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03_02_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. On live-in relationships in Uttarakhand / उत्तराखंड में लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप्स पर
2. Special Assembly session in Telangana tomorrow to discuss caste census / तेलंगाना में कल जाति जनगणना पर चर्चा के लिए विशेष विधानसभा सत्र
3. After Manipur, Assam Destroys Poppy Plantations / मणिपुर के बाद, असम में अफीम के खेतों को नष्ट किया गया

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On live-in relationships in Uttarakhand

What has Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code mandated with respect to the registration of live-in relationships? Should the parents of the individuals be notified by the registrar? How do landlords come into the picture? Are there penalties for concealing the relationship? What about privacy?

GS Paper I: Society

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code passed by the State Assembly in February 2024, mandates the registration of live-in relationships both at their commencement and termination. This requirement applies not only to residents of Uttarakhand but also to individuals residing elsewhere in India. The rules, which came into effect on January 27, 2025, impose extensive documentation requirements for such registrations. "Requiring individuals in a live-in relationship to register with the government constitutes a gross violation of the right to privacy enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution. It also contravenes the nine-judge Bench decision in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy versus Union of India*, which affirmed that the right to privacy encompasses both informational privacy and decisional autonomy. There can be no disproportionate intrusion by the state into the private realm of an individual," Alok Prasanna Kumar, co-founder of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy told *The Hindu*.

What is the registration process?

Under the code, only unmarried, heterosexual couples can enter into live-in relationships. Couples currently in a live-in relationship or intending to enter one can register through the newly launched online portal. For offline registration, they have to submit a 16-page form along with supporting documents to the concerned registrar. As stipulated in Rule 15(3)(e), applicants are required to submit an extensive set of documents for registration such as their photographs, their income tax Permanent Account Number (PAN), their Aadhaar linked to their phone number, and proof of residence or domicile within the State.

If either partner is between the ages of 18 and 21, they must provide the



Sweeping legislation: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami during an event to announce the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. PTI

Aadhaar-linked phone number and address of each of their parents or legal guardians. The registrar is legally obligated to notify the guardians regarding the registration of the relationship, as well as its termination.

Is relationship history relevant?

A distinctive feature of the rules is their attempt to equate live-in relationships with the status of marriage. If a couple falls within the "degrees of prohibited relationships" as outlined in Schedule 1 – meaning they are related by blood – they must obtain approval from a religious or community leader certifying their eligibility to marry. The term "degrees of prohibited relationships" is derived from the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, which forbids marriages between individuals who are lineally or consanguinely related, unless such unions are permitted by local

customs. Couples are also required to furnish proof of any prior relationships, particularly if they have previously been in a live-in relationship. Further, they are required to disclose their current status – whether single, married, divorced, annulled, separated, or widowed.

What about housing?

If the partners are already living together, they must provide proof of their shared household, such as the most recent electricity or water bill. If they reside in rented accommodation, they must also submit the landlord's full name, contact number, and a copy of the rent agreement. The registrar is obligated to contact the landlord while verifying the application details. If the partners are not yet living together, they must apply for a provisional certificate. Upon receiving such a certificate, the couple must secure

accommodation within 30 days, with a possible 15-day extension. They must then apply for final registration, providing proof of their new premises.

The rules also impose specific obligations on landlords. When leasing property to a live-in couple, landlords must request either a provisional or final registration certificate, which will be incorporated into the rent agreement. Failure to comply will result in a penalty.

Will there be penalties?

Under the rules, the registrar is empowered to conduct a summary inquiry to verify the authenticity of submitted documents and ensure that the relationship was not established through coercion, undue influence, misrepresentation, or fraud.

Failure to register a live-in relationship within a month may result in both civil and criminal penalties. Upon conviction, a magistrate may impose a jail term of up to three months, a fine of up to ₹10,000, or both. Providing false information or concealing details carries a stricter penalty – imprisonment of up to three months, a fine of up to ₹25,000, or both. The registrar, either acting *suo motu* or upon receiving a complaint regarding non-registration, can issue a notice directing compliance. False complaints may attract a fine, with repeat offenders facing a higher penalty.

What have experts said?

According to Apar Gupta, advocate and co-founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation, the rules allow third-party disclosures of personal data without sufficient safeguards. "This will lead to large-scale social surveillance of relationships, which appears to be the intended consequence of the legislation," he said. "There are no penalties for third parties in cases of data leaks, which is particularly concerning since the exposure of personal information can pose real-world threats. This is likely to disproportionately affect interfaith and inter-caste couples," Mr. Gupta added.

THE GIST

Under the code, only unmarried, heterosexual couples can enter into live-in relationships.

As stipulated in Rule 15(3)(e), applicants are required to submit an extensive set of documents for registration such as their photographs, their income tax Permanent Account Number (PAN), their Aadhaar linked to their phone number, and proof of residence or domicile within the State.

Failure to register a live-in relationship within a month may result in both civil and criminal penalties. Upon conviction, a magistrate may impose a jail term of up to three months, a fine of up to ₹10,000, or both.

On live-in relationships in Uttarakhand

उत्तराखंड में लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप्स पर

Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code passed by the State Assembly in February 2024, mandates the registration of live-in relationships both at their commencement and termination.

उत्तराखंड का यूनिफॉर्म सिविल कोड, जो फरवरी 2024 में राज्य विधानसभा द्वारा



पारित हुआ, लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप्स के प्रारंभ और समाप्ति दोनों पर पंजीकरण अनिवार्य करता है।

- This requirement applies not only to residents of **Uttarakhand** but also to individuals residing elsewhere in **India**.
यह आवश्यकता न केवल **उत्तराखंड** के निवासियों पर लागू होती है, बल्कि **भारत** में कहीं और रहने वाले व्यक्तियों पर भी लागू होती है।
- The rules, which came into effect on **January 27, 2025**, impose extensive documentation requirements for such registrations.
नियम, जो **27 जनवरी 2025** को लागू हुए, ऐसे पंजीकरण के लिए व्यापक दस्तावेजीकरण की आवश्यकताएँ लागू करते हैं।
- "Requiring individuals in a live-in relationship to register with the government constitutes a gross violation of the **right to privacy** enshrined in **Article 21** of the **Constitution**."
"लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप्स में व्यक्तियों को सरकार के साथ पंजीकरण करने की आवश्यकता, संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 21** में निहित **गोपनीयता के अधिकार** का गंभीर उल्लंघन है।"
- It also contravenes the **nine-judge Bench decision** in **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India**, which affirmed that the right to privacy encompasses both informational privacy and decisional autonomy.
यह नौ न्यायाधीशों की पीठ के फैसले का भी उल्लंघन करता है जिसमें **न्यायमूर्ति के.एस. पुट्टस्वामी बनाम भारत संघ** ने यह पुष्टि की थी कि गोपनीयता का अधिकार सूचना गोपनीयता और निर्णयात्मक स्वायत्तता दोनों को शामिल करता है।
- What is the registration process?
पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया क्या है?
- Under the code, only **unmarried, heterosexual couples** can enter into live-in relationships.
कोड के तहत केवल **अविवाहित, विषमलैंगिक जोड़े** ही लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप में प्रवेश कर सकते हैं।
- Couples currently in a live-in relationship or intending to enter one can register through the newly launched **online portal**.
जोड़े जो वर्तमान में लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप में हैं या उसमें प्रवेश करने का इरादा रखते हैं, वे नए लॉन्च किए गए **ऑनलाइन पोर्टल** के माध्यम से पंजीकरण कर सकते हैं।
- For offline registration, they have to submit a **16-page form** along with supporting documents to the concerned registrar.
ऑफलाइन पंजीकरण के लिए उन्हें संबंधित रजिस्ट्रार को **16 पृष्ठों का फॉर्म** और सहायक दस्तावेज़ प्रस्तुत करने होंगे।
- As stipulated in **Rule 15(3)(e)**, applicants are required to submit an extensive set of documents for registration such as their **photographs, income tax Permanent Account Number (PAN), Aadhaar linked to their phone number**, and proof of residence or domicile within the State.
नियम 15(3)(e) के अनुसार, आवेदकों को पंजीकरण के लिए दस्तावेज़ों का एक विस्तृत सेट



प्रस्तुत करना होता है, जैसे उनके फोटो, आयकर पर्मानेंट अकाउंट नंबर (PAN), Aadhaar जो उनके फोन नंबर से जुड़ा हो, और राज्य में निवास या स्थायी निवास का प्रमाण।

- If either partner is between the ages of **18 and 21**, they must provide the **Aadhaar-linked phone number and address of each of their parents or legal guardians**. यदि किसी भी साथी की आयु **18 से 21** वर्ष के बीच है, तो उन्हें अपने प्रत्येक माता-पिता या कानूनी अभिभावक का **Aadhaar-लिंकड फोन नंबर और पता** प्रदान करना होगा।
- The **registrar** is legally obligated to notify the guardians regarding the registration of the relationship, as well as its termination.

रजिस्ट्रार को कानूनी रूप से संबंध के पंजीकरण और समाप्ति के संबंध में अभिभावकों को सूचित करना होता है।

- Is relationship history relevant?
क्या संबंध का इतिहास महत्वपूर्ण है?
- A distinctive feature of the rules is their attempt to equate live-in relationships with the status of **marriage**.

नियमों की एक विशिष्ट विशेषता यह है कि वे लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप्स को **विवाह** की स्थिति के समान मानने का प्रयास करते हैं।

- If a couple falls within the “**degrees of prohibited relationships**” as outlined in **Schedule 1**, meaning they are related by blood, they must obtain approval from a **religious or community leader** certifying their eligibility to marry.

यदि कोई जोड़ा “**प्रतिबंधित रिश्तों की डिग्री**” में आता है, जैसा कि **अनुशंसा 1** में उल्लेखित है, इसका मतलब है कि वे रक्त संबंधी हैं, तो उन्हें विवाह करने की अपनी पात्रता को प्रमाणित करने के लिए एक **धार्मिक या सामुदायिक नेता** से अनुमोदन प्राप्त करना होगा।

- The term “**degrees of prohibited relationships**” is derived from the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**, which forbids marriages between individuals who are lineally or consanguinely related, unless such unions are permitted by local customs.

“**प्रतिबंधित रिश्तों की डिग्री**” शब्द **हिंदू विवाह अधिनियम, 1955** से लिया गया है, जो रेखीय या रक्त संबंधी व्यक्तियों के बीच विवाह को निषिद्ध करता है, जब तक कि स्थानीय रीति-रिवाजों द्वारा ऐसी शादियाँ अनुमत नहीं होतीं।

- Couples are also required to furnish proof of any **prior relationships**, particularly if they have previously been in a live-in relationship.

जोड़े को किसी भी **पूर्व के रिश्तों** का प्रमाण भी प्रस्तुत करना होता है, विशेष रूप से यदि वे पहले लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप में रहे हैं।

- Further, they are required to disclose their **current status** — whether **single, married, divorced, annulled, separated, or widowed**.

इसके अलावा, उन्हें अपनी **वर्तमान स्थिति** का खुलासा करना होता है - चाहे वे **अविवाहित, विवाहित, तलाकशुदा, रद्द, अलग या विधवा** हों।

Housing Requirements

आवास संबंधी आवश्यकताएँ



- If the partners are already living together, they must provide **proof of their shared household**, such as the **most recent electricity or water bill**.
यदि साथी पहले से एक साथ रह रहे हैं, तो उन्हें अपने साझा आवास का प्रमाण देना होगा, जैसे नवीनतम बिजली या पानी का बिल।
- If they reside in **rented accommodation**, they must also submit the **landlord's full name, contact number, and a copy of the rent agreement**.
यदि वे किराए के मकान में रहते हैं, तो उन्हें मकान मालिक का पूरा नाम, संपर्क नंबर और किराया समझौते की एक प्रति भी जमा करनी होगी।
- The **registrar is obligated to contact the landlord** while verifying the application details.
रजिस्ट्रार को आवेदन विवरण सत्यापित करते समय मकान मालिक से संपर्क करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- If the partners are **not yet living together**, they must apply for a **provisional certificate**.
यदि साथी अभी तक साथ नहीं रह रहे हैं, तो उन्हें अस्थायी प्रमाण पत्र के लिए आवेदन करना होगा।
- Upon receiving the **provisional certificate**, the couple must **secure accommodation within 30 days**, with a possible **15-day extension**.
अस्थायी प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त करने के बाद, जोड़े को **30 दिनों के भीतर आवास की व्यवस्था करनी होगी**, जिसमें **15 दिनों का अतिरिक्त समय** दिया जा सकता है।
- They must then apply for **final registration**, providing **proof of their new premises**.
इसके बाद, उन्हें अपने नए आवास का प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करते हुए अंतिम पंजीकरण के लिए आवेदन करना होगा।
- The rules also impose **specific obligations on landlords**.
नियमों में मकान मालिकों पर भी विशेष दायित्व लगाए गए हैं।
- When leasing property to a **live-in couple**, landlords must request either a **provisional or final registration certificate**, which will be **incorporated into the rent agreement**.
लिव-इन जोड़े को संपत्ति किराए पर देते समय, मकान मालिक को अस्थायी या अंतिम पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र मांगना होगा, जिसे किराया समझौते में शामिल किया जाएगा।
- **Failure to comply will result in a penalty**.
अनुपालन न करने पर जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा।

Penalties

दंड

- Under the rules, the **registrar is empowered to conduct a summary inquiry** to verify the authenticity of submitted documents.
नियमों के तहत, रजिस्ट्रार को त्वरित जांच करने का अधिकार दिया गया है ताकि प्रस्तुत दस्तावेजों की प्रामाणिकता सत्यापित की जा सके।



- The inquiry ensures that the relationship was not established through **coercion, undue influence, misrepresentation, or fraud.**
जांच यह सुनिश्चित करती है कि रिश्ता दबाव, अनुचित प्रभाव, गलत प्रस्तुतिकरण या धोखाधड़ी के माध्यम से स्थापित नहीं किया गया था।
- **Failure to register a live-in relationship within a month may result in both civil and criminal penalties.**
एक महीने के भीतर लिव-इन संबंध को पंजीकृत न करने पर नागरिक और आपराधिक दोनों दंड लगाए जा सकते हैं।
- Upon conviction, a magistrate may impose a jail term of up to three months, a fine of up to ₹10,000, or both.
दोष सिद्ध होने पर, मैजिस्ट्रेट अधिकतम तीन महीने की जेल, ₹10,000 तक का जुर्माना, या दोनों लगा सकता है।
- **Providing false information or concealing details carries a stricter penalty—imprisonment of up to three months, a fine of up to ₹25,000, or both.**
गलत जानकारी देने या विवरण छिपाने पर अधिक कठोर दंड लगाया जाएगा—तीन महीने तक की कैद, ₹25,000 तक का जुर्माना, या दोनों।
- The registrar, either **acting suo motu or upon receiving a complaint**, can issue a **notice directing compliance.**
रजिस्ट्रार स्वतः संज्ञान लेकर या शिकायत प्राप्त होने पर, अनुपालन का निर्देश देने के लिए नोटिस जारी कर सकता है।
- **False complaints may attract a fine, with repeat offenders facing a higher penalty.**
झूठी शिकायतों पर जुर्माना लगाया जा सकता है, और बार-बार गलती करने वालों पर अधिक कठोर दंड लगाया जाएगा।

Expert Opinions

विशेषज्ञों की राय

- According to **Apar Gupta, advocate and co-founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation**, the rules allow **third-party disclosures of personal data** without sufficient safeguards.
अपर गुप्ता, अधिवक्ता और इंटरनेट फ्रीडम फाउंडेशन के सह-संस्थापक के अनुसार, नियम पर्याप्त सुरक्षा उपायों के बिना व्यक्तिगत डेटा के तीसरे पक्ष द्वारा खुलासे की अनुमति देते हैं।
- “This will lead to **large-scale social surveillance of relationships**, which appears to be the intended consequence of the legislation,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "यह रिश्तों की बड़े पैमाने पर सामाजिक निगरानी की ओर ले जाएगा, जो इस कानून का मुख्य उद्देश्य प्रतीत होता है।"
- “There are **no penalties for third parties** in cases of **data leaks**, which is particularly concerning.”
डेटा लीक के मामलों में तीसरे पक्ष के लिए कोई दंड नहीं है, जो विशेष रूप से चिंता का विषय है।



- Exposure of **personal information can pose real-world threats**, especially affecting **interfaith and inter-caste couples**.

व्यक्तिगत जानकारी का खुलासा वास्तविक दुनिया में खतरे पैदा कर सकता है, विशेष रूप से अंतरधार्मिक और अंतरजातीय जोड़ों को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

Special Assembly session in Telangana tomorrow to discuss **caste census**

GS Paper I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to convene a special session of the Assembly on Tuesday to discuss and adopt the comprehensive report of the Socio, Economic, Education, Employment, Political and caste survey.

The survey report will be approved by the State Cabinet which will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday morning and this will be followed by the special session of the Assembly, Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

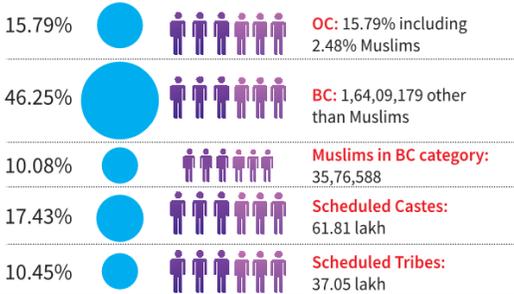
Mr. Uttam Kumar Reddy was speaking after the BC Commission submitted its report and recommendations on the caste survey, the first of its kind conducted in the State, running into 1,000 pages.

Mr. Uttam Kumar Reddy described the caste survey as a revolutionary step forward to ensure social justice in Telangana.

The State Cabinet on February 4 last year approved the decision to conduct the caste survey and it

Total caste wise population

The State Cabinet on February 4 last year approved the decision to conduct the caste survey and it was subsequently granted the approval of the legislature on Feb 16.



was subsequently granted the approval of the legislature on February 16.

The actual survey engaging over 1.03 lakh enumerators and close to 10,000 supervisors was conducted in 50 days after which tabulation and data entry was carried out.

“96.9% of the population was covered during the survey which has no parallels in its magnitude since independence. Just 3.1% could not be covered due to door lock status and few which did not wish to take part in the exercise,” Minister N. Uttam Kumar

Reddy said.

The survey would enable the government to take up data-driven welfare opportunities in social, economic, educational, employment and political spheres in the coming days,” he averred.

The State had studied the models implemented in Karnataka and Bihar before launching the survey to ensure that it was comprehensive and inclusive.

Data collection was accurate given the number of households covered and the population details elicited.

Special Assembly session in Telangana tomorrow to discuss caste census

तेलंगाना में कल जाति

जनगणना पर चर्चा के लिए

विशेष विधानसभा सत्र

The Telangana government has decided to convene a special session of the Assembly on Tuesday to discuss and adopt the comprehensive report of the Socio, Economic, Education, Employment, Political, and Caste survey.

तेलंगाना सरकार ने मंगलवार को विधानसभा का विशेष सत्र बुलाने का निर्णय लिया है ताकि सामाजिक, आर्थिक, शिक्षा, रोजगार, राजनीतिक और जाति सर्वेक्षण की व्यापक रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा की जा सके और उसे अपनाया जा सके।

- The **survey report will be approved by the State Cabinet** which will meet at **10 a.m. on Tuesday morning**, followed by the **special session of the Assembly**.

सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट को राज्य मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा अनुमोदित किया जाएगा, जिसकी बैठक मंगलवार सुबह 10 बजे होगी, जिसके बाद विधानसभा का विशेष सत्र आयोजित किया जाएगा।



- **Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy** said that the **BC Commission** has submitted its report and **recommendations** on the caste survey, which is **the first of its kind in the State**, running into **1,000 pages**.
नागरिक आपूर्ति और सिंचाई मंत्री एन. उत्तम कुमार रेड्डी ने कहा कि बीसी आयोग ने जाति सर्वेक्षण पर अपनी रिपोर्ट और सिफारिशें प्रस्तुत की हैं, जो राज्य में अपनी तरह का पहला सर्वेक्षण है और 1,000 पन्नों में विस्तृत है।
- **Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy** described the **caste survey as a revolutionary step forward to ensure social justice in Telangana**.
मंत्री एन. उत्तम कुमार रेड्डी ने जाति सर्वेक्षण को एक क्रांतिकारी कदम बताया जो तेलंगाना में सामाजिक न्याय सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उठाया गया है।
- The **State Cabinet on February 4 last year** approved the decision to conduct the caste survey, which was subsequently granted the **approval of the legislature on February 16**.
राज्य मंत्रिमंडल ने पिछले साल 4 फरवरी को जाति सर्वेक्षण कराने के निर्णय को मंजूरी दी थी, जिसे बाद में 16 फरवरी को विधानसभा की मंजूरी मिली।
- The **actual survey engaged over 1.03 lakh enumerators and close to 10,000 supervisors**, which was conducted in **50 days**, followed by **tabulation and data entry**.
वास्तविक सर्वेक्षण में 1.03 लाख से अधिक प्रगणक और करीब 10,000 पर्यवेक्षकों को शामिल किया गया था, जिसे 50 दिनों में पूरा किया गया, इसके बाद डाटा प्रविष्टि और सारणीकरण किया गया।
- **96.9% of the population was covered during the survey, which has no parallels in its magnitude since independence. Just 3.1% could not be covered due to door lock status and a few not willing to participate**.
सर्वेक्षण के दौरान 96.9% जनसंख्या को कवर किया गया, जिसका आजादी के बाद इस पैमाने पर कोई दूसरा उदाहरण नहीं है। सिर्फ 3.1% को कवर नहीं किया जा सका क्योंकि कुछ दरवाजे बंद मिले और कुछ लोगों ने भाग नहीं लिया।
- The survey will enable the government to take up **data-driven welfare opportunities in social, economic, educational, employment, and political spheres** in the coming days.
यह सर्वेक्षण सरकार को आगामी दिनों में सामाजिक, आर्थिक, शैक्षिक, रोजगार और राजनीतिक क्षेत्रों में डेटा-आधारित कल्याणकारी योजनाओं को लागू करने में मदद करेगा।
- The **State studied models from Karnataka and Bihar** before launching the survey to ensure it was **comprehensive and inclusive**.
राज्य ने कर्नाटक और बिहार के मॉडल का अध्ययन करने के बाद यह सर्वेक्षण शुरू किया ताकि यह व्यापक और समावेशी हो सके।
- **Data collection was accurate**, given the **number of households covered and population details elicited**.
डाटा संग्रह सटीक था, क्योंकि इसमें कवर किए गए घरों और प्राप्त जनसंख्या विवरण को ध्यान में रखा गया।



After Manipur, Assam destroys poppy plantations

GS Paper I:
Agriculture

GUWAHATI



Poppy plantations being destroyed in Assam.
X/@HIMANTABISWA

After Manipur, Assam has begun destroying poppy plantations. On Sunday, the police in Goalpara district of western Assam used tractors to destroy poppy plants on more than 56 acres of a sandbar in the Brahmaputra. The destroyed crop of the opium-producing plant was worth ₹27.2 crore.

People living on some sandbars or chars, which are usually difficult to reach, have been known to grow cannabis. Officials said this was one of the first instances that poppy cultivation was reported from sandbars.

Taking to social media platform X, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma equated the local poppy cultivators with Pablo Escobar, a Colombian drug lord who was killed in 1993. "Dear Local Pablo Escobars, sorry to spoil your planned Uda Assam party! Because @Goalpara_Police destroyed 170 Bighas of poppy cultivation in the Char (sandbar) areas worth ₹27.20 crore in January. So next time you think of drugs, think of @assam-police first," he wrote. Manipur Chief Minister Nong-

thombam Biren Singh was quick to respond to the post.

"My deep appreciation for the decisive measures taken in Assam, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri @himantabiswa ji, in addressing the challenges posed by the cultivation of poppy," he wrote. "We stand together and remain resolute in our shared goal of building a future where every northeast youth is protected, nurtured, and allowed to thrive free from the shadow of drugs," Mr. Singh added.

The anti-drug drive that entailed burning acres of cannabis and poppy plantations was said to be one of the factors behind the ethnic conflict between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities since May 2023.

After Manipur, Assam Destroys Poppy Plantations

मणिपुर के बाद, असम में अफीम के खेतों को नष्ट किया गया

After Manipur, Assam has begun destroying poppy plantations.

मणिपुर के बाद, असम ने अफीम के खेतों को नष्ट करना शुरू कर दिया है।

- On Sunday, the police in Goalpara district of western Assam used tractors to destroy poppy plants on more than 56 acres of a sandbar in the Brahmaputra.

रविवार को, पश्चिमी असम के गोलपाड़ा जिले में पुलिस ने 56 एकड़ से अधिक के ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के रेत टीलों पर ट्रैक्टरों का उपयोग करके अफीम के पौधों को नष्ट कर दिया।

- The destroyed crop of the opium-producing plant was worth ₹27.2 crore.

अफीम उत्पादक पौधे की नष्ट की गई फसल की कीमत ₹27.2 करोड़ थी।

- People living on some sandbars or chars, which are usually difficult to reach, have been known to grow cannabis. कुछ रेत टीलों (चारों) में रहने वाले लोग, जो आमतौर पर पहुंचने में कठिन होते हैं, गांजा उगाने के लिए जाने जाते हैं।

- Officials said this was one of the first instances that poppy cultivation was reported from sandbars.

अधिकारियों ने कहा कि यह पहली घटनाओं में से एक है जब रेत टीलों पर अफीम की खेती की सूचना मिली।

- Taking to social media platform X, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma equated the local poppy cultivators with Pablo Escobar, a Colombian drug lord who was killed in 1993.

सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X पर, मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने स्थानीय अफीम किसानों की

तुलना पाब्लो एस्कोबार से की, जो एक कोलंबियाई ड्रग माफिया था और 1993 में मारा गया था।

- "Dear Local Pablo Escobars, sorry to spoil your planned Uda Assam party! Because @Goalpara_Police destroyed 170 Bighas of poppy cultivation in the Char (sandbar) areas worth ₹27.20 crore in January," he wrote.

उन्होंने लिखा, "प्रिय स्थानीय पाब्लो एस्कोबार्स, आपकी योजना बनाई गई उड़ता असम पार्टी खराब



करने के लिए क्षमा करें! क्योंकि @Goalpara_Police ने जनवरी में चार (रेत टीलों) क्षेत्रों में ₹27.20 करोड़ की 170 बीघा अफीम की खेती नष्ट कर दी।"

- **Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh** was quick to respond to the post. मणिपुर के मुख्यमंत्री नॉगथॉंबम बीरेन सिंह ने इस पोस्ट का तुरंत जवाब दिया।
- "My deep appreciation for the **decisive measures** taken in **Assam**, under the leadership of **Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri @himantabiswa ji**, in addressing the **challenges posed by the cultivation of poppy**," he wrote. उन्होंने लिखा, "असम में माननीय मुख्यमंत्री श्री @himantabiswa जी के नेतृत्व में अफीम की खेती से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए उठाए गए निर्णायक कदमों की मैं गहरी सराहना करता हूँ।"
- "We stand together and remain **resolute** in our **shared goal** of building a **future where every northeast youth is protected, nurtured**, and allowed to **thrive free from the shadow of drugs**," Mr. Singh added. श्री सिंह ने कहा, "हम एक साथ खड़े हैं और इस साझा लक्ष्य में दृढ़ हैं कि एक ऐसा भविष्य बनाया जाए जहां पूर्वोत्तर का हर युवा सुरक्षित, पोषित हो और उसे नशे की छाया से मुक्त बनने की अनुमति मिले।"
- The **anti-drug drive**, which entailed **burning acres of cannabis and poppy plantations**, was said to be one of the **factors behind the ethnic conflict** between the **Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities** since **May 2023**. नशीले पदार्थों के खिलाफ अभियान, जिसमें गांजा और अफीम की खेती को जलाने की कार्रवाई शामिल थी, को कुकी-जो और मीतेई समुदायों के बीच मई 2023 से जारी जातीय संघर्ष के पीछे के कारकों में से एक बताया गया।

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

1. **Trump slaps tariffs on Canada, Mexico, China / ट्रंप ने कनाडा, मैक्सिको और चीन पर टैरिफ लगाए**
2. **Crisis in Congo / कांगो में संकट**
3. **The legal systems under which citizenship is acquired / नागरिकता प्राप्त करने की कानूनी प्रणालियाँ**



Trump slaps tariffs on Canada, Mexico, China

GS Paper II: US

Agence France-Presse
PALM BEACH

U.S. President Donald Trump announced broad tariffs on Saturday on trading partners Canada, Mexico and China, claiming a "major threat" from illegal immigration and drugs. The move sparked promises of retaliation. Canadian

and Mexican exports will face a 25% tariff starting Tuesday, although energy resources from Canada will have a lower 10% levy.

Goods from China, which already face various rates of duties, will see an additional 10% tariff.

CONTINUED ON
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Trump slaps tariffs on Canada, Mexico, China

ट्रंप ने कनाडा, मैक्सिको और चीन पर टैरिफ लगाए

U.S. President Donald Trump announced broad tariffs on Saturday on trading partners Canada, Mexico, and China, claiming a "major threat" from illegal immigration and drugs.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने शनिवार को

अपने व्यापारिक साझेदार कनाडा, मैक्सिको और चीन पर व्यापक टैरिफ लगाने की घोषणा की, यह दावा करते हुए कि अवैध आव्रजन और नशीली दवाओं से "बड़ा खतरा" है।

- The move **sparked promises of retaliation** from affected nations.
इस कदम से प्रभावित देशों ने प्रतिशोध की चेतावनी दी।
- **Canadian and Mexican exports** will face a **25% tariff** starting Tuesday, while **energy resources from Canada** will have a **lower 10% levy**.
कनाडा और मैक्सिको के निर्यात पर मंगलवार से 25% टैरिफ लगेगा, जबकि कनाडा के ऊर्जा संसाधनों पर केवल 10% शुल्क लगेगा।
- **Goods from China**, which already face various rates of duties, will see an **additional 10% tariff**.
चीन से आयातित वस्तुओं, जिन पर पहले से ही अलग-अलग दरों पर शुल्क लगाया जा रहा है, पर अब अतिरिक्त 10% टैरिफ लगेगा।



GS Paper II: Africa

Crisis in Congo

For peace, the country should take
Tutsis into confidence

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is no stranger to civil conflicts. But the latest advances made by M23, a rebel coalition, capturing the mineral-rich city of Goma, is a humiliating setback for the Congolese government, which had vowed to crush the rebellion in the east. M23, which takes its name from a failed peace agreement signed between a Tutsi-led rebel group and the Congolese government on March 23, 2009, claims it is fighting to protect the rights of Congo's Tutsi ethnic minority. Congo and UN experts say neighbouring Rwanda, ruled by a Tutsi-led government, is backing M23. In 2012, shortly after it was founded, M23 seized much of Goma. But it withdrew as Rwanda came under international pressure. There was a short spell of calmness with M23 rebels agreeing to join the Congolese army in return for state protection for the Tutsis. But in 2021, the group took up arms again and started the latest spell of fighting. After Goma fell last week, Paul Kagame, Rwanda's President, called for a ceasefire but with little impact. Congo, on the other side, has termed the fall of Goma "a declaration of war" and vowed a "vigorous military response".

The crisis in Congo can be traced to the Rwandan genocide in 1994 in which about 8,00,000 people, mostly Tutsis, were massacred by ethnic Hutu militias. When tens of thousands of Hutus fled Rwanda for Congo in the mid-1990s after the fall of the genocidal regime in Kigali, Congo's local Tutsis took up arms in 'self-defence'. Rwanda has made military incursions into Congo in the past, accusing it of harbouring those who were complicit in the genocide. Today's Rwanda is much stronger than what it was in 2012. Mr. Kagame, a former guerrilla leader, has modernised the economy and built a disciplined military. Rwanda has also developed close ties with western countries, who see Mr. Kagame as a force of stability in an unstable region as well as a major contributor of forces to UN missions. So, unlike in 2012, Mr. Kagame seems to be making his moves from a position of strength this time. The conflict has exposed Congo's inherent vulnerabilities and Rwanda's insecurities and ambitions. But it is also a testament to the unresolved ethnic anxieties of the region, 30 years after the genocide was brought to an end. The international community should push Mr. Kagame to rein in the rebels. Congo should also realise that for long-term peace, it should take action against the genocide-linked groups that operate from its soil and take the Tutsi minorities, for whom the memories of the massacre are still fresh, into confidence.

Crisis in Congo कांगो में संकट

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is no stranger to civil conflicts.

कांगो गणराज्य नागरिक संघर्षों से अनजान नहीं है।

• The latest advances made by **M23**, a rebel coalition, capturing the **mineral-rich city of Goma**, is a **humiliating setback** for the **Congolese government**.

M23, एक विद्रोही गठबंधन, द्वारा खजाने से भरपूर गोमा शहर पर कब्जा करना कांगो सरकार के लिए एक अपमानजनक झटका है।

• **M23** claims it is fighting to **protect the rights of Congo's Tutsi ethnic minority**.

M23 का दावा है कि वह कांगो के त्सुती जातीय अल्पसंख्यक के अधिकारों की रक्षा करने के लिए लड़ रहा है।

• Congo and **UN experts** say **neighbouring Rwanda**, ruled by a **Tutsi-led government**, is backing **M23**.

कांगो और संयुक्त राष्ट्र विशेषज्ञ कहते हैं कि पड़ोसी रुआंडा, जो त्सुती-नेतृत्व वाली सरकार द्वारा शासित है, **M23** का समर्थन कर रहा है।

• **M23** seized much of **Goma** in **2012**, but withdrew after **Rwanda** came under international pressure.

M23 ने **2012** में गोमा के बड़े हिस्से पर कब्जा किया, लेकिन रुआंडा पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय दबाव के बाद उसने पीछे हटने का फैसला किया।

• There was a short spell of calmness with **M23 rebels** agreeing to join the **Congolese army** in return for **state protection for the Tutsis**.

कुछ समय के लिए शांति का दौर आया जब **M23 विद्रोहियों** ने कांगो की सेना में शामिल होने पर सहमति जताई, बदले में उन्हें त्सुतीयों के लिए राज्य सुरक्षा का आश्वासन दिया गया।

• In **2021**, the group took up arms again and started the latest spell of fighting.

2021 में, इस समूह ने फिर से हथियार उठाए और संघर्ष का नया दौर शुरू किया।

• After Goma fell last week, **Rwanda's President Paul Kagame** called for a ceasefire but with little impact.

पिछले सप्ताह गोमा के गिरने के बाद, रुआंडा के राष्ट्रपति पॉल कागमे ने युद्धविराम का आह्वान किया लेकिन इसका बहुत कम प्रभाव पड़ा।



- Congo has termed the fall of **Goma** as “a declaration of war” and vowed a “**vigorous military response**”.
कांगो ने गोमा के गिरने को "युद्ध की घोषणा" करार दिया है और "उग्र सैन्य प्रतिक्रिया" की कवायद की है।
- The crisis in Congo can be traced to the **Rwandan genocide in 1994**, where about **8,00,000** people, mostly Tutsis, were massacred by **ethnic Hutu militias**.
कांगो में संकट का कारण **1994 के रुआंडा जनसंहार** में निहित है, जिसमें लगभग **8,00,000** लोग, ज्यादातर त्सुती, **जातीय हुतू मिलिशिया** द्वारा नरसंहार के शिकार हुए थे।
- When tens of thousands of **Hutus** fled **Rwanda** for **Congo** in the mid-1990s, **Congo's local Tutsis** took up arms in ‘self-defence’.
जब हुतू के लाखों लोग **1990 के दशक के मध्य** में रुआंडा से कांगो में शरण लेने पहुंचे, तो कांगो के स्थानीय त्सुती ने ‘आत्मरक्षा’ में हथियार उठाए।
- **Rwanda** has made military incursions into **Congo** in the past, accusing it of harbouring those who were complicit in the genocide.
रुआंडा ने कांगो में पहले भी सैन्य घुसपैठ की है, यह आरोप लगाते हुए कि कांगो ने उन लोगों को शरण दी थी जो जनसंहार में शामिल थे।
- Today's **Rwanda** is much stronger than in **2012**. **Mr. Kagame**, a former guerrilla leader, has modernised the economy and built a disciplined military.
आज का रुआंडा, **2012 के मुकाबले** कहीं अधिक ताकतवर है। श्री **कागमे**, एक पूर्व गुरिल्ला नेता, ने अर्थव्यवस्था को आधुनिक बनाया और एक अनुशासित सैन्य बल तैयार किया।
- **Rwanda** has developed close ties with **western countries**, who see Mr. Kagame as a force of stability in an unstable region and as a major contributor to **UN missions**.
रुआंडा ने पश्चिमी देशों के साथ घनिष्ठ संबंध विकसित किए हैं, जो श्री कागमे को एक अस्थिर क्षेत्र में स्थिरता का प्रतीक मानते हैं और संयुक्त राष्ट्र मिशनों में एक महत्वपूर्ण योगदानकर्ता मानते हैं।
- **Rwanda's President Kagame** seems to be making his moves from a position of **strength** this time.
रुआंडा के राष्ट्रपति कागमे इस बार अपनी ताकत की स्थिति से कदम उठा रहे हैं।
- The conflict has exposed **Congo's vulnerabilities** and **Rwanda's insecurities and ambitions**.
संघर्ष ने कांगो की कमजोरियों और रुआंडा की असुरक्षाओं और महत्वाकांक्षाओं को उजागर किया है।
- The crisis is a testament to the **unresolved ethnic anxieties** of the region, **30 years** after the genocide was brought to an end.
यह संकट उस असमाप्त जातीय चिंता का प्रमाण है, जो **30 वर्षों** बाद भी जारी है, जब जनसंहार को समाप्त कर दिया गया था।
- The **international community** should push **Mr. Kagame** to rein in the rebels.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय को श्री कागमे पर दबाव डालना चाहिए ताकि वह विद्रोहियों को नियंत्रित करें।
- **Congo** should also realise that for long-term peace, it should take action against the **genocide-linked groups** operating from its soil and take the **Tutsi minorities** into confidence.



कांगो को यह भी समझना चाहिए कि दीर्घकालिक शांति के लिए, इसे जनसंहार-सम्बंधित समूहों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए, जो इसके इलाके में काम कर रहे हैं, और त्सुती अल्पसंख्यकों को विश्वास में लेना चाहिए।

The legal systems under which citizenship is acquired

What are the two different principles which govern citizenship laws in various countries? What was the system in the U.S.? How are India's citizenship laws different?

GS Paper II:
Comparison of
Constitution

The story so far:

U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order stating that U.S. citizenship will be granted in the future only to children with parents holding U.S. citizenship or a U.S. green card.

What are the legal principles?

Citizenship is defined as full and equal membership of a country. In the words of Hannah Arendt, citizenship is the 'right to have rights'. There are two important legal systems based on which citizenship is acquired in various countries. One of them is 'jus soli' which means 'right of soil.' Under this principle, a child's citizenship is determined by his or her place of birth irrespective of the citizenship of their parents. Many North American and Latin American countries

like Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina etc., follow this principle while granting citizenship for children born within their country. The other is 'jus sanguinis' which means 'right of blood.' Under this principle, a child's citizenship is determined by the citizenship of parents. Many African, European and Asian countries like Egypt, South Africa, Germany, India etc., follow this principle.

What is the current issue in the U.S.?

The U.S. has practised the grant of citizenship based on the 'jus soli' principle. The 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1868, states that 'all persons born or naturalised in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States.' The U.S. Supreme Court in 1898 reaffirmed that the 14th amendment extended to all children born in the U.S., irrespective of the parents' citizenship.

The current executive order issued by President Trump titled 'Protecting the meaning and value of American citizenship' decrees that American citizenship would be granted only to children with parents holding U.S. Citizenship or a U.S. Green card. This order is to be implemented from February 19. However, a federal court in the State of Washington has temporarily stayed the order stating that it is 'blatantly unconstitutional.'

What about citizenship in India?

Citizenship in India is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955. Till June 1987, India followed the 'jus soli' principle granting automatic citizenship to anyone born in India. Subsequently, the law was amended to introduce the 'jus sanguinis' principle. Between July 1987 and December 2004, it was required that either of the parents of a child born in

India was a citizen of India for granting citizenship. Since December 2004, the requirement was further restricted wherein both the parents had to be citizens or one parent is a citizen and the other not an illegal immigrant. This was primarily to restrict citizenship to children born to illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) provides accelerated citizenship to Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, and Parsis from neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who have entered India before December 31, 2014. India has differentiated on the basis of religion, by excluding Muslims, for grant of accelerated citizenship for the first time through CAA, 2019. Critics argue that this is against the basic structure of secularism under the Indian Constitution. The argument made by the government is that it is only to grant accelerated citizenship to religious minorities of these three neighbouring countries who have migrated to India owing to religious persecution in these countries and hence not discriminatory. The Supreme Court will decide on the constitutional validity of this law. Meanwhile, the government should ensure that implementation of this law does not create undue hardships for Muslim citizens.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

The legal systems under which citizenship is acquired

नागरिकता प्राप्त करने की कानूनी प्रणालियाँ

Citizenship is defined as full and equal membership of a country.

According to **Hannah Arendt**, citizenship is the 'right to have rights'.

नागरिकता को एक देश की पूर्ण और समान सदस्यता के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है। हाना अरेंड्ट के अनुसार, नागरिकता 'अधिकार प्राप्त करने का अधिकार' है।

- There are **two important legal systems** based on which citizenship is acquired in various countries:

विभिन्न देशों में नागरिकता प्राप्त करने के लिए दो महत्वपूर्ण कानूनी प्रणालियाँ हैं:

- **'Jus Soli'** (right of soil): Under this principle, a child's citizenship is determined by his or her **place of birth**, irrespective of the **citizenship of their parents**.



'जस सॉली' (भूमि का अधिकार): इस सिद्धांत के तहत, किसी बच्चे की नागरिकता उसके जन्मस्थान से निर्धारित होती है, न कि उसके माता-पिता की नागरिकता से।

- 'Jus Sanguinis' (right of blood): Under this principle, a child's citizenship is determined by the **citizenship of parents**.

'जस सेंग्विनिस' (रक्त का अधिकार): इस सिद्धांत के तहत, किसी बच्चे की नागरिकता माता-पिता की नागरिकता से निर्धारित होती है।

- **Countries following 'Jus Soli':** Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and many other North and Latin American countries.

'जस सॉली' को अपनाने वाले देश: कनाडा, मैक्सिको, ब्राजील, अर्जेंटीना और कई अन्य उत्तर और लैटिन अमेरिकी देश।

- **Countries following 'Jus Sanguinis':** Egypt, South Africa, Germany, India, and many other African, European, and Asian countries.

'जस सेंग्विनिस' को अपनाने वाले देश: मिस्र, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, जर्मनी, भारत और कई अन्य अफ्रीकी, यूरोपीय और एशियाई देश।

What is the current issue in the U.S.?

अमेरिका में वर्तमान मुद्दा क्या है?

- The U.S. follows 'Jus Soli' principle. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1868) states that 'all persons born or naturalised in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States.'

अमेरिका 'जस सॉली' सिद्धांत का पालन करता है। अमेरिका के संविधान का 14वां संशोधन (1868) कहता है कि 'संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में जन्मे या प्राकृतिक रूप से नागरिक बने सभी व्यक्ति, जो इसके अधिकार क्षेत्र में आते हैं, अमेरिका के नागरिक हैं।'

- The U.S. Supreme Court (1898) reaffirmed that this amendment applies to all children born in the U.S., regardless of their parents' citizenship.

अमेरिकी सुप्रीम कोर्ट (1898) ने पुष्टि की कि यह संशोधन संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में जन्मे सभी बच्चों पर लागू होता है, चाहे उनके माता-पिता की नागरिकता कुछ भी हो।

- Donald Trump's executive order titled 'Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship' states that citizenship will only be granted to children whose parents hold U.S. citizenship or a Green Card.

डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का कार्यकारी आदेश 'अमेरिकी नागरिकता के अर्थ और मूल्य की रक्षा' कहता है कि नागरिकता केवल उन बच्चों को दी जाएगी जिनके माता-पिता अमेरिकी नागरिकता या ग्रीन कार्ड धारक हैं।

- This order was set to be implemented from February 19, but a federal court in Washington has temporarily stayed it, calling it 'blatantly unconstitutional'.

यह आदेश 19 फरवरी से लागू किया जाना था, लेकिन वाशिंगटन की संघीय अदालत ने इसे अस्थायी रूप से रोक दिया, इसे 'स्पष्ट रूप से असंवैधानिक' करार दिया।



What about citizenship in India?

भारत में नागरिकता की स्थिति क्या है?

- **Citizenship in India is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955.**
भारत में नागरिकता 'नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955' द्वारा शासित होती है।
- **Till June 1987**, India followed the 'Jus Soli' principle, granting **automatic citizenship** to anyone **born in India**.
जून 1987 तक, भारत ने 'जस सॉली' सिद्धांत का पालन किया और भारत में जन्मे किसी भी व्यक्ति को स्वतः नागरिकता प्रदान की।
- **Amendment after June 1987** introduced the 'Jus Sanguinis' principle: Citizenship required that **either parent of the child must be an Indian citizen**.
जून 1987 के बाद संशोधन में 'जस सैंग्विनिस' सिद्धांत जोड़ा गया: नागरिकता के लिए यह आवश्यक था कि बच्चे के माता-पिता में से कोई एक भारतीय नागरिक हो।
- **Since December 2004**, the law became stricter:
दिसंबर 2004 के बाद से, कानून और सख्त हो गया:
 - Both parents must be **Indian citizens**, OR
दोनों माता-पिता का भारतीय नागरिक होना अनिवार्य है, या
 - One parent must be an **Indian citizen** and the other must **not be an illegal immigrant**.
**एक माता-पिता भारतीय नागरिक होना चाहिए और दूसरा अवैध प्रवासी नहीं होना चाहिए।
- This change was **mainly to prevent citizenship** for children **born to illegal immigrants from Bangladesh**.
यह बदलाव मुख्य रूप से बांग्लादेश से अवैध प्रवासियों के बच्चों को नागरिकता से वंचित करने के लिए किया गया था।
- **The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019** provides **accelerated citizenship** to **Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, and Parsis** from **Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh**, if they entered **before December 31, 2014**.
नागरिकता संशोधन अधिनियम (CAA), 2019 हिंदू, ईसाई, सिख, जैन, बौद्ध और पारसी को पाकिस्तान, अफगानिस्तान और बांग्लादेश से 31 दिसंबर 2014 से पहले प्रवेश करने पर त्वरित नागरिकता प्रदान करता है।
- India **differentiated on the basis of religion** by **excluding Muslims** from this provision. Critics argue that this **violates secularism**, which is part of the **basic structure of the Indian Constitution**.
भारत ने धर्म के आधार पर भेदभाव किया, क्योंकि इस प्रावधान से मुसलमानों को बाहर रखा गया। आलोचकों का तर्क है कि यह भारतीय संविधान के मूल ढांचे में निहित धर्मनिरपेक्षता का उल्लंघन करता है।
- The **Supreme Court** will decide the **constitutional validity** of **CAA, 2019**. Meanwhile, the government must ensure that its **implementation does not create undue hardships** for **Muslim citizens**.



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सुप्रीम कोर्ट CAA, 2019 की संवैधानिक वैधता पर निर्णय करेगा। इस बीच, सरकार को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि इसकी लागू प्रक्रिया मुस्लिम नागरिकों के लिए कठिनाइयाँ न उत्पन्न करे।

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

- 1. Budget's tariff tweaks will correct bad optics / बजट के टैरिफ संशोधन से नकारात्मक छवि सुधरेगी**
- 2. Haryana govt. declares paid holiday on February 5 / हरियाणा सरकार ने 5 फरवरी को सवेतन अवकाश घोषित किया**
- 3. Beyond tax cuts, a closer read of the Union Budget / कर कटौती से परे, केंद्रीय बजट का गहन विश्लेषण**
- 4. A Budget that is forward-looking and growth-oriented / आगे की सोच रखने वाला और विकासोन्मुख बजट**
- 5. Budget 2025 overlooks joblessness / 2025 का बजट बेरोजगारी की अनदेखी करता है**
- 6. Fossil Fuel Subsidies / कोयला ईंधन पर सब्सिडी**
- 7. Challenges Associated with AI-Driven Genetic Testing / एआई-चालित जेनेटिक टेस्टिंग से जुड़ी चुनौतियाँ**
- 8. Navigation satellite launched last week suffers malfunction / पिछले सप्ताह लॉन्च किया गया नेविगेशन सैटेलाइट खराबी का शिकार**
- 9. Small Modular Reactors: Pocket N-Plants / छोटे माँड्यूलर रिएक्टर: पॉकेट परमाणु संयंत्र**

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'Budget's tariff tweaks will correct bad optics'

Budget's tariff tweaks will correct bad optics

बजट के टैरिफ संशोधन से नकारात्मक छवि सुधरेगी

GS Paper III:

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The latest round of import tariff revisions announced in the Union Budget on Saturday has done away with the peak rates of 150%, 125%, and 100% which applied to just five items, but had created "bad optics" about the country's tariff

structure, top government officials told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Such high tariffs have led to criticism of the sort levelled by U.S. President Donald Trump, who has often clubbed India with China as a "tariff abuser".

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The latest round of import tariff revisions announced in the Union Budget on Saturday has done away with the peak rates of 150%, 125%, and 100%, which applied to just five items, but had created "bad optics" about the country's tariff structure, top government officials told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

शनिवार को केंद्रीय बजट में घोषित आयात शुल्क संशोधन ने 150%, 125% और 100% की उच्चतम दरों को हटा दिया है, जो

केवल पांच वस्तुओं पर लागू थीं, लेकिन इससे देश के टैरिफ ढांचे की "नकारात्मक छवि" बन रही थी, यह बात रविवार को शीर्ष सरकारी अधिकारियों ने द हिंदू को बताई।

- Such high tariffs have led to criticism of the sort leveled by U.S. President Donald Trump, who has often clubbed India with China as a "tariff abuser".

इतने अधिक टैरिफ की आलोचना अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा भी की गई है, जो अक्सर भारत को चीन के साथ जोड़कर "टैरिफ दुरुपयोगकर्ता" कहते रहे हैं।

Haryana govt. declares paid holiday on February 5

हरियाणा सरकार ने 5 फरवरी को सवेतन अवकाश घोषित किया

- The Haryana government on Sunday declared a paid holiday in all public offices, academic institutions, boards, and corporations on February 5 for the Assembly election in Delhi.

हरियाणा सरकार ने रविवार को दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव के लिए 5 फरवरी को सभी सरकारी कार्यालयों, शैक्षणिक संस्थानों, बोर्डों और निगमों में सवेतन अवकाश घोषित किया।

- The holiday will allow employees of the State government, who are registered voters of Delhi, to exercise their franchise.

यह अवकाश राज्य सरकार के उन कर्मचारियों को अपने मताधिकार का प्रयोग करने की अनुमति देगा, जो दिल्ली के पंजीकृत मतदाता हैं।

- "This provision, under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and Section 135-B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (amended in 1996), applies to employees who are registered voters of NCT of Delhi, allowing them to cast their vote," read an official statement.

"परक्राम्य लिखत अधिनियम, 1881 की धारा 25 और जनप्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा

Haryana govt. declares paid holiday on February 5

GS Paper II:
Elections
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government on Sunday declared a paid holiday in all public offices, academic institutions, boards and corporations on February 5 for the Assembly election in Delhi.

The holiday will allow employees of the State government, who are registered voters of Delhi, to exercise their franchise.

"This provision, under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and Section 135-B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (amended in 1996), applies to employees who are registered voters of NCT of Delhi, allowing them to cast their vote," read an official statement.

Employees of factories, shops, and private establishments in Haryana who are registered voters of Delhi are also entitled to paid leaves for the purpose, it further said.



135-B (संशोधित 1996 में) के तहत यह प्रावधान लागू होता है। यह एनसीटी दिल्ली के पंजीकृत मतदाता कर्मचारियों को मतदान करने की अनुमति देता है, "एक आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया।

- **Employees of factories, shops, and private establishments** in Haryana who are registered voters of Delhi are also entitled to paid leave for the purpose, it further said.

हरियाणा में कारखानों, दुकानों और निजी प्रतिष्ठानों के कर्मचारी, जो दिल्ली के पंजीकृत मतदाता हैं, वे भी सवेतन अवकाश के पात्र होंगे, यह आगे कहा गया।

Beyond tax cuts, a closer read of the Union Budget

GS Paper III: Budget

The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman's presentation of the Union Budget on Saturday, February 1, was against the backdrop of pressing macroeconomic challenges – persistently high taxes and unemployment squeezing the middle-income class, subdued private investment, mounting external vulnerabilities that threaten to derail the growth story, and a looming fiscal overhang. While the Finance Minister laid out an ambitious road map for Viksit Bharat, spanning agriculture, manufacturing, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), social welfare, and infrastructure, the Budget's policy announcements and fiscal plans need closer scrutiny.

Targets that raise questions

First, the fiscal consolidation target of 4.4% of GDP in FY26 is a key highlight of the Budget. However, achieving this target hinges on ambitious revenue projections, including a 11.2% growth in total tax revenues and a 14.4% increase in income tax revenues compared to FY25 estimates. These assumptions appear overly optimistic given the significant tax cuts announced in the Budget and the prevailing economic headwinds such as softening domestic consumption and weakening external demand. Much will also depend on the success of the second asset monetisation plan (2025-30), announced in the Budget. The underperformance of the previous asset monetisation programme raises valid concerns. Furthermore, the estimated ₹11.54 lakh crore in net market borrowings risks crowding out private capital at a critical juncture when credit demand remains tepid. Achieving the ambitious revenue targets will require improved tax buoyancy, more efficient tax administration, and realistic asset monetisation strategies to ensure that the fiscal consolidation plan remains on track.

Second, the revisions in personal income-tax rates and slabs under the new tax regime, exempting incomes up to ₹12 lakh from tax (after factoring in the rebate benefit), and significantly reducing tax liabilities across various income brackets, offer welcome relief to middle-income taxpayers.

However, while these changes are likely to boost disposable income, they shall come at a cost – of ₹1 lakh crore in foregone direct tax revenue, which, in turn, could constrain the government's ability to fund critical developmental initiatives. The tax-base erosion also comes when household savings have shown



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Many of the measures, in manufacturing, agriculture and climate action, lack rounded strategies

a structural decline over the past decade, dropping to 18.4% of GDP in FY23 (Economic Survey 2024-25). This raises pressing questions about the long-term sustainability of these tax cuts, particularly when public investments in infrastructure and social welfare remain critical to drive inclusive economic growth.

Third, on the manufacturing front, the Budget reiterates India's ambition to emerge as a global manufacturing powerhouse. The Economic Survey 2024-25 flagged India's underperformance in manufacturing, which accounts for a mere 17% of GDP. While production-linked incentives (PLIs) have shown moderate success in sectors such as electronics, their scalability and long-term impact remain uncertain. In that light, the Budget announcements on enhanced credit facilities for MSMEs and the launch of a National Manufacturing Mission aimed at improving ease of doing business, to foster a future-ready workforce, and promote clean-tech manufacturing, are important steps. The revision of MSME classification criteria – increasing investment limits by 2.5x and doubling turnover thresholds – may improve scale economies. However, the measures fall short of addressing core competitiveness issues such as regulatory inefficiencies, infrastructure gaps, and low innovation capacity. The absence of concrete measures to boost industrial research and development – currently at a dismal 0.64% of GDP – undermines India's ability to compete with innovation-driven economies such as China and Germany. While the Budget's focus on manufacturing is a step in the right direction, achieving global competitiveness will require deeper structural reforms and sustained investment in innovation and infrastructure.

The gaps remain in agriculture

Fourth, agriculture, a key pillar of the economy, received significant attention through initiatives such as the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the National Mission on High-Yielding Seeds. These measures are with the aim of enhancing productivity and climate resilience, which are critical for food security. The increase in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan limit from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh, along with targeted interventions in 100 low-productivity districts, signals a strategic pivot from blanket subsidies to precision support, empowering farmers with greater financial flexibility. However, the measures fall short of addressing systemic inefficiencies in agricultural markets. The Budget lays an emphasis on credit enhancements, yet the focus

on short-term loans perpetuates the dependency of farmers on debt without addressing the issues of price volatility or market access. Moreover, the absence of concrete measures to promote agricultural exports – particularly as India eyes leadership in millets and natural farming – represents a missed opportunity.

Fifth, while the Budget introduces some promising measures for the external sector, significant gaps remain unaddressed. Services exports, particularly in IT and business process outsourcing, continue to grow at a robust 10.5% CAGR, but budgetary efforts to diversify the export portfolio remain insufficient. Trade facilitation initiatives such as Bharat Trade Net (BTN) and export credit support for MSMEs, which were announced in the Budget, are positive steps but lack the scale required to tackle India's persistent trade deficits. Moreover, the challenges posed by the depreciation of the rupee and declining forex reserves require a more ambitious export strategy. The fiscal push to value-added sectors such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, renewable energy, and high-value agricultural products could have strengthened India's position in global supply chains and enhanced export competitiveness.

Not a transformative push

Finally, while the Budget signals intent on climate action and clean energy, its financial commitments reveal a cautious, incremental approach rather than a transformative push. The Budget's focus on supply-chain resilience – through incentives for lithium-ion battery recycling, duty exemptions on critical minerals, and support for domestic solar photovoltaic and battery manufacturing – is a pragmatic move to reduce import dependence. However, without a parallel investment in grid modernisation, energy storage, and industrial decarbonisation, the transition to a low-carbon economy will remain fragmented.

The Budget's fiscal outlays will eventually be judged by how effectively they address the fundamental trade-offs of Indian growth: how to unleash private enterprise while ensuring inclusive development; how to boost consumption without compromising savings, and how to accelerate growth while maintaining macroeconomic stability. Ultimately, the credibility of execution and the government's willingness to course-correct where necessary will matter.

The views expressed are personal



Beyond tax cuts, a closer read of the Union Budget कर कटौती से परे, केंद्रीय बजट का गहन विश्लेषण

The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget on February 1, 2025, amidst key macroeconomic challenges such as high taxes, unemployment, subdued private investment, and mounting external vulnerabilities.

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने 1 फरवरी 2025 को केंद्रीय बजट पेश किया, जो उच्च कर, बेरोजगारी, कमजोर निजी निवेश और बाहरी अस्थिरताओं जैसी प्रमुख समष्टि आर्थिक चुनौतियों के बीच था।

- The Budget outlined an ambitious **Viksit Bharat** roadmap focusing on **agriculture, manufacturing, MSMEs, social welfare, and infrastructure**.
बजट ने कृषि, विनिर्माण, सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (MSME), सामाजिक कल्याण और बुनियादी ढांचे पर केंद्रित एक महत्वाकांक्षी विकसित भारत रोडमैप प्रस्तुत किया।

Targets that raise questions

लक्ष्य जो सवाल खड़े करते हैं

- The **fiscal deficit target** for FY26 has been set at **4.4% of GDP**, but achieving it depends on **11.2% growth in total tax revenues** and **14.4% growth in income tax revenues**.
वित्तीय घाटे का लक्ष्य FY26 के लिए GDP का 4.4% रखा गया है, लेकिन इसे प्राप्त करने के लिए कुल कर राजस्व में 11.2% वृद्धि और आयकर राजस्व में 14.4% वृद्धि आवश्यक होगी।
- These revenue projections seem **overly optimistic** due to **significant tax cuts, softening domestic consumption, and weakening external demand**.
ये राजस्व पूर्वानुमान अत्यधिक आशावादी लगते हैं क्योंकि महत्वपूर्ण कर कटौती, घरेलू खपत में गिरावट और बाहरी मांग में कमजोरी बनी हुई है।
- The second **asset monetisation plan (2025-30)** aims to generate funds, but concerns arise due to **underperformance** of the previous programme.
द्वितीय परिसंपत्ति मुद्राकरण योजना (2025-30) के तहत धन जुटाने का लक्ष्य है, लेकिन पिछले कार्यक्रम के कमजोर प्रदर्शन को देखते हुए संदेह बना हुआ है।
- ₹11.54 lakh crore** in net market borrowings might **crowd out private capital**, especially when **credit demand remains low**.
₹11.54 लाख करोड़ की शुद्ध बाजार उधारी निजी पूंजी को प्रभावित कर सकती है, खासकर जब ऋण की मांग कम बनी हुई है।

Tax Reforms and Concerns



कर सुधार और चिंताएँ

- The **new personal income-tax regime** exempts incomes up to **₹12 lakh** (after rebate) and **reduces tax liabilities across multiple brackets**, benefiting the middle class.
नई व्यक्तिगत आयकर व्यवस्था ₹12 लाख तक की आय (छूट के बाद) को कर मुक्त करती है और विभिन्न आय वर्गों के लिए कर देनदारी कम करती है, जिससे मध्यम वर्ग को लाभ मिलेगा।
- However, this will lead to **₹1 lakh crore in foregone direct tax revenue**, potentially **limiting funds for developmental projects**.
हालांकि, इससे ₹1 लाख करोड़ का प्रत्यक्ष कर राजस्व नुकसान होगा, जिससे विकास परियोजनाओं के लिए धन की उपलब्धता सीमित हो सकती है।
- **Household savings** have structurally declined to **18.4% of GDP (FY23)**, raising concerns about the long-term impact of tax cuts.
घरेलू बचत संरचनात्मक रूप से घटकर FY23 में GDP का 18.4% रह गई है, जिससे कर कटौती के दीर्घकालिक प्रभावों को लेकर चिंता बढ़ रही है।

Manufacturing and MSMEs

विनिर्माण और MSMEs

- **Manufacturing contributes only 17% of GDP**, highlighting **underperformance** despite **Production-Linked Incentives (PLIs)** in sectors like electronics.
विनिर्माण का योगदान GDP में केवल 17% है, जिससे पता चलता है कि इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स जैसे क्षेत्रों में उत्पादन से जुड़े प्रोत्साहन (PLI) के बावजूद प्रदर्शन कमजोर है।
- The **National Manufacturing Mission** aims to **enhance MSME credit facilities, improve ease of doing business, and promote clean-tech manufacturing**.
राष्ट्रीय विनिर्माण मिशन का लक्ष्य MSME ऋण सुविधाओं को बढ़ाना, व्यापार करने में आसानी में सुधार करना और स्वच्छ-तकनीकी विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देना है।
- **Revised MSME classification** increases investment limits by 2.5 times and doubles turnover thresholds, potentially improving scale economies.
संशोधित MSME वर्गीकरण में निवेश सीमा 2.5 गुना बढ़ाई गई है और टर्नओवर की सीमा दोगुनी की गई है, जिससे आर्थिक पैमाने में सुधार हो सकता है।
- However, **regulatory inefficiencies, infrastructure gaps, and low innovation capacity** remain key challenges.
हालांकि, नियामक अक्षमताएँ, बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी और कम नवाचार क्षमता अभी भी प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ बनी हुई हैं।
- **R&D investment** remains at **0.64% of GDP**, much lower than innovation-driven economies like **China and Germany**, hindering global competitiveness.
अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) निवेश GDP का केवल 0.64% है, जो चीन और जर्मनी जैसी नवाचार-आधारित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की तुलना में काफी कम है, जिससे वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा प्रभावित हो रही है।



Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- While the **Budget focuses on key economic sectors**, achieving **sustained growth and global competitiveness** will require **structural reforms, improved tax administration, and increased R&D investments**.
बजट में प्रमुख आर्थिक क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान दिया गया है, लेकिन स्थायी वृद्धि और वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा प्राप्त करने के लिए संरचनात्मक सुधारों, कर प्रशासन में सुधार और अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) निवेश में वृद्धि की आवश्यकता होगी।

The gaps remain in agriculture

कृषि में बनी हुई खामियां

- **Agriculture**, a key pillar of the economy, received significant attention through initiatives such as **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** and the **National Mission on High-Yielding Seeds**.
 - कृषि, जो अर्थव्यवस्था का एक प्रमुख स्तंभ है, को प्रधानमंत्री धन-धान्य कृषि योजना और उच्च उपज वाले बीजों के लिए राष्ट्रीय मिशन जैसी पहलों के माध्यम से महत्वपूर्ण ध्यान मिला।
- These measures aim to enhance **productivity and climate resilience**, which are critical for **food security**.
 - ये उपाय उत्पादकता और जलवायु लचीलापन बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से हैं, जो खाद्य सुरक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- The increase in **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan limit** from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh, along with targeted interventions in **100 low-productivity districts**, signals a strategic pivot from **blanket subsidies to precision support**.
 - किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड (KCC) ऋण सीमा को ₹3 लाख से बढ़ाकर ₹5 लाख कर दिया गया है, और 100 कम उत्पादकता वाले जिलों में लक्षित हस्तक्षेप के साथ, यह सार्वभौमिक सब्सिडी से सटीक समर्थन की ओर एक रणनीतिक बदलाव को दर्शाता है।
- However, these measures **do not address systemic inefficiencies in agricultural markets**.
 - हालांकि, ये उपाय कृषि बाजारों में प्रणालीगत अक्षमताओं को संबोधित नहीं करते।
- The **Budget emphasizes credit enhancements**, but focusing only on **short-term loans** increases farmers' dependency on **debt**, without solving **price volatility or market access** issues.
 - बजट में ऋण संवर्द्धन पर जोर दिया गया है, लेकिन केवल स्वल्पकालिक ऋण पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने से किसानों की ऋण पर निर्भरता बढ़ती है, जबकि मूल्य अस्थिरता या बाजार पहुंच की समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं होता।



- There is **no concrete policy to promote agricultural exports**, even as India aims for leadership in millets and natural farming.
 - कृषि निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कोई ठोस नीति नहीं है, जबकि भारत मोटे अनाज और प्राकृतिक खेती में नेतृत्व का लक्ष्य रखता है।

Gaps in External Sector Measures

बाह्य क्षेत्र में बनी खामियां

- **Services exports**, particularly IT and BPO sectors, continue to grow at **10.5% CAGR**, but efforts to **diversify the export portfolio** remain insufficient.
 - सेवा निर्यात, विशेष रूप से आईटी और बीपीओ क्षेत्र, 10.5% की वार्षिक चक्रवृद्धि वृद्धि दर (CAGR) से बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन निर्यात पोर्टफोलियो में विविधता लाने के प्रयास अपर्याप्त हैं।
- **Trade facilitation initiatives** like Bharat Trade Net (BTN) and **export credit support for MSMEs** are positive, but they lack the **scale to address India's trade deficits**.
 - भारत व्यापार नेट (BTN) और MSME के लिए निर्यात ऋण सहायता जैसी व्यापार सुविधा पहल सकारात्मक हैं, लेकिन भारत के व्यापार घाटे को संबोधित करने के लिए इनकी क्षमता अपर्याप्त है।
- **Rupee depreciation and declining forex reserves** pose additional challenges, requiring a **more ambitious export strategy**.
 - रुपये का अवमूल्यन और घटते विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार अतिरिक्त चुनौतियाँ पेश करते हैं, जिससे अधिक महत्वाकांक्षी निर्यात रणनीति की आवश्यकता होती है।
- A **fiscal push for pharmaceuticals, electronics, renewable energy, and high-value agricultural products** could have improved **global supply chain positioning** and **export competitiveness**.
 - फार्मास्यूटिकल्स, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और उच्च मूल्य वाली कृषि उत्पादों के लिए वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन से वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में भारत की स्थिति और निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बेहतर हो सकती थी।

Not a Transformative Push

बदलाव लाने वाला नहीं है यह बजट

- Budget's approach to climate action and clean energy is **incremental, not transformative**.
 - जलवायु कार्रवाई और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के प्रति बजट का दृष्टिकोण क्रांतिकारी नहीं, बल्कि धीरे-धीरे आगे बढ़ने वाला है।
- Focus on **supply-chain resilience** includes incentives for **lithium-ion battery recycling**, **duty exemptions on critical minerals**, and **support for domestic solar photovoltaic and battery manufacturing**.



- आपूर्ति श्रृंखला लचीलेपन पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के लिए लिथियम-आयन बैटरी पुनर्चक्रण, महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों पर कर छूट, और घरेलू सौर फोटोवोल्टिक और बैटरी निर्माण के लिए समर्थन जैसी योजनाएं शामिल हैं।
- However, **without investments in grid modernization, energy storage, and industrial decarbonization**, the transition to a **low-carbon economy will remain fragmented**.
 - हालांकि, ग्रिड आधुनिकीकरण, ऊर्जा भंडारण, और औद्योगिक डीकार्बोनाइजेशन में निवेश के बिना, निम्न-कार्बन अर्थव्यवस्था की ओर संक्रमण अधूरा रहेगा।
- The **Budget's fiscal outlays** will be judged by how effectively they address **India's fundamental trade-offs**:
 - बजट के वित्तीय प्रावधानों को इस आधार पर आंका जाएगा कि वे भारत की बुनियादी चुनौतियों को कितनी प्रभावी रूप से हल करते हैं:
 - How to **unleash private enterprise** while ensuring **inclusive development**?
 - निजी उद्यम को कैसे बढ़ावा दिया जाए, साथ ही समावेशी विकास भी सुनिश्चित हो?
 - How to **boost consumption** without compromising **savings**?
 - बचत से समझौता किए बिना खपत कैसे बढ़ाई जाए?
 - How to **accelerate growth** while maintaining **macroeconomic stability**?
 - मैक्रोइकॉनॉमिक स्थिरता बनाए रखते हुए विकास को कैसे तेज किया जाए?
- Ultimately, the **credibility of execution** and the **government's ability to course-correct** will determine the budget's success.
 - अंततः, क्रियान्वयन की विश्वसनीयता और सरकार की सुधारात्मक कदम उठाने की क्षमता इस बजट की सफलता को निर्धारित करेगी।



A Budget that is forward-looking and growth-oriented

GS Paper III: Budget

The Union Budget 2025-26 is in line with the government's sustained efforts over the past few years to bolster economic growth and development. The provisions of the Budget indicate the continuation of the government's strategic approach toward economic expansion, fiscal prudence, and sectoral growth.

The multiplier effects of the IT cuts

One of announcements in the Budget that has been most widely welcomed is the significant cut in personal income-tax, with complete exemption extended to individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh per year. This limit will be ₹12.75 lakh for salaried tax-payers because of the standard deduction of ₹75,000. This is a major relief for the middle class, and is expected to have a multiplier effect on the economy.

Higher disposable income can trigger a virtuous cycle of higher consumption, increased demand, and improved business performance. This, in turn, will result in higher indirect tax collections and further economic expansion. Specifically, greater consumer spending will benefit industries such as retail, real estate, and automobile manufacturing, boosting employment opportunities.

Another key highlight of the Budget is the allocation of ₹11.2 lakh crore for capital expenditure for 2025-26, marking an increase of nearly 10% from the actual expenditure in the current fiscal year. This enhanced spending can drive infrastructure development, boost employment generation, and catalyse economic activity across sectors. And, of course, it strengthens the nation's logistical and industrial backbone, ensuring long-term sustainable growth.

In a major thrust to manufacturing, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, has also announced the establishment of a National Manufacturing Mission. The aim is to promote the 'Make in India' initiative by covering small, medium, and large industries, providing policy support, execution road maps, and governance frameworks in collaboration with central Ministries and States. The mission is expected to



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There is every indication that the approach toward economic expansion, fiscal prudence and sectoral growth will continue

enhance domestic capabilities, reduce import dependency, and encourage foreign investment. While the finer details are yet to be examined, it appears to be a well-conceived initiative. By streamlining regulatory processes, offering incentives, and creating an enabling business environment, this initiative has the potential to position India as a global manufacturing hub.

Focus on labour-intensive sectors

In consonance with the government's commitment to job creation, the Budget is focused on labour-intensive sectors such as tourism, food processing and leather. These industries have historically been major employment generators and contribute substantially to India's export earnings. By providing targeted incentives and streamlining regulations, the Budget aims to enhance productivity, improve competitiveness, and create new job opportunities in these sectors.

On the infrastructure side, we see the Budget focus on the maritime sector through the announcement of a new Maritime Development Fund. This will give a boost to the marine economy, especially in the coastal States of the country, creating growth opportunities for both trade and the blue economy-related segments. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has also noted with interest the plan for flight connectivity to 120 new destinations under a modified Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme as this too will enable new economic opportunities in newly connected regions of the country as emerging growth centres.

The Budget has introduced the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, a targeted initiative designed to enhance agricultural productivity and improve rural livelihoods. The programme will cover 100 districts with low productivity, moderate crop intensity, and below-average credit access, in partnership with State governments.

This initiative aims to promote crop diversification and sustainable agricultural practices, enhance post-harvest storage infrastructure, improve irrigation facilities, and

facilitate access to credit. With an estimated 1.7 crore farmer-beneficiaries, this has the potential to transform the agricultural landscape, increase rural incomes, and drive economic activity in India's hinterlands. Higher rural purchasing power will indirectly benefit the corporate sector, particularly those involved in consumer goods and agricultural supply chains.

Another commendable aspect of the Budget is the government's resolve to reduce the fiscal deficit from 4.8% in 2024-25 to 4.4% in 2025-26. This move is critical as sound public finance management is a *sine qua non* for sustained economic growth. A lower fiscal deficit will help stabilise inflation, increase investor confidence, and create a more robust macroeconomic environment.

A boost to ease of doing business

Rationalisation of the duty structure and simplification of the tariff framework by removing an additional seven tariff rates is a noteworthy announcement. While this may sound simple, it is a major step towards simplification and enhancing ease of doing business for industry. The rationalisation of cess by ensuring that no more than one cess or surcharge would be levied is a crucial step toward ensuring a fairer and more predictable taxation regime, benefiting both industry and consumers. The Budget has also addressed the issue of inverted duty structure for some products, which is a welcome step. This would enhance trade competitiveness and encourage greater participation of domestic firms in global supply chains.

The continued focus on capital expenditure, manufacturing, and labour-intensive sectors, combined with fiscal prudence and income-tax relief, sets the stage for robust growth in the years ahead.

While the finer details of various schemes and policies will need closer examination, the overarching framework of the Budget suggests a proactive, forward-looking, and growth-oriented strategy. As businesses and stakeholders begin to analyse and adapt to the new measures, the true impact of Budget 2025-26 will unfold in the next few months.

A Budget that is forward-looking and growth-oriented

आगे की सोच रखने वाला और विकासोन्मुख बजट

The Union Budget 2025-26 aligns with the government's sustained efforts to bolster economic growth and development.

केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 सरकार के आर्थिक विकास और प्रगति को मजबूत करने के सतत प्रयासों के अनुरूप है।



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- The provisions of the Budget indicate the **continuation of the government's strategic approach** towards **economic expansion, fiscal prudence, and sectoral growth**.
बजट के प्रावधान सरकार के आर्थिक विस्तार, वित्तीय सतर्कता और क्षेत्रीय विकास की रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण की निरंतरता को दर्शाते हैं।

The multiplier effects of the IT cuts

आयकर कटौती के गुणक प्रभाव

- One of the most widely welcomed announcements is the **significant cut in personal income-tax, with complete exemption extended to individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh per year**.
बजट में सबसे अधिक सराही गई घोषणाओं में से एक है व्यक्तिगत आयकर में महत्वपूर्ण कटौती, जिसमें ₹12 लाख प्रति वर्ष तक कमाने वाले व्यक्तियों को पूरी तरह छूट दी गई है।
- This limit is **₹12.75 lakh for salaried taxpayers** due to the **standard deduction of ₹75,000**.
वेतनभोगी करदाताओं के लिए यह सीमा ₹12.75 लाख होगी, क्योंकि उन्हें ₹75,000 का मानक कटौती मिलेगा।
- This is a **major relief for the middle class** and is expected to have a **multiplier effect on the economy**.
यह मध्यम वर्ग के लिए बड़ी राहत है और इससे अर्थव्यवस्था पर गुणक प्रभाव पड़ने की संभावना है।
- Higher disposable income** can trigger a **virtuous cycle of higher consumption, increased demand, and improved business performance**.
अधिक डिस्पोजेबल आय से अधिक खपत, बढ़ी हुई मांग और बेहतर व्यावसायिक प्रदर्शन का सकारात्मक चक्र शुरू हो सकता है।
- This will result in **higher indirect tax collections and further economic expansion**.
इससे अप्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रहण में वृद्धि होगी और अर्थव्यवस्था का विस्तार होगा।
- Greater consumer spending will benefit **industries like retail, real estate, and automobile manufacturing, boosting employment opportunities**.
अधिक उपभोक्ता खर्च से खुदरा, रियल एस्टेट और ऑटोमोबाइल विनिर्माण जैसे उद्योगों को लाभ मिलेगा और रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ेंगे।

Capital Expenditure and Infrastructure Development

पूंजीगत व्यय और अवसंरचना विकास

- The Budget allocates **₹11.2 lakh crore for capital expenditure for 2025-26**, marking a **10% increase** from the actual expenditure of the current fiscal year.
बजट में 2025-26 के लिए पूंजीगत व्यय हेतु ₹11.2 लाख करोड़ आवंटित किए गए हैं, जो चालू वित्त वर्ष के वास्तविक व्यय से 10% अधिक है।

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- This enhanced spending can drive infrastructure development, boost employment generation, and catalyze economic activity across sectors.

यह बढ़ा हुआ व्यय अवसंरचना विकास, रोजगार सृजन को बढ़ावा देने और विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में आर्थिक गतिविधियों को गति देने में सहायक होगा।

- Strengthening the nation's logistical and industrial backbone ensures long-term sustainable growth.

देश की लॉजिस्टिक्स और औद्योगिक आधारभूत संरचना को मजबूत करने से दीर्घकालिक सतत विकास सुनिश्चित होगा।

National Manufacturing Mission

राष्ट्रीय विनिर्माण मिशन

- The Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced the establishment of a **National Manufacturing Mission** to promote the 'Make in India' initiative.

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने 'मेक इन इंडिया' पहल को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राष्ट्रीय विनिर्माण मिशन की स्थापना की घोषणा की।

- It will cover **small, medium, and large industries**, providing **policy support, execution roadmaps, and governance frameworks** in collaboration with **central Ministries and States**.

यह छोटे, मध्यम और बड़े उद्योगों को शामिल करेगा और नीति समर्थन, कार्यान्वयन रोडमैप और शासन ढांचा प्रदान करेगा, जिसे केंद्र सरकार और राज्यों के साथ मिलकर लागू किया जाएगा।

- The mission is expected to **enhance domestic capabilities, reduce import dependency, and encourage foreign investment**.

इस मिशन से घरेलू क्षमताओं में वृद्धि, आयात निर्भरता में कमी और विदेशी निवेश को प्रोत्साहन मिलने की उम्मीद है।

- By **streamlining regulatory processes, offering incentives, and creating an enabling business environment**, this initiative has the potential to **position India as a global manufacturing hub**.

नियामक प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने, प्रोत्साहन प्रदान करने और अनुकूल व्यावसायिक वातावरण बनाने के माध्यम से यह पहल भारत को एक वैश्विक विनिर्माण केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित कर सकती है।

Focus on labour-intensive sectors

श्रम-गहन क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना

- In consonance with the government's commitment to job creation, the Budget is focused on labour-intensive sectors such as **tourism, food processing, and leather**.

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सरकार की रोजगार सृजन की प्रतिबद्धता के अनुरूप, बजट में पर्यटन, खाद्य प्रसंस्करण और चमड़े जैसे श्रम-गहन क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है।

- These industries have historically been **major employment generators** and contribute substantially to India's **export earnings**.

इन उद्योगों ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से **मुख्य रोजगार उत्पन्न करने वाले** रहे हैं और भारत की **निर्यात आय** में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है।

- By providing **targeted incentives** and **streamlining regulations**, the Budget aims to enhance **productivity**, improve **competitiveness**, and create new **job opportunities** in these sectors.

लक्ष्य-निर्धारित प्रोत्साहन और नियमों का सरलीकरण प्रदान करके, बजट का उद्देश्य इन क्षेत्रों में **उत्पादकता, प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता** को बढ़ाना और **नई रोजगार अवसरों का सृजन** करना है।

On the infrastructure side, we see the Budget focus on the maritime sector through the announcement of a new Maritime Development Fund.

संरचना पक्ष पर, हम बजट को समुद्री क्षेत्र पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए एक नए समुद्री विकास निधि की घोषणा करते हुए देख रहे हैं।

- This will give a boost to the **marine economy**, especially in the **coastal States** of the country, creating **growth opportunities** for both **trade** and the **blue economy-related segments**.

यह **समुद्री अर्थव्यवस्था** को बढ़ावा देगा, विशेष रूप से देश के **सांस्कृतिक राज्यों** में, **व्यापार और ब्लू अर्थव्यवस्था संबंधित क्षेत्रों** के लिए **वृद्धि के अवसर** उत्पन्न करेगा।

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) has also noted with interest the plan for **flight connectivity** to **120 new destinations** under a modified **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** scheme.

भारतीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंडल (FICCI) ने भी रुचि के साथ देखा है कि **उड़ान योजना** के तहत **120 नए गंतव्यों** के लिए **उड़ान कनेक्टिविटी** का योजना है।

- This too will enable new **economic opportunities** in newly connected regions of the country as emerging **growth centres**.

यह भी देश के **newly जुड़े क्षेत्रों** में **नई आर्थिक अवसरों का सृजन** करेगा जो **विकास केन्द्र** के रूप में उभर रहे हैं।

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

प्रधानमंत्री धन-धान्य कृषि योजना

- The Budget has introduced the **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana**, a targeted initiative designed to enhance **agricultural productivity** and improve **rural livelihoods**.



बजट में प्रधानमंत्री धन-धान्य कृषि योजना को पेश किया गया है, जो कृषि उत्पादकता को बढ़ाने और ग्रामीण आजीविका में सुधार करने के लिए एक लक्षित पहल है।

- The programme will cover **100 districts** with low productivity, moderate crop intensity, and below-average credit access, in partnership with **State governments**.

यह कार्यक्रम **100 जिलों** को कवर करेगा जो कम उत्पादकता, मध्यम फसल घनत्व, और राज्य सरकारों के साथ साझेदारी में औसत से कम ऋण उपलब्धता वाले हैं।

- This initiative aims to promote **crop diversification** and **sustainable agricultural practices**, enhance **post-harvest storage infrastructure**, improve **irrigation facilities**, and facilitate **access to credit**.

इस पहल का उद्देश्य फसल विविधीकरण और सतत कृषि प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देना, पोस्ट-हार्वैस्ट भंडारण बुनियादी ढांचे को बढ़ाना, सिंचाई सुविधाओं को सुधारना, और ऋण प्राप्ति को सुगम बनाना है।

- With an estimated **1.7 crore farmer-beneficiaries**, this has the potential to transform the **agricultural landscape**, increase **rural incomes**, and drive economic activity in India's **hinterlands**.

अनुमानित **1.7 करोड़ किसान-लाभार्थियों** के साथ, इसमें कृषि परिदृश्य को बदलने, ग्रामीण आय में वृद्धि करने और भारत के आंतरिक क्षेत्रों में आर्थिक गतिविधि को बढ़ाने की संभावना है।

- Higher **rural purchasing power** will indirectly benefit the **corporate sector**, particularly those involved in **consumer goods** and **agricultural supply chains**.

उच्च ग्रामीण क्रय शक्ति अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कॉर्पोरेट क्षेत्र को लाभान्वित करेगी, विशेष रूप से उन क्षेत्रों को जो उपभोक्ता वस्त्र और कृषि आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं में शामिल हैं।

Fiscal Deficit Reduction

राजकोषीय घाटे में कमी

- Another commendable aspect of the Budget is the government's resolve to reduce the **fiscal deficit** from **4.8%** in 2024-25 to **4.4%** in 2025-26.

बजट का एक और सराहनीय पहलू यह है कि सरकार ने राजकोषीय घाटे को **2024-25 में 4.8%** से **2025-26 में 4.4%** तक घटाने का संकल्प लिया है।

- This move is critical as sound **public finance management** is a sine qua non for sustained **economic growth**.

यह कदम महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि सार्वजनिक वित्त प्रबंधन स्थिर आर्थिक विकास के लिए एक जरूरी शर्त है।

- A lower fiscal deficit will help stabilize **inflation**, increase **investor confidence**, and create a more robust **macroeconomic environment**.

निम्न राजकोषीय घाटा महंगाई को स्थिर करने में मदद करेगा, निवेशक विश्वास को बढ़ाएगा, और एक मजबूत मक्रो-आर्थिक वातावरण सृजित करेगा।



Boost to Ease of Doing Business

व्यापार करने में सुगमता में वृद्धि

- **Rationalisation of the duty structure** and simplification of the **tariff framework** by removing an additional **seven tariff rates** is a noteworthy announcement.
कस्टम शुल्क संरचना की सामान्यीकरण और टैरिफ ढांचे की सरलीकरण जिसमें अतिरिक्त सात शुल्क दरों को हटाना एक महत्वपूर्ण घोषणा है।
- While this may sound simple, it is a major step towards simplification and enhancing **ease of doing business** for industry.
हालाँकि यह सरल लगता है, यह उद्योग के लिए व्यापार करने में सुगमता को बढ़ाने और सरलीकरण की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम है।
- The rationalisation of **cess** by ensuring that no more than one **cess or surcharge** would be levied is a crucial step toward ensuring a fairer and more predictable taxation regime.
सेस की सामान्यीकरण यह सुनिश्चित करके किया गया कि एक सेस या अधिभार से अधिक नहीं लगाया जाएगा, यह एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है जो एक न्यायपूर्ण और पूर्वानुमानित कराधान शासन सुनिश्चित करेगा।
- The Budget has also addressed the issue of **inverted duty structure** for some products, which is a welcome step.
बजट ने कुछ उत्पादों के लिए उलटे शुल्क संरचना के मुद्दे को भी संबोधित किया है, जो एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है।
- This would enhance **trade competitiveness** and encourage greater participation of **domestic firms in global supply chains**.
यह व्यापार प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को बढ़ावा देगा और घरेलू कंपनियों को वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं में अधिक भागीदारी के लिए प्रेरित करेगा।

Focus on Capital Expenditure, Manufacturing, and Labour-intensive Sectors

पूंजी व्यय, विनिर्माण और श्रम-गहन क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान

- The continued focus on **capital expenditure, manufacturing, and labour-intensive sectors**, combined with **fiscal prudence and income-tax relief**, sets the stage for robust growth in the years ahead.
पूंजी व्यय, विनिर्माण और श्रम-गहन क्षेत्रों पर निरंतर ध्यान केंद्रित करना, साथ में राजकोषीय विवेकशीलता और आयकर राहत आगामी वर्षों में मजबूत वृद्धि की दिशा तय करता है।
- While the finer details of various schemes and policies will need closer examination, the overarching framework of the Budget suggests a proactive, forward-looking, and growth-oriented strategy.
जबकि विभिन्न योजनाओं और नीतियों के छोटे विवरणों की गहरी जांच की आवश्यकता होगी, बजट का व्यापक ढांचा एक सक्रिय, भविष्यवादी, और विकास-उन्मुख रणनीति का सुझाव देता है।



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- As businesses and stakeholders begin to analyse and adapt to the new measures, the true impact of **Budget 2025-26** will unfold in the next few months.
जैसे-जैसे व्यवसाय और हितधारक नए उपायों का विश्लेषण करना और अनुकूलित करना शुरू करेंगे, **बजट 2025-26** का वास्तविक प्रभाव आने वाले कुछ महीनों में सामने आएगा।

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Budget 2025 overlooks joblessness

GS Paper III: Budget

The previous Budget, presented in July 2024 after the Lok Sabha election, had accorded priority to employment and skill development, given the nature of the election mandate. The Finance Minister had announced a Prime Minister's Package of five schemes and initiatives to facilitate job and internship opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a five-year period with a central outlay of ₹2 lakh crore. However, the Budget speech delivered in Parliament on February 1, 2025, did not refer to the Prime Minister's Package even once. The document on implementation of Budget 2024-25 announcements states that a "draft Cabinet note on Employment Linked Incentive scheme is under finalisation" and "several meetings have been held with the Ministry of Labour and CII to discuss the relationship between capital expenditure and employment generation". In other words, the future of the scheme looks bleak.

Deflationary budget

The September 2024 report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) revealed that in 2023-24, the youth unemployment rate (for those aged 15-29 years) had increased to 10.2% and the unemployment rate among graduates was 13%. Time series data from the PLFS show that the share of the workforce engaged in regular or salaried employment in the post-pandemic period has shrunk, while the share engaged in agriculture and informal self-employment has risen.

The latest Economic Survey also shows that average real earnings of self-employed male workers in India fell from ₹9,454 in 2017-18 to ₹8,591 in 2023-24. The monthly real wages of regular/salaried male workers also fell from an average of ₹12,665 in 2017-18 to ₹11,858 in 2023-24. Surplus labour inundating the job market, combined with high food inflation, have severely squeezed the real incomes and livelihoods of



Prasenjit Bose

Economist and activist

Tax breaks for income tax payers along with cuts in capital and welfare expenditure are unlikely to raise the living standards of the vast majority of working people

an overwhelming majority of India's workforce. For a Finance Minister to overlook this is disingenuous.

The advanced estimates of GDP have already projected a decline of the real GDP growth rate to 6.4% in 2024-25 from 8.2% last year. In keeping with this, there is a slowdown in the Centre's net tax revenues in 2024-25. With the Finance Minister keen on adhering to the fiscal consolidation path, the axe has fallen on government expenditure. Total expenditure is now likely to be over ₹1 lakh crore short of Budget Estimates (BE), with capital expenditure falling short of the target by over ₹92,000 crore.

Public expenditure on rural and urban development, agriculture, education, food subsidy, energy, transport, and health are all being axed. Among centrally sponsored schemes, the Revised Estimates (RE) for the Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (both rural and urban) show declines of ₹47,469 crore and ₹38,575 crore, respectively, from their BE. The expenditure on MGNREGA was cut in the BE itself by ₹3,654 crore from the previous year. Such deep cuts in budgeted capital and welfare expenditures would have a dampening effect on investment and consumption, especially in rural areas.

The Finance Minister has sought to counterbalance the deflationary impact of these expenditure cuts by enhancing the annual rebate for income tax payers from ₹7 lakh to ₹12 lakh from 2025-26. Data from the Income Tax Department show that only around 2.8 crore individuals had paid positive taxes in the assessment year 2023-24, out of the 7.54 crore filing income tax returns. The income tax relief for next year would therefore go to 2.8 crore individuals, who form only around 22% of India's salaried workforce. For the rest who are faced with dwindling real incomes, there is nothing on offer.

The Finance Minister has estimated the revenue foregone on

account of the income tax rebate to be ₹1 lakh crore. Instead, a cut of a similar magnitude in indirect taxes, such as the exorbitant excise duties on fuel or the central GST rates on mass consumption goods, could have provided relief to the entire class of working people. It is well known that the consumption propensity of wage earners is higher than that of the profit earners.

The average daily wage rate actually received by a MGNREGA worker (as per data provided by Ministry of Rural Development dashboard) has increased from ₹200.71 in 2019-20 to ₹252.31 in 2024-25. The national floor level minimum wage for unskilled workers in agriculture, in contrast, has been set at ₹452 in 2024-25. A well deserved, substantial hike in the MGNREGA wages in the Union Budget alongside an increase in rural development outlays would have led to increased consumption demand in the rural areas. The consumption effect of income tax breaks, in contrast, would be far more limited and concentrated in urban areas.

Running out of ideas

The latest Economic Survey cites a private sector research report to show how the after tax profit-to-GDP ratio of Nifty 500 companies surged from 2.1% in 2020-21 to 4.8% in 2023-24. While the deep corporate tax cut of September 2019 played a vital role in this profit surge, it has neither translated into higher levels of private corporate investment, nor employment generation.

Yet, the 2025 Union Budget has relied upon another tax break, this time for income tax payers, to inject demand into the economy, even while cutting capital and welfare expenditures to compress the fiscal deficit. This is unlikely to generate higher levels of economic growth and employment and raise the living standards of the vast majority of the working people. It is evident that the government has run out of ideas on the economic front.



Budget 2025 overlooks joblessness

2025 का बजट बेरोजगारी की अनदेखी करता है

- The previous Budget, presented in **July 2024** after the **Lok Sabha election**, had accorded priority to **employment and skill development**, given the nature of the election mandate.
पिछले बजट में, जो **जुलाई 2024** में **लोकसभा चुनाव** के बाद प्रस्तुत किया गया था, चुनावी जनादेश को ध्यान में रखते हुए **रोज़गार और कौशल विकास** को प्राथमिकता दी गई थी।
- The Finance Minister had announced a **Prime Minister's Package** of five schemes and initiatives to facilitate **job and internship opportunities for 4.1 crore youth** over a **five-year period** with a **central outlay of ₹2 lakh crore**.
वित्त मंत्री ने **प्रधानमंत्री पैकेज** का ऐलान किया था, जिसमें **4.1 करोड़ युवाओं** के लिए **रोज़गार और इंटरनशिप** के अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए **₹2 लाख करोड़ के केंद्रीय आवंटन** के साथ पांच योजनाओं और पहलों का प्रस्ताव किया गया था।
- However, the Budget speech delivered in **Parliament on February 1, 2025**, did not refer to the **Prime Minister's Package** even once.
हालांकि, **1 फरवरी 2025** को **संसद** में दिया गया बजट भाषण में **प्रधानमंत्री पैकेज** का एक बार भी उल्लेख नहीं किया गया।
- The document on implementation of **Budget 2024-25** announcements states that a **“draft Cabinet note on Employment Linked Incentive scheme”** is under finalization and **“several meetings have been held with the Ministry of Labour and CII to discuss the relationship between capital expenditure and employment generation”**.
बजट **2024-25** की घोषणाओं के कार्यान्वयन पर दस्तावेज़ में कहा गया है कि **“रोज़गार लिंक्ड प्रोत्साहन योजना पर मसौदा कैबिनेट नोट”** अंतिम रूप दिए जाने के तहत है और **“पूँजीगत व्यय और रोजगार सृजन के संबंध पर श्रम मंत्रालय और CII के साथ कई बैठकें की गई हैं”**।
- In other words, the future of the scheme looks **bleak**.
दूसरे शब्दों में, योजना का भविष्य **अंधकारमय** लगता है।

Deflationary budget

वित्तीय मंदी का बजट

- The **September 2024** report of the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** revealed that in **2023-24**, the **youth unemployment rate** (for those aged **15-29 years**) had increased to **10.2%** and the unemployment rate among **graduates** was **13%**.
सितंबर 2024 की **पीरियडिक लेबर फोर्स सर्वे (PLFS)** की रिपोर्ट में खुलासा हुआ कि **2023-24** में, **युवाओं की बेरोजगारी दर** (जो **15-29 साल आयु वर्ग** के हैं) बढ़कर **10.2%** हो गई और **स्नातकों में बेरोजगारी दर 13%** थी।
- Time series data from the **PLFS** show that the share of the workforce engaged in **regular or salaried employment** in the post-pandemic period has shrunk, while the



share engaged in **agriculture and informal self-employment** has risen.

PLFS से प्राप्त समय श्रृंखला डेटा से पता चलता है कि महामारी के बाद की अवधि में **नियमित या वेतनभोगी रोजगार** में लगे श्रमिकों का हिस्सा घट गया है, जबकि **कृषि और अनौपचारिक आत्म-रोजगार** में लगे श्रमिकों का हिस्सा बढ़ा है।

- The latest **Economic Survey** also shows that average **real earnings of self-employed male workers** in India fell from **₹9,454** in 2017-18 to **₹8,591** in 2023-24.

नवीनतम **आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण** में यह भी दिखाया गया है कि भारत में **स्व-रोजगार पुरुष श्रमिकों की औसत वास्तविक आय ₹9,454** (2017-18) से घटकर **₹8,591** (2023-24) हो गई है।

- The monthly **real wages of regular/salaried male workers** also fell from an average of **₹12,665** in 2017-18 to **₹11,858** in 2023-24.

नियमित/वेतनभोगी पुरुष श्रमिकों के मासिक वास्तविक वेतन भी ₹12,665 (2017-18) से घटकर **₹11,858** (2023-24) हो गए हैं।

- Surplus labour inundating the job market, combined with high **food inflation**, have severely squeezed the **real incomes and livelihoods** of an overwhelming majority of India's workforce.

श्रम की अधिकता जो नौकरी बाजार में घुस गई है, और उच्च **खाद्य महंगाई**, ने भारत के अधिकांश श्रमिकों की **वास्तविक आय और आजीविका** को गंभीर रूप से संकुचित कर दिया है।

- The **Finance Minister** has ignored this issue, which is disingenuous.

वित्त मंत्री ने इस मुद्दे की अनदेखी की है, जो कि अव्यक्तिपूर्ण है।

Deflationary impact of expenditure cuts

व्यय में कटौती का वित्तीय मंदी पर प्रभाव

- The **advanced estimates of GDP** have already projected a decline of the **real GDP growth rate** to **6.4%** in 2024-25 from **8.2%** last year.

GDP के अग्रिम अनुमान पहले ही वास्तविक **GDP वृद्धि दर** में पिछले साल के **8.2%** से 2024-25 में **6.4%** की गिरावट का पूर्वानुमान दे चुके हैं।

- In keeping with this, there is a **slowdown** in the Centre's **net tax revenues** in 2024-25. इसके साथ ही, 2024-25 में केंद्र की **सकल कर राजस्व** में मंदी आई है।

- With the Finance Minister keen on adhering to the **fiscal consolidation path**, the axe has fallen on government expenditure.

वित्त मंत्री के राजकोषीय समेकन पथ पर बने रहने की इच्छा के साथ, सरकारी खर्च में कटौती की गई है।

- Total expenditure is now likely to be over **₹1 lakh crore** short of **Budget Estimates (BE)**, with **capital expenditure** falling short of the target by over **₹92,000 crore**.

कुल खर्च अब **₹1 लाख करोड़** से अधिक **बजट अनुमान (BE)** से कम होने की संभावना है, जिसमें **पूंजीगत व्यय** लक्ष्य से **₹92,000 करोड़** से अधिक कम होगा।

- Public expenditure on **rural and urban development, agriculture, education, food subsidy, energy, transport, and health** are all being axed.



ग्रामीण और शहरी विकास, कृषि, शिक्षा, खाद्य सब्सिडी, ऊर्जा, परिवहन और स्वास्थ्य पर सार्वजनिक व्यय को कम किया जा रहा है।

- Among centrally sponsored schemes, the **Revised Estimates (RE)** for the **Jal Jeevan Mission** and **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** (both rural and urban) show declines of **₹47,469 crore** and **₹38,575 crore**, respectively, from their **Budget Estimates**.

केंद्रीय प्रायोजित योजनाओं में, **जल जीवन मिशन** और **प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना** (ग्रामीण और शहरी दोनों) के **संशोधित अनुमान (RE)** में **₹47,469 करोड़** और **₹38,575 करोड़** की कमी देखी गई है, जो उनके **बजट अनुमानों** से कम हैं।

- The expenditure on **MGNREGA** was cut in the **BE** itself by **₹3,654 crore** from the previous year.

MGNREGA पर व्यय को पिछले वर्ष से **₹3,654 करोड़** घटा दिया गया था।

- Such deep cuts in budgeted capital and welfare expenditures would have a **dampening effect** on investment and consumption, especially in rural areas.

बजट में पूंजीगत और कल्याणकारी खर्चों में इस प्रकार की गहरी कटौती से **निवेश और उपभोग** पर **शामक प्रभाव** पड़ेगा, विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में।

Impact of tax relief measures

कर राहत उपायों का प्रभाव

- The Finance Minister has sought to counterbalance the deflationary impact of these expenditure cuts by enhancing the **annual rebate for income tax payers** from **₹7 lakh** to **₹12 lakh** from **2025-26**.

वित्त मंत्री ने इन खर्च में कटौती के वित्तीय मंदी प्रभाव को **2025-26** से **₹7 लाख** से बढ़ाकर **₹12 लाख** तक **आयकरदाताओं के लिए वार्षिक छूट** बढ़ाकर संतुलित करने की कोशिश की है।

- Data from the **Income Tax Department** show that only around **2.8 crore** individuals had paid positive taxes in the assessment year **2023-24**, out of the **7.54 crore** filing income tax returns.

आयकर विभाग के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि **2023-24** के मूल्यांकन वर्ष में केवल लगभग **2.8 करोड़** व्यक्तियों ने सकारात्मक कर चुकाए थे, जबकि **7.54 करोड़** ने आयकर रिटर्न दाखिल किए थे।

- The income tax relief for next year would therefore go to **2.8 crore individuals**, who form only around **22%** of India's salaried workforce.

अगले वर्ष के लिए आयकर राहत इसलिए **2.8 करोड़ व्यक्तियों** को जाएगी, जो भारत के वेतनभोगी श्रमिकों का केवल **22%** हैं।

- For the rest who are faced with dwindling **real incomes**, there is nothing on offer.

बाकी लोगों के लिए, जो घटती हुई **वास्तविक आय** का सामना कर रहे हैं, कोई राहत नहीं है।

- The Finance Minister has estimated the revenue foregone on account of the income tax rebate to be **₹1 lakh crore**.

वित्त मंत्री ने आयकर छूट के कारण राजस्व की हानि का अनुमान **₹1 लाख करोड़** किया है।

- Instead, a cut of a similar magnitude in **indirect taxes**, such as the exorbitant excise duties on **fuel** or the **central GST rates on mass consumption goods**, could have



provided relief to the entire class of working people.

इसके बजाय, अप्रतिस्पर्धी करें जैसे ईंधन पर अत्यधिक उत्पाद शुल्क या केंद्रीय जीएसटी दरें पर ऐसी ही राशि की कटौती सभी श्रमिक वर्ग को राहत प्रदान कर सकती थी।

- It is well known that the consumption propensity of **wage earners** is higher than that of **profit earners**.

यह अच्छी तरह से जाना जाता है कि वेतनभोगी श्रमिकों की उपभोग प्रवृत्ति लाभ कमाने वालों से अधिक होती है।

Wage increase for MGNREGA workers

मनरेगा श्रमिकों के लिए वेतन वृद्धि

- The average **daily wage rate** actually received by a **MGNREGA worker** (as per data provided by **Ministry of Rural Development dashboard**) has increased from **₹200.71** in **2019-20** to **₹252.31** in **2024-25**.

एक **MGNREGA** श्रमिक द्वारा वास्तव में प्राप्त औसत दैनिक वेतन दर (जो ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के डैशबोर्ड द्वारा प्रदान किए गए आंकड़ों के अनुसार) **2019-20** में **₹200.71** से बढ़कर **2024-25** में **₹252.31** हो गई है।

- The national floor level **minimum wage** for unskilled workers in **agriculture**, in contrast, has been set at **₹452** in **2024-25**.

इसके विपरीत, कृषि में अनस्किल्ड श्रमिकों के लिए राष्ट्रीय न्यूनतम वेतन **2024-25** में **₹452** निर्धारित किया गया है।

- A well-deserved, substantial hike in the **MGNREGA wages** in the Union Budget alongside an increase in **rural development outlays** would have led to increased **consumption demand in rural areas**.

संघीय बजट में **MGNREGA** वेतन में एक उपयुक्त, महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि और ग्रामीण विकास खर्चों में वृद्धि से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में उपभोग मांग में वृद्धि होती।

- The consumption effect of **income tax breaks**, in contrast, would be far more limited and concentrated in **urban areas**.

इसके विपरीत, आयकर छूट का उपभोग प्रभाव शहरी क्षेत्रों में अधिक सीमित और संकेंद्रित होता।

Running out of ideas

विचारों की कमी

- The latest Economic Survey cites a private sector research report to show how the after-tax profit-to-GDP ratio of Nifty 500 companies surged from 2.1% in 2020-21 to 4.8% in 2023-24.

नवीनतम आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण एक निजी क्षेत्र के शोध रिपोर्ट का हवाला देता है, जो दिखाता है कि

Nifty 500 कंपनियों का कर बाद लाभ-से-GDP अनुपात 2020-21 में 2.1% से बढ़कर 2023-24 में 4.8% हो गया।



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



- While the deep corporate tax cut of September 2019 played a vital role in this profit surge, it has neither translated into higher levels of private corporate investment, nor employment generation.

सितंबर 2019 में किए गए गहरे कॉर्पोरेट टैक्स कटौती ने इस लाभ वृद्धि में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, लेकिन यह न तो निजी कॉर्पोरेट निवेश के उच्च स्तर में बदला है, और न ही रोजगार सृजन में।

- Yet, the 2025 Union Budget has relied upon another tax break, this time for income tax payers, to inject demand into the economy, even while cutting capital and welfare expenditures to compress the fiscal deficit.

फिर भी, 2025 के केंद्रीय बजट ने एक और कर राहत पर निर्भर किया है, इस बार आयकर दाताओं के लिए, ताकि अर्थव्यवस्था में मांग उत्पन्न की जा सके, जबकि पूंजी और कल्याण खर्चों को घटाकर राजकोषीय घाटे को कम किया जा रहा है।

- This is unlikely to generate higher levels of economic growth and employment and raise the living standards of the vast majority of the working people.

यह आर्थिक वृद्धि और रोजगार के उच्च स्तर उत्पन्न करने या कार्यरत लोगों के विशाल बहुमत के जीवन स्तर को बढ़ाने की संभावना नहीं है।

- It is evident that the government has run out of ideas on the economic front.

यह स्पष्ट है कि सरकार आर्थिक मोर्चे पर विचारों से बाहर हो चुकी है।

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How much in subsidies do fossil fuels receive?

Estimates range from less than \$1 trillion to \$7 trillion depending on the ways in which subsidies are defined

**GS Paper III:
Environment**

DATA POINT

Hannah Ritchie

If we want to tackle climate change, we need to move away from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy sources. This transition is a lot easier if these sources are cheaper than fossil fuels. However, fossil fuels are often subsidised, reducing the short-term economic incentives to switch.

Because subsidies can be defined in different ways – production, consumption, explicit, implicit – people can quote different numbers to this question, ranging from hundreds of billions of U.S. dollars to as much as \$7 trillion.

Let's start with explicit subsidies: government payments to make fossil fuels cheaper. These payments can either go towards fossil fuel producers so that the extraction and refining cost is lower (called 'production subsidies') or to consumers so they can buy fossil fuels cheaper than the market price (called 'consumption subsidies'). Global explicit subsidies for fossil fuels amounted to around \$1.5 trillion in 2022. That is equivalent to the entire GDP of countries like Russia or Australia.

Around 80% of these explicit subsidies went to consumers and the rest into fossil fuel production. Global subsidies ramped up in 2022 because the price of energy spiked due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Consumption subsidies roughly doubled from 2021 to 2022 and fell back to their previous level in 2023 (Chart 1).

In 2022, the price of gas increased by as much as 400%. Many countries implemented mechanisms to support consumers, such as putting a price cap on gas and electricity. Now, this money was going towards subsidising fossil fuels. But it's perhaps not quite as 'explicit' a subsidy as the name might infer; the focus of governments was to make energy affordable for households and businesses,

specifically fossil fuels. Taking these subsidies away without cheap and available alternative energy sources would push some households into fuel poverty.

So far, we have focused on subsidies at a global level, but there are huge differences between countries. In Map 2, you can see the level of fossil fuel subsidies given per person. This includes production and consumption subsidies, and it is shown for 2021, before the energy crisis.

Unsurprisingly, the countries that gave the largest subsidies are large fossil fuel producers. Major oil producers, such as Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Libya, and Algeria, spent more than \$500 per person (sometimes over \$1,000) to support fossil fuel production. These subsidies can represent more than 10% of GDP. Countries across Europe, North and South America, and East Asia typically gave less than \$100 per person, and in Africa and South Asia, it's even less than \$20 – and sometimes close to zero. For India, the amount was around \$3 in 2021, down from \$9 in 2015.

You might have heard \$7 trillion quoted as the amount of subsidies going towards fossil fuels. That's more than four times the \$1.5 trillion I mentioned at the beginning. That's because it includes implicit subsidies – the societal costs of burning fossil fuels. When we burn fossil fuels, we cause local air pollution and drive climate change.

Chart 3 breaks down the \$7 trillion figure into its components. Explicit subsidies (18%) include consumption subsidies (14%), production subsidies (4%), and foregone VAT (5%). Implicit subsidies (77%) arise from externalities, such as air pollution (30%), climate change (30%), and road use impacts (17%). A section in the graphic outlines different approaches to reducing subsidies, such as cutting producer/consumer support, implementing pollution or carbon taxes, and using road taxes or congestion pricing.

The low-down on fossil fuel subsidies

The charts are sourced from Hannah Ritchie's "How much in subsidies do fossil fuels receive?", published in Our World In Data. She is the deputy editor and science outreach lead at Our World In Data



Chart 1: Global explicit consumption subsidies for fossil fuels between 2010 to 2023. tn: Trillion, bn: Billion

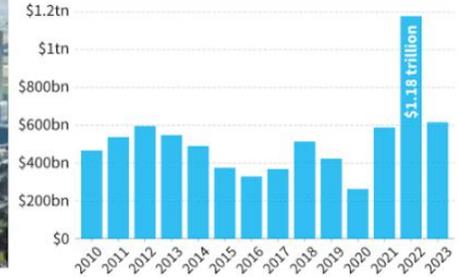


Chart 2: Fossil-fuel subsidies per capita, 2021

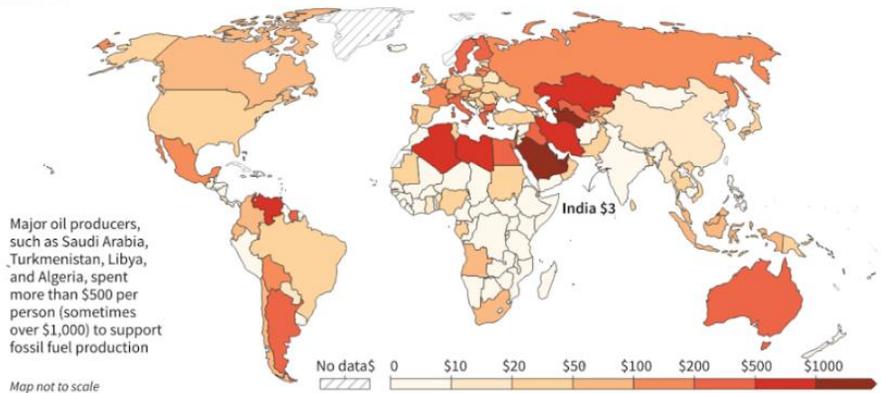
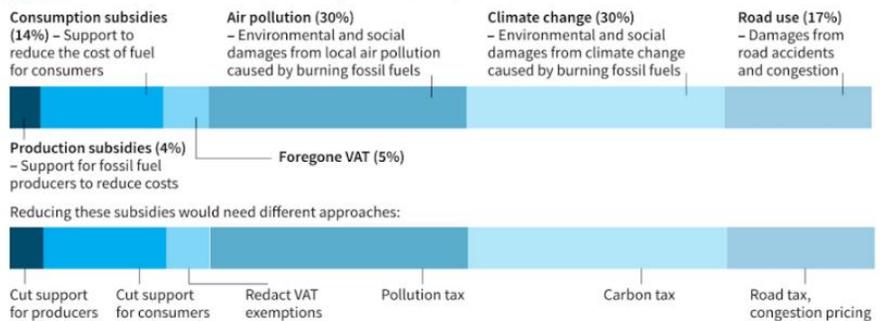


Chart 3: The chart breaks down the \$7 trillion figure into its components



Fossil Fuel Subsidies
कोयला ईंधन पर सब्सिडी



Estimates range from less than \$1 trillion to \$7 trillion depending on the ways in which subsidies are defined.

अनुमानों के अनुसार, सब्सिडी की परिभाषाओं के आधार पर यह \$1 ट्रिलियन से लेकर \$7 ट्रिलियन तक हो सकती है।

- Fossil fuels are often subsidised, reducing the short-term economic incentives to switch to low-carbon energy sources.

कोयला ईंधन को अक्सर सब्सिडी दी जाती है, जिससे कम-कार्बन ऊर्जा स्रोतों की ओर स्विच करने के लिए तात्कालिक आर्थिक प्रोत्साहन कम हो जाते हैं।

- Explicit subsidies are government payments to make fossil fuels cheaper. These can either go towards fossil fuel producers (production subsidies) or consumers (consumption subsidies).

स्पष्ट सब्सिडी सरकार द्वारा दिए गए वे भुगतान हैं जो कोयला ईंधन को सस्ता बनाने के लिए होते हैं। ये भुगतान या तो कोयला उत्पादकों (उत्पादन सब्सिडी) या उपभोक्ताओं (उपभोक्ता सब्सिडी) को दिए जाते हैं।

- Global explicit subsidies for fossil fuels amounted to around \$1.5 trillion in 2022.

2022 में कोयला ईंधन के लिए वैश्विक **स्पष्ट सब्सिडी** लगभग \$1.5 ट्रिलियन थी।

- 80% of these explicit subsidies went to consumers, and the rest to fossil fuel production.

इन **स्पष्ट सब्सिडियों** का 80% उपभोक्ताओं को गया, और बाकी को कोयला उत्पादन पर खर्च किया गया।

- Global subsidies ramped up in 2022 due to the price spike caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

2022 में वैश्विक **सब्सिडी** रूस के यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण के कारण ऊर्जा कीमतों में उछाल के कारण बढ़ी।

- Consumption subsidies roughly doubled from 2021 to 2022 and fell back to previous levels in 2023.

उपभोक्ता सब्सिडी 2021 से 2022 तक लगभग दोगुनी हो गई और 2023 में पूर्व स्तर पर वापस आ गई।

- In 2022, the price of gas increased by as much as 400%.

2022 में गैस की कीमत में 400% तक वृद्धि हुई।

- Many countries implemented mechanisms such as price caps to support consumers, which indirectly subsidised fossil fuels.

कई देशों ने उपभोक्ताओं का समर्थन करने के लिए मूल्य सीमा जैसी तंत्र लागू किए, जो अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कोयला ईंधन को सब्सिडी देते थे।

- Without cheap and available alternative energy sources, removing these subsidies could push some households into fuel poverty.

सस्ते और उपलब्ध वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों के बिना, इन सब्सिडियों को हटाने से कुछ परिवारों को ऊर्जा गरीबी का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।



- The level of fossil fuel subsidies per person varies significantly across countries.
कोयला ईंधन पर प्रति व्यक्ति सब्सिडी का स्तर देशों के बीच में काफी भिन्न होता है।
- Major oil producers like Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Libya, and Algeria spent more than \$500 per person on fossil fuel subsidies.
प्रमुख तेल उत्पादक देशों जैसे **सऊदी अरब**, **तुर्कमेनिस्तान**, **लीबिया**, और **अल्जीरिया** ने कोयला ईंधन सब्सिडी पर प्रति व्यक्ति \$500 से अधिक खर्च किए।
- These subsidies in some countries represent more than 10% of GDP.
इन देशों में कुछ देशों में ये सब्सिडी जीडीपी का 10% से अधिक हैं।
- In contrast, countries across Europe, North and South America, and East Asia gave less than \$100 per person.
इसके विपरीत, यूरोप, उत्तर और दक्षिण अमेरिका, और पूर्वी एशिया के देशों ने प्रति व्यक्ति \$100 से कम खर्च किए।
- In Africa and South Asia, fossil fuel subsidies were even lower, sometimes close to zero.
अफ्रीका और दक्षिण एशिया में, कोयला ईंधन पर सब्सिडी और भी कम थीं, कभी-कभी तो यह शून्य के करीब थीं।
- For India, the amount was around \$3 in 2021, down from \$9 in 2015.
भारत के लिए, 2021 में यह राशि लगभग \$3 थी, जो 2015 में \$9 थी।
- The \$7 trillion figure includes implicit subsidies — the societal costs of burning fossil fuels, such as air pollution, climate change, and road use impacts.
\$7 ट्रिलियन का आंकड़ा **निहित सब्सिडियों** को भी शामिल करता है – जैसे कोयला ईंधन जलाने से होने वाली सामाजिक लागत, जैसे **वायु प्रदूषण**, **जलवायु परिवर्तन**, और **सड़क उपयोग** के प्रभाव।
- Explicit subsidies (18%) include consumption subsidies (14%), production subsidies (4%), and foregone VAT (5%).
स्पष्ट सब्सिडी (18%) में उपभोक्ता सब्सिडी (14%), उत्पादन सब्सिडी (4%), और त्यागे गए VAT (5%) शामिल हैं।
- Implicit subsidies (77%) arise from externalities such as air pollution (30%), climate change (30%), and road use impacts (17%).
निहित सब्सिडी (77%) बाहरी प्रभावों से उत्पन्न होती हैं, जैसे वायु प्रदूषण (30%), जलवायु परिवर्तन (30%), और सड़क उपयोग के प्रभाव (17%)।
- Approaches to reducing subsidies include cutting producer/consumer support, implementing pollution or carbon taxes, and using road taxes or congestion pricing.
सब्सिडियों को कम करने के लिए विभिन्न उपायों में उत्पादक/उपभोक्ता समर्थन में कमी, प्रदूषण या कार्बन टैक्स लागू करना, और सड़क टैक्स या यातायात शुल्क का उपयोग करना शामिल है।



The various challenges associated with AI-driven genetic testing

As genetic information can be processed faster with Artificial Intelligence (AI), the amount of personal data going under the scanner to be analysed has also increased. This, in turn, increases the potential of plausible data security risks and leaks

GS Paper III: S&T

Poulomi Chatterjee

The Human Genome Project, launched in 1990 and concluded in 2003, enabled the documentation and analysis of the building blocks of human DNA, revealing patterns that could indicate the likelihood of developing rare diseases or carrying genetic abnormalities. Initially, predictive tests were limited to exceptional cases due to their high cost. For instance, expecting mothers could undergo tests to detect fetal cells with chromosomal defects potentially associated with Down's Syndrome or cancer patients could have their tumours examined to determine the most effective treatment options.

How has AI changed genomics?

As genetic information can be processed faster with Artificial Intelligence (AI), the amount of data going under the scanner has also increased.

In March 2024, John Hopkins University researchers revealed how genetic code sequences, which were previously ignored, were found to be associated with tumours. Using machine learning techniques, they were able to analyse more than 1,200 distinct types of "junk DNA" elements from tumours to deepen research around new therapies, new diagnostics and new screening methods for cancer.

Bootstrapped healthcare startup, Gene Box, leverages AI primarily to process vast amounts of genetic data swiftly and accurately, uncovering patterns and insights that would be nearly impossible to identify manually.

Their AI-driven algorithm helps predict genetic predispositions, interpret

complex gene-environment interactions, and provide personalised recommendations based on individual genetic profiles. Moreover, their systems are designed to incorporate inputs from published, highly rated scientific evidence.

"By continuously updating our models with the latest research findings, we ensure that our analyses are not only accurate but also grounded in the most current and reliable scientific knowledge," said Mr. Pranav Anam, founder, and CEO of the healthcare startup.

What are the potential pitfalls?

When it comes to predicting whether a child will get through an elite school or how likely is she in landing a high-paying job, these testing tools can hardly offer a straightforward answer. "These aren't as simple as a 'yes' or 'no' question. It is a well-known fact that genetics is only 30% of the contributing factor," Mr. Anam said.

There are other caveats. For instance, a diagnosis could change in the future or may not present the full picture, often falling under the grey zone of significance. "These are known as 'variations of unknown significance.' Sometimes, other members of the family could be required to be tested to draw conclusive results," said Ms. Gayatri Iyer, a scientist at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society.

For example, research has linked about 80 genes to Alzheimer's. While genetic testing can identify the risky genes, that doesn't mean the patient is bound to get it. The tests simply assess the genetic risk by identifying certain genetic variations that are associated with Alzheimer's. Consequently, a patient can also develop Alzheimer's without having any of the

associated genes. "There are a bunch of questions we need to deal with. What if the tests found something that the patient wasn't looking for at all? How do you handle predictions of mental health diseases," Ms. Iyer noted.

"When dealing with sensitive cases, such as determining genetic predispositions for conditions like depression or heart disease, we adhere to strict ethical guidelines," Mr. Anam said. "Our goal is to provide insights that can guide proactive health measures, not to make definitive diagnoses."

Apart from genes, factors like environment, diet and schooling play equally important roles in a child's development.

Why should users remain cautious?

Nucleus, a genetic testing startup founded in 2020 by 23-year-old college dropout Kian Sadeghi has promised to analyse cancer, depression, longevity, or how extroverted a person might be, among many other diseases and traits, better than any other firm of its kind. The startup received \$14 million in funding from some of the most eminent names in Silicon Valley such as VC firms led by PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel and Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian.

In a promotional video posted on X, Sadeghi said its only "an inevitability that every single person has their entire human genome on their iPhone." If that sounds like a data security risk waiting to happen, that's because there's a similar case that is fresh in public memory.

The once popular consumer genetic testing company, 23andMe was at the receiving end of a data security breach in October 2023, after hackers gained access to personal data including family trees,

birth years and geographic locations, of 6.9 million users and sold it on the dark web. The company was directed to pay a \$30 million fine in September and provide three years of security monitoring to settle the lawsuit. It's been a dramatic fall for a company that was considered as pioneering, and valued at around \$6 billion in 2021.

In the following months, most of the company's board resigned en masse leaving co-founder Anne Wojcicki as the sole member who has been contemplating delisting the company from Nasdaq. In November, it fired 40% of its workforce.

As the company implodes, the looming question around, "What happens to the DNA data of its 15 million customers?" becomes a pushing worry. Customers have scrambled to delete or withdraw their genetic data before the firm goes bust or ownership changes hands, but there are a couple of caveats. If users opted in to have their genetic data analysed, the information can't be withdrawn (A company spokesperson said about 80% had opted in).

Additionally, companies like 23andMe don't fall under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) which has federal laws protecting consumer data. Although Ms. Wojcicki has promised users that the firm will stand guard over their data, there's little that inspires confidence right now.

But since the AI cat is out of the bag, the fledgling sector of AI-infused genomics has been drawing more interest. "Investors recognise the long-term value and impact of these technologies, particularly as the demand for personalised healthcare solutions rises," Mr. Anam said.

Challenges Associated with AI-Driven Genetic Testing

एआई-चालित जेनेटिक टेस्टिंग से जुड़ी चुनौतियाँ

As genetic information can be processed faster with Artificial Intelligence (AI), the amount of personal data being analyzed has also increased, raising concerns about data security risks and leaks.

चूँकि आनुवंशिक जानकारी को कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (एआई) के माध्यम से तेजी से



प्रोसेस किया जा सकता है, इसलिए व्यक्तिगत डेटा का विश्लेषण बढ़ गया है, जिससे डेटा सुरक्षा जोखिम और लीक की संभावना बढ़ गई है।

The Human Genome Project

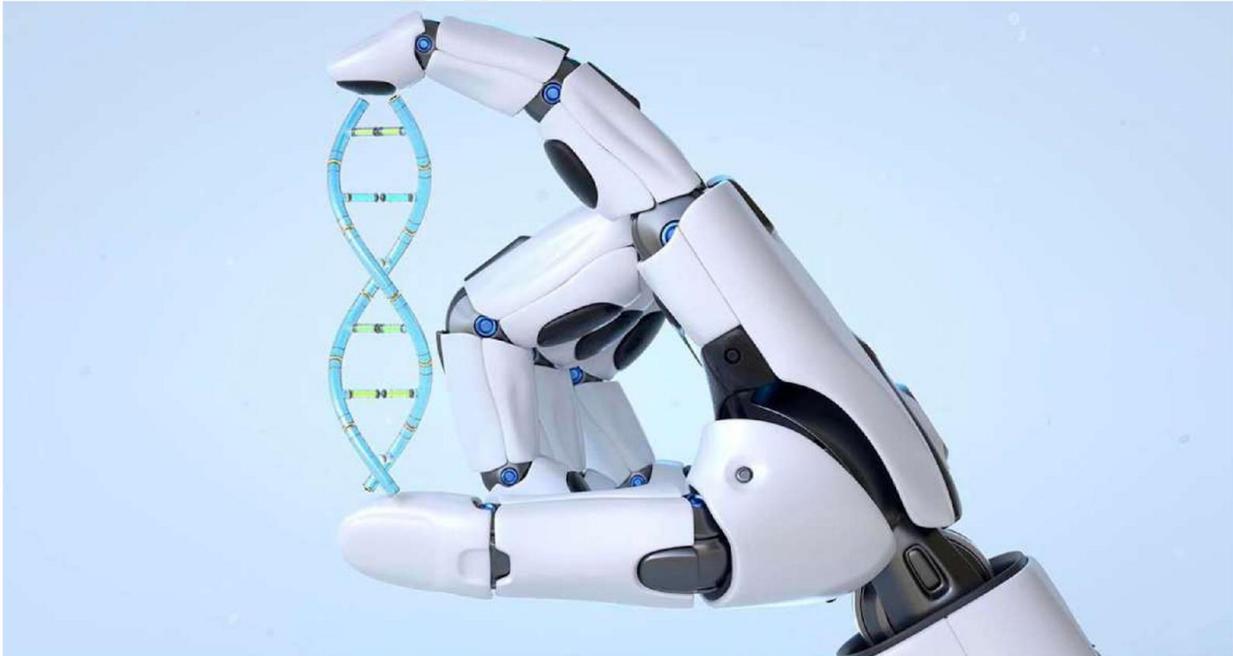
ह्यूमन जीनोम प्रोजेक्ट

- The **Human Genome Project**, launched in **1990** and concluded in **2003**, enabled the documentation and analysis of the **building blocks of human DNA**, revealing patterns that could indicate the likelihood of developing **rare diseases** or carrying **genetic abnormalities**.

ह्यूमन जीनोम प्रोजेक्ट, जिसे 1990 में शुरू किया गया और 2003 में पूरा किया गया, ने मानव डीएनए के निर्माण खंडों के दस्तावेजीकरण और विश्लेषण को संभव बनाया, जिससे यह पता लगाया जा सका कि किसी व्यक्ति को दुर्लभ बीमारियाँ या आनुवंशिक असामान्यताएँ होने की संभावना है।

- Initially, **predictive tests** were limited due to **high cost**. For example, **expecting mothers** could undergo tests to detect **chromosomal defects** in fetal cells, potentially linked to **Down's Syndrome**. Similarly, **cancer patients** could have their **tumors examined** for **effective treatment options**.

प्रारंभ में, भविष्यवाणी परीक्षण उच्च लागत के कारण सीमित थे। उदाहरण के लिए, गर्भवती महिलाएँ भ्रूण कोशिकाओं में क्रोमोसोमल दोषों का पता लगाने के लिए परीक्षण करवा सकती थीं, जो संभवतः डाउन सिंड्रोम से जुड़े हो सकते थे। इसी तरह, कैंसर रोगी अपने ट्यूमर की जांच करवा सकते थे ताकि प्रभावी उपचार विकल्प खोजे जा सकें।





How has AI changed genomics?

एआई ने जीनोमिक्स को कैसे बदला है?

- In **March 2024**, **John Hopkins University researchers** discovered how **genetic code sequences**, previously ignored, were found to be associated with **tumors**. Using **machine learning techniques**, they analyzed **1,200 distinct types of “junk DNA” elements** from tumors to improve research on **new therapies, diagnostics, and cancer screening**.

मार्च 2024 में, जॉन हॉपकिंस यूनिवर्सिटी के शोधकर्ताओं ने यह पता लगाया कि पहले अनदेखी की गई आनुवंशिक कोड अनुक्रम ट्यूमर से जुड़े हो सकते हैं। मशीन लर्निंग तकनीकों का उपयोग करके, उन्होंने 1,200 विभिन्न प्रकार के “जंक डीएनए” तत्वों का विश्लेषण किया ताकि नई थेरेपी, डायग्नोस्टिक्स और कैंसर स्क्रीनिंग में सुधार किया जा सके।

- Gene Box**, a **bootstrapped healthcare startup**, uses **AI** to analyze **vast amounts of genetic data** quickly and accurately, uncovering **patterns and insights** that would be impossible to identify manually.

जीन बॉक्स, एक स्व-वित्तपोषित हेल्थकेयर स्टार्टअप, एआई का उपयोग करके अत्यधिक मात्रा में आनुवंशिक डेटा को तेजी से और सटीक रूप से विश्लेषित करता है, जिससे पैटर्न और अंतर्दृष्टि का पता चलता है, जिन्हें मैनुअल रूप से पहचानना असंभव होगा।

- Their **AI-driven algorithm** helps predict **genetic predispositions**, interpret **gene-environment interactions**, and provide **personalized recommendations** based on **individual genetic profiles**.

उनका एआई-चालित एल्गोरिदम आनुवंशिक प्रवृत्तियों की भविष्यवाणी करने, जीन-पर्यावरण अंतःक्रियाओं की व्याख्या करने और व्यक्तिगत आनुवंशिक प्रोफाइल के आधार पर व्यक्तिगत अनुशंसाएँ प्रदान करने में मदद करता है।

What are the potential pitfalls?

संभावित कमियाँ क्या हैं?

- AI-based tests cannot give a **straightforward answer** for complex predictions like whether a child will get into an **elite school** or land a **high-paying job**. According to **Mr. Pranav Anam**, **genetics** only contributes **30%** to these factors.

एआई-आधारित परीक्षण यह स्पष्ट उत्तर नहीं दे सकते कि कोई बच्चा प्रतिष्ठित स्कूल में प्रवेश करेगा या उच्च वेतन वाली नौकरी प्राप्त करेगा। श्री प्रणव अनम के अनुसार, इसमें आनुवंशिकी केवल 30% भूमिका निभाती है।

- Variations of unknown significance** exist, meaning **genetic diagnoses** may change in the future. Sometimes, **family members** need to be tested to draw **conclusive results**.

अज्ञात महत्व के विविधताएँ मौजूद हैं, जिसका अर्थ है कि आनुवंशिक निदान भविष्य में बदल



Website: patrioticias.in

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



सकता है। कभी-कभी, पारिवारिक सदस्यों को निष्कर्ष निकालने के लिए परीक्षण करने की आवश्यकता होती है।

- **Example:** Research has linked **80 genes** to **Alzheimer's disease**, but having these genes doesn't guarantee the disease. Patients without these genes can still develop Alzheimer's.

उदाहरण: शोध ने **80 जीनों** को **अल्जाइमर रोग** से जोड़ा है, लेकिन इन जीनों का होना बीमारी की गारंटी नहीं देता। जिनके पास ये जीन नहीं हैं, वे भी **अल्जाइमर** विकसित कर सकते हैं।

Why should users remain cautious?

उपयोगकर्ताओं को सतर्क क्यों रहना चाहिए?

- **Nucleus**, a genetic testing startup founded in **2020**, claimed to analyze traits like **cancer risk, depression, and longevity** better than others. It secured **\$14 million in funding** from investors like **Peter Thiel** and **Alexis Ohanian**.

न्यूक्लियस, जो **2020** में स्थापित एक आनुवंशिक परीक्षण स्टार्टअप है, ने **कैंसर जोखिम, अवसाद और दीर्घायु** जैसे लक्षणों का अन्य कंपनियों से बेहतर विश्लेषण करने का दावा किया। इसे **पीटर थील** और **एलेक्सिस ओहानियन** जैसे निवेशकों से **\$14 मिलियन का फंडिंग** प्राप्त हुआ।

- In **October 2023**, **23andMe**, a popular genetic testing company, suffered a **data breach**, exposing **6.9 million users' personal data** to hackers. The company was fined **\$30 million** in **September 2024**.

अक्टूबर 2023 में, **23andMe**, एक लोकप्रिय आनुवंशिक परीक्षण कंपनी, **डेटा उल्लंघन** का शिकार हुई, जिससे **6.9 मिलियन उपयोगकर्ताओं के व्यक्तिगत डेटा** हैकर्स को उजागर हो गए। कंपनी को **सितंबर 2024** में **\$30 मिलियन का जुर्माना** भरना पड़ा।

- **23andMe's downfall** raises concerns about **what happens to the DNA data** of **15 million customers**.

23andMe का पतन यह सवाल उठाता है कि **15 मिलियन ग्राहकों के डीएनए डेटा का क्या होगा**।

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Navigation satellite launched last week suffers malfunction

ISRO fails to carry out orbit-raising operation, says alternative strategies for utilising NVS-02 for navigation in an elliptical orbit being worked out

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been unable to perform the intended orbit-raising operations for the NVS-02 satellite due to a valve malfunction. The NVS-02, the second satellite in the NVS series, was launched by the ISRO on January 29 as part of its landmark 100th launch from Sriharikota.

The space agency on Sunday said that the orbit-raising operations towards positioning the satellite to the designated orbital slot could not be carried out as the valves for admitting the oxidiser to fire the thrusters for orbit-raising did not open.

The ISRO was supposed to carry out the orbit-raising operations after the launch, but has been unable to perform the manoeuvres due to the glitch. The operations were to be executed by the Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka.

"The satellite systems



Landmark launch: The NVS-02, the second satellite in the NVS series, was launched by the ISRO from Sriharikota on Wednesday.

are healthy and the satellite is currently in elliptical orbit. Alternate mission strategies for utilising the satellite for navigation in an elliptical orbit is being worked out," the ISRO said in a statement.

The space agency said the NVS-02 navigation satellite was successfully injected into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. "All the launch vehicle stages performed flawlessly and the orbit was achieved with a high degree of precision. Subsequent to the launch, the solar panels on board the

satellite were successfully deployed and power generation is nominal. Communication with the ground station has been established," the space agency said on Sunday.

NVS-02 is configured with navigation payload in L1, L5 and S bands, in addition to ranging payload in C-band, like its predecessor, NVS-01. "It will be placed at 111.75°E, replacing IRNSS-1E. NVS-02 uses a combination of indigenous and procured atomic clocks for precise time estimation," the ISRO said before the launch.

Navigation satellite launched last week suffers malfunction

पिछले सप्ताह लॉन्च किया गया नेविगेशन सैटेलाइट खराबी का शिकार

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been unable to perform the intended orbit-raising operations for the NVS-02 satellite due to a valve malfunction.

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) NVS-02 सैटेलाइट के लिए निर्धारित ऑर्बिट-रेज़िंग ऑपरेशन को वाल्व खराबी के कारण पूरा नहीं कर सका।

• NVS-02, the second satellite in the NVS series, was launched on January 29 as part of ISRO's landmark 100th launch from Sriharikota.

NVS-02, जो NVS सीरीज़ का दूसरा उपग्रह है, 29 जनवरी को श्रीहरिकोटा से ISRO के 100वें ऐतिहासिक प्रक्षेपण के तहत लॉन्च किया गया था।

- ISRO stated that orbit-raising operations could not be performed because the valves responsible for admitting oxidiser to fire the thrusters did not open.

ISRO ने कहा कि ऑर्बिट-रेज़िंग ऑपरेशन नहीं किया जा सका क्योंकि थ्रस्टर्स को फायर करने के लिए ऑक्सीडाइज़र प्रवेश कराने वाले वाल्व नहीं खुले।

- These orbit-raising operations were to be executed by the Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan, Karnataka.



इन ऑर्बिट-रेज़िंग ऑपरेशन्स को कर्नाटक के हसन स्थित मास्टर कंट्रोल फैसिलिटी (MCF) द्वारा अंजाम दिया जाना था।

- ISRO confirmed that the **satellite systems are healthy**, and **NVS-02 is currently in an elliptical orbit**.

ISRO ने पुष्टि की कि सैटेलाइट सिस्टम सही स्थिति में हैं और NVS-02 वर्तमान में एक अंडाकार कक्षा में है।

- **Alternative mission strategies** are being worked out to **utilise the satellite for navigation in an elliptical orbit**.

उपग्रह को अंडाकार कक्षा में नेविगेशन के लिए उपयोग करने के वैकल्पिक मिशन रणनीतियों पर काम किया जा रहा है।

- The **NVS-02 navigation satellite** was successfully injected into the **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**.

NVS-02 नेविगेशन उपग्रह को सफलतापूर्वक भू-समकालिक ट्रांसफर ऑर्बिट (GTO) में डाला गया था।

- **All launch vehicle stages performed flawlessly**, and the **orbit was achieved with a high degree of precision**.

सभी लॉन्च व्हीकल चरणों ने बिना किसी समस्या के प्रदर्शन किया, और कक्षा को उच्च स्तर की सटीकता के साथ प्राप्त किया गया।

- After the launch, **solar panels on board the satellite were successfully deployed**, and **power generation is nominal**.

प्रक्षेपण के बाद, सैटेलाइट पर लगे सौर पैनल सफलतापूर्वक तैनात किए गए और ऊर्जा उत्पादन सामान्य रूप से हो रहा है।

- **Communication with the ground station** has been successfully established.

ग्राउंड स्टेशन के साथ संचार सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित हो चुका है।

- **NVS-02 is configured with a navigation payload in L1, L5, and S bands**, along with a **ranging payload in the C-band**, similar to its predecessor **NVS-01**.

NVS-02 को L1, L5 और S बैंड में नेविगेशन पेलोड और C-बैंड में रेंजिंग पेलोड के साथ कॉन्फिगर किया गया है, जो इसके पूर्ववर्ती NVS-01 की तरह ही है।

- **NVS-02 will replace IRNSS-1E at 111.75°E longitude**.

NVS-02 को 111.75°E देशांतर पर IRNSS-1E के स्थान पर स्थापित किया जाएगा।

- The satellite uses a **combination of indigenous and procured atomic clocks** for **precise time estimation**.

यह उपग्रह सटीक समय गणना के लिए स्वदेशी और आयातित परमाणु घड़ियों का उपयोग करता है।



GS Paper III: S&T

This January 24 Hubble Space Telescope image features a sparkling scene from the outskirts of the Tarantula Nebula, about 160,000 light years away. At its centre, this nebula hosts massive stars weighing roughly 200-times the sun. The scene here features serene blue gas, brownish-orange dust patches, and a sprinkling of multi-coloured stars.
NASA/ESA

PA



Small modular reactors: pocket N-plants

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

In her 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 budget speeches, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised contributions from nuclear power for India to meet its renewable energy targets. A new mode of nuclear power generation soon expected to enter this mix is small modular reactors (SMRs). SMRs are reactors designed to be smaller, more flexible, and easier to build than traditional nuclear setups. Each SMR will produce less than 300 MW of power.

(Scientists are also exploring an even smaller design, called microreactors, to produce 1-20 MW of nuclear power each.)

The larger a conventional nuclear power facility, the more commercially viable it will be; SMRs aim to buck this trend by being cheaper to build and safeguard. Its proponents say different parts of an SMR can be machined separately, then assembled in a factory and transported to the site rather than having to be built on site.

A reactor with such a design can also be scaled up more easily than a conventional reactor.

SMRs have some downsides, too. For one, they are still experimental and need



A billet of enriched uranium. Many SMR designs require the use of high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU), enriched to 5-20%, as nuclear fuel. PUBLIC DOMAIN

considerable capital investments without a guarantee that they will be profitable. For another, the first generation of SMR designs require low-grade uranium as nuclear fuel to operate and thus will need to be refuelled more often, which is not desirable. In this year's budget speech, Ms. Sitharaman announced a new 'Nuclear Energy Mission' with a ₹20,000 crore outlay to study SMRs and operationalise five indigenous units by 2033.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

इस ऊर्जा मिश्रण में जल्द ही एक नया परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पादन तरीका जुड़ने की उम्मीद है, जिसे छोटे मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर (SMRs) कहा जाता है।

- SMRs are reactors designed to be smaller, more flexible, and easier to build than traditional nuclear setups.

SMRs ऐसे रिएक्टर हैं जिन्हें पारंपरिक परमाणु संयंत्रों की तुलना में छोटा, अधिक लचीला और निर्माण में आसान बनाया गया है।

- Each SMR will produce less than 300 MW of power. प्रत्येक SMR 300 मेगावाट से कम बिजली उत्पन्न करेगा।
- Scientists are also exploring an even smaller design, called microreactors, to produce 1-20 MW of nuclear power each. वैज्ञानिक और भी छोटे डिज़ाइन की खोज कर रहे हैं, जिसे माइक्रोरिएक्टर कहा जाता है, जो प्रत्येक 1-20 मेगावाट परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पन्न कर सकता है।
- The larger a conventional nuclear power facility, the more commercially viable it will be; SMRs aim to buck this trend by being cheaper to build and safeguard.

Small Modular Reactors: Pocket N-Plants

छोटे मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर: पॉकेट परमाणु संयंत्र

In her 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 budget speeches, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised contributions from nuclear power for India to meet its renewable energy targets.

2024-2025 और 2025-2026 के बजट भाषणों में, वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने भारत के नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने में परमाणु ऊर्जा के योगदान पर जोर दिया।

- A new mode of nuclear power generation soon expected to enter this mix is small modular reactors (SMRs).



पारंपरिक परमाणु संयंत्र जितना बड़ा होता है, वह उतना ही व्यावसायिक रूप से लाभकारी होता है; SMRs इस प्रवृत्ति को बदलने का लक्ष्य रखते हैं क्योंकि ये निर्माण और सुरक्षा में सस्ते होते हैं।

- Its proponents say different parts of an SMR can be machined separately, then assembled in a factory and transported to the site rather than having to be built on-site.

इसके समर्थकों का कहना है कि SMR के विभिन्न भागों को अलग से तैयार किया जा सकता है, फिर उन्हें कारखाने में असेंबल कर साइट पर लाया जा सकता है, बजाय इसके कि पूरा संयंत्र वहीं बनाया जाए।

- A reactor with such a design can also be scaled up more easily than a conventional reactor.

ऐसे डिज़ाइन वाला एक रिएक्टर पारंपरिक रिएक्टर की तुलना में अधिक आसानी से बड़ा किया जा सकता है।

- SMRs have some downsides, too.

SMRs के कुछ नुकसान भी हैं।

- For one, they are still experimental and need considerable capital investments without a guarantee that they will be profitable.

सबसे पहले, ये अभी भी प्रयोगात्मक हैं और इनमें भारी पूंजी निवेश की आवश्यकता होती है, बिना इस गारंटी के कि ये लाभदायक होंगे।

- For another, the first generation of SMR designs require low-grade uranium as nuclear fuel to operate and thus will need to be refuelled more often, which is not desirable.

दूसरे, SMR डिज़ाइन की पहली पीढ़ी निम्न-ग्रेड यूरेनियम को परमाणु ईंधन के रूप में उपयोग करती है, जिससे इसे बार-बार रिफ्यूल करना पड़ता है, जो वांछनीय नहीं है।

- In this year's budget speech, Ms. Sitharaman announced a new 'Nuclear Energy Mission' with a ₹20,000 crore outlay to study SMRs and operationalise five indigenous units by 2033.

इस साल के बजट भाषण में, निर्मला सीतारमण ने एक नया 'न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी मिशन' घोषित किया, जिसके तहत ₹20,000 करोड़ का आवंटन किया गया है, ताकि 2033 तक पांच स्वदेशी SMRs को चालू किया जा सके।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. **India caps dream run with emphatic victory over South Africa in the summit clash / भारत ने फाइनल में दक्षिण अफ्रीका पर शानदार जीत के साथ अपने सपने को पूरा किया**



India caps dream run with emphatic victory over South Africa in the summit clash

PCS

Trisha stars with both ball and bat to help the side retain title; spinners Vaishnavi, Aayushi, & Parunika chip in with vital strikes; the Proteas fail to get going after opting to bat



Up, up & above: India emerged champion with an unbeaten record, winning all seven matches. X@iCC

U-19 WOMEN'S WC

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

A dominant India flaunted its embarrassment of riches to win a second successive U-19 Women's T20 World Cup with a thumping nine-wicket victory over South Africa here on Sunday.

Having outclassed every team during its march to the final, India asserted itself yet again, getting the job done with as many as 52 balls to spare while also becoming the first team to win the tournament without dropping a single game.

The star of the day was all-rounder G. Trisha, who complemented her three for 15 with an unbeaten 33-ball 44.

South Africa, led by Kayla Reyneke, opted to bat but the decision backfired quickly as India's three-pronged spin attack bowled it out for 82.

Left-arm spinner Aayushi Shukla returned figures of 4-2-9-2, while Trisha further underlined her all-round capabilities scalping three with her leg-spinners.

Trisha once again anchored India's chase with a knock that was studded with eight fours. Vice-cap-

tain Sanika Chalke (26 n.o., 22b, 4x4) sealed the victory with a powerful heave to the square-leg boundary, as the Indian players, draped in the tricolour, erupted in joy.

Left-arm spinner Parunika Sisodia (4-0-6-2) provided India with an immediate breakthrough, dismissing opener Simone Lourens for a duck as South Africa struggled from the outset.

Seamer Shabnam Shakil (2-0-7-1) then removed the dangerous Jemima Botha for 16, reducing South Africa to 20 for two by the end of the fourth over.

The pressure intensified when Aayushi bowled Diara Ramlakan.

At the halfway mark, South Africa was struggling at 33 for three, unable to gain any momentum.

Reyneke (7) tried to stabilise the innings but fell to Trisha. Mieke van Voorst (23) and Fay Cowling (15) added 30 for the sixth wicket.

South Africa was precariously placed at 58 for five in 16 overs.

Trisha had van Voorst stumped and the Proteas were bowled out off the final delivery of their innings.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA

Jemima Botha c Kamalini b Shabnam 16 (14b, 3x4), Simone Lourens b Parunika 0 (3b), Diara Ramlakan b Aayushi 3 (8b), Kayla Reyneke c Parunika b Trisha 7 (21b), Karabo Meso b Aayushi 10 (26b, 1x4), Mieke van Voorst st. Kamalini b Trisha 23 (18b, 3x4), Fay Cowling b Vaishnavi 15 (20b, 1x6), Seshnie Naidu b Trisha 0 (1b), Ashleigh van Wyk c Vaishnavi b Parunika 0 (3b), Monalisa Legodi b Vaishnavi 0 (2b), Nthabiseng Nini (not out) 2 (4b); Extras (lb-5, w-1); 6; Total (in 20 overs): 82.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-11 (Lourens, 1.6), 2-20 (Botha, 3.6), 3-20 (Ramlakan, 4.1), 4-40 (Reyneke, 11.4), 5-44 (Meso, 12.4), 6-74 (van Voorst, 17.5), 7-74 (Seshnie, 17.6), 8-80 (Cowling,

18.3), 9-80 (Legodi, 18.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Joshitha 2-0-17-0, Parunika 4-0-6-2, Shabnam 2-0-7-1, Aayushi 4-2-9-2, Vaishnavi 4-0-23-2, Trisha 4-0-15-3.

INDIA

G. Kamalini c Lourens b Reyneke 8 (13b, 1x4), G. Trisha (not out) 44 (33b, 8x4), Sanika Chalke (not out) 26 (22b, 4x4); Extras (lb-1, w-5); 6; Total (for one wkt. in 11.2 overs): 84.

FALL OF WICKET

1-36 (Kamalini, 4.3).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Nini 1-0-7-0, Cowling 2-0-19-0, Reyneke 4-1-14-1, Seshnie 1-0-12-0, van Wyk 1-0-12-0, Legodi 1.2-0-10-0, Botha 1-0-9-0.

Toss: South Africa.

PoM: Trisha.

PoS: Trisha.

India caps dream run with emphatic victory over South Africa in the summit clash

भारत ने फाइनल में दक्षिण अफ्रीका पर शानदार जीत के साथ अपने सपने को पूरा किया

A dominant India won a second successive U-19 Women's T20 World Cup with a thumping nine-wicket victory over South Africa on Sunday.



एक दबदबा बनाए हुए भारत ने रविवार को दक्षिण अफ्रीका पर नौ विकेट की शानदार जीत के साथ लगातार दूसरी बार U-19 महिला T20 विश्व कप जीता।

- India asserted itself again, finishing the match with **52 balls to spare** and becoming the **first team to win the tournament** without losing a single game.
भारत ने एक बार फिर अपना दबदबा दिखाया, 52 गेंदें शेष रहते मैच जीता और बिना कोई मैच हारे टूर्नामेंट जीतने वाली पहली टीम बनी।
- **G. Trisha** was the star of the day, scoring an **unbeaten 44 runs in 33 balls** and taking **three wickets for 15 runs**.
G. त्रिशा दिन की सबसे बड़ी स्टार रहीं, उन्होंने 33 गेंदों में नाबाद 44 रन बनाए और 15 रन देकर 3 विकेट लिए।
- **South Africa**, led by **Kayla Reyneke**, opted to **bat first**, but the decision **backfired** as India's **three-pronged spin attack** bowled them out for **82 runs**.
कायला रेनेके की कप्तानी वाली दक्षिण अफ्रीका ने पहले बल्लेबाजी करने का फैसला किया, लेकिन यह निर्णय गलत साबित हुआ क्योंकि भारत के तीन प्रमुख स्पिन गेंदबाजों ने उन्हें 82 रन पर ऑलआउट कर दिया।
- **Left-arm spinner Aayushi Shukla** took **2 wickets for just 9 runs** in her **4-over spell**.
बाएं हाथ की स्पिनर आयुषी शुकला ने अपने 4 ओवरों में 9 रन देकर 2 विकेट लिए।
- **Trisha** further showcased her **all-round abilities**, taking **three wickets with her leg-spin**.
त्रिशा ने अपनी लेग स्पिन गेंदबाजी से तीन विकेट लेकर अपनी हरफनमौला क्षमता को और साबित किया।
- **Trisha** also anchored India's chase, hitting **eight fours** in her **44-run knock**.
त्रिशा ने भारत की पारी को संभाला, अपनी 44 रन की पारी में 8 चौके लगाए।
- **Vice-captain Sanika Chalke** scored an **unbeaten 26 off 22 balls**, sealing the victory with a **boundary to square-leg**.
उप-कप्तान सानिका चालके ने 22 गेंदों में नाबाद 26 रन बनाए और स्क्वेयर-लेग की दिशा में चौका मारकर जीत दिलाई।
- **Indian players erupted in joy**, draped in the **tricolor** after the final winning shot.
भारतीय खिलाड़ी जीत के बाद खुशी से झूम उठे और तिरंगे में लिपटे जश्न मनाया।
- **Left-arm spinner Parunika Sisodia** provided an **early breakthrough**, dismissing **Simone Lourens** for a duck.
बाएं हाथ की स्पिनर परुणिका सिसोदिया ने साइमन लौरेंस को शून्य पर आउट कर भारत को पहली सफलता दिलाई।
- **Seamer Shabnam Shakil** took **one wicket for just 7 runs in 2 overs**, removing the dangerous **Jemma Botha** for 16 runs.
सीमर शबनम शकील ने 2 ओवरों में 7 रन देकर 1 विकेट लिया, जिसमें खतरनाक जैमा बोथा (16 रन) का विकेट शामिल था।



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- **Aayushi Shukla** intensified the pressure by **clean-bowling Diara Ramlakan**.
आयुषी शुकला ने डायरा रामलाकन को क्लीन बोल्ट कर दबाव बढ़ा दिया।
- At the **halfway mark**, **South Africa was struggling at 33 for three**, unable to gain momentum.
मध्य चरण तक दक्षिण अफ्रीका 33/3 के स्कोर पर संघर्ष कर रही थी, और लय हासिल नहीं कर पा रही थी।
- **Kayla Reyneke** tried to **stabilize the innings** but got out for **just 7 runs** to **Trisha**.
कायला रेनेके ने पारी को संभालने की कोशिश की, लेकिन वह त्रिशा के खिलाफ केवल 7 रन बनाकर आउट हो गई।
- **Mieke van Voorst (23)** and **Fay Cowling (15)** added a **30-run partnership** for the **sixth wicket**.
मीके वान वूर्स्ट (23) और फे काउलिंग (15) ने छठे विकेट के लिए 30 रनों की साझेदारी की।
- **South Africa was at 58 for 5 in 16 overs**, struggling to accelerate.
16 ओवरों में दक्षिण अफ्रीका का स्कोर 58/5 था, और टीम तेज़ी से रन नहीं बना सकी।
- **Trisha** took the wicket of **van Voorst**, who was **stumped**, and **South Africa was bowled out on the last ball**.
त्रिशा ने वान वूर्स्ट को स्टंप आउट कराया, और दक्षिण अफ्रीका अंतिम गेंद पर आँलआउट हो गई।

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