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27_01_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. **Geo-tagged digital identity helps Kashmir's chinar trees stand tall** / जियो-टैग्ड डिजिटल पहचान ने कश्मीर के चिनार पेड़ों को मजबूती दी

2. **Girl punished for asking for sanitary pad** / सैनिटरी पैड मांगने पर लड़की को सजा दी गई

3. **Genocide and the world's averted gaze** / नरसंहार और दुनिया की नज़रें टेढ़ी

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Geo-tagged digital identity helps Kashmir's chinar trees stand tall

Facing destruction due to rapid urbanisation and infrastructure projects, a geo-tagged digital identity on the lines of the Aadhaar card has been introduced this week to monitor the health of every chinar tree in the Kashmir Valley.

The J&K Forest Research Institute's (JKFRI) 'Digital Tree Aadhaar' initiative gives a unique number to each tree. The chinar at Lal Chowk is CG-JK010088. Metal cards with barcodes provide information such as the tree's location, height, and health.

"Around 10,000 trees are being metal card-tagged as of now. It will help in the management of trees, and tourists will get to know how old a tree is

Unique number: Workers install QR code-based GIS plates on chinar trees for conservation at Nishat Garden, Srinagar. FILE PHOTO

by scanning the barcodes," Syed Tariq, project coordinator at the JKFRI, said.

Dipping numbers
The JKRFI began a chinar census in the Union Territory in 2021. According to data from the JKFRI, Kashmir was home to around 40,000 chinar trees but the numbers are falling

steadily. The widening of highways has also taken a toll on many trees.

"The aim of the JKFRI is to establish a detailed database of chinar trees using the Geographic Information System (GIS)-based, quick response (QR) code-enabled surveys," Mr. Tariq said. Around 28,560 chinar trees have been geo-tagged

across the region, with fresh plantations covered in recent years.

More to be covered
Chinars grow in Jammu's Chenab Valley, and in the Pir Panjal Valley. They too will be covered under the digital initiative.

Ganderbal district has the highest number of chinar trees, including the world's third-largest chinar, with a girth of 74 feet. "We will record the top 20 chinars of Kashmir, with girth between 60 ft. to 74 ft.," Dr. Tariq said.

Kashmir is home to chinar groves. Geo-tagging has rescued the trees from illegal felling. The 'majestic chinar' or *Platanus orientalis* (oriental plane) grows to a height of 30 metres with a girth of 10-15 metres at ground level.

Geo-tagged digital identity helps Kashmir's chinar trees stand tall

जियो-टैग्ड डिजिटल पहचान ने कश्मीर के चिनार पेड़ों को मजबूती दी

- **Facing destruction due to rapid urbanisation and infrastructure projects, a geo-tagged digital identity has been introduced this week to monitor the health of every chinar tree in the Kashmir Valley.**

शहरीकरण और बुनियादी ढांचे की परियोजनाओं के कारण हो रहे विनाश का

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सामना करते हुए इस सप्ताह कश्मीर घाटी में हर चिनार पेड़ के स्वास्थ्य की निगरानी के लिए जियो-टैग्ड डिजिटल पहचान शुरू की गई है।

- The **J&K Forest Research Institute's (JKFRI) 'Digital Tree Aadhaar'** initiative gives a **unique number** to each tree. The chinar at Lal Chowk is **CG-JK010088**.
  जेकेएफआरआई (J&K Forest Research Institute) के **'डिजिटल ट्री आधार'** पहल के तहत प्रत्येक पेड़ को **अद्वितीय नंबर** दिया गया है। लाल चौक का चिनार पेड़ **CG-JK010088** है।

- **Metal cards with barcodes** provide information such as the tree's location, height, and health.
  धातु कार्डों पर बारकोड से पेड़ की स्थिति, ऊंचाई और स्वास्थ्य जैसी जानकारी प्राप्त होती है।

- **"Around 10,000 trees** are being metal card-tagged as of now," said **Syed Tariq**, project coordinator at the JKFRI.
  "लगभग 10,000 पेड़ों को वर्तमान में धातु कार्ड से टैग किया जा रहा है,"** जेकेएफआरआई के परियोजना समन्वयक **सैयद तारिक** ने कहा।

- Tourists will get to know how **old a tree is** by scanning the barcodes.
  पर्यटक बारकोड स्कैन करके **पेड़ की उम्र** के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकेंगे।

Dipping numbers
कम होती संख्या

- The JKFRI began a **chinar census** in the Union Territory in **2021**.
  जेकेएफआरआई ने **2021** में केंद्र शासित प्रदेश में **चिनार जनगणना** शुरू की।

- According to data, **Kashmir was home to around 40,000 chinar trees**, but the numbers are **falling steadily**.
  आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **कश्मीर में लगभग 40,000 चिनार पेड़** थे, लेकिन उनकी संख्या **लगातार घट रही है।**

- The **widening of highways** has also caused damage to many trees.
  हाईवे चौड़ा करने के कारण भी कई पेड़ों को नुकसान हुआ है।

- The aim is to establish a **GIS-based, QR code-enabled** detailed database of chinar trees.
  इसका उद्देश्य चिनार पेड़ों का एक **GIS-आधारित, क्यूआर कोड सक्षम** विस्तृत डेटाबेस बनाना है।

- **Around 28,560 chinar trees** have been geo-tagged across the region so far.
  अब तक लगभग **28,560 चिनार पेड़ों** को पूरे क्षेत्र में जियो-टैग किया गया है।

More to be covered
अभी और पेड़ों को शामिल किया जाना है

- Chinars in Jammu's **Chenab Valley** and **Pir Panjal Valley** will also be covered under the digital initiative.
  जम्मू के **चिनाब घाटी** और **पीर पंजाल घाटी** में चिनार पेड़ों को भी इस डिजिटल पहल में शामिल किया जाएगा।

- **Ganderbal district** has the **highest number of chinar trees**, including the **world's third-largest chinar**, with a **girth of 74 feet**.
  गांदरबल जिला में सबसे ज्यादा चिनार पेड़ हैं, जिसमें विश्व का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा चिनार पेड़ शामिल है, जिसकी परिधि 74 फीट है।

- "We will record the **top 20 chinars of Kashmir**, with girth between **60 ft. to 74 ft.**," said Dr. Tariq.
  "हम कश्मीर के शीर्ष 20 चिनार पेड़ों को रिकॉर्ड करेंगे, जिनकी परिधि 60 फीट से 74 फीट के बीच है," डॉ. तारिक ने कहा।

Significance of Geo-tagging
जियो-टैगिंग का महत्व

- Geo-tagging has helped rescue chinar trees from **illegal felling**.
  जियो-टैगिंग ने चिनार पेड़ों को अवैध कटाई से बचाने में मदद की है।

- The **'majestic chinar'** or Platanus orientalis grows to a height of **30 metres**, with a girth of **10-15 metres** at ground level.
  'महान चिनार' या प्लाटानस ओरिएंटलिस की ऊंचाई 30 मीटर तक होती है और जमीनी स्तर पर इसकी परिधि 10-15 मीटर होती है।

Girl punished for asking for sanitary pad

GS Paper I: Society

Press Trust of India
BAREILLY (U.P.)

A Class 11 student of a girls' school in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly was allegedly made to stand outside her classroom for an hour after she requested a sanitary pad during her examination, sparking outrage and prompting an official inquiry into the matter, officials said on Sunday.

Girl punished for asking for sanitary pad
सैनिटरी पैड मांगने पर लड़की को सजा दी गई

- A **Class 11 student** of a girls' school in **Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh** was allegedly made to stand **outside her classroom for an hour** after she requested a **sanitary pad** during her examination.
  उत्तर प्रदेश के बरेली में एक कक्षा 11 की छात्रा को अपनी परीक्षा के दौरान सैनिटरी पैड मांगने पर एक घंटे तक कक्षा के बाहर खड़ा किया गया।

- This incident sparked **outrage** and prompted an official **inquiry** into the matter, officials said on **Sunday**.
  इस घटना ने आक्रोश उत्पन्न किया और अधिकारियों ने रविवार को मामले की आधिकारिक जांच शुरू की।

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Genocide and the world's averted gaze

Eighty years ago, on January 27, 1945, Soviet soldiers stumbled upon the barbed wire surrounding Auschwitz-Birkenau. Inside they found 8,000 emaciated prisoners, along with 44,000 pairs of shoes, piles of spectacles, and mounds of cooking utensils. This was all that remained of the approximately 1.1 million people, mainly European Jews, who were killed at Auschwitz. As the retreating Nazis destroyed their meticulous records along with much evidence of the brutally efficient killing operation, a precise figure is not available. This year, on the anniversary of the liberation, the few remaining survivors and world leaders have been invited to remember the dead and to renew the international community's pledge of never again allowing genocide to take place.

Priyanjali Malik

writes on international affairs, security and defence, with a special focus on nuclear politics

A stain in human history

As the Genocide Convention of 1948 recognises, the crime of genocide – 'acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group' – has stained human history down the ages. The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, said on December 9, 2020, on the international day to commemorate victims of genocide, 'Genocide always has multiple clear warning signs.'

The Soviet soldiers who liberated Auschwitz later said they were wholly unprepared for what they found. However, while the industrial scale of the killing that would eventually claim six million Jewish lives, in addition to tens of thousands of Roma, Sinti, and other people deemed inferior or political opponents, was not known in its entirety, the Allies were not entirely unaware.

On assuming power in 1933, the Nazis codified the persecution of Jews in hundreds of laws, culminating in the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 that took away German citizenship from Jews and others considered 'non Aryan'. Yet, when those Jews who could overcome restrictive German emigration laws tried to leave (until 1941, when Germany forbade Jewish emigration), they encountered bureaucratic obstacles, xenophobia and antisemitism.

Following the 1929 Stock Market Crash, the United States tightened already restrictive immigration quotas. The United Kingdom required those entering until 1938 to be self-supporting or sponsored; after the Anschluss it introduced a visa system. Neither made provisions for refugees. After 1938, Britain also

restricted Jewish immigration into Palestine, then a British mandate. Some Jews moved to neighbouring European countries, only to be caught in Hitler's net as German tanks rolled over Europe. France, Belgium and the Netherlands were particularly assiduous in following Nazi orders to round up Jews for concentration camps.

The reality of 'Never again'

The Allies responded to the growing refugee problem by gathering at Evian in July 1938; apart from sympathetic statements, the 32 delegates offered little else. By the time the U.K. and the United States met at the Bermuda Conference of April 1943, reports of mass Jewish killings were unambiguous. The World Jewish Congress had submitted a report outlining Hitler's plans that Jews, 'after deportation and concentration in the East, be at one blow exterminated' (Riegner telegram, December 1942). The Polish Government-in-Exile in London published a pamphlet in December 1942 titled 'The Mass Extermination of Jews in German Occupied Poland.' Escapees from the concentration camps brought their own harrowing stories. The evidence for genocide was mounting, but the Allies would not, or could not, look too closely.

Never again, they declared in 1945. And yet, between 1975 and 1979, the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia are estimated to have killed over two million people by execution, starvation, disease and exhaustion as they sought to recreate Cambodian society in some communist ideal. As refugees fled to neighbouring countries and a new regime was installed in Phnom Penh after Vietnam's invasion, the international community's responses were conditioned by Cold War calculations: China and the West supported the fleeing Khmer Rouge while Vietnam and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) supported the newly installed communist government.

Never again. And yet, in Rwanda, in 1994, between 8,00,000 to 10,00,000 people, mostly minority Tutsi with some moderate Hutu, were murdered over 100 days while UN peacekeepers watched helplessly. In July 1995, 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were herded from a UN compound in Srebrenica – a place declared a safe zone (it is inescapable that safe zones were also created to prevent refugees flooding out of the former Yugoslavia) – and executed, as part of a careful campaign of ethnic cleansing. The Dutch UN commander requested reinforcements from

both the UN and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which never arrived. It was the culmination of three years of indecision by Europe and America on how to respond. This year is the 30th anniversary of Srebrenica (July 11).

Never again. Less than a decade later, violence broke out in Darfur, Sudan. Approximately 2,00,000 people were killed in 2003-05 in what the International Criminal Court (ICC) and some states have recognised as genocide. The violence in Sudan continues and there are renewed fears of genocide occurring now while the international community's attention is focussed on Ukraine and Gaza.

In Gaza

Then there is Gaza. As world leaders gather at Auschwitz on January 27 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of its liberation, Gazans will attempt returning to the rubble of their homes. Some will be sifting through the debris to locate the remains of family still buried underneath, part of the 10,000 estimated to be missing. The International Court of Justice is examining whether Israel is guilty of genocide under a case brought by South Africa. The ICC has issued arrest warrants for the Israel Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the former Israel Defence Minister, Yoav Gallant, for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza in response to Hamas' October 7, 2023 attacks. There are arrest warrants for Hamas leaders too.

And, yet, America's and western Europe's response was to criticise the ICC, expressing outrage that there should be any semblance of equivalence in the arrest warrants for the leaders of Hamas and Israel. In some perversion of international norms, there seems to be an acceptance of a hierarchy of suffering. Arms have continued to flow to Israel, even as the death toll in Gaza crosses 47,000, mostly women and children. The UN estimates that 92% of all homes have been destroyed, health-care infrastructure and 87% of schools destroyed, and entire populations forcibly displaced multiple times. All this happened while Gaza was under siege, the foreign press was barred from entering, and the world acquiesced in looking away.

Israel has a right to defend itself, and Hamas' actions in October 2023 are completely indefensible. Yet, when does self-defence cross over into genocide? Where is that line? Arguably, that line is where we avert our gaze.

As world leaders gather at Auschwitz, they must ponder over why 'never again' continues to be breached

Genocide and the world's averted gaze
नरसंहार और दुनिया की नज़रें टेढ़ी

Auschwitz-Birkenau Liberation: Remembering Genocide
ऑशविट्ज़-बिरकेनाउ की मुक्ति: नरसंहार की याद

- On **January 27, 1945**, Soviet soldiers discovered Auschwitz-Birkenau, finding **8,000 emaciated prisoners**, **44,000 pairs of shoes**, and **mounds of spectacles and cooking utensils**, evidence of the approximately **1.1 million victims**, primarily European Jews.

  27 जनवरी 1945 को सोवियत सैनिकों ने **ऑशविट्ज़-बिरकेनाउ** को खोजा, जहां **8,000 दुर्बल कैदी**, **44,000 जोड़ी जूते**, और **चश्मों व बर्तनों के ढेर** मिले, जो लगभग **11 लाख पीड़ितों**, मुख्य रूप से **यूरोपीय यहूदियों**, की त्रासदी को दर्शाते थे।

- The Nazis destroyed much evidence and records before retreating. Survivors and world leaders mark this anniversary to renew their pledge of "never again allowing genocide."

  नाज़ियों ने पीछे हटने से पहले साक्ष्यों और रिकॉर्ड को नष्ट कर दिया। जीवित बचे लोग और विश्व नेता इस वर्षगांठ पर "नरसंहार को फिर कभी न होने देने" का संकल्प दोहराते हैं।

Genocide: A Stain in Human History
नरसंहार: मानव इतिहास पर एक धब्बा

- The **1948 Genocide Convention** defines genocide as acts committed with intent to destroy a **national, ethnical, racial, or religious group**.

  1948 के नरसंहार सम्मेलन में नरसंहार को **राष्ट्रीय, जातीय, नस्लीय, या धार्मिक समूहों** को नष्ट करने के उद्देश्य से किए गए कार्यों के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है।

- **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** noted on **December 9, 2020**, that genocide always has "multiple clear warning signs."

  संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने **9 दिसंबर 2020** को कहा कि नरसंहार के हमेशा "स्पष्ट चेतावनी संकेत" होते हैं।

Auschwitz and the Holocaust
ऑशविट्ज़ और होलोकॉस्ट

- Soviet soldiers were shocked at the **industrial scale killings**, which claimed **6 million Jewish lives** and thousands of Roma, Sinti, and political opponents.

  सोवियत सैनिक **औद्योगिक स्तर पर हत्याओं** से हैरान थे, जिनमें **60 लाख यहूदियों** और हजारों रोमा, सिंटी, व राजनीतिक विरोधियों की जान गई।

- The **1935 Nuremberg Laws** stripped German Jews of citizenship, while restrictive **German emigration laws** and xenophobia limited their ability to escape.

  1935 के न्यूरमबर्ग कानूनों ने जर्मन यहूदियों को नागरिकता से वंचित कर दिया, जबकि **जर्मन प्रवासन कानूनों** और ज़ेनोफोबिया ने उनके बचने के प्रयासों को बाधित किया।

Responses of the Allies
मित्र राष्ट्रों की प्रतिक्रिया

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- Despite warnings like the **Riegner telegram (1942)** and evidence from escapees, the Allies delayed decisive action.
  रिगनर टेलीग्राम (1942) जैसी चेतावनियों और बचे हुए लोगों से साक्ष्य मिलने के बावजूद, मित्र राष्ट्रों ने निर्णायक कार्रवाई में देरी की।
- Conferences like **Evian (1938)** and **Bermuda (1943)** were ineffective in addressing the Jewish refugee crisis.
  एवियन (1938) और **बर्मूडा (1943)** जैसे सम्मेलन यहूदी शरणार्थी संकट का समाधान करने में विफल रहे।

Reality of "Never Again"
"फिर कभी नहीं" की वास्तविकता

- The Holocaust highlights the consequences of ignoring early warning signs of genocide.
  होलोकॉस्ट यह दिखाता है कि नरसंहार के शुरुआती चेतावनी संकेतों की अनदेखी के परिणाम कितने गंभीर हो सकते हैं।
- Global remembrance events emphasize the need for vigilance against hatred and persecution.
  वैश्विक स्मरण आयोजन घृणा और उत्पीड़न के खिलाफ सतर्कता की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हैं।

Genocide and the Failure of "Never Again"
नरसंहार और "फिर कभी नहीं" की विफलता

- Between **1975 and 1979**, the Khmer Rouge in **Cambodia** killed over **two million people** through **execution, starvation, disease, and exhaustion** in their attempt to recreate society based on a communist ideal.
  1975 और 1979 के बीच, **कंबोडिया** में खमेर रूज ने समाज को साम्यवादी आदर्श पर पुनर्निर्मित करने के प्रयास में **20 लाख से अधिक लोगों** को फांसी, भूख, बीमारी और थकावट के माध्यम से मार डाला।
- As refugees fled and Vietnam installed a new regime in Phnom Penh, the **Cold War** shaped international responses: **China and the West** supported the Khmer Rouge, while **Vietnam and the USSR** backed the new government.
  जब शरणार्थी भागे और वियतनाम ने फ्नॉम पेन्ह में नई सरकार स्थापित की, तो अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रियाएं **शीत युद्ध** से प्रभावित हुईं: **चीन और पश्चिम** ने खमेर रूज का समर्थन किया, जबकि **वियतनाम और यूएसएसआर** ने नई सरकार का साथ दिया।

Rwanda Genocide (1994)
रवांडा नरसंहार (1994)

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- In **1994**, between **8,00,000 to 10,00,000 people**, mostly **minority Tutsi** and some moderate **Hutu**, were murdered in Rwanda over **100 days** while **UN peacekeepers** remained helpless.

  1994 में रवांडा में **8 से 10 लाख लोग**, मुख्य रूप से **अल्पसंख्यक तुत्सी** और कुछ मध्यमार्गी **हुतू** को **100 दिनों** में मार दिया गया, जबकि **संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति सैनिक** असहाय बने रहे।

Srebrenica Genocide (1995)
स्रेब्रेनिका नरसंहार (1995)

- On **July 11, 1995**, **8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys** were taken from a **UN-declared safe zone** in **Srebrenica** and executed as part of an **ethnic cleansing campaign**.

  11 जुलाई 1995 को, **8,000 बोस्नियाई मुस्लिम पुरुषों और लड़कों** को **स्रेब्रेनिका** में **संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा घोषित सुरक्षित क्षेत्र** से ले जाया गया और **जातीय सफाए अभियान** के तहत मार डाला गया।

- Despite pleas for reinforcements, **UN and NATO** failed to respond in time, reflecting **three years of indecision** by Europe and America.

  मदद के अनुरोध के बावजूद, **संयुक्त राष्ट्र और नाटो** समय पर प्रतिक्रिया देने में विफल रहे, जो यूरोप और अमेरिका की **तीन वर्षों की अनिर्णयता** को दर्शाता है।

Darfur Genocide (2003-2005)
दारफुर नरसंहार (2003-2005)

- In **Darfur, Sudan**, approximately **2,00,000 people** were killed between **2003 and 2005**. The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** and some states recognized this as genocide.

  दारफुर, सूडान में **2003** और **2005** के बीच लगभग **2 लाख लोगों** की हत्या हुई। **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC)** और कुछ देशों ने इसे नरसंहार के रूप में मान्यता दी।

Gaza and Genocide Allegations
गाजा और नरसंहार के आरोप

- As of **January 27**, Gazans are still returning to rubble; **10,000 people** are estimated to be missing, and the **death toll** exceeds **47,000**, mostly women and children.

  27 जनवरी तक, गाज़ा के लोग मलबे में लौट रहे हैं; **10,000 लोग** लापता हैं, और **मृतकों की संख्या 47,000 से अधिक** हो गई है, जिनमें से अधिकांश महिलाएं और बच्चे हैं।

- The **International Court of Justice** is investigating whether **Israel** is guilty of genocide, and the **ICC** has issued arrest warrants for **Benjamin Netanyahu** and **Yoav Gallant** for war crimes.

  अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय यह जांच कर रहा है कि क्या **इज़राइल** नरसंहार का दोषी है, और **ICC** ने

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बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू और योआव गैलेंट के खिलाफ युद्ध अपराधों के लिए गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी किए हैं।

Key Question: Where is the Line?
मुख्य प्रश्न: रेखा कहां है?

- While **Israel's right to self-defense** is acknowledged, the world must ask when self-defense crosses over into genocide.
  हालांकि **इज़राइल के आत्मरक्षा के अधिकार** को स्वीकार किया गया है, लेकिन यह सवाल उठाना ज़रूरी है कि आत्मरक्षा कब नरसंहार में बदल जाती है।

- The international community's selective attention often allows such atrocities to continue unchecked.
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय का चयनात्मक ध्यान अक्सर ऐसे अत्याचारों को अनियंत्रित रूप से जारी रखने की अनुमति देता है।

- The Darfur genocide refers to the systematic killing of ethnic groups in the Darfur region of Sudan, specifically targeting the **Fur, Masalit**, and **Zaghawa** ethnic groups. This violent campaign began in 2003 during the **War in Darfur**. Rebel groups in Darfur, such as the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), began attacking Sudanese government forces due to the region's underdevelopment and the central government's neglect. In retaliation, the Sudanese government employed Arab militias known as **Janjaweed** to suppress the uprisings.

  o दारफुर नरसंहार सूडान के दारफुर क्षेत्र में जातीय समूहों की व्यवस्थित हत्याओं को संदर्भित करता है, जिसमें विशेष रूप से **फुर, मसालित** और **जाघवा** जातीय समूहों को निशाना बनाया गया। यह हिंसक अभियान 2003 में **दारफुर युद्ध** के दौरान शुरू हुआ। दारफुर में विद्रोही समूह, जैसे सूडान मुक्ति सेना (SLA) और न्याय और समानता आंदोलन (JEM), क्षेत्र के अपर्याप्त विकास और केंद्रीय सरकार की उपेक्षा के कारण सूडानी सरकार बलों पर हमला करने लगे। जवाब में, सूडानी सरकार ने **जांजावीद** नामक अरबी मिलिशिया का उपयोग किया, ताकि विद्रोह को दबाया जा सके।

Key Concepts: Genocide, War, and Atrocities

- **Genocide**: The term genocide refers to the intentional and systematic extermination of a particular ethnic, racial, or religious group. In the case of Darfur, this includes mass killings, sexual violence, torture, and forced displacement of the non-Arab African population by government-backed militias.

  o **नरसंहार**: नरसंहार शब्द विशेष रूप से एक जातीय, नस्लीय या धार्मिक समूह के जानबूझकर और व्यवस्थित रूप से विलोपन को संदर्भित करता है। दारफुर के मामले

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में, इसमें सरकारी समर्थित मिलिशिया द्वारा गैर-अरब अफ्रीकी आबादी का सामूहिक हत्याएं, यौन हिंसा, यातना और मजबूरी से विस्थापन शामिल है।

- The **Janjaweed** militia, largely composed of Arab fighters, was responsible for numerous human rights violations, including ethnic cleansing, mass killings, and widespread sexual violence against women and children in the region.
  - जांजावीद मिलिशिया, जो मुख्य रूप से अरबी लड़ाकों से बनी थी, क्षेत्र में जातीय सफाई, सामूहिक हत्याएं, और महिलाओं और बच्चों के खिलाफ व्यापक यौन हिंसा सहित कई मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों के लिए जिम्मेदार थी।

Crimes and Violations

- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** has issued multiple arrest warrants for Sudanese officials, including then-President **Omar al-Bashir**, accusing them of committing crimes against humanity, including **rape, forced transfer of populations, and torture**. The ICC indictment is one of the most significant international legal actions against individuals involved in mass atrocities.
  - अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC) ने सूडानी अधिकारियों के लिए कई गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी किए हैं, जिनमें तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति उमर अल-बशीर भी शामिल हैं, जिन्हें मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध करने का आरोपी ठहराया गया है, जिनमें बलात्कार, जनसंख्या का जबरन स्थानांतरण और यातना शामिल हैं। ICC अभियोग उन व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ सामूहिक अत्याचारों में शामिल एक महत्वपूर्ण अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानूनी कार्रवाई है।

Impact on the Civilian Population

- The genocide in Darfur led to the deaths of approximately **300,000** people and displaced over **2.5 million** people. Many women and children were subjected to sexual violence, and widespread famine further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis.
  - दारफुर में नरसंहार के कारण लगभग **300,000** लोगों की मृत्यु हुई और **2.5 मिलियन** से अधिक लोग विस्थापित हुए। कई महिलाओं और बच्चों को यौन हिंसा का शिकार होना पड़ा, और व्यापक अकाल ने मानवीय संकट को और बढ़ा दिया।
- Entire villages were destroyed, and many survivors were forced into refugee camps or displaced across the border to neighboring countries like Chad.
  - पूरे गांवों को नष्ट कर दिया गया, और कई उत्तरजीवियों को शरणार्थी शिविरों में या पड़ोसी देशों जैसे चाड में विस्थापित किया गया।

International Legal Action

- **2005**: The **United Nations** referred the situation in Darfur to the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, acknowledging the systematic nature of the atrocities

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committed. This marked the first time the ICC investigated a situation referred by the UN Security Council.

- o **2005**: **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** ने दारफुर में स्थिति को **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC)** के पास भेजा, जो किए गए अत्याचारों के व्यवस्थित स्वरूप को स्वीकार करते हुए। यह पहली बार था जब ICC ने सुरक्षा परिषद द्वारा भेजी गई स्थिति की जांच की।

- The **ICC** issued arrest warrants for **Omar al-Bashir** and other officials, charging them with genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Bashir is the first sitting head of state to be indicted by the ICC.

  - o **ICC** ने **उमर अल-बशीर** और अन्य अधिकारियों के लिए गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी किए, उन पर नरसंहार, युद्ध अपराध और मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध करने का आरोप लगाया। बशीर ICC द्वारा आरोपित होने वाले पहले राष्ट्रपति हैं।

Recent Developments

- **2019**: **Omar al-Bashir** was overthrown after months of protests, and the new transitional government of Sudan expressed willingness to address the legacy of the genocide and work towards peace and justice for Darfur's victims.

  - o **2019**: **उमर अल-बशीर** को महीनों तक विरोध प्रदर्शनों के बाद सत्ता से हटा दिया गया, और सूडान की नई संक्रमणकालीन सरकार ने नरसंहार की विरासत को संबोधित करने और दारफुर के पीड़ितों के लिए शांति और न्याय की दिशा में काम करने की इच्छा व्यक्त की।

- The Darfur region remains fragile, and while the new government has signed peace agreements with some rebel groups, the security situation remains unstable with sporadic violence and human rights violations continuing.

  - o दारफुर क्षेत्र अभी भी नाजुक स्थिति में है, और जबकि नई सरकार ने कुछ विद्रोही समूहों के साथ शांति समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, सुरक्षा की स्थिति अस्थिर बनी हुई है, और अंतरालिक हिंसा और मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन जारी हैं।

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

1. Republic Day parade taps into heritage, diversity, military might / गणतंत्र दिवस परेड ने धरोहर, विविधता और सैन्य शक्ति को प्रदर्शित किया

2. **AAP is 'corrupt', BJP will rid Delhi of Rohingya, Bangladeshis: Shah /** 'आप' भ्रष्ट है, भाजपा दिल्ली को रोहिंग्या, बांग्लादेशियों से मुक्त करेगी: शाह

3. **No Extra Allocation for MGNREGS; Wages Delayed /** मनरेगा के लिए कोई अतिरिक्त आवंटन नहीं; मजदूरी में देरी

4. **Republican journey /** रिपब्लिकन यात्रा

5. **India with Indonesia /** भारत और इंडोनेशिया

6. **An enduring commitment to the Indo-Pacific /** हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र के प्रति एक स्थायी प्रतिबद्धता

7. **Should Governors Head State universities? /** क्या राज्यपालों को राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों का प्रमुख बनना चाहिए?

8. **Justice Jagdish Khehar's decisions often contradicted Centre's views /** न्यायमूर्ति जगदीश खेहर के निर्णय अक्सर केंद्र के दृष्टिकोण से विपरीत थे

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9. Rebels close in on key Congo city as 13 officials killed and thousands displaced / विद्रोही कांगो के प्रमुख शहर के करीब पहुंच गए हैं, 13 अधिकारी मारे गए हैं और हज़ारों लोग विस्थापित हुए हैं

Republic Day parade taps into heritage, diversity, military might

गणतंत्र दिवस परेड ने धरोहर, विविधता और सैन्य शक्ति को प्रदर्शित किया

President Droupadi Murmu led the celebrations, with **Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto** as the special guest.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने समारोह का नेतृत्व किया, जिसमें **इंडोनेशियाई राष्ट्रपति प्रबोवो सुबियांतो** विशेष अतिथि थे।

Republic Day parade taps into heritage, diversity, military might

President Droupadi Murmu leads the celebrations, with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as special guest; tableaux celebrating 150 years of tribal activist Birsa Munda and 75 years of the enactment of Constitution were the key highlights

GS Paper II

Samridhi Tewari
Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

India showcased its military might and cultural diversity with a parade keeping special focus on the 75 years of the enactment of the Constitution and *Jan Bhagidari* (people's participation), at the Republic Day celebration here on a cold winter morning that continued into a bright sunny afternoon on Sunday.

President Droupadi Murmu led the celebrations, with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as the special guest.

The theme for this year was *"Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas"* (Golden India: heritage and development).

The parade began at

Stately celebrations: President Droupadi Murmu arrives for the Republic Day parade with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Sunday; an aerial view of the marching contingents and Army tanks. ANI & PIB/PTI

10.30 a.m., with Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the National War Memorial to pay tributes to the fallen heroes.

The President and her Indonesian counterpart were escorted by the President's Bodyguard, the se-

nior-most Regiment of the Army. While the invitees stood still, the National Flag was unfurled, followed by the playing of the National Anthem with a thunderous 21-gun salute using 105-mm light field guns, an indigenous wea-

pon system. The Indonesian Army graced the event with a music band.

Tableaux celebrating 150 years of tribal activist Birsa Munda and 75 years of the Constitution spotlighting the "Father of the Indian Constitution", Dr.

B.R. Ambedkar, were the key highlights.

- Tableaux celebrating **150 years of tribal activist Birsa Munda** and **75 years of the enactment of the Constitution** were the key highlights.
  आदिवासी कार्यकर्ता बिरसा मुंडा के 150 वर्ष और संविधान लागू होने के 75 वर्ष मनाने वाले झांकियां प्रमुख आकर्षण रहीं।

- India showcased its **military might** and **cultural diversity** with a special focus on **75 years of the Constitution** and **Jan Bhagidari (people's participation)** during the Republic Day celebration.
  भारत ने गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह के दौरान सैन्य शक्ति और सांस्कृतिक विविधता का प्रदर्शन किया, जिसमें संविधान के 75 वर्ष और जन भागीदारी पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया।

- The theme for this year was **"Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" (Golden India: heritage and development)**.
  इस वर्ष का विषय "स्वर्णिम भारत: विरासत और विकास" था।

- The parade began at **10:30 a.m.**, with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visiting the **National War Memorial** to pay tributes to the fallen heroes.
  परेड सुबह 10:30 बजे शुरू हुई, जिसमें प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने नेशनल वॉर मेमोरियल जाकर शहीदों को श्रद्धांजलि दी।

- The President and her Indonesian counterpart were escorted by the **President's Bodyguard**, the senior-most Regiment of the Army.
  राष्ट्रपति और उनके इंडोनेशियाई समकक्ष को प्रेसिडेंट्स बॉडीगार्ड, जो कि सेना की वरिष्ठतम रेजिमेंट है, ने एस्कॉर्ट किया।

- The **National Flag** was unfurled, followed by the playing of the **National Anthem** with a **21-gun salute** using **105-mm light field guns**, an **indigenous weapon system**.
  राष्ट्रीय ध्वज फहराया गया, जिसके बाद राष्ट्रीय गान बजाया गया और 21 तोपों की सलामी दी गई, जिसमें 105 मिमी लाइट फील्ड गन का उपयोग किया गया, जो एक स्वदेशी हथियार प्रणाली है।

- The **Indonesian Army** graced the event with a **music band**.
  इंडोनेशियाई सेना ने म्यूजिक बैंड के साथ इस कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया।

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- The tableaux highlighted **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, the **Father of the Indian Constitution**, and the journey of the **Constitution over 75 years**.

झांकियों ने **डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर**, जो **भारतीय संविधान के जनक** हैं, और **संविधान के 75 वर्षों की यात्रा** को प्रदर्शित किया।

AAP is 'corrupt', BJP will rid Delhi of Rohingya, Bangladeshis: Shah

GS Paper II: Rohingya

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday dubbed Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as an "*Avaidh Aamdaniwali* (illegal income) Party" and attacked it for "corruption worth thousands of crores in the past 10 years".

Referring to the Delhi excise policy case, in connection with which AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal was arrested last year, Mr. Shah said, "The Supreme Court gave him [AAP chief] bail, and Kejriwal is claiming that he got a clean chit. Kejriwal*ji*, bail is not clean chit. You have to face the entire trial. Prepare well for a long time (in prison)."

Leading the party's campaign for the Delhi As-

Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a poll rally in Delhi on Sunday. ANI

sembly election, Mr. Shah addressed a rally in Narela, where he spoke about Purvanchalis, residents of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and those hailing from there in the national capital, comprising one of the largest voter bases in the city. He said Mr. Kejriwal had failed to clean the Yamuna, preventing thousands of Purvanchalis from

taking a dip in the river during Chhath Puja.

Mr. Shah also said that if the BJP is voted to power, Delhi will be made free of "Bangladeshis and Rohingya" within two years.

In response, the ruling AAP said the BJP's "focus is solely on abusing Arvind Kejriwal, not on Delhi's development".

"The BJP neither has a plan nor a vision for Delhi. Amit Shah must answer: what has the BJP done in the last decade to improve Delhi's crumbling law and order? The one job they had – that of ensuring security – has been an outright failure under Amit Shah's watch," read a statement by AAP.

Delhi Police reports to the Union Home Ministry.

BJP MARSHALS BIG GUNS
» PAGE 2

- Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** on Sunday called Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) an **"Avaidh Aamdaniwali (illegal income) Party"**, accusing it of **corruption worth thousands of crores** in the past **10 years**.

वरिष्ठ भाजपा नेता और केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** ने रविवार को दिल्ली की सत्तारूढ़ आम आदमी पार्टी (AAP) को **"अवैध आमदनी वाली पार्टी"** कहा और **पिछले 10 वर्षों में हजारों करोड़ रुपये के भ्रष्टाचार** का आरोप लगाया।

- Referring to the **Delhi excise policy case**, in which AAP national convener **Arvind Kejriwal** was arrested last year, Shah said, "The **Supreme Court** gave him bail, but Kejriwal is claiming he got a clean chit."

दिल्ली आबकारी नीति मामले का उल्लेख करते हुए, जिसमें AAP के राष्ट्रीय संयोजक **अरविंद केजरीवाल** को पिछले साल गिरफ्तार किया गया था, शाह ने कहा, "**सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने उन्हें जमानत दी, लेकिन केजरीवाल दावा कर रहे हैं कि उन्हें क्लीन चिट मिल गई।"

- Shah stated, "**Bail is not a clean chit.** You have to face the entire trial and prepare for a long time in prison."

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शाह ने कहा, "**जमानत क्लीन चिट नहीं है।** आपको पूरा ट्रायल का सामना करना होगा और जेल में लंबे समय के लिए तैयार रहना होगा।"

- Leading BJP's campaign for the **Delhi Assembly election**, Shah addressed a rally in **Narela**, where he criticized Kejriwal for failing to clean the **Yamuna**, preventing thousands of **Purvanchalis** from performing **Chhath Puja**.

  दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव के लिए भाजपा का नेतृत्व करते हुए, शाह ने **नरेला** में एक रैली को संबोधित किया और केजरीवाल पर **यमुना** की सफाई में विफल होने और **छठ पूजा** के दौरान हजारों **पूर्वांचलियों** को यमुना में स्नान करने से रोकने का आरोप लगाया।

- Shah assured that if BJP comes to power, Delhi will be made **free of "Bangladeshis and Rohingya" within two years**.

  शाह ने आश्वासन दिया कि यदि भाजपा सत्ता में आती है, तो दिल्ली को **दो वर्षों के भीतर "बांग्लादेशी और रोहिंग्या" से मुक्त** कर दिया जाएगा।

- In response, AAP accused BJP of **focusing solely on abusing Arvind Kejriwal** rather than addressing Delhi's development.

  जवाब में, AAP ने भाजपा पर **केवल अरविंद केजरीवाल का अपमान करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने** और दिल्ली के विकास की अनदेखी करने का आरोप लगाया।

- AAP stated, "The BJP neither has a **plan nor a vision for Delhi.** Amit Shah must answer: what has BJP done in the last decade to improve Delhi's **crumbling law and order**?"

  AAP ने कहा, "भाजपा के पास न तो **दिल्ली के लिए कोई योजना है और न ही कोई दृष्टि।** अमित शाह को जवाब देना चाहिए कि भाजपा ने पिछले दशक में दिल्ली के **बिगड़ते कानून और व्यवस्था** को सुधारने के लिए क्या किया?"

- **Delhi Police** operates under the **Union Home Ministry**, led by Amit Shah.

  दिल्ली पुलिस, **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय** के अंतर्गत कार्य करती है, जिसका नेतृत्व अमित शाह करते हैं।

Rohingya

- The Rohingya are an ethnic, linguistic, and religious minority group primarily residing in the Rakhine State of Myanmar.
- They are predominantly Muslim and have faced persecution and statelessness for decades.

Historical Background

- **Origin**: The Rohingya trace their roots to Arab traders who settled in the region centuries ago. The term "Rohingya" is believed to derive from the word "Rohang," the ancient name for Arakan (now Rakhine State).
  - **उत्पत्ति**: रोहिंग्या अपनी उत्पत्ति उन अरब व्यापारियों से जोड़ते हैं जो सदियों पहले इस क्षेत्र में बसे थे। "रोहिंग्या" शब्द "रोहांग" से लिया गया है, जो अराकान (अब राखिन राज्य) का प्राचीन नाम है।

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- **Colonial Period**: Under British rule (1824–1948), the movement of Muslims from Bengal to Myanmar was encouraged for labor purposes, causing tension between communities.
  - **औपनिवेशिक काल**: ब्रिटिश शासन (1824–1948) के दौरान, श्रम के लिए बंगाल से म्यांमार में मुस्लिमों के स्थानांतरण को प्रोत्साहित किया गया, जिससे समुदायों के बीच तनाव उत्पन्न हुआ।
- **Post-Independence Era**: After Myanmar's independence in 1948, the Rohingya were initially granted some recognition. However, the **1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law** excluded them from the list of recognized ethnic groups, rendering them stateless.
  - **स्वतंत्रता के बाद का युग**: म्यांमार की स्वतंत्रता के बाद, रोहिंग्या को प्रारंभिक मान्यता दी गई थी। लेकिन **1982 म्यांमार नागरिकता कानून** ने उन्हें मान्यता प्राप्त जातीय समूहों की सूची से बाहर कर दिया, जिससे वे राज्यविहीन हो गए।

Challenges Faced by the Rohingya

- **Statelessness**: The 1982 Citizenship Law denies Rohingya citizenship, leaving them stateless and devoid of basic rights.
  - **राज्यविहीनता**: 1982 का नागरिकता कानून रोहिंग्या को नागरिकता से वंचित करता है, जिससे वे राज्यविहीन और बुनियादी अधिकारों से वंचित हो जाते हैं।
- **Persecution**: Since the **2012 Rakhine Riots** and the **2017 military crackdown**, widespread violence, including killings, rape, and arson, has targeted the Rohingya.
  - **उत्पीड़न**: **2012 राखिन दंगे** और **2017 सैन्य कार्रवाई** के बाद से व्यापक हिंसा, जिसमें हत्याएं, बलात्कार, और आगजनी शामिल हैं, ने रोहिंग्या को निशाना बनाया है।
- **Forced Displacement**: Over **1 million Rohingya** have fled to neighboring countries, primarily to Bangladesh, where they live in refugee camps like **Cox's Bazar**, the largest refugee camp in the world.
  - **जबरन विस्थापन**: **1 मिलियन से अधिक रोहिंग्या** पड़ोसी देशों में भाग गए हैं, मुख्य रूप से बांग्लादेश में, जहां वे **कॉक्स बाजार** जैसे शरणार्थी शिविरों में रहते हैं, जो दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा शरणार्थी शिविर है।

International and Indian Response

- **United Nations (UN)**:
  - Declared the 2017 Rohingya crisis as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."
  - The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** is hearing a genocide case against Myanmar.
  - **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (यूएन)**:
    - 2017 के रोहिंग्या संकट को "नस्लीय सफाई का उदाहरण" घोषित किया।
    - **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय न्यायालय (ICJ)** म्यांमार के खिलाफ नरसंहार का मामला सुन रहा है।

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- **India's Role**:
  - India is not a signatory to the **1951 Refugee Convention**, but it hosts approximately **40,000 Rohingya refugees** (UNHCR estimate).
    - **भारत की भूमिका**:
      - भारत **1951 शरणार्थी सम्मेलन** का हस्ताक्षरी नहीं है, लेकिन यह लगभग **40,000 रोहिंग्या शरणार्थियों** (यूएनएचसीआर अनुमान) की मेजबानी करता है।
  - Government policy highlights concerns over national security, citing the possibility of infiltration and links with extremist groups.
    - सरकार की नीति राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा पर चिंता व्यक्त करती है, जिसमें घुसपैठ और चरमपंथी समूहों के साथ संबंधों की संभावना का हवाला दिया गया है।
  - India provides humanitarian aid to Bangladesh, including assistance under **Operation Insaniyat**.
    - भारत बांग्लादेश को **ऑपरेशन इंसानियत** के तहत मानवीय सहायता प्रदान करता है।

Recent Updates

- In 2023, **Bangladesh** and **Myanmar** began efforts for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees under UN supervision, but the process remains slow due to concerns over safety and dignity.
  - **2023 में अपडेट**: **बांग्लादेश** और **म्यांमार** ने यूएन की निगरानी में रोहिंग्या शरणार्थियों की वापसी के प्रयास शुरू किए, लेकिन सुरक्षा और गरिमा को लेकर प्रक्रिया धीमी है।
- India continues to emphasize the need for a peaceful and sustainable solution to the crisis, advocating for safe and voluntary repatriation.
  - भारत संकट के शांतिपूर्ण और टिकाऊ समाधान की आवश्यकता पर जोर देता है और सुरक्षित व स्वैच्छिक वापसी का समर्थन करता है।

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No extra allocation for MGNREGS; wages delayed

GS Paper II: Government Policies and Schemes

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Union government's flagship scheme to provide guaranteed employment of 100 days for rural workers, has not received an additional budgetary allocation in 2024-25 despite a deficit, resulting in delay in disbursal of wages to workers.

Sources said the Rural Development Ministry was short of ₹4,315 crore for the wages for which a fund transfer order had been generated. Section 3 (3) of the MGNREG Act says "the disbursement of daily wages shall be made on a weekly basis or in any case not

Uncertain times: MGNREGS workers at a reconstruction site on the outskirts of Amritsar. FILE PHOTO

later than a fortnight after the date on which such work was done".

The Centre has a liability of ₹5,715 crore against its share for material components. The Centre bears 60% of the cost of the materials and the remaining 40% is given by the States.

When there is a continued delay in material component payout, the local vendors who supply the raw material become reluctant to supply, breaking the work cycle.

In February 2024, in the last Budget of the Narendra Modi government's second

term, ₹86,000 crore was allotted for the scheme. Despite the deficit and repeated requests, no additional funds were given.

Past trend
This is breaking from the past trend of allocating additional funds. To criticism on low allocation for the programme, the Centre has maintained that it is a demand-driven scheme and additional allocation is made whenever needed. For example, in 2020-21, when the pandemic drove reverse migration to the villages and the demand for work soared, the Centre revised the original allocation of ₹61,500 crore to ₹1,11,500 crores, one of the highest jumps.

Academics and activists

closely monitoring the programme say the low budgetary allocation leads to artificial suppression of demand. This problem was also flagged by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development in its report tabled in February 2024.

"The pruning of funds at Budget Estimate stage itself does have a cascading effect on various important aspects such as timely release of wages, release of material share etc. which have a telling impact on the progress of the Scheme. The Committee feels that for smooth implementation of MGNREGA at ground level, shortage of funds is a big obstacle," the panel noted in its report.

No Extra Allocation for MGNREGS; Wages Delayed
मनरेगा के लिए कोई अतिरिक्त आवंटन नहीं; मजदूरी में देरी

- The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** aims to provide **100 days of guaranteed employment** for rural workers but did not receive additional budgetary allocation in **2024-25**, leading to delays in wage disbursement.

  महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना (मनरेगा) का उद्देश्य ग्रामीण श्रमिकों को **100 दिनों का गारंटीशुदा रोजगार** प्रदान करना है, लेकिन **2024-25** में कोई अतिरिक्त बजट आवंटन नहीं किया गया, जिससे मजदूरी के भुगतान में देरी हुई।

- The **Rural Development Ministry** faced a **shortfall of ₹4,315 crore** for wages, despite fund transfer orders being generated.

  ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय को **₹4,315 करोड़ की कमी** का सामना करना पड़ा, जबकि फंड ट्रांसफर ऑर्डर जारी किए गए थे।

- **Section 3 (3)** of the **MGNREG Act** mandates that **daily wages** must be disbursed **within a week or at most a fortnight** after the work is done.
  मनरेगा अधिनियम की धारा 3 (3) के अनुसार, दैनिक मजदूरी का भुगतान **सप्ताह भर में या अधिकतम पखवाड़े में** करना अनिवार्य है।

- The Centre has a **liability of ₹5,715 crore** for its share in material components, which it shares at **60%,** with **40%** contributed by the States.
  केंद्र पर सामग्री घटकों के हिस्से में **₹5,715 करोड़** की देनदारी है, जिसमें यह **60% हिस्सेदारी** वहन करता है, जबकि **40% राज्यों द्वारा** दी जाती है।

- Continued delay in payments for material components makes **local vendors reluctant to supply raw materials, disrupting work cycles.**
  सामग्री घटकों के भुगतान में लगातार देरी से **स्थानीय विक्रेता कच्चा माल आपूर्ति करने से हिचकिचाते हैं, जिससे कार्य चक्र बाधित होता है।**

- In **February 2024**, the **last Budget** of the current government allocated **₹86,000 crore** for MGNREGS, with no additional funds despite the deficit.
  फरवरी 2024 में, वर्तमान सरकार के **आखिरी बजट** में मनरेगा के लिए **₹86,000 करोड़** आवंटित किए गए, लेकिन कमी के बावजूद कोई अतिरिक्त फंड नहीं दिया गया।

Past Trend
पिछले रुझान

- In earlier years, additional funds were allocated when needed, such as in **2020-21** during the **COVID-19 pandemic**, when allocations rose from **₹61,500 crore to ₹1,11,500 crore**.
  पिछले वर्षों में आवश्यकता होने पर अतिरिक्त फंड आवंटित किए गए, जैसे **2020-21 में कोविड-19 महामारी** के दौरान, जब आवंटन **₹61,500 करोड़ से ₹1,11,500 करोड़** कर दिया गया।

- Academics and activists argue that **low budgetary allocation** artificially suppresses demand, an issue highlighted in a **Parliamentary Standing Committee report** tabled in **February 2024.**
  शिक्षाविद और कार्यकर्ता मानते हैं कि **कम बजटीय आवंटन** से मांग कृत्रिम रूप से दबाई जाती है, जिसे **फरवरी 2024** में प्रस्तुत **संसदीय स्थायी समिति की रिपोर्ट** में उजागर किया गया।

- The report emphasized that **shortages at the Budget Estimate stage** affect timely wage release and material payments, impacting the scheme's progress.
  रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि **बजट अनुमान चरण पर कमी** से मजदूरी और सामग्री भुगतान समय पर नहीं हो पाता, जिससे योजना की प्रगति प्रभावित होती है।

- The Committee noted that **fund shortages** are a **major obstacle** to the smooth implementation of **MGNREGA**.
  समिति ने कहा कि **फंड की कमी मनरेगा** को सुचारू रूप से लागू करने में **मुख्य बाधा** है।

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Republican journey

The President of India should stay clear of partisan political discourse

In her customary address to the nation on the eve of the 76th Republic Day, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, said that the Constitution has become a living document due to the millennia-old civic virtues of the country. Ms. Murmu also paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who chaired the Drafting Committee, and other members of the Constituent Assembly, who created a document that would guide the country's progress. Connecting India's journey as a modern Republic to its heritage, the President said the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity have always been a part of India's civilisation. Sceptics who doubted India's prospects at the time of Independence have been proven wrong due to these inherent strengths of the country. The President highlighted the representative character of the Constituent Assembly, whose members were drawn from every part of, and communities in, the country, including 15 women. While women's equality was at that time only a distant ideal in much of the world, Indian women were contributing to shaping the nation's destiny, she noted. Reflecting on the progress over 75 years, Ms. Murmu commended the Union government's efforts to move past the relics of the colonial era, particularly the "audacity of vision" of replacing colonial-era criminal laws with three new laws rooted in Indian traditions of jurisprudence.

The President strongly advocated the controversial proposal for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as a means to redefine good governance. The draft Bill on simultaneous elections, introduced by the Narendra Modi government, is under review by a joint committee of Parliament. The President waded into the debate with the argument that synchronised elections would promote consistency in governance, prevent policy paralysis, mitigate resource diversion, and reduce financial burdens. It is a contentious topic and Opposition parties that are a part of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance have opposed the plan on the ground that it violates the basic structure of the Constitution and undermines federalism. Not surprisingly, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has alleged that there is a "tendency" to impose a "One Nation, One Party" agenda by undermining the Opposition. The President could have stayed clear of this topic. The government will need to tread carefully to ensure that the First Citizen is not drawn into what is essentially a partisan political debate. Unity without uniformity is key to a more perfect union. And Republic Day is as good as any other day to reiterate that.

Republican journey

रिपब्लिकन यात्रा

- **President Droupadi Murmu's Address on the Eve of the 76th Republic Day**

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू का 76वें गणतंत्र दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर संबोधन

- **The Constitution as a living document**

The President stated that the **Constitution** has become a **living document** due to India's **millennia-old civic virtues**.

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि **संविधान** भारत की **सहस्राब्दियों पुरानी नागरिक परंपराओं** के कारण **जीवंत दस्तावेज़** बन गया है।

- **Tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly**

Ms. Murmu paid tribute to **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** and other members of the **Constituent Assembly**, highlighting their contribution in creating a document guiding the nation's progress.

राष्ट्रपति ने **डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर** और **संविधान सभा** के अन्य सदस्यों को श्रद्धांजलि दी, जिन्होंने देश की प्रगति का मार्गदर्शन करने वाले दस्तावेज़ का निर्माण किया।

- **India's constitutional values and heritage**

She emphasized that **justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity**, the core constitutional values, have always been part of **India's civilisation**.

उन्होंने कहा कि **न्याय, स्वतंत्रता, समानता, और बंधुत्व**, जो संवैधानिक मूल्यों का हिस्सा हैं, हमेशा से **भारतीय सभ्यता** का हिस्सा रहे हैं।

- **Representative character of the Constituent Assembly**

The President highlighted that the **Constituent Assembly** included members from **every region and community** of India, including **15 women**.

राष्ट्रपति ने बताया कि **संविधान सभा** में भारत के **हर क्षेत्र और समुदाय** के सदस्य शामिल थे, जिनमें **15 महिलाएं** भी थीं।

Progress over 75 Years
75 वर्षों की प्रगति

- **Role of women in shaping India**

Ms. Murmu noted that **Indian women**, even at a time when gender equality was a distant ideal globally, significantly contributed to shaping the nation.

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राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि जब दुनिया में लैंगिक समानता एक दूर की कल्पना थी, तब भी **भारतीय महिलाओं** ने राष्ट्र निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया।

- **Moving past colonial relics**
  She commended the government's **vision** in replacing **colonial-era criminal laws** with new laws rooted in **Indian traditions of jurisprudence**.
  उन्होंने **औपनिवेशिक युग के आपराधिक कानूनों** को **भारतीय न्यायशास्त्र परंपराओं** पर आधारित नए कानूनों से बदलने के लिए सरकार के **दृष्टिकोण** की सराहना की।

Advocacy for Simultaneous Elections
एक साथ चुनावों के पक्ष में

- **Proposal for simultaneous elections**
  The President supported the controversial proposal for **simultaneous elections** to the **Lok Sabha and State Assemblies** as a step towards **good governance**.
  राष्ट्रपति ने **लोकसभा और राज्य विधानसभाओं** के लिए **एक साथ चुनावों** के विवादास्पद प्रस्ताव को **सुशासन** की दिशा में एक कदम बताया।

- **Draft Bill under review**
  The draft Bill on simultaneous elections, introduced by the **Narendra Modi government**, is currently under review by a **joint committee of Parliament**.
  नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार द्वारा पेश किया गया **एक साथ चुनावों पर मसौदा विधेयक** फिलहाल **संसद की संयुक्त समिति** द्वारा समीक्षा के तहत है।

- **Benefits of synchronised elections**
  She argued that synchronised elections would ensure **consistency in governance**, prevent **policy paralysis**, and reduce **financial burdens**.
  उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि समकालिक चुनाव **शासन में स्थिरता** सुनिश्चित करेंगे, **नीतिगत गतिरोध** को रोकेंगे और **वित्तीय बोझ** को कम करेंगे।

Opposition to the Proposal
प्रस्ताव का विरोध

- **Opposition from I.N.D.I.A. alliance**
  Opposition parties, under the **Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A.)**, opposed the proposal, calling it a **violation of the Constitution's federal structure**.
  इंडियन नेशनल डेवलपमेंटल इन्क्लूसिव अलायंस (I.N.D.I.A.) के तहत विपक्षी दलों ने इस प्रस्ताव का विरोध करते हुए इसे **संविधान की संघीय संरचना का उल्लंघन** बताया।

- **Congress' response**
  Congress President **Mallikarjun Kharge** alleged that the move reflects a tendency to impose a **"One Nation, One Party" agenda**.
  कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष **मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे** ने आरोप लगाया कि यह कदम **"एक राष्ट्र, एक दल"** एजेंडा थोपने की प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाता है।

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Call for Unity without Uniformity
विविधता में एकता की आवश्यकता

- **Reiterating unity**
  The President emphasized that **unity without uniformity** is essential for creating a **more perfect union**, and Republic Day is a fitting occasion to reiterate this value.

राष्ट्रपति ने जोर देकर कहा कि **विविधता में एकता** एक **संपूर्ण संघ** बनाने के लिए आवश्यक है, और गणतंत्र दिवस इस मूल्य को दोहराने का उपयुक्त अवसर है।

GS Paper II: India-Indonesia

India with Indonesia
The two Asian nations must now build on their historic ties

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India, as chief guest at the Republic Day parade, was replete with the symbolism of historically important ties between the two countries, albeit short on concrete outcomes. India and Indonesia's ancient ties, that rest on trade and travel to the spread of an adapted form of Javanese Hinduism, as well as the use of Vedic scriptures and Sanskrit works, have given the two countries a formidable engagement. In the previous century, it was their solidarity against imperialism, which led to independent India's support to Indonesian leaders fighting Dutch colonialism, with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru banning Dutch overflights and sending Indian planes to evacuate the Indonesian Prime Minister and Vice President – in an article in *The Hindu* on January 5, 1950, Indonesia's first President, Sukarno, wrote about Indonesia's gratitude. Next, India and Indonesia were united by their aversion to great power politics. They supported the creation of the non-aligned movement (NAM), beginning with the Bandung Conference. Ties were also forged by their innate similarities as two Asian nations that dominated South Asia and South-East Asia by size. Both were countries where large religious majorities practised tolerance towards sizable minorities, as well as economic powerhouses committed to an equitable development of their large populations. In the recent past, ties have been spurred by common concerns over western sanctions after the start of the Ukraine war, U.S.-China rivalry and China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific, worries over "food, fertilizer and fuel" security and a weakening multilateral order. Their efforts to forge consensus at the G-20 summits in Bali (2022) and Delhi (2023), will now be put to further use as Indonesia has joined BRICS. In that sense, Mr. Subianto's visit, in the 75th year of bilateral ties, is a full circle: from Bandung to an enlarged BRICS.

Given the historical, strategic and geopolitical importance of relations, the announcements were more modest than expected. There were five MoUs in health, traditional medicine, maritime security, digital development and cultural cooperation and the joint statement referred to strengthening defence cooperation. However, no specific progress was announced on the sale of India's Brahmos missile, or on the Sabang port project and Aceh-Andamans connectivity initiatives. The joint statement was also pointedly non-committal on their world view, despite their similar positions on recent geopolitical conflicts, and initiatives to engage the Trump administration and China. India's Republic Day invitation and Mr. Subianto's visit, fresh in his presidential term, are, however, an important statement for both capitals to make. There is the impetus for the two Asian powers to forge the next phase in their ties.

India with Indonesia

भारत और इंडोनेशिया

- **Symbolism of India-Indonesia Relations**
  Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto** visited India as the **chief guest** at the **Republic Day parade**, symbolizing the **historic ties** between the two nations.

इंडोनेशिया के राष्ट्रपति **प्रबोवो सुबियांतो** ने भारत का दौरा किया और **गणतंत्र दिवस परेड** के **मुख्य अतिथि** बने, जो दोनों देशों के **ऐतिहासिक संबंधों** का प्रतीक है।

- **Historical Roots**
  India and Indonesia share ancient ties based on **trade, travel**, and the spread of **Javanese Hinduism**, including the use of **Vedic scriptures** and **Sanskrit works**.

भारत और इंडोनेशिया के प्राचीन संबंध **व्यापार, यात्रा** और **जावानी हिंदू धर्म** के प्रसार पर आधारित हैं, जिसमें **वैदिक शास्त्रों** और **संस्कृत रचनाओं** का योगदान है।

India's Support During Indonesian Independence
इंडोनेशियाई स्वतंत्रता के दौरान भारत का समर्थन

- **Nehru's Role in Indonesian Independence**
  During Indonesia's fight against Dutch colonialism, **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** banned Dutch **overflights** and provided Indian planes to evacuate Indonesian leaders.

प्रधानमंत्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने इंडोनेशिया की डच औपनिवेशिक शासन के खिलाफ लड़ाई में डच **ओवरफ्लाइट्स** पर प्रतिबंध लगाया और इंडोनेशियाई नेताओं को निकालने के लिए भारतीय विमान भेजे।

- **Sukarno's Acknowledgment**
  In a January 5, 1950 article in *The Hindu*, Indonesia's first President Sukarno expressed gratitude towards India for its support.

इंडोनेशिया के पहले राष्ट्रपति **सुकर्णो** ने *द हिंदू* के 5 जनवरी, 1950 के लेख में भारत के समर्थन के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया।

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Shared Ideals and Non-Aligned Movement

साझा आदर्श और गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन

- **Bandung Conference and NAM**
  India and Indonesia were united in their opposition to **great power politics** and contributed to the creation of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**, starting with the **Bandung Conference**.

  भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने **महाशक्ति राजनीति** का विरोध किया और **गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन (NAM)** के निर्माण में योगदान दिया, जिसकी शुरुआत **बांडुंग सम्मेलन** से हुई।

- **Religious and Economic Parallels**
  Both nations share similarities as **Asian powerhouses**, with **religious majorities** practicing **tolerance** towards minorities and a focus on **equitable development**.

  दोनों देशों में समानताएं हैं, जैसे कि वे **एशियाई महाशक्तियां** हैं, जहां **धार्मिक बहुसंख्यक** समुदाय **अल्पसंख्यकों** के प्रति सहिष्णु हैं और **समान विकास** पर ध्यान केंद्रित है।

Modern Geopolitical Cooperation

आधुनिक भू-राजनीतिक सहयोग

- **Common Concerns**
  Shared concerns include **U.S.-China rivalry**, **China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific**, and **food, fertilizer, and fuel security** following the Ukraine war.

  साझा चिंताओं में **अमेरिका-चीन प्रतिद्वंद्विता**, **हिंद-प्रशांत में चीन की आक्रामकता**, और यूक्रेन युद्ध के बाद **खाद्य, उर्वरक और ईंधन सुरक्षा** शामिल हैं।

- **G-20 Summits and BRICS**
  Both nations worked together to forge consensus at the **G-20 summits** in **Bali (2022)** and **Delhi (2023)**. Indonesia has now joined **BRICS**, enhancing bilateral cooperation.

  दोनों देशों ने **बाली (2022)** और **दिल्ली (2023)** में **G-20 सम्मेलनों** में सहमति बनाने के लिए सहयोग किया। इंडोनेशिया अब **ब्रिक्स** में शामिल हो गया है, जिससे द्विपक्षीय सहयोग और मजबूत हुआ है।

Modest Announcements Despite Historical Ties

ऐतिहासिक संबंधों के बावजूद सीमित घोषणाएं

- **MoUs Signed**
  Five **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** were signed in areas like **health**, **maritime security**, **digital development**, and **cultural cooperation**.

  स्वास्थ्य, **सामुद्रिक सुरक्षा**, **डिजिटल विकास**, और **सांस्कृतिक सहयोग** जैसे क्षेत्रों में पांच **समझौता ज्ञापनों (MoUs)** पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

- **Unaddressed Projects**
  No progress was announced on critical projects such as the **Sabang port project**, **Aceh-Andamans connectivity**, or the sale of India's **BrahMos missile**.

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सबांग पोर्ट परियोजना, आचे-अंडमान संपर्क, या भारत के **ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल** की बिक्री पर कोई प्रगति घोषित नहीं की गई।

Significance of the Visit
यात्रा का महत्व

- **Strengthening Strategic Ties**
  Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto's visit** during the **75th year of bilateral ties** reflects the importance of India-Indonesia relations.
  इंडोनेशियाई राष्ट्रपति **प्रबोवो सुबियांतो** की यात्रा, **द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के 75वें वर्ष** में, भारत-इंडोनेशिया संबंधों के महत्व को दर्शाती है।

- **Future Impetus**
  This visit provides impetus for both countries to strengthen their ties and define the **next phase** of their relationship.
  यह यात्रा दोनों देशों को अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करने और उनके **अगले चरण** को परिभाषित करने के लिए प्रेरित करती है।

BRICS

- It now includes nine countries: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the UAE**, with Indonesia officially joining in 2025.
- **BRICS** is an intergovernmental organization comprising **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran**, and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This bloc represents a significant portion of the world's population and emerging economies.
- BRICS is considered an alternative to the **G7**, the group of seven advanced economies (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States).
- As of 2024, the BRICS+ model includes new members such as **Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, and Indonesia**, signaling its expansion. This growth illustrates the organization's ambition to reshape the global economic order.

Formation and Evolution:

- The term **BRIC** was first coined in 2001 by **Jim O'Neill**, a Goldman Sachs economist, to highlight the investment opportunities in these rapidly growing economies.
- The original BRIC nations—**Brazil, Russia, India, and China**—held their first summit in **Yekaterinburg, Russia**, in **2009**, which marked the formal beginning of the BRIC cooperation.
- The group expanded in **2010** with **South Africa** joining and the bloc was renamed **BRICS**.

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- The first meeting of all five members took place during the **2011 summit** in **Sanya, China**.

Historical Timeline and Key Events:

- **2006:** The foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, and China met in New York during the UN General Assembly, marking the start of diplomatic collaboration.
- **2009:** The first BRIC summit was held in **Yekaterinburg, Russia**, where the group discussed global economic issues, including the reform of global financial institutions and the need for a new reserve currency to challenge the dominance of the **US Dollar**.
- **2010: South Africa** officially joined BRIC, prompting the name change to **BRICS**. This represented the bloc's widening influence and its interest in including African perspectives in global governance.
- **2013:** The group announced plans to establish a **New Development Bank (NDB)** to challenge Western-dominated institutions like the **World Bank** and the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- **2014:** The **New Development Bank** was formally launched during the **Fortaleza summit**. This was a landmark step in creating a parallel financial infrastructure.

Key Institutions and Initiatives:

- **New Development Bank (NDB):**
  - The NDB was created to provide financial support to infrastructure projects in developing countries.
  - It is headquartered in **Shanghai, China** and has grown into one of the most prominent institutions of BRICS.
  - The bank aims to enhance cooperation among BRICS countries and other developing nations by providing financial assistance for sustainable development projects.
  - The NDB was established with an initial capital of **$100 billion**.
- **BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA):**
  - The CRA is a pool of foreign currencies designed to provide protection against global financial instability.
  - It serves as an emergency fund for BRICS members facing balance-of-payments issues.
- **BRICS Pay:**
  - A payment system that facilitates transactions among BRICS nations without depending on Western systems like SWIFT.
- **BRICS Basket Reserve Currency:**
  - The BRICS countries have explored the possibility of creating a reserve currency to reduce reliance on the US Dollar and Euro.
  - Though still in early stages, this proposal reflects the growing ambition of BRICS nations to assert their influence in global finance.

Recent Developments and Expansion:

- **2024 BRICS Summit:**

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- o **Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and UAE** joined the group, making it the first time that all member countries from Africa and the Middle East were represented at a summit.
- o **Indonesia** officially joined BRICS in **early 2025**, becoming the first Southeast Asian member.

Criticism and Challenges:

- **Western Criticism:** Some analysts view BRICS as a challenge to the G7's dominance in global economic affairs. However, there are also criticisms of BRICS being an alliance of countries with diverse political and economic systems, which may hinder deep cooperation.
- **Internal Disagreements:** Despite shared economic interests, member countries often have differing priorities, especially in terms of trade, security, and governance.
- **Geopolitical Dynamics:** The group's future depends on the ability of the members to overcome internal conflicts, especially concerning global governance and policy coherence.

Impact and Influence:

- **Global Economic Influence:** BRICS represents nearly half of the world's population and a significant share of global GDP, which gives the group leverage in international affairs.
- **Alternative to Western Institutions:** The BRICS group has created alternative institutions like the NDB and the CRA to challenge the dominance of the IMF and World Bank, which are seen as reflecting the interests of Western powers.

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An enduring commitment to the Indo-Pacific

The inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States marks an unparalleled comeback in American political history. It also signals a vital moment in global geopolitics, particularly for the Indo-Pacific region. During his first term, Mr. Trump redefined U.S. engagement in the Indo-Pacific. As he embarks on his second term, expectations of a more assertive U.S. security posture and strengthened alliances are high. The presence of the foreign ministers from India, Japan, and Australia – America's key Quad partners – at the inauguration underscores the strategic importance of this grouping in Mr. Trump's foreign policy vision. With the Indo-Pacific being central to U.S.'s strategic priorities, Trump 2.0 signals a renewed focus on deepening defence, economic, and technological cooperation with 'like-minded' nations to address persisting and emerging challenges, while ensuring regional stability.

Harsh V. Pant

Vice President at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Pratnashree Basu

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Importance of Indo-Pacific

Mr. Trump's first term marked a pivotal shift in Washington's approach to this region, redefining the strategic landscape in three ways. First, under Trump's leadership, the U.S. adopted the term 'Indo-Pacific', replacing the previously favoured 'Asia-Pacific', which reflected a recalibration of the geopolitical lens, moving beyond a focus solely on East Asia and the Pacific Rim to encompass a wider area critical for global trade, security, and strategic stability. The term expanded the geographic focus to include the Indian Ocean, emphasising the importance of securing sea lines of communication, addressing maritime challenges, and underscoring the U.S.'s intent to counterbalance China's growing influence. The Indo-Pacific expanded the strategic narrative, integrating defence, security, and political considerations alongside economic cooperation.

Second, there were structural changes in the U.S. defence and security framework, including the renaming of the U.S. Pacific Command as the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in 2018, reflecting the operational import accorded to the Indo-Pacific. The Office of the Secretary of Defence was reorganised to establish specialised units focusing on Indo-Pacific allies and partners.

Third, the revival of the Quad underscored the Trump administration's recognition of the Indo-Pacific as the fulcrum of 21st century geopolitics, reflecting a pragmatic convergence of interests among its members. The U.S. provided a robust push to institutionalise the grouping. The Trump administration elevated the Quad dialogue to the ministerial level, laying the groundwork for deeper collaboration in maritime security, supply chain resilience, and technological standards.

The Joe Biden administration inherited the Indo-Pacific framework and maintained its strategic centrality. Mr. Biden elevated the Quad further by convening the first-ever Quad leaders' summit in 2021, marking a significant institutional leap. He emphasised multilateralism and sought to broaden the Quad's agenda by initiating collaboration on vaccines, climate change, critical technologies, and infrastructure development. He also introduced the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework in 2022, complementing the strategic focus with economic engagement. The emphasis on a rules-based order and inclusive development in the Indo-Pacific aligned the Quad's mission with broader global governance goals.

Prospects in Trump 2.0

The bipartisan consensus on the Indo-Pacific's importance ensures continuity in U.S. engagement. While Mr. Trump could take a more assertive stance against China, his reliance on India,

Japan, and Australia to share the burden of regional security would remain and likely be strengthened.

The new administration's first major foreign policy initiative was a meeting of the Quad foreign ministers on January 21. At his confirmation hearing, the U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, characterised China as the most formidable adversary the U.S. has faced, noting that the challenges prompting the Quad's revival under Mr. Trump have intensified. This was the administration's first significant engagement with foreign leaders. All four members reaffirmed Washington's unwavering commitment to the Indo-Pacific region while also setting the stage for this year's Quad Summit early in the Trump Presidency. Mr. Rubio also met with the three Quad foreign ministers separately with India being the first bilateral meeting.

A joint statement released after the meeting emphasised the importance of international law, peace, stability, and maritime security for regional prosperity while opposing unilateral actions to alter the status quo through force or coercion. It also highlighted the dedication to enhancing regional maritime, economic, and technological security, alongside promoting resilient and reliable supply chains. The members agreed to hold regular ministerial meetings and prepare for a leaders' summit to be hosted by India.

Under the new Trump administration, the Indo-Pacific is likely to retain prominence but with a sharper focus on hard power dynamics. The Indo-Pacific has changed since Mr. Trump's last term in office, and so have the priorities that would influence the President's approach this time. It is likely that alongside boosting security-related frameworks, Mr. Trump may also bolster mechanisms that have a broader and more diverse agenda so long as they serve to preserve the existing rules-based order.

> Under the new Trump administration, the Indo-Pacific is likely to regain prominence but with a sharper focus on hard power dynamics

An enduring commitment to the Indo-Pacific
हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र के प्रति एक स्थायी प्रतिबद्धता

- **Historic Comeback**
  Donald Trump's inauguration as the **47th President of the United States** marks an **unparalleled comeback** in American political history.
  डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के 47वें राष्ट्रपति** के रूप में शपथ ग्रहण अमेरिकी राजनीतिक इतिहास में **अभूतपूर्व वापसी** को दर्शाता है।

- **Global Geopolitical Importance**
  His inauguration signals a **vital moment** for global geopolitics, particularly for the **Indo-Pacific region**.
  उनका शपथ ग्रहण वैश्विक भू-राजनीति, विशेष रूप से **हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र** के लिए एक **महत्वपूर्ण क्षण** को दर्शाता है।

- **Quad Partners at Inauguration**
  The presence of foreign ministers from **India, Japan, and Australia** — key Quad members — at the event highlights the strategic importance of this grouping.
  इस आयोजन में **भारत, जापान और ऑस्ट्रेलिया** के विदेश मंत्रियों की उपस्थिति इस समूह की रणनीतिक महता को दर्शाती है।

Indo-Pacific: Strategic Importance Under Trump
हिंद-प्रशांत: ट्रंप के तहत रणनीतिक महत्व

- **Redefining 'Indo-Pacific'**
  During his first term, Donald Trump replaced the term **'Asia-Pacific'** with **'Indo-Pacific'**, expanding the strategic focus to include the **Indian Ocean** alongside East Asia.
  अपने पहले कार्यकाल में, डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने **'एशिया-प्रशांत'** शब्द को **'हिंद-प्रशांत'** से बदल दिया, जिससे रणनीतिक ध्यान **भारतीय महासागर** और पूर्वी एशिया दोनों पर केंद्रित हुआ।

- **Countering China's Influence**
  This shift aimed to counter **China's growing influence**, secure sea lines of communication, and address maritime challenges.
  इस बदलाव का उद्देश्य **चीन के बढ़ते प्रभाव** का मुकाबला करना, **समुद्री संचार लाइनों** को सुरक्षित करना और समुद्री चुनौतियों का समाधान करना था।

Structural Changes in U.S. Defence Policy
अमेरिकी रक्षा नीति में संरचनात्मक बदलाव

- **Renaming of Commands**
  In **2018**, the **U.S. Pacific Command** was renamed the **U.S. Indo-Pacific Command**, reflecting the operational significance of the region.
  2018 में, **यू.एस. पैसिफिक कमांड** का नाम बदलकर **यू.एस. इंडो-पैसिफिक कमांड** कर दिया गया, जिससे क्षेत्र की परिचालन महता को दर्शाया गया।

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- **Specialised Defence Units**
  The Office of the Secretary of Defence reorganized to include specialised units focusing on **Indo-Pacific allies and partners**.
  रक्षा सचिव के कार्यालय को पुनर्गठित कर **हिंद-प्रशांत सहयोगियों और साझेदारों** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने वाली विशेष इकाइयां बनाई गईं।

Revival and Institutionalisation of Quad
क्वाड का पुनरुद्धार और संस्थागत रूप देना

- **Quad as Geopolitical Fulcrum**
  The Trump administration revived the **Quad**, recognising the **Indo-Pacific** as the fulcrum of 21st-century geopolitics.
  ट्रंप प्रशासन ने **क्वाड** को पुनर्जीवित किया और **हिंद-प्रशांत** को 21वीं सदी की भू-राजनीति का केंद्र माना।

- **Elevated Quad Dialogue**
  The Quad dialogue was elevated to the **ministerial level**, paving the way for deeper collaboration in **maritime security**, **supply chain resilience**, and **technological standards**.
  क्वाड संवाद को **मंत्रीस्तरीय** स्तर पर ले जाया गया, जिससे **समुद्री सुरक्षा**, **सप्लाई चेन लचीलापन**, और **तकनीकी मानकों** में गहन सहयोग का मार्ग प्रशस्त हुआ।

Joe Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific Framework
जो बाइडेन प्रशासन का हिंद-प्रशांत ढांचा

- **Continuation of Indo-Pacific Focus**
  The **Joe Biden administration** inherited the **Indo-Pacific framework** and maintained its **strategic centrality** in U.S. foreign policy.
  जो बाइडेन प्रशासन ने **हिंद-प्रशांत ढांचे** को अपनाया और इसे अमेरिकी विदेश नीति में **रणनीतिक केंद्रितता** बनाए रखा।

- **Quad Leaders' Summit**
  In **2021**, Mr. Biden convened the **first-ever Quad leaders' summit**, marking a significant institutional leap for the Quad.
  2021 में, श्री बाइडेन ने **पहला क्वाड नेताओं का शिखर सम्मेलन** आयोजित किया, जो क्वाड के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण संस्थागत प्रगति थी।

- **Expanded Quad Agenda**
  The Biden administration broadened the Quad's focus to include **vaccines, climate change, critical technologies, and infrastructure development**.
  बाइडेन प्रशासन ने क्वाड के एजेंडे का विस्तार करते हुए इसमें **वैक्सीन, जलवायु परिवर्तन, प्रमुख तकनीकें और अवसंरचना विकास** को जोड़ा।

- **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (2022)**
  In **2022**, Mr. Biden introduced the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework**, complementing the strategic focus with economic engagement.

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2022 में, श्री बाइडेन ने **हिंद-प्रशांत आर्थिक ढांचे** की शुरुआत की, जो रणनीतिक ध्यान को आर्थिक भागीदारी से जोड़ता है।

- **Emphasis on Global Governance Goals**
  The Quad aligned its mission with **rules-based order** and **inclusive development**, reflecting broader global governance objectives.
  क्वाड ने अपने मिशन को **नियम-आधारित व्यवस्था** और **समावेशी विकास** के साथ जोड़ा, जो व्यापक वैश्विक शासन लक्ष्यों को दर्शाता है।

Prospects in Trump 2.0
ट्रंप 2.0 में संभावनाएं

- **Bipartisan Consensus on Indo-Pacific**
  A **bipartisan consensus** on the **Indo-Pacific's importance** ensures continuity in U.S. engagement in the region.
  हिंद-प्रशांत के महत्व पर **द्विदलीय सहमति** क्षेत्र में अमेरिकी भागीदारी की निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करती है।

- **More Assertive Stance Against China**
  Donald Trump is expected to take a **more assertive stance against China**, while strengthening reliance on **India, Japan, and Australia** for regional security.
  डोनाल्ड ट्रंप से **चीन के खिलाफ अधिक आक्रामक रुख** अपनाने और क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए **भारत, जापान और ऑस्ट्रेलिया** पर निर्भरता को मजबूत करने की उम्मीद है।

- **First Foreign Policy Initiative**
  The administration's **first major foreign policy initiative** was a **Quad foreign ministers' meeting** on **January 21, 2025**.
  प्रशासन की **पहली बड़ी विदेश नीति पहल 21 जनवरी 2025** को **क्वाड विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक** थी।

- **Marco Rubio's Confirmation Hearing**
  U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio characterised China as the **most formidable adversary** the U.S. has faced.
  अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो ने चीन को अमेरिका का **सबसे शक्तिशाली प्रतिद्वंद्वी** करार दिया।

- **Joint Statement Highlights**
  The joint statement after the Quad meeting emphasised:
  बैठक के बाद संयुक्त बयान में निम्नलिखित पर जोर दिया गया:
  o Importance of **international law, peace, stability, and maritime security**.
    अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून, शांति, स्थिरता और समुद्री सुरक्षा का महत्व।
  o Opposition to **unilateral actions** altering the status quo through force or coercion.
    बल या दबाव के माध्यम से यथास्थिति बदलने वाले **एकतरफा कार्यों** का विरोध।

- **Commitment to Regional Cooperation**
  Members pledged to enhance **regional maritime, economic, and technological security** while ensuring **resilient supply chains**.

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सदस्यों ने **क्षेत्रीय समुद्री, आर्थिक और तकनीकी सुरक्षा** को बढ़ाने और **लचीली आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** को सुनिश्चित करने का वादा किया।

- **Quad Leaders' Summit Hosted by India**
  The members agreed to hold regular ministerial meetings and prepare for a **Quad leaders' summit** to be hosted by **India**.
  सदस्यों ने नियमित मंत्रीस्तरीय बैठकें आयोजित करने और **भारत** द्वारा मेजबानी किए जाने वाले **क्वाड नेताओं के शिखर सम्मेलन** की तैयारी पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

Evolving Indo-Pacific Priorities Under Trump 2.0
ट्रंप 2.0 के तहत बदलती हिंद-प्रशांत प्राथमिकताएं

- **Focus on Hard Power Dynamics**
  The Trump administration is expected to focus on **hard power dynamics** while retaining the Indo-Pacific's strategic prominence.
  ट्रंप प्रशासन के **हार्ड पावर डायनामिक्स** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने और हिंद-प्रशांत की रणनीतिक प्रमुखता बनाए रखने की उम्मीद है।

- **Broader Agenda Mechanisms**
  Trump 2.0 may bolster frameworks with a **broader and diverse agenda** so long as they preserve the **rules-based order**.
  ट्रंप 2.0 संभवतः **व्यापक और विविध एजेंडे** वाले ढांचों को मजबूत करेंगे, जब तक कि वे **नियम-आधारित व्यवस्था** को बनाए रखते हैं।

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Should Governors head State universities?

The Governor's role as Chancellor of State universities has become politicised, undermining university autonomy and causing governance issues, especially in States with Opposition-led governments: various reform models have been proposed to reduce political interference and improve university administration

GS Paper II: Center-State Relation

LETTER & SPIRIT

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty

The role of the Governor as Chancellor of State universities is a subject of intense debate. It is often misconstrued as a post-Independence measure to safeguard universities against political interference. This role has not been assigned to the Governor by the Constitution of India but by State university laws. Inherited from British colonial rule, it was designed to restrict university autonomy rather than promote it.

In 1857, the British established the first three universities in Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, appointing Governors of the respective presidencies as their ex-officio Chancellors to maintain direct control. As Chancellor, the Governor became the head of the university and was granted powers such as appointing Vice-Chancellors, nominating members to university bodies like the Syndicate, approving delegated legislation under the university law, and presiding over convocations. Unfortunately, this model of "Governor as Chancellor" was adopted wholesale for State universities even after Independence, without reassessing its relevance in a democratic and federal context.

A politicised office

Initially, from 1947 to 1967, the dominance of the Congress party at both the Centre and State levels ensured that Governors remained ceremonial figures, with Chief Ministers wielding real power. Consequently, there was little impetus to amend the colonial-era provision of "Governor as Chancellor."

However, the political landscape changed after 1967 when several States were ruled by parties other than the ruling party or coalition at the Centre. Governors increasingly transformed from neutral constitutional functionaries to political instruments of the Central government. This change saw them asserting control over university affairs, which often resulted in clashes with State governments. Efforts to amend university laws for change of Chancellor faced roadblocks, as Governors either delayed approving such amendments or referred them to the President. Only a few States succeeded in getting the amendments passed.

Even the Centre's First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966-77) criticised the politicisation of the Governor's office, highlighting the appointment of defeated politicians, which eroded the office's dignity. The Sarkaria Commission (1983-88) on Centre-State Relations, revealed that over 60% of Governors had been active politicians, many of them immediately before their appointment, with quality declining steeply after the Nehru era. Professor Ashok Pankaj's study (1950-2015) found that 52% of Governors were politicians, 26% were retired bureaucrats, and only 22% hailed from academia, the judiciary, or the armed forces. It highlighted a growing trend of appointing Governors based on political loyalty, undermining the office's credibility and exacerbating its misuse.

Governor's dual role

Constitutionally, a Governor's powers are divided into two categories: those exercised as Governor, where he is bound to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers as per Article 163(1), and those conferred by statutes, such as the role of Chancellor of State universities, where he can act at his discretion, independent of ministerial advice, unless the statute

mandates otherwise. The Supreme Court has upheld this distinction. This has enabled Governors to bypass ministerial advice in critical university matters like appointing Vice-Chancellors, nominating members to university bodies, and approving subordinate legislation, particularly in Opposition-ruled States.

Governor and the President

Despite similar legal frameworks, a stark contrast exists between the Governor's role as Chancellor of State universities and the President's role as Visitor of Central universities. The key difference is the level of consultation and legislative oversight.

The President maintains a cordial relationship with the Centre. He functions through the Ministry of Education and consults with it for appointments of Vice-Chancellors, nomination of members to university bodies, and approval of 'statutes' (a type of delegated legislation under the university law). Central university laws require the statutes, along with other types of delegated legislation called 'ordinances' and 'regulations', to be laid before the Parliament.

In contrast, the Governor acts unilaterally while performing similar functions for State universities, often bypassing the State's Ministry of Higher Education entirely, particularly in Opposition-ruled States. State University laws do not mandate laying delegated legislation – statutes, ordinances, and regulations – before the Legislature. This is a significant flaw rooted in the continuation of colonial-era practices.

Existing challenges

The persistence of the "Governor as Chancellor" model has caused numerous problems in the governance of State universities.

While State governments fund these universities, Governors wield substantial power without corresponding accountability. This creates a dual authority system, forcing university leadership to serve two masters, often with conflicting demands.

Disagreements between Governors and State governments, particularly in Opposition-ruled States, lead to delays in appointing Vice-Chancellors, causing administrative paralysis. These delays affect areas such as the appointment of staff, the implementation of projects, and

even the awarding of degrees.

Many Governors lack the academic qualifications or experience necessary to effectively guide educational institutions. They tend to rely on limited, non-transparent advice, leading to questionable decisions.

Rather than insulating universities from politics, some Governors exacerbate political interference, often prioritising the Centre's political agenda over the universities' autonomy and interests.

Allowing Governors – appointed by the Centre – to control State institutions compromises the principle of federalism. State universities should be fully accountable to elected State governments.

Insights from Commissions

Various commissions have examined the Governor's role as Chancellor and proposed reforms. The Rajamannar Committee (1969-71) on Centre-State relations, appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, argued that the Governor's statutory functions are included within the meaning of 'functions' under Article 163(1). So, the Governor should perform his statutory functions as Chancellor also on the advice of the State government. However, the Supreme Court has not upheld this interpretation.

The Sarkaria Commission (1983-88) on Centre-State relations, recognised that the Governor's role as Chancellor is statutory, not constitutional, and must be defined by State laws. It recommended that Governors consult with Chief Ministers while retaining independent judgment in university matters.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000-02), headed by Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, advocated for political neutrality, a clearer definition of the Chancellor's functions, a supportive rather than authoritative role, and greater university autonomy.

The M.M.Punchhi Commission (2007-10) on Centre-State relations recommended that the Governor focus on constitutional responsibilities, avoiding statutory roles like that of Chancellor to preserve the dignity of the office. It suggested that States appoint eminent academics or experts as Chancellors to ensure academic independence and prevent conflicts.

Alternative models

The ideal Chancellor model, based on

global best practices, envisions the Chancellor as an eminent public figure who provides ceremonial leadership, presides over convocations, acts as an institutional ambassador, and has no executive authority. Universities in the U.K., from whom we borrowed the concept of Chancellor, exemplify this model. There are several ways to amend State university laws to implement this reform: The Governor as Ceremonial Chancellor model removes the Governor's discretionary powers, mandating him to act on the advice of the State Council of Ministers in university matters. Gujarat (1978), Karnataka (2000), and Maharashtra (2021) have adopted variations of this approach.

In the Chief Minister as Chancellor model, critics argue that a ceremonial role does not suit a powerful political figure like the Chief Minister. West Bengal and Punjab passed Bills in 2023 to adopt this system, but they await Presidential assent. In a variation, Tamil Nadu passed a Bill in 2022 substituting 'Government' for 'Chancellor'. It also awaits Presidential assent.

The State-appointed Chancellor model, implemented in Telangana in 2015, has the State government appoint a ceremonial Chancellor. A similar Bill was passed by Kerala in 2022, but it is still awaiting Presidential assent. The Kerala Bill specifies that the appointee should be an eminent academician or public figure.

The Chancellor elected by the University Bodies model empowers university bodies and alumni to elect a ceremonial Chancellor as in Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh universities.

In the Chancellor appointed by the University's Executive Council model, several universities in the U.K. (Birmingham), Canada (McGill) and Australia (Melbourne) appoint ceremonial Chancellors through their Executive Council or Board of Governors, following transparent selection processes.

Among these, the State-appointed Chancellor model is the most practical for India, provided the appointees are distinguished academicians or public figures, excluding politicians. The M.M.Punchhi Commission had recommended it.

Dismantling a colonial legacy

Reforming State universities in India demands a careful balance of key principles: ensuring accountability to elected State governments, minimising political interference, promoting institutional self-governance, and fostering academic freedom and excellence. The vital first step is divesting the Governor of his colonial-era role as Chancellor.

While States like Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra have implemented reforms, others such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Punjab face indefinite delays in obtaining Presidential assent for their proposed changes. This disparity underscores the need for impartial treatment by the President and Government of India. There is no valid reason for withholding approval of the pending Bills and resolving such matters through the Supreme Court under Article 131 should be avoided. The Centre should facilitate progressive reforms that seek to dismantle colonial-era administrative structures, guide States towards aligning their university governance models with global best practices, and enable universities to focus on academic excellence free from political entanglements.

The author is a retired IAS officer and a former Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

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The Governor's role as Chancellor of State universities has led to political interference and diminished university autonomy, particularly in Opposition-ruled States.

▼

Over the years, Governors have increasingly become political appointees, undermining the credibility of the office and exacerbating conflicts between State governments and the Centre.

▼

Various commissions have recommended reforms such as appointing academics or public personalities as Chancellors to preserve university autonomy and reduce political influence.

Should Governors Head State universities?
क्या राज्यपालों को राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों का प्रमुख बनना चाहिए?

The Governor's role as Chancellor of State universities has become politicised, undermining university autonomy and causing governance issues, especially in States with Opposition-led governments: various reform models have been proposed to reduce political interference and improve university administration

राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलाधिपति के रूप में राज्यपाल की भूमिका राजनीतिक हो गई है, जिससे विश्वविद्यालय की स्वायत्तता कम हो रही है और शासन संबंधी समस्याएं पैदा हो रही हैं, खासकर उन राज्यों में जहां विपक्ष के नेतृत्व वाली सरकारें हैं: राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप को कम करने और विश्वविद्यालय प्रशासन में सुधार के लिए विभिन्न सुधार मॉडल प्रस्तावित किए गए हैं।

Role of the Governor as Chancellor of State Universities
राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों में कुलाधिपति के रूप में राज्यपाल की भूमिका

- **Misconception About Governor's Role**
  The role of the Governor as Chancellor of State universities is often misconstrued as a **post-Independence safeguard** against political interference.
  राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों में कुलाधिपति के रूप में राज्यपाल की भूमिका को अक्सर **स्वतंत्रता के बाद** राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप से सुरक्षा के रूप में गलत समझा जाता है।
- This role is **not assigned by the Constitution** but by **State university laws**, which were inherited from British colonial rule.
  यह भूमिका **संविधान द्वारा नहीं**, बल्कि **राज्य विश्वविद्यालय कानूनों** द्वारा सौंपी गई है, जो ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक शासन से प्राप्त है।

Historical Background of Governor as Chancellor
कुलाधिपति के रूप में राज्यपाल की ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- In **1857**, the British established the first three universities in **Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras**, appointing Governors as their ex-officio Chancellors to maintain control.
  1857 में ब्रिटिशों ने **कलकत्ता, बॉम्बे और मद्रास** में पहले तीन विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित किए और नियंत्रण बनाए रखने के लिए गवर्नरों को उनके स्वाभाविक कुलाधिपति के रूप में नियुक्त किया।
- The Governor, as Chancellor, had powers such as:
  - **Appointing Vice-Chancellors**.
  - **Nominating members** to university bodies like the Syndicate.
  - **Approving delegated legislation** under university laws.
  - Presiding over **convocations**.

  कुलाधिपति के रूप में राज्यपाल को यह शक्तियाँ थीं:
  - **कुलपति की नियुक्ति**।

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- o विश्वविद्यालय निकायों (जैसे सिंडिकेट) में **सदस्यों का नामांकन।**
- o विश्वविद्यालय कानूनों के तहत **विनियमित कानून को मंजूरी।**
- o **दीक्षांत समारोहों की अध्यक्षता।**

- Unfortunately, this colonial model of "Governor as Chancellor" was **adopted wholesale** after Independence without reassessing its relevance.

  दुर्भाग्यवश, "कुलाधिपति के रूप में राज्यपाल" के इस औपनिवेशिक मॉडल को स्वतंत्रता के बाद बिना पुनर्मूल्यांकन के **जैसा का तैसा अपनाया गया।**

Political Evolution of Governor's Role
राजनीतिक विकास में राज्यपाल की भूमिका

- **1947-1967**: During Congress dominance at both the Centre and State levels, Governors remained **ceremonial figures**, with real power held by Chief Ministers.

  1947-1967: केंद्र और राज्य स्तर पर कांग्रेस के प्रभुत्व के दौरान, राज्यपाल **औपचारिक व्यक्ति** बने रहे, जबकि वास्तविक शक्ति मुख्यमंत्री के पास थी।

- Post-**1967**: As non-Congress parties ruled several States, Governors **transformed into political instruments** of the Central government, often clashing with State governments.

  1967 के बाद: गैर-कांग्रेसी दलों के कई राज्यों में शासन के बाद, राज्यपाल **केंद्र सरकार के राजनीतिक उपकरण** बन गए और अक्सर राज्य सरकारों से टकराव हुआ।

- Efforts to amend university laws to change the Chancellor often faced **delays** as Governors either:
  - o **Delayed approvals**.
  - o Referred amendments to the **President of India**.

    विश्वविद्यालय कानूनों में संशोधन के प्रयासों में अक्सर देरी हुई, क्योंकि राज्यपाल:

  - o **मंजूरी में देरी** करते थे।
  - o संशोधनों को **राष्ट्रपति के पास भेजते** थे।

Criticism of Politicisation
राजनीतिकरण की आलोचना

- The **First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966–77)** criticised the politicisation of the Governor's office, noting the appointment of **defeated politicians**.

  प्रथम प्रशासनिक सुधार आयोग (1966-77) ने राज्यपाल के कार्यालय के राजनीतिकरण की आलोचना की और **हारे हुए राजनीतिज्ञों** की नियुक्ति का उल्लेख किया।

- The **Sarkaria Commission (1983–88)** reported that over **60% of Governors** had been active politicians, eroding the dignity of the office.

  सरकारिया आयोग (1983–88) ने रिपोर्ट दी कि **60% से अधिक राज्यपाल** सक्रिय राजनीतिज्ञ थे, जिससे कार्यालय की गरिमा को ठेस पहुँची।

- Professor Ashok Pankaj's study (1950–2015) found:
  - o **52% of Governors** were politicians.

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- o **26% were retired bureaucrats**.
- o Only **22% were from academia, judiciary, or armed forces**.

  प्रोफेसर अशोक पंकज के अध्ययन (1950-2015) में यह पाया गया:

- o **52% राज्यपाल राजनीतिज्ञ** थे।

- o **26% सेवानिवृत्त नौकरशाह** थे।

- o केवल **22% शिक्षाविद, न्यायपालिका, या सशस्त्र बलों से** थे।

- The study highlighted the **trend of appointing Governors based on political loyalty**, undermining credibility.

  अध्ययन ने **राजनीतिक निष्ठा के आधार पर राज्यपालों की नियुक्ति** की प्रवृत्ति को उजागर किया, जिसने विश्वसनीयता को कमजोर किया।

Governor's Dual Role
राज्यपाल की द्वि-भूमिका

- The **Governor's powers** are divided into two categories:
  - o As **Governor**, where he acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers as per **Article 163(1)**.
  - o As **Chancellor of State universities**, where he can act independently unless the statute mandates otherwise.

    राज्यपाल की शक्तियाँ दो श्रेणियों में बाँटी जाती हैं:

  - o **राज्यपाल के रूप में**, जहाँ वह **काउंसिल ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स की सलाह** पर कार्य करते हैं, जैसा कि **अनुच्छेद 163(1)** में बताया गया है।

  - o **राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलाधिपति के रूप में**, जहाँ वह स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य कर सकते हैं, जब तक कि कोई statute अन्यथा न कहे।

- **Supreme Court** has upheld this distinction.

  सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस अंतर को सही ठहराया है।

- This distinction has allowed Governors to bypass **ministerial advice** in university matters, such as:
  - o **Appointing Vice-Chancellors**.
  - o **Nominating members** to university bodies.
  - o **Approving subordinate legislation**.

    इस अंतर ने राज्यपालों को विश्वविद्यालय मामलों में **मंत्रीमंडल की सलाह** को दरकिनार करने की अनुमति दी है, जैसे कि:

  - o **कुलपति की नियुक्ति**।

  - o विश्वविद्यालय निकायों में **सदस्यों का नामांकन**।

  - o **संबंधित अधिनियमों की स्वीकृति**।

Governor vs President: Chancellor vs Visitor
राज्यपाल बनाम राष्ट्रपति: कुलाधिपति बनाम अभ्यागत

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- The **Governor's role** as Chancellor and the **President's role** as Visitor to central universities differ significantly in terms of:
  - **Level of consultation**.
  - **Legislative oversight**.

    राज्यपाल की कुलाधिपति की भूमिका और राष्ट्रपति की केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के अभ्यागत के रूप में भूमिका में **कंसल्टेशन का स्तर** और **कानूनी निगरानी** के संदर्भ में महत्वपूर्ण अंतर है।

- The **President** consults the **Ministry of Education** for university appointments, while **statutes** and **delegated legislation** are laid before **Parliament**.

  राष्ट्रपति विश्वविद्यालयों की नियुक्तियों के लिए **शिक्षा मंत्रालय** से परामर्श करते हैं, जबकि **कानूनी नियम** और **संबद्ध अधिनियम** संसद में रखे जाते हैं।

- **Governor**, in contrast, acts unilaterally for State universities, often bypassing the State's **Ministry of Higher Education**.

  राज्यपाल, इसके विपरीत, राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए एकतरफा कार्य करते हैं, अक्सर राज्य के **उच्च शिक्षा मंत्रालय** को दरकिनार करते हैं।

- **State university laws** do not mandate laying **delegated legislation** before the Legislature.

  राज्य विश्वविद्यालय कानूनों में **संबद्ध अधिनियमों** को विधानमंडल के समक्ष रखना अनिवार्य नहीं है।

Existing Challenges
मौजूदा चुनौतियाँ

- The persistence of the **"Governor as Chancellor"** model creates numerous problems:
  - **Governors wield significant power** in universities, while State governments fund them, leading to a **dual authority system**.

    "राज्यपाल के कुलाधिपति" मॉडल की निरंतरता कई समस्याएँ उत्पन्न करती है:
  - **राज्यपालों के पास विश्वविद्यालयों में महत्वपूर्ण शक्ति होती है**, जबकि राज्य सरकारें इनका वित्त पोषण करती हैं, जिससे **दोहरी सत्ता प्रणाली** उत्पन्न होती है।

- **Delays in Vice-Chancellor appointments** lead to **administrative paralysis**, affecting project implementation and awarding of degrees.

  कुलपति की नियुक्तियों में देरी से **प्रशासनिक गतिरोध** उत्पन्न होता है, जो परियोजना कार्यान्वयन और डिग्रियों के पुरस्कार को प्रभावित करता है।

- Many **Governors lack the necessary academic qualifications** to effectively guide universities, relying on limited advice.

  कई **राज्यपालों में विश्वविद्यालयों को प्रभावी रूप से मार्गदर्शन देने के लिए आवश्यक शैक्षिक योग्यताएँ नहीं होतीं**, और वे सीमित सलाह पर निर्भर होते हैं।

- Some Governors **exacerbate political interference** rather than insulating universities from politics, prioritising **Centre's political agenda**.

कुछ राज्यपाल **राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप** को बढ़ाते हैं, बजाय इसके कि विश्वविद्यालयों को राजनीति से बचाया जाए, और **केंद्र के राजनीतिक एजेंडे** को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।

- **Federalism principle** is compromised by allowing Governors to control State universities.
  संघीयता का सिद्धांत राज्यपालों को राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों पर नियंत्रण देने से कमजोर हो जाता है।

- State universities should be fully **accountable to elected State governments**.
  राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों को **चुनावों द्वारा चुनी गई राज्य सरकारों के प्रति पूरी तरह से जिम्मेदार** होना चाहिए।

Insights from Commissions
आयोगों से निष्कर्ष

- The **Rajamannar Committee (1969-71)** argued that Governors should perform their statutory functions as Chancellor on the **advice of the State government**.
  राजमन्नार समिति (1969-71) ने यह तर्क दिया कि राज्यपाल को कुलाधिपति के रूप में अपने वैधानिक कार्य राज्य सरकार की **सलाह पर** करना चाहिए।

- The **Sarkaria Commission (1983-88)** recommended that Governors consult with **Chief Ministers** while retaining **independent judgment** in university matters.
  सरकारिया आयोग (1983-88) ने यह सिफारिश की कि राज्यपालों को **मुख्यमंत्रियों से परामर्श** करना चाहिए, जबकि विश्वविद्यालय मामलों में **स्वतंत्र निर्णय** बनाए रखते हुए।

- The **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000-02)** advocated for **political neutrality**, clearer definitions of Chancellor's functions, and greater university autonomy.
  संविधान की कार्यविधि की समीक्षा के लिए राष्ट्रीय आयोग (2000-02) ने **राजनीतिक तटस्थता**, कुलाधिपति के कार्यों की स्पष्ट परिभाषाएँ, और विश्वविद्यालयों की अधिक स्वायत्तता का समर्थन किया।

- The **M.M. Punchhi Commission (2007-10)** recommended that **States appoint eminent academics** as Chancellors to preserve **academic independence**.
  एम.एम. पंचही आयोग (2007-10) ने यह सिफारिश की कि **राज्य प्रसिद्ध विद्वानों** को कुलाधिपति के रूप में नियुक्त करें ताकि **शैक्षिक स्वतंत्रता** बनी रहे।

Alternative Models
वैकल्पिक मॉडल

- The **ideal Chancellor model**, based on **global best practices**, envisions the Chancellor as an **eminent public figure** who provides **ceremonial leadership**, presides over convocations, acts as an **institutional ambassador**, and has **no executive authority**.
  वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं पर आधारित **आदर्श कुलाधिपति मॉडल** कुलाधिपति को एक **प्रसिद्ध**

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सार्वजनिक व्यक्ति के रूप में परिभाषित करता है, जो **आधिकारिक नेतृत्व** प्रदान करता है, दीक्षांत समारोहों की अध्यक्षता करता है, एक **संस्थागत दूत** के रूप में कार्य करता है, और उसके पास **कोई कार्यकारी अधिकार** नहीं होते।

- **U.K. universities** exemplify this model, from whom India borrowed the concept of Chancellor.

  यू.के. विश्वविद्यालय इस मॉडल का उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करते हैं, जिनसे भारत ने कुलाधिपति का यह विचार लिया था।

- **Governor as Ceremonial Chancellor model**: This model removes the **Governor's discretionary powers**, mandating him to act on the advice of the **State Council of Ministers** in university matters.

  राज्यपाल को वैधानिक कुलाधिपति मॉडल: इस मॉडल में **राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियों** को हटा दिया जाता है, और उन्हें विश्वविद्यालय मामलों में **राज्य मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह** पर कार्य करने का निर्देश दिया जाता है।

- **States like Gujarat (1978), Karnataka (2000), and Maharashtra (2021)** have adopted variations of this approach.

  गुजरात (1978), कर्नाटका (2000), और महाराष्ट्र (2021) जैसे राज्यों ने इस दृष्टिकोण के विभिन्न रूपों को अपनाया है।

- **Chief Minister as Chancellor model**: Critics argue that a ceremonial role does not suit a powerful political figure like the **Chief Minister**.

  मुख्यमंत्री को कुलाधिपति मॉडल: आलोचक यह तर्क करते हैं कि एक औपचारिक भूमिका शक्तिशाली राजनीतिक व्यक्ति जैसे **मुख्यमंत्री** के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है।

- **States like West Bengal and Punjab** passed Bills in 2023 to adopt this system, but they await **Presidential assent**.

  पश्चिम बंगाल और पंजाब जैसे राज्यों ने 2023 में इस प्रणाली को अपनाने के लिए विधेयक पारित किए, लेकिन उन्हें **राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति** का इंतजार है।

- In a variation, **Tamil Nadu (2022)** passed a Bill substituting **'Government'** for **'Chancellor'**, and it also awaits **Presidential assent**.

  एक रूपांतरण में, **तमिलनाडु (2022)** ने एक विधेयक पारित किया जिसमें **'कुलाधिपति' के स्थान पर 'सरकार'** को रखा गया, और यह भी **राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति** का इंतजार कर रहा है।

- **State-appointed Chancellor model**: Implemented in **Telangana (2015)**, where the State government appoints a **ceremonial Chancellor**.

  राज्य नियुक्त कुलाधिपति मॉडल: **तेलंगाना (2015)** में लागू किया गया, जहाँ राज्य सरकार एक **आधिकारिक कुलाधिपति** नियुक्त करती है।

- **Kerala (2022)** also passed a similar Bill but is awaiting **Presidential assent**.

  केरल (2022) ने भी एक समान विधेयक पारित किया, लेकिन वह **राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति** का इंतजार कर रहा है।

- The **Chancellor elected by University Bodies model** empowers **university bodies and alumni** to elect a **ceremonial Chancellor**.

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कुलाधिपति द्वारा विश्वविद्यालय निकायों द्वारा निर्वाचित मॉडल विश्वविद्यालय निकायों और पूर्व छात्रों को एक आधिकारिक कुलाधिपति चुनने का अधिकार देता है।

- The **Chancellor appointed by the University's Executive Council model** is followed by universities in the **U.K. (Birmingham), Canada (McGill), Australia (Melbourne)**.

कुलाधिपति द्वारा विश्वविद्यालय के कार्यकारी परिषद द्वारा नियुक्त मॉडल का पालन **यू.के. (बर्मिंघम), कनाडा (मैकगिल), ऑस्ट्रेलिया (मेलबर्न)** के विश्वविद्यालयों में किया जाता है।

- Among these, the **State-appointed Chancellor model** is the most practical for India, provided the appointees are **distinguished academicians or public figures**, excluding **politicians**.

इनमें से, **राज्य नियुक्त कुलाधिपति मॉडल** भारत के लिए सबसे व्यावहारिक है, बशर्ते नियुक्त व्यक्ति **प्रसिद्ध विद्वान या सार्वजनिक व्यक्ति** हों, **राजनीतिज्ञों** को छोड़कर।

- The **M.M. Punchhi Commission** had recommended this model.

एम.एम. पंचही आयोग ने इस मॉडल की सिफारिश की थी।

Dismantling a Colonial Legacy
औपनिवेशिक धरोहर को नष्ट करना

- Reforming **State universities in India** requires a balance of key principles:
  - Ensuring **accountability to elected State governments**.
  - Minimising **political interference**.
  - Promoting **institutional self-governance**.
  - Fostering **academic freedom and excellence**.

    भारत में **राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों का सुधार** महत्वपूर्ण सिद्धांतों के संतुलन की मांग करता है:
  - **चुनी हुई राज्य सरकारों के प्रति जिम्मेदारी** सुनिश्चित करना।
  - **राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप को कम करना।**
  - **संस्थागत स्व-शासन** को बढ़ावा देना।
  - **शैक्षिक स्वतंत्रता और उत्कृष्टता** को प्रोत्साहित करना।

- The **first step** is to divest the **Governor** of his colonial-era role as **Chancellor**.

पहला कदम **राज्यपाल** को औपनिवेशिक काल से उत्पन्न कुलाधिपति की भूमिका से हटा देना है।

- **States like Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra** have implemented reforms, while **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Punjab** face delays in obtaining **Presidential assent**.

गुजरात, कर्नाटका, तेलंगाना और महाराष्ट्र जैसे राज्यों ने सुधार लागू किए हैं, जबकि **तमिलनाडु, केरल, पश्चिम बंगाल और पंजाब** को **राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति** प्राप्त करने में देरी हो रही है।

- This disparity highlights the need for **impartial treatment by the President and Government of India**.

यह भेदभाव **राष्ट्रपति और भारत सरकार से निष्पक्ष व्यवहार** की आवश्यकता को उजागर करता है।

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- There is no valid reason to withhold **approval of pending Bills**.
  लंबित **विधेयकों** की स्वीकृति रोकने का कोई वैध कारण नहीं है।
- The Centre should facilitate progressive reforms to **dismantle colonial-era administrative structures** and guide States to align their **university governance models with global best practices**.
  केंद्र को **औपनिवेशिक काल के प्रशासनिक ढाँचों को नष्ट करने** के लिए प्रगतिशील सुधारों को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए और राज्यों को **वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के साथ अपने विश्वविद्यालय शासन मॉडल को संरेखित करने** में मार्गदर्शन करना चाहिए।
- This will enable universities to focus on **academic excellence**, free from **political entanglements**.
  इससे विश्वविद्यालयों को **राजनीतिक उलझनों से मुक्त** होकर **शैक्षिक उत्कृष्टता** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की अनुमति मिलेगी।

Justice Jagdish Khehar's decisions often contradicted Centre's views

GS Paper II: Important Judgements

NEW DELHI

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar (retd), the first Sikh Chief Justice of India who was selected for the Padma Vibhushan on Saturday for 'public affairs', has a judicial legacy that collided with the views of the Union government and once ruled in favour of an embattled Opposition in the first term of the NDA regime.

Heading a multi-faith Constitution Bench in August 2017, the very last month of his tenure as Chief Justice from January 2017, Justice Khehar upheld triple talaq or instant talaq in his minority verdict as a fundamental right. The 44th Chief Justice of India had found the "1,400-year-old" practice of Muslim men divorcing their wives by saying 'talaq' three times is an integral part of the freedom of religion.

The Centre had argued that instant talaq was not fundamental to Islam and personal law must abide by the principles of dignity and non-discrimination.

The same month had witnessed a nine-judge

Jagdish Singh Khehar

Bench headed by Chief Justice Khehar elevate the right to privacy to the echelons of fundamental rights. The court declared privacy as a part of the right to life, dignity and integrity under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Union government had found the concept of privacy an elitist concept, at the most a common law right, which must readily give way to public interest.

Justice (as he was then) Khehar, in October 2015, overcame his "awkward predicament" of being a Supreme Court Collegium member and braving demands to recuse himself, to declare the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, giving politicians and civil society a final say in the appointment of judges to the high-

est courts, unconstitutional. Justice Khehar found it difficult for the judiciary to share its wisdom of appointment of judges with the political-executive. The judgment had dismissed the Centre's argument that NJAC was the "will of the people" and cannot be reviewed.

However, Justice Khehar had taken an unconventional approach to invite public suggestions to improve the collegium system, but the reworked draft of the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Judges has not seen the light of the day.

The Supreme Court itself had blamed the subsequent delay in judicial appointments to the government's grouse of having lost the NJAC case.

A unanimous decision of a Constitution Bench headed by Justice Khehar showed the door to the BJP-propped rebel Congress government of Kalikho Pul and paved the way for the return of Congress's Nabam Tuki government in 2016. The court had quashed the then Arunachal Pradesh Governor J.P. Rajkhowa's decision to advance the Assembly ses-

sion which led to President's Rule in the State.

Subsequently, Mr. Pul's wife linked the Constitution Bench decision with the suicide of her husband. Dangwimsai Pul wrote a two-page note to Justice Khehar, who was Chief Justice by then, seeking a CBI probe into her husband's suicide note which raised allegations against Supreme Court judges and politicians. Allegations were levelled against two of the judges on the Constitution Bench, including Justice Khehar himself. She later withdrew the note from the Supreme Court after her note was converted into a petition and placed on the judicial side of the court.

A "tough judge", as Chief Justice T.S. Thakur once described him, Chief Justice Khehar did not shirk from punishing judges who stepped out of line. In May 2017, he led a seven-judge Bench which took the unprecedented decision to sentence a sitting Calcutta High Court judge, C.S. Karnan, to six months' imprisonment for contempt and for reducing the Indian judiciary into a "laughing stock".

- In **August 2017**, during his tenure as **Chief Justice**, he upheld **triple talaq** as a **fundamental right** in a **minority verdict**.
  अगस्त 2017 में, अपने **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** के रूप में कार्यकाल के दौरान, उन्होंने **ट्रिपल तलाक** को **मूल अधिकार** के रूप में **न्यूनतम निर्णय** में बरकरार रखा।

- He found **instant talaq** to be an **integral part** of the **freedom of religion**.
  उन्होंने **तत्काल तलाक** को **धर्म की स्वतंत्रता** का एक **अविभाज्य हिस्सा** पाया।

- The **Centre** argued that instant talaq was not fundamental to Islam and should respect **dignity** and **non-discrimination**.
  केंद्र ने तर्क किया कि तत्काल तलाक इस्लाम का मूल हिस्सा नहीं था और इसे **गौरव** और **भेदभाव रहित** होना चाहिए।

- In **August 2017**, the same month, Justice Khehar also headed a **nine-judge bench** that elevated the **right to privacy** to a **fundamental right**.
  अगस्त 2017 में, उसी महीने, न्यायमूर्ति खेहर ने **नौ न्यायाधीशों की पीठ** का नेतृत्व किया, जिसने **गोपनीयता के अधिकार** को **मूल अधिकार** के रूप में मान्यता दी।

- He declared privacy as part of the **right to life**, **dignity**, and **integrity** under **Article 21** of the Constitution.
  उन्होंने गोपनीयता को **जीवन के अधिकार**, **गौरव**, और **अखंडता** का हिस्सा घोषित किया, जो **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21** के तहत है।

- The **Union government** viewed privacy as an elitist concept and a **common law right**.
  केंद्र सरकार ने गोपनीयता को एक **उच्चवर्गीय** अवधारणा और **सामान्य कानून का अधिकार** माना।

- In **October 2015**, Justice Khehar declared the **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)** Act unconstitutional.
  अक्टूबर 2015 में, न्यायमूर्ति खेहर ने **राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति आयोग (NJAC)** अधिनियम को असंवैधानिक घोषित किया।

- The NJAC Act gave **politicians** and **civil society** a say in the **appointment of judges** to the highest courts.
  NJAC अधिनियम ने **राजनीतिज्ञों** और **सामाजिक संगठनों** को उच्चतम न्यायालयों में **न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति** में हिस्सा दिया।

- Justice Khehar argued that the **judiciary** should not share its **wisdom** of judicial appointments with the **political-executive**.
  न्यायमूर्ति खेहर ने तर्क किया कि **न्यायपालिका** को न्यायिक नियुक्तियों की **बुद्धिमत्ता राजनीतिक-कार्यपालिका** के साथ साझा नहीं करनी चाहिए।

- Justice Khehar invited **public suggestions** to improve the **collegium system**, but the reworked draft of the **Memorandum of Procedure** for judicial appointments never came to light.
  न्यायमूर्ति खेहर ने **कोलिजियम प्रणाली** में सुधार के लिए **सार्वजनिक सुझाव** आमंत्रित किए, लेकिन न्यायिक नियुक्तियों के लिए **प्रक्रिया ज्ञापन** का संशोधित मसौदा कभी सामने नहीं आया।

- A unanimous decision by a **Constitution Bench** headed by Justice Khehar led to the **quashing of Kalikho Pul's government** in **Arunachal Pradesh** in **2016**.

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न्यायमूर्ति खेहर द्वारा अध्यक्षता की गई **संविधान पीठ** का सर्वसम्मत निर्णय **अरुणाचल प्रदेश** में **2016** में **कालीखो पुल की सरकार** को रद्द करने का कारण बना।

- The court **quashed** the decision of **Arunachal Pradesh Governor J.P. Rajkhowa** to advance the **Assembly session**, which led to **President's Rule**.
  अदालत ने **अरुणाचल प्रदेश के गवर्नर जे.पी. राजखोवा** के **विधानसभा सत्र को पहले करना** के निर्णय को रद्द कर दिया, जिससे **राष्ट्रपति शासन** लागू हुआ।

- In **May 2017**, Justice Khehar led a **seven-judge bench** that sentenced **Justice C.S. Karnan** of the **Calcutta High Court** to **six months' imprisonment** for contempt.
  मई 2017 में, न्यायमूर्ति खेहर ने **सात न्यायाधीशों की पीठ** का नेतृत्व किया, जिसने **कोलकाता उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायमूर्ति सी.एस. कर्णन** को अवमानना के लिए **छह महीने की सजा** दी।

- Justice Karnan was sentenced for reducing the Indian judiciary into a **"laughing stock"**.
  न्यायमूर्ति कर्णन को भारतीय न्यायपालिका को **"हंसी का पात्र"** बनाने के लिए सजा दी गई।

Rebels close in on key Congo city as 13 officials killed and thousands displaced

GS Paper II: Africa

Associated Press
GOMA

The international airport in Goma was evacuated and commercial flights temporarily grounded on Sunday as fighting between Rwanda-backed rebels and government forces raged around eastern Congo's key city, leaving at least 13 peacekeepers and foreign soldiers dead and displacing thousands of civilians.

The M23 rebel group has made significant territorial gains along the border with Rwanda in recent weeks, closing in on Goma, the provincial capital that has a population of around

Running for cover: People displaced by the fighting with M23 rebels make their way to the centre of Goma on Sunday. AP

2 million and is a regional hub for security and humanitarian efforts.

Goma's international airport, which is the east of the city, was evacuated by the military and commercial flights were temporarily grounded due to fighting, an airport agent said.

The United Nations on Sunday told its staff not to go to the airport and to shelter in place.

Congo, the United States and UN experts accuse Rwanda of backing M23, which is mainly made up of ethnic Tutsis who broke away from the Congolese Army more than a decade ago. It's one of about 100 armed groups that have been vying for a foothold in the mineral-rich region, where a long-running conflict has created one of the world's largest humanitarian crises.

The Congolese Foreign Ministry said late Saturday it was severing diplomatic ties with Rwanda.

Rebels close in on key Congo city as 13 officials killed and thousands displaced

विद्रोही कांगो के प्रमुख शहर के करीब पहुंच गए हैं, 13 अधिकारी मारे गए हैं और हज़ारों लोग विस्थापित हुए हैं

Evacuation of Goma International Airport
गोमा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का खाली कराना

- The **international airport in Goma** was evacuated on **Sunday**, and **commercial flights** were temporarily grounded due to fighting between **Rwanda-backed rebels** and government forces.
  गोमा के **अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे** को **रविवार** को खाली कराया गया और **वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों** को अस्थायी रूप से रोक दिया गया, क्योंकि **रवांडा समर्थित विद्रोहियों** और सरकारी बलों के बीच लड़ाई हो रही थी।

- At least **13 peacekeepers** and foreign soldiers were killed in the conflict, and thousands of civilians were displaced.
  इस संघर्ष में कम से कम **13 शांति सैनिक** और विदेशी सैनिक मारे गए, और हजारों नागरिक विस्थापित हो गए।

Advances by M23 Rebels
M23 विद्रोहियों की प्रगति

- The **M23 rebel group** has made significant territorial gains near the **Rwanda border** in recent weeks, moving closer to **Goma**, which has a population of **2 million** and serves as a regional hub for security and humanitarian efforts.
  M23 विद्रोही समूह ने हाल के हफ्तों में **रवांडा सीमा** के पास महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रीय लाभ हासिल किए हैं, और वे **गोमा** के करीब पहुंच गए हैं, जिसकी आबादी **20 लाख** है और यह सुरक्षा और मानवीय प्रयासों का क्षेत्रीय केंद्र है।

Airport Evacuation and UN Advisory
हवाई अड्डा खाली कराना और संयुक्त राष्ट्र की सलाह

- Goma's international airport was evacuated by the **military**, and the **United Nations** advised its staff to avoid the airport and stay sheltered.
  गोमा के अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे को **सेना** द्वारा खाली कराया गया और **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** ने अपने कर्मचारियों को हवाई अड्डे से बचने और शरण में रहने की सलाह दी।

Accusations Against Rwanda
रवांडा के खिलाफ आरोप

- **Congo**, the **United States**, and UN experts accuse **Rwanda** of backing **M23**, which consists primarily of ethnic **Tutsis** who broke away from the **Congolese Army** more

than a decade ago.

कांगो, **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका**, और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के विशेषज्ञों ने **रवांडा** पर **M23** का समर्थन करने का आरोप लगाया है, जिसमें मुख्य रूप से **तुत्सी समुदाय** के लोग शामिल हैं जो **कांगो सेना** से एक दशक पहले अलग हो गए थे।

- The **M23 group** is one of nearly **100 armed groups** operating in the **mineral-rich region**, contributing to one of the world's largest humanitarian crises.

  M23 समूह लगभग **100 सशस्त्र समूहों** में से एक है जो इस **खनिज-समृद्ध क्षेत्र** में काम कर रहा है और दुनिया के सबसे बड़े मानवीय संकटों में से एक का कारण बन रहा है।

Severing Diplomatic Ties

राजनयिक संबंध तोड़ना

- On **Saturday**, the **Congolese Foreign Ministry** announced it was severing diplomatic ties with **Rwanda** due to the ongoing conflict.

  शनिवार को, **कांगो के विदेश मंत्रालय** ने चल रहे संघर्ष के कारण **रवांडा** के साथ राजनयिक संबंध तोड़ने की घोषणा की।

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

1. **Blast' in Guwahati: ULFA(I) says it's just a warning / गुवाहाटी में 'विस्फोट': ULFA(I) का कहना है कि यह सिर्फ एक चेतावनी है**

2. **A checklist for the Dhruv helicopter investigation / ध्रुव हेलीकॉप्टर जांच के लिए एक चेकलिस्ट**

3. **People's stir stopped tungsten project: Stalin / लोगों के विरोध ने टंगस्टन परियोजना को रोका: स्टालिन**

4. **India and U.S. lead Courseera enrolments for Gen AI courses / भारत और अमेरिका जनरल एआई पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए कोर्सेरा नामांकन में अग्रणी हैं**

5. **Why are crypto withdrawals being restricted for investors? / निवेशकों के लिए क्रिप्टो निकासी पर प्रतिबंध क्यों लगाए जा रहे हैं**

6. **Where did dinosaurs first evolve? / डायनासोर सबसे पहले कहाँ विकसित हुए?**

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7. **Army's missile firepower thunders down Kartavya Path in show of strike options / भारत की मिसाइल शक्ति ने कर्तव्य पथ पर अपनी स्ट्राइक विकल्पों को प्रदर्शित किया**

8. **Assam tea workers prone to post-TB fungal disease: study / असम चाय श्रमिकों में टीबी के बाद फंगल बीमारी का खतरा: अध्ययन**

9. **Indian space programme breaks into 2025 in 'mission mode' / भारतीय अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम 2025 तक 'मिशन मोड' में प्रवेश करेगा**

10. **Where did dinosaurs first evolve? / डायनासोर सबसे पहले कहाँ विकसित हुए?**

'Blast' in Guwahati: ULFA(I) says it's just a warning

GS Paper III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Police seize bag with IED, say they have launched a search for the miscreants behind the incident

People across eight northeastern States defied a boycott call by some extremist groups, including the United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent), to celebrate the country's 76th Republic Day on Sunday.

An aberration in the festival-like atmosphere was a "bomb blast" the ULFA(I) claimed to have detonated on a truck parking lot in the Beharbari area on the outskirts of Guwahati in the morning.

Another bag, suspected to contain an improvised explosive device, was found at the Inter-State Bus Terminus nearby.

The police downplayed the outlawed outfit's claim. "It was a loud sound, not an explosion. We have launched an operation to catch the miscreants in-

volved," Guwahati's Commissioner of Police, Partha Sarathi Mahanta, said.

Earlier, the Paresh Baruah-led ULFA(I) claimed it carried out blasts in Guwahati and other parts of Assam "not to harm anyone but send a message to the people to not participate in occupational India's Independence Day and Republic Day programmes in the future".

In an email, a spokesperson of the group said the "blast" was also to remind New Delhi of what it was capable of doing on a larger scale.

'Blast' in Guwahati: ULFA(I) says it's just a warning
गुवाहाटी में 'विस्फोट': ULFA(I) का कहना है कि यह सिर्फ एक चेतावनी है

- **People across eight northeastern States defied a boycott call** by extremist groups, including the United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) [ULFA(I)], to celebrate the **country's 76th Republic Day** on Sunday.
आठ पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों के लोगों ने बहिष्कार के आह्वान को नजरअंदाज **किया**, जिसमें यूनाइटेड लिबरेशन फ्रंट ऑफ असम (स्वतंत्र) [ULFA(I)] भी शामिल था, और **रविवार को देश का 76वां गणतंत्र दिवस** मनाया।

- A **"bomb blast"** was claimed by ULFA(I) to have been detonated at a **truck parking lot in the Beharbari area** on the **outskirts of Guwahati** in the morning, disrupting the festive atmosphere.
ULFA(I) ने दावा किया कि एक **"बम विस्फोट"** गुवाहाटी के बाहरी इलाके के **बेहरबाड़ी क्षेत्र के ट्रक पार्किंग स्थल** पर सुबह के समय किया गया, जिससे उत्सव का माहौल बाधित हुआ।

- **Another bag**, suspected to contain an **improvised explosive device (IED)**, was found at the **Inter-State Bus Terminus** nearby.
एक और बैग, जिसमें **आईईडी (विस्फोटक उपकरण)** होने का संदेह था, पास के **अंतर-राज्यीय बस टर्मिनस** पर पाया गया।

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- The **police downplayed the claim** of ULFA(I), stating, "It was a loud sound, not an explosion." **Guwahati's Commissioner of Police, Partha Sarathi Mahanta**, confirmed that **an operation to catch the miscreants** has been launched.

  पुलिस ने ULFA(I) के दावे को खारिज करते हुए कहा, "यह एक तेज़ आवाज थी, विस्फोट नहीं।"

  गुवाहाटी के पुलिस आयुक्त, पार्थ सारथी महंत ने पुष्टि की कि **अपराधियों को पकड़ने के लिए एक अभियान शुरू किया गया है।**

- **Paresh Baruah-led ULFA(I)** claimed that the blasts were **not intended to harm anyone** but to send a **message to the public** against participating in **Independence Day and Republic Day programmes** in the future.

  परेश बरुआ के नेतृत्व वाले ULFA(I) ने दावा किया कि विस्फोट का उद्देश्य **किसी को नुकसान पहुंचाना नहीं** था, बल्कि लोगों को **स्वतंत्रता दिवस और गणतंत्र दिवस कार्यक्रमों** में भाग लेने से रोकने का **संदेश देना था।**

- In an email, a spokesperson of ULFA(I) said the **blast was a reminder** to **New Delhi** of what the group is **capable of doing on a larger scale**.

  ULFA(I) के प्रवक्ता ने एक ईमेल में कहा कि यह **विस्फोट नई दिल्ली** को यह याद दिलाने के लिए था कि यह समूह **बड़े स्तर पर क्या कर सकता है।**

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People's stir stopped tungsten project: Stalin

GS Paper III: Environment and Development

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

Persistent protests by people forced the BJP-led Union government to annul the tungsten mining contract awarded in Madurai, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Sunday.

"BJP, the ruling party at the Centre, tried to implement the tungsten mining project in Melur, but protests by people made it withdraw its decision," he said at a function organised at Arittapatti and A. Vellalapatti in the district to felicitate him for supporting the demonstrations and adopting a resolution in the Assembly against the project.

Women welcomed Mr. Stalin by making the 'kulavai' sound – a traditional practice of rejoicing during festive occasions.

Meanwhile, the State government announced that the four criminal cases registered against those who protested against the mining proposal were withdrawn, in line with an announcement made by Mr. Stalin earlier. An official release said cases had been registered under three sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in Madurai city, Tallakulam, and Melur police stations against a total of 11,608 people.

Mining law amendment
Speaking at the event, Mr. Stalin contended that the main reason why the State government was unable to stall the project initially was an amendment to mining laws passed in Parliament by the BJP govern-

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin addressing the public at Arittapatti in Madurai on Sunday. G. MOORTHY

Even when many people criticised me for saying that I would resign if the project was implemented in the area, I reiterated that I have always stood with the people

M.K. STALIN
Tamil Nadu CM

ment. "People should be aware that the DMK and its allies opposed the move in Parliament, but AIADMK leader M. Thambi Durai supported it," he added.

He recalled that thousands of farmers marched to New Delhi, and protested against the Union government against three farm laws, and won after two years of struggle. "But the people of Melur, within two months of the [mining] auction, have won through their protests," he

added. Though the State government had sent its objections twice to the Ministry of Mines, it was deliberately concealed by them [the BJP] for political reasons, he contended.

Pointing to the gram sabha resolutions passed by villagers of Arittapatti and other areas against the project in November 2024, Mr. Stalin said since then, the State government had stood with the people, assuring them of not allowing the project to continue.

"Even when many people criticised me for saying that I would resign if the project was implemented in the area, I reiterated that I have always stood with the people," he said.

He said: "Though this is an event organised to appreciate me, it is the people who should be appreciated for standing together and fighting against the project..."

People's stir stopped tungsten project: Stalin
लोगों के विरोध ने टंगस्टन परियोजना को रोका: स्टालिन

Persistent protests by people forced the BJP-led Union government to annul the tungsten mining contract awarded in Madurai, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said.
लोगों के लगातार विरोध के कारण भाजपा के नेतृत्व वाली केंद्र सरकार को मदुरै में दिए गए टंगस्टन खनन अनुबंध को रद्द करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा, तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने कहा।

- "BJP, the ruling party at the Centre, tried to implement the tungsten mining project in **Melur**, but protests by people made it withdraw its decision," he said.

"केंद्र में सत्तारूढ़ भाजपा ने **मेलूर** में टंगस्टन खनन परियोजना लागू करने की कोशिश की, लेकिन लोगों के विरोध के कारण इसे अपना निर्णय वापस लेना पड़ा," उन्होंने कहा।

- Mr. Stalin spoke at a function organised at **Arittapatti and A. Vellalapatti** to felicitate him for supporting the demonstrations and adopting a resolution in the Assembly against the project.

  श्री स्टालिन ने **अरिट्टपट्टी और ए. वेल्ललपट्टी** में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में बात की, जहां उन्हें प्रदर्शन का समर्थन करने और विधानसभा में परियोजना के खिलाफ एक प्रस्ताव अपनाने के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।

- Women welcomed Mr. Stalin by making the **'kulavai' sound**, a traditional practice of rejoicing during festive occasions.

  महिलाओं ने श्री स्टालिन का स्वागत **'कुलवाई' ध्वनि** निकालकर किया, जो त्योहारों के दौरान प्रसन्नता व्यक्त करने की पारंपरिक प्रथा है।

- The State government announced that the **four criminal cases registered against protesters** of the mining proposal were withdrawn.

  राज्य सरकार ने घोषणा की कि **खनन प्रस्ताव के खिलाफ प्रदर्शनकारियों पर दर्ज चार आपराधिक मामले** वापस ले लिए गए हैं।

- Cases had been registered under **three sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita** in Madurai city, Tallakulam, and Melur police stations against a total of **11,608 people**.

  मदुरै शहर, तल्लकुलम और मेलूर पुलिस स्टेशनों में **भारतीय न्याय संहिता की तीन धाराओं** के तहत कुल **11,608 लोगों** के खिलाफ मामले दर्ज किए गए थे।

Mining law amendment
खनन कानून संशोधन

- Mr. Stalin said the main reason the State government was unable to stall the project initially was an **amendment to mining laws passed in Parliament** by the BJP government.

  श्री स्टालिन ने कहा कि राज्य सरकार परियोजना को शुरू में रोकने में असमर्थ थी क्योंकि भाजपा सरकार द्वारा संसद में **खनन कानूनों में संशोधन** किया गया था।

- "DMK and its allies opposed the move in Parliament, but **AIADMK leader M. Thambi Durai supported it**," he added.

  "डीएमके और उसके सहयोगियों ने संसद में इस कदम का विरोध किया, लेकिन **एआईएडीएमके नेता एम. थम्बी दुरई ने इसका समर्थन किया**," उन्होंने कहा।

- Thousands of farmers marched to New Delhi and protested against the Union government's **three farm laws**, winning after **two years of struggle**.

  हजारों किसान नई दिल्ली गए और केंद्र सरकार के **तीन कृषि कानूनों** के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन किया और **दो साल के संघर्ष** के बाद जीत हासिल की।

- Mr. Stalin said the people of **Melur, within two months of the mining auction**, won through their protests.

श्री स्टालिन ने कहा कि **मेलूर के लोगों ने खनन नीलामी के दो महीने के भीतर** अपने विरोध से जीत हासिल की।

- The State government had sent its objections **twice to the Ministry of Mines**, but they were deliberately concealed by the BJP for political reasons, Mr. Stalin contended.
  राज्य सरकार ने **दो बार खनन मंत्रालय को आपत्तियां भेजी**, लेकिन भाजपा ने राजनीतिक कारणों से इन्हें जानबूझकर छुपा दिया, श्री स्टालिन ने दावा किया।

- Villagers of Arittapatti and other areas passed **gram sabha resolutions in November 2024** against the project.
  अरिट्टपट्टी और अन्य क्षेत्रों के ग्रामीणों ने **नवंबर 2024 में ग्राम सभा प्रस्ताव** के माध्यम से परियोजना का विरोध किया।

- Mr. Stalin assured the people that the project would not continue, reiterating that he stood with them even when criticised for his statement to **resign if the project was implemented**.
  श्री स्टालिन ने लोगों को आश्वासन दिया कि परियोजना जारी नहीं रहेगी, और यहां तक कि जब उनके **परियोजना लागू होने पर इस्तीफा देने के बयान** की आलोचना हुई, तब भी उन्होंने लोगों का साथ देने की बात दोहराई।

- "Though this event appreciates me, the real credit goes to the people for standing together and fighting against the project," he concluded.
  "हालांकि यह कार्यक्रम मेरी सराहना करता है, लेकिन असली श्रेय उन लोगों को जाता है जिन्होंने एकजुट होकर परियोजना के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ी," उन्होंने निष्कर्ष निकाला।

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A checklist for the Dhruv helicopter investigation

GS Paper III: Defence

The fatal accident on January 5, 2025, where an **Advanced Light Helicopter, Dhruv, of the Indian Coast Guard**, had a fatal accident, has triggered the grounding of what is the workhorse of the country's armed forces. In aviation, accidents happen. But this does not reduce the gravity of the flight safety issues that India's flagship helicopter programme faces; flagship, because it is tailor-made for India's demanding operating conditions .

This writer was first **associated with the project in 1988 when it was in the mock-up stage and engineering drawings were being converted to real parts which were being fused in the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) hangar.** Those were heady days as we, the test aircrew, reviewed the prototype coming up adjacent. To view one's recommendations bear fruition was pure bliss. This writer moved on for a staff course abroad and one's satisfaction knew no bounds when he read in the foreign press about its first flight on August 20, 1992. That the project had its fair share and more of problems is well documented but the initial decade of its operational service was, to put it mildly, very challenging.

As this writer had the unpleasant task of being the presiding officer of the court of inquiry of the first fatal Dhruv crash (in 2007) and later as Assistant Chief of Air Staff at Air Headquarters looking after helicopter operations, here are a few suggestions for the decision makers.

Search for the reason

The world over, new aircraft face problems in the induction phase. The Dhruv has had its own long list – from serious ones such as premature main gear box withdrawals and cabin vibrations to operational irritants such as rainwater leaks in the cabin.

There has also been the poor supply of spares and the exasperatingly long overhaul times

Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (retired)

is former Additional Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies

The investigation of the Coast Guard ALH accident could be an inflexion point in India's helicopter programme

whenever a machine entered an HAL hangar for maintenance. Though these have been, hopefully, addressed over time to some extent, a new and worrying problem of flight controllability has emerged. After each such accident, short and long-term fixes have been made to keep the Dhruv flying. The fact that three weeks (and counting) have passed and the Dhruv has still not been cleared to fly, shows that something more serious has happened, and/or the cause has not yet been determined. It is no shame to keep the machine grounded till the root cause is found and a permanent fix implemented; the Boeing 737 MAX remained grounded for almost two years till its flight control problem was resolved.

Involve domain specialists

The composition of a court of inquiry in India, even where such a basic characteristic such as flight controllability has been affected, is still no different than a 'normal' accident inquiry. Thus, as in the media, HAL (which could be blameworthy), the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification, or CEMILAC (the certification agency which could be blameworthy too), and the Coast Guard are the main investigators in the January 5 accident. Considering that the Coast Guard mishap is, at a minimum, the sixth accident involving the loss of flying control, the problem should, logically, have been found by now.

Since this has been a repetitive problem, should not there be a *de novo* look at the design issues for studying stresses, the metallurgy used and the fabrication process of flight critical components? Thus, a fresh fault analysis is necessary by co-opting outside specialists, say from academia or any other relevant field, to ferret out the root cause. Having an independent committee to holistically look at the Dhruv programme would be ideal.

Where rectification action is required from

HAL, the speed of the implementation of recommendations leaves a lot to be desired. In the fatal accident of 2007, referred to earlier, our recommendation for the institution of measures to warn a pilot of an impending 'flight control saturation' situation took the better part of a decade. One understands that even the fitting of the new stainless steel control rods – after an investigation of the earlier flight control-linked accidents – is still an ongoing process.

Apportioning of responsibility

HAL is the primary organisation for the production of airworthy assets. While design is frozen earlier, it is the quality of production that needs monitoring with a hawk eye too. CEMILAC's responsibility is to ensure both – the soundness of design and production quality control. These two organisations too must be held responsible for the proper discharge of their duties since the combat fleet of the nation and its security posture get affected. To aid CEMILAC in the discharge of its task, having flight test crew on its rolls could result in an element of greater inquiry.

One needs to remember that the Prachand (Light Combat Helicopter), which is planned as the mainstay of the attack helicopter fleet , has also been affected as its transmission system is the same as the Dhruv's. We have the Light Utility Helicopter in its final flight-testing phase and the Indian Multi Role Helicopter, a 13-tonne heavy machine with greater complexities, is in the offing. The investigation of the Coast Guard accident could, thus, be an inflexion point in the journey of India's helicopter programmes. In the midst of the *aatmanirbharta* thrust, which is laudable, and other pressures, the only element driving decision making should be professionalism.

Precious lives and the standing of India's nascent helicopter industry are at stake.

A checklist for the Dhruv helicopter investigation
ध्रुव हेलीकॉप्टर जांच के लिए एक चेकलिस्ट

The Dhruv Helicopter Crash and Safety Concerns
ध्रुव हेलीकॉप्टर दुर्घटना और सुरक्षा चिंताएं

- On **January 5, 2025**, an **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv** of the Indian Coast Guard met with a **fatal accident,** leading to the grounding of this key workhorse of India's armed forces.
  5 जनवरी, 2025 को भारतीय तटरक्षक बल का **एडवांस्ड लाइट हेलीकॉप्टर (ALH) ध्रुव** एक **घातक दुर्घटना** का शिकार हुआ, जिससे भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों के इस मुख्य हेलीकॉप्टर को ग्राउंड कर दिया गया।

- Aviation accidents, though not uncommon, underscore the need to address **flight safety issues** in India's **flagship helicopter programme**, which is specially designed for India's demanding operational conditions.

हालांकि विमानन दुर्घटनाएं असामान्य नहीं हैं, लेकिन यह भारत के **प्रमुख हेलीकॉप्टर कार्यक्रम** में **उड़ान सुरक्षा मुद्दों** को संबोधित करने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करती हैं, जिसे भारत की चुनौतीपूर्ण परिचालन स्थितियों के लिए विशेष रूप से डिज़ाइन किया गया है।

The Origins and Initial Challenges
शुरुआत और प्रारंभिक चुनौतियां

- The **Dhruv project** began in **1988**, and its **first flight** took place on **August 20, 1992**, marking a significant milestone for **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
  ध्रुव परियोजना की शुरुआत **1988** में हुई और इसका **पहली उड़ान 20 अगस्त, 1992** को हुई, जो **हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL)** के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि थी।
- The helicopter's operational service in its first decade faced **serious challenges**, including **premature main gear box failures**, **cabin vibrations**, and **rainwater leaks in the cabin**.
  इस हेलीकॉप्टर की प्रारंभिक दशक की सेवा में **मुख्य गियर बॉक्स की समय से पहले खराबी**, **केबिन में कंपन**, और **बारिश के पानी का रिसाव** जैसी **गंभीर चुनौतियों** का सामना करना पड़ा।
- **Supply chain issues** like poor availability of spares and **lengthy overhaul times** in HAL's hangars added to operational inefficiencies.
  कलपुर्जों की आपूर्ति और HAL के हैंगर में **लंबे ओवरहाल समय** ने परिचालन अक्षमताओं को और बढ़ा दिया।

Recurring Flight Safety Concerns
बार-बार उड़ान सुरक्षा चिंताएं

- Over the years, **short-term fixes** have kept the Dhruv operational, but recurring **flight controllability problems** continue to pose significant risks.
  वर्षों से **अल्पकालिक समाधान** ने ध्रुव को चालू रखा है, लेकिन **उड़ान नियंत्रण समस्याएं** बार-बार महत्वपूर्ण जोखिम पैदा करती हैं।
- The fact that the Dhruv remains grounded **three weeks after the January 2025 accident** indicates that either a **serious issue** is at play or the **root cause** is yet to be identified.
  यह तथ्य कि ध्रुव **जनवरी 2025 की दुर्घटना के तीन सप्ताह बाद** भी ग्राउंडेड है, यह इंगित करता है कि या तो कोई **गंभीर समस्या** है या अभी तक **मूल कारण** की पहचान नहीं की गई है।

Recommendations and Global Comparisons
सिफारिशें और वैश्विक तुलना

- Decision-makers must prioritize **thorough investigations** to identify the root cause and implement **permanent fixes**, even if it means grounding the helicopter for an extended period.

निर्णयकर्ताओं को **मूल कारण की गहन जांच** और **स्थायी समाधान** लागू करने को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए, भले ही इसके लिए हेलीकॉप्टर को लंबे समय तक ग्राउंड करना पड़े।

- For instance, the **Boeing 737 MAX** was grounded for **two years** globally to resolve its flight control issues before it was cleared to fly again.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **बोइंग 737 मैक्स** को उसके उड़ान नियंत्रण मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए **दो वर्षों** तक वैश्विक स्तर पर ग्राउंड किया गया था।

Conclusion: Ensuring Long-term Safety
निष्कर्ष: दीर्घकालिक सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना

- The Dhruv's issues highlight the importance of **rigorous safety protocols** and **effective maintenance systems** to enhance the reliability of India's premier helicopter.
  ध्रुव की समस्याएं **कड़े सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल** और **प्रभावी रखरखाव प्रणालियों** की महत्ता को रेखांकित करती हैं, ताकि भारत के प्रमुख हेलीकॉप्टर की विश्वसनीयता को बढ़ाया जा सके।
- Only with comprehensive fixes and a commitment to **long-term safety standards** can India ensure the successful operation of this critical platform.
  केवल व्यापक समाधान और **दीर्घकालिक सुरक्षा मानकों** के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता के साथ, भारत इस महत्वपूर्ण प्लेटफॉर्म के सफल संचालन को सुनिश्चित कर सकता है।

Involving Domain Specialists in Helicopter Crash Investigations
हेलीकॉप्टर दुर्घटना जांच में विशेषज्ञों की भागीदारी

- The **composition of a court of inquiry** in India for helicopter crashes, even when basic issues like **flight controllability** are affected, is not different from a standard accident inquiry.
  भारत में हेलीकॉप्टर दुर्घटनाओं के लिए **जांच समिति की संरचना**, यहां तक कि जब **उड़ान नियंत्रण** जैसे बुनियादी मुद्दे प्रभावित होते हैं, एक सामान्य दुर्घटना जांच से अलग नहीं है।
- The **January 5, 2025 accident** involving the Coast Guard helicopter is at least the **sixth such accident** where flying control issues have been observed, highlighting a **recurring problem**.
  5 जनवरी 2025 की दुर्घटना, जिसमें तटरक्षक बल का हेलीकॉप्टर शामिल था, उड़ान नियंत्रण मुद्दों के कारण हुई कम से कम **छठी दुर्घटना** है, जो **दोहराई जाने वाली समस्या** को उजागर करती है।

Necessity for Design and Material Reassessment
डिजाइन और सामग्री के पुनर्मूल्यांकन की आवश्यकता

- A **de novo analysis** of the helicopter's **design, material stresses, metallurgy**, and **fabrication process** is essential to uncover the root cause.
  हेलीकॉप्टर के **डिजाइन, सामग्री के तनाव, धातुकर्म**, और **निर्माण प्रक्रिया** का **नई दृष्टि से विश्लेषण** करना आवश्यक है ताकि मूल कारण का पता लगाया जा सके।

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- There is a need for **external specialists** from academia or related fields to ensure an **independent and holistic fault analysis**.
  स्वतंत्र और समग्र दोष विश्लेषण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए शिक्षाविदों या संबंधित क्षेत्रों से **बाहरी विशेषज्ञों** की आवश्यकता है।

Delay in Implementation of Safety Recommendations
सुरक्षा सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन में देरी

- Recommendations from the **2007 fatal accident inquiry**, like introducing **measures to warn pilots of flight control saturation**, took nearly a **decade** to implement.
  2007 की घातक दुर्घटना जांच से आई सिफारिशें, जैसे **पायलट को उड़ान नियंत्रण संतृप्ति की चेतावनी देने के उपाय**, लागू करने में लगभग **एक दशक** लग गए।
- Even now, fitting of **new stainless steel control rods** — identified as a safety enhancement — is still ongoing.
  यहां तक कि अभी भी **नए स्टेनलेस स्टील नियंत्रण रॉड** स्थापित करने की प्रक्रिया जारी है, जिसे एक सुरक्षा सुधार के रूप में पहचाना गया था।

Apportioning Responsibility
जिम्मेदारी का निर्धारण

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** is responsible for producing **airworthy assets**, and its **quality control** processes must be monitored closely.
  हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) उड़ान योग्य संसाधन बनाने के लिए जिम्मेदार है, और इसके **गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण** प्रक्रियाओं की कड़ी निगरानी होनी चाहिए।
- **CEMILAC (Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification)** should ensure the **soundness of design** and **production quality**, and they too must be held accountable for lapses.
  सीईएमआईएलएसी (सैन्य वायु योग्यता और प्रमाणन केंद्र) को **डिजाइन की गुणवत्ता** और **उत्पादन की गुणवत्ता** सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए, और किसी भी चूक के लिए उन्हें भी जिम्मेदार ठहराया जाना चाहिए।
- Employing **flight test crews** at CEMILAC could add a valuable layer of **real-time inquiry** into design and production flaws.
  सीईएमआईएलएसी में **उड़ान परीक्षण कर्मियों** की नियुक्ति से डिजाइन और उत्पादन में खामियों की **तत्काल जांच** का एक महत्वपूर्ण स्तर जोड़ा जा सकता है।

Impact on Other Helicopter Projects
अन्य हेलीकॉप्टर परियोजनाओं पर प्रभाव

- The **Prachand (Light Combat Helicopter)**, which shares the same **transmission system** as Dhruv, is also affected by these safety concerns.

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प्रचंड (लाइट कॉम्बैट हेलीकॉप्टर), जो ध्रुव के समान **संचरण प्रणाली** का उपयोग करता है, इन सुरक्षा चिंताओं से भी प्रभावित है।

- Upcoming projects like the **Light Utility Helicopter** and the **Indian Multi Role Helicopter** (a **13-tonne heavy machine**) could face similar challenges if issues remain unresolved.

यदि समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं किया गया, तो **लाइट यूटिलिटी हेलीकॉप्टर** और **भारतीय बहु-भूमिका हेलीकॉप्टर** (एक **13-टन भारी मशीन**) जैसी आगामी परियोजनाएं भी इसी तरह की चुनौतियों का सामना कर सकती हैं।

Critical Takeaways for India's Helicopter Industry
भारत की हेलीकॉप्टर उद्योग के लिए मुख्य संदेश

- The **January 5 accident investigation** could serve as an **inflection point** for India's indigenous helicopter programmes.

5 जनवरी की दुर्घटना जांच भारत के स्वदेशी हेलीकॉप्टर कार्यक्रमों के लिए **एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़** साबित हो सकती है।

- Amid the **Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) initiative**, decision-making must prioritize **professionalism** and **safety standards** over other pressures.

आत्मनिर्भरता (स्वयं निर्भरता) पहल के बीच, निर्णय लेने में **व्यावसायिकता** और **सुरक्षा मानकों** को अन्य दबावों से अधिक प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।

- The lives of personnel and the **reputation of India's nascent helicopter industry** are at stake, necessitating urgent and comprehensive action.

कर्मचारियों के जीवन और **भारत की नवोदित हेलीकॉप्टर उद्योग की प्रतिष्ठा** दांव पर है, जिससे तत्काल और व्यापक कार्रवाई की आवश्यकता है।

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India and U.S. lead Courseera enrolments for Gen AI courses

Corporate sponsorship plays a significant role in boosting enrolments in India

The demand for generative AI training has grown significantly among learners and enterprises, according to Coursera data, highlighted in the Future of Jobs Report 2025. India and the U.S. are leading this global trend in enrolments, but the factors driving demand differ between the two countries. While individual learners primarily drive demand in the U.S., corporate sponsorship plays a significant role in boosting enrolments in India.

Globally, individual learners on Coursera are focusing on foundational generative AI skills and conceptual topics, such as prompt engineering, trustworthy AI practices, and strategic decision-making around AI. Meanwhile, institution-sponsored learners are prioritising practical workplace applications, including using AI to enhance productivity in tools such as Excel or developing applications with AI-driven solutions.

Chart 1 shows the Generative AI enrolment trend in 2022-2024 in Coursera. The demand for generative AI training is not happening in isolation but is closely tied to broader technological shifts reshaping industries worldwide. The survey reveals that among nine transformative technologies, AI and information processing technologies are expected to have the most significant impact on businesses by 2030, with 86% of employers identifying them as likely to drive business transformation. This surpasses the anticipated influence of robots and autonomous systems (58%) or energy generation and storage technologies (41%).

Chart 2 shows the technology trends driving business transformation, as answered by the surveyed employers.

Since the release of ChatGPT in November 2022, investment flows into AI technologies have increased nearly eight-fold, driving significant advancements in the field. This influx of capital has been matched by investment in the physical infrastructure required to support these technologies, such as servers.

The growing demand for generative AI training is also closely tied to the shifting landscape of job roles driven by technological advancements. Employers expect technological developments such as AI and robotics to play a pivotal role in shaping the workforce, says the survey. By 2030, roles such as Big Data Specialists, FinTech Engineers, AI and Machine Learning Specialists, and Software and Applications Developers are projected to experience the fastest net growth. **Chart 3** shows the top jobs by fastest net growth as projected by surveyed employers.

The interplay of humans, machines, and algorithms is fundamentally reshaping the nature of work. Automation and advancements in technology are driving a shift in how tasks are performed across industries. According to the survey, 47% of tasks today are completed primarily by humans, while 22% are handled mainly by technology, and 30% involve a mix of both. By 2030, tasks are expected to be more equally divided.

This shift is driven largely by increased automation. Of the nearly 15% point reduction expected in the proportion of work tasks performed solely by humans between 2025 and 2030, approximately 82% will be attributable to advancing automation, while the remaining 19% will result from expanded human-machine collaboration.

Chart 4 shows the share of work tasks expected to be delivered predominantly by human workers, by technology, or by a combination of both.

This transition highlights the growing importance of equipping the workforce with the skills needed to thrive in a world increasingly shared with intelligent machines.

Shifting landscapes

The charts are sourced from the 'Future of Jobs Report 2025' released by the World Economic Forum

Chart 1: The chart shows the Generative AI enrolment trend for 2022-2024. The chart reveals significant growth in demand for Generative AI training among both individual learners and enterprises
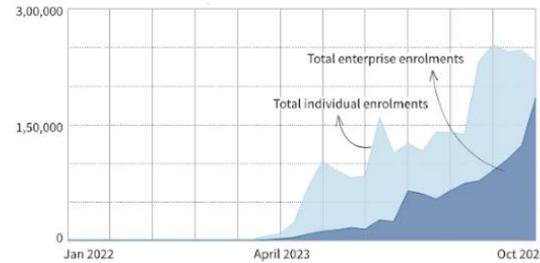

Chart 2: Share of employers surveyed who identify the stated technology trend as likely to drive business

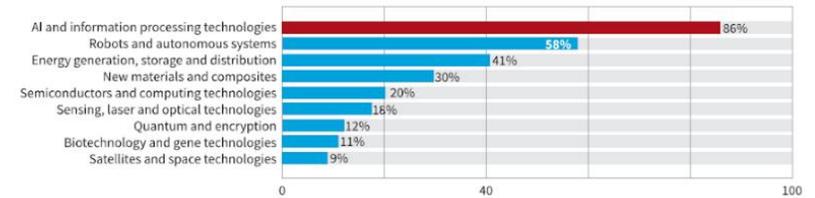| Technology	%
AI and information processing technologies	86%
Robots and autonomous systems	58%
Energy generation, storage and distribution	41%
New materials and composites	30%
Semiconductors and computing technologies	20%
Sensing, laser and optical technologies	18%
Quantum and encryption	12%
Biotechnology and gene technologies	11%
Satellites and space technologies	9%

Chart 3: The chart shows the top jobs by fastest net growth by surveyed employers. The fastest growing job roles by 2030 tend to be driven by technological developments.
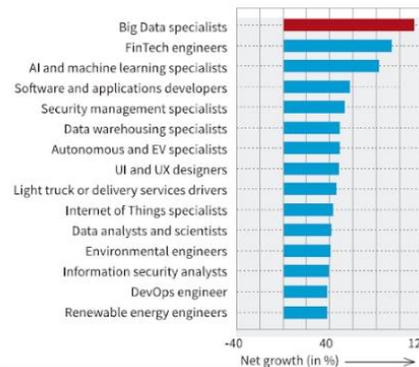

Big Data specialists
FinTech engineers
AI and machine learning specialists
Software and applications developers
Security management specialists
Data warehousing specialists
Autonomous and EV specialists
UI and UX designers
Light truck or delivery services drivers
Internet of Things specialists
Data analysts and scientists
Environmental engineers
Information security analysts
DevOps engineer
Renewable energy engineers

Net growth (in %)

Chart 4: Share of total work tasks expected to be delivered predominantly by human workers, by technology, or by a combination of both

People | Combination | Technology

	Now	By 2030
Technology	22%	34%
Combination	30%	33%
People	47%	33%
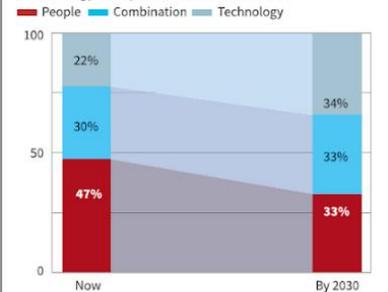
Today, 47% of work tasks are performed mainly by humans, 22% by technology, and 30% by a combination of both. By 2030, employers expect these proportions to be nearly evenly split across these three categories

India and U.S. lead Courseera enrolments for Gen AI courses

भारत और अमेरिका जनरल एआई पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए कोर्सेरा नामांकन में अग्रणी हैं

Demand for Generative AI Training
जनरेटिव एआई प्रशिक्षण की मांग

- **Growth in Demand**
  The demand for **generative AI training** has significantly grown among learners and enterprises, as highlighted in the **Future of Jobs Report 2025**.
  जनरेटिव एआई प्रशिक्षण की मांग शिक्षार्थियों और उद्यमों के बीच **भविष्य की नौकरियों की रिपोर्ट 2025** में उल्लेखित रूप से बढ़ी है।

- **Leading Countries**
  India and the U.S. are leading this trend, but the factors driving demand differ in both countries.
  भारत और अमेरिका इस प्रवृत्ति का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं, लेकिन दोनों देशों में मांग को बढ़ाने वाले कारण भिन्न हैं।

- **Primary Drivers**
  - In the U.S., demand is driven primarily by **individual learners**.
    अमेरिका में, मांग मुख्य रूप से **व्यक्तिगत शिक्षार्थियों** द्वारा प्रेरित है।
  - In India, **corporate sponsorship** plays a significant role in boosting enrolments.
    भारत में, **कॉर्पोरेट प्रायोजन** नामांकन बढ़ाने में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।

Focus Areas in Generative AI Training
जनरेटिव एआई प्रशिक्षण में फोकस क्षेत्र

- **Individual Learners**
  Globally, individual learners are focusing on:
  - **Foundational generative AI skills**, such as prompt engineering.
  - **Trustworthy AI practices** and strategic decision-making.
    विश्व स्तर पर, व्यक्तिगत शिक्षार्थी इन पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं:
  - **आधारभूत जनरेटिव एआई कौशल**, जैसे प्रॉम्प्ट इंजीनियरिंग।
  - **विश्वसनीय एआई प्रथाएँ** और रणनीतिक निर्णय-निर्माण।

- **Institution-Sponsored Learners**
  Institution-sponsored learners prioritize **practical workplace applications** like:
  - Enhancing productivity in tools like **Excel**.
  - Developing **AI-driven solutions**.
    संस्थान द्वारा प्रायोजित शिक्षार्थी इन पर प्राथमिकता देते हैं:
  - **Excel** जैसे उपकरणों में उत्पादकता बढ़ाना।
  - **एआई-चालित समाधान** विकसित करना।

Impact of Technological Shifts
तकनीकी परिवर्तनों का प्रभाव

- The demand for **generative AI training** is tied to broader technological shifts reshaping industries globally.

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जनरेटिव एआई प्रशिक्षण की मांग व्यापक तकनीकी परिवर्तनों से जुड़ी हुई है, जो वैश्विक स्तर पर उद्योगों को नया रूप दे रही है।

- Among nine transformative technologies, **AI and information processing technologies** are expected to have the most significant impact by **2030** (86% of employers).

  नौ परिवर्तनीय तकनीकों में, **एआई और सूचना प्रसंस्करण प्रौद्योगिकियों** का 2030 तक सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव होने की उम्मीद है (**86% नियोक्ता**)।

- **Robots and autonomous systems** (58%) and **energy generation and storage technologies** (41%) are anticipated to have lesser influence.

  रोबोट और स्वायत्त प्रणालियाँ (**58%**) और **ऊर्जा उत्पादन और भंडारण प्रौद्योगिकियाँ** (**41%**) का अपेक्षाकृत कम प्रभाव होगा।

Investment in AI Technologies
एआई प्रौद्योगिकियों में निवेश

- Since the release of **ChatGPT in November 2022**, investment in AI technologies has increased nearly **eight-fold**.

  नवंबर 2022 में चैटजीपीटी के जारी होने के बाद, एआई प्रौद्योगिकियों में निवेश लगभग **आठ गुना** बढ़ गया है।

- This capital influx is matched by investments in **physical infrastructure** like servers to support these technologies.

  इस पूंजी प्रवाह के साथ **भौतिक बुनियादी ढांचे**, जैसे सर्वर में भी निवेश किया गया है।

Shifting Job Roles and Workforce Needs
बदलती नौकरी भूमिकाएँ और कार्यबल की आवश्यकताएँ

- **Projected Growth in Roles by 2030**
  By **2030**, roles like **Big Data Specialists, FinTech Engineers, AI and Machine Learning Specialists**, and **Software Developers** are expected to experience the fastest net growth.

  2030 तक, **बिग डेटा विशेषज्ञ, फिनटेक इंजीनियर, एआई और मशीन लर्निंग विशेषज्ञ**, और **सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर्स** जैसी भूमिकाओं में सबसे तेज़ वृद्धि की उम्मीद है।

- **Reshaping of Work Tasks**
  - Currently, **47% of tasks** are completed by humans, **22% by technology**, and **30% involve collaboration**.

    वर्तमान में, **47% कार्य** मानव द्वारा, **22% प्रौद्योगिकी द्वारा**, और **30% कार्य सहयोग** में किए जाते हैं।

  - By **2030**, tasks are expected to be more equally divided, driven by increased automation (82%) and human-machine collaboration (19%).

    2030 तक, कार्य अधिक समान रूप से विभाजित होने की उम्मीद है, जिसमें **82%** योगदान बढ़ती स्वचालन और **19%** मानव-मशीन सहयोग से होगा।

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Importance of Equipping the Workforce

कार्यबल को सुसज्जित करने का महत्व

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- The transition to a world shared with intelligent machines highlights the need to equip workers with skills for the future.

बुद्धिमान मशीनों के साथ साझा दुनिया में बदलाव, भविष्य के लिए कौशल के साथ श्रमिकों को सुसज्जित करने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है।

CACHE

Why are crypto withdrawals being restricted for investors?

Cryptocurrency exchanges operating in India can block or suddenly restrict crypto withdrawals for users in India, leading to confusion, fear, and a loss of trust in Indian fintech companies

GS Paper III: S&T

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

Mudrex, a crypto platform that is "U.S.-headquartered and Bengaluru-based" made headlines this month when it announced it was temporarily pausing crypto withdrawals until January 28, to "enhance the security of our platform and safeguard against bad actors," said the company in an official blog post on January 12. This comes soon after another crypto exchange popular with Indians – CoinDCX – also confused customers with conflicting information regarding its crypto withdrawal policy. Indian crypto investors want to deposit, withdraw, and trade crypto just like their international peers, but this is easier said than done. Crypto traders in the country face several barriers when transacting through centralised exchanges due to unclear domestic laws and vaguely defined risks. Crypto companies often cite these factors to justify restricting crypto withdrawals for customers, thus sparking alarm amongst investors.

What problems are crypto investors in India facing?

A crypto trader in India who signs up with a popular centralised exchange must undergo a detailed registration process and Know-Your-Customer (KYC) procedures in order to comply with India's Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regulations.

Customers submit their national identity documents and verify themselves so they can use the company's platform without hurdles, ensuring seamless service in a market sector where asset prices can soar and crash in a matter of seconds.

It is no wonder that many users experience anger or panic when they make profits by trading in crypto through the centralised exchange but then learn to their shock that they cannot withdraw their crypto through the same company.

The social media platform X is filled with complaints from crypto exchange customers who claim that crypto withdrawal policies have changed without warning or that they were not flagged clearly in the first place. This naturally leads to fear as crypto investors wonder if their exchanges are trying to hold on to user assets or are experiencing liquidity shortages.

Why are cryptocurrency exchanges restricting withdrawals?

Different crypto exchanges in India have different policies governing crypto withdrawals. While some allow crypto withdrawals, and others allow it for select users or under special circumstances, there are also companies that block crypto withdrawals for all users without exception.

The most common reasons cited include fears that the Indian authorities could penalise the crypto exchange as a whole if it is discovered that users have been withdrawing their assets in crypto. There are also fears that the withdrawn crypto could be used to carry out illicit acts or buy banned products through dark markets.

CoinDCX did not respond to The Hindu's emails regarding its crypto withdrawal policy for this report, but co-founder Sumit Gupta published a

thread on X outlining the company's approach in this area.

Mr. Gupta on January 15 acknowledged that while users wanted unrestricted crypto withdrawals, the company had to comply with India's "strict capital controls." He noted the risks of expert criminals escaping detection.

"But once law enforcement agencies get to know about any such cases, they freeze the entire exchange bank accounts indefinitely while they investigate. These exchange bank accounts hold funds from both bad actors and genuine users, directly impacting liquidity of INR funds of our genuine users," said Mr. Gupta in his post on X, when justifying the block on crypto withdrawals.

Another platform, CoinSwitch, followed a similar policy. "We do not allow crypto withdrawals on our platform, however, users can withdraw

their investments by converting their crypto into INR on an exchange like ours, and receive the money in their bank accounts," said Balaji Srihari, vice president, CoinSwitch, in response to The Hindu's query.

Meanwhile, crypto exchange Zebpay, which has its headquarters in Singapore apart from other international offices, offers two customer experience modes. One allows crypto withdrawals, while the other does not.

In response to The Hindu's query, Raj Karkara, COO, ZebPay, confirmed that crypto withdrawals were allowed for manual transfers, but not for instant deposits.

"The Instant Deposit feature allows users to add INR funds instantly to their ZebPay accounts, enabling full access to trading and fiat withdrawals. However, crypto withdrawals are disabled while

crypto deposits are fully available. This feature requires a one-time virtual account setup and supports transfers through IMPS, NEFT, and RTGS, following standard banking procedures," said Mr. Karkara.

UPI will not be supported in this case. Meanwhile, manual transfers will have users add Zebpay's bank details to their net banking apps, deposit funds from their registered bank accounts, and upload the image of the transaction receipt or bank statement for proof.

On the other hand, Binance – though not an Indian crypto exchange – registered as a reporting entity with FIU-IND in 2024 after previously being hit with legal action by the Indian authorities.

"Users based in India can withdraw crypto from their Binance accounts," a Binance spokesperson said in response to The Hindu's query and did not note any restrictions.

Why is there such a difference? One reason is that Indian law enforcement authorities take a serious view of turning Indian rupees into other currencies, especially when an easily traced asset (like INR) is converted to a harder to trace asset (like Bitcoin) that can be more easily laundered, sent to militants, or channelled into private wallets.

However, users should keep in mind that Binance and WazirX are locked in a legal dispute over whether or not Binance owns the Indian exchange. The legal situation is murky, with a lack of transparency from both sides and is expected to continue for some time.

What options do crypto users in India have?

When crypto withdrawals are no longer an option for traders in India using centralised exchanges in the country, they often have to wait for policies to change with time or pursue less desirable options.

For example, in the face of crypto withdrawal restrictions, many investors might resort to workarounds such as selling off their crypto and withdrawing their assets in rupees, even if this does not align with their investment plan.

Others may be driven to international crypto exchanges that do not comply with Indian tax laws.

Some traders may even avoid this hassle entirely by investing their funds through unregulated/decentralised exchanges with poor safeguards, or relying on platforms actively run by malicious actors.

What needs to happen to enable crypto withdrawals?

The most glaring issue is the absence of clear regulations and laws governing the flow of crypto in India. While the government taxes crypto gains and transactions, the existing legislation does not protect Indian investors and does not encourage Indian crypto businesses either.

In the meantime, several crypto exchanges that support INR trading pairs are upgrading their security and KYC protocols.

CoinDCX's Mr. Gupta said on X the exchange was working on an "enhanced due diligence framework" that would let eligible users withdraw their crypto in the future.

Mudrex also noted that it was working on security, but did not respond to The Hindu's email.

CoinSwitch's Mr. Srihari called for regulations so that crypto withdrawals could be opened.

"To officially enable crypto withdrawals for all customers in India, the introduction of clear regulations and a well-defined policy framework for VDAs is essential," he said.

"Proper regulatory guidelines would provide clarity and address concerns around security, compliance, and the prevention of misuse, creating a safe and transparent environment for crypto transactions," he added.

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Why are crypto withdrawals being restricted for investors?
निवेशकों के लिए क्रिप्टो निकासी पर प्रतिबंध क्यों लगाए जा रहे हैं?

Cryptocurrency exchanges operating in India can block or suddenly restrict crypto withdrawals for users in India, leading to confusion, fear, and a loss of trust in Indian fintech companies.

भारत में क्रिप्टोक्यूरेंसी एक्सचेंज उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए क्रिप्टो निकासी को रोक सकते हैं या अचानक प्रतिबंधित कर सकते हैं, जिससे भ्रम, डर और भारतीय फिनटेक कंपनियों में विश्वास की हानि होती है।

- **Mudrex**, a crypto platform that is "**U.S.-headquartered** and Bengaluru-based," made headlines this month when it announced it was temporarily pausing crypto withdrawals until **January 28** to "enhance the security of our platform and safeguard against bad actors."

  Mudrex, एक क्रिप्टो प्लेटफॉर्म जो "**यू.एस.-मुख्यालय** और बेंगलुरु-आधारित" है, ने इस महीने सुर्खियां बटोरीं जब उसने **28 जनवरी** तक क्रिप्टो निकासी को अस्थायी रूप से रोकने की घोषणा की, ताकि "हमारे प्लेटफॉर्म की सुरक्षा बढ़ाई जा सके और बुरे तत्वों से बचाव किया जा सके।"

- This comes soon after another crypto exchange popular with Indians, **CoinDCX**, also confused customers with conflicting information regarding its crypto withdrawal policy.

  यह इसके बाद आया जब एक और क्रिप्टो एक्सचेंज जो भारतीयों में लोकप्रिय है, **CoinDCX**, ने भी अपनी क्रिप्टो निकासी नीति के बारे में विरोधाभासी जानकारी दी, जिससे ग्राहकों में भ्रम पैदा हुआ।

- **Indian crypto investors** want to deposit, withdraw, and trade crypto just like their international peers, but this is easier said than done.

  भारतीय क्रिप्टो निवेशक चाहते हैं कि वे अपनी अंतरराष्ट्रीय समकक्षों की तरह क्रिप्टो जमा करें, निकासी करें और व्यापार करें, लेकिन यह कहना आसान है, करना नहीं।

- Crypto traders in the country face several barriers when transacting through **centralized exchanges** due to unclear domestic laws and vaguely defined risks.

  देश में क्रिप्टो व्यापारियों को **केंद्रीकृत एक्सचेंज** के माध्यम से लेन-देन करते समय कई बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि घरेलू कानून अस्पष्ट हैं और जोखिमों की परिभाषा भी अस्पष्ट है।

- Crypto companies often cite these factors to justify restricting crypto withdrawals for customers, thus sparking alarm amongst investors.

  क्रिप्टो कंपनियां अक्सर इन कारणों का हवाला देती हैं ताकि ग्राहकों के लिए क्रिप्टो निकासी पर प्रतिबंध लगाने को सही ठहरा सकें, जिससे निवेशकों के बीच डर फैलता है।

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What problems are crypto investors in India facing?
भारत में क्रिप्टो निवेशकों को किन समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है?

- A crypto trader in India who signs up with a popular centralized exchange must undergo a detailed registration process and **Know-Your-Customer (KYC)** procedures in order to comply with **India's Anti-Money Laundering (AML)** and **Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)** regulations.

  भारत में एक क्रिप्टो व्यापारी जो एक लोकप्रिय केंद्रीकृत एक्सचेंज से साइन अप करता है, उसे **विस्तृत पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया** और **जानिए अपने ग्राहक (KYC)** प्रक्रियाओं से गुजरना पड़ता है ताकि वह **भारत के मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग (AML)** और **आतंकवाद वित्तपोषण (CFT)** नियमों का पालन कर सके।

- Customers submit their national identity documents and verify themselves so they can use the company's platform without hurdles, ensuring seamless service in a market sector where asset prices can soar and crash in a matter of seconds.

  ग्राहक अपनी राष्ट्रीय पहचान पत्र जमा करते हैं और खुद को सत्यापित करते हैं ताकि वे कंपनी के प्लेटफॉर्म का उपयोग बिना किसी अड़चन के कर सकें, इस प्रकार एक ऐसे बाजार क्षेत्र में सुगम सेवा सुनिश्चित होती है, जहां संपत्ति की कीमतें सेकंडों में चढ़ सकती हैं और गिर सकती हैं।

- It is no wonder that many users experience anger or panic when they make profits by trading in crypto through the centralized exchange but then learn to their shock that they cannot withdraw their crypto through the same company.

  यह कोई हैरानी की बात नहीं है कि कई उपयोगकर्ता गुस्से या घबराहट का सामना करते हैं जब वे केंद्रीकृत एक्सचेंज के माध्यम से क्रिप्टो में व्यापार करके मुनाफा कमाते हैं, लेकिन फिर यह पता चलता है कि वे उसी कंपनी के माध्यम से अपनी क्रिप्टो निकासी नहीं कर सकते।

- The social media platform **X** is filled with complaints from crypto exchange customers who claim that crypto withdrawal policies have changed without warning or that they were not flagged clearly in the first place.

  सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म **X** पर क्रिप्टो एक्सचेंज के ग्राहकों से शिकायतें भरी हुई हैं जो दावा करते हैं कि क्रिप्टो निकासी नीतियां बिना चेतावनी के बदल गई हैं या उन्हें पहले स्थान पर स्पष्ट रूप से नहीं चिह्नित किया गया था।

- This naturally leads to fear as crypto investors wonder if their exchanges are trying to hold on to user assets or are experiencing liquidity shortages.

  यह स्वाभाविक रूप से डर को बढ़ाता है क्योंकि क्रिप्टो निवेशक सोचते हैं कि क्या उनके एक्सचेंज उनके संपत्ति को अपने पास रखने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं या क्या वे तरलता की कमी का सामना कर रहे हैं।

Why are cryptocurrency exchanges restricting withdrawals?
क्रिप्टोकरेंसी एक्सचेंजों द्वारा निकासी पर प्रतिबंध क्यों लगाया जा रहा है?

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- Different crypto exchanges in India have different policies governing crypto withdrawals.
  भारत में विभिन्न क्रिप्टो एक्सचेंजों के पास क्रिप्टो निकासी को नियंत्रित करने वाली अलग-अलग नीतियां हैं।

- While some allow crypto withdrawals, and others allow it for select users or under special circumstances, there are also companies that block crypto withdrawals for all users without exception.
  कुछ एक्सचेंज क्रिप्टो निकासी की अनुमति देते हैं, और अन्य इसे चुनिंदा उपयोगकर्ताओं या विशेष परिस्थितियों में अनुमति देते हैं, जबकि कुछ कंपनियां सभी उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए क्रिप्टो निकासी को बिना किसी अपवाद के रोकती हैं।

- The most common reasons cited include fears that the Indian authorities could penalize the crypto exchange as a whole if it is discovered that users have been withdrawing their assets in crypto.
  सबसे आम कारणों में यह डर शामिल है कि अगर यह पता चला कि उपयोगकर्ता अपनी संपत्ति क्रिप्टो में निकाल रहे हैं, तो भारतीय अधिकारियों द्वारा क्रिप्टो एक्सचेंज को समग्र रूप से दंडित किया जा सकता है।

- There are also fears that the withdrawn crypto could be used to carry out illicit acts or buy banned products through dark markets.
  यह भी डर है कि निकाली गई क्रिप्टो का उपयोग अवैध कार्यों को करने के लिए या डार्क मार्केट्स के माध्यम से प्रतिबंधित उत्पादों को खरीदने के लिए किया जा सकता है।

- **CoinDCX** did not respond to **The Hindu's** emails regarding its crypto withdrawal policy for this report, but co-founder **Sumit Gupta** published a thread on **X** outlining the company's approach in this area.
  CoinDCX ने इस रिपोर्ट के लिए अपनी क्रिप्टो निकासी नीति को लेकर **The Hindu** के ईमेल का जवाब नहीं दिया, लेकिन सह-संस्थापक **सुमित गुप्ता** ने **X** पर एक थ्रेड प्रकाशित किया जिसमें कंपनी के दृष्टिकोण को इस क्षेत्र में बताया गया।

- **Sumit Gupta** on **January 15** acknowledged that while users wanted unrestricted crypto withdrawals, the company had to comply with India's "strict capital controls."
  सुमित गुप्ता ने **15 जनवरी** को स्वीकार किया कि जबकि उपयोगकर्ता बिना प्रतिबंध के क्रिप्टो निकासी चाहते थे, कंपनी को भारत के "कड़े पूंजी नियंत्रणों" का पालन करना था।

- Another platform, **CoinSwitch**, followed a similar policy.
  एक और प्लेटफॉर्म, **CoinSwitch**, ने एक समान नीति अपनाई।

- "We do not allow crypto withdrawals on our platform, however, users can withdraw their investments by converting their crypto into **INR** on an exchange like ours, and receive the money in their bank accounts," said **Balaji Srihari**, vice president, **CoinSwitch**, in response to **The Hindu's** query.
  "हम अपने प्लेटफॉर्म पर क्रिप्टो निकासी की अनुमति नहीं देते हैं, हालांकि, उपयोगकर्ता अपनी क्रिप्टो को हमारे जैसे एक्सचेंज पर **INR** में बदलकर अपनी निवेश राशि निकाल सकते हैं, और अपने बैंक खातों में पैसा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं," **बालाजी श्रीहरी**, उपाध्यक्ष, **CoinSwitch**, ने **The Hindu** के प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए कहा।

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- Meanwhile, crypto exchange **Zebpay**, which has its headquarters in **Singapore** apart from other international offices, offers two customer experience modes.
  इस बीच, क्रिप्टो एक्सचेंज **Zebpay**, जिसका मुख्यालय **सिंगापुर** में है और अन्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय कार्यालयों के साथ, दो ग्राहक अनुभव मोड प्रदान करता है।

- One allows crypto withdrawals, while the other does not.
  एक मोड क्रिप्टो निकासी की अनुमति देता है, जबकि दूसरा नहीं देता।

- In response to **The Hindu's** query, **Raj Karkara**, **COO**, **ZebPay**, confirmed that crypto withdrawals were allowed for manual transfers, but not for instant deposits.
  The Hindu के प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए, **राज कारकड़ा**, **COO**, **ZebPay**, ने पुष्टि की कि मैनुअल ट्रांसफर के लिए क्रिप्टो निकासी की अनुमति है, लेकिन तत्काल जमा के लिए नहीं।

Instant Deposit Feature in ZebPay
ZebPay में इंस्टेंट डिपॉज़िट फीचर

- **Instant Deposit** allows users to add **INR funds instantly** to ZebPay accounts, enabling access to **trading** and **fiat withdrawals**.
  इंस्टेंट डिपॉज़िट उपयोगकर्ताओं को **INR फंड्स तुरंत** ZebPay खातों में जोड़ने की अनुमति देता है, जिससे **ट्रेडिंग** और **फिएट विथड्रॉअल्स** तक पहुँच मिलती है।

- **Crypto withdrawals** disabled; **crypto deposits** are fully available.
  क्रिप्टो विदड्रॉअल्स अक्षम हैं; **क्रिप्टो डिपॉज़िट्स** पूरी तरह से उपलब्ध हैं।

- Requires a one-time **virtual account setup**; supports **IMPS**, **NEFT**, **RTGS** transfers.
  एक बार की **वर्चुअल खाता सेटअप** की आवश्यकता होती है; **IMPS**, **NEFT**, **RTGS** ट्रांसफर्स का समर्थन करता है।

- **UPI** is not supported.
  UPI का समर्थन नहीं है।

- Manual transfers require users to add ZebPay's **bank details** and upload proof of **transaction receipt**.
  मैन्युअल ट्रांसफर्स में उपयोगकर्ताओं को ZebPay के **बैंक विवरण** जोड़ने और **लेन-देन रसीद** का प्रमाण अपलोड करने की आवश्यकता होती है।

Binance Registration in India
भारत में बिनेंस का पंजीकरण

- **Binance** registered as a **reporting entity** with **FIU-IND** in **2024**.
  बिनेंस ने 2024 में **FIU-IND** के साथ **रिपोर्टिंग इकाई** के रूप में पंजीकरण कराया।

- **Binance users** in India can withdraw **crypto**.
  भारत में **बिनेंस उपयोगकर्ता क्रिप्टो** निकाल सकते हैं।

- **Binance** and **WazirX** involved in **legal dispute** over ownership.
  बिनेंस और **WazirX** स्वामित्व को लेकर **कानूनी विवाद** में हैं।

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Challenges in Crypto Withdrawals in India
भारत में क्रिप्टो विदड्रॉअल्स में चुनौतियाँ

- Indian law enforcement views INR to crypto conversion as a potential for **money laundering** and **misuse**.
  भारतीय कानून प्रवर्तन INR को क्रिप्टो में बदलने को **मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग** और **दुरुपयोग** की संभावना के रूप में देखता है।

- Users may sell **crypto** for **INR** or use **international exchanges**.
  उपयोगकर्ता **क्रिप्टो** को **INR** में बेचने या **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एक्सचेंज** का उपयोग करने पर मजबूर हो सकते हैं।

- Some traders may use **unregulated decentralized exchanges**.
  कुछ व्यापारी **बिना विनियमित विकेन्द्रीकृत एक्सचेंजों** का उपयोग कर सकते हैं।

Need for Clear Regulations for Crypto Withdrawals
क्रिप्टो विदड्रॉअल्स के लिए स्पष्ट विनियमों की आवश्यकता

- **Absence of clear regulations** on crypto flow in India.
  भारत में क्रिप्टो के प्रवाह को नियंत्रित करने वाले **स्पष्ट विनियमों की कमी**।

- **CoinDCX** working on **enhanced due diligence framework** for crypto withdrawals.
  CoinDCX क्रिप्टो विदड्रॉअल्स के लिए **उन्नत उचित परिश्रम ढांचा** पर काम कर रहा है।

- **CoinSwitch** calls for **regulations** for crypto withdrawals.
  CoinSwitch क्रिप्टो विदड्रॉअल्स के लिए **विनियमों** का आह्वान करता है।

- Clear regulations would address concerns around **security**, **compliance**, and **misuse prevention**.
  स्पष्ट विनियम **सुरक्षा**, **अनुपालन**, और **दुरुपयोग रोकथाम** को लेकर चिंताओं को हल करेंगे।

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Keep a watch on ==thyroid disorders== and do regular check-ups, suggest experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

At a webinar hosted by *The Hindu* in collaboration with Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, under the Healthy India Happy India initiative on Sunday, medical experts focused on thyroid disorders, their prevention, and the importance of early detection.

Aravindan Nair, consultant general and endocrine surgeon at Naruvi, gave a bird's-eye view on thyroid disorders emphasising on its prevalence and the need for regular check-ups.

"Thyroid gland produces thyroxine, which is extremely important for normal functioning of the body. When it gets low, it is hypothyroid, and if it is high, it is hyperthyroid," he explained and added that swelling of thyroid was a very common occurrence.

"If you look at a population survey, 40% to 50% of the population will have undiagnosed thyroid problem and only a small percentage will get detected," said Dr. Nair, who also spoke on malignant thyroid conditions.

He said cancers of thyroid are completely curable in 90% cases with treatment and not every thyroid swelling is malignant. "Imaging and clinical examination are essential for early intervention and to avail minimum morbidity and zero mortality treatment," Dr. Nair said.

His colleague, Sai Krishna Chaitanya P, consultant endocrinologist, detailed thyroid function tests, hypo and hyperthyroid conditions, and thyroiditis (inflammation of the thyroid gland). Identifying the condition is very important, he noted.

"Most individuals can be diagnosed as a part of health packages. But specific tests are recommended when there is a gradual weight gain or weight loss, an increase in lethargy and sleepiness, having no interest in work, feeling tired and sleepy, having constipation or diarrhoea, menstrual irregularities, persistent palpitations and sweating, chronic cough, difficulty in swallowing or breathing, delayed growth in children are symptoms where hypo or hyperthyroidism are suspect and individuals need to get examined for thyroid function test," Dr. Chaitanya pointed out.

Discussing thyroid disorders in pregnancy, Pooja Ramakant, Professor of Endocrine Surgery at King George's Medical University, Lucknow, stressed the need for early detection and management because a lot of changes that happen in the body of a pregnant woman mimic thyroid disorders, which is the second most common disorder after diabetes in pregnancy.

"These physiological changes can continue for at least a year after pregnancy and delivery; gynaecologists can have endocrine evaluation because we need to detect them early to be able to treat them," emphasised Dr. Pooja.

(Webinar is available at https://bit.ly/4jutgfk)

Nair, who also spoke on malignant thyroid conditions.

"यदि आप एक जनसंख्या सर्वेक्षण देखें, तो **40% से 50% लोग अज्ञात थायरॉइड समस्या** से प्रभावित होंगे और केवल एक छोटी प्रतिशत को ही इसका पता चलेगा," **डॉ. नायर** ने कहा, जिन्होंने घातक थायरॉइड स्थितियों पर भी बात की।

- He said **cancers of thyroid are completely curable in 90% cases** with treatment and not every thyroid swelling is malignant.

  उन्होंने कहा कि **थायरॉइड के कैंसर का 90% मामलों में इलाज से पूरी तरह इलाज संभव है** और हर थायरॉइड सूजन घातक नहीं होती।

- "**Imaging and clinical examination** are essential for **early intervention** and to avail **minimum morbidity and zero mortality treatment**," Dr. Nair said.

  "**इमेजिंग और चिकित्सीय जांच प्रारंभिक हस्तक्षेप** के लिए आवश्यक हैं और **न्यूनतम रोगात्मकता और शून्य मृत्यु दर उपचार** प्राप्त करने के लिए," डॉ. नायर ने कहा।

- His colleague, **Sai Krishna Chaitanya P**, consultant endocrinologist, detailed thyroid function tests, hypo and hyperthyroid conditions, and thyroiditis (inflammation of the thyroid gland). Identifying the condition is very important, he noted.

  उनके सहयोगी, **साईं कृष्ण चैतन्य पी**, कंसल्टेंट एंडोक्रिनोलॉजिस्ट, ने थायरॉइड फंक्शन टेस्ट, हाइपो और हाइपरथायरॉइड स्थितियों, और थायरॉइडिटिस (थायरॉइड ग्रंथि की सूजन) पर विस्तार से चर्चा की। उन्होंने बताया कि स्थिति की पहचान करना बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।

- "Most individuals can be diagnosed as a part of health packages. But specific tests are recommended when there is a gradual **weight gain** or **weight loss**, an increase in lethargy and sleepiness, having no interest in work, feeling tired and sleepy, having **constipation** or **diarrhoea**, **menstrual irregularities**, persistent **palpitations** and **sweating**, chronic cough, difficulty in swallowing or breathing, delayed growth in children are symptoms where hypo or hyperthyroidism are suspect and individuals need to get examined for thyroid function test," Dr. Chaitanya pointed out.

  "अधिकांश व्यक्तियों का निदान स्वास्थ्य पैकेजों का हिस्सा बनने पर किया जा सकता है। लेकिन विशेष परीक्षण तब किए जाते हैं जब **वजन बढ़ना** या **वजन घटना**, सुस्ती और नींद की बढ़ोतरी, काम में कोई रुचि न होना, थकान और नींद आना, **कब्ज** या **दस्त**, **मासिक धर्म असामान्यता**, लगातार **धड़कन** और **पसीना आना**, पुराना खांसी, निगलने या सांस लेने में कठिनाई, बच्चों में विकास में देरी के लक्षण होते हैं, जहां हाइपो या हाइपरथायरॉइडिज्म संदिग्ध होता है और व्यक्तियों को थायरॉइड फंक्शन टेस्ट करवाना चाहिए," डॉ. चैतन्य ने बताया।

- Discussing thyroid disorders in pregnancy, **Pooja Ramakant**, Professor of Endocrine Surgery at **King George's Medical University**, Lucknow, stressed the need for early detection and management because a lot of changes that happen in the body of a pregnant woman mimic thyroid disorders, which is the **second most common disorder after diabetes in pregnancy**.

  गर्भावस्था में थायरॉइड विकारों पर चर्चा करते हुए, **पूजा रामकांत**, **किंग जॉर्ज मेडिकल यूनिवर्सिटी**, लखनऊ में एंडोक्राइन सर्जरी की प्रोफेसर, ने प्रारंभिक पहचान और प्रबंधन की आवश्यकता पर

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जोर दिया क्योंकि गर्भवती महिला के शरीर में होने वाले कई परिवर्तन थायरॉइड विकारों का अनुकरण करते हैं, जो **गर्भावस्था में मधुमेह के बाद दूसरा सबसे सामान्य विकार है।**

- "These physiological changes can continue for at least a year after pregnancy and delivery; **gynaecologists** can have endocrine evaluation because we need to detect them early to be able to treat them," emphasised Dr. Pooja.

"ये शारीरिक परिवर्तन गर्भावस्था और प्रसव के बाद कम से कम एक साल तक जारी रह सकते हैं; **स्त्रीरोग विशेषज्ञ** एंडोक्राइन मूल्यांकन कर सकते हैं क्योंकि हमें उन्हें जल्दी पहचानने की आवश्यकता है ताकि हम उनका इलाज कर सकें," डॉ. पूजा ने जोर दिया।

Army's missile firepower thunders down Kartavya Path in show of strike options

The parade features key missile systems, including BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, upgraded Pinaka Multi-Rocket Launch System, BM-21 Grad MRLS, and the Pralay quasi-ballistic missile system; the new Battlefield Surveillance System, Sanjay, was showcased for the first time

GS Paper III: Defence

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The missile systems showcased on Kartavya Path during the Republic Day parade on Sunday capture the evolving long-range tactical strike options for the Indian military, especially the Army, the need for which is one of the key lessons from the war in Ukraine.

BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, upgraded Pinaka Multi-Rocket Launch System (MRLS) with a range of 75 km, BM-21 Grad, which is a 122 mm MRLS, and Pralay quasi-ballistic missile system were among those showcased.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased a model of the indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) on its tableau.

In addition to Pralay, the Army's new Battlefield Surveillance System, Sanjay, was at the parade for the first time. Sanjay has been jointly developed by the Army and Bharat Electronics Ltd. at a cost of ₹2,402 crore, and the systems will be inducted in all operational brigades, divisions and corps of the Army in three phases between March and October.

As one of the most advanced rocket systems globally, the fully automated 214 mm Pinaka MRLS battery can deliver a salvo of 72 rockets on the target up to 75 km in 44 seconds, the commentary booklet distributed at the parade on Sunday said. The Army has four Pinaka regiments in service and six more are on order.

Twin-launched Pralay
The Pralay with a twin launcher system showcased at the parade is a quasi-ballistic missile and India's first ballistic missile designated for conventional role. Development trials of Pralay are over and the development is now complete, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier. The Defence Acquisition Council has accorded Acceptance of Necessity for a few hundred of the missiles for the Army and the Air Force. "In threat scenario, Pralay is capable of destruction of war waging potential of adversary even before the commencement of contact battle owing to its flexible range and lethality," the booklet stated.

The upgraded Pinaka is going to be the mainstay of the Army's long-range rocket artillery. Last November, the DRDO announced the successful completion of flight tests of guided Pinaka rockets of 75 km range, paving the way for its induction by doubling the original range of 37 km. Work is on to enhance the range to 300 km.

Last September, the Army's Director-General of Artillery, Lt. Gen. Adosh Kumar, said that the Pinaka system was being widely exploited and its ability was second to none. "We are looking at extending the range of the Pinaka rockets and a lot of work is going on. The DRDO is confident of achieving it."

In addition to Pinaka, the Army has five Grad rocket regiments and three Smerch regiments with a range of 90 km. Another missile, Nirbhay sub-sonic cruise missile, the longest range option, is in an advanced stage of development trials and can be expected to be showcased in the next few years.

Specialised ammunition
Another aspect adding to the lethality of Pinaka is specialised ammunition. Trials have been completed using high-explosive pre-fragmented rockets in the Pinaka system, which will increase the range by 15-20%, and an area denial munition (ADM) system, which can be anti-tank and anti-personnel. Contracts for procurement of both are expected to be signed soon, Lt. Gen. Kumar had said.

The Grad proved its worth during the 1999 Kargil War when its ability to deliver a salvo of 40 rockets in just 20 seconds played a key role in neutralising fortified enemy positions on high-altitude ridges. Initially mounted on the Ural-3750 truck platform, the BM-21 underwent a significant upgrade, transitioning to the indigenously developed Ashok Leyland super stallion platform. This upgrade enhanced mobility, increased payload capacity, and streamlined maintenance, the commentary noted.

The BrahMos detachment on Kartavya Path, led by Captain Suraj Singh, was from the 344 Missile Regiment, the youngest unit within the BrahMos fraternity.

Upgraded tech: The Pralay quasi-ballistic missile system being displayed during the 76th Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Sunday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Army's missile firepower thunders down Kartavya Path in show of strike options

भारत की मिसाइल शक्ति ने कर्तव्य पथ पर अपनी स्ट्राइक विकल्पों को प्रदर्शित किया

The parade features key missile systems, including BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, upgraded Pinaka Multi-Rocket Launch System, BM-21 Grad, and Pralay quasi-ballistic missile system.

परेड में प्रमुख मिसाइल प्रणालियाँ प्रदर्शित की गईं, जिनमें BrahMos सुपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइलें, उन्नत Pinaka मल्टी-रॉकेट लॉन्च सिस्टम, BM-21 Grad, और Pralay क्वासी-बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल सिस्टम शामिल हैं।

- The **new Battlefield Surveillance System**, **Sanjay**, was showcased for the first time.
  नई युद्धक्षेत्र निगरानी प्रणाली, **Sanjay**, पहली बार प्रदर्शित की गई।
- **Sanjay** has been jointly developed by the Army and **Bharat Electronics Ltd.** at a cost of **₹2,402 crore**, and will be inducted in phases between **March and October**.
  Sanjay को **भारतीय सेना** और **भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड** द्वारा **₹2,402 करोड़** की लागत से संयुक्त रूप से विकसित किया गया है, और इसे **मार्च और अक्टूबर** के बीच चरणों में induct किया जाएगा।
- **Pinaka MRLS** can deliver a salvo of **72 rockets** up to **75 km** in **44 seconds**.
  Pinaka MRLS 44 सेकंड में **72 रॉकेट 75 किमी** तक लक्षित कर सकता है।
- The Army has four **Pinaka regiments** in service and six more are on order.
  Pinaka रेजिमेंट्स की सेना में चार रेजिमेंट्स सेवा में हैं और छह और रेजिमेंट्स आदेश पर हैं।
- The **Pralay missile** is a **quasi-ballistic missile**, India's first **ballistic missile** for conventional roles.
  Pralay मिसाइल एक **quasi-ballistic मिसाइल** है, भारत की पहली **ballistic मिसाइल** जो पारंपरिक भूमिकाओं के लिए है।
- **Pralay** is capable of destruction of **war waging potential of adversary** even before the commencement of battle.
  Pralay युद्ध के शुरू होने से पहले ही **विरोधी के युद्ध की क्षमता** को नष्ट करने में सक्षम है।
- The upgraded **Pinaka** has a range of **75 km** and is going to be the mainstay of the Army's long-range rocket artillery.
  उन्नत Pinaka की **75 किमी** की रेंज है और यह सेना की लंबी दूरी की रॉकेट आर्टिलरी का मुख्य आधार बनेगा।
- **Pinaka guided rockets** have successfully completed flight tests of **75 km range**, doubling the original range of **37 km**.

Pinaka गाइडेड रॉकेट्स ने **75 किमी रेंज** के उड़ान परीक्षण सफलतापूर्वक पूरे किए हैं, जिससे इसकी मूल रेंज **37 किमी** से दोगुनी हो गई है।

- The Army has **five Grad rocket regiments** and **three Smerch regiments** with a range of **90 km**.

  सेना के पास **पाँच Grad रॉकेट रेजिमेंट्स** और **तीन Smerch रेजिमेंट्स** हैं, जिनकी रेंज **90 किमी** है।

- **Nirbhay sub-sonic cruise missile**, the longest range option, is in an advanced stage of development.

  Nirbhay सब-सोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल, जो सबसे लंबी रेंज वाला विकल्प है, विकास के उन्नत चरण में है।

- Trials have been completed using **high-explosive pre-fragmented rockets** in the **Pinaka system**, which will increase the range by **15-20%**.

  Pinaka प्रणाली में **हाई-एक्सप्लोसिव प्री-फ्रैग्मेंटेड रॉकेट्स** का परीक्षण पूरा किया गया है, जो रेंज को **15-20%** तक बढ़ाएगा।

- The **BM-21 Grad** proved its worth during the **1999 Kargil War**, delivering a salvo of **40 rockets** in just **20 seconds**.

  BM-21 Grad ने **1999** के **कारगिल युद्ध** में अपनी उपयोगिता साबित की, जब इसने सिर्फ **20 सेकंड** में **40 रॉकेट्स** की एक बौछार की थी।

- The **BrahMos missile detachment** was led by **Captain Suraj Singh** from the **344 Missile Regiment**.

  BrahMos मिसाइल डिटैचमेंट का नेतृत्व **कैप्टन सूरज सिंह** ने **344 मिसाइल रेजिमेंट** से किया।

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Assam tea workers prone to post-TB fungal disease: study

Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis, or CPA, is a life-threatening infection that strikes individuals with immunodeficiency; an earlier study had flagged prevalence of epidemic dropsy in State's tea belt

GS Paper III: S&T

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Two years after a study flagged the epidemic dropsy threat, a new research paper has identified a life-threatening fungal infection mostly in the damaged lungs of tuberculosis survivors among Assam's tea plantation workers.

TB has been a major public health issue across the tea belts in Assam's Brahmaputra and Barak valleys, afflicting 217 per 1,00,000 population according to the National TB Prevalence Survey of 2019-2021. The risk factors include poverty, poor nutrition, kitchen smoke, close contact with smear-positive patients, and living in congested environments.

A team of researchers from the Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh has now put the focus on chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA), an infection caused by *Aspergillus fumigatus*, a fungus that strikes individuals with immunodeficiency. CPA is a chronic lung disease that occurs commonly in pre-existing lung cavities. It mostly occurs in post-TB or active TB patients and shares similar clinical features with tuberculosis.

The study, the first of its kind among tea workers, was published in the journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. Its authors are Aishwarya Selvasekhar, Reema Nath, Gourangie Gogoi, and Pronami Borah.

The team examined 128 patients visiting three tea garden hospitals and two referral hospitals in Dibrugarh district, which has 177 of Assam's 803 major tea estates and a high TB burden. These patients – tea workers and their dependents from four tea estates – experienced chronic cough, haemoptysis (coughing blood), weight loss or fatigue, and other respiratory symptoms for three months or more.

Using advanced serological testing and radiological imaging, the researchers recorded a CPA prevalence of 17.18% in the year-long study. CPA seropositivity was 18.5% in active TB patients but spiked to 48.9% in those who had completed treatment, underlining the fungal infection as a post-TB health issue.

Worse than Africa

The mean age of the patients was 41.9 and CPA was found to be more common in middle-age male workers (80 against 48 females).

According to the study, Assam's high CPA prevalence of 60 cases per 1,00,000 people exceeds the global average of 42. The scenario is worse than in African countries such as Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the prevalence ranges from 20 to 50. The researchers suggested testing for Aspergillus antibodies in patients who come with respiratory symptoms after completion of TB treatment to diagnose the cases early and treat them subsequently.

"This will help to decrease the morbidity and mortality due to this neglected and under-diagnosed disease in tea garden hospitals as well as other TB hospitals," they said. The researchers advised campaigns to train healthcare providers to recognise CPA symptoms and educate workers about respiratory health, nutrition, and hygiene.

In the context of nutrition, health experts pointed to a two-year-old study on epidemic dropsy published in the *Cureus Journal of Medical Science*.

Epidemic dropsy is caused by the consumption of edible oils contaminated with the oil from *Argemone mexicana*, a poppy of Mexican origin.

Persistent problem: TB has been a major public health issue across the tea belts in Assam's Brahmaputra and Barak valleys. ANI

Assam tea workers prone to post-TB fungal disease: study
असम चाय श्रमिकों में टीबी के बाद फंगल बीमारी का खतरा: अध्ययन

Two years after a study flagged the epidemic dropsy threat, a new research paper has identified a life-threatening fungal infection mostly in the damaged lungs of tuberculosis survivors among Assam's tea plantation workers.

दो साल पहले एक अध्ययन ने महामारी के रूप में ड्रॉप्सी खतरे की चेतावनी दी थी, अब एक नया शोध पत्र असम के चाय बगान श्रमिकों में टीबी से उबर चुके लोगों के क्षतिग्रस्त फेफड़ों में जीवन के लिए खतरे वाले फंगल संक्रमण की पहचान करता है।

- TB has been a major public health issue across the tea belts in Assam's Brahmaputra and Barak valleys, afflicting 217 per 1,00,000 population according to the National TB Prevalence Survey of 2019-2021.

टीबी असम की ब्रह्मपुत्र और बराक घाटियों के चाय बेल्ट में एक प्रमुख सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य

समस्या रही है, जो राष्ट्रीय **टीबी प्रसार सर्वेक्षण** 2019-2021 के अनुसार 1,00,000 जनसंख्या में से 217 लोगों को प्रभावित करता है।

- The risk factors include poverty, poor nutrition, kitchen smoke, close contact with smear-positive patients, and living in congested environments.

  जोखिम तत्वों में **गरीबी**, **खराब पोषण**, **रसोई धुंआ**, **स्मियर-पॉज़िटिव मरीजों के साथ निकट संपर्क**, और संकुचित वातावरण में रहना शामिल है।

- A team of researchers from the Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh has now put the focus on chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA), an infection caused by *Aspergillus fumigatus*, a fungus that strikes individuals with immunodeficiency.

  डिब्रूगढ़ के **असम मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल** के शोधकर्ताओं की एक टीम ने अब **क्रोनिक पल्मोनरी ऐस्परगिलोसिस (CPA)** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है, जो **एस्परगिलस फ्यूमिगेटस** नामक एक फंगस द्वारा होने वाला संक्रमण है, जो **इम्यूनोडिफिशियंसी** वाले व्यक्तियों को प्रभावित करता है।

- CPA is a chronic lung disease that occurs commonly in pre-existing lung cavities. It mostly occurs in post-TB or active TB patients and shares similar clinical features with tuberculosis.

  CPA एक क्रोनिक फेफड़े की बीमारी है जो प्री-एक्सिस्टिंग फेफड़ों की गुहाओं में सामान्यतः होती है। यह अधिकांशतः **टीबी** के बाद या सक्रिय टीबी मरीजों में होती है और इसके लक्षण टीबी के समान होते हैं।

- The study, the first of its kind among tea workers, was published in the journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.*

  यह अध्ययन, जो चाय श्रमिकों में अपनी तरह का पहला है, **पीएलओएस नेगलेक्टेड ट्रॉपिकल डिजीजेज** जर्नल में प्रकाशित हुआ था।

- The team examined 128 patients visiting three tea garden hospitals and two referral hospitals in Dibrugarh district, which has 177 of Assam's 803 major tea estates and a high TB burden.

  टीम ने डिब्रूगढ़ जिले के तीन चाय बगान अस्पतालों और दो रेफरल अस्पतालों में 128 मरीजों का परीक्षण किया, जिसमें असम के 803 प्रमुख चाय बगानों में से 177 स्थित हैं और यहां टीबी का भारी बोझ है।

- These patients — tea workers and their dependents from four tea estates — experienced chronic cough, haemoptysis (coughing blood), weight loss or fatigue, and other respiratory symptoms for three months or more.

  इन मरीजों – चाय श्रमिकों और उनके आश्रितों – ने चार चाय बगानों से **क्रोनिक खांसी**, **हैमोप्टाइसिस (रक्तस्राव)**, **वजन घटना** या **थकान**, और तीन महीने या उससे अधिक समय तक अन्य श्वसन लक्षणों का अनुभव किया।

- Using advanced serological testing and radiological imaging, the researchers recorded a CPA prevalence of 17.18% in the year-long study.

  उन्नत **सीरोलॉजिकल परीक्षण** और **रेडियोलॉजिकल इमेजिंग** का उपयोग करते हुए, शोधकर्ताओं ने एक साल के अध्ययन में **CPA** का प्रसार **17.18%** दर्ज किया।

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- CPA seropositivity was 18.5% in active TB patients but spiked to 48.9% in those who had completed treatment, underlining the fungal infection as a post-TB health issue.

  CPA की **सिरोपोजिटिविटी** सक्रिय टीबी मरीजों में **18.5%** थी, लेकिन जो लोग उपचार पूरा कर चुके थे, उनमें यह **48.9%** तक पहुंच गई, जो टीबी के बाद फंगल संक्रमण को स्वास्थ्य समस्या के रूप में रेखांकित करती है।

- The mean age of the patients was 41.9 and CPA was found to be more common in middle-age male workers (80 against 48 females).

  मरीजों की औसत उम्र **41.9** थी और CPA **मध्यम आयु वर्ग के पुरुष श्रमिकों** में अधिक सामान्य पाया गया (पुरुषों में 80, महिलाओं में 48)।

- According to the study, Assam's high CPA prevalence of 60 cases per 1,00,000 people exceeds the global average of 42.

  अध्यान के अनुसार, असम में **60 मामले प्रति 1,00,000 लोग** के साथ उच्च CPA प्रसार है, जो वैश्विक औसत **42** से अधिक है।

- The scenario is worse than in African countries such as Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the prevalence ranges from 20 to 50.

  यह स्थिति अफ्रीकी देशों जैसे **नाइजीरिया** और **डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ कांगो** में अधिक खराब है, जहां प्रसार **20 से 50** के बीच है।

- The researchers suggested testing for Aspergillus antibodies in patients who come with respiratory symptoms after completion of TB treatment to diagnose the cases early and treat them subsequently.

  शोधकर्ताओं ने TB उपचार पूरा करने के बाद श्वसन लक्षणों के साथ आने वाले मरीजों में **एस्परगिलस एंटीबॉडीज़** का परीक्षण करने का सुझाव दिया, ताकि मामलों का शीघ्र निदान किया जा सके और उन्हें बाद में उपचारित किया जा सके।

- This will help to decrease the morbidity and mortality due to this neglected and under-diagnosed disease in tea garden hospitals as well as other TB hospitals.

  यह चाय बगान अस्पतालों और अन्य टीबी अस्पतालों में इस उपेक्षित और कम निदान की गई बीमारी के कारण होने वाली **रोगिता** और **मृत्यु दर** को कम करने में मदद करेगा।

- The researchers advised campaigns to train healthcare providers to recognize CPA symptoms and educate workers about respiratory health, nutrition, and hygiene.

  शोधकर्ताओं ने **स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं** को CPA लक्षणों को पहचानने के लिए प्रशिक्षित करने और श्रमिकों को **श्वसन स्वास्थ्य**, **पोषण** और **स्वच्छता** के बारे में शिक्षित करने के लिए अभियानों की सलाह दी।

- In the context of nutrition, health experts pointed to a two-year-old study on epidemic dropsy published in the **Cureus Journal of Medical Science**.

  पोषण के संदर्भ में, स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों ने **Cureus Journal of Medical Science** में प्रकाशित महामारी **ड्रॉप्सी** पर दो साल पुराने अध्ययन की ओर इशारा किया।

- Epidemic dropsy is caused by the consumption of edible oils contaminated with the oil from *Argemone mexicana*, a poppy of Mexican origin.

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महामारी **ड्रॉप्सी Argemone mexicana** के तेल से संदूषित खाद्य तेलों के सेवन से होती है, जो मेक्सिकन उत्पत्ति के एक पोपी से आता है।

Indian space programme breaks into 2025 in 'mission mode'

The **PSLV-C60** mission laid the foundations for Chandrayaan-4 and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station. Forthcoming test flights will move India closer to human spaceflight, soon to receive a helping hand from a third launch pad at Sriharikota, continuing work on **NGLV**, and a change of guard at ISRO

GS Paper III: Space Technology

INDIA IN SPACE

Pradeep Mohandas

Just as 2024 was the year India developed a vision for its space programme, 2025 is likely to have the programme in mission mode. The PSLV-C60 mission, underway as the year began, laid the foundations for Chandrayaan-4 and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station.

Forthcoming test flights will move India closer to human spaceflight, soon to receive a helping hand from a third launch pad approved for construction at Sriharikota, continuing work on the **Next-Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**, and a change of guard at ISRO.

SpaDeX, a team effort

On December 30, 2024, the PSLV-C60 mission lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota. About 15 minutes after liftoff, the rocket delivered the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) satellites at slightly different velocities into a 475-km circular orbit.

Then ISRO chairman S. Somanath said the nominal date for the docking attempt would be January 7, 2025. M. Sankaran, director of the UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), said this was to allow the satellites to power up their solar cells.

Indian private company Kepler Aerospace provided ground station-as-a-service support for the mission alongside ISRO. It was able to simultaneously command the two SpaDeX satellites and provided "comprehensive mission support in under a month."

Swiss space situational awareness company s2a systems also shared details of the distance between the two satellites on social media.

This separation reached far rendezvous conditions, i.e., 10-20 km, on January 2, 2025, and started moving closer on January 6. ISRO had originally planned a webcast for January 7 but rescheduled by two days before calling it off altogether.

On January 8, the organisation said when the inter-satellite distance was reduced from 500 m to 225 m, the drift between the satellites was greater than expected. So it re-increased the separation to 6-8 km on January 9 and started over.

On January 10, the satellites were put on 'hold' mode to maintain an inter-satellite distance of 1.5 km then moved closer together on January 11 and 'held' at 230 m. On January 12, the inter-satellite distance was reduced further to 105 m, subsequently to 15 m, and then to 3 m. At this point, ISRO decided to move the satellites apart once again so it could analyse data from the satellites' sensors before the next attempt.

According to s2a systems, the inter-satellite separation grew to 10.9 km on January 12, and from there the next docking attempt was launched. They came within 2.6 km of each other on January 13 and to 900 m on January 15.

Finally, on January 16, ISRO issued a statement saying the two satellites had successfully docked and stabilised themselves in orbit. ISRO thus made history by completing its first in-orbit rendezvous and docking. Later that day, both satellites were controlled together from one of them, a feat necessary for lunar and space-station docking.

ISRO said the next steps involved transferring power from one satellite to the other and, later, undocking.

POEM4, the orbital testbed

After the PSLV-C60 mission deployed the SpaDeX satellites, the rocket's fourth stage was moved to a 350-km circular orbit and had its fuel dumped (a process called passivation, done so that the fuel doesn't explode and create a debris field). In this form, it was ready for the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM4) phase of its mission, when the fourth stage was to orbit the earth like a satellite. It carried 24 payloads: 14 from ISRO and 10 from academia and private industry.

ISRO's Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator tested its movement and relocation capability by moving from one part of POEM4 to another. The Debris Capture Robotic Arm Manipulator also moved its arm, but ISRO wasn't clear about whether it managed to capture the piece of debris tethered to the payload. The **Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS)** had cowpea seeds germinate in orbit and studied the leaves.

On December 31, 2024, Manastu Space's Vyom 2U payload fired its green propulsion system for 30 seconds, tilting the POEM4 stage by 24°. The system used the company's proprietary green fuel MS289. Manastu fired the system once again on January 13, this time having POEM4 perform a somersault with an angular velocity of 1.5° per second.

Similarly, Bellatrix Aerospace fired its RUDRA payload for 60 seconds to impart an angular velocity of 1.4° per second and turn POEM4 around by 80°.

N Space Tech's payload, SwetchaSATV0, established communications with its ground station. The payload, designed and built in-house, tested communications in the UHF to Ku bands.

The SJC Institute of Technology and the Upagraha Amateur Radio Club at URSC said they had successfully received data from BGS-ARPIT, their jointly-developed amateur radio messaging payload. Many amateur radio operators also shared images received from BGS-ARPIT on amateur radio mailing lists.

GalaxEye also announced the successful performance of its payload, GLX-SQ. The company said it had achieved all mission objectives, including using GLX-SQ to create a synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) image.

TakeMe2Space successfully conducted an in-orbit demonstration of its MOI-TD payload. An artificial intelligence unit, it uploaded "large models from the ground station, [executed] external code on the satellite, and [downlinked] the ... results." The company said it faced "a critical failure in the camera hardware," however.

Amity University said its Amity Plant Experimental Module in Space (APEMS) yielded positive results in its attempt to grow a plant in controlled conditions onboard POEM4.

Change of guard

While the SpaDeX and POEM4 missions were being executed in space, V. Narayanan took over from Somanath as ISRO chairman on January 14.

Narayanan was director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Center, Thiruvananthapuram, and led work on the cryogenic and semi-cryogenic engines. He also chaired a committee to examine the failure of the Chandrayaan-2 moon-landing attempt.

Aboard Transporter 12

Three Indian companies flew their payloads onboard SpaceX's Transporter 12 mission on January 15. They were part of another 131 payloads that the Falcon 9 rocket delivered to orbit.

First, **Pixxel Space's** three Firefly hyperspectral satellites became the first private Indian satellite constellation; three more are to fly in the future. The company announced on social media that all three satellites had deployed their solar arrays and had started generating power, were stabilised, and had established two-way communication links.

Second, **Digantara** launched its Space Camera for Object Tracking for space situational awareness and to augment its ground capabilities. The company said the satellite was generating solar power and had stabilised. The satellite will now move to its commissioning phase to prepare for its mission: to precisely track objects in low-earth orbit.

Third, **XDLINX Labs'** Elevation 1 miniaturised communications satellite, built for US-based Almagest Space Corporation on its XDSATNS platform, was assembled, integrated, and tested by Ananth Technologies. The satellite has a small E-band satellite communications payload that sent a "hello from space" message to mark the start of its mission.
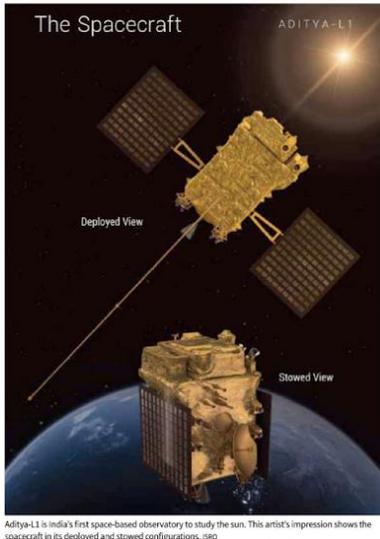
Space tech and science

The Union cabinet approved the construction of a third launch pad at SDSC at a cost of ₹3984.86 crore. It's expected to be built by 2029, to serve as a backup for the second launch pad as well as support for human spaceflight facilities and ISRO's NGLV.

ISRO also successfully tested its Vikas engine's ability to restart, i.e., stop firing, then start again, at its propulsion complex in Mahendragiri. The engine was fired for 60 seconds, shut off for 120 seconds, and fired again for seven seconds. ISRO has more tests planned ahead of certifying the engine's readiness to operate in this way in the atmosphere.The fourth-stage liquid engine of the PSLV already has restart capability in the vacuum of space.

Finally, on January 6, ISRO released the first tranche of data collected by its Aditya-L1 mission, exactly a year after the mission had started to study the sun and its effects on the inner solar system.

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ISRO launches the PSLV-C60 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on December 30, 2024. AFP

The Spacecraft — ADITYA-L1

Deployed View / Stowed View

Aditya-L1 is India's first space-based observatory to study the sun. This artist's impression shows the spacecraft in its deployed and stowed configurations. ISRO

Indian space programme breaks into 2025 in 'mission mode'

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम 2025 तक 'मिशन मोड' में प्रवेश करेगा

The PSLV-C60 mission laid the foundations for Chandrayaan-4 and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station. Forthcoming test flights will move India closer to human spaceflight, soon to receive a helping hand from a third launch pad at Sriharikota, continuing work on NGLV, and a change of guard at ISRO

पीएसएलवी-सी60 मिशन ने चंद्रयान-4 और भारतीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन की नींव रखी। आगामी परीक्षण भारत को मानव अंतरिक्ष यान के और करीब ले जाएंगे, जल्द ही श्रीहरिकोटा में तीसरे लॉन्च पैड से मदद मिलेगी, एनजीएलवी पर काम जारी रहेगा और इसरो में बदलाव होगा।

SpaDeX, a team effort
स्पेडेक्स, एक टीम प्रयास

- On **December 30, 2024,** the **PSLV-C60 mission** lifted off from the **Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC)** in **Sriharikota.**
30 दिसंबर 2024 को PSLV-C60 मिशन ने सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (SDSC), श्रीहरिकोटा से उड़ान भरी।

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- About **15 minutes after liftoff**, the rocket delivered the **Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX)** satellites into a **475-km circular orbit**.
  उड़ान भरने के लगभग 15 मिनट बाद, रॉकेट ने **स्पेस डॉकिंग प्रयोग (स्पेडेक्स)** उपग्रहों को **475 किमी वृत्ताकार कक्षा** में स्थापित किया।

- ISRO Chairman **S. Somanath** stated that the **nominal date** for the docking attempt would be **January 7, 2025**.
  ISRO के अध्यक्ष **एस. सोमनाथ** ने कहा कि डॉकिंग प्रयास की **आदर्श तारीख 7 जनवरी 2025** होगी।

- **M. Sankaran**, Director of the **UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)**, mentioned that this delay allowed the satellites to power up their **solar cells**.
  एम. संकरण, **UR राव उपग्रह केंद्र (URSC)** के निदेशक ने उल्लेख किया कि इस देरी ने उपग्रहों को अपने **सौर पैनलों** को सक्रिय करने का अवसर दिया।

- **Kepler Aerospace**, an Indian private company, provided **ground station-as-a-service support** for the mission.
  केपलर एयरोस्पेस, एक भारतीय निजी कंपनी, ने मिशन के लिए **ग्राउंड स्टेशन-के-रूप में सेवा समर्थन** प्रदान किया।

- The satellites reached **far rendezvous conditions** (10-20 km) on **January 2, 2025**, and began moving closer on **January 6, 2025**.
  उपग्रहों ने **दूरवर्ती मिलन स्थिति** (10-20 किमी) **2 जनवरी 2025** को प्राप्त की, और **6 जनवरी 2025** को एक-दूसरे के करीब आने लगे।

- Initially, the **webcast for January 7** was rescheduled by two days and then called off due to the drift between the satellites.
  7 जनवरी के लिए वेबकास्ट को दो दिन के लिए फिर से निर्धारित किया गया और फिर उपग्रहों के बीच अंतर के कारण रद्द कर दिया गया।

- On **January 8, 2025**, the distance between the satellites was reduced from **500 m to 225 m**, but the drift was greater than expected.
  8 जनवरी 2025 को उपग्रहों के बीच की दूरी **500 मीटर से 225 मीटर** तक घटाई गई, लेकिन हलचल अपेक्षा से अधिक थी।

- **January 9, 2025**: The inter-satellite distance was increased to **6-8 km** before restarting the attempt.
  9 जनवरी 2025: इंटर-सैटेलाइट दूरी को **6-8 किमी** बढ़ाया गया और फिर प्रयास को फिर से शुरू किया गया।

- By **January 10, 2025**, the satellites were put on **'hold' mode** to maintain a distance of **1.5 km**, then moved closer on **January 11, 2025**, and held at **230 m**.
  10 जनवरी 2025 तक, उपग्रहों को **'होल्ड' मोड** पर रखा गया ताकि **1.5 किमी** की दूरी बनाए रखी जा सके, फिर **11 जनवरी 2025** को एक-दूसरे के करीब आते हुए **230 मीटर** पर स्थिर हो गए।

- On **January 12, 2025**, the inter-satellite distance was reduced to **105 m**, then **15 m**, and finally to **3 m**.

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12 जनवरी 2025 को इंटर-सैटेलाइट दूरी को **105 मीटर** से घटाकर **15 मीटर** और फिर **3 मीटर** तक घटाया गया।

- **January 13, 2025**: The satellites came within **2.6 km** of each other and to **900 m** on **January 15, 2025**.

  13 जनवरी 2025 को उपग्रह एक-दूसरे से **2.6 किमी** की दूरी तक आ गए और **15 जनवरी 2025** को **900 मीटर** पर आ गए।

- Finally, on **January 16, 2025**, ISRO confirmed that the two satellites successfully **docked** and stabilised in orbit.

  अंततः **16 जनवरी 2025** को ISRO ने पुष्टि की कि दोनों उपग्रह सफलतापूर्वक **डॉक किए गए** और कक्षा में स्थिर हो गए।

- Later that day, both satellites were **controlled together from one of them**, marking a significant milestone for **lunar and space-station docking**.

  उसी दिन बाद में, दोनों उपग्रहों को **एक में से एक द्वारा नियंत्रित किया गया**, जो चंद्र और अंतरिक्ष-स्टेशन डॉकिंग के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है।

- ISRO's next steps involved **transferring power** from one satellite to another and eventually **undocking**.

  ISRO के अगले कदमों में **एक उपग्रह से दूसरे में ऊर्जा का स्थानांतरण** और अंततः **डॉकिंग को हटाना** शामिल था।

POEM4, the orbital testbed
POEM4, कक्षीय परीक्षण केंद्र

- After the **PSLV-C60 mission** deployed the **SpaDeX satellites**, the rocket's fourth stage was moved to a **350-km circular orbit** and had its **fuel dumped**.

  PSLV-C60 मिशन द्वारा **स्पेडेक्स उपग्रहों** को छोड़े जाने के बाद, रॉकेट के चौथे चरण को **350 किमी वृत्ताकार कक्षा** में स्थानांतरित किया गया और इसका **ईंधन निकाल दिया गया**।

- This process, called **passivation**, was done to prevent the fuel from exploding and creating a **debris field**.

  इस प्रक्रिया को **पासिवेशन** कहा जाता है, जो ईंधन को विस्फोटित होने और **मलबे के क्षेत्र** का निर्माण करने से रोकने के लिए किया गया।

- The **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM4)** phase of the mission began, where the fourth stage was to orbit the Earth like a **satellite**.

  मिशन के **PSLV कक्षीय प्रयोगात्मक मॉड्यूल (POEM4)** चरण की शुरुआत हुई, जहां चौथा चरण पृथ्वी के चारों ओर **सैटेलाइट** की तरह परिक्रमा करेगा।

- **POEM4** carried **24 payloads**: 14 from ISRO and **10 from academia and private industry**.

  POEM4 में **24 पेलोड** थे: **14 ISRO से** और **10 शैक्षिक और निजी उद्योग से**।

- **ISRO's Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator** tested its **movement and relocation** capability.

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ISRO का रीलोकटेबल रोबोटिक मैनिपुलेटर-टेक्नोलॉजी डेमॉन्स्ट्रेटर ने अपनी **गति और पुनः स्थानांतरण** क्षमता का परीक्षण किया।

- The **Debris Capture Robotic Arm Manipulator** also moved its arm, but ISRO was unclear about whether it captured the piece of debris tethered to the payload.
  डेब्रीस कैप्चर रोबोटिक आर्म मैनिपुलेटर ने भी अपनी बांह हिलाई, लेकिन ISRO स्पष्ट नहीं था कि क्या उसने पेलोड से जुड़ा मलबा पकड़ा था।

- The **Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS)** had **cowpea seeds germinate in orbit** and studied their leaves.
  कंप्रेस्ड रिसर्च मॉड्यूल फॉर ऑर्बिटल प्लांट स्टडीज़ (CROPS) ने **काउपी बीजों को कक्षा में अंकुरित** किया और उनके पत्तों का अध्ययन किया।

- On **December 31, 2024**, **Manastu Space's Vyom 2U payload** fired its **green propulsion system** for **30 seconds**, tilting the **POEM4 stage** by **24 degrees**.
  31 दिसंबर 2024 को, **मणास्तु स्पेस के व्योम 2U पेलोड** ने 30 सेकंड के लिए अपना **ग्रीन प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम** फायर किया, जिससे **POEM4 चरण** को 24 डिग्री झुका दिया गया।

- On **January 13, 2025**, **Manastu** fired its system again, having **POEM4 perform a somersault** with an angular velocity of **1.5 degrees per second**.
  13 जनवरी 2025 को, **मणास्तु** ने अपना सिस्टम फिर से फायर किया, जिससे **POEM4 ने समरसॉल्ट किया** और उसकी कोणीय गति **1.5 डिग्री प्रति सेकंड** रही।

- Similarly, **Bellatrix Aerospace** fired its **RUDRA payload** for **60 seconds**, imparting an angular velocity of **1.4 degrees per second** and turning **POEM4 by 80 degrees**.
  इसी तरह, **बेलाट्रिक्स एयरोस्पेस** ने अपना **RUDRA पेलोड 60 सेकंड** के लिए फायर किया, जिससे **POEM4 को 80 डिग्री** घुमा दिया गया और उसकी कोणीय गति **1.4 डिग्री प्रति सेकंड** रही।

- **N Space Tech's payload, SwetchaSAT-V0**, established communications with its **ground station**.
  एन स्पेस टेक का पेलोड, स्वेच्छाSAT-V0, ने अपने **ग्राउंड स्टेशन** के साथ संचार स्थापित किया।

- The **SJC Institute of Technology** and **Upagraha Amateur Radio Club at URSC** received data from their **jointly-developed amateur radio messaging payload**, BGS-ARPIT.
  SJC इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी और **URSC** में उपग्रह शौकिया रेडियो क्लब ने उनके **संयुक्त रूप से विकसित शौकिया रेडियो संदेश पेलोड**, BGS-ARPIT से डेटा प्राप्त किया।

- **GalaxEye** announced the successful performance of its **GLX-SQ payload**, which achieved all mission objectives, including **synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) imaging**.
  गैलेक्सआइ ने अपने **GLX-SQ पेलोड** के सफल प्रदर्शन की घोषणा की, जिसने सभी मिशन उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त किया, जिसमें **सिंथेटिक-एपरचर रडार (SAR) इमेजिंग** भी शामिल है।

- **TakeMe2Space** successfully conducted an in-orbit demonstration of its **MOI-TD payload**, uploading large models, executing external code, and downlinking the results.
  TakeMe2Space ने अपने **MOI-TD पेलोड** का कक्षा में सफल प्रदर्शन किया, जिसमें बड़े मॉडल अपलोड किए, बाहरी कोड निष्पादित किया और परिणाम डाउनलिंक किए।

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- However, **TakeMe2Space** faced a **critical failure** in its **camera hardware**.
  हालांकि, **TakeMe2Space** को अपनी **कैमरा हार्डवेयर** में **सामान्य विफलता** का सामना करना पड़ा।
- **Amity University** successfully grew a plant in controlled conditions on board **POEM4** through its **Amity Plant Experimental Module in Space (APEMS)**.
  अमिटी विश्वविद्यालय ने **POEM4** पर नियंत्रित परिस्थितियों में पौधा सफलतापूर्वक उगाया, इसके **अमिटी प्लांट एक्सपेरिमेंटल मॉड्यूल इन स्पेस (APEMS)** के माध्यम से।

Change of guard
सैन्य नेतृत्व परिवर्तन

- While the **SpaDeX** and **POEM4 missions** were executed, **V. Narayanan** took over from **Somanath** as ISRO Chairman on **January 14, 2025**.
  जब **SpaDeX** और **POEM4 मिशन** संचालित हो रहे थे, **V. नारायणन** ने **सोमनाथ** से **ISRO के अध्यक्ष** के रूप में **14 जनवरी 2025** को पदभार संभाला।
- **V. Narayanan** was the **director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Center** in **Thiruvananthapuram** and led work on **cryogenic and semi-cryogenic engines**.
  V. नारायणन तरल प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम्स सेंटर के **निदेशक** थे, और उन्होंने **क्रायोजेनिक और सेमी-क्रायोजेनिक इंजन** पर कार्य किया।
- He also chaired a committee to examine the **failure of the Chandrayaan-2 moon-landing attempt**.
  उन्होंने **चंद्रयान-2 चंद्रमा लैंडिंग प्रयास** की विफलता की जांच के लिए एक समिति की अध्यक्षता की।

Aboard Transporter 12
Transporter 12 में सवार

- Three Indian companies flew their payloads onboard **SpaceX's Transporter 12 mission** on **January 15, 2025**.
  तीन भारतीय कंपनियों ने **SpaceX के Transporter 12 मिशन** में **15 जनवरी 2025** को अपने पेलोड को भेजा।
- These payloads were part of **131 payloads** delivered to orbit by the **Falcon 9 rocket**.
  ये पेलोड **131 पेलोड्स** का हिस्सा थे, जिन्हें **Falcon 9 रॉकेट** ने कक्षा में भेजा।
- **Pixxel Space's three Firefly hyperspectral satellites** became the first private Indian satellite constellation, with plans for three more satellites in the future.
  Pixxel Space के तीन Firefly हाइपरस्पेक्ट्रल उपग्रह पहली निजी भारतीय उपग्रह कक्षिका बन गए, और भविष्य में तीन और उपग्रह भेजे जाने की योजना है।
- All three satellites deployed their **solar arrays**, stabilized, and established **two-way communication links**.
  तीनों उपग्रहों ने अपने **सौर पैनल** तैनात किए, स्थिर हो गए और **दो-तरफा संचार लिंक** स्थापित किए।

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- **Digantara** launched its **Space Camera for Object Tracking** for **space situational awareness** and to augment its ground capabilities.
  Digantara ने अपनी **स्पेस कैमरा फॉर ऑब्जेक्ट ट्रैकिंग** लॉन्च की, जो **स्पेस सिचुएशनल अवेयरनेस** और अपनी ज़मीनी क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने के लिए थी।

- The satellite began generating **solar power** and stabilized. It will now move to its **commissioning phase** to track objects in **low-earth orbit**.
  उपग्रह ने **सौर ऊर्जा** का उत्पादन करना शुरू किया और स्थिर हो गया। अब यह **कम-आखिर कक्षा** में वस्तुओं को ट्रैक करने के लिए **कमिशनिंग फेज** की ओर बढ़ेगा।

- **XDLINX Labs' Elevation 1 miniaturised communications satellite**, built for **Almagest Space Corporation** on its **XDSATNS platform**, sent a "**hello from space**" message.
  XDLINX लैब्स का Elevation 1 सूक्ष्मकाय संचार उपग्रह, जो **Almagest Space Corporation** के लिए **XDSATNS प्लेटफार्म** पर बनाया गया था, ने एक "**स्पेस से नमस्ते**" संदेश भेजा।

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the construction of a **third launch pad** at **SDSC** at a cost of ₹**3984.86 crore**.
  केंद्रीय कैबिनेट ने **SDSC** में ₹**3984.86 करोड़** की लागत से **तीसरे लॉन्च पैड** के निर्माण को मंजूरी दी।

- This new launch pad is expected to be completed by **2029** to support **human spaceflight** and **ISRO's NGLV**.
  इस नए लॉन्च पैड का निर्माण **2029** तक पूरा होने की उम्मीद है, जो **मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान** और **ISRO के NGLV** को समर्थन देगा।

- ISRO successfully tested its **Vikas engine's restart ability** at its propulsion complex in **Mahendragiri**.
  ISRO ने अपने **विकास इंजन के पुनः प्रारंभ क्षमता** का परीक्षण **महेंद्रगिरी** में अपने प्रोपल्शन कॉम्प्लेक्स में सफलतापूर्वक किया।

- The **engine was fired for 60 seconds**, shut off for **120 seconds**, and fired again for **7 seconds**.
  इंजन को 60 सेकंड के लिए जलाया गया, 120 सेकंड के लिए बंद किया गया, और फिर 7 सेकंड के लिए फिर से जलाया गया।

- ISRO has more tests planned before certifying the engine's readiness for atmospheric operations.
  ISRO के पास इस इंजन के वातावरण में संचालन के लिए प्रमाणित करने से पहले अधिक परीक्षण योजनाबद्ध हैं।

- On **January 6, 2025**, ISRO released the first tranche of data from its **Aditya-L1 mission** to study the **sun** and its effects on the **inner solar system**.
  6 जनवरी 2025 को, ISRO ने अपने **Aditya-L1 मिशन** से प्राप्त **पहली डेटा किश्त** जारी की, जिसका उद्देश्य **सूरज** और इसके प्रभावों का अध्ययन करना था।

Remains of *Mbiresaurus raathi*, which was only about one metre tall, with a long tail, and weighed up to 30 kilograms, were found in Zimbabwe in 2019. AFP

Where did dinosaurs first evolve?

GS Paper III: S&T

Reuters

Dinosaurs long dominated the earth's land ecosystems with multiple forms, including plant-eating giants like Argentinosaurus, meat-eating brutes like Tyrannosaurus, and weirdos like Therizinosaurus, with its Wolverine-like claws. But the origin of dinosaurs – precisely when and where they first appeared – remains a bit of a puzzle.

Researchers are now proposing a surprising location for the birthplace of dinosaurs, based on the locations of the currently oldest-known dinosaur fossils, the evolutionary relationships among these early forms, and the earth's geography during the Triassic Period. This locale spans the modern-day Sahara desert and Amazon rainforest regions, now separated by thousands of kilometres and an ocean thanks to a geological process called plate tectonics.

"When dinosaurs first appear in the fossil record, all the earth's continents were part of the giant supercontinent Pangaea. Dinosaurs emerged in the southern portion of this landmass, known as Gondwana," said Joel Heath, a palaeontology doctoral student at University College London and the Natural History Museum in London and lead author of the study, published on Thursday in the journal *Current Biology*.

"Our research suggests they likely originated in the low-latitude regions of Gondwana near the equator, an area that today includes northern South America and northern Africa," Heath added.

The earliest-known dinosaur fossils date to roughly 230 million years ago, including Eoraptor and Herrerasaurus

Research suggests dinosaurs likely originated in low-latitude regions of Gondwana near the equator, an area that today includes northern South America and northern Africa

from Argentina, Saturnalia from southern Brazil, and Mbiresaurus from Zimbabwe. While sharing certain traits defining them as dinosaurs, they had sufficient differences that suggest millions of years of dinosaur evolution had already occurred.

"While earlier research has focused on southern South America and southern Africa as the area of origin of the dinosaurs, based on where their fossils first appear, we suggest that significant gaps in the fossil record, particularly in regions that today include the Sahara desert and the Amazon rainforest, may hold the potential to reveal where the earliest dinosaurs were living," Heath said.

The researchers said dinosaurs probably emerged approximately 245-230 million years ago, when these equatorial regions were extremely hot and dry.

"It likely included deserts, savannah-like habitats, and possibly forested areas prone to seasonal wildfires. Previously, it was believed that dinosaurs were absent from these harsh environments," Heath said.

Fossils from this time and region are rare. This might be because the conditions were not ideal for preserving the remains of land animals or because the rocks containing these fossils haven't been discovered yet, Heath said.

The Amazon and the Sahara also are difficult for palaeontologists to explore due to the logistical challenges.

Dinosaurs evolved from more primitive reptiles after the earth's biggest mass-extinction event caused by extreme volcanism at the end of the Permian Period, about 252 million years ago.

Where did dinosaurs first evolve?
डायनासोर सबसे पहले कहाँ विकसित हुए?

The Origin of Dinosaurs
डायनासोरों की उत्पत्ति

- Researchers suggest a surprising location for the birthplace of dinosaurs, based on the locations of the oldest-known dinosaur fossils and the earth's geography during the **Triassic Period**.
  शोधकर्ताओं का सुझाव है कि डायनासोरों की जन्मभूमि एक चौंकाने वाले स्थान पर हो सकती है, जो सबसे पुराने ज्ञात डायनासोर के जीवाश्मों के स्थानों और **त्रैसिक काल** के दौरान पृथ्वी की भूगोल पर आधारित है।

- The birthplace spans the modern-day **Sahara desert** and **Amazon rainforest regions**, separated by thousands of kilometers and an ocean due to **plate tectonics**.
  यह जन्मभूमि आधुनिक **सहारा रेगिस्तान** और **अमेजन वर्षावन क्षेत्रों** में फैली हुई है, जो **प्लेट टेक्टोनिक्स** के कारण हजारों किलोमीटर और एक महासागर से अलग हो गई हैं।

- Dinosaurs emerged in the southern portion of **Pangaea** landmass, known as **Gondwana**, around **230 million years ago**.
  डायनासोर लगभग **230 मिलियन साल पहले** पृथ्वी के विशाल महाद्वीप **पंगिया** के दक्षिणी हिस्से, जिसे **गोंडवाना** के नाम से जाना जाता है, में उत्पन्न हुए थे।

- Early dinosaur fossils include **Eoraptor**, **Herrerasaurus**, **Saturnalia**, and **Mbiresaurus**, dating back to around **230 million years ago**.
  प्रारंभिक डायनासोर के जीवाश्मों में **Eoraptor**, **Herrerasaurus**, **Saturnalia**, और **Mbiresaurus** शामिल हैं, जो लगभग **230 मिलियन साल पहले** के हैं।

- Dinosaurs likely originated in low-latitude regions of **Gondwana**, an area including **northern South America** and **northern Africa**.
  डायनासोर शायद **गोंडवाना** के निम्न-रिज़न क्षेत्रों में उत्पन्न हुए थे, जो **उत्तर दक्षिण अमेरिका** और **उत्तर अफ्रीका** को शामिल करता है।

- Fossils from this time and region are rare due to unfavorable conditions for preservation or because rocks containing fossils haven't been discovered yet.
  इस समय और क्षेत्र के जीवाश्म दुर्लभ हैं, क्योंकि संरक्षण के लिए परिस्थितियाँ अनुकूल नहीं थीं या क्योंकि जीवाश्मों को रखने वाली चट्टानों की खोज अभी तक नहीं हुई है।

- Researchers suggest **245-230 million years ago** dinosaurs emerged when equatorial regions were extremely hot and dry, with deserts, savannahs, and possible forest fires.
  शोधकर्ताओं का कहना है कि **245-230 मिलियन साल पहले** डायनासोर तब उत्पन्न हुए थे जब समकक्षीय क्षेत्र अत्यधिक गर्म और शुष्क थे, जिसमें रेगिस्तान, सवाना और संभवतः जंगलों में आग लगती थी।

- Dinosaurs evolved from more primitive reptiles after the earth's **biggest mass-extinction event** caused by extreme volcanism at the end of the **Permian Period**, about

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252 million years ago.

डायनासोर अधिक प्राथमिक सरीसृपों से विकसित हुए थे, जो पृथ्वी के **सबसे बड़े सामूहिक विलुप्ति घटना** के बाद उत्पन्न हुए थे, जो **परमियन काल** के अंत में अत्यधिक ज्वालामुखी गतिविधियों के कारण हुआ था, लगभग **252 मिलियन साल पहले**।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. **Monk chosen for Padma Shri thanks West Bengal CM for 'criticising' him / पद्म श्री के लिए चुने गए साधु ने पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री का 'आलोचना' के लिए धन्यवाद दिया**

2. **Big thing for me to get this award after Dhyan Chand ji: Sreejesh / ध्यानचंद जी के बाद यह पुरस्कार पाना मेरे लिए बड़ी बात है: श्रीजेश**

3. **Flute-maker hopes Padma award will open up new avenues / बांसुरी निर्माता को उम्मीद है कि पद्म पुरस्कार नए रास्ते खोलेगा**

4. **Rutuja ensures Odisha Warriors gets its name engraved on glitzy trophy / रुतुजा ने सुनिश्चित किया कि ओडिशा वारियर्स का नाम शानदार ट्रॉफी पर अंकित हो**

5. **Manush proves too strong for Payas; Diya stuns Sreeja to emerge champion / पायस के लिए मानुष बहुत मजबूत साबित हुआ; दीया ने श्रीजा को हराकर चैंपियन बनीं**

6. **Jyothi wins 60m hurdles gold with national record time / ज्योति ने 60 मीटर बाधा दौड़ में राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड समय के साथ स्वर्ण पदक जीता**

7. **Ice-cool Sinner towers over Zverev, retains title / आइस-कूल सिनर ने ज़ेवेरेव पर जीत हासिल की, खिताब बरकरार रखा**

8. **Tilak sets world record during knock against England / तिलक ने इंग्लैंड के खिलाफ नॉक के दौरान विश्व रिकॉर्ड बनाया**

9. **Belarus President Lukashenko wins polls with 87.6% of the vote / बेलारूस के राष्ट्रपति लुकाशेंको ने 87.6% वोट के साथ चुनाव जीता**

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10. **Cardiac surgeon who performed India's first coronary bypass surgery passes away /** भारत की पहली कोरोनरी बाईपास सर्जरी करने वाले कार्डियक सर्जन का निधन

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Monk chosen for Padma Shri thanks West Bengal CM for 'criticising' him

PCS
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Monk chosen for Padma Shri thanks West Bengal CM for 'criticising' him
पद्म श्री के लिए चुने गए साधु ने पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री का 'आलोचना' के लिए धन्यवाद दिया

- Swami Pradiptananda, also known as Kartik Maharaj, has been selected for the **Padma Shri** by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

स्वामी प्रदीप्तानंद, जिन्हें कार्तिक महाराज के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, को **गृह मंत्रालय** द्वारा **पद्म श्री** के लिए चुना गया है।

- On Sunday, he thanked **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** for "criticising him."

रविवार को उन्होंने **पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी** को "उनकी आलोचना" करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

- He said, "Certainly **Didi (Mamata)** has showered her blessings on me. She is the one who advertised my name, and later the **Prime Minister** also spoke about me."

उन्होंने कहा, "निश्चित रूप से **दीदी (ममता)** ने मुझ पर अपनी कृपा बरसाई है। उन्होंने ही मेरा नाम प्रचारित किया और बाद में **प्रधानमंत्री** ने भी मेरे बारे में बात की।"

- The monk is associated with the **Bharat Sevashram Sangha** and is in charge of its **Beldanga Ashram.**

यह साधु **भारत सेवाश्रम संघ** से जुड़े हुए हैं और इसके **बेलडांगा आश्रम** के प्रभारी हैं।

- During the **2024 Lok Sabha polls**, Mamata Banerjee had targeted some monks, accusing them of working against the **TMC** and supporting the **BJP.**

2024 लोकसभा चुनावों के दौरान, ममता बनर्जी ने कुछ साधुओं को **टीएमसी** के खिलाफ काम करने और **बीजेपी** का समर्थन करने का आरोप लगाया।

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** criticized the **TMC** for their remarks against religious monks.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने धार्मिक साधुओं पर टिप्पणी के लिए **टीएमसी** की आलोचना की।

- Political observers believe the award to Maharaj is a political move emphasizing his ideology that "**Hindus are threatened in West Bengal.**"

राजनीतिक पर्यवेक्षकों का मानना है कि महाराज को सम्मान देना एक राजनीतिक कदम है, जो इस विचारधारा को बढ़ावा देता है कि "**पश्चिम बंगाल में हिंदू खतरे में हैं।**"

- Maharaj was chosen in the category of **'spirituality,'** while **singer Arijit Singh**, also from West Bengal, was awarded the Padma Shri in the field of **arts.**

महाराज को **'आध्यात्मिकता'** श्रेणी में चुना गया, जबकि पश्चिम बंगाल के ही **गायक अरिजीत सिंह** को कला के क्षेत्र में **पद्म श्री** से सम्मानित किया गया।

Swami Pradiptananda alias Kartik Maharaj, who has been selected for the Padma Shri by the Ministry of Home Affairs, on Sunday thanked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for "criticising him".

"Certainly *Didi* [Mamata] has showered her blessings on me. She is the one who advertised my name and later the Prime Minister also spoke about me," the monk, associated with Bharat Sevashram Sangha, told journalists.

Maharaj, who is in charge of the Beldanga Ashram of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha, hit headlines during the 2024 Lok Sabha poll when Ms. Banerjee targeted a section of monks accusing them of directly working against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and supporting the BJP.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had lashed out at the TMC for criticising monks of religious organisations.

Political observers see the honour to Maharaj as a political move, giving credence to his ideology, which emphasises that "Hindus are threatened in West Bengal".

While Maharaj has been chosen in the area of 'spirituality', singer Arijit Singh, who hails from the State's Murshidabad district, was awarded the Padma Shri in the field of arts.

Big thing for me to get this award after Dhyan Chand ji: Sreejesh

PCS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Playing down his enormous contribution to Indian hockey, Padma Bhushan P.R. Sreejesh has concluded that the country has given him more than what he has done for the sport.

From first taking up the sport with the motive of getting grace marks in board exams to becoming only the second hockey player to be honoured with the Padma Bhushan after Major Dhyan Chand, Sreejesh has come a long way.

"I got a call from the sports ministry in the morning but was waiting for the official announcement till evening. All this time everything was going on in my mind like a flashback. I was watching an HIL match in Rourkela when the awards were announced," Sreejesh said in

> I want to thank my country which has given me back more than what I gave

an interview.

"Receiving this award after retiring from the game has made me feel that the country is honouring me for whatever I have done for Indian hockey in the last 20 years. I want to thank my country which has given me back more than what I gave," he said.

Asked about his feeling after becoming the second hockey player to receive this honour after the iconic Dhyan Chand (1956), Sreejesh said that he was unaware of this at first and came to know about it through the media.

"I did not know that. It feels like a dream."

ध्यानचंद जी के बाद यह पुरस्कार पाना मेरे लिए बड़ी बात है: श्रीजेश

Padma Bhushan Award for P.R. Sreejesh
पद्म भूषण पुरस्कार के लिए पी. आर. श्रीजेश

- **P.R. Sreejesh** played down his contribution to Indian hockey, stating that the country has given him more than he has given to the sport.
पी. आर. श्रीजेश ने भारतीय हॉकी में अपनी भूमिका को कम करके आंका, यह कहते हुए कि देश ने उन्हें जितना दिया है, उससे कहीं अधिक उन्होंने खेल को नहीं दिया।

- From initially taking up hockey to get grace marks in exams to becoming the second hockey player after **Major Dhyan Chand** to receive the **Padma Bhushan**.
पहले परीक्षा में grace marks प्राप्त करने के लिए हॉकी खेलने से लेकर **मैजर ध्यानचंद** के बाद दूसरे हॉकी खिलाड़ी के रूप में **पद्म भूषण** प्राप्त करने तक, श्रीजेश ने लंबा सफर तय किया।

- **Sreejesh** received a call from the **sports ministry** but waited for the official announcement. The news felt like a flashback to his memories, and he was watching an **HIL match in Rourkela** when the award was announced.
श्रीजेश को **खेल मंत्रालय** से कॉल आया, लेकिन वह आधिकारिक घोषणा का इंतजार कर रहे थे। यह समाचार उनके लिए एक फ्लैशबैक की तरह महसूस हुआ, और जब पुरस्कार की घोषणा हुई, तब वह **राउरकेला में एक HIL मैच** देख रहे थे।

- **Sreejesh** expressed that receiving the award after retiring made him feel like the country is honoring him for his contributions to Indian hockey over the last **20 years**.
श्रीजेश ने कहा कि खेल से संन्यास लेने के बाद पुरस्कार प्राप्त करना उन्हें ऐसा महसूस कराता है जैसे देश उन्हें पिछले **20 वर्षों** में भारतीय हॉकी के लिए उनके योगदान के लिए सम्मानित कर रहा है।

- When asked about being the second hockey player after **Dhyan Chand** to receive the **Padma Bhushan**, **Sreejesh** was unaware of it and learned about it through the media.
जब उनसे **ध्यानचंद** के बाद **पद्म भूषण** प्राप्त करने वाले दूसरे हॉकी खिलाड़ी के रूप में पूछा गया, तो **श्रीजेश** इस बारे में अनजान थे और उन्होंने इसे मीडिया के माध्यम से जाना।

- **Sreejesh** said it felt like a dream to receive the award.
श्रीजेश ने कहा कि यह पुरस्कार प्राप्त करना एक सपना जैसा महसूस हुआ।

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Flute-maker hopes Padma award will open up new avenues

Shubhomoy Sikdar
NARAYANPUR

With weekdays immersed in creating wooden art forms, Sundays for Pandi Ram Mandavi is a time for rest. But this one, which coincides with Republic Day, is different. It has been spent answering a steady stream of congratulatory calls from across the country and beyond, on his humble feature phone.

Mr. Mandavi has been chosen for the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contribution to the field of wood craftsmanship and is particularly known for popularising a specially designed flute. The 68-year-old began his love affair with the art at the tender age of 15.

The artist, whose works have travelled across India and beyond, feels the recognition will inspire others to take up the art. He says it will also create opportunities for existing artists in his village of Gadhbengal in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh and the larger Bastar region. "There are various forms of painting and terracotta art also in Gadhbengal and many more across Bastar. But most of us lack marketing skills and still struggle to find markets. I hope the recognition I have achieved helps others too," says Mr. Man-

Pandi Ram Mandavi

davi, who was born into a Gondi-speaking family from the Muriya tribe and learnt the woodwork from his father.

From wooden art that ranges from tiny combs to gigantic statues of Muria tribal men and women and even doors and pillars with engravings, it is the flute that earned Mr. Mandavi much recognition. "In the early 1990s, when it was being exhibited in Delhi, it caught the fancy of a group of visiting Japanese schoolchildren, each wanting to buy more than a piece. I realised its potential and over the years, I have lost count of the number of pieces I have sold," he says.

His flute differs from the traditional flute. Sound is produced by holding it in the hand like a wand and spinning it, a process that uses the air entering the long cylinder through a combination of three metallic washers stacked together at one end.

Flute-maker hopes Padma award will open up new avenues
बांसुरी निर्माता को उम्मीद है कि पद्म पुरस्कार नए रास्ते खोलेगा

- With weekdays immersed in creating wooden art forms, Sundays for **Pandi Ram Mandavi** is a time for rest. But this one, which coincides with **Republic Day**, is different.

सप्ताह के दिनों में लकड़ी की कलाकृतियाँ बनाने में व्यस्त, **पांडी राम मंडवी** के लिए रविवार विश्राम का समय होता है। लेकिन इस बार, जो **गणतंत्र दिवस** के साथ मेल खाता है, वह अलग है।

- It has been spent answering a steady stream of congratulatory calls from across the country and beyond, on his humble feature phone.

यह समय देशभर और उससे बाहर से लगातार बधाई के कॉल्स का जवाब देने में बीता, उनके साधारण फोन पर।

- Mr. Mandavi has been chosen for the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contribution to the field of wood craftsmanship and is particularly known for popularising a specially designed flute.

श्री मंडवी को लकड़ी की कारीगरी के क्षेत्र में उनके योगदान के लिए **पद्म श्री** से नवाजा गया है, भारत का चौथा सर्वोच्च नागरिक पुरस्कार, और उन्हें विशेष रूप से एक विशेष रूप से डिज़ाइन की गई बांसुरी के प्रसार के लिए जाना जाता है।

- The **68-year-old** began his love affair with the art at the tender age of **15**.

68 **वर्षीय** श्री मंडवी ने इस कला से अपने प्रेम संबंध की शुरुआत 15 साल की उम्र में की थी।

- The artist, whose works have travelled across India and beyond, feels the recognition will inspire others to take up the art.

कला के क्षेत्र में जिनकी कृतियाँ भारत और उससे बाहर तक फैली हुई हैं, वे महसूस करते हैं कि यह पहचान दूसरों को कला अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित करेगी।

- He says it will also create opportunities for existing artists in his village of **Gadhbengal** in **Narayanpur district** of **Chhattisgarh** and the larger **Bastar region**.

वे कहते हैं कि यह **छत्तीसगढ़** के **नारायणपुर जिले** के उनके गांव **गढ़बंगाल** और बड़े **बस्तर क्षेत्र** के मौजूदा कलाकारों के लिए भी अवसर सृजित करेगा।

- "There are various forms of painting and terracotta art also in Gadhbengal and many more across Bastar. But most of us lack marketing skills and still struggle to find markets."

  "गढ़बंगाल में और बस्तर में कई प्रकार की चित्रकला और टेराकोटा कला भी है। लेकिन हममें से अधिकांश के पास विपणन कौशल की कमी है और हम अभी भी बाजारों की तलाश में संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।"

- "I hope the recognition I have achieved helps others too," says Mr. Mandavi, who was born into a **Gondi-speaking family** from the **Muriya tribe** and learnt the woodwork from his father.

  "मुझे उम्मीद है कि जो पहचान मुझे मिली है, वह दूसरों की मदद भी करेगी," श्री मंडवी कहते हैं, जो **गोंडी-भाषी परिवार** से हैं और **मुरिया जनजाति** के हैं, और जिन्होंने अपने पिता से लकड़ी का काम सीखा।

- From wooden art that ranges from tiny combs to gigantic statues of **Muria tribal men and women** and even doors and pillars with engravings, it is the flute that earned Mr. Mandavi much recognition.

  लकड़ी की कला में छोटे कंघों से लेकर **मुरिया जनजाति के पुरुषों और महिलाओं** की विशाल मूर्तियों और यहां तक कि नक्काशी वाले दरवाजों और स्तंभों तक, यह बांसुरी है जिसने श्री मंडवी को बहुत पहचान दिलाई।

- "In the early **1990s**, when it was being exhibited in **Delhi**, it caught the fancy of a group of visiting **Japanese schoolchildren**, each wanting to buy more than a piece.

  "**1990 के दशक** के प्रारंभ में, जब इसे **दिल्ली** में प्रदर्शित किया गया था, तो यह एक **जापानी स्कूल के बच्चों** के समूह की आकर्षण का केंद्र बन गया, प्रत्येक ने एक से अधिक टुकड़ा खरीदने की इच्छा व्यक्त की।"

- "I realised its potential and over the years, I have lost count of the number of pieces I have sold," he says.

  "मैंने इसके संभावित लाभ को महसूस किया और वर्षों के दौरान, मैं यह गिनने में चूक गया कि मैंने कितने टुकड़े बेचे हैं," वे कहते हैं।

- His flute differs from the traditional flute. Sound is produced by holding it in the hand like a wand and spinning it, a process that uses the air entering the long cylinder through a combination of three metallic washers stacked together at one end.

  उनकी बांसुरी पारंपरिक बांसुरी से अलग है। ध्वनि उसे हाथ में छड़ी की तरह पकड़कर घुमाने से उत्पन्न होती है, यह प्रक्रिया उस लंबे सिलेंडर में हवा को प्रवेश कराने के लिए तीन धातु की वाशरों के संयोजन का उपयोग करती है, जो एक छोर पर एक साथ रखे गए होते हैं।

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Rutuja ensures Odisha Warriors gets its name engraved on glitzy trophy

PCS

HIL

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

The 5,000-seater Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium here was packed to the rafters on Sunday to witness history unfold as Odisha Warriors took on JSW Soorma Hockey Club in the summit clash of the inaugural season of the only commercial women's hockey league in the world.

The teams didn't disappoint, trading blows in equal measure, but it was eventually Rutuja Pisal who ensured Warriors got their name engraved on the glitzy Women's Hockey India League trophy with a thrilling 2-1 win.

Neha Goyal, the winning captain, was the first to find an opening through the left, linking up with Freeke Moes at the baseline.

However, the latter was denied by Soorma's defence.

Soorma's Charlotte Englebert spent five minutes of the first quarter on the naughty step after clattering into Victoria Sauze. Ishika Chaudhary, looking to take advantage, hovered atop the dotted line but wasn't able to test Savita Punia.

In the 13th minute, Neha was in the thick of things again, slithering into the circle before passing the baton to Rutuja. Maria Verschoor had to jump into action on that occasion to keep the ball out.

However, Rutuja couldn't be warded off for long. Sauze's lightning-quick swipe found a lucky deflection off Vaishnavi Phalke's stick before the 22-year-old lobbed it over Savita.

As the trend this season, Soorma made a meal out of the first penalty corner, but when the second opportunity came about, Penny Squib stepped up to the plate with an angry drive.

Jude Menezes' girls stepped on the gas in the second half, threatening to take the lead on a couple of occasions. But instead it was Rutuja who broke the deadlock when Englebert lost possession inside her circle.

The result: Odisha Warriors 2 (Rutuja 20 & 56) bt JSW Soorma Hockey Club 1 (Squibb 28).

All smiles: Warriors players and support staff savour their triumph. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Odisha Warriors Win the Inaugural Women's Hockey India League
ओडिशा वॉरियर्स ने उद्घाटन महिला हॉकी इंडिया लीग जीती

- The **5,000-seater Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium** was packed as **Odisha Warriors** faced **JSW Soorma Hockey Club** in the final match of the inaugural **Women's Hockey India League**, the only commercial women's hockey league in the

world.

5,000-सीटर मरंग गोमके जयपाल सिंह स्टेडियम पूरी तरह भरा हुआ था, जहां **ओडिशा वॉरियर्स** ने उद्घाटन **महिला हॉकी इंडिया लीग** के फाइनल मैच में **JSW सूरमा हॉकी क्लब** का सामना किया। यह दुनिया की एकमात्र व्यावसायिक महिला हॉकी लीग है।

- The **Odisha Warriors** secured a thrilling **2-1 victory**, with **Rutuja Pisal** ensuring their name on the league's trophy.
  ओडिशा वॉरियर्स ने रोमांचक **2-1 की जीत** दर्ज की, जिसमें **रुतुजा पिसाल** ने ट्रॉफी पर उनकी टीम का नाम सुनिश्चित किया।

- **Neha Goyal**, the captain of Odisha Warriors, created the first opportunity through the left flank, connecting with **Freeke Moes**, but the chance was denied by Soorma's defense.
  नेहा गोयल, ओडिशा वॉरियर्स की कप्तान, ने बाएं किनारे से पहला मौका बनाया और **फ्रीके मोस** के साथ जोड़ा, लेकिन सूरमा की डिफेंस ने मौका रोक दिया।

- **Soorma's Charlotte Englebert** received a penalty for fouling **Victoria Sauze**, spending five minutes off the field.
  सूरमा की चार्लोट एंगलबर्ट को **विक्टोरिया सॉज़े** को फाउल करने के लिए दंड मिला, और उन्हें पांच मिनट के लिए मैदान से बाहर रहना पड़ा।

- In the **13th minute**, Neha passed the ball to Rutuja, but **Maria Verschoor** defended successfully to keep the score level.
  13वें मिनट में, नेहा ने रुतुजा को गेंद पास की, लेकिन **मारिया वर्सचूर** ने सफलतापूर्वक बचाव किया और स्कोर बराबर बनाए रखा।

- Rutuja Pisal finally broke the deadlock after a deflection from **Vaishnavi Phalke's stick**, lobbing the ball over goalkeeper **Savita Punia**.
  रुतुजा पिसाल ने **वैष्णवी फाल्के की स्टिक** से डिफ्लेक्शन के बाद गेंद को गोलकीपर **सविता पुनिया** के ऊपर से मारकर स्कोर को तोड़ दिया।

- **Penny Squib** scored for Soorma from their second penalty corner, leveling the match temporarily.
  पैनी स्किब ने सूरमा के लिए उनके दूसरे पेनल्टी कॉर्नर से गोल किया, जिससे मैच अस्थायी रूप से बराबर हो गया।

- In the second half, **Rutuja Pisal** scored the winning goal when **Charlotte Englebert** lost possession inside her circle.
  दूसरे हाफ में, **रुतुजा पिसाल** ने विजयी गोल किया जब **चार्लोट एंगलबर्ट** ने अपने सर्कल में गेंद गंवा दी।

Manush proves too strong for Payas; Diya stuns Sreeja to emerge champion

PCS

Amol Karhadkar
SURAT

Manush Shah and Diya Chitale joined the elite list of men's and women's national champions after outclassing Payas Jain and top seed Sreeja Akula in the singles finals of the 86th senior table tennis championship, which concluded at the Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium on Sunday.

Manush, the bespectacled southpaw who hails from Vadodara – not too far from the diamond city, but representing his employer Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – continued his clinical run to overcome Payas in five games in the best-of-seven final.

An hour earlier, Mumbai's Diya, also representing RBI, bounced back after trailing 2-0 against hot favourite Sreeja – India's top-ranked international paddler – and won a thrilling women's final that

Thrilled: Manush and Diya ecstatic after laying their hands on the trophy they had their eyes on for a decade. AMOL KARHADKAR

turned out to be the longest match of the final day's proceedings.

The singles win meant Diya finished the tournament with a double crown, having clinched the doubles crown on Saturday.

Both Manush and Diya took home a kitty of ₹3.20 lakh each. But more than the purse, it was the glittering trophy that the duo was thrilled with. After all, having been crowned sub-

junior, junior and youth national champions in their formative years, both the stylish paddlers were ecstatic to have laid their hands on the trophy that they had their eyes on for a decade.

Manush continued from where he had left off during his 4-0 drubbing of the in-form Ankur Bhattacharjee in the semifinal and gave Payas little chance by combining his power and

angles to precision. Diya, on the other hand, changed her gameplan midway through the match and started using her backhand topspin more effectively to put Sreeja under pressure.

The results: Men: Final:
3-Manush Shah (RBI) bt 8-Payas Jain (Del) 10-12, 11-6, 11-6, 12-10, 11-8; **Semifinals:** Payas bt Divyansh Srivastava (UP) 11-9, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7; Manush bt 2-Ankur Bhattacharjee (PSPB) 13-11, 11-4, 11-9, 12-10.

Women: Final: 7-Diya Chitale (RBI) bt 1-Sreeja Akula (RBI) 10-12, 8-11, 13-11, 12-10, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9. **Semifinals:** Sreeja bt 4-Yashashwini Ghorpade (PSPB) 11-5, 8-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; Diya bt Syndrela Das (Ben) 11-8, 11-8, 11-5, 11-6.

Mixed doubles: Final: Akash Pal & Poymantee Baisya (RSPB) bt Jash Modi & Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) 11-5, 11-6, 11-4.
Semifinals: Akash & Poymantee bt Payas Jain (Del) & Suhana Saini (Har) 11-7, 14-12, 7-11, 11-2; Jash & Taneesh bt Abhishek Yadav (BoI) & Aarti Chaudhary (UP) 11-2, 9-11, 13-11, 11-9.

Manush proves too strong for Payas; Diya stuns Sreeja to emerge champion

पायस के लिए मानुष बहुत मजबूत साबित हुआ; दीया ने श्रीजा को हराकर चैंपियन बनीं

Manush Shah and Diya Chitale Crowned National Champions
मनुष शाह और दिया चितले बने राष्ट्रीय चैंपियन

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- **Manush Shah** and **Diya Chitale** joined the elite list of men's and women's **national table tennis champions** after defeating **Payas Jain** and **Sreeja Akula** in the singles finals of the **86th Senior Table Tennis Championship** at the **Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium** on Sunday.

  मनुष शाह और **दिया चितले** ने रविवार को **पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय इंडोर स्टेडियम** में आयोजित **86वीं सीनियर टेबल टेनिस चैंपियनशिप** के फाइनल में **पायस जैन** और **श्रीजा अकुला** को हराकर पुरुष और महिला वर्ग के राष्ट्रीय चैंपियन बनने की सूची में जगह बनाई।

- **Manush Shah**, representing **RBI**, defeated **Payas Jain** in five games in the best-of-seven final with a clinical performance.

  मनुष शाह, जो **आरबीआई** का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे, ने फाइनल में शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हुए **पायस जैन** को सात में से पांच गेम में हराया।

- **Diya Chitale**, also representing RBI, staged a comeback after trailing **2-0** to defeat **top-seed Sreeja Akula** in a thrilling final, the longest match of the day.

  दिया चितले, जो **आरबीआई** का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रही थीं, ने **शीर्ष वरीयता प्राप्त श्रीजा अकुला** के खिलाफ **2-0** से पिछड़ने के बाद जोरदार वापसी करते हुए रोमांचक फाइनल मैच जीता, जो दिन का सबसे लंबा मुकाबला रहा।

- With the singles win, **Diya Chitale** also achieved a **double crown**, having won the doubles title on Saturday.

  सिंगल्स खिताब जीतने के साथ, **दिया चितले** ने शनिवार को डबल्स खिताब जीतकर **डबल क्राउन** हासिल किया।

- Both **Manush** and **Diya** received a prize of **₹3.20 lakh each**, but they valued the **glittering trophy** more than the cash prize.

  मनुष और **दिया** को **₹3.20 लाख** का नकद पुरस्कार मिला, लेकिन वे **चमचमाती ट्रॉफी** को नकद पुरस्कार से अधिक महत्व देते हैं।

- Both players had previously been crowned **sub-junior, junior, and youth national champions**, and this victory fulfilled their decade-long dream.

  दोनों खिलाड़ियों ने पहले **सब-जूनियर, जूनियर और युवा राष्ट्रीय चैंपियन** का खिताब जीता था, और यह जीत उनके दस साल के सपने को पूरा करती है।

- **Manush Shah** carried forward his semi-final momentum, where he defeated **Ankur Bhattacharjee** in straight games (4-0), to dominate **Payas Jain** in the final.

  मनुष शाह ने सेमीफाइनल में **अंकुर भट्टाचार्य** को सीधे गेम में हराने (4-0) के प्रदर्शन को जारी रखते हुए फाइनल में **पायस जैन** पर हावी रहे।

- **Diya Chitale** adjusted her strategy mid-match, using her **backhand topspin** more effectively to put pressure on **Sreeja Akula**.

  दिया चितले ने मैच के मध्य में अपनी रणनीति बदलकर **बैकहैंड टॉपस्पिन** का अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से उपयोग किया और **श्रीजा अकुला** पर दबाव डाला।

PCS

Jyothi wins 60m hurdles gold with national record time

Jyothi Yarraji clinched gold in her first race of the season, that too with a national record, winning the 60m hurdles in 8.04 seconds at the Elite Indoor Meeting in Nantes (France). She broke her own earlier national record of 8.12 twice in a few hours on Saturday. She first clocked 8.07 in the heats and then bettered her time in the final of the World Athletics Indoor Tour bronze level meet. Her timing is however still short of the qualifying mark of 7.94 for the World Indoor Championships in Nanjing (China) in March.

Jyothi wins 60m hurdles gold with national record time

ज्योति ने 60 मीटर बाधा दौड़ में राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड समय के साथ स्वर्ण पदक जीता

Jyothi Yarraji sets National Record in 60m Hurdles
ज्योति यार्राजी ने 60 मीटर हर्डल्स में राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड बनाया

- **Jyothi Yarraji** clinched the **gold medal** in her **first race of the season**, breaking her own **national record** in the **60m hurdles** at the **Elite Indoor Meeting in Nantes (France)**.
  ज्योति यार्राजी ने सीजन की **पहली दौड़** में **गोल्ड मेडल** जीता और **फ्रांस के नांट्स में एलीट इंडोर मीटिंग में 60 मीटर हर्डल्स** में अपना ही **राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड** तोड़ दिया।

- She clocked a time of **8.04 seconds** in the final, breaking her previous record of **8.12 seconds**.
  उन्होंने फाइनल में **8.04 सेकंड** का समय लिया और अपना पिछला **8.12 सेकंड** का रिकॉर्ड तोड़ दिया।

- Jyothi broke her **national record twice in a few hours** during the event on Saturday. She first clocked **8.07 seconds** in the heats before improving her time in the final.
  ज्योति ने शनिवार को आयोजित इस इवेंट में **कुछ घंटों में दो बार अपना राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा।** उन्होंने पहले हीट्स में **8.07 सेकंड** का समय लिया और फिर फाइनल में इसे बेहतर किया।

- The event was part of the **World Athletics Indoor Tour bronze level meet**.
  यह इवेंट **वर्ल्ड एथलेटिक्स इंडोर टूर ब्रॉन्ज लेवल मीट** का हिस्सा था।

- Despite her remarkable performance, her timing of **8.04 seconds** is still short of the **qualifying mark of 7.94 seconds** for the **World Indoor Championships** to be held in **Nanjing (China)** in March.
  उनके शानदार प्रदर्शन के बावजूद, उनका **8.04 सेकंड** का समय **मार्च में चीन के नानजिंग में आयोजित होने वाली वर्ल्ड इंडोर चैंपियनशिप** के लिए आवश्यक **7.94 सेकंड** के क्वालीफाइंग मानक से थोड़ा कम है।

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Ice-cool Sinner towers over Zverev, retains title

The World No. 1 becomes the first Italian — man or woman — to win three Grand Slams; Zverev's long wait for a maiden Major continues, falling short once again in his third big final

PCS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

A clinical Jannik Sinner swept past Alexander Zverev to retain his Australian Open title on Sunday and cement his status as the world's dominant player in men's tennis.

The 23-year-old Italian came through a tense final between the two highest-ranked players 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena, raising his arms in the air and looking to the sky in celebration.

In doing so he became the first Italian, man or woman, to win three Grand Slams, surpassing Nicola Pietrangeli.
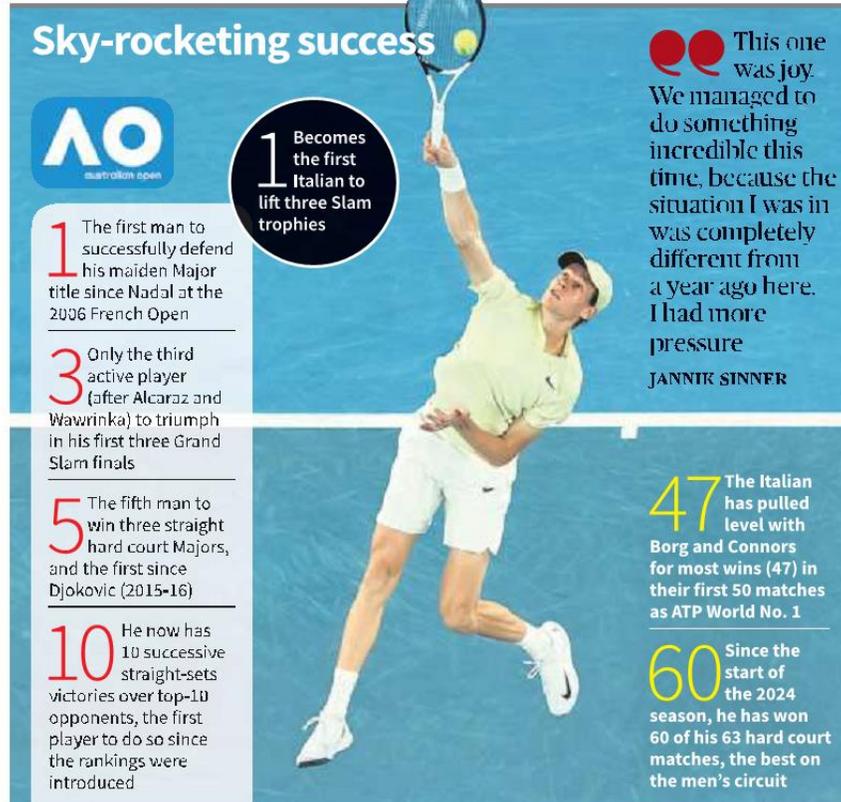
In elite company
The emphatic victory also thrust him alongside Andre Agassi, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic as the only men to successfully defend their Melbourne Park titles this century.

But it proved more misery for Germany's Zverev, who remains one of the world's best players never to taste Grand Slam glory, falling short once again in his third big final.

"We worked a lot to be again in this position. It's an amazing feeling to share this moment with all of you," Sinner said, referring to his coaching team.

He also had words of consolation for Zverev.

"A tough day for you. You're an amazing player. Keep believing in yourself because I think we, all the players, and the coaches, whoever is involved in the sport, know how strong you are, not only as a player, but also as a person.

"So keep it up. Keep working hard because we all believe that you can lift one of these very, very soon."

Ice-cool Sinner proved to be a tower of mental strength again in Australia, with his defence coming against the backdrop of an ongoing doping case after he twice tested positive for traces of the steroid clostebol last year.

Behind the scenes
Hanging over his head has been a World Anti-Doping Agency appeal against his exoneration, with the global body seeking a long ban. He denies knowingly doping.

A hearing is scheduled at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for April.

He cast all the worries aside to notch a 19th career title and extend his incredible winning streak to 21 matches.

Last year Sinner needed five sets to tame Daniil Medvedev and win his first Grand Slam, but it never looked like going the distance this time.

Sky-rocketing success

AO
australian open

1 Becomes the first Italian to lift three Slam trophies

1 The first man to successfully defend his maiden Major title since Nadal at the 2006 French Open

3 Only the third active player (after Alcaraz and Wawrinka) to triumph in his first three Grand Slam finals

5 The fifth man to win three straight hard court Majors, and the first since Djokovic (2015-16)

10 He now has 10 successive straight-sets victories over top-10 opponents, the first player to do so since the rankings were introduced

> This one was joy. We managed to do something incredible this time, because the situation I was in was completely different from a year ago here. I had more pressure
>
> **JANNIK SINNER**

47 The Italian has pulled level with Borg and Connors for most wins (47) in their first 50 matches as ATP World No. 1

60 Since the start of the 2024 season, he has won 60 of his 63 hard court matches, the best on the men's circuit

ALL STATS ARE FROM THE OPEN ERA | COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Ice-cool Sinner towers over Zverev, retains title
आइस-कूल सिनर ने ज़ेवेरेव पर जीत हासिल की, खिताब बरकरार रखा

The World No. 1 becomes the first Italian — man or woman — to win three Grand Slams; Zverev's long wait for a maiden Major continues, falling short once again in his third big final

दुनिया के नंबर 1 खिलाड़ी तीन ग्रैंड स्लैम जीतने वाले पहले इतालवी खिलाड़ी बन गए हैं - पुरुष या महिला; ज़ेवेरेव का पहला मेजर खिताब जीतने का लंबा इंतज़ार जारी है, एक बार फिर तीसरे ग्रैंड स्लैम में वे चूक गए

Jannik Sinner Clinches Australian Open Title
जानिक सिनर ने ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन खिताब जीता

- **Jannik Sinner** retained his **Australian Open title** with a clinical win over **Alexander Zverev** on Sunday.
  जानिक सिनर ने रविवार को **अलेक्जेंडर ज्वेरेव** को हराकर **ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन खिताब** अपने नाम किया।

- The **23-year-old Italian** won the final 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 on **Rod Laver Arena**, becoming the **first Italian** to win **three Grand Slam titles**, surpassing **Nicola Pietrangeli**.
  23 वर्षीय इटालियन खिलाड़ी ने **रॉड लेवर एरीना** पर 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 से फाइनल जीता और **निकोल पेत्रांगेली** को पीछे छोड़ते हुए **तीन ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब** जीतने वाले **पहले इटालियन** बने।

- Sinner now joins legends like **Andre Agassi, Roger Federer, and Novak Djokovic** as the only men to defend the **Melbourne Park title** this century.
  सिनर अब **आंद्रे अगासी, रोजर फेडरर और नोवाक जोकोविच** जैसे दिग्गज खिलाड़ियों की सूची में शामिल हो गए हैं, जिन्होंने इस सदी में **मेलबर्न पार्क खिताब** का बचाव किया है।

- This win added to the misery of **Alexander Zverev**, who remains without a **Grand Slam title** despite playing in **three major finals**.
  यह जीत **अलेक्जेंडर ज्वेरेव** के लिए निराशाजनक रही, जो **तीन बड़े फाइनल्स** खेलने के बावजूद अब तक **ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब** से वंचित हैं।

Post-Match Remarks and Achievements
मैच के बाद के बयान और उपलब्धियां

- Sinner thanked his coaching team and expressed joy in achieving this milestone.
  सिनर ने अपनी कोचिंग टीम का धन्यवाद करते हुए इस उपलब्धि पर खुशी व्यक्त की।

- He consoled Zverev, calling him an "amazing player" and encouraging him to keep working hard, as everyone believes he can win a Grand Slam soon.

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उन्होंने ज्वेरेव को सांत्वना देते हुए उन्हें "शानदार खिलाड़ी" कहा और मेहनत जारी रखने के लिए प्रेरित किया, यह कहते हुए कि सभी को विश्वास है कि वह जल्द ही ग्रैंड स्लैम जीत सकते हैं।

Challenges and Controversies
चुनौतियां और विवाद

- Sinner showcased remarkable mental strength despite an ongoing doping case involving traces of **clostebol**, for which a hearing is scheduled at the **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)** in April.
  सिनर ने **क्लोस्टेबोल** के मामले में चल रही डोपिंग विवाद के बावजूद अद्भुत मानसिक मजबूती दिखाई, जिसके लिए **कोर्ट ऑफ आर्बिट्रेशन फॉर स्पोर्ट (CAS)** में अप्रैल में सुनवाई होनी है।
- He denies knowingly doping and continued his incredible winning streak, achieving his **19th career title** and **21 consecutive match wins**.
  उन्होंने जानबूझकर डोपिंग के आरोप से इनकार किया और अपनी शानदार जीत का सिलसिला जारी रखते हुए अपना **19वां करियर खिताब** और **लगातार 21 मैच जीतने** का रिकॉर्ड बनाया।

Final Highlights
फाइनल की मुख्य बातें

- Last year, Sinner defeated **Daniil Medvedev** in a five-set thriller to win his first Grand Slam. This year, the final was a more straightforward affair.
  पिछले साल, सिनर ने **डेनियल मेदवेदेव** को पांच सेट के रोमांचक मुकाबले में हराकर अपना पहला ग्रैंड स्लैम जीता था। इस साल का फाइनल अपेक्षाकृत आसान रहा।

DREAM RUN

Tilak sets world record during knock against England

PCS

R. RAGU

Tilak Varma set a new world record during his unbeaten 72 against England in the second T20I in Chennai. The 22-year-old has scored 318 runs in T20Is without being dismissed and went past New Zealand batter Mark Chapman's record of 271 runs between dismissals set in 2023.

Tilak sets world record during knock against England

तिलक ने इंग्लैंड के खिलाफ नॉक के दौरान विश्व रिकॉर्ड बनाया

Tilak Varma Sets a New World Record
तिलक वर्मा ने नया विश्व रिकॉर्ड बनाया

- Tilak Varma scored an **unbeaten 72 runs** against England in the **second T20I** held in **Chennai**.

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तिलक वर्मा ने इंग्लैंड के खिलाफ **दूसरे टी20 अंतरराष्ट्रीय** मैच में **चेन्नई** में नाबाद **72 रन** बनाए।

- The **22-year-old** has now accumulated **318 runs in T20Is** without being dismissed.
  22 वर्षीय तिलक वर्मा ने अब तक टी20 अंतरराष्ट्रीय में **318 रन** बनाए हैं बिना आउट हुए।

- He broke the previous record of **271 runs** between dismissals, held by **New Zealand batter Mark Chapman** in **2023**.
  उन्होंने **2023** में **न्यूजीलैंड के बल्लेबाज मार्क चैपमैन** द्वारा बनाए गए **271 रनों** के रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ा।

MINSK

Belarus President Lukashenko wins polls with 87.6% of the vote

PCS
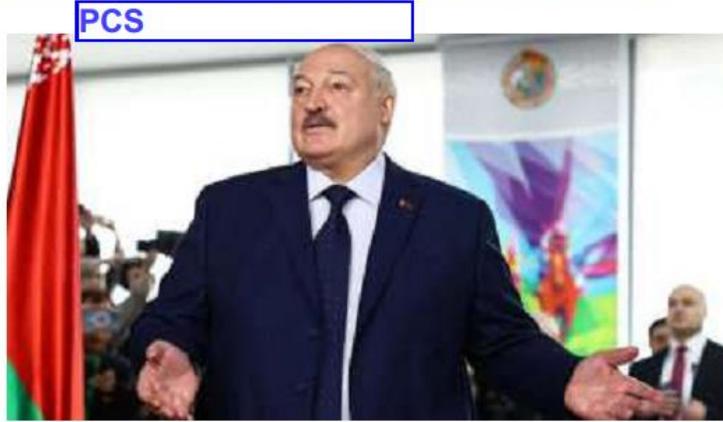
REUTERS

Belarus's autocrat leader Alexander Lukashenko, in power since 1994, won a re-election that saw no real competition, a state exit poll said on Sunday . The Moscow-aligned Mr. Lukashenko won a seventh consecutive term with 87.6% of the vote. All of the 70-year-old's meaningful opponents are in prison or in exile. AFP

Belarus President Lukashenko wins polls with 87.6% of the vote

बेलारूस के राष्ट्रपति लुकाशेंको ने 87.6% वोट के साथ चुनाव जीता

Alexander Lukashenko Wins Re-Election in Belarus
बेलारूस में अलेक्ज़ेंडर लुकाशेंको ने फिर से चुनाव जीता

- Belarus's **autocrat leader Alexander Lukashenko**, in power since **1994**, won a re-election, according to a **state exit poll**.
  बेलारूस के **सत्तावादी नेता अलेक्ज़ेंडर लुकाशेंको**, जो **1994** से सत्ता में हैं, ने **राज्य एग्जिट पोल** के अनुसार फिर से चुनाव जीता।

- The **Moscow-aligned leader** won a **seventh consecutive term** with **87.6% of the vote**.
  मास्को समर्थित नेता ने 87.6% **वोटों** के साथ **लगातार सातवीं बार** चुनाव जीता।

- All of Mr. Lukashenko's **meaningful opponents** are either in **prison** or in **exile**.
  लुकाशेंको के सभी **प्रमुख विपक्षी** या तो **जेल** में हैं या **निर्वासन** में।

- The **70-year-old leader** faced **no real competition** in the election.
  70 वर्षीय नेता को चुनाव में **कोई वास्तविक चुनौती** नहीं मिली।

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Cardiac surgeon who performed India's first coronary bypass surgery passes away

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

India's pre-eminent cardiac surgeon K.M. Cherian, who performed India's first coronary bypass surgery, died in Bengaluru on Saturday. He was 82.

His son, Sanjay Cherian, shared a note that said, "It is with profound grief that I inform you all that my beloved father, Dr. K.M. Cherian, passed away around 11:55 p.m. last night [January 25]. Dad and I had attended a wedding reception in Bengaluru and as we were leaving, he collapsed..." He also said that Dr. Cherian was rushed to Manipal Hospital where he was declared dead. The funeral will be held on January 30.

Only a couple of days ago was his autobiography, *Just an Instrument*, launched at the Kerala Literature Festival.

Born on March 8, 1942, in Kerala, Dr. Cherian worked for over 50 years in the field of cardiology, training under world-renowned leaders in the field. He was also credited with performing the first heart-lung transplant in India, the second cardiac transplant, and strangely, for a profession where people stick to their chosen specialisation, was also a pioneer in paediatric cardiac surgery. He set up Frontier Lifeline Hospital in Chennai and Frontier Mediville, a large medical science park on the outskirts of the city, to help spur research into indigenous cardiac valves and other technologies.

During the book launch in Kerala, Dr. Cherian said each surgeon should consider the patient part of his own family. Some of the experiences he shared on the occasion include how he performed heart surgeries on 20 Iraqi children and how he played the diplomat in the release of four Indian drivers who were imprisoned in Iraq. He went on to explain his association with Mother Teresa, upon whose request he performed a surgery on a poor boy in Kolkata at minimal cost.

After having completed his medical education in Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, he went on to teach in Christian Medical College, Vellore, before heading out to the far shores of Australia and New Zealand to train further in cardiac surgery. He chose to come back to India to serve the people and the country. In the 50-plus years he served in the field, he also had a term as honorary cardiac surgeon to the President and worked extensively with patients who came from foreign nations for treatment, and was awarded the Padma Shri.

DR. K.M. CHERIAN (1942 - 2025)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post in X, said, "Pained by the passing of Dr. K.M. Cherian, one of the most distinguished doctors of our country. His contribution to cardiology will always be monumental, not only saving many lives but also mentoring doctors of the future. His emphasis on technology and innovation always stood out. My thoughts are with his family and friends in this hour of grief."

Simple childhood
In his autobiography, Dr. Cherian recalled his simple childhood, from walking barefoot to school to playing marbles on the street with friends, and a love to don paint to participate in the tiger dance during Onam. He confessed to getting zero in mathematics in Class 5, but the school managed to give grace marks to all students as the exam was unusually tough.

K.R. Balakrishnan, chairman-cardiac sciences and director of the Institue of Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support in MGM Healthcare, recalled coming to Chennai in November 1984 "fresh from training in Bombay". Dr. Cherian was a mentor, with whom he conducted experiments during his stint at the Railway Hospital. "We did exciting stuff at that time," he said.

"He has travelled all over the world, planning for Madras Medical Mission (MMM). When I was working in Auckland in New Zealand, he stayed with me almost a week, visiting hospitals. I was the first cardiac surgeon to work with him. This is before he became famous. He was instrumental in me getting a fellowship in the United States. He was very generous to young people who worked with him. His contributions to cardiac surgery in India are legendary."

Ajit Mullasari, director of cardiology at the Institute of Cardio-vascular diseases at the MMM, said his association with Dr. Cherian began in 1995 when he joined the hospital.

"The first bypass surgery, coronary artery bypass surgery, the heart transplantation in the private sector, a lot of paediatric surgeries were pioneering efforts in this country. He had a great vision of the future," he said. Dr. Cherian "believed standalone centres will have no dilution of cardiac care. Subsequently a lot of people followed. But he was always one step ahead," Dr. Mullasari said, adding: "He put effort into research, which usually doesn't happen in a private centre. He was pushing you to research, be it stem cell or lab work. He would push us to write and encourage us to present in international congresses."

Sowmya Swaminathan, former chief scientist of World Health Organisation and chairperson of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, in her post on X, said, "Deeply saddened to hear of Dr. KM Cherian's passing. His memoir was just released and we had long conversations recently – about the future of innovation and health technology development in India. Certainly a source of inspiration to many, apart from the countless lives he saved! RIP."

Cardiac surgeon who performed India's first coronary bypass surgery passes away

भारत की पहली कोरोनरी बाईपास सर्जरी करने वाले कार्डियक सर्जन का निधन

India's Pioneering Cardiac Surgeon K.M. Cherian Passes Away
भारत के अग्रणी हृदय सर्जन डॉ. के.एम. चेरियन का निधन

- **K.M. Cherian**, India's pre-eminent **cardiac surgeon**, who performed the country's **first coronary bypass surgery**, passed away in **Bengaluru** on **January 25, 2025**, at the age of **82**.
  भारत के प्रमुख **हृदय सर्जन डॉ. के.एम. चेरियन**, जिन्होंने भारत की **पहली कोरोनरी बाईपास सर्जरी** की थी, का **25 जनवरी 2025** को **बेंगलुरु** में **82 वर्ष** की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- His son, **Sanjay Cherian**, shared a note stating that Dr. Cherian collapsed after attending a wedding reception in Bengaluru and was rushed to **Manipal Hospital**, where he was declared dead.
  उनके बेटे, **संजय चेरियन**, ने बताया कि डॉ. चेरियन बेंगलुरु में एक शादी समारोह में शामिल होने के बाद गिर गए और उन्हें **मणिपाल अस्पताल** ले जाया गया, जहां उन्हें मृत घोषित कर दिया गया।

- The **funeral** will be held on **January 30, 2025**.
  अंतिम संस्कार **30 जनवरी 2025** को किया जाएगा।

- Just two days earlier, his **autobiography**, titled **"Just an Instrument"**, was launched at the **Kerala Literature Festival**.

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दो दिन पहले ही उनकी **आत्मकथा**, जिसका शीर्षक **"जस्ट एन इंस्ट्रूमेंट"** है, **केरल लिटरेचर फेस्टिवल** में लॉन्च हुई थी।

- Born on **March 8, 1942**, in **Kerala**, Dr. Cherian worked for over **50 years** in **cardiology**, training under **world-renowned leaders** in the field.

  8 मार्च 1942 को केरल में जन्मे डॉ. चेरियन ने **50 वर्षों** से अधिक समय तक **हृदय रोग विज्ञान** के क्षेत्र में काम किया और **विश्व प्रसिद्ध विशेषज्ञों** के साथ प्रशिक्षण लिया।

- He was credited with performing India's **first heart-lung transplant**, the **second cardiac transplant**, and pioneering **paediatric cardiac surgery**.

  उन्हें भारत का **पहला हार्ट-लंग ट्रांसप्लांट**, **दूसरा कार्डियक ट्रांसप्लांट** करने और **बाल चिकित्सा हृदय शल्य चिकित्सा** में अग्रणी भूमिका निभाने का श्रेय दिया गया।

- Dr. Cherian founded **Frontier Lifeline Hospital** in **Chennai** and **Frontier Mediville**, a large **medical science park**, to support research in **indigenous cardiac valves** and other technologies.

  डॉ. चेरियन ने **चेन्नई** में **फ्रंटियर लाइफलाइन अस्पताल** और एक बड़ा **मेडिकल साइंस पार्क, फ्रंटियर मेडिविल**, की स्थापना की ताकि **स्वदेशी हृदय वाल्व** और अन्य तकनीकों पर शोध को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।

- At the book launch, Dr. Cherian emphasized that surgeons should treat patients as part of their own family.

  पुस्तक लॉन्च के दौरान, डॉ. चेरियन ने बताया कि सर्जन को मरीजों को अपने परिवार का हिस्सा समझकर इलाज करना चाहिए।

- He shared experiences of performing **heart surgeries on 20 Iraqi children** and negotiating the release of **four Indian drivers imprisoned in Iraq**.

  उन्होंने **20 इराकी बच्चों की हृदय सर्जरी** और **इराक में कैद चार भारतीय ड्राइवरों** की रिहाई के लिए बातचीत करने के अपने अनुभव साझा किए।

- Dr. Cherian also performed a surgery at a minimal cost on a poor boy in Kolkata at the request of **Mother Teresa**.

  डॉ. चेरियन ने **मदर टेरेसा** के अनुरोध पर कोलकाता में एक गरीब लड़के की न्यूनतम लागत पर सर्जरी की।

- He completed his **medical education** at **Kasturba Medical College, Manipal**, and later taught at **Christian Medical College, Vellore**.

  उन्होंने अपनी **चिकित्सा शिक्षा कस्तूरबा मेडिकल कॉलेज, मणिपाल** में पूरी की और बाद में **क्रिश्चियन मेडिकल कॉलेज, वेल्लोर** में पढ़ाया।

- Dr. Cherian received training in **Australia** and **New Zealand** but returned to India to serve the country.

  डॉ. चेरियन ने **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** और **न्यूजीलैंड** में प्रशिक्षण लिया, लेकिन देश की सेवा के लिए भारत लौट आए।

- He served as **Honorary Cardiac Surgeon to the President** and worked extensively with **international patients**.

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उन्होंने **राष्ट्रपति के मानद हृदय शल्य चिकित्सक** के रूप में कार्य किया और **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मरीजों** के साथ व्यापक रूप से काम किया।

- Dr. Cherian was awarded the **Padma Shri** for his contributions.
  डॉ. चेरियन को उनके योगदान के लिए **पद्म श्री** से सम्मानित किया गया।

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** paid tribute to Dr. Cherian, calling his contributions to **cardiology monumental** and highlighting his **focus on technology and innovation**.
  प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने डॉ. चेरियन को श्रद्धांजलि देते हुए उनके **हृदय रोग विज्ञान** में योगदान को **महत्वपूर्ण** बताया और उनके **तकनीक और नवाचार पर जोर** को रेखांकित किया।

- PM Modi expressed condolences to Dr. Cherian's family and friends through a post on **X**.
  प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने **एक्स** पर एक पोस्ट के माध्यम से डॉ. चेरियन के परिवार और दोस्तों के प्रति संवेदना व्यक्त की।

Simple Childhood and Early Journey
सरल बचपन और प्रारंभिक यात्रा

- In his **autobiography**, Dr. K.M. Cherian recalled his **simple childhood**, including memories of **walking to school** and his early days.
  अपनी **आत्मकथा** में, डॉ. के.एम. चेरियन ने अपने **सरल बचपन** को याद किया, जिसमें **स्कूल जाने के लिए पैदल चलने** और शुरुआती दिनों की यादें शामिल थीं।

- He mentioned Dr. **Brian Barratt-Boyes**, a renowned cardiac surgeon, who stayed with him for **a week** in **New Zealand** and supported his journey by helping him secure a **fellowship in the U.S.**
  उन्होंने प्रसिद्ध हृदय सर्जन डॉ. **ब्रायन बैरेट-बॉयस** का जिक्र किया, जिन्होंने **न्यूजीलैंड** में उनके साथ **एक सप्ताह** बिताया और उन्हें **यू.एस. में फेलोशिप** हासिल करने में मदद की।

- Dr. Cherian expressed gratitude for **Dr. Barratt-Boyes' generosity** toward young surgeons and acknowledged his **legendary contributions to cardiac surgery** in India.
  डॉ. चेरियन ने डॉ. **बैरेट-बॉयस की उदारता** के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया और भारत में **हृदय शल्य चिकित्सा में उनके महान योगदान** को स्वीकार किया।

Pioneering Contributions to Cardiac Surgery
हृदय शल्य चिकित्सा में अग्रणी योगदान

- **Dr. Ajit Mullasari**, director of cardiology at the **Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases at MMM**, said his association with Dr. Cherian began in **1995**.
  डॉ. **अजीत मल्लासरी**, जो **एमएमएम के हृदय रोग संस्थान** के निदेशक हैं, ने कहा कि उनकी डॉ. चेरियन के साथ **1995** में साझेदारी शुरू हुई।

- He highlighted that Dr. Cherian performed **India's first coronary artery bypass surgery**, **heart transplantation in the private sector**, and **pioneering pediatric surgeries**.

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उन्होंने बताया कि डॉ. चेरियन ने **भारत की पहली कोरोनरी आर्टरी बाईपास सर्जरी**, **निजी क्षेत्र में हृदय प्रत्यारोपण**, और **अग्रणी बाल शल्य चिकित्सा** की।

- Dr. Mullasari added that Dr. Cherian focused on **research in private centers**, including **stem cell and lab work**, and encouraged **publishing papers and presenting at international congresses**.

  डॉ. मल्लासरी ने कहा कि डॉ. चेरियन ने **निजी केंद्रों में अनुसंधान**, जिसमें **स्टेम सेल और प्रयोगशाला कार्य** शामिल है, पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलनों में पत्र प्रकाशित और प्रस्तुत करने** के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया।

Tributes from Notable Figures
प्रसिद्ध हस्तियों से श्रद्धांजलि

- Dr. **Sowmya Swaminathan**, former Chief Scientist of the **World Health Organization**, expressed grief at Dr. Cherian's passing, calling him an **inspiration to many** and a savior of **countless lives**.

  डॉ. **सौम्या स्वामीनाथन**, जो **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन** की पूर्व मुख्य वैज्ञानिक थीं, ने डॉ. चेरियन के निधन पर शोक व्यक्त किया और उन्हें **कई लोगों के लिए प्रेरणा** और **असंख्य जीवनों के रक्षक** के रूप में सराहा।

- She mentioned their recent **long conversations** about **innovation and health technology development** in India.

  उन्होंने भारत में **नवाचार और स्वास्थ्य प्रौद्योगिकी विकास** पर हाल ही में हुई **लंबी बातचीत** का उल्लेख किया।

- Dr. Swaminathan referred to his **memoir**, which was recently released, as a testament to his remarkable journey.

  डॉ. स्वामीनाथन ने उनकी हाल ही में प्रकाशित **संस्मरण** को उनकी अद्वितीय यात्रा का प्रमाण बताया।

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