the timing of the enforcement, stating it didn't give enough time to assess national security risks or negotiate a solution.
  ट्रंप ने प्रवर्तन के समय की आलोचना की, यह कहते हुए कि इससे राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा जोखिमों का मूल्यांकन करने या समाधान पर बातचीत करने के लिए पर्याप्त समय नहीं मिला।

- **Trump** directed the **Attorney General** not to enforce the Act's provisions for **75 days**, and during this period, **DoJ** cannot impose penalties on platforms distributing or maintaining **TikTok**.
  ट्रंप ने **अटॉर्नी जनरल** को **75 दिनों** तक एक्ट के प्रावधानों को लागू करने से रोकने का निर्देश दिया, और इस अवधि के दौरान **DoJ** पर **टिकटॉक** वितरित करने या बनाए रखने वाले प्लेटफार्मों पर जुर्माना लगाने की मनाही है।

Can the President override a ban upheld by the Supreme Court?
क्या राष्ट्रपति सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा बनाए गए प्रतिबंध को रद्द कर सकते हैं?

- Some legal experts may argue that **President's authority** in matters of **national security** and **foreign relations** could allow such action.
  कुछ कानूनी विशेषज्ञ तर्क कर सकते हैं कि **राष्ट्रपति की अधिकारिता राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** और **विदेशी संबंधों** के मामलों में ऐसी कार्रवाई की अनुमति दे सकती है।

- **Trump's order** could undermine **Congress's authority** to legislate, raising concerns about the separation of powers.
  ट्रंप का आदेश **कांग्रेस की अधिकारिता** को कमजोर कर सकता है, जिससे शक्तियों के पृथक्करण पर सवाल उठते हैं।

- The order could also be viewed as a **political expediency**, balancing **national security** with **public relations** and **economic interests**.

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आदेश को **राजनीतिक अवसरवाद** के रूप में भी देखा जा सकता है, जो **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** को **लोकसंपर्क** और **आर्थिक हितों** के साथ संतुलित करता है।

- If the matter reaches the **Supreme Court**, it could result in a **landmark ruling** on the **separation of powers** and **executive authority** in national security matters.

यदि मामला **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** तक पहुंचता है, तो यह **शक्तियों के पृथक्करण** और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा मामलों में **कार्यपालिका अधिकारिता** पर एक **ऐतिहासिक निर्णय** ला सकता है।

Stung by Puja Khedkar scam, govt. amends Civil Services Exam Rules

GS Paper II

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Online submission of documents, such as educational, caste and physical disability certificates, has been made mandatory for candidates for the preliminary stage of the Civil Service Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), a government notification has said.

Previously, documents were to be uploaded only when a candidate qualified for the main examination.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Personnel notified the Civil Services Examination Rules, 2025. The Ministry said 979 vacancies will be filled by this year's examinations which is the lowest in the past three years. The exams are held to recruit candidates for 23 services including the Indian Administrative Ser-

Puja Khedkar

vice, Indian Foreign Service and Indian Police Service. In the CSE 2023, around 10.1 lakh candidates applied, however, only 5.9 lakh candidates appeared for the examinations.

The changes have been brought as Puja Khedkar was selected as a probationary IAS officer after she allegedly forged identity papers, misrepresented and falsified facts to obtain extra attempts and produced a fake persons with benchmark disability cer-

tificate to gain reservation in the 2022 exam.

Ms. Khedkar could bypass the UPSC's gatekeeping by appearing in the exams 12 times as against the nine attempts that are allowed.

The alleged forgery and crime was revealed last June while she was posted for field training in Pune. Ms. Khedkar was subsequently discharged from service, faces criminal cases and is currently on bail.

Inquiry ordered
Following this, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) initiated an inquiry against six officials, including a probationer, to re-examine their disability parameters.

The officials – five Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers and an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer – got into the services by getting reserva-

tion benefits under the disability category.

The January 22 notification stated that candidates "shall be required to apply online and submit the requisite information and supporting documents towards various claims, such as date of birth, category [viz. SC (Schedule Caste)/ ST(Scheduled Tribe) /OBC (Other Backward Classes (OBC)/ EWS (Economically Weaker Section) /PwBD/ Ex-Servicemen], educational qualification and Service preference, etc." as may be sought by the commission. It added that "the failure to provide the required information and documents along with the registration and online application form will entail cancellation of candidature for the examination".

Till now, the service and cadre preference were to be submitted after clearing the Mains examination.

Stung by Puja Khedkar scam, govt. amends Civil Services Exam Rules

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पूजा खेडकर घोटाले से आहत सरकार ने सिविल सेवा परीक्षा नियमों में संशोधन किया

Online submission of documents for UPSC Civil Service Examination
UPSC सिविल सेवा परीक्षा के लिए दस्तावेज़ों की ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुति

- **Online submission** of documents, such as **educational**, **caste**, and **physical disability certificates**, has been made mandatory for candidates at the **preliminary stage** of the **Civil Service Examination** conducted by **UPSC**.
  UPSC द्वारा आयोजित **सिविल सेवा परीक्षा** के **प्रारंभिक चरण** में उम्मीदवारों के लिए **शैक्षिक**, **जाति** और **शारीरिक विकलांगता प्रमाणपत्र** जैसे दस्तावेज़ों की **ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुति** अनिवार्य कर दी गई है।

- **Previously**, documents were uploaded only when a candidate qualified for the **main examination**.
  पहले, दस्तावेज़ केवल तब अपलोड किए जाते थे जब उम्मीदवार **मुख्य परीक्षा** के लिए योग्य होता था।

- On **January 20**, the **Ministry of Personnel** notified the **Civil Services Examination Rules, 2025**, stating **979 vacancies** would be filled this year.
  20 जनवरी को **कार्मिक मंत्रालय** ने **सिविल सेवा परीक्षा नियम, 2025** की अधिसूचना जारी की, जिसमें इस वर्ष **979 पदों** को भरा जाएगा।

- This number, **979 vacancies**, is the lowest in the past **three years**.
  यह संख्या, **979 पद**, पिछले **तीन वर्षों** में सबसे कम है।

- **10.1 lakh candidates** applied for **CSE 2023**, but only **5.9 lakh** candidates appeared for the examinations.
  CSE 2023 के लिए **10.1 लाख उम्मीदवारों** ने आवेदन किया था, लेकिन केवल **5.9 लाख** उम्मीदवारों ने परीक्षा दी।

- Changes were made after **Puja Khedkar** was selected as a probationary **IAS officer** by allegedly forging documents.
  बदलाव **पूजा खेड़कर** के **IAS अधिकारी** के रूप में प्रोबेशनरी नियुक्ति के बाद किए गए, जिन्होंने कथित तौर पर दस्तावेज़ों में धोखाधड़ी की थी।

- She was allowed to appear **12 times** instead of the **9 attempts** allowed by UPSC, and used a fake **disability certificate** to gain reservation in the 2022 exam.
  उन्हें **9 प्रयासों** के बजाय **12 बार** परीक्षा देने की अनुमति दी गई, और उन्होंने 2022 की परीक्षा में आरक्षण प्राप्त करने के लिए एक नकली **विकलांगता प्रमाणपत्र** का उपयोग किया।

- The **forgery** was discovered in **June** when she was posted for **field training** in **Pune**.
  धोखाधड़ी जून में तब सामने आई जब वह **पुणे** में **क्षेत्रीय प्रशिक्षण** पर नियुक्त थीं।

- After the revelation, she was **discharged from service**, faces **criminal charges**, and is currently on **bail**.
  इस खुलासे के बाद, उन्हें **सेवा से मुक्त कर दिया गया**, उन पर **आपराधिक आरोप** हैं, और वह वर्तमान में **जमानत** पर हैं।

Inquiry ordered by DoPT
DoPT द्वारा जांच आदेशित

- The **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** initiated an inquiry against six officials, including an **IAS officer** and an **IRS officer**, for getting into services by using **disability reservation**.
कार्मिक और प्रशिक्षण विभाग (DoPT) ने छह अधिकारियों, जिनमें एक **IAS अधिकारी** और एक **IRS अधिकारी** शामिल हैं, के खिलाफ जांच शुरू की, जिन्होंने **विकलांगता आरक्षण** का उपयोग करके सेवाओं में प्रवेश किया था।

- **Failure to provide required information and documents** during online registration will lead to **cancellation of candidature**.
ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण के दौरान आवश्यक जानकारी और दस्तावेज़ प्रदान करने में **असफलता** से **उम्मीदवारी रद्द** हो जाएगी।

- Previously, **service preference** was submitted only after clearing the **Mains examination**.
पहले, **सेवा प्राथमिकता** केवल **मुख्य परीक्षा** को पार करने के बाद प्रस्तुत की जाती थी।

NHRC orders new inquiry into hiring by Foxconn

NHRC orders new inquiry into hiring by Foxconn

एनएचआरसी ने फॉक्सकॉन द्वारा नियुक्तियों की नई जांच के आदेश दिए

GS Paper II: Statutory Bodies
NEW DELHI

National Human Rights Commission admonishes Labour Department
राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने श्रम विभाग को फटकार लगाई

The National Human Rights Commission has admonished Labour Department officials for failure to adequately investigate evidence of employment discrimination at Foxconn, which makes Apple iPhones, and told them to re-examine the matter, documents show.

The NHRC, in June, ordered Central and Tamil Nadu officials to probe Foxconn's hiring practices, after a Reuters investigation found that the manufacturer excluded married women from iPhone assembly jobs at its southern India plant. Foxconn relaxed the ban during high-production periods, Reuters found. The iPhone factory is a flagship foreign investment in India.

- **The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** has **admonished Labour Department officials** for failing to adequately investigate evidence of **employment discrimination** at **Foxconn**, which manufactures **Apple iPhones**.
राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) ने **श्रम विभाग के अधिकारियों** को **रोजगार भेदभाव** के प्रमाणों की उचित जांच करने में नाकाम रहने पर **फटकार लगाई** है, जो **फॉक्सकॉन**, जो **एप्पल आईफोन** बनाता है, में था।

- The NHRC ordered **Central and Tamil Nadu officials** to probe Foxconn's **hiring practices** after a **Reuters investigation** found that the manufacturer excluded **married women** from **iPhone assembly jobs** at its southern India plant.
NHRC ने **केंद्रीय और तमिलनाडु अधिकारियों** से फॉक्सकॉन की **भर्ती प्रथाओं** की जांच करने का आदेश दिया, जब **रॉयटर्स जांच** में पाया गया कि निर्माता ने अपनी दक्षिणी भारत स्थित संयंत्र में **शादीशुदा महिलाओं** को **आईफोन असेम्बली नौकरियों** से बाहर कर दिया था।

- Foxconn **relaxed the ban** during **high-production periods**, according to Reuters.
फॉक्सकॉन ने प्रतिबंध को उच्च-उत्पादन अवधि के दौरान **कम किया**, रॉयटर्स के अनुसार।

The **iPhone factory** is a **flagship foreign investment** in India.
आईफोन फैक्ट्री भारत में **प्रमुख विदेशी निवेश** है।

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

1. **Rumour has it / अफवाहों के अनुसार**
2. **MDL-TKMS bid for P-75I submarine tender clears technical evaluation / पी-75आई पनडुब्बी के लिए एमडीएल-टीकेएमएस बोली निविदा तकनीकी मूल्यांकन में पास**
3. **States yet to use ₹70,744-cr. funds for welfare of workers / राज्यों ने अभी तक श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए ₹70,744 करोड़ का फंड इस्तेमाल नहीं किया है**
4. **The hidden dangers of Rhodamine B: a global and local perspective / रोडामाइन बी के छिपे हुए खतरे: एक वैश्विक और स्थानीय परिप्रेक्ष्य**

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GS Paper III: Disaster Management

Rumour has it

Causes of the rail track deaths have more to do with deep-rooted malaises

Panic and confusion seem to have triggered the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express accident in Maharashtra that killed 12 people and injured at least 10 others. Eyewitness accounts talk about the rumour of a fire that led to an alarm chain being pulled and the train coming to a stop. Passengers often choose to get down when their train makes unscheduled stops and that is what happened near Pachora station in Jalgaon district. Those who deboarded on the side of an oncoming train on the adjacent track, the Karnataka Express, were mowed down. Reports talk about a curve that reduced the line of sight of the driver of the oncoming train who, nevertheless, promptly applied the brakes seeing the flashing lights, as in the procedure adopted to stop all other trains when one train stops midsection. The Karnataka Express was speeding and had a braking distance of some 750 m; the Rajdhani needs more than a kilometre to stop. It could have been worse had the brakes not been applied promptly, railway officials have been quoted as saying. Passengers deboarding a train and facing danger is not uncommon either. Auto doors that can be opened and closed only by railway personnel – a feature of the Vande Bharat and Rajdhani trains – may need to be fitted in general trains as well. Such doors come with their own logistical challenges such as a requirement that the door locking system of each bogie matches with the rest, but it may well be worth the cost.

The panic shown by the passengers is a typical response in India and is seen in stampedes. In 2017, a flower vendor on a rail platform bridge at Elphinstone Road station in Mumbai, apparently complained in Marathi of 'her flowers falling', which commuters misunderstood to mean that the bridge was collapsing, leading to a stampede that killed 23 people. Probably, the series of railway accidents in recent times was fresh in the minds of the Pushpak Express passengers and added to the panic. While those accidents, at first glance, were caused by human errors or local faults, they were actually a result of a long-term and unaddressed need for enhancing railway safety. Further, initial media reports quoted railway officials talking about "hot axle" and "brake binding" that may have caused sparks and smoke, which gave rise to fears of a fire, and in turn the alarm chain being pulled. Brake binding happens when a brake is applied by the driver but after its release the brake does not disengage in one or more bogies. The wheels, instead of rolling, would only slide when speed picks up, leading to the emission of sparks and smoke. Brake binding is a case of poor maintenance. An inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety concerned, an independent body of railway experts that does not come under the Railway Ministry, should uncover the true cause of Wednesday's accident.

Rumour has it

अफवाहों के अनुसार

Pushpak Express Accident and Causes
पुष्पक एक्सप्रेस दुर्घटना और कारण

- The **Pushpak Express** accident in Maharashtra killed **12 people** and injured **at least 10 others**. Panic and confusion were triggered by the **rumor of a fire**, leading to the **alarm chain being pulled** and the train stopping.
महाराष्ट्र में **पुष्पक एक्सप्रेस** दुर्घटना में **12 लोग** मारे गए और **कम से कम 10 अन्य** घायल हुए। **आग के अफवाह** से घबराहट और भ्रम पैदा हुआ, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **अलार्म चेन खींची** गई और ट्रेन रुक गई।

- **Eyewitness accounts** mention passengers deboarding the train when it made an **unscheduled stop** near **Pachora station**. Those who deboarded onto the **adjacent track** were hit by the **Karnataka Express**.
प्रत्यक्षदर्शी गवाह बताते हैं कि यात्री तब ट्रेन से उतरे जब यह **अनियोजित रुकावट** के कारण **पचोरा स्टेशन** के पास रुक गई। जिन्होंने **पड़ोसी ट्रैक** पर उतरने की कोशिश की, उन्हें **कर्नाटका एक्सप्रेस** ने टक्कर मारी।

- The **driver of Karnataka Express** had reduced visibility due to a **curve** but applied brakes upon seeing the flashing lights. The **speed** of the Karnataka Express was high, requiring a **braking distance of 750 meters**, which was barely enough to avoid a larger disaster.
कर्नाटका एक्सप्रेस के चालक को **घुमाव** के कारण दृश्यता कम थी, लेकिन उसने **फ्लैशिंग लाइट्स** देख कर ब्रेक लगाए। **कर्नाटका एक्सप्रेस** की **गति** तेज थी, जिसके कारण **750 मीटर** की ब्रेकिंग दूरी की आवश्यकता थी, जो मुश्किल से बड़े हादसे से बचने के लिए पर्याप्त थी।

- **Panic responses** are common in India, often seen in **stampedes**. In 2017, a **flower vendor's** complaint led to a **stampede** at **Elphinstone Road station**, killing **23 people**.
भारत में घबराहट की प्रतिक्रियाएँ सामान्य हैं, जो अक्सर **भीड़-भाड़** में देखी जाती हैं। 2017 में, एक **फूल विक्रेता** की शिकायत से एल्पस्टोन रोड स्टेशन पर **भीड़-भाड़** हुई, जिसमें **23 लोग** मारे गए।

- **Railway officials** discussed "**hot axle**" and "**brake binding**" as possible causes of the incident. **Brake binding** occurs when the brake is applied but fails to disengage, leading to the emission of **sparks and smoke**, which caused fears of a fire.

रेलवे अधिकारियों ने "**गर्म एक्सल**" और "**ब्रेक बाइंडिंग**" को घटना के संभावित कारणों के रूप में

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बताया। **ब्रेक बाइंडिंग** तब होती है जब ब्रेक लगाया जाता है लेकिन यह खुलता नहीं है, जिससे **चिंगारी और धुआं** निकलता है, जो आग का डर पैदा करता है।

- The **Commissioner of Railway Safety** has ordered an inquiry to investigate the real cause of the **Pushpak Express accident**.
  रेलवे सुरक्षा आयुक्त ने **पुष्पक एक्सप्रेस दुर्घटना** के वास्तविक कारण की जांच के लिए एक जांच का आदेश दिया है।

MDL-TKMS bid for P-75I submarine tender clears technical evaluation

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Dhakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The multi-billion dollar deal for six advanced conventional submarines under project-75I has crossed a major milestone with the bid by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, and Germany's TKMS (Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems) having cleared the technical evaluation conducted by the Defence Ministry. The bid by Larsen & Toubro along with Navantia of Spain has not cleared the evaluation.

The benchmarked price of ₹43,000 crore for the deal was set a decade ago, and given the technological upgrades since and factoring in the inflation and currency fluctuations, the final cost is expected to see a major upward revision.

"MDL confirms that the commercial bid submitted by MDL has been opened by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for further processing," the MDL said on Thursday as per requirements of the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India.

The compliance checks of the two bids received were completed in June last year as part of the Field Evaluation Trials (FET) and the reports were since

The compliance checks of the two bids received were completed in June last year as part of the field evaluation trials. FILE PHOTO

were under scrutiny in the Ministry. The bids were opened last week and the bid by MDL-TKMS was declared technically complaint, according to official sources. "The commercial negotiations will now commence based on the price quoted in the bid submitted," a source stated.

The Request For Proposal (RFP) issued by the Navy for the programme detailing the specifications states that the first submarine should have indigenous content (IC) of 45% which should up to 60% for the sixth and last submarine. The key determinant, however, to qualify for P-75I is the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) module, which enhances the endurance and stealth of a submarine. The AIP module became the real determinant for qualifying the technical criteria.

The design offered by TKMS, in partnership with MDL, is based on its highly successful Class 214 submarine and Class 212CD and has an operationally proven AIP module. Navantia has offered a submarine based on its new S80 class of submarines, the first of which was launched in 2021 and commissioned into the Spanish Navy as S-81 'Isaac Peral' in 2023.

MDL-TKMS bid for P-75I submarine tender clears technical evaluation

पी-75आई पनडुब्बी के लिए एमडीएल-टीकेएमएस बोली निविदा तकनीकी मूल्यांकन में पास

Project-75I Submarine Deal
प्रोजेक्ट-75I पनडुब्बी सौदा

- The **Indian Navy's Project-75I** deal for **six advanced conventional submarines** has reached a major milestone with the bid by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**, **Mumbai**, and **Germany's TKMS (Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems)** passing the **technical evaluation** by the **Defence Ministry**.
  भारतीय नौसेना का प्रोजेक्ट-75I सौदा **6 उन्नत पारंपरिक पनडुब्बियों** के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर पार कर चुका है, जिसमें **मझगांव डॉक शिपबिल्डर्स लिमिटेड (MDL)**, **मुंबई**, और **जर्मनी के TKMS (थिसेंक्रूप मरीन सिस्टम्स)** ने रक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा **तकनीकी मूल्यांकन** को पार किया।

- **Larsen & Toubro** and **Navantia of Spain**'s bid did not clear the technical evaluation.
  लार्सन एंड टुब्रो और **नवान्टिया ऑफ स्पेन** की बोली तकनीकी मूल्यांकन को पार नहीं कर सकी।

- The **benchmark price of ₹43,000 crore** for the deal was set a decade ago, and considering **technological upgrades**, **inflation**, and **currency fluctuations**, the final cost is expected to see a major upward revision.
  सौदे की **₹43,000 करोड़ की बेंचमार्क कीमत** दस साल पहले तय की गई थी, और **प्रौद्योगिकी उन्नयन**, **मुद्रास्फीति** और **मुद्रा उतार-चढ़ाव** को ध्यान में रखते हुए, अंतिम लागत में **महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि** की संभावना है।

- The **commercial bid** submitted by **MDL** has been opened by the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** for further processing.
  MDL द्वारा प्रस्तुत **वाणिज्यिक बोली** को **रक्षा मंत्रालय (MoD)** द्वारा आगे की प्रक्रिया के लिए खोला गया है।

- The **Field Evaluation Trials (FET)** were completed in **June last year**, and the reports were under scrutiny.
  क्षेत्र मूल्यांकन परीक्षण (FET) पिछले साल जून में पूरे हुए थे, और रिपोर्टों की जांच की जा रही थी।

- The **MDL-TKMS bid** was declared technically compliant, and **commercial negotiations** will now commence.
  MDL-TKMS बोली को तकनीकी रूप से अनुपालक घोषित किया गया है, और अब **वाणिज्यिक वार्ता** शुरू होगी।

- The **Request For Proposal (RFP)** issued by the Navy requires the first submarine to have **45% indigenous content (IC)**, which should increase to **60% for the sixth submarine**.
  नौसेना द्वारा जारी **प्रस्ताव के लिए अनुरोध (RFP)** में पहली पनडुब्बी में **45% स्वदेशी सामग्री (IC)** की आवश्यकता है, जिसे **छठी पनडुब्बी** के लिए **60%** तक बढ़ाना चाहिए।

- The key determinant for the **P-75I** project is the **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** module, which improves **endurance** and **stealth** of the submarine.
  P-75I परियोजना के लिए मुख्य निर्धारक **एयर इंडिपेंडेंट प्रोपल्शन (AIP)** मॉड्यूल है, जो पनडुब्बी की **स्थायित्व** और **गोपनीयता** को सुधारता है।

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- The **TKMS design**, in partnership with **MDL**, is based on the **Class 214 submarine** and **Class 212CD**, both of which have an **operationally proven AIP module**.

  TKMS डिज़ाइन, **MDL** के साथ साझेदारी में, **क्लास 214 पनडुब्बी** और **क्लास 212CD** पर आधारित है, जिनमें से दोनों में **संचालन में सिद्ध AIP मॉड्यूल** है।

- **Navantia** has offered a submarine based on its **S80 class**, with the first submarine launched in **2021** and commissioned into the Spanish Navy as **S-81 Isaac Peral** in **2023**.

  नवान्टिया ने अपनी **S80 क्लास** पर आधारित पनडुब्बी की पेशकश की है, जिसकी पहली पनडुब्बी **2021** में लॉन्च की गई और **2023** में इसे स्पेनिश नौसेना में **S-81 इसाक पेरल** के रूप में कमीशन किया गया।

States yet to use ₹70,744-cr. funds for welfare of workers

Since the implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers Act in 2005, the Boards have collected ₹1,17,507.22 crore as cess but allocated only ₹67,669.92 crore for workers

GS Paper III: Budget, Resources

NEW DELHI

The Union Labour Ministry said in a Right to Information (RTI) reply that the welfare Boards for building and other construction workers of various States have not yet used the cess of ₹70,744.16 crore they collected from the employers for the welfare of the workers.

Since the implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act in 2005, the Boards have collected ₹1,17,507.22 crore as cess from the employers and allocated ₹67,669.92 crore with the workers.

The Act, passed in 1996, empowers the Construction Workers' Welfare Board constituted by State governments to levy cess from employers "at such rate not exceeding 2%, but not less than 1%" of the cost of construction incurred by an employer.

As many as 5,73,48,723 workers have registered with 36 State Welfare Boards till September 30, 2024. There have been complaints that the Centre

Labour force: As many as 5,73,48,723 workers have registered with 36 State Welfare Boards till September 30, 2024. FILE PHOTO

and the State governments did not help the construction workers during the exodus to villages soon after the COVID lockdowns announced in March 2020.

Cess evasion

Arka Rajpandit, national secretary, Construction Workers Federation of India, who filed the RTI with the Ministry, said the document points towards huge cess evasion by the builders and employers.

"For instance in Maharashtra, the total accumulated cess for 19 years is ₹19,489.25 crore. This means that the State had constructions worth ₹19 lakh crore in the last 19 years. Construction worth

₹1 lakh crore per year. This statistics is far from true. Huge cess evasion may have happened from the State," Mr. Rajpandit said.

Though he had asked for the information regarding the total cost of the building and other construction projects as per the approved plans by the local authorities concerned pertaining to all States and Union Territories, the Ministry said such data are not available with the Labour Ministry.

The trade union leader argued that States spent a very meagre amount of the total money collected for the welfare of workers. "Workers were denied their stipulated benefits,"

he said. The data show that Maharashtra spent ₹13,683.18 from the cess it collected in the past 19 years, followed by Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh that provided ₹7,921.42 and ₹7,826.66 crore to the workers.

Mr. Rajpandit said if the Centre implements the Code on Social Security, the cess collection process will be diluted as it has provisions for self-assessment by the employer of cess and the code reduced the rate of cess and interest.

"Secondly, the Building and Other Construction Workers Act mandated the provision of free temporary accommodation, drinking water and latrines to workers. The Codes change these statutory entitlements to facilities that the Union government may prescribe. Hence, there is no right to workers to these facilities if not prescribed," he said.

"Our observation is that, except Kerala, most of the State governments and Union Territory administrations are not implementing Building and Other Construction Workers Act. Stipulated benefits are being curtailed," Mr. Rajpandit said.

States yet to use ₹70,744-cr. funds for welfare of workers

राज्यों ने अभी तक श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए ₹70,744 करोड़ का फंड इस्तेमाल नहीं किया है

Since the implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers Act in 2005, the Boards have collected ₹1,17,507.22 crore as cess but allocated only ₹67,669.92 crore for workers

वर्ष 2005 में भवन एवं अन्य निर्माण श्रमिक अधिनियम के क्रियान्वयन के बाद से, बोर्ड ने उपकर के रूप में ₹1,17,507.22 करोड़ एकत्र किए हैं, लेकिन

श्रमिकों के लिए केवल ₹67,669.92 करोड़ आवंटित किए हैं।

Welfare Boards and Cess Collection for Construction Workers
निर्माण श्रमिकों के लिए कल्याण बोर्ड और सेस संग्रह

- The **Union Labour Ministry** stated in an **RTI** reply that the **welfare boards** for building and construction workers in various states have not yet used the **₹70,744.16 crore** cess collected from employers for the workers' welfare.
  केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्रालय ने RTI जवाब में कहा कि विभिन्न राज्यों के **निर्माण और अन्य श्रमिक कल्याण बोर्ड** ने अभी तक **₹70,744.16 करोड़** सेस का उपयोग श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए नहीं किया है, जो नियोक्ताओं से एकत्र किया गया था।

- Since the implementation of the **Building and Other Construction Workers Act** in **2005**, the Boards have collected **₹1,17,507.22 crore** as cess and allocated **₹67,669.92 crore** to workers.
  2005 में निर्माण और अन्य निर्माण श्रमिकों (रोजगार और सेवा की शर्तों का नियमन) अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन के बाद, बोर्डों ने **₹1,17,507.22 करोड़** सेस एकत्र किया और **₹67,669.92 करोड़** श्रमिकों को आवंटित किए।

- The Act, passed in **1996**, empowers the **Construction Workers' Welfare Board** to levy cess from employers at a rate not exceeding **2%**, but not less than **1%** of the construction cost.
  1996 में पारित यह अधिनियम **निर्माण श्रमिक कल्याण बोर्ड** को नियोक्ताओं से सेस लगाने का अधिकार देता है, जो निर्माण लागत का **2%** से अधिक नहीं, लेकिन **1%** से कम नहीं होता है।

- As of **September 30, 2024**, **5,73,48,723 workers** have registered with **36 State Welfare Boards**.
  30 सितंबर 2024 तक **5,73,48,723** श्रमिकों ने **36** राज्य कल्याण बोर्डों में पंजीकरण कराया है।

- Complaints have arisen about the lack of support for construction workers during the exodus to villages after the **COVID lockdowns** in **March 2020**.
  मार्च 2020 में **COVID लॉकडाउन** के बाद गांवों की ओर पलायन करते समय निर्माण श्रमिकों को सहायता की कमी को लेकर शिकायतें आईं।

- **Arka Rajpandit**, national secretary of the **Construction Workers Federation of India**, filed the **RTI** and pointed out the **cess evasion** by builders and employers.
  अर्क राजपांडीट, **निर्माण श्रमिक महासंघ इंडिया** के राष्ट्रीय सचिव, जिन्होंने **RTI** दायर किया, ने बिल्डरों और नियोक्ताओं द्वारा **सेस चुराने** की ओर इशारा किया।

- In **Maharashtra**, the total accumulated cess for **19 years** is **₹19,489.25 crore**, implying **construction worth ₹19 lakh crore** over the last 19 years.
  महाराष्ट्र में **19 वर्षों** के लिए कुल संचित सेस **₹19,489.25 करोड़** है, जिसका मतलब है कि पिछले 19 वर्षों में **₹19 लाख करोड़** का निर्माण हुआ।

- The Ministry did not have data regarding the total cost of building and construction projects approved by local authorities in all states and union territories.

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मंत्रालय के पास सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में स्थानीय अधिकारियों द्वारा स्वीकृत

निर्माण और अन्य निर्माण परियोजनाओं की कुल लागत से संबंधित डेटा उपलब्ध नहीं था।

- **Maharashtra** spent **₹13,683.18 crore** from the cess collected in the past **19 years**, followed by **Karnataka** and **Uttar Pradesh** with **₹7,921.42 crore** and **₹7,826.66 crore**, respectively.

  महाराष्ट्र ने पिछले **19 वर्षों** में एकत्र किए गए सेस से **₹13,683.18 करोड़** खर्च किए, इसके बाद

  कर्नाटका और **उत्तर प्रदेश** ने क्रमशः **₹7,921.42 करोड़** और **₹7,826.66 करोड़** खर्च किए।

- **Rajpandit** warned that if the **Centre** implements the **Code on Social Security**, it would dilute the cess collection process, which allows self-assessment by employers.

  राजपांडीट ने चेतावनी दी कि यदि **केंद्र सामाजिक सुरक्षा संहिता** को लागू करता है, तो सेस संग्रह

  प्रक्रिया को कमजोर किया जाएगा, जो नियोक्ताओं को स्वयं आकलन करने की अनुमति देता है।

- The **Building and Other Construction Workers Act** mandates the provision of **free temporary accommodation**, **drinking water**, and **latrines** for workers, but the new Codes change these statutory entitlements to facilities that the **Union government** may prescribe.

  निर्माण और अन्य निर्माण श्रमिकों अधिनियम श्रमिकों के लिए **निःशुल्क अस्थायी आवास**, **पीने का**

  पानी, और **शौचालयों** की व्यवस्था अनिवार्य करता है, लेकिन नए कोड इन वैधानिक अधिकारों को

  उन सुविधाओं में बदलते हैं जिन्हें **संघ सरकार** द्वारा निर्धारित किया जा सकता है।

- **Rajpandit** stated that most state governments and Union Territory administrations, except **Kerala**, are not implementing the **Building and Other Construction Workers Act**, and the stipulated benefits are being curtailed.

  राजपांडीट ने कहा कि **केरल** को छोड़कर अधिकांश राज्य सरकारें और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश प्रशासन

  निर्माण और अन्य निर्माण श्रमिकों अधिनियम को लागू नहीं कर रहे हैं, और निर्धारित लाभों को

  घटाया जा रहा है।

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The hidden dangers of Rhodamine B: a global and local perspective

Rhodamine B is a synthetic dye utilised in industries such as textiles, paper, and leather. Its application extends to scientific research due to its fluorescent properties. However, its use in consumable products is fraught with health risks. Studies indicate it can cause DNA damage, leading to mutations and potentially triggering cancerous growths

GS Paper III: S&T

Monisha Madhumita

Imagine indulging in an appetizing looking, sweet treat, only to discover it contains a dye primarily used in textiles and linked to cancer. This alarming reality has prompted significant health interventions worldwide, including recent decisive actions in India.

Rhodamine B is a synthetic dye known for its bright pink hue, commonly utilised in industries such as textiles, paper, and leather. Its application extends to scientific research due to its fluorescent properties. However, its use in consumable products is fraught with health risks. Studies indicate that Rhodamine B can cause DNA damage, leading to mutations and potentially triggering cancerous growths.

Animal research has demonstrated tumour development in organs like the liver and bladder following prolonged exposure to the dye.

Recognising its potential dangers, many countries have put in place strict regulations on use of Rhodamine B. In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has long prohibited its use in food products, classifying it as unsafe for human consumption. A recent ban issued by the FDA in January 2025 further reinforces these restrictions, prohibiting the use of Rhodamine B in any food-related applications due to increasing evidence of its carcinogenic properties.

The FDA cited growing concerns over children's exposure to high levels of the dye in candies, baked goods, and other processed foods, prompting an urgent call for manufacturers to reformulate their products. This ban stems from studies indicating its potential carcinogenicity and other health risks. Similarly, the European Union classifies Rhodamine B as a substance of very high concern, restricting its use in cosmetics and other consumer goods.

Indian perspective

In India, the rampant use of Rhodamine B in food items has raised significant health concerns. The dye has been illegally employed to enhance the visual appeal of various consumables, posing serious health risks to consumers. Over the last few years, action has been taken by various Indian states and these highlight the growing awareness of these dangers .
In February 2024, Tamil Nadu banned the production and sale of cotton candy after the Government Food Analysis Laboratory in Chennai detected Rhodamine B in samples collected from

Animal research has demonstrated tumour development in organs such as the liver and bladder following prolonged exposure to the dye. FILE PHOTO.

vendors. Health Minister Ma Subramanian emphasised that the use of Rhodamine B in food violates the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006, categorising such products as unsafe. The ban aims to raise public awareness about the hazards associated with coloured candies and ensure that only safe, colour-free cotton candy is available.

Following Tamil Nadu's lead, other Indian states and territories have taken similar measures. Karnataka, in March 2024, prohibited the use of Rhodamine B in popular street foods like "Gobi Manchurian" and cotton candy. Minister for Health and Family Welfare in the Government of Karnataka, Dinesh Gundu Rao, announced stringent penalties for violators, including imprisonment of up to seven years and fines reaching ₹10 lakh. Laboratory tests revealed the presence of harmful chemicals in numerous samples collected across the state.

Puducherry also followed suit by banning the sale of cotton candy containing Rhodamine B. Food safety officers have been directed to conduct inspections and take strict action against violators to safeguard public health. In May 2024, Himachal Pradesh instituted a one-year ban on the production, sale, and storage of cotton candy after detecting Rhodamine B in samples. This preventive measure aims to protect consumers from the potential carcinogenic effects of the dye.

Mohammed Mithi, Consultant Surgical Oncologist at Saifee Hospital in Mumbai, explains, "Synthetic dyes, including Rhodamine B, may pose carcinogenic risks due to certain chemical components. Some dyes, like azo dyes,

> Synthetic dyes, when used in concentrations approved by regulatory bodies, are generally safe. However, in sensitive individuals, they can lead to allergic reactions such as itching, redness, and skin thickening

can break down into aromatic amines, which are known carcinogens. Laboratory studies have shown that specific synthetic dyes can induce DNA damage, oxidative stress, and promote tumour growth in animal models. While concrete evidence in humans is limited, long-term exposure to unregulated products remains a concern." He further adds that certain groups, such as children, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals, are more susceptible to these harmful effects due to their body's reduced ability to metabolise and detoxify harmful substances.

Abyramy Balasundaram, consultant dermatologist at Cosmediq Hair Transplant and Skin Clinic, Chennai, states, "Synthetic dyes, when used in concentrations approved by regulatory bodies, are generally safe. However, in sensitive individuals, they can lead to allergic reactions such as itching, redness, and skin thickening. Long-term exposure to synthetic dyes like Rhodamine B can result in chronic allergic reactions and permanent skin pigmentation changes. Although there is no definitive link to cancer in humans through topical application, it is always advisable to opt for products from reputable brands with

proper labeling."

She further notes, "The European Union was among the first to ban Rhodamine B in cosmetics in the early 1990s due to concerns about its potential carcinogenic effects and skin sensitisation risks. This move has paved the way for stricter global regulations on synthetic dyes in personal care products."

India's food safety ecosystem

Priyadarshini Chidambaram, Community Health Specialist and Researcher, Bengaluru, says, "The ecosystem in India for research into food dyes safety is weak. There is a need for proactive funding and commissioning of independent research by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to study the impact of additives, especially synthetic dyes, on public health based on Indian diet practices through collaborations with academic and research institutions. We must build a robust system of rapid scientific reviews and proactive policy implementation to be on par with international recommendations on food safety instead of reacting to a public health crisis or just joining the bandwagon of international ban trends."

She adds, "There needs to be active testing for harmful food dyes and enforcement of strict action against both errant big brands and smaller establishments and vendors. The fact that a state-level ban was necessary to bring attention to harmful dyes like Rhodamine B is a wake-up call. It underscores the need for FSSAI to play a more visible role in educating the public about unsafe food practices. There is a definite knowledge gap among the public on food standards. We must harness the growing digital and social media influence to disseminate information on safe food additives and food label warnings. Community education and engagement are needed to tackle the menace of harmful additives."

The case of Rhodamine B serves as an important reminder of the hidden dangers that lurk in seemingly innocuous products. It underscores the collective responsibility of governments, industries, and consumers to prioritise health over aesthetics. By staying informed and vigilant, we can ensure that the foods we enjoy are not only appealing but also safe. As medical professionals aptly put it, "The health of a nation begins with the safety of its food. It's time we prioritise long-term well-being over short-term convenience."

(Dr. Monisha Madhumita is a consultant dermatologist at Saveetha Medical College, Chennai and member of the International Alliance for Global Health Dermatology, London, UK. mail.monisha.m@gmail.com)

THE GIST

▼ In the U.S., the FDA has long prohibited Rhodamine B in food due to evidence of its carcinogenic properties. The FDA cited growing concerns over children's exposure to high levels of the dye in candies, baked goods, and other processed foods

▼ In February 2024, Tamil Nadu banned production and sale of cotton candy after it detected Rhodamine B. Such products are graded as unsafe and substandard. The ban aims to raise public awareness and ensure only safe, colour-free cotton candy is available

▼ According to doctors: 'Specific synthetic dyes can induce DNA damage, oxidative stress, and promote tumour growth in animal models. While concrete evidence in humans is limited, long-term exposure to unregulated products remains a concern'

▼ Rhodamine B serves as an important reminder of the hidden dangers that lurk in seemingly innocuous products. It underscores the collective responsibility of governments, industries, and consumers to prioritise health over aesthetics

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The hidden dangers of Rhodamine B: a global and local perspective

रोडामाइन बी के छिपे हुए खतरे: एक वैश्विक और स्थानीय परिप्रेक्ष्य

Rhodamine B is a synthetic dye utilised in industries such as textiles, paper, and leather. Its application extends to scientific research due to its fluorescent properties. However, its use in consumable products is fraught with health risks. Studies indicate it can cause DNA damage, leading to mutations and potentially triggering cancerous growths

रोडामाइन बी एक सिंथेटिक डाई है जिसका उपयोग कपड़ा, कागज और चमड़े जैसे उद्योगों में किया जाता है। इसके फ्लोरोसेंट गुणों के कारण इसका उपयोग वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान तक फैला हुआ है। हालाँकि, उपभोग्य उत्पादों में इसका उपयोग स्वास्थ्य जोखिमों से भरा है। अध्ययनों से पता चलता है कि यह डीएनए को नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है, जिससे उत्परिवर्तन हो सकता है और संभावित रूप से कैंसर की वृद्धि हो सकती है

Rhodamine B Dye in Food and Health Risks
खाद्य पदार्थों में रोडामिन बी रंग और स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव

- **Rhodamine B**, a synthetic dye known for its bright pink hue, is commonly used in industries like **textiles**, **paper**, and **leather**, and for **scientific research** due to its fluorescent properties.
  रोडामिन बी, एक सिंथेटिक रंग जो अपनी चमकीली गुलाबी छाया के लिए जाना जाता है, आमतौर पर **कपड़ा**, **कागज**, और **चमड़े** उद्योगों में उपयोग किया जाता है, और इसके फ्लोरेसेंट गुणों के कारण **वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान** में भी इसका उपयोग होता है।

- The use of Rhodamine B in consumable products, such as food, is linked to **health risks**, including **DNA damage**, **mutations**, and **potential cancer**.
  खाद्य पदार्थों जैसे उपभोक्ता उत्पादों में रोडामिन बी के उपयोग से **स्वास्थ्य जोखिम** जुड़े हैं, जिनमें **डीएनए क्षति**, **म्यूटेशन**, और **संभावित कैंसर** शामिल हैं।

- **Animal research** has shown that prolonged exposure to the dye can lead to the development of **tumors** in organs like the **liver** and **bladder**.
  पशु अनुसंधान ने यह दिखाया है कि रंग के प्रति लंबे समय तक संपर्क करने से **जिगर** और **मूत्राशय** जैसे अंगों में **ट्यूमर** विकसित हो सकते हैं।

- Many countries, including the **United States**, have banned the use of Rhodamine B in food products, classifying it as **unsafe** for human consumption.
  कई देशों, जिसमें **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** शामिल है, ने खाद्य उत्पादों में रोडामिन बी के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है, इसे मानव उपभोग के लिए **असुरक्षित** मानते हुए।

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- The **FDA** banned the use of Rhodamine B in food-related applications in **January 2025**, due to growing concerns over its **carcinogenic properties**.

एफडीए ने **जनवरी 2025** में खाद्य-संबंधी अनुप्रयोगों में रोडामिन बी के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया, इसके **कैंसरजनक गुणों** को लेकर बढ़ती चिंताओं के कारण।

- The **European Union** classifies Rhodamine B as a **substance of very high concern**, limiting its use in **cosmetics** and other consumer goods.

यूरोपीय संघ रोडामिन बी को **बहुत उच्च चिंता वाले पदार्थ** के रूप में वर्गीकृत करता है, और इसके उपयोग को **सौंदर्य प्रसाधनों** और अन्य उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं में सीमित करता है।

Indian Perspective on Rhodamine B
भारत में रोडामिन बी पर दृष्टिकोण

- In **India**, the rampant use of Rhodamine B in food products has raised significant health concerns, with the dye being illegally used to enhance the visual appeal of consumables.

भारत में खाद्य उत्पादों में रोडामिन बी के अत्यधिक उपयोग ने महत्वपूर्ण स्वास्थ्य चिंताओं को जन्म दिया है, जहां इस रंग का अवैध रूप से उपभोक्ता उत्पादों की दृश्य अपील बढ़ाने के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है।

- In **February 2024**, **Tamil Nadu** banned the production and sale of **cotton candy** after Rhodamine B was detected in samples from vendors.

फरवरी 2024 में, **तमिलनाडु** ने **कॉटन कैंडी** का उत्पादन और बिक्री प्रतिबंधित कर दी, जब विक्रेताओं से एकत्रित नमूनों में रोडामिन बी का पता चला।

- **Karnataka**, in **March 2024**, prohibited the use of Rhodamine B in **street foods** like **Gobi Manchurian** and cotton candy, with stringent penalties for violators.

मार्च 2024 में, **कर्नाटका** ने ग street **फूड्स** जैसे **गोबी मंचूरियन** और **कॉटन कैंडी** में रोडामिन बी के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया, और उल्लंघनकर्ताओं के लिए कड़े दंड लगाए।

- **Karnataka's Health Minister**, Dinesh Gundu Rao, announced penalties of up to **seven years of imprisonment** and fines of up to ₹**10 lakh** for violators.

कर्नाटका के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री, दिनेश गुंडू राव, ने उल्लंघनकर्ताओं के लिए **सात साल तक की सजा** और ₹**10 लाख** तक के जुर्माने की घोषणा की।

- Laboratory tests revealed the presence of harmful chemicals in several food samples across the state, prompting the government to take action.

प्रयोगशाला परीक्षणों से राज्य भर में कई खाद्य नमूनों में हानिकारक रसायनों की उपस्थिति का पता चला, जिससे सरकार को कार्रवाई करने के लिए प्रेरित किया।

Use of Rhodamine B in Food and Health Risks
खाद्य पदार्थों में रोडामिन बी का उपयोग और स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव

- **Puducherry** followed Tamil Nadu's lead by banning the sale of **cotton candy** containing **Rhodamine B**.

पुदुचेरी ने तमिलनाडु के उदाहरण का पालन करते हुए **रोडामिन बी** वाले **कॉटन कैंडी** की बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।

- **Food safety officers** have been directed to conduct inspections and take strict action against violators to safeguard **public health**.

  खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिकारी को निरीक्षण करने और उल्लंघनकर्ताओं के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई करने के लिए निर्देशित किया गया है ताकि **जन स्वास्थ्य** की सुरक्षा की जा सके।

- In **May 2024**, **Himachal Pradesh** imposed a one-year ban on the production, sale, and storage of cotton candy after **Rhodamine B** was detected in samples.

  मई 2024 में, **हिमाचल प्रदेश** ने नमूनों में **रोडामिन बी** का पता चलने के बाद **कॉटन कैंडी** के उत्पादन, बिक्री और भंडारण पर एक साल का प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।

- **Mohammed Mithi**, Consultant Surgical Oncologist at **Saifee Hospital**, Mumbai, explained that **synthetic dyes** like Rhodamine B may pose **carcinogenic risks** due to certain chemical components.

  मोहम्मद मिटी, कंसल्टेंट सर्जिकल ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट, **सैफी अस्पताल**, मुंबई, ने बताया कि **सिंथेटिक डाईज़** जैसे रोडामिन बी में कुछ रासायनिक घटक होते हैं जो **कैंसरजनक जोखिम** पैदा कर सकते हैं।

- Some dyes, like **azo dyes**, can break down into **aromatic amines**, which are known **carcinogens**.

  कुछ डाईज़, जैसे **एजो डाईज़**, **अरोमैटिक अमाइन** में टूट सकती हैं, जो **कैंसरजनक** होते हैं।

- **Laboratory studies** show that synthetic dyes can induce **DNA damage**, **oxidative stress**, and promote **tumour growth** in animal models.

  प्रयोगशाला अध्ययन से पता चला है कि सिंथेटिक डाईज़ **डीएनए क्षति**, **ऑक्सीडेटिव तनाव** पैदा कर सकती हैं और पशु मॉडलों में **ट्यूमर वृद्धि** को बढ़ावा दे सकती हैं।

- While evidence in humans is limited, **long-term exposure** to unregulated products remains a concern.

  मानवों में प्रमाण सीमित हैं, लेकिन **लंबे समय तक संपर्क** में रहने वाले अनियंत्रित उत्पादों का खतरा बना हुआ है।

- **Sensitive individuals**, such as **children**, the **elderly**, and **immunocompromised individuals**, are more susceptible to these harmful effects due to their reduced ability to metabolize and detoxify harmful substances.

  संवेदनशील व्यक्तियों, जैसे **बच्चे**, **बुजुर्ग**, और **इम्यूनोकॉम्प्रोमाइज्ड** व्यक्तियों, को इन हानिकारक प्रभावों से अधिक खतरा होता है क्योंकि उनका शरीर हानिकारक पदार्थों को **चयापचय** करने और **डीटॉक्सिफाई** करने की क्षमता कम होती है।

- **Abyramy Balasundaram**, Consultant Dermatologist, Chennai, stated that synthetic dyes are generally safe when used in **approved concentrations** but can cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals.

  अब्यरामि बालसुंदरम, कंसल्टेंट डर्मेटोलॉजिस्ट, चेन्नई, ने कहा कि सिंथेटिक डाईज़ आमतौर पर **स्वीकृत सांद्रता** में उपयोग की जाने पर सुरक्षित होती हैं, लेकिन संवेदनशील व्यक्तियों में एलर्जी प्रतिक्रियाएं उत्पन्न कर सकती हैं।

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- **Long-term exposure** to dyes like **Rhodamine B** can lead to **chronic allergic reactions** and **permanent skin pigmentation changes**.

  लंबे समय तक संपर्क करने से रंगों जैसे **रोडामिन बी** के कारण **पुरानी एलर्जी प्रतिक्रियाएं** और **स्थायी त्वचा रंग परिवर्तन** हो सकते हैं।

- The **European Union** banned Rhodamine B in **cosmetics** in the early **1990s** due to concerns about its **carcinogenic effects** and skin sensitization risks.

  यूरोपीय संघ ने **1990 के दशक के शुरूआत** में रोडामिन बी को **सौंदर्य प्रसाधनों** में प्रतिबंधित कर दिया था, इसके **कैंसरजनक प्रभावों** और त्वचा की संवेदनशीलता के जोखिमों के कारण।

- This move has paved the way for **stricter global regulations** on synthetic dyes in **personal care products**.

  इस कदम ने **व्यक्तिगत देखभाल उत्पादों** में सिंथेटिक डाईज़ पर **कड़े वैश्विक नियमों** की राह खोली है।

India's Food Safety Ecosystem
भारत की खाद्य सुरक्षा पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र

- **Priyadarshini Chidambaram**, a **Community Health Specialist** and researcher, states that **India's food safety ecosystem** for research into food dyes safety is weak.

  प्रियदर्शिनी चिदंबरम, एक **समुदाय स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञ** और शोधकर्ता, ने कहा कि **भारत का खाद्य सुरक्षा पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** खाद्य डाईज़ की सुरक्षा पर अनुसंधान के लिए कमजोर है।

- She emphasizes the need for **proactive funding** and commissioning of **independent research** by the **FSSAI** to study the impact of **additives**, especially **synthetic dyes**, on public health through collaborations with academic and research institutions.

  वह **प्रोएक्टिव फंडिंग** और **स्वतंत्र अनुसंधान** के कमीशन की आवश्यकता पर बल देती हैं, जिसे **FSSAI** द्वारा **एडिटिव्स**, विशेष रूप से **सिंथेटिक डाईज़**, के सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव का अध्ययन करने के लिए अकादमिक और शोध संस्थानों के साथ सहयोग में किया जाए।

- There is a need to build a **robust system** of **rapid scientific reviews** and proactive policy implementation to align with **international food safety standards** instead of reacting to health crises.

  एक **मजबूत प्रणाली** बनाने की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें **त्वरित वैज्ञानिक समीक्षाएं** और प्रोएक्टिव नीति कार्यान्वयन शामिल हो, ताकि **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा मानकों** के साथ तालमेल बैठ सके, बजाय इसके कि हम स्वास्थ्य संकटों का प्रतिक्रिया स्वरूप केवल समाधान करें।

- Active testing for harmful food dyes and strict enforcement against violators are necessary to protect public health.

  हानिकारक खाद्य डाईज़ के लिए सक्रिय परीक्षण और उल्लंघनकर्ताओं के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई आवश्यक है ताकि जन स्वास्थ्य की रक्षा की जा सके।

- The **state-level ban** on harmful dyes like **Rhodamine B** serves as a wake-up call, highlighting the need for **FSSAI** to play a more visible role in educating the public about **unsafe food practices**.

  रोडामिन बी जैसे हानिकारक डाईज़ पर **राज्य-स्तरीय प्रतिबंध** एक चेतावनी के रूप में काम करता

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है, जो **FSSAI** से सार्वजनिक खाद्य प्रथाओं के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए अधिक स्पष्ट भूमिका निभाने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है।

- There is a definite **knowledge gap** among the public regarding food standards, and we must utilize **digital and social media** to disseminate information on safe food additives and warnings.

  खाद्य मानकों को लेकर सार्वजनिक के बीच एक निश्चित **ज्ञान अंतर** है, और हमें सुरक्षित खाद्य एडिटिव्स और चेतावनियों पर जानकारी फैलाने के लिए **डिजिटल और सोशल मीडिया** का उपयोग करना चाहिए।

- **Community education** and engagement are critical in addressing the issues of harmful food additives.

  समुदाय शिक्षा और जुड़ाव हानिकारक खाद्य एडिटिव्स के मुद्दों से निपटने में महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- The **case of Rhodamine B** serves as an important reminder of the hidden dangers in seemingly innocuous products.

  रोडामिन बी का मामला इस बात का महत्वपूर्ण अनुस्मारक है कि दिखने में हानिरहित उत्पादों में छिपे हुए खतरों को नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जा सकता।

- Governments, industries, and consumers have a **collective responsibility** to prioritize **health over aesthetics**.

  सरकारों, उद्योगों, और उपभोक्ताओं की **सामूहिक जिम्मेदारी** है कि वे **स्वास्थ्य को सौंदर्य से अधिक प्राथमिकता दें**।

As medical professionals state, "The health of a nation begins with the safety of its food. It's time to prioritize **long-term well-being** over short-term convenience."

जैसा कि चिकित्सकीय पेशेवर कहते हैं, "एक राष्ट्र का स्वास्थ्य उसके खाद्य सुरक्षा से शुरू होता है। यह समय है कि हम **दीर्घकालिक कल्याण** को **संक्षिप्तकालिक सुविधा** पर प्राथमिकता दें।"

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. **Anuja nominated for Best Live Action Short Film at 2025 Academy Awards / अनुजा को 2025 अकादमी पुरस्कार में सर्वश्रेष्ठ लाइव एक्शन लघु फिल्म के लिए नामांकित किया गया**

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Anuja nominated for Best Live Action Short Film at 2025 Academy Awards

Anuja, a short film set in New Delhi, has on Thursday received a nomination for the Live Action Short Film category at the 97th Academy Awards. Directed by Adam J. Graves and Suchitra Mattai, it competes against films like *A Lien* and *The Last Ranger*.

The nominations for the 2025 Oscars, which were twice postponed earlier this month due to wildfires in Los Angeles, were announced by Bowen Yang

Decisive turn: The film tells the story of a gifted nine-year-old girl, Anuja, who must choose between education and factory work.

and Rachel Sennott.

The film tells the story of a gifted nine-year-old girl, Anuja, who must choose between education and factory work alongside her sister, impacting their futures. Produced by Guneet Monga and Mindy Kaling, it collaborates with the Salaam Baalak Trust to address child labour issues.

Additionally, *I Am Ready, Warden*, directed by Smriti Mundhra, is nominated in the Documentary Short Film category. Ms. Mundhra was earlier nominated in the same category for her film "St. Louis Superman" at the 2019 Oscars.

All We Imagine As Light is nominated for the Best Film Not in English Language at the 2025 BAFTA Film Awards.

The Oscars will take place on March 2 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Anuja nominated for Best Live Action Short Film at 2025 Academy Awards

अनुजा को 2025 अकादमी पुरस्कार में सर्वश्रेष्ठ लाइव एक्शन लघु फिल्म के लिए नामांकित किया गया

Anuja Receives Academy Award Nomination
अनुजा को अकादमी पुरस्कार में नामांकन मिला

- **Anuja**, a short film set in **New Delhi**, received a nomination for the **Live Action Short Film** category at the **97th Academy Awards**.
  अनुजा, एक शॉर्ट फिल्म जो **नई दिल्ली** में सेट है, को **97वें अकादमी पुरस्कारों** के **लाइव एक्शन शॉर्ट फिल्म** श्रेणी में नामांकित किया गया।

- The film, directed by **Adam J. Graves** and **Suchitra Mattai**, competes against films like **A Lien** and **The Last Ranger**.
  इस फिल्म का निर्देशन **एडम जे. ग्रेव्स** और **सुचित्रा मट्टाई** ने किया है, और यह फिल्मों जैसे **ए लियन** और **द लास्ट रेंजर** के खिलाफ प्रतिस्पर्धा करती है।

- The nominations for the **2025 Oscars**, which were twice postponed earlier this month due to **wildfires in Los Angeles**, were announced by **Bowen Yang** and **Rachel Sennott**.

2025 ऑस्कर के नामांकन, जो **लॉस एंजिल्स में जंगल की आग** के कारण इस महीने दो बार स्थगित हुए थे, की घोषणा **बोवेन यांग** और **रेचेल सिन्नोट** ने की।

- The film tells the story of a gifted **nine-year-old girl, Anuja**, who must choose between **education** and **factory work** alongside her sister, impacting their futures.
यह फिल्म एक प्रतिभाशाली **नौ वर्षीय लड़की, अनुजा** की कहानी बताती है, जिसे अपनी बहन के साथ **शिक्षा** और **कारखाने में काम** के बीच चुनाव करना पड़ता है, जो उनके भविष्य को प्रभावित करता है।

- Produced by **Guneet Monga** and **Mindy Kaling**, the film collaborates with the **Salaam Baalak Trust** to address **child labour issues**.
गुनीत मोंगा और **मिंडी कालिंग** द्वारा निर्मित इस फिल्म ने **सल्लाम बालक ट्रस्ट** के साथ मिलकर **बाल श्रम मुद्दों** पर काम किया है।

- Additionally, **I Am Ready, Warden**, directed by **Smriti Mundhra**, is nominated in the **Documentary Short Film** category.
इसके अतिरिक्त, **आई एम रेडी, वार्डन**, जो **स्मृति मुंद्रा** द्वारा निर्देशित है, **डॉक्युमेंट्री शॉर्ट फिल्म** श्रेणी में नामांकित है।

- **Smriti Mundhra** was previously nominated for her film **"St. Louis Superman"** at the **2019 Oscars** in the same category.
स्मृति मुंद्रा को पहले भी अपने फिल्म **"सेंट लुइस सुपरमैन"** के लिए **2019 ऑस्कर** में उसी श्रेणी में नामांकित किया गया था।

- **All We Imagine As Light** is nominated for the **Best Film Not in English Language** at the **2025 BAFTA Film Awards**.
ऑल वी इमैजिन ऐज लाइट को **2025 बीएएफटीए फिल्म अवार्ड्स** में सर्वश्रेष्ठ गैर-अंग्रेजी भाषा की फिल्म के लिए नामांकित किया गया है।

- The **Oscars** will take place on **March 2**, at the **Dolby Theatre** in **Los Angeles**.
ऑस्कर 2 मार्च को **लॉस एंजिल्स** के **डोल्बी थिएटर** में होंगे।

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