



Website: patrioticias.in

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



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

For regular updates on UPSC and PCS preparation, join our Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

07_02_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Zarap village of Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra /
महाराष्ट्र के सिंधुदुर्ग जिले का जराप गांव



The men who play women under the stars

For centuries, men in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg region and parts of northern Goa have been playing women characters in Dashavatar performances that tell stories of Indian mythology. Purnima Sah talks to them to understand the complexities of their identities on and off stage, and their challenges in their roles and in society

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : **9971932488**
Website : patrioticias.in



Zarap village of Kudal taluka in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, is bustling. It's the evening, and the lanes are alive with Marathi devotional songs and stalls selling toys and *vada-pav*, *shakkrapara* and *khaja*. The village temple and its surroundings are lit up with twinkling lights. The fragrance of night jasmine and incense is in the air.

At 10.30 p.m., the Dashavatar artistes gather at Samir Tendolkar's house for dinner. Samir is the owner of the Tendolkar Paramparik Dashavatar Natya Mandal, a theatre company that has been conducting shows on stories of Indian mythology for the past 40 years. After eating chicken, rice, and sliced onion for dinner, the artistes head to the temple, a kilometre or so away. There, in the green room, behind the curtains of the concrete stage, they get ready for the show that will begin at midnight.

Artists pray to a *petara*, a box where the props used in the show, including the Ganesha mask, are stored. Ganesha is the god of auspicious beginnings. Then, they sit in a row next to each other with a mirror placed over their iron trunks that hold costumes, hair, and make-up. Incandescent light bulbs hang over the boxes. A few children from the village squeeze themselves onto a cloth mat and watch two of the men transform into female characters.

Omprakash Chavan, 56, from Amdos village, is playing Rani Sukhanti, a character in her 20s, in a play from the *Shiva Purana*, a text considered sacred by the Hindus. Ganpat Ankush Manjarekar, 52, from Mochemad village is playing Ladkya, the wife of a drunk farmer. She's a comic in the play, who later saves the queen's life.

Dashavatar is a form of theatre that relies on improvisation around a mythological narrative, and practitioners claim it has a history of at least 800 years in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district and northern Goa. Ever since it began, men have been playing women's roles. The men are usually farmers or small business owners or daily wage labourers for some part of the year.

Gender blender

Every year, the Dashavatar season begins after the paddy harvest, towards the end of the Navaratri fast in October and continues until May of the following year.

The plays are based on a clutch of stories of the 10 incarnations of the Hindu god Vishnu: Matsya (the fish), Kurma (the tortoise), Varaha (the boar), Narasimha (the lion-man), Vamana (the dwarf), Rama from the *Ramayana*, Parashurama (Rama with an axe), Krishna (or his brother Balarama) from the *Mahabharata*, Buddha, and Kalki (an avatar yet to come).

The temple authorities from villages offer contracts to Dashavatar theatre companies to perform during the annual fair, called *jatra*. The companies sign up Dashavatar artistes through a verbal contract that they will be touring and performing with them for the season.

In Sindhudurg, there are around 400 Dashavatar artistes, of which about 25 experienced men play women characters. Prashant Tendolkar, 48, who has been playing only male characters for two decades, says, "For a society that has placed men and women in two brackets with a certain identity, we have a long way to go before people see artistes as just artistes."

He recalls instances when men who play women have difficulty finding a woman to marry. "People question their gender identity which is hard to deal with. Most want to play male characters as they are seen as strong, powerful, and dominating." Prashant has a motorcycle seat cover shop in Tendoli village in Kudal taluka.

Dinesh Gore is an 11th generation practitioner, who claims his family started the Dashavatar in Sindhudurg. His house has what he claims is an

For a society that has placed men and women in two brackets with a certain identity, we have a long way to go before people see artistes as just artistes

PRASHANT TENDOLKAR
Dashavatar artiste who only plays male roles

800-year-old Ganesha *mukhavata* (face masks) used by his ancestors. He says his forefathers saw Karnataka's Yakshagana performances and felt the need to promote mythological stories in Maharashtra.

Eight brothers split into different locations and formed Dashavatar companies. Gore, who runs Balkrishna Gore Dashavatar Natya Mandal, claims, "Those days Dashavatar was only performed by Brahmins, but after the death of the brothers, the Devli community (also known as Devadas, considered low-caste people who clean temples) began performing to keep the tradition alive." Two years ago, Gore formed a women's Dashavatar group, but participation and acceptance have been low.

A woman on stage

The night grows deeper in Zarap. Omprakash, who says he has performed in over 8,000 renditions across 40 years, cleans his face with water, puts on moisturiser, then layers it with foundation, lipstick on his cheeks for blush, and powders the whole look into place. He carefully wears eyeliner, kajal, mascara, and shapes his eyebrows using a kajal pencil. He combs his shoulder-length black curly hair into place.

"When I performed the Dashavatar at Mumbai's J.J. Hospital 25 years ago, the organisers had hired professional make-up artistes. That is when I realised how make-up is done. Earlier, I would use powdered colours mixed with water to paint my face," Omprakash says, adding that the same colour is used to paint clay idols. "Many still use it." He was 10 when he first watched *Wah to he durvanchi judi*, a Marathi stage play, at a high school in his village. He dreamt of training as a professional actor, but the closest he could get was Dashavatar, because it required no trained acting. All it needed was knowledge of Hindu mythology and a sense of improvisation.

At 14, when his father passed away, his mother took up daily wage labour jobs and sculpted clay idols. Omprakash would draw science projects for his classmates to earn in stationery, to keep his schooling going. "I managed to study till class 10. At 19, I performed at the Dashavatar near our village. I had two reasons to join: one to fill my stomach and another, to act," he says.

Until about 30 years ago, artistes would pack a few cloths in a bedsheet and travel with theatre companies for six months, sleep in temples and move to the next location on foot. Omprakash's first performance was of Vatsala, the daughter of Balaram. The Walavalkar Dashavatar company, which is over 100 years old, liked his work and offered him a two-year contract.

Later, he joined Naik Mochemadkar Dashavatar company and performed with them for 29 years. Omprakash says he has played a 20-year-

old woman, a pregnant woman, a young bride, a queen, Draupadi and many more. He modulates his voice, pitching it higher, making movements that are fluid, to mimic a woman's voice.

Once he wears a blouse, Omprakash covers his chest with a piece of cloth to finish hair and jewellery, before draping the sari. "I grew up around my mother and have watched Pranali (his wife). By society's definition, men are supposed to be hot tempered, strong. But women have layers of emotions that they use when required. I was very nervous when I performed first as I was aware how society perceives a man dressing as a woman," he says, as he slips on green glass bangles that represent fortune and fertility in a happy married life.

He has been married 32 years now, and Pranali is an ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) worker. They have two sons and a daughter. From being childhood friends to falling in love, Pranali has seen her husband's journey. "I have always loved watching him get dressed and perform. I tell people my husband is more beautiful than I am," she says at their home before he sets out for performance.

By society's definition, men are supposed to be hot-tempered, strong. But women have layers of emotions that they use when required

OMPRAKASH CHAVAN
Dashavatar performer who plays women's roles

against our marriage. Most women don't find a man who is sensitive and calm," she says. Omprakash sells homemade spices, sculpts clay idols and makes soft drinks under the brand name PO, the first letters of both their names, and a word that means 'drink' in Hindi.

"There are two theories about why only men perform in Dashavatar: one is based on the tale of Lord Vishnu assuming the form of a beautiful Mohini, a female avatar to outsmart the demons. The other is that menstruation restricts women from participating in any religious events," says Omprakash, as he gets up to drape *navvari* (nine-yard) sari. It is almost time for the performance.

The stars shine bright

As the night gets darker and the stars get clearer in the open sky, residents of Zarap and nearby villages gather at the temple ground. They sit on plastic sheets and wrap themselves in shawls to watch the show.

This Dashavatar revolves around Dambhasur, a demon king, who wants to kill Raja Sukant, his

son-in-law. Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction, had promised Dambhasur that no one would be able to kill him except his son-in-law. So, the demon would kill every daughter born to him and his wife. However, his daughter, Rani Sukhanti, was rescued and she married Sukant. Each play has all the nine rasas, including anger, humour, and sorrow. There is music with a harmonium, a *pakhawaj* (a percussion instrument), and symbols. Musicians sit in a corner of the stage.

The bench on the stage changes its role depending on the requirement of the character and what they must do. At one point it is Mount Kailash, where Shiva resides; at another, it is the edge of a well that Rani Sukhanti climbs onto, to jump into the make-believe water. Ladkya, the comic, climbs up to rescue her and they both fall off the bench, behind the curtain that separates the green room and the stage.

The audience is so impressed by the performance that they offer cash (*bakshish*) ranging from ₹50 to ₹2,000. People walk up to hand over money to an actor, who stops for a second, collects it, and carries on.

The three-hour-long show runs without a break, and while the story line and movements are plotted, several aspects of it remain impromptu. Most actors get paid between ₹200 and ₹500, while senior artistes like Omprakash get ₹1,000 per show. Samir, the troupe head, distributes the *bakshish* after the show.

"People love Omprakash's performance and the mention of his name brings a good crowd," says Samir, who admits that there isn't enough money in the business to make it a full-time profession. "For one show we get around ₹8,000 to ₹10,000 from the temple authorities. I distribute some among the artistes and the rest is used for expenses. A company does at least 200 shows each season," says Samir, who is a mechanic and owns a garage.

The future

Ravi Bibhishan Chavare, Director of Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Department, says that for the last 15 years, the State government has been organising Dashavatar festivals at different locations in the Konkan region. This year's festival is across January and February.

In March, at the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, a Central government programme aimed at fostering cultural exchanges, Dashavatar will be performed in Odisha. "Maharashtra has over 350 art forms and we can only select five for the league," Chavare says.

"There are more than 70 troupes who perform Dashavatar. Our aim is to preserve and promote the art form by organising such festivals that are completely funded by the government," he says. He adds that the government offers an honorarium of ₹60,000 per troupe along with lodging and travel expenses. "The State government also gives ₹5,000 monthly to artistes above 50."

Omprakash has never been a part of a government initiative. In fact, he worries that the art form may be dying. It began when television came to the village, about 30 years ago, he recounts. "Today there are several distractions. It is not the fault of the audience if they lose interest in Dashavatar. It is up to us to keep them coming back to our performances," says Omprakash, who refuses to join social media to promote Dashavatar. "Only those looking for validation need such tools."

In Omprakash and Pranali's home, set in the middle of open land, the walls are covered with photographs of performances. There are deities and awards next to each other on a table. In one of the wooden cupboards with a glass front are a few props. One is a baby wrapped in a cloth. "When I play the role of a mother, I carry this doll with me," Omprakash says.



Omprakash Chavan displays images of the women characters he has played; (right) he gets ready for a performance. THE HINDU



Zarap village of Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra

महाराष्ट्र के सिंधुदुर्ग जिले का जराप गांव

Zarap village in Kudal taluka, Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, is bustling with activity in the evening.

महाराष्ट्र के सिंधुदुर्ग जिले के कुडाल तालुका का जराप गांव शाम को हलचल से भरा रहता है।

- The lanes are filled with Marathi devotional songs, and stalls sell toys, vada-pav, shakkarpara, and khaja.
गलियों में मराठी भक्ति गीत गूंजते हैं, और दुकानों पर खिलौने, वड़ा-पाव, शक्करपारा और खाजा मिलते हैं।
- The village temple and its surroundings are decorated with lights, and the air is filled with the fragrance of night jasmine and incense.
गांव का मंदिर और उसके आसपास की जगह रोशनी से सजी होती है, और हवा में रातरानी और धूप की खुशबू फैलती है।

Dashavatar Performance

दशावतार प्रदर्शन

- At 10.30 p.m., the Dashavatar artistes gather at Samir Tendolkar's house for dinner.
रात 10.30 बजे, दशावतार कलाकार सामीर तेंडोलकर के घर रात के खाने के लिए इकट्ठा होते हैं।
- Samir Tendolkar owns the **Tendolkar Paramparik Dashavatar Natya Mandal**, a theatre group that has been performing Indian mythology-based plays for 40 years.
सामीर तेंडोलकर के पास तेंडोलकर पारंपरिक दशावतार नाट्य मंडल है, जो पिछले 40 वर्षों से भारतीय पौराणिक कथाओं पर आधारित नाटक प्रस्तुत करता आ रहा है।
- After dinner, artistes head to the temple, a kilometre away, where they prepare for their performance, scheduled at midnight.
खाने के बाद, कलाकार मंदिर की ओर जाते हैं, जो एक किलोमीटर दूर है, जहां वे रात 12 बजे के प्रदर्शन के लिए तैयारी करते हैं।
- They pray to a petara, a box that contains props used in the show, including the Ganesha mask.
वे "पेटारा" (एक बॉक्स) की पूजा करते हैं, जिसमें प्रदर्शन में उपयोग किए जाने वाले सामान, जैसे गणेश मुखौटा, रखे जाते हैं।



Website: patrioticias.in

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



- A few village children watch as two men transform into female characters in the green room behind the stage.
कुछ गांव के बच्चे मंच के पीछे ग्रीन रूम में देखते हैं, जहां दो पुरुष कलाकार महिला किरदारों में बदलते हैं।

Key Dashavatar Characters and Actors

दशावतार के प्रमुख किरदार और अभिनेता

- **Omprakash Chavan (56)** from Amdos village plays **Rani Sukhanti**, a young queen from a play based on the **Shiva Purana**.
आमदोस गांव के 56 वर्षीय ओमप्रकाश चव्हाण रानी सुखांति का किरदार निभाते हैं, जो शिव पुराण पर आधारित नाटक का पात्र है।
- **Ganpat Ankush Manjarekar (52)** from Mochemad village plays **Ladkya**, a comic female character who later **saves the queen's life**.
मोचेमड गांव के 52 वर्षीय गणपत अंकुश मांजरेकर लड़क्या का किरदार निभाते हैं, जो हास्य चरित्र है और बाद में रानी की जान बचाता है।

Dashavatar: A Tradition of Over 800 Years

दशावतार: 800 साल पुरानी परंपरा

- Dashavatar is a theatre form that revolves around mythological stories and improvisation.
दशावतार एक ऐसा नाट्य रूप है जो पौराणिक कहानियों और तात्कालिक संवादों पर आधारित होता है।
- It has been performed for at least 800 years in Maharashtra's **Sindhudurg district** and northern **Goa**.
यह महाराष्ट्र के सिंधुदुर्ग जिले और उत्तर गोवा में कम से कम 800 वर्षों से किया जा रहा है।
- **Men have traditionally played female roles**, as they are usually **farmers, small business owners, or daily wage laborers**.
परंपरागत रूप से पुरुषों ने महिला किरदार निभाए हैं, क्योंकि वे आमतौर पर किसान, छोटे व्यापारी या दिहाड़ी मजदूर होते हैं।

Dashavatar Season and Stories

दशावतार का मौसम और कथाएँ

- Dashavatar season starts after the paddy harvest, towards the end of the Navaratri fast in **October**, and continues until **May**.
दशावतार का सीजन धान की कटाई के बाद शुरू होता है, नवरात्रि उपवास के अंत (अक्टूबर) में, और मई तक चलता है।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Website: patrioticias.in

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



- The plays are based on the **10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu: Matsya (fish), Kurma (tortoise), Varaha (boar), Narasimha (lion-man), Vamana (dwarf), Rama, Parashurama, Krishna (or Balarama), Buddha, and Kalki (yet to come).**

ये नाटक भगवान विष्णु के 10 अवतारों पर आधारित होते हैं: मत्स्य (मछली), कूर्म (कछुआ), वराह (सूअर), नरसिंह (सिंह-पुरुष), वामन (बौना), राम, परशुराम, कृष्ण (या बलराम), बुद्ध और कल्कि (जो अभी अवतरित नहीं हुए हैं)।

Temple Contracts and Artistes' Commitments

मंदिर अनुबंध और कलाकारों की प्रतिबद्धता

- Temple authorities offer contracts to Dashavatar theatre companies for performances during the annual fair (jatra).**
मंदिर प्रबंधन दशावतार नाट्य मंडलों को वार्षिक मेले (जात्रा) में प्रदर्शन के लिए अनुबंध देते हैं।
- The companies verbally sign up artistes, who commit to touring and performing for the entire season.
नाट्य मंडल मौखिक रूप से कलाकारों को जोड़ते हैं, जो पूरे सीजन में यात्रा और प्रदर्शन करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध होते हैं।

Challenges Faced by Dashavatar Artistes

दशावतार कलाकारों की चुनौतियाँ

- Sindhudurg has around 400 Dashavatar artistes, out of which about 25 experienced men play female roles.**
सिंधुदुर्ग में लगभग 400 दशावतार कलाकार हैं, जिनमें से लगभग 25 अनुभवी पुरुष महिला किरदार निभाते हैं।
- Prashant Tendolkar (48), who has played only male characters for two decades, says society struggles to see artistes beyond gender roles.**
48 वर्षीय प्रशांत तेंडोलकर, जो बीस सालों से केवल पुरुष पात्र निभा रहे हैं, कहते हैं कि समाज कलाकारों को उनकी लिंग पहचान से अलग देखने में असमर्थ है।
- Some men who play female characters face difficulties in finding a woman to marry, as people question their gender identity.
कुछ पुरुष कलाकारों को शादी करने में कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि लोग उनकी लिंग पहचान पर सवाल उठाते हैं।

Dashavatar's Historical Roots

दशावतार का ऐतिहासिक संबंध

- Dinesh Gore, an 11th-generation practitioner, claims that his family started Dashavatar in Sindhudurg.**

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



11वीं पीढ़ी के कलाकार दिनेश गोरे का दावा है कि उनके परिवार ने सिंधुदुर्ग में दशावतार की शुरुआत की थी।

- His house has an **800-year-old Ganesha mask (mukhavata)**, which was used by his ancestors.

उनके घर में **800 साल पुराना गणेश मुखौटा (मुखवटा)** रखा हुआ है, जिसे उनके पूर्वजों ने उपयोग किया था।

- His forefathers were **inspired by Karnataka's Yakshagana performances** and felt the **need to promote mythological stories in Maharashtra**.

उनके पूर्वज कर्नाटक के यक्षगान नाटकों से प्रभावित थे और महाराष्ट्र में पौराणिक कथाओं को बढ़ावा देने की आवश्यकता महसूस की।

- Originally, **only Brahmins performed Dashavatar**, but after the founders' deaths, **the Devli community (considered lower caste) continued the tradition**.

शुरुआत में दशावतार केवल ब्राह्मणों द्वारा किया जाता था, लेकिन संस्थापकों की मृत्यु के बाद, देवली समुदाय (जिसे मंदिरों की सफाई करने वाला समझा जाता था) ने इस परंपरा को जारी रखा।

- Two years ago, **Gore started a women's Dashavatar group**, but **participation and acceptance have been low**.

दो साल पहले, गोरे ने महिलाओं का दशावतार समूह शुरू किया, लेकिन भागीदारी और स्वीकार्यता बहुत कम रही।

A Woman on Stage मंच पर एक महिला

- The night grows deeper in **Zarap**. Omprakash, who says he has performed in over **8,000 renditions across 40 years**, cleans his face with water, puts on moisturizer, then layers it with foundation, lipstick on his cheeks for blush, and powders the whole look into place.
- रात गहरी होती जाती है झाराप में। ओमप्रकाश, जो कहते हैं कि उन्होंने **40 वर्षों में 8,000 से अधिक प्रस्तुतियां** दी हैं, अपने चेहरे को पानी से साफ करते हैं, मॉइश्चराइजर लगाते हैं, फिर फाउंडेशन, गालों पर लिपस्टिक से ब्लश और पूरे लुक को सेट करने के लिए पाउडर लगाते हैं।
- He carefully wears **eyeliner, kajal, mascara**, and shapes his eyebrows using a kajal pencil. He combs his **shoulder-length black curly hair** into place.
- वह सावधानीपूर्वक **आइलाइनर, काजल, मस्कारा** लगाते हैं और अपनी भौंहों को काजल पेंसिल से आकार देते हैं। वह अपने कंधे तक लंबे काले घुंघराले बालों को संवारते हैं।
- **25 years ago**, while performing Dashavatar at **Mumbai's J.J. Hospital**, he saw professional makeup artists and learned proper techniques. Earlier, he used **powdered colors mixed with water** to paint his face.
- **25 साल पहले**, जब उन्होंने मुंबई के **J.J. हॉस्पिटल** में दशावतार का प्रदर्शन किया, तो उन्होंने पेशेवर मेकअप आर्टिस्ट्स को देखा और उचित तकनीक सीखी। पहले, वह अपने चेहरे को रंगने के लिए पाउडर रंगों को पानी में मिलाकर उपयोग करते थे।



- At **age 10**, he first watched *Wahto he durvanchi judi*, a Marathi stage play, which inspired him to become an actor.
- **10 वर्ष की उम्र में**, उन्होंने पहली बार *वाठो हे दूरवांची जुडी* नामक मराठी नाटक देखा, जिसने उन्हें अभिनेता बनने के लिए प्रेरित किया।
- At **age 14**, after his father passed away, his mother worked as a **daily wage laborer** and sculpted **clay idols**. Omprakash drew **science projects** for classmates in exchange for stationery.
 - **14 वर्ष की उम्र में**, उनके पिता के निधन के बाद, उनकी माँ **दैनिक मजदूरी** करने लगीं और **मिट्टी की मूर्तियां** बनाती थीं। ओमप्रकाश ने अपने सहपाठियों के लिए **विज्ञान परियोजनाओं** को ड्राइंग किया और बदले में स्टेशनरी प्राप्त की।
- At **19**, he performed Dashavatar for the first time near his village. His two motivations were **to earn a livelihood** and **to act**.
 - **19 साल की उम्र में**, उन्होंने अपने गाँव के पास पहली बार दशावतार का प्रदर्शन किया। उनके दो उद्देश्य थे **रोजगार प्राप्त करना और अभिनय करना**।
- **30 years ago**, actors traveled with theatre companies for **six months**, sleeping in **temples** and walking between locations.
 - **30 साल पहले**, कलाकार **छह महीने** तक नाट्य मंडलियों के साथ यात्रा करते थे, **मंदिरों में** सोते थे और पैदल स्थान बदलते थे।
- His first role was **Vatsala, the daughter of Balaram**. The **Walavalkar Dashavatar company**, which is over **100 years old**, signed him for **two years**.
 - उनका पहला किरदार **वत्सला, बलराम की बेटी** था। **वलवलकर दशावतार मंडली**, जो **100 वर्ष से अधिक पुरानी** है, ने उन्हें **दो वर्षों के लिए** अनुबंधित किया।
- Later, he joined **Naik Mochemadkar Dashavatar company** and performed for **29 years**.
 - बाद में, उन्होंने **नाईक मोचेमडकर दशावतार मंडली** जॉइन की और **29 वर्षों तक** प्रदर्शन किया।
- He has played roles like a **20-year-old woman, a pregnant woman, a young bride, a queen, Draupadi, and more**. He **modulates his voice** to mimic a woman.
 - उन्होंने **20 वर्षीय महिला, गर्भवती महिला, नववधू, रानी, द्रौपदी** और अन्य भूमिकाएँ निभाई हैं। वह **अपनी आवाज़ को अनुकूलित** करते हैं ताकि महिला का स्वर ध्वनि कर सके।
- **Green bangles**, which symbolize **fortune and fertility**, are worn for the performance.
 - **हरी चूड़ियाँ**, जो **सौभाग्य और प्रजनन क्षमता** का प्रतीक हैं, प्रदर्शन के दौरान पहनी जाती हैं।
- His wife, **Pranali**, is an **ASHA worker**. They have **two sons and a daughter**.
 - उनकी पत्नी, **प्रणाली**, एक **आशा कार्यकर्ता** हैं। उनके **दो बेटे और एक बेटी** हैं।
- Pranali faced **bullying** for marrying a man who performs as a woman. Her **parents opposed** the marriage.
 - प्रणाली को एक ऐसे व्यक्ति से शादी करने के लिए **बुलिंग झेलनी पड़ी**, जो महिला के रूप में प्रदर्शन करता है। उनके **माता-पिता इस विवाह के खिलाफ** थे।



Website: patrioticias.in

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



- Omprakash and Pranali run a **homemade spices and soft drinks business**, named **PO**, after their initials.
 - ओमप्रकाश और प्रणाली घरेलू मसाले और सॉफ्ट ड्रिंक्स का व्यवसाय चलाते हैं, जिसका नाम **PO** उनके नाम के पहले अक्षरों पर रखा गया है।

The Future भविष्य

- The **Maharashtra government** organizes **Dashavatar festivals** to promote the art form.
 - महाराष्ट्र सरकार दशावतार महोत्सवों का आयोजन करती है ताकि इस कला को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।
- In **March**, Dashavatar will be performed at **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat in Odisha**.
 - मार्च में, दशावतार का प्रदर्शन एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत कार्यक्रम में ओडिशा में किया जाएगा।
- The government provides **₹60,000 per troupe**, along with **lodging and travel expenses**.
 - सरकार प्रति मंडली ₹60,000 देती है, साथ ही रहने और यात्रा का खर्च भी देती है।
- **Artists above 50** receive a **₹5,000 monthly stipend** from the state.
 - 50 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के कलाकारों को सरकार द्वारा ₹5,000 मासिक मानदेय दिया जाता है।
- Omprakash has **never been part of a government program** and worries about the **decline** of the art form.
 - ओमप्रकाश कभी भी किसी सरकारी योजना का हिस्सा नहीं रहे और उन्हें इस कला के गिरावट की चिंता है।

Yakshagana

यक्षगान

- Yakshagana is a **traditional folk theatre** form that **combines dance, music, dialogue, and elaborate costumes**. It is primarily performed in Karnataka and parts of **northern Kerala**, with roots tracing back to ancient Sanskrit theatre.

यक्षगान एक पारंपरिक लोक रंगमंच है जो नृत्य, संगीत, संवाद और विस्तृत परिधानों का संयोजन करता है। यह मुख्य रूप से कर्नाटक और उत्तरी केरल के कुछ हिस्सों में किया जाता है और इसकी जड़ें प्राचीन संस्कृत रंगमंच से जुड़ी हैं।
- **Historical Background:**

The origins of Yakshagana can be traced to the **16th century**, with influences from **Vaishnavism, Shaivism, and Jainism**. The term "**Yakshagana**" literally means '**songs of the celestial beings**'.

यक्षगान की उत्पत्ति 16वीं शताब्दी में हुई मानी जाती है, जिसमें वैष्णववाद, शैववाद और जैन धर्म का प्रभाव देखा जाता है। "यक्षगान" का शाब्दिक अर्थ है 'देवताओं के गीत'।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



- **Themes:**
Performances are often based on **epics like the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas**. Stories are presented in a dramatized form, often including moral lessons.
प्रदर्शन आमतौर पर **रामायण, महाभारत और पुराणों** जैसे महाकाव्यों पर आधारित होते हैं। कहानियों को नाटकीय रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जाता है, जिसमें अक्सर नैतिक पाठ शामिल होते हैं।
- **Components:**
 - **Himmela:** The musical team comprising the singer, percussionists, and background score.
हिम्ममेला: इसमें गायक, तालवादक और पृष्ठभूमि संगीत टीम शामिल होती है।
 - **Mummela:** The actors who perform on stage with elaborate costumes and makeup.
मुम्ममेला: इसमें मंच पर विस्तृत परिधानों और मेकअप के साथ प्रदर्शन करने वाले अभिनेता शामिल होते हैं।
- **Language and Style:**
Yakshagana is performed in **Kannada and Tulu**, with dialogues and songs in a **free-verse style** accompanied by **drums like Chende and Maddale**.
यक्षगान का प्रदर्शन कन्नड़ और तुलु भाषाओं में होता है, जिसमें संवाद और गीत **मुक्त छंद शैली** में होते हैं और इसमें **चेंडे और मड्डले** जैसे ढोल बजाए जाते हैं।
- **Significance:**
 - **Cultural Preservation:** Yakshagana preserves traditional **art forms, folklore**, and moral lessons for modern generations.
सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण: यक्षगान पारंपरिक कला रूपों, लोककथाओं और नैतिक पाठों को आधुनिक पीढ़ियों के लिए संरक्षित करता है।
 - **Tourism:** It is a major tourist attraction, especially during **temple festivals** in Karnataka.
पर्यटन: यह विशेष रूप से कर्नाटक के **मंदिर उत्सवों** के दौरान प्रमुख पर्यटक आकर्षण है।
- **Data and Facts:**
 - Yakshagana's most prominent style is the **'Badagutittu' style**, popular in **Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts**.
यक्षगान की सबसे प्रमुख शैली **'बडगुतित्तु'** है, जो **उडुपी और दक्षिण कन्नड़ जिलों** में लोकप्रिय है।
 - Over **100 Yakshagana troupes** perform across Karnataka every year.
हर साल कर्नाटक में **100 से अधिक यक्षगान मंडलियां** प्रदर्शन करती हैं।
- **Environmental Impact and Challenges:**
 - **Traditional Yakshagana is performed outdoors under oil lamps**, but urbanization has shifted it to **indoor theatres**, losing its natural charm.
पारंपरिक यक्षगान का प्रदर्शन **तेल के दीपकों की रोशनी में बाहर** किया जाता था, लेकिन शहरीकरण के कारण इसे **इनडोर थिएटरों** में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया है, जिससे इसका प्राकृतिक आकर्षण खो गया है।
 - Financial challenges often hinder small troupes, leading to declining interest among the youth.



वित्तीय चुनौतियां अक्सर छोटी मंडलियों में बाधा डालती हैं, जिससे युवाओं के बीच रुचि घट रही है।

Dashavatara Temple

दशावतार मंदिर

- The **Dashavatara Temple** is located in **Deogarh, Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh**, near the **Betwa River valley**.
- दशावतार मंदिर उत्तर प्रदेश के ललितपुर जिले के देवगढ़ में, बेतवा नदी घाटी के पास स्थित है।
- Deogarh is approximately **125 kilometers** from **Jhansi** and sits on the western edge of the **Lalitpur range**, amidst forests and rocky river rapids.
- देवगढ़ झांसी से लगभग **125 किलोमीटर** दूर है और यह ललितपुर पर्वत श्रृंखला के पश्चिमी किनारे पर, जंगलों और पथरीली नदी धाराओं के बीच स्थित है।
- The temple is close to the **Deogarh Karnali fort** and a group of **Jain temples**.
- यह मंदिर देवगढ़ कर्णाली किले और जैन मंदिरों के समूह के पास स्थित है।
- Nearest railway station: **Lalitpur**; nearest major airports: **Khajuraho** and **Bhopal**.
- निकटतम रेलवे स्टेशन: **ललितपुर**; निकटतम प्रमुख हवाई अड्डे: **खजुराहो** और **भोपाल**।

Historical Significance

ऐतिहासिक महत्व

- Built in the **Gupta Period (5th-6th century CE)**, it is one of the **earliest surviving Hindu stone temples**.
- गुप्त काल (5वीं-6वीं सदी ईस्वी) में निर्मित, यह प्राचीनतम शेष हिंदू पत्थर मंदिरों में से एक है।
- The temple architecture reflects the **ornate Gupta style**, representing **early North Indian temple design**.
- मंदिर की वास्तुकला गुप्त शैली की भव्यता को दर्शाती है और यह प्रारंभिक उत्तर भारतीय मंदिर डिज़ाइन का प्रतीक है।
- The site contains **inscriptions** and **sculptures** indicative of an ancient settlement that thrived as a **trade route** and **cultural hub**.
- स्थल पर शिलालेख और मूर्तियां हैं जो इसे एक प्राचीन बस्ती और व्यापार मार्ग व सांस्कृतिक केंद्र के रूप में दर्शाती हैं।
- The temple is dedicated to **Vishnu**, with sculptures and carvings of his **ten avatars (Dashavatara)**.
- यह मंदिर विष्णु को समर्पित है और इसमें उनके दशावतारों की मूर्तियां और नक्काशी की गई हैं।



Architectural Features

वास्तुकला की विशेषताएं

- The temple follows the **Sarvatobhadra style**, described in the **Vishnudharmottara Purana**, with entrances on **all four sides**.
- यह मंदिर **सर्वतोभद्र शैली** का अनुसरण करता है, जिसे **विष्णुधर्मोत्तरा पुराण** में वर्णित किया गया है, और इसमें **चारों ओर प्रवेश द्वार** हैं।
- Built with **stone and masonry bricks**, the temple stands on a **high plinth (jagati)**, accessible by **steps** from all directions.
- **पत्थर और मेसनरी ईंटों** से निर्मित यह मंदिर एक **ऊँचे जगती (चबूतरे)** पर खड़ा है, जो **सभी दिशाओं** से सीढ़ियों द्वारा पहुँचा जा सकता है।
- The temple faces **west**, allowing the **setting sun's rays** to illuminate the idol inside.
- मंदिर का मुख **पश्चिम** की ओर है, जिससे **डूबते सूर्य की किरणें** अंदर की मूर्ति को प्रकाशित करती हैं।
- It is adorned with intricate sculptures of **Vishnu, Shiva, Parvati, Kartikeya**, and other deities, as well as **secular and amorous scenes**.
- इसे **विष्णु, शिव, पार्वती, कार्तिकेय** और अन्य देवताओं की जटिल मूर्तियों, साथ ही **सांसारिक और प्रेमपूर्ण दृश्यों** से सजाया गया है।

Cultural and Archaeological Insights

सांस्कृतिक और पुरातात्विक अंतर्दृष्टि

- The temple is considered the **earliest Panchayatana temple** in **North India**, where the central shrine is surrounded by **four subsidiary shrines**.
- यह मंदिर **उत्तर भारत** का सबसे **प्राचीन पंचायतन मंदिर** माना जाता है, जहाँ **मध्य मंदिर** के चारों ओर **चार उप-मंदिर** हैं।
- The carvings depict **Vishnu's legends**, including **Vishnu reclining on Shesha (the serpent)** and scenes from the **Ramayana**.
- यहाँ की **नक्काशी विष्णु की कथाओं** को दर्शाती है, जैसे **शेषनाग पर विष्णु की शयन मुद्रा** और **रामायण** के दृश्य।
- **Inscriptions** found in the region date back to **808 CE to 1164 CE**.
- यहाँ **मिले शिलालेख 808 ईस्वी से 1164 ईस्वी** के हैं।
- The site also includes **Jain and Buddhist monuments**, reflecting its **multicultural significance**.
- यह स्थल **जैन और बौद्ध स्मारकों** को भी सम्मिलित करता है, जो इसकी **सांस्कृतिक विविधता** को दर्शाता है।

Current State

वर्तमान स्थिति



- Much of the temple and surrounding **Jain temples** are in **ruins**, with signs of **damage** and loss of original reliefs.
- मंदिर और आसपास के **जैन मंदिरों** का अधिकांश भाग **खण्डहर** में है, जिसमें **क्षति** और **मूल नक्काशी** के **नष्ट होने** के संकेत हैं।
- Some artifacts, like panels depicting **Krishna** and other avatars, were excavated during the **20th century**.
- **20वीं सदी** के दौरान, **कृष्ण** और अन्य अवतारों को दर्शाने वाले कुछ **कलाकृतियों** को उत्खनन में प्राप्त किया गया।
- The temple is locally known as **Sagar Marh**, referencing the **square water tank** in front.
- यह मंदिर स्थानीय रूप से **सागर मढ़** के नाम से जाना जाता है, जो इसके सामने के **चौकोर जलाशय** की ओर संकेत करता है।

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

1. **Centre plays down U.S. handling of deportees / अमेरिका द्वारा निर्वासित भारतीयों के साथ व्यवहार को केंद्र ने हल्का किया**
2. **What was 'gross' about the 12 Bills kept pending for 3 years: SC to T.N. Governor / तीन वर्षों तक लंबित 12 विधेयकों में क्या 'गंभीर' था: सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल से पूछा**
3. **UGC extends date to submit feedback on draft guidelines / यूजीसी ने मसौदा दिशानिर्देशों पर प्रतिक्रिया जमा करने की तिथि बढ़ाई**
4. **Delhi CEO: EVMs kept in strongrooms with three-tier security / दिल्ली सीईओ: ईवीएम तीन-स्तरीय सुरक्षा के साथ स्ट्रांग रूम में रखे गए**



Website: patrioticias.in

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



5. **Dissolution of new districts rocks Rajasthan Assembly for second consecutive day / नए जिलों के विघटन से राजस्थान विधानसभा में लगातार दूसरे दिन हंगामा**
6. **Christian group in Arunachal Pradesh to go on fast from Feb. 10 against implementation of anti-conversion law / अरुणाचल प्रदेश में ईसाई संगठन 10 फरवरी से धर्मांतरण विरोधी कानून के खिलाफ उपवास पर**
7. **The primary lessons from the Reagan air crash / रीगन हवाई दुर्घटना से मिले प्रमुख सबक**
8. **Under the scanner: Adani's project in Sri Lanka / जांच के दायरे में: श्रीलंका में अडानी की परियोजना**
9. **On the appointment of ad-hoc judges to High Courts / उच्च न्यायालयों में अस्थायी न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति पर**
10. **No word from govt. on U.S. cancelling Chabahar waiver / अमेरिका द्वारा चाबहार छूट रद्द करने पर सरकार की ओर से कोई बयान नहीं**
11. **SC gives charge of kabaddi federation to governing body / सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कबड्डी महासंघ का प्रभार गवर्निंग बॉडी को सौंप दिया**
12. **Odisha joins States' pitch for 50% share of divisible tax pool / ओडिशा ने राज्यों के साथ मिलकर विभाजित कर पूल में 50% हिस्सेदारी की मांग की**
13. **At least 80 killed as Army, militant outfit clash in Sudan; UN warns of 'catastrophe' / सूडान में सेना और**

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Website: patrioticias.in

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



उग्रवादियों के बीच संघर्ष में कम से कम 80 लोगों की मौत;
संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 'तबाही' की चेतावनी दी

14. **What ails India's massive diagnostics sector:
putting labs under the lens / भारत के विशाल डायग्नोस्टिक्स
क्षेत्र की समस्या क्या है: प्रयोगशालाओं पर नज़र रखना**

PATRIOTIC IAS

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Centre plays down U.S. handling of deportees

Both Houses erupt in protest over handcuffing and chaining of Indians; Jaishankar says the use of such restraints is a standard practice; U.S. has sent back over 15,000 Indians since 2009, says govt.

[GS Paper II: India-US](#)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid protests from the Opposition members over the way undocumented Indian nationals were handcuffed and chained by the U.S. while deporting them to India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday informed Parliament that the deportation of undocumented migrants was not a new development, and the use of restraints was a "standard operating procedure".

Mr. Jaishankar said the Centre would be engaging with the U.S. government to ensure that the deportees were not mistreated in any manner while being sent back. The Minister made the statement as both the Houses witnessed an uproar over the treatment meted out to 104 illegal Indian immigrants who landed in Amritsar on Wednesday on a U.S. military plane.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha first, Mr. Jaishankar said a total of 15,756 illegal Indian immigrants had been deported to India from the U.S. since 2009.

The Lok Sabha witnessed multiple disruptions



In shackles: Chained undocumented Indian nationals being deported to India on a U.S. military aircraft. X/@USBPCHIEF

tions and was eventually adjourned after Mr. Jaishankar made the statement amid protests.

He stressed that it was the obligation of all countries to take back their nationals if they were found to be living illegally abroad. "Sir, honourable members would be aware that the process of deportation is not a new one, I repeat not a new one, and has been ongoing for several years," Mr. Jaishankar said, while sharing a year-wise break-up of deportees since 2009.

The highest deportation was witnessed in 2019 with

2,042 illegal Indian immigrants being sent back to the country, he said.

Mr. Jaishankar also asserted that it was in the collective interest of the House to discourage illegal movement, and the focus of the government would be to "crack down on the illegal migration industry".

Expressing outrage over the handcuffing of deportees, Opposition members staged a protest outside Parliament.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 13

U.S. doubles down on deportations

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Amidst outrage over the treatment of Indian deportees, the United States doubled down on its decision to fly the alleged illegal immigrants shackled and handcuffed aboard a military plane.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 13

Centre plays down U.S. handling of deportees

अमेरिका द्वारा

निर्वासित भारतीयों के

साथ व्यवहार को केंद्र ने

हल्का किया

Both Houses erupt in protest over handcuffing and chaining of Indians.

दोनों सदनों में भारतीयों को

हथकड़ी और जंजीर पहनाने

पर विरोध।

• **Jaishankar says the use of such restraints is a standard practice.**

जयशंकर ने कहा कि इस तरह की रोकथाम एक मानक प्रक्रिया है।

• **U.S. has sent back over 15,000 Indians since 2009, says govt.**

सरकार के अनुसार, अमेरिका ने

2009 से अब तक 15,000 से अधिक

भारतीयों को वापस भेजा।

• **Opposition members protested against the handcuffing and chaining of undocumented Indian nationals.**

विपक्षी सदस्यों ने अनियमित भारतीय नागरिकों को हथकड़ी और जंजीर पहनाने का विरोध किया।

• **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar informed Parliament that deportation of undocumented migrants is not a new development.**

विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने संसद को बताया कि अवैध प्रवासियों का निर्वासन कोई नई बात नहीं है।



Website: patrioticias.in

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



- The Centre will engage with the **U.S. government** to ensure **deportees are not mistreated**.
केंद्र सरकार अमेरिकी सरकार से बातचीत करेगी ताकि निर्वासित लोगों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार न हो।
- **104 illegal Indian immigrants** landed in **Amritsar** on **Wednesday** on a **U.S. military plane**.
104 अवैध भारतीय प्रवासी बुधवार को अमृतसर में अमेरिकी सैन्य विमान से उतरे।
- **Jaishankar** stated that a total of **15,756 illegal Indian immigrants** have been deported since **2009**.
जयशंकर ने कहा कि **2009** से अब तक **15,756 अवैध भारतीय प्रवासियों** को निर्वासित किया गया है।
- The **Lok Sabha** witnessed **multiple disruptions** and was eventually **adjourned** after Jaishankar's statement.
लोकसभा में कई बार अवरोध हुआ और अंततः स्थगित कर दी गई।
- The **highest deportation** was in **2019** with **2,042 Indians** sent back.
2019 में सबसे अधिक **2,042 भारतीयों** को निर्वासित किया गया।
- **Jaishankar** emphasized the need to **discourage illegal migration** and focus on **cracking down on the illegal migration industry**.
जयशंकर ने अवैध प्रवास को हतोत्साहित करने और अवैध प्रवास उद्योग पर नकेल कसने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- **Opposition members** expressed outrage over **handcuffing** of deportees and staged a **protest outside Parliament**.
विपक्षी सदस्यों ने निर्वासित लोगों को हथकड़ी लगाने पर नाराजगी जताई और संसद के बाहर विरोध प्रदर्शन किया।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



What was 'gross' about the 12 Bills kept pending for 3 years: SC to T.N. Governor

GS Paper II: Center-State Relations

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked what Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi found so "gross" about the 12 Bills the State government sent him for assent that they were kept pending for over three years.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan recapped the trajectory of 12 Bills, mostly to do with higher education and the appointment process of Vice-Chancellors in State universities, for the benefit of the Governor, whose office was represented by Attorney-General of India R. Venkataramani.

Justice Pardiwala observed that these Bills were sent by the State Legislature for consent to the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution between January 2020 and April 2023. The Governor had sat on them indefinitely. Ultimately, when the State government approached the court against the Governor's perceived inaction in November 2023, the latter had quickly referred two of the Bills to the President and proceeded to withhold consent on the remaining 10.

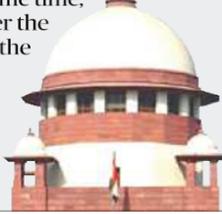


You [Governor] are saying 'I withhold consent', but at the same time,

I will not ask them to reconsider the Bills. This would only frustrate the procedure under Article 200...

The Governor seems to have adopted his own procedure here

JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
Supreme Court Judge



SC to hear Kerala's plea on Governors in March

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The State of Kerala on Thursday pushed for an early hearing in the Supreme Court its writ petition arguing that Governors in Opposition-ruled States

have triggered a tendency to delay assent or indefinitely sit on crucial Bills passed by the Legislative Assemblies. The matter is likely to be listed in March.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

The judge further observed that the Tamil Nadu Assembly had re-passed the 10 Bills in a Special Session and sent them again to the Governor for assent. This time, the Governor had proceeded to refer all 10 Bills to the President for consideration. The President had subsequently assented to one Bill, rejected seven and not considered

the remaining two proposed laws.

"We do not want to undermine the powers of the Governor... But, tell us, what is that something gross the Governor found that he kept these pending for over three years?" Justice Pardiwala asked.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Bills, mostly concerning higher education and Vice-Chancellor appointments in State universities.

न्यायमूर्ति जे.बी. पारदीवाला और आर. महादेवन की पीठ ने इन 12 विधेयकों की प्रक्रिया की समीक्षा की, जो मुख्य रूप से उच्च शिक्षा और राज्य विश्वविद्यालयों में कुलपतियों की नियुक्ति से संबंधित थे।

- The Bills were sent by the **State Legislature** for the Governor's assent under **Article 200 of the Constitution** between January 2020 and April 2023.

What was 'gross' about the 12 Bills kept pending for 3 years: SC to T.N. Governor

तीन वर्षों तक लंबित 12

विधेयकों में क्या 'गंभीर' था:

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने तमिलनाडु के

राज्यपाल से पूछा

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned what Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi found so "gross" about 12 Bills that they were kept pending for over three years.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को सवाल

किया कि तमिलनाडु के

राज्यपाल आर.एन. रवि को 12

विधेयकों में ऐसा क्या "गंभीर"

लगा कि उन्होंने इन्हें तीन वर्षों

तक लंबित रखा।

• A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan reviewed the trajectory of these 12



Website: patrioticias.in

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



राज्य विधानमंडल ने इन विधेयकों को संविधान के अनुच्छेद 200 के तहत राज्यपाल की स्वीकृति के लिए जनवरी 2020 और अप्रैल 2023 के बीच भेजा था।

- The **Governor sat on them indefinitely, taking no action.**

राज्यपाल ने इन्हें अनिश्चितकाल तक रोके रखा और कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की।

- In **November 2023**, when the **State government** approached the **court**, the Governor quickly referred **two Bills to the President** and withheld consent on the **remaining 10 Bills.**

नवंबर 2023 में जब राज्य सरकार ने अदालत का रुख किया, तब राज्यपाल ने दो विधेयकों को राष्ट्रपति के पास भेज दिया और शेष 10 विधेयकों पर स्वीकृति देने से इनकार कर दिया।

- The **Tamil Nadu Assembly re-passed the 10 Bills in a Special Session** and sent them again to the **Governor for assent.**

तमिलनाडु विधानसभा ने विशेष सत्र में इन 10 विधेयकों को फिर से पारित कर राज्यपाल को दोबारा भेजा।

- This time, the **Governor referred all 10 Bills to the President. The President assented to one Bill, rejected seven, and did not consider two Bills.**

इस बार, राज्यपाल ने सभी 10 विधेयकों को राष्ट्रपति के पास भेज दिया। राष्ट्रपति ने एक विधेयक को मंजूरी दी, सात को अस्वीकार कर दिया और दो पर कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया।

- Justice Pardiwala questioned the **Governor's prolonged inaction**, stating, "**We do not want to undermine the Governor's powers... But tell us, what was so gross that he kept them pending for over three years?**"

न्यायमूर्ति पारदीवाला ने राज्यपाल की लंबे समय तक निष्क्रियता पर सवाल उठाते हुए कहा, "हम राज्यपाल की शक्तियों को कमजोर नहीं करना चाहते... लेकिन बताइए, ऐसा क्या गंभीर था कि उन्होंने इन्हें तीन वर्षों तक लंबित रखा?"

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



UGC extends date to submit feedback on draft guidelines

GS Paper II:
Center-State Relation

NEW DELHI

A day after the Education Ministers of six non-BJP-ruled States passed a resolution against the University Grants Commission's draft guidelines on faculty, including appointment of vice-chancellors, the commission decided to extend the last date to submit feedback to February 28. A public notice issued by the UGC said the decision was taken in view of requests received from stakeholders to extend the last date.

Union Education Minis-

ter Dharmendra Pradhan said it was unfortunate and concerning to see how some political leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, "twisted progressive educational reforms into imaginary threats" to sustain outdated political narratives.

"The draft regulations aim to broaden horizons, not narrow them. They seek to include more voices, not silence them," he said on social media.

RAHUL JOINS PROTEST

» PAGE 14

that the decision was taken in view of requests from stakeholders to extend the last date.

यूजीसी द्वारा जारी सार्वजनिक नोटिस में कहा गया कि यह निर्णय हितधारकों से प्राप्त अनुरोधों के मद्देनजर लिया गया है।

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan criticized some political leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, for twisting progressive educational reforms into imaginary threats.

केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान ने लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी सहित कुछ राजनीतिक नेताओं की आलोचना की कि उन्होंने प्रगतिशील शैक्षिक सुधारों को काल्पनिक खतरों में बदल दिया।

- He stated, "The draft regulations aim to broaden horizons, not narrow them. They seek to include more voices, not silence them."

उन्होंने कहा, "मसौदा विनियमों का उद्देश्य दृष्टिकोण का विस्तार करना है, उन्हें सीमित करना नहीं। वे अधिक आवाजों को शामिल करना चाहते हैं, उन्हें दबाना नहीं।"

UGC extends date to submit feedback on draft guidelines

यूजीसी ने मसौदा दिशानिर्देशों पर प्रतिक्रिया जमा करने की तिथि बढ़ाई

A day after the Education Ministers of six non-BJP-ruled States passed a resolution against the University Grants Commission's (UGC) **draft guidelines on faculty and vice-chancellor appointments**, the commission extended the deadline to February 28.

छह गैर-भाजपा शासित राज्यों के शिक्षा मंत्रियों द्वारा विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) के मसौदा दिशानिर्देशों के खिलाफ प्रस्ताव पारित करने के एक दिन बाद, आयोग ने प्रतिक्रिया जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 28 फरवरी तक बढ़ा दी।

- A public notice issued by the UGC stated



Delhi CEO: EVMs kept in strongrooms with three-tier security

GS Paper II:
Elections

NEW DELHI

The EVMs and VVPAT machines used in the Delhi Assembly election have been kept in 70 strongrooms and are secured by a three-tier cordon, Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) R. Alice Vaz said on Thursday.

“These strongrooms, one for each Assembly constituency, are being safeguarded with stringent security measures as part of the Election Commission’s protocols,” read a statement by the CEO.

Forces on guard

It added that paramilitary forces personnel are guarding the innermost perimeter of the strongrooms, while the State armed police have been tasked with securing the outer perimeter.

“24x7 CCTV surveillance is in place, covering all sealed doors and corridors, and a double-lock system ensures additional security,” the Delhi CEO said. The statement added, “The strongrooms are ac-

R. Alice Vaz said re-polling would not be conducted in any seat as none of the candidates had lodged complaints regarding the election process

cessible only through a single entry/exit point to prevent unauthorised access.”

No entry for vehicles

Operational control rooms have been set up adjacent to the strongrooms and entry is prohibited for all vehicles, including those of VIPs and officials, the CEO also said.

In addition, Ms. Vaz stated that all election-related documents were found to be in order during the scrutiny, and added that the presence of observers, candidates and representatives ensured fairness in the electoral process.

She said that re-polling would not be required in any of the 70 constituencies, as no complaints were received from any of the 699 candidates.

guarding the innermost perimeter of the strongrooms, while the State armed police are securing the outer perimeter.

Delhi CEO: EVMs kept in strongrooms with three-tier security

दिल्ली सीईओ: ईवीएम तीन-स्तरीय सुरक्षा के साथ स्ट्रांग रूम में रखे गए

The EVMs and VVPAT machines used in the Delhi Assembly election have been kept in 70 strongrooms with a three-tier security cordon, said Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) R. Alice Vaz on Thursday.

दिल्ली विधानसभा चुनाव में उपयोग की गई ईवीएम और वीवीपैट मशीनों को 70 स्ट्रांग रूम में तीन-स्तरीय सुरक्षा घेरे के साथ रखा गया है, यह जानकारी दिल्ली के मुख्य चुनाव अधिकारी (सीईओ) आर. एलिस वाज़ ने गुरुवार को दी।

- Each Assembly constituency has one strongroom, safeguarded with strict security measures as per Election Commission’s protocols.

प्रत्येक विधानसभा क्षेत्र के लिए एक स्ट्रांग रूम है, जिसे चुनाव आयोग के प्रोटोकॉल के अनुसार कड़े सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ संरक्षित किया गया है।

Forces on guard

सुरक्षा में तैनात बल

- Paramilitary forces personnel are



Website: patrioticias.in

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



अर्धसैनिक बलों के जवान स्ट्रांग रूम के सबसे अंदरूनी घेरे की सुरक्षा कर रहे हैं, जबकि राज्य सशस्त्र पुलिस बाहरी परिधि की सुरक्षा में तैनात है।

- **24x7 CCTV surveillance covers all sealed doors and corridors, with a double-lock system for additional security.**

24x7 सीसीटीवी निगरानी सभी सील दरवाजों और गलियारों को कवर कर रही है, और डबल-लॉक प्रणाली से अतिरिक्त सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की गई है।

- The **strongrooms have only one entry/exit point to prevent unauthorized access.** स्ट्रांग रूम में केवल एक प्रवेश/निकास बिंदु है ताकि अवैध पहुंच रोकी जा सके।

No entry for vehicles

वाहनों के लिए प्रवेश निषेध

- **Operational control rooms have been set up adjacent to the strongrooms, and entry of all vehicles, including VIPs and officials, is prohibited.**

स्ट्रांग रूम के पास परिचालन नियंत्रण कक्ष स्थापित किए गए हैं, और वीआईपी व अधिकारियों सहित सभी वाहनों का प्रवेश निषिद्ध है।

- **All election-related documents were found to be in order during the scrutiny, ensuring fairness in the electoral process in the presence of observers, candidates, and representatives.**

सभी चुनाव-संबंधी दस्तावेज जांच के दौरान सही पाए गए, जिससे निरीक्षकों, उम्मीदवारों और प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में चुनावी प्रक्रिया की निष्पक्षता सुनिश्चित हुई।

- **No complaints were received from any of the 699 candidates, so re-polling will not be required in any of the 70 constituencies.**

699 उम्मीदवारों में से किसी से भी कोई शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई, इसलिए 70 में से किसी भी विधानसभा क्षेत्र में पुनः मतदान की आवश्यकता नहीं पड़ेगी।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



Dissolution of new districts rocks Rajasthan Assembly for second consecutive day

GS Paper II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The issue of dissolution of nine of the 17 new districts and three divisions by the Bharatiya Janata Party government rocked the Rajasthan Assembly for the second consecutive day on Thursday. The Opposition Congress MLAs trooped into the well and raised slogans during the Zero Hour, forcing a brief adjournment of the House.

Speaker Vasudev Devnani allowed two Congress members, Suresh Modi and Ramkesh Meena, to speak on the issue as per his Wednesday's ruling. Both Mr. Modi and Mr. Meena alleged that the BJP government had done injustice to the people and adopted a "vindictive approach" while deciding to abolish the new districts formed during the previous Con-



State govt. is fully empowered under the Land Revenue Act to create or abolish a district

JOGARAM PATEL
Parliamentary Affairs Minister

gress regime in 2023.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Meena have led public agitation in their constituencies, Neem Ka Thana and Gangapur City, respectively, against the dissolution of these two districts.

Both the MLAs said the State government had not followed the norms and had failed to test the parameters while dissolving the districts without taking into account the interests of local people.

Parliamentary Affairs Mi-

nister Jogaram Patel refuted the allegations and said the State government was fully empowered under the Land Revenue Act to create or abolish a district. He said the Congress had acted ahead of the 2023 Assembly election with the motive of securing votes to retain its government. "The new districts were formed to appease the local Congress MLAs," Mr. Patel said.

'Full of rhetoric'

Dissatisfied with the Minister's reply, Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jolly said Mr. Patel had made a political statement instead of convincing the members and apprising the House of the reasons for keeping or rejecting the new districts. "Mr. Patel's reply was full of rhetoric... He has failed to provide the basis for the government's decision," Mr. Jolly said.

Dissolution of new districts rocks Rajasthan Assembly for second consecutive day

नए जिलों के विघटन से राजस्थान विधानसभा में लगातार दूसरे दिन हंगामा

The issue of dissolution of nine out of 17 new districts and three divisions by the BJP government created an uproar in the Rajasthan Assembly for the second consecutive day on Thursday.

बीजेपी सरकार द्वारा 17 नए जिलों में से 9 जिलों और तीन मंडलों को समाप्त करने

के मुद्दे पर गुरुवार को लगातार दूसरे दिन राजस्थान विधानसभा में हंगामा हुआ।

- Opposition Congress MLAs rushed into the well of the House, raised slogans during **Zero Hour**, and forced a **brief adjournment**.
विपक्षी कांग्रेस विधायक जीरो आँवर के दौरान सदन के वेल में आकर नारेबाजी करने लगे, जिससे सदन को कुछ समय के लिए स्थगित करना पड़ा।
- Speaker Vasudev Devnani allowed two Congress members, Suresh Modi and Ramkesh Meena, to speak on the issue as per his **Wednesday's** ruling.
स्पीकर वासुदेव देवनानी ने बुधवार के फैसले के अनुसार कांग्रेस के दो सदस्य, सुरेश मोदी और रामकेश मीना को इस मुद्दे पर बोलने की अनुमति दी।

Allegations by Congress MLAs



कांग्रेस विधायकों के आरोप

- **Suresh Modi and Ramkesh Meena** alleged that the **BJP government** had done **injustice** to the people and taken a **vindictive approach** by **abolishing the districts** formed during the **2023 Congress regime**.
सुरेश मोदी और रामकेश मीना ने आरोप लगाया कि बीजेपी सरकार ने जनता के साथ अन्याय किया और 2023 में कांग्रेस सरकार द्वारा बनाए गए जिलों को समाप्त कर बदले की राजनीति की।
- **Modi and Meena** led **public protests** in their constituencies, **Neem Ka Thana and Gangapur City**, against the **dissolution of these two districts**.
मोदी और मीना ने अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों, नीम का थाना और गंगपुर सिटी में इन जिलों के विघटन के खिलाफ जन आंदोलन का नेतृत्व किया।
- They claimed that the **State government** did not **follow norms or test parameters** before **dissolving the districts**, ignoring **local interests**.
उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य सरकार ने जिलों को भंग करने से पहले मानकों का पालन नहीं किया और स्थानीय हितों को नजरअंदाज किया।

Government's Response

सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया

- **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel** rejected the allegations, stating that the **State government has full authority under the Land Revenue Act to create or dissolve districts**.
संसदीय कार्य मंत्री जोगाराम पटेल ने आरोपों को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि राज्य सरकार के पास भूमि राजस्व अधिनियम के तहत जिलों को बनाने या समाप्त करने का पूरा अधिकार है।
- He accused the **Congress government** of forming **new districts** before the **2023 Assembly election** solely for **vote bank politics**.
उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि कांग्रेस सरकार ने 2023 के विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले केवल वोट बैंक की राजनीति के लिए नए जिले बनाए।
- **New districts were formed to appease local Congress MLAs**, said Patel.
नए जिले स्थानीय कांग्रेस विधायकों को खुश करने के लिए बनाए गए थे, पटेल ने कहा।

Opposition's dissatisfaction

विपक्ष की असंतुष्टि

- **Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jolly** expressed **dissatisfaction** with the Minister's reply, calling it a **political statement** rather than a **justification**.
विपक्ष के नेता टीका राम जुल्ली ने मंत्री के जवाब से असंतोष जताते हुए इसे राजनीतिक बयान करार दिया, न कि तार्किक स्पष्टीकरण।



- **Jully criticized Patel**, saying his response was **full of rhetoric** and lacked a **clear basis** for the government's decision.

****जुल्ली ने पटेल की आलोचना करते हुए कहा कि उनका जवाब केवल लफ्फाजी से भरा हुआ था और सरकार के फैसले का ठोस आधार नहीं दिया गया।**

Christian group in Arunachal Pradesh to go on fast from Feb. 10 against implementation of anti-conversion law

The Hindu
GUWAHATI
GS Paper II: Right to religion



Pema Khandu

An apex Christian body in Arunachal Pradesh has planned a series of protests against the Pema Khandu-led Bharatiya Janata Party government's move to implement a 46-year-old anti-conversion law.

The Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF) said its members would go on a week-long fast from February 10 followed by a mass prayer calling for the repeal of the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act of 1978. They also plan to gherao the State Assembly on March 6, when the Act is likely to be discussed for implementation.

In December 2024, Mr. Khandu had said the Freedom of Religion Act would be implemented after its

rules are framed. This followed a directive from the Gauhati High Court to the State government to finalise the draft rules of the Act within six months from September 2024.

"The Act has freedom in its name but it has been designed to curb the freedom of practising our religion. We have drawn up the protest programme to demonstrate our opposition to this unfair Act that has been dormant for four decades," ACF president Tarh Miri told *The Hindu* on Thurs-

day. He said the government was virtually indifferent to the ACF's concerns. "We met the Chief Secretary in November 2024 and submitted a letter to the Chief Minister, who advised us to meet his adviser, Alo Libang. We did so but there has been no response," Mr. Miri said, adding that the move to implement the Act was against the spirit of secularism.

The Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act was passed by the State Assembly during the Janata Party government headed by P.K. Thungon. It received the presidential assent on October 25, 1978. It was reportedly enacted in response to concerns about the perceived threat to indigenous faiths in the State. Successive governments chose to overlook the Act.

Christians object to release of Odia film

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The members of the Christian community in Odisha have strongly objected to the release of Odia film, *Satanani - Karma Hi Dharm*, slated for Friday, claiming it portrays Jesus Christ and Christians in a bad light.

The National United Christian Forum (NUCF), part of a forum comprising the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, National Council of Churches in India and Evangelical Fellowship of India, in a release on Thursday said the film distorts the image of Jesus

Christ, baptism, and misrepresents conversion as a criminal activity.

"The right to freedom of religion, including the right of a citizen to convert to any religion of choice, is enshrined in the Constitution of India, and any attempt to undermine this fundamental right is unconstitutional," said the forum.

The forum called upon the authorities to intervene and stop any harm caused to peace and harmony in the region. Earlier, Christian representatives had urged Chief Minister Mohan Majhi to intervene and stop the release of the film.

Christian group in Arunachal Pradesh to go on fast from Feb. 10 against implementation of anti-conversion law

अरुणाचल प्रदेश में ईसाई संगठन 10 फरवरी से धर्मांतरण विरोधी कानून के खिलाफ उपवास पर

An apex Christian body in Arunachal Pradesh has planned a series of protests against the BJP-led government's move to implement a 46-year-old anti-conversion law.

अरुणाचल प्रदेश के एक प्रमुख ईसाई संगठन ने बीजेपी सरकार द्वारा 46 साल



Website: patrioticias.in

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



पुराने धर्मांतरण विरोधी कानून को लागू करने के खिलाफ एक श्रृंखला में विरोध प्रदर्शन करने की योजना बनाई है।

- The **Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF)** announced that its members would go on a **week-long fast from February 10**, followed by a **mass prayer** to demand the **repeal of the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 1978**.
अरुणाचल क्रिश्चियन फोरम (ACF) ने घोषणा की कि उसके सदस्य 10 फरवरी से एक सप्ताह तक उपवास करेंगे, इसके बाद सामूहिक प्रार्थना करेंगे, ताकि अरुणाचल प्रदेश फ्रीडम ऑफ रिलिजन एक्ट, 1978 को रद्द करने की मांग की जा सके।
- They also plan to **gherao the State Assembly on March 6**, when the Act is expected to be discussed for **implementation**.
वे 6 मार्च को राज्य विधानसभा का घेराव करने की भी योजना बना रहे हैं, जब इस कानून को लागू करने पर चर्चा होने की संभावना है।

Government's Stand on the Law

सरकार का इस कानून पर रुख

- In **December 2024**, **Chief Minister Pema Khandu** had stated that the **Freedom of Religion Act** would be implemented **after its rules are framed**.
दिसंबर 2024 में, मुख्यमंत्री पेमा खांडू ने कहा था कि फ्रीडम ऑफ रिलिजन एक्ट को इसके नियम बनने के बाद लागू किया जाएगा।
- This decision followed a **directive from the Gauhati High Court**, which instructed the **State government** to **finalize the draft rules within six months from September 2024**.
यह निर्णय गौहाटी हाईकोर्ट के निर्देशों के बाद आया, जिसमें राज्य सरकार को सितंबर 2024 से छह महीनों के भीतर मसौदा नियमों को अंतिम रूप देने का आदेश दिया गया था।

ACF's Response and Protest Plan

ACF की प्रतिक्रिया और विरोध की योजना

- **ACF President Tarh Miri** stated that the **Act is misleading**, as it claims to provide **freedom** but actually **curbs the right to practice religion**.
ACF के अध्यक्ष तारह मिरी ने कहा कि यह कानून भ्रामक है, क्योंकि यह स्वतंत्रता का दावा करता है, लेकिन वास्तव में धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता पर प्रतिबंध लगाता है।
- He also said that the government has been **indifferent to ACF's concerns**.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि सरकार ACF की चिंताओं के प्रति उदासीन रही है।
- In **November 2024**, ACF met the **Chief Secretary** and submitted a **letter to the Chief Minister**, who advised them to meet his adviser, **Alo Libang**. However, they received **no response**.
नवंबर 2024 में, ACF ने मुख्य सचिव से मुलाकात की और मुख्यमंत्री को एक पत्र सौंपा, जिन्होंने

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



उन्हें अपने सलाहकार आलो लिबांग से मिलने की सलाह दी। हालांकि, उन्हें कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं मिली।

- **Miri criticized** the move to implement the **Act**, calling it **against the spirit of secularism**.

मिरी ने इस कानून को लागू करने के कदम की आलोचना की, इसे धर्मनिरपेक्षता की भावना के खिलाफ बताया।

Historical Background of the Law

कानून का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

- The **Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act** was passed in **1978** during the **Janata Party** government led by **P.K. Thungon**.
अरुणाचल प्रदेश फ्रीडम ऑफ रिलिजन एक्ट को 1978 में जनता पार्टी सरकार के दौरान पारित किया गया था, जिसका नेतृत्व पी.के. थुंगोन ने किया था।
- It received **presidential assent on October 25, 1978**, and was reportedly enacted in response to concerns about the **perceived threat to indigenous faiths in the State**.
इसे 25 अक्टूबर 1978 को राष्ट्रपति की मंजूरी मिली, और इसे कथित तौर पर राज्य में स्थानीय धर्मों पर संभावित खतरे को देखते हुए लागू किया गया था।
- **Successive governments** chose to **overlook the Act** and did not enforce it for **over four decades**.
लगातार सरकारों ने इस कानून को नजरअंदाज किया और चार दशकों से अधिक समय तक इसे लागू नहीं किया।

Christians object to release of Odia film

ईसाइयों ने ओड़िया फिल्म की रिलीज़ पर आपत्ति जताई

The Christian community in Odisha has strongly objected to the release of the Odia film **Sanatani — Karma Hi Dharma**, which is scheduled to release on Friday.

ओड़िशा में ईसाई समुदाय ने ओड़िया फिल्म सनातनी – कर्म ही धर्म की रिलीज़ पर कड़ा विरोध जताया, जो शुक्रवार को रिलीज़ होने वाली है।

- They claim that the film **portrays Jesus Christ and Christians in a bad light**.
उनका दावा है कि यह फिल्म ईसा मसीह और ईसाइयों को गलत तरीके से दिखाती है।

Christian Forum's Concerns



ईसाई मंच की चिंताएँ

- The **National United Christian Forum (NUCF)**, which is part of the **Catholic Bishops Conference of India, National Council of Churches in India, and Evangelical Fellowship of India**, has raised concerns over the film.
नेशनल यूनाइटेड क्रिश्चियन फोरम (NUCF), जो कैथोलिक बिशप्स कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑफ इंडिया, नेशनल काउंसिल ऑफ चर्चस इन इंडिया और एवेंजलिकल फेलोशिप ऑफ इंडिया का हिस्सा है, ने इस फिल्म पर आपत्ति जताई है।
- The forum stated that the film **distorts the image of Jesus Christ, baptism, and misrepresents conversion as a criminal activity**.
फोरम का कहना है कि यह फिल्म ईसा मसीह, बपतिस्मा (धर्म दीक्षा) की छवि को विकृत करती है और धर्म परिवर्तन को एक अपराध के रूप में दिखाती है।
- The **right to freedom of religion**, including the **right to convert to any religion of choice**, is enshrined in the **Indian Constitution**, and any attempt to **undermine this fundamental right is unconstitutional**, the forum added.
फोरम ने कहा कि धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार, जिसमें किसी भी धर्म को चुनने और अपनाने का अधिकार शामिल है, भारतीय संविधान में निहित है, और इस मौलिक अधिकार को कमजोर करने का कोई भी प्रयास असंवैधानिक है।

Call for Government Intervention

सरकारी हस्तक्षेप की मांग

- The forum has urged the **authorities to intervene and prevent any harm to peace and harmony** in the region.
फोरम ने प्रशासन से हस्तक्षेप करने और क्षेत्र में शांति और सौहार्द को बनाए रखने की अपील की है।
- **Earlier, Christian representatives** had also requested **Chief Minister Mohan Majhi to stop the release of the film**.
इससे पहले, ईसाई प्रतिनिधियों ने मुख्यमंत्री मोहन मांझी से फिल्म की रिलीज़ रोकने की मांग की थी।



The primary lessons from the Reagan air crash

GS Paper II: Regulation

The tragic mid-air collision on January 29, 2025 between a United States Army Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and an American Airlines CRJ-700 flight while it was on the final approach path to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington DC, killing 67 people, brings out several aspects of human factors that can result in a tragedy.

In this case, the first was having politicians jump the gun by blaming others, even before a formal investigation began and the bodies were yet to be recovered from the **watery grave of the Potomac river**. U.S. President Donald Trump was quick to blame former U.S. Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden for **diluting U.S air safety standards**, forgetting that it was he who held the reins in the interim four-year period.

Pressures, opaque investigations in India

One saw the same kind of political one-upmanship just after the air accident at **Mangaluru in May 2010 when the Minister of Civil Aviation, Praful Patel, declared that the airport conformed to all standards of ICAO Annex 14, volume I**. Dutifully, the court of inquiry committee that was headed by a retired Air Marshal of the Indian Air Force, glossed over all the blatant violations of the **Airports Authority of India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the airline, i.e., Air India Express, by blaming only the pilot**. In all the air accident reports in India, one never gets detailed data from the **digital flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder**.

Unlike in India, where the truth is hidden and restrictions placed on all access to information on the accident, photographs or data on the state of infrastructure, it is open in the rest of the world where one can analyse data with vital clues that are available. There is a big lesson to be learnt from the air accident in the U.S. The **radar track and the air traffic control audio tracks were openly available and one could analyse and disseminate the facts instead of having doctored data and reports** that have been vetted by a bureaucrat who ensures that there is nothing incriminating against the government and its agencies is published in the final report.

Let us take what has been put out by media sources in the U.S. What is generally known is that the American Airlines flight was given a runway change by air traffic control to accommodate a departure. The change was accepted by the crew. The helicopter, PAT25 (or Priority Air Transport) had taken off from a base



Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan

is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

The Reagan accident in the U.S. highlights the several factors that can result in a tragedy; there is also the danger of investigation agencies getting side-tracked

nearby for a Proficiency training flight at night and had been informed about the passenger flight. The air traffic controller had asked the helicopter crew whether he had the passenger flight in sight. The pilot responded by saying he was visual with the plane and he was given clearance to maintain visual and pass behind the passenger flight. This is where the human factor plays a big part. The flight was at night. Other than the navigation lights and the rotating beacon, the helicopter pilot had no other clue to make out the type of aircraft he had visual sighting with. His only information was based on the flight number.

If one looks at the radar picture available to the public and the information from the air traffic tape recording, there was another flight which was behind the American Airlines flight, but approaching the main runway that the American flight was originally approaching before the American crew accepted a side step to a different runway.

The 'hurry syndrome'

Did the helicopter pilot wrongly identify this second flight to be the American flight when he reported visual to air traffic control? If one looks at the radar track of this second flight and the track being followed by the helicopter to "cross behind" (as instructed by air traffic control), it is quite likely that the helicopter crew had focused on the second flight rather than the American Airlines flight and were fixated on being behind the aircraft they had perhaps misidentified. As both the helicopter and the American Airlines flight were below 1,000 feet above ground level, the collision avoidance system would not have sounded as it would have been inhibited below 1,000 ft.

In aviation parlance, this is what one calls "Press-on-itis", or the 'hurry syndrome', where once you get fixated, all other inputs cannot influence your judgement. One needs a fresh and clear mind to be able to maintain situational awareness and spatial orientation. Fatigue and stress have a major role in these situations. The initial reports indicate there was only a single air traffic tower controller at Reagan handling the flights when, normally, two controllers are on duty.

Soon after the Reagan accident, the visual media in India went on overdrive, with graphic presentations of the Charkhi Dadri mid-air collision in India, near New Delhi, on November 12, 1996. In this accident, a Kazakhstan Airlines flight from Chimkent, Kazakhstan to Delhi

collided with a Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 74 flight from Delhi to Dhahran, killing 349 people. The pilot of the Kazakh flight was blamed for not complying with air traffic control clearance. What people are not aware of was a DGCA official who was in-charge of the investigation was removed from the investigation when he submitted his findings. It was another official who finalised the report. It is needless to say that the last nine minutes of the digital flight data recorder of the Saudia flight was a blank.

In the recent crash in South Korea, in December 2024, where a passenger flight landed with retracted wheels and crashed into an embankment housing the instrument landing system localiser antenna, South Korea, like India at the time of the Mangaluru crash, had not complied with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 14, Volume 1 Standard that mandated that all structures in operational area shall be frangible (from January 1, 2010). Yet ICAO gave them a clean chit during the audits conducted. The Korean jet's digital flight data recorder was also blank for the last four minutes.

Incidents in Bengaluru, Tiruchi

Let us not forget the case of two Indigo flights, c January 7, 2022 – one bound for Kolkata, and the other for Bhubaneswar – that were departing from parallel runways at Bengaluru airport. The air traffic controllers had cleared planes for take-off. In the two runways at Bengaluru, one runway was to be used for take-offs and the other for landings simultaneously. It was a narrow escape for both planes.

Neither the airline nor the air traffic control reported the matter but the incident came to light during a safety audit. The lack of situational awareness and the lack of knowledge of the pilot on the functioning of the collision avoidance system were safety issues that were all swept under the carpet.

On October 11, 2024, an Air India Express flight from Tiruchirappalli to Sharjah experienced hydraulic failure in one system. It circled for clo to three hours before landing. But the political class in Tamil Nadu and the media went to town making a hero out of the captain who had exhibited very poor judgement when he could have made an overweight landing immediately.

This is another example of people with no knowledge of aviation passing judgements and influencing investigation agencies. The mid-air tragedy should open the eyes of the travelling public and know that safety is being compromised for brownie points.

The primary lessons from the Reagan air crash

रीगन हवाई दुर्घटना से मिले प्रमुख सबक



Website: patrioticias.in

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



On January 29, 2025, a tragic mid-air collision occurred between a United States Army Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and an American Airlines CRJ-700 flight while on its final approach path to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington DC. This accident resulted in 67 deaths.

29 जनवरी 2025 को एक दुखद मिड-एयर टकराव हुआ, जिसमें संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की सेना का सिकोरस्की UH-60 ब्लैक हॉक हेलीकॉप्टर और अमेरिकन एयरलाइंस CRJ-700 उड़ान रोनाल्ड रीगन वाशिंगटन नेशनल एयरपोर्ट, वाशिंगटन डीसी के अंतिम अप्रोच पथ पर थे। इस दुर्घटना में 67 लोगों की मौत हुई।

- **Politicians** quickly started blaming others before the formal investigation began, with bodies yet to be recovered from the Potomac River.
राजनीतिज्ञों ने औपचारिक जांच शुरू होने से पहले ही दूसरों को दोष देना शुरू कर दिया, जबकि पोतोमैक नदी से शवों को बरामद किया जाना बाकी था।
- **U.S. President Donald Trump** blamed former Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden for diluting U.S. air safety standards, forgetting that he had been in power for four years in between.
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने पूर्व राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा और जो बाइडेन को अमेरिकी हवाई सुरक्षा मानकों को कमजोर करने के लिए दोषी ठहराया, यह भूलते हुए कि इस बीच वह स्वयं चार वर्षों तक सत्ता में थे।

Pressures, opaque investigations in India

भारत में दबाव और अपारदर्शी जांच

- Similar political blame game was seen after the Mangaluru air accident in May 2010, when Minister of Civil Aviation, Praful Patel, declared that the airport conformed to all ICAO standards.
मई 2010 में मंगलुरु हवाई दुर्घटना के बाद भी ऐसी ही राजनीतिक बयानबाज़ी देखी गई, जब नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल ने घोषणा की कि हवाई अड्डा सभी ICAO मानकों का पालन करता है।
- The court of inquiry, led by a retired Air Marshal of the Indian Air Force, ignored violations by the Airports Authority of India, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and Air India Express, blaming only the pilot.
भारतीय वायु सेना के एक सेवानिवृत्त एयर मार्शल की अध्यक्षता में गठित जांच समिति ने भारतीय हवाई अड्डा प्राधिकरण, नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (DGCA) और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस द्वारा की गई अनियमितताओं को नजरअंदाज किया और सिर्फ पायलट को दोषी ठहराया।
- Unlike India, where accident data and investigation reports are restricted, the U.S. makes radar tracks and air traffic control audio openly available for analysis.

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



भारत में, जहां दुर्घटना संबंधी डेटा और जांच रिपोर्टों पर प्रतिबंध लगाया जाता है, उसके विपरीत, अमेरिका में रडार ट्रैक और हवाई यातायात नियंत्रण ऑडियो सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं।

- The American Airlines flight was given a runway change to accommodate a departure, and the crew accepted it.
अमेरिकन एयरलाइंस की उड़ान को एक रनवे परिवर्तन दिया गया ताकि एक विमान प्रस्थान कर सके, और क्रू ने इसे स्वीकार कर लिया।
- The helicopter, PAT25 (Priority Air Transport), was on a night proficiency training flight and was informed about the passenger flight.
हेलीकॉप्टर PAT25 (प्रायोरिटी एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट) रात में प्रोफिशिएंसी ट्रेनिंग उड़ान पर था और उसे यात्री उड़ान के बारे में सूचित किया गया था।
- The air traffic controller asked the helicopter crew if they had visual confirmation of the passenger flight.
एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोलर ने हेलीकॉप्टर क्रू से पूछा कि क्या उन्होंने यात्री विमान को दृश्य रूप से देखा था।
- The pilot confirmed visual contact but had only navigation lights and rotating beacons to identify the aircraft type.
पायलट ने दृश्य संपर्क की पुष्टि की, लेकिन विमान की प्रकार की पहचान करने के लिए केवल नेविगेशन लाइट और रोटेटिंग बीकन थे।
- Radar data showed another flight behind the American Airlines flight, approaching the original runway before the American crew switched to a different one.
रडार डेटा ने दिखाया कि अमेरिकन एयरलाइंस की उड़ान के पीछे एक और उड़ान थी, जो मूल रनवे की ओर बढ़ रही थी, इससे पहले कि अमेरिकन क्रू ने एक अलग रनवे चुना।

The 'Hurry Syndrome' जल्दबाज़ी सिंड्रोम

- Did the helicopter pilot wrongly identify this second flight to be the American flight when he reported visual to air traffic control?
 - क्या हेलीकॉप्टर पायलट ने गलत पहचान की और दूसरे विमान को अमेरिकी विमान समझ लिया जब उसने एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल को दृश्य रिपोर्ट किया?
- If one looks at the radar track of this second flight and the track followed by the helicopter to "cross behind" (as instructed by air traffic control), it is quite likely that the helicopter crew had focused on the second flight rather than the American Airlines flight.
 - यदि कोई दूसरे विमान का रडार ट्रैक और हेलीकॉप्टर का "पीछे से पार करने" का मार्ग देखे, तो संभावना है कि हेलीकॉप्टर दल ने गलत विमान पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।
- As both the helicopter and American Airlines flight were below 1,000 feet, the collision avoidance system would not have sounded as it would have been inhibited below 1,000 ft.



- चूंकि हेलीकॉप्टर और अमेरिकी एयरलाइंस विमान 1,000 फीट से नीचे थे, टक्कर से बचाव प्रणाली सक्रिय नहीं हुई क्योंकि यह 1,000 फीट से नीचे निष्क्रिय हो जाती है।
- In aviation parlance, this is called “**Press-on-itis**” or the ‘**Hurry Syndrome**’, where fixation leads to ignoring other crucial inputs.
 - विमानन क्षेत्र में इसे “**Press-on-itis**” या ‘**जल्दबाज़ी सिंड्रोम**’ कहा जाता है, जहां ध्यान एक बिंदु पर केंद्रित हो जाता है और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण संकेतों को अनदेखा कर दिया जाता है।
- **Fatigue and stress** play a major role in these situations.
 - थकान और तनाव इन स्थितियों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- The **initial reports indicate** there was only a **single air traffic tower controller** at Reagan, while normally, **two controllers** are on duty.
 - प्रारंभिक रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, रोनल्ड रीगन हवाई अड्डे पर सिर्फ एक एयर टैफिक कंट्रोल टावर अधिकारी इयूटी पर था, जबकि आमतौर पर दो अधिकारी मौजूद होते हैं।
- **Historical Comparisons and Other Incidents ऐतिहासिक तुलनाएँ और अन्य घटनाएँ**
- Soon after the **Reagan accident**, Indian media **compared it with the Charkhi Dadri mid-air collision** in India on **November 12, 1996**, where a **Kazakhstan Airlines flight** collided with a **Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747**, killing **349 people**.
 - रीगन दुर्घटना के तुरंत बाद, भारतीय मीडिया ने इसे 12 नवंबर 1996 को चरखी दादरी मिड-एयर टक्कर से तुलना की, जिसमें कजाकिस्तान एयरलाइंस और सऊदी अरब एयरलाइंस बोइंग 747 की टक्कर से 349 लोग मारे गए।
- The pilot of the **Kazakh flight was blamed** for not complying with air traffic control clearance.
 - कजाकिस्तान विमान के पायलट को दोषी ठहराया गया, क्योंकि उसने एयर टैफिक कंट्रोल के निर्देशों का पालन नहीं किया।
- A **DGCA official investigating the incident** was removed when he submitted his findings.
 - एक **DGCA अधिकारी**, जो इस दुर्घटना की जांच कर रहा था, को निष्कासित कर दिया गया जब उसने अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की।
- The **last nine minutes** of the **Saudi flight’s digital flight data recorder** were **blank**.
 - सऊदी विमान के डिजिटल फ्लाइट डेटा रिकॉर्डर के अंतिम नौ मिनट रिकॉर्ड नहीं हुए।
- In **December 2024**, a **passenger flight in South Korea landed with retracted wheels**, crashing into an **embankment housing the instrument landing system localiser antenna**.
 - दिसंबर 2024 में, दक्षिण कोरिया में एक यात्री विमान लैंडिंग गियर खोले बिना उतरा, जिससे वह उपकरण लैंडिंग प्रणाली लोकलाइज़र एंटीना के तटबंध से टकरा गया।
- **South Korea, like India**, had not complied with **ICAO Annex 14, Volume 1 Standard**, which mandated that **all structures in operational areas shall be frangible**.
 - दक्षिण कोरिया और भारत दोनों ने **ICAO अनुबंध 14, वॉल्यूम 1 मानक** का पालन नहीं किया, जिसमें सभी संरचनाओं को **फ्रैन्जिबल (टूटने योग्य)** होना आवश्यक बताया गया था।



- Yet, ICAO gave South Korea a clean chit during audits.
 - फिर भी, ICAO ने दक्षिण कोरिया को ऑडिट में क्लीन चिट दे दी।
- The Korean jet's digital flight data recorder was also blank for the last four minutes.
 - कोरियाई जेट का डिजिटल फ्लाइट डेटा रिकॉर्डर भी अंतिम चार मिनट के लिए रिक्त था।
- Incidents in Bengaluru, Tiruchi बेंगलुरु, तिरुचि में घटनाएँ
- On January 7, 2022, two Indigo flights (one bound for Kolkata and the other for Bhubaneswar) were cleared for take-off simultaneously from parallel runways at Bengaluru airport.
 - 7 जनवरी 2022 को, दो इंडिगो उड़ानों (एक कोलकाता और दूसरी भुवनेश्वर के लिए) को बेंगलुरु हवाई अड्डे पर समांतर रनवे से एक साथ टेकऑफ़ की अनुमति दी गई।
- It was a narrow escape for both planes.
 - दोनों विमानों के लिए यह एक संकीर्ण बचाव था।
- The incident came to light during a safety audit, as neither the airline nor air traffic control reported the matter.
 - यह घटना एक सुरक्षा ऑडिट के दौरान सामने आई, क्योंकि न तो एयरलाइन और न ही एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल ने इस मामले की रिपोर्ट की।
- On October 11, 2024, an Air India Express flight from Tiruchirappalli to Sharjah experienced hydraulic failure.
 - 11 अक्टूबर 2024 को, तिरुचिरापल्ली से शारजाह जाने वाली एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस उड़ान में हाइड्रोलिक विफलता आई।
- The flight circled for nearly three hours before landing, but the captain was hailed as a hero, despite poor judgment in not making an immediate overweight landing.
 - विमान ने लगभग तीन घंटे तक हवा में चक्कर लगाए, लेकिन कप्तान को हीरो बना दिया गया, जबकि उसने तुरंत ओवरवेट लैंडिंग न करके खराब निर्णय लिया।
- This is another example of people with no aviation knowledge influencing investigations.
 - यह एक और उदाहरण है कि कैसे विमानन ज्ञान के बिना लोग जांच को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
- The mid-air tragedy should open the eyes of the travelling public about how safety is being compromised.
 - मिड-एयर त्रासदी यात्रियों की आंखें खोलनी चाहिए कि कैसे सुरक्षा से समझौता किया जा रहा है।



Under the scanner: Adani's project in Sri Lanka

Why is Adani Green's power plant in northern Sri Lanka controversial? What are the environmental concerns linked to it? What did current President Anura Kumara Dissanayake promise before he was elected? Why did the Chairman of the Ceylon Electricity Board resign?

GS Paper II: India-Sri Lanka

EXPLAINER

Meera Srinivasan

The story so far:

In January 24, news agency AFP reported that Sri Lanka revoked a 2024 power purchasing agreement signed with Adani Green Energy Limited. A Sri Lankan official told the agency that while the project itself had not been cancelled, the government has appointed a committee to review it. The Adani Group "categorically denied" cancellation of the project. The move drew attention, with many in Sri Lanka flagging President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's pre-poll pledge to cancel the "corrupt" project that has been mired in controversy from the time it was approved.

What is Dissanayake's position?

In its latest clarification, the Dissanayake government has said that there is no decision to cancel the project, but that it would renegotiate a lower rate of power purchase with the firm. Cabinet Spokesman Nalinda Jayatissa stated that the government is seeking a lower tariff that is below six cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), instead of the formerly agreed rate of 8.26 cents per kWh.

The Minister's announcement stood out, since the Dissanayake government in October 2024 told the Supreme Court, in an ongoing case, that it would reconsider the approval granted by the previous government to the Adani Group for the wind power project.

Furthermore, Mr. Dissanayake and his party have in the past underscored the need for a competitive bid. "We welcome foreign capital, including from the private sector. But all investments should come through a fair tender process," Mr. Dissanayake told *The Hindu* in September 2024. "If the government had gone for a fair tender process, we could have got it for half the price," he said in the interview.



Still raging: Former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with Adani group Chairman Gautam Adani.

What is the project?

Adani Green Energy Limited is to build a wind power plant project in the Mannar and Pooneryn towns in Sri Lanka's northern province, investing \$442 million. According to Sri Lankan authorities, the project is expected to add at least 350 MW to the island's national grid by 2025.

In October 2021, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani visited Colombo and called on then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, weeks after his company sealed a deal with State-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) to develop and run the strategic Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal, which is currently proceeding. At that time, officials of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) told media that the Group also "explored the possibility of investing in Sri Lanka's wind and renewable energy sector".

When was the project approved?

In March 2022, the CEB signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Adani Green for the wind energy project, but the development was kept under wraps. It was a report in the local *Sunday Times* that brought the move to light. Ever since, the project has remained in the spotlight, amid dramatic developments on the island. The Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration came under fierce attack from the Opposition, for "choosing" the Adani Group for the project without calling for competitive bids, and bypassing due process. The Group's "back door" entry into Sri Lanka's energy sector disrupted the country's competitive electricity generation system, the main opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya contended, accusing the government of "pampering" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "notorious friends".

In June 2022, Chairman of the CEB M.M.C. Ferdinando resigned, days after he told a parliamentary panel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "pressured" Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to clear the Adani Group project. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka experienced a crushing financial meltdown, owing to an acute twin deficit problem. As a result, Mr. Gotabaya was dramatically ousted from office by a citizens' uprising, following which former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe took his place in July 2022, even as the crisis endured.

There was renewed thrust on bringing in foreign investment in to the country to rebuild its battered economy. In February 2023, Sri Lanka's Board of Investment approved a project to set up two wind power plants in northern Sri Lanka, with a \$442 million investment from Adani Green Energy Limited. The two wind power plants – 250 MW capacity in Mannar and 100 MW in Pooneryn – were scheduled to be commissioned in two years, and the project would generate around 2,000 new jobs, the Board had announced. Despite U.S. short seller Hindenburg accusing the Adani Group of serious corruption in January that year, then Foreign Minister Ali Sabry told *The Hindu* that Colombo sees the Adani projects in Sri Lanka as a "government to government kind of deal" and was confident of their future. In May 2024, President Wickremesinghe's Cabinet cleared a proposal to purchase power at \$0.0826, or 8.26 cents, per kWh from Adani Green Energy.

Why are locals opposing the project?

Residents of Mannar have been raising concerns over the project's likely impact on a crucial bird corridor in the region and on the livelihoods of local fisherfolk. Environmentalists, too, are opposing the plant. The Central Asian Flyway, an important migration route for many waterbird species, runs through Mannar. Last year, multiple petitioners challenged the Adani wind power project. The next hearing of the case is scheduled in March.

THE GIST

In March 2022, the CEB signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Adani Green for the wind energy project, but the development was kept under wraps. It was a report in the local *Sunday Times* that brought the move to light. Ever since, the project has remained in the spotlight.

In February 2023, Sri Lanka's Board of Investment approved a project to set up two wind power plants in northern Sri Lanka, with a \$442 million investment from Adani Green Energy Limited. The two wind power plants – 250 MW capacity in Mannar and 100 MW in Pooneryn – were scheduled to be commissioned in two years.

The Central Asian Flyway, an important migration route for many waterbird species, runs through Mannar.

Under the scanner: Adani's project in Sri Lanka

जांच के दायरे में: श्रीलंका में अडानी की परियोजना

- On January 24, news agency AFP reported that **Sri Lanka revoked a 2024 power purchasing agreement signed with Adani Green Energy Limited**. However, the project itself had not been cancelled, and a committee was appointed to review it. 24 जनवरी को समाचार एजेंसी AFP ने रिपोर्ट किया कि श्रीलंका ने 2024 में अडानी ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड के साथ हुई बिजली खरीद समझौते को रद्द कर दिया। हालांकि, परियोजना को रद्द नहीं किया गया, बल्कि इसकी समीक्षा के लिए एक समिति नियुक्त की गई।
- The Adani Group "categorically denied" cancellation of the project. अडानी समूह ने इस परियोजना के रद्द होने से स्पष्ट रूप से इनकार किया।



- The move gained attention as many in Sri Lanka recalled **President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's pre-poll pledge** to cancel the “**corrupt**” project, which has been controversial since approval.

इस कदम ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया क्योंकि श्रीलंका में कई लोगों ने राष्ट्रपति अनुरा कुमारा डिसानायके के चुनाव पूर्व वादे को याद किया, जिसमें उन्होंने इस “भ्रष्ट” परियोजना को रद्द करने की बात कही थी, जो मंजूरी के बाद से ही विवादों में रही है।

What is Dissanayake's position?

डिसानायके की क्या स्थिति है?

- The **Dissanayake government clarified** that there is **no decision to cancel** the project but that it would **renegotiate a lower power purchase rate** with Adani Green Energy. डिसानायके सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि परियोजना को रद्द करने का कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया, बल्कि सरकार निम्नतर बिजली खरीद दर पर पुनर्विचार करेगी।
- **Cabinet Spokesman Nalinda Jayatissa** stated that the government wants a **tariff below six cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh)** instead of the **formerly agreed 8.26 cents per kWh**. कैबिनेट प्रवक्ता नलिंदा जयतीसा ने कहा कि सरकार पूर्व में सहमत 8.26 सेंट प्रति kWh की दर के बजाय 6 सेंट प्रति kWh से कम की दर चाहती है।
- In **October 2024**, the **Dissanayake government told the Supreme Court** that it would **reconsider the approval** granted by the **previous government** to Adani's wind power project. अक्टूबर 2024 में, डिसानायके सरकार ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को बताया कि वह पिछली सरकार द्वारा अडानी के पवन ऊर्जा परियोजना को दी गई मंजूरी पर पुनर्विचार करेगी।
- **Dissanayake and his party** have emphasized the need for a **competitive bid**. डिसानायके और उनकी पार्टी ने प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया है।
- In **September 2024**, Dissanayake told **The Hindu** that if a **fair tender process** was followed, the cost could have been **half the price**. सितंबर 2024 में, डिसानायके ने द हिंदू को बताया कि यदि उचित निविदा प्रक्रिया अपनाई जाती, तो परियोजना आधी कीमत में प्राप्त की जा सकती थी।

What is the project?

यह परियोजना क्या है?

- **Adani Green Energy Limited** is building a **wind power plant** in **Mannar and Pooneryn** towns in **Sri Lanka's northern province**, investing **\$442 million**. अडानी ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड श्रीलंका के उत्तर प्रांत के मन्नार और पूनेरिन शहरों में पवन ऊर्जा संयंत्र स्थापित कर रहा है, जिसमें \$442 मिलियन का निवेश किया जा रहा है।
- The project is expected to add **at least 350 MW** to Sri Lanka's **national grid by 2025**. यह परियोजना 2025 तक श्रीलंका के राष्ट्रीय ग्रिड में कम से कम 350 MW जोड़ने की उम्मीद है।



- In **October 2021**, **Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani** visited **Colombo** and met with then-President **Gotabaya Rajapaksa** after signing a deal to develop and operate the **Western Container Terminal at Colombo Port**.
अक्टूबर 2021 में, अडानी समूह के अध्यक्ष गौतम अडानी ने कोलंबो का दौरा किया और तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति गोटाबाया राजपक्षे से मुलाकात की, जब उनकी कंपनी ने कोलंबो पोर्ट के वेस्टर्न कंटेनर टर्मिनल के विकास और संचालन का समझौता किया।
- At that time, **Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) officials** stated that Adani was **exploring investment opportunities** in Sri Lanka's **wind and renewable energy sector**.
उस समय, सीलोन इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड (CEB) के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि अडानी श्रीलंका के पवन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में निवेश के अवसरों की तलाश कर रहा था।

When was the project approved?

परियोजना को कब मंजूरी मिली?

- In **March 2022**, the **Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Adani Green** for the **wind energy project**, but the development was **kept under wraps**.
मार्च 2022 में, सीलोन इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड (CEB) ने अडानी ग्रीन के साथ पवन ऊर्जा परियोजना के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए, लेकिन इस विकास को गुप्त रखा गया।
- A report in the **local Sunday Times** revealed the project, bringing it into the spotlight.
स्थानीय संडे टाइम्स की एक रिपोर्ट ने इस परियोजना का खुलासा किया, जिससे यह सुर्खियों में आ गई।
- The **Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration** faced **severe criticism from the Opposition** for awarding the project to **Adani Group without competitive bidding** and bypassing due process.
गोटाबाया राजपक्षे प्रशासन को विपक्ष से कड़ी आलोचना का सामना करना पड़ा क्योंकि इस परियोजना को बिना प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक बोली के अडानी समूह को सौंप दिया गया और उचित प्रक्रिया का पालन नहीं किया गया।
- The **main opposition party, Samagi Jana Balawegaya**, accused the government of allowing Adani's "**backdoor**" entry into Sri Lanka's **energy sector**, disrupting the **competitive electricity generation system**.
मुख्य विपक्षी पार्टी, समागी जन बलवेगया, ने सरकार पर अडानी को "पिछले दरवाजे" से श्रीलंका के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में प्रवेश देने और प्रतिस्पर्धी बिजली उत्पादन प्रणाली को बाधित करने का आरोप लगाया।

Why did the Chairman of the Ceylon Electricity Board resign?

सीलोन इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष ने इस्तीफा क्यों दिया?



- In June 2022, CEB Chairman M.M.C. Ferdinando resigned days after he told a parliamentary panel that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "pressured" Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to approve the Adani Group project.
जून 2022 में, CEB के अध्यक्ष एम.एम.सी. फर्डिनांडो ने इस्तीफा दे दिया, कुछ ही दिन बाद जब उन्होंने संसदीय समिति को बताया कि भारत के प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने श्रीलंका के राष्ट्रपति गोटाबाया राजपक्षे पर अडानी समूह की परियोजना को मंजूरी देने का दबाव डाला।

What happened next?

इसके बाद क्या हुआ?

- Meanwhile, Sri Lanka experienced a **crushing financial meltdown** due to an **acute twin deficit problem**.
इसी दौरान, श्रीलंका को गंभीर वित्तीय संकट का सामना करना पड़ा, जो दोहरे घाटे की समस्या के कारण हुआ।
- As a result, **Gotabaya Rajapaksa was dramatically ousted from office following a citizens' uprising**.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप, गोटाबाया राजपक्षे को एक जनविद्रोह के बाद सत्ता से हटा दिया गया।
- **Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe took office as President in July 2022**, even as the crisis continued.
पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री रानिल विक्रमसिंघे ने जुलाई 2022 में राष्ट्रपति पद ग्रहण किया, हालांकि संकट जारी रहा।
- In **February 2023**, Sri Lanka's **Board of Investment** approved a project to set up **two wind power plants** in northern Sri Lanka with a **\$442 million investment from Adani Green Energy Limited**.
फरवरी 2023 में, श्रीलंका के निवेश बोर्ड ने \$442 मिलियन निवेश के साथ उत्तर श्रीलंका में दो पवन ऊर्जा संयंत्रों की स्थापना की मंजूरी दी, जिसे अडानी ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड द्वारा वित्त पोषित किया गया।
- The **two wind power plants—250 MW in Mannar and 100 MW in Pooneryn—were scheduled to be commissioned in two years**, generating around **2,000 jobs**.
दो पवन ऊर्जा संयंत्र—250 मेगावाट मन्नार में और 100 मेगावाट पूनेरिन में—दो वर्षों के भीतर चालू होने थे और इससे लगभग **2,000 नौकरियां** सृजित होने की उम्मीद थी।
- Despite **U.S. short seller Hindenburg** accusing the **Adani Group of serious corruption in January 2023**, then **Foreign Minister Ali Sabry** said Sri Lanka viewed **Adani projects as a "government-to-government" deal** and remained **confident about their future**.
जनवरी 2023 में अमेरिकी शॉर्ट सेलर हिंडनबर्ग द्वारा अडानी समूह पर गंभीर भ्रष्टाचार के आरोप लगाने के बावजूद, तत्कालीन विदेश मंत्री अली सबरी ने कहा कि श्रीलंका अडानी परियोजनाओं को "सरकार से सरकार के बीच सौदा" मानता है और उनके भविष्य को लेकर आश्वस्त है।
- In **May 2024**, **President Wickremesinghe's Cabinet** approved a proposal to **purchase power at \$0.0826 (8.26 cents) per kWh from Adani Green Energy**.



मई 2024 में, राष्ट्रपति विक्रमसिंघे के मंत्रिमंडल ने अडानी ग्रीन एनर्जी से \$0.0826 (8.26 सेंट) प्रति kWh की दर से बिजली खरीदने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी।

Why are locals opposing the project?

स्थानीय लोग इस परियोजना का विरोध क्यों कर रहे हैं?

- **Residents of Mannar** have raised concerns over the project's impact on a crucial bird corridor and local fisherfolk's livelihoods.

मन्नार के निवासियों ने इस परियोजना के एक महत्वपूर्ण पक्षी गलियारे और स्थानीय मछुआरों की आजीविका पर प्रभाव को लेकर चिंता जताई है।

- **Environmentalists** are also opposing the plant due to its location in the **Central Asian Flyway**, an important migration route for many waterbird species.

पर्यावरणविदों ने भी इस संयंत्र का विरोध किया है क्योंकि यह सेंट्रल एशियन फ्लाईवे में स्थित है, जो कई जलपक्षी प्रजातियों के प्रवासन मार्ग में आता है।

- Last year, **multiple petitioners** challenged the Adani wind power project.

पिछले वर्ष, कई याचिकाकर्ताओं ने अडानी पवन ऊर्जा परियोजना को अदालत में चुनौती दी।

- The next hearing of the case is scheduled in **March**.

इस मामले की अगली सुनवाई मार्च में निर्धारित की गई है।

On the appointment of ad-hoc judges to High Courts

What did the Supreme Court order? Have such appointments been made previously? What did the rule set in the *Lok Prahari* judgment state? What does Article 224-A mandate?

[GS Paper II: High Court](#)

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

To address the growing backlog of criminal cases, the Supreme Court on January 30, allowed High Courts to appoint retired judges on an ad-hoc basis, provided they hear only criminal appeals as part of a Bench led by a sitting judge. A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant relaxed a rule set in *Lok Prahari Through Its General Secretary S.N. Shukla IAS (Retd.) vs Union of India* (2021), which had limited such appointments to High Courts where judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength.

How are ad-hoc judges appointed?

Article 224-A, introduced by the Constitution (Fifteenth Amendment) Act, 1963, allows the appointment of retired

judges to High Courts on an ad-hoc basis. Such appointments require the consent of both the retired judge and the President of India. These judges receive allowances as determined by the President's order and exercise the same jurisdiction, powers, and privileges as a sitting High Court judge. The detailed procedure for such appointments is outlined in the 1998 Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).

When are such appointments made?

In *Lok Prahari*, the Court identified specific circumstances that could warrant the appointment of ad-hoc judges in certain High Courts. At the time, nearly 40% of judicial positions across all High Courts were vacant. The Court also referred to Law Commission reports from 1979, 1988, and 2003, which advocated for the temporary appointment of retired judges as an effective measure to address the mounting backlog of cases. However,

the Supreme Court expressed concerns that Article 224A could result in "inaction in making recommendations" for regular judicial appointments. Consequently, the Court clarified that ad-hoc judges can only be appointed when recommendations for filling less than 20% of vacancies have not been made, after considering both the number of sitting judges and the pending proposals for judicial appointments.

The Court outlined several "trigger points" for such appointments, although the list is not exhaustive. These include – 1) if vacancies in a High Court exceed 20% of its sanctioned strength; 2) if cases in a specific category have been pending for more than five years; 3) if more than 10% of the High Court's cases are pending for over five years; 4) if the case disposal rate is lower than the rate at which new cases are filed (case clearance rate). The Court also recommended that each Chief Justice

form a panel of retired judges, along with soon-to-retire judges, for appointments.

What does the latest order say?

The CJI-led Bench noted that, as of January 25, there are 62 lakh pending cases across High Courts, according to data from the National Judicial Data Grid. Of these, over 18.2 lakh are criminal cases, while more than 44 lakh are civil cases. To tackle this growing pendency, the Court decided to set aside the condition laid down in *Lok Prahari*, which permitted the appointment of ad-hoc judges only when judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength.

It further ruled that ad-hoc judges can only hear criminal appeals. Additionally, the number of ad-hoc judges cannot exceed 10% of a High Court's sanctioned judicial strength, meaning each High Court can have only 2 to 5 such appointments.

Have there been prior instances?

There have only been three documented instances of ad-hoc judicial appointments. In 1972, Justice Suraj Bhan was appointed to the Madhya Pradesh High Court shortly after his retirement to adjudicate election petitions. Justice P. Venugopal was similarly appointed to the Madras High Court in 1982. More recently, in 2007, Justice O.P. Srivastava was appointed to the Allahabad High Court to preside over the Ayodhya title suits.

THE GIST

▼
A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant relaxed a rule set in *Lok Prahari Through Its General Secretary S.N. Shukla IAS (Retd.) vs Union of India* (2021).

▼
The CJI-led Bench noted that, as of January 25, there are 62 lakh pending cases across High Courts, according to data from the National Judicial Data Grid.

▼
To tackle this growing pendency, the Court decided to set aside the condition laid down in *Lok Prahari*, which permitted the appointment of ad-hoc judges only when judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength.

On the appointment of ad-hoc judges to High Courts

उच्च न्यायालयों में अस्थायी न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति पर

What did the Supreme Court order?

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने क्या आदेश दिया?

- On **January 30, 2025**, the Supreme Court allowed **High Courts** to appoint **retired judges on an ad-hoc basis**, provided they hear only **criminal appeals** as part of a Bench led by a sitting judge.

30 जनवरी 2025 को, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उच्च न्यायालयों को सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीशों को अस्थायी आधार पर नियुक्त करने की अनुमति दी, बशर्ते कि वे केवल आपराधिक अपीलों की सुनवाई करें और एक बैठे हुए न्यायाधीश की अध्यक्षता में काम करें।

- A Bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B.R. Gavai, and Justice Surya Kant relaxed a rule set in the **Lok Prahari judgment (2021)**, which had limited such appointments to High Courts where judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength. मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना, न्यायमूर्ति बी.आर. गवई, और न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत की पीठ ने लोक प्रहरी निर्णय (2021) में बनाए गए नियम को शिथिल कर दिया, जो केवल उन उच्च न्यायालयों में अस्थायी नियुक्तियों की अनुमति देता था जहां न्यायिक रिक्तियां 20% से अधिक थीं।

How are ad-hoc judges appointed?

अस्थायी न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति कैसे होती है?

- Article 224-A**, introduced by the **Constitution (Fifteenth Amendment) Act, 1963**, allows the **appointment of retired judges to High Courts on an ad-hoc basis**. अनुच्छेद 224-A, जिसे संविधान (पंद्रहवां संशोधन) अधिनियम, 1963 द्वारा पेश किया गया था, सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीशों को अस्थायी आधार पर उच्च न्यायालयों में नियुक्त करने की अनुमति देता है।
- Such appointments require **the consent of both the retired judge and the President of India**. ऐसी नियुक्तियों के लिए सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश और भारत के राष्ट्रपति दोनों की सहमति आवश्यक होती है।
- These judges receive **allowances as determined by the President** and exercise the **same jurisdiction, powers, and privileges as a sitting High Court judge**. ये न्यायाधीश राष्ट्रपति द्वारा निर्धारित भत्ते प्राप्त करते हैं और बैठे हुए उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के समान अधिकार, शक्तियाँ और विशेषाधिकार रखते हैं।
- The **1998 Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)** outlines the **detailed procedure** for such appointments. 1998 के प्रक्रिया ज्ञापन (MoP) में इन नियुक्तियों के लिए विस्तृत प्रक्रिया दी गई है।

When are such appointments made?

ऐसी नियुक्तियाँ कब की जाती हैं?



- In the **Lok Prahari judgment (2021)**, the Supreme Court identified specific conditions where **ad-hoc judges** can be appointed.
लोक प्रहरी निर्णय (2021) में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कुछ विशेष परिस्थितियाँ बताईं, जिनमें अस्थायी न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति की जा सकती है।
- At the time, nearly **40% of judicial positions across all High Courts were vacant**.
उस समय, सभी उच्च न्यायालयों में लगभग 40% न्यायिक पद खाली थे।
- The Court also referred to **Law Commission reports from 1979, 1988, and 2003**, which advocated for **temporary appointments of retired judges to handle case backlog**.
अदालत ने 1979, 1988 और 2003 की विधि आयोग की रिपोर्टों का भी हवाला दिया, जिसमें मामलों के बैकलॉग को कम करने के लिए सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीशों की अस्थायी नियुक्ति की सिफारिश की गई थी।
- The Court specified **“trigger points”** for appointments:
अदालत ने नियुक्तियों के लिए "ट्रिगर पॉइंट्स" तय किए:
 - If **vacancies in a High Court exceed 20%** of the sanctioned strength.
यदि किसी उच्च न्यायालय में 20% से अधिक रिक्तियाँ हों।
 - If cases in a **specific category have been pending for over 5 years**.
यदि किसी विशिष्ट श्रेणी के मामले 5 साल से अधिक समय से लंबित हों।
 - If **more than 10% of High Court cases** are pending for over 5 years.
यदि 10% से अधिक उच्च न्यायालय के मामले 5 साल से अधिक समय से लंबित हों।
 - If the **case disposal rate is lower than the case filing rate**.
यदि मामलों के निपटान की दर, नए मामलों की दायर करने की दर से कम हो।

What does the latest order say?

नवीनतम आदेश में क्या कहा गया है?

- The **CJI-led Bench** noted that, as of **January 25, 2025**, there are **62 lakh pending cases across High Courts**, according to **National Judicial Data Grid**.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने बताया कि 25 जनवरी 2025 तक, राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक डेटा ग्रिड के अनुसार, 62 लाख मामले उच्च न्यायालयों में लंबित हैं।
- Of these, **18.2 lakh are criminal cases**, while **44 lakh are civil cases**.
इनमें से 18.2 लाख आपराधिक मामले और 44 लाख दीवानी मामले हैं।
- To address this, the Court **removed the 20% vacancy condition set in Lok Prahari** and ruled that **ad-hoc judges can only hear criminal appeals**.
इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए, अदालत ने लोक प्रहरी में निर्धारित 20% रिक्ति की शर्त हटा दी और आदेश दिया कि अस्थायी न्यायाधीश केवल आपराधिक अपीलों की सुनवाई करेंगे।
- The number of **ad-hoc judges cannot exceed 10%** of a High Court's sanctioned strength, meaning **each High Court can have only 2 to 5 such appointments**.



Website: patrioticias.in

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



अस्थायी न्यायाधीशों की संख्या किसी उच्च न्यायालय की स्वीकृत क्षमता के 10% से अधिक नहीं हो सकती, यानी प्रत्येक उच्च न्यायालय में केवल 2 से 5 नियुक्तियाँ हो सकती हैं।

Have there been prior instances?

क्या पहले भी ऐसी नियुक्तियाँ हुई हैं?

- There have been only **three documented instances** of ad-hoc judicial appointments.
अब तक केवल तीन बार अस्थायी न्यायिक नियुक्तियाँ दर्ज की गई हैं।
- In **1972, Justice Suraj Bhan** was appointed to the **Madhya Pradesh High Court** to adjudicate **election petitions**.
1972 में, न्यायमूर्ति सूरज भान को मध्य प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय में चुनाव याचिकाओं की सुनवाई के लिए नियुक्त किया गया था।
- In **1982, Justice P. Venugopal** was appointed to the **Madras High Court**.
1982 में, न्यायमूर्ति पी. वेणुगोपाल को मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय में नियुक्त किया गया था।
- In **2007, Justice O.P. Srivastava** was appointed to the **Allahabad High Court** to preside over the **Ayodhya title suits**.
2007 में, न्यायमूर्ति ओ.पी. श्रीवास्तव को इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय में अयोध्या भूमि विवाद की सुनवाई के लिए नियुक्त किया गया था।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



No word from govt. on U.S. cancelling Chabahar waiver

No word from govt. on U.S. cancelling Chabahar waiver

अमेरिका द्वारा चाबहार छूट रद्द करने पर सरकार की ओर से कोई बयान नहीं

U.S. Sanctions Threat Over India's Investment in Chabahar Port

चाबहार पोर्ट में भारत के निवेश पर अमेरिका के प्रतिबंधों का खतरा

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump signed an order that could impose sanctions on India for its investment in Iran's Chabahar port, the Union government on Thursday remained silent regarding the order and its implications.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प द्वारा चाबहार पोर्ट में भारत के निवेश पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का आदेश दिए जाने के एक दिन बाद, गुरुवार को केंद्र सरकार इस आदेश और इसके प्रभावों पर चुप रही।

The U.S. order, titled the 'National Security Presidential Memorandum', specifically named the port as it called for "maximum economic pressure" on the Iranian government, directing U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to cut off Iran's access to all funds, including through oil exports, ports, and ancillary businesses.

अमेरिकी आदेश, जिसका शीर्षक था 'राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा राष्ट्रपति ज्ञापन', ने पोर्ट का विशेष रूप से नाम लिया क्योंकि इसमें ईरान सरकार पर "अधिकतम आर्थिक दबाव" डालने की बात की गई थी, और अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो तथा अमेरिकी वित्त मंत्री स्कॉट बेसेन्ट को ईरान की सभी फंड्स तक पहुंच को रोकने का निर्देश दिया गया था, जिसमें तेल निर्यात, पोर्ट और सहायक व्यवसाय शामिल हैं।

Mr. Trump told reporters that he has left directions that in case of his assassination, Iran should be "totally obliterated" if it is found responsible.

ट्रम्प ने पत्रकारों से कहा कि अगर उनकी हत्या होती है, तो ईरान को "पूरी तरह से नष्ट" कर दिया जाना चाहिए, यदि यह जिम्मेदार पाया जाता है।

Sanctions waivers: "The Secretary of State shall modify or rescind sanctions waivers, particularly those that provide Iran any degree of economic or financial relief, including those

GS Paper II: India-West Asia

NEW DELHI



A view of the Shahid Beheshti Terminal in Chabahar port, Iran with cargo ships. GETTY IMAGES

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump signed an order that could impose sanctions on India for its investment in Iran's Chabahar port, the Union government on Thursday remained silent regarding the order and its implications.

The U.S. order, titled the 'National Security Presidential Memorandum', specifically named the port as it called for "maximum economic pressure" on the Iranian government, directing U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to cut off Iran's recourse to all funds, including through oil exports, ports, and ancillary businesses.

Mr. Trump told reporters that he has left directions that in case of his assassination, Iran should be "totally obliterated" if it is found responsible.

Sanctions waivers

"The Secretary of State shall modify or rescind sanctions waivers, particularly those that provide Iran any degree of economic or financial relief, including those related to Iran's Chabahar port project," says the order. India has developed the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at the Chabahar port under a 2016 trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan.

"The Treasury Secretary will also issue guidance for all relevant business sectors - including shipping, insurance, and port operators - about the risks to any person that knowingly violates U.S. sanctions with respect to Iran or an Iranian terror proxy," added a fact-sheet

on the order, also issued by the White House.

New lobbying effort

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declined to respond to requests for a comment on the U.S.'s latest threat, that came even as the U.S. deported a military plane-load of illegal Indian immigrants back to India. The Chabahar issue is expected to be discussed when Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to Washington to meet with Mr. Trump between February 12 and 14. Officials said that the Trump order required a full study by New Delhi, as well as discussions on how best to lobby with the new U.S. administration for another waiver.

During his previous tenure, Mr. Trump had walked out of the Iran nuclear deal (officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA) and imposed a number of sanctions on Iran, but granted India a waiver from sanctions over the development of Chabahar in "support of Afghanistan's economic growth and development, as well as [the U.S.'s] close partnership with India".

India acceded to Mr. Trump's demand that it "zero out" all oil exports from Iran, causing a considerable loss to Indian refineries.



Website: patrioticias.in

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



related to Iran's **Chabahar port project**," says the order.

प्रतिबंधों की छूट: "विदेश मंत्री को विशेष रूप से उन छूटों को संशोधित या निरस्त करना चाहिए जो ईरान को किसी भी प्रकार की **आर्थिक या वित्तीय राहत** प्रदान करती हैं, जिनमें **चाबहार पोर्ट परियोजना** से संबंधित छूटें शामिल हैं," आदेश में कहा गया है।

- India has developed the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal** at the **Chabahar port** under a **2016 trilateral agreement** with **Iran and Afghanistan**.

भारत ने ईरान और अफगानिस्तान के साथ **2016 त्रिपक्षीय समझौते** के तहत **चाबहार पोर्ट** पर **शाहिद बेहेश्ती टर्मिनल** विकसित किया है।

- "The **Treasury Secretary** will also issue guidance for all relevant business sectors – including **shipping, insurance, and port operators** – about the risks to any person that knowingly violates **U.S. sanctions** with respect to Iran or an Iranian terror proxy," added a fact-sheet on the order, also issued by the **White House**.

"**वित्त मंत्री** सभी संबंधित व्यापार क्षेत्रों के लिए **मार्गदर्शन** जारी करेंगे - जिनमें **शिपिंग, बीमा, और पोर्ट ऑपरेटर** शामिल हैं - और उन लोगों के लिए जो जानबूझकर **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों** का उल्लंघन करते हैं, खासकर ईरान या ईरानी आतंकवादियों के संदर्भ में," आदेश पर एक तथ्य-पत्र में जोड़ा गया, जो **व्हाइट हाउस** द्वारा जारी किया गया था।

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** declined to respond to requests for a comment on the **U.S.'s latest threat**, that came even as the U.S. deported a military plane-load of illegal **Indian immigrants** back to India.

विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA)

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



SC gives charge of kabaddi federation to governing body

SC gives charge of kabaddi federation to governing body

Top court commends Justice Garg for ensuring transparency in the AKFI, asks the federation to prepare the women's team for the Senior Asian Kabaddi Championship to be hosted by Iran

GS Paper II: Governance

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday requested the former Delhi High Court judge Justice S.P. Garg (ret'd) to hand over charge of the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) to a governing body elected in December 2023.

The court directed the federation, which is recognised by the Union Sports Ministry, to facilitate the selection and conditioning of the women's team set to participate in the Senior Asian Kabaddi Championship to be hosted by Iran from February 20 to 25.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh commended Justice Garg, who was appointed the administrator of the AKFI by an order of the Delhi High Court, for ushering in transparency and reforms in the sport's administration.

The apex court ordered the handing over of the reins and compliance with its order by February 11. It sought a compliance report to be filed by the AKFI in the next court hearing



Players participating in senior kabaddi selections in Sangareddy district in Telangana in November. MOHAMMAD ARIFF

on March 3, when counsel of the governing body must be present in court.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta appeared for the Centre, while senior advocates Gopal Sankaranarayanan and Menaka Guruswamy and advocate Sravan Kumar represented veteran players.

Conditioning camp

During the hearing, senior advocate K. Parameashwar, appearing for the women players Priyanka and Pooja, submitted there was an immediate need for "con-

ditioning camp". The senior advocate informed the court that even the selection of the team had been in limbo.

The court said that with the entrustment of the AKFI administration with its governing body, the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) must abide by its positive assurance in a February 6 letter to allow the Indian team to participate in the upcoming championships. Mr. Sankaranarayanan urged the court to bring the Constitution of the AKFI in consonance

with the National Sports Code of India, 2011, and to conduct fresh elections.

The Bench clarified that handing over the charge of the AKFI to the governing body did not, by default, mean that the court had already recognised it. The arrangement was described by Justice Kant as "ad hoc".

In the previous hearing on February 4, the court had directed Mr. Mehta to find out whether the electoral roll of the AKFI was valid and transparent, and if the State units were represented by genuinely elected or nominated persons.

The court had in the earlier hearing also made clear its intention to examine allegations of opacity, monopoly and corruption against individuals, including the family of a former Rajasthan Minister, Janardhan Singh Gehlot, who had run the AKFI for decades, culminating in the loss of its IKF affiliation. It had asked Mr. Mehta to explore diplomatic channels for the resolution of the conflict regarding the recognition of sports associations, most urgently the AKFI.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कबड्डी महासंघ का प्रभार गवर्निंग बॉडी को सौंप दिया

Top court commends Justice Garg for ensuring transparency in the AKFI, asks the federation to prepare the women's team for the Senior Asian Kabaddi Championship to be hosted by Iran

शीर्ष अदालत ने AKFI में पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए न्यायमूर्ति गर्ग की सराहना की, महासंघ से ईरान की मेजबानी में होने वाली सीनियर एशियाई कबड्डी चैंपियनशिप के लिए महिला टीम तैयार करने

को कहा

Supreme Court Directs Transfer of AKFI Charge to New Governing Body

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने AKFI का चार्ज नए गवर्निंग बॉडी को सौंपने का निर्देश दिया

- The **Supreme Court** on **Thursday** requested the former **Delhi High Court judge Justice S.P. Garg** (ret'd) to hand over charge of the **Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI)** to a governing body elected in **December 2023**.

**सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को पूर्व दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायधीश न्यायमूर्ति एस.पी. गर्ग (सेवानिवृत्त) से अमेटोर कबड्डी फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (AKFI) का चार्ज दिसंबर 2023 में चुनी गई गवर्निंग बॉडी को सौंपने का अनुरोध किया।



- The court directed the federation, which is recognised by the **Union Sports Ministry**, to facilitate the **selection and conditioning** of the women's team set to participate in the **Senior Asian Kabaddi Championship** to be hosted by Iran from **February 20 to 25**.
कोर्ट ने फेडरेशन को, जिसे केंद्रीय खेल मंत्रालय द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त है, महिला टीम के चयन और कंडीशनिंग में मदद करने का निर्देश दिया, जो ईरान में 20 से 25 फरवरी तक होने वाली सीनियर एशियन कबड्डी चैंपियनशिप में भाग लेने वाली है।
- A **Bench** of Justices **Surya Kant** and **N. Kotiswar Singh** commended Justice Garg, who was appointed the administrator of the **AKFI** by an order of the **Delhi High Court**, for ushering in transparency and reforms in the sport's administration.
न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत और एन. कोटिस्वर सिंह की बेंच ने न्यायमूर्ति गर्ग की सराहना की, जिन्हें दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के आदेश से **AKFI** का प्रशासक नियुक्त किया गया था, और उन्होंने खेल प्रशासन में पारदर्शिता और सुधार लाने के लिए उनकी सराहना की।
- The apex court ordered the handing over of the reins and compliance with its order by **February 11**. It sought a compliance report to be filed by the **AKFI** in the next court hearing on **March 3**, when counsel of the governing body must be present in court.
शीर्ष अदालत ने 11 फरवरी तक नियंत्रण हस्तांतरण और अपने आदेश का पालन करने का आदेश दिया। उसने **AKFI** से अगले कोर्ट सुनवाई में 3 मार्च को एक अनुपालन रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने की मांग की, जब गवर्निंग बॉडी के वकील को कोर्ट में उपस्थित होना होगा।
- **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta** appeared for the **Centre**, while senior advocates **Gopal Sankaranarayanan** and **Menaka Guruswamy** and advocate **Sravan Kumar** represented veteran players.
सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता केंद्र की ओर से उपस्थित हुए, जबकि वरिष्ठ वकील गोपाल संकरणारायण, मेणका गुरुस्वामी, और वकील श्रवण कुमार ने अनुभवी खिलाड़ियों का प्रतिनिधित्व किया।
- During the hearing, senior advocate **K. Parameshwar**, appearing for the women players **Priyanka** and **Pooja**, submitted there was an immediate need for a "**conditioning camp**".
सुनवाई के दौरान, वरिष्ठ वकील के. परमेश्वर, जो महिला खिलाड़ियों प्रियंका और पूजा की ओर से पेश हो रहे थे, ने "कंडीशनिंग कैंप" की तत्काल आवश्यकता व्यक्त की।
- The senior advocate informed the court that even the **selection of the team** had been in limbo.
वरिष्ठ वकील ने कोर्ट को सूचित किया कि यहां तक कि टीम का चयन भी लटका हुआ था।
- The court said that with the entrustment of the **AKFI administration** with its governing body, the **International Kabaddi Federation (IKF)** must abide by its positive assurance in a **February 6** letter to allow the Indian team to participate in the upcoming championships.
कोर्ट ने कहा कि जब **AKFI प्रशासन** को उसकी गवर्निंग बॉडी को सौंप दिया गया, तो इंटरनेशनल कबड्डी फेडरेशन (**IKF**) को 6 फरवरी के पत्र में अपनी सकारात्मक गारंटी का पालन करना चाहिए, जिसमें भारतीय टीम को आगामी चैंपियनशिप में भाग लेने की अनुमति देने का आश्वासन दिया गया था।



- Mr. **Sankaranarayanan** urged the court to bring the **Constitution of the AKFI** in consonance with the **National Sports Code of India, 2011**, and to conduct fresh elections.

संकरणारायण ने कोर्ट से **AKFI** के संविधान को भारत के राष्ट्रीय खेल कोड, 2011 के अनुरूप लाने और ताजा चुनाव कराने की अपील की।

- The **Bench** clarified that handing over the charge of the **AKFI** to the governing body did not, by default, mean that the court had already recognised it. The arrangement was described by **Justice Kant** as “ad hoc”.

बेंच

Odisha joins States' pitch for 50% share of divisible tax pool

GS Paper II: Center State Relations Financial
Satvasundar Barik
 BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has joined the growing demand for the Finance Commission to raise States' share in India's divisible tax pool to 50%, from about 41% currently. The Sixteenth Finance Commission chairman Arvind Panagariya acknowledged the broader call by many States for a higher allocation.



Mohan Majhi

gariya said, “We have received requests from the majority of States we visited to increase the State's share in the divisible pool to 50%. However, a few States indicated they could manage if the share is raised to at least 45%.”

Odisha pointed out that the use of the entire population as a determinant of tax devolution (as differentiated from the its use purely for scaling purposes) as a negative line of thinking, because it denotes the entire population is a liability.

“A better approximation of the government liability would be population share modified by the share of vulnerable population (say SC and ST) and those requiring special attention (people above 80 years of age and widows without any support). We suggest that such a modified population variable be used in the devolution formula instead of the entire population with a weight of 15%,” the State government emphasised in its presentation.

Moreover, the government said that “using area as a proxy for density of population is incorrect because even smaller States may be sparsely populated, while a State large in size is not necessarily sparsely populated”.

The Constitutional panel, in Odisha from February 4 to 7 as part of its consultation process, has discussed the criteria for deciding the financial needs and the devolution formula with Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, political leaders, trade bodies, experts and urban local bodies.

“We have placed a demand that States' share in the tax pool be enhanced to 50%. Besides, the gross tax income of Government of India is distributed among the States on the basis of a defined formula. Accordingly, share of Odisha stands at 4.528%. We have demanded to enhance the share of Odisha to 4.964%,” the Odisha CM said.

Odisha also demanded an increase in the central share in the corpus of the State Disaster Relief Fund from 75% to 100%, as the State faces frequent disasters. The Odisha CM has sought ₹12,59,148 Crore from the Commission for the five-year period from 2026-27 to 2030-31, noting that “the funds will help the State in steering the roadmap to a *Samruddha* (prosperous) Odisha by 2036.”

Acknowledging the State's demand, Mr. Pana-

Odisha joins States' pitch for 50% share of divisible tax pool

ओडिशा ने राज्यों के साथ मिलकर विभाजित कर पूल में 50% हिस्सेदारी की मांग की

Odisha Demands Higher Share in Finance Commission

ओडिशा ने वित्त आयोग में उच्च हिस्से की मांग की

- **Odisha** has joined the growing demand for the **Finance Commission** to raise **States' share** in India's divisible tax pool to **50%**, from about **41%** currently.

ओडिशा ने बढ़ती हुई मांग में शामिल होकर वित्त आयोग से भारत के विभाजन योग्य कर पूल में राज्यों का हिस्सा 50% करने की मांग की है, जो वर्तमान में लगभग 41% है।

- The **Sixteenth Finance Commission** chairman **Arvind Panagariya** acknowledged the broader call by many States for a higher allocation.

सोलहवें वित्त आयोग के अध्यक्ष अरविंद पनगढ़िया ने उच्च आवंटन की मांग करने वाले कई राज्यों की व्यापक मांग को स्वीकार किया।

- The **Constitutional panel**, in Odisha from **February 4 to 7** as part of its consultation process, has discussed the criteria for deciding the financial needs and the **devolution formula** with **Chief Minister Mohan Majhi**, political leaders, trade bodies, experts, and urban local bodies.

संविधानिक पैनल, जो 4 से 7 फरवरी तक ओडिशा में अपनी परामर्श प्रक्रिया के तहत था, ने **मुख्यमंत्री मोहन माजी**, राजनीतिक नेताओं, व्यापार निकायों, विशेषज्ञों और शहरी स्थानीय निकायों के साथ वित्तीय आवश्यकताओं और वितरण सूत्र पर चर्चा की।

- “We have placed a demand that States' share in the tax pool be enhanced to **50%**. Besides, the **gross tax income** of the **Government of**



India is distributed among the States on the basis of a defined formula. Accordingly, share of Odisha stands at **4.528%**. We have demanded to enhance the share of Odisha to **4.964%**,” the **Odisha CM** said.

“हमने एक मांग रखी है कि राज्यों का हिस्सा **50%** तक बढ़ाया जाए। इसके अलावा, **भारत सरकार की सकल कर आय** राज्यों के बीच एक परिभाषित सूत्र के आधार पर वितरित की जाती है। इसके अनुसार, ओडिशा का हिस्सा **4.528%** है। हमने ओडिशा का हिस्सा बढ़ाकर **4.964%** करने की मांग की है,” ओडिशा के **मुख्यमंत्री** ने कहा।

- Odisha also demanded an increase in the **central share** in the corpus of the **State Disaster Relief Fund** from **75% to 100%**, as the State faces frequent disasters. ओडिशा ने **राज्य आपदा राहत कोष** में **केंद्रीय हिस्से** को **75% से 100%** बढ़ाने की भी मांग की है, क्योंकि राज्य में अक्सर आपदाएं आती हैं।

- The **Odisha CM** has sought **₹12,59,148 Crore** from the Commission for the **five-year period** from **2026-27 to 2030-31**, noting that “the funds will help the State in steering the roadmap to a **Samruddha (prosperous) Odisha by 2036.**”

ओडिशा के **मुख्यमंत्री** ने आयोग से **2026-27 से 2030-31 के पाँच वर्षों के लिए ₹12,59,148 करोड़** की मांग की है, यह नोट करते हुए कि “यह फंड राज्य को **2036 तक समृद्ध ओडिशा** की दिशा में मार्गदर्शन करने में मदद करेगा।”

- Acknowledging the State’s demand, Mr. **Panagariya** said, “We have received requests from the majority of States we visited to increase the State’s share in the divisible pool to **50%**. However, a few States indicated they could manage if the share is raised to at least **45%**.”

राज्य की मांग को स्वीकार करते हुए, श्री **पनगढ़िया** ने कहा, “हमने उन अधिकांश राज्यों से अनुरोध प्राप्त किए हैं, जिन्हें हमने दौरा किया है, कि वे विभाजन योग्य पूल में राज्य का हिस्सा **50%** तक बढ़ाने की मांग कर रहे हैं। हालांकि, कुछ राज्यों ने संकेत दिया कि यदि हिस्से को कम से कम **45%** तक बढ़ाया जाए तो वे इसे संभाल सकते हैं।”

- Odisha pointed out that the use of the entire population as a determinant of tax devolution (as differentiated from its use purely for scaling purposes) as a **negative line of thinking**, because it denotes the entire population is a **liability**.

ओडिशा ने यह बताया कि कर वितरण के लिए पूरी जनसंख्या का उपयोग (जो केवल माप के उद्देश्यों के लिए उपयोग से अलग है) एक **नकारात्मक सोच** की रेखा है, क्योंकि यह पूरी जनसंख्या को **दायित्व** के रूप में दर्शाता है।

- “A better approximation of the government liability would be population share modified by the share of vulnerable population (say SC and ST) and those requiring special attention (people above **80 years of age** and **widows without any support**). We suggest that such a modified population variable be used in the devolution formula instead of the entire population with a weight of **15%**,” the State government emphasised in its presentation.

“सरकारी दायित्व का बेहतर अनुमान **जनसंख्या हिस्से** को कमजोर जनसंख्या (जैसे **SC** और **ST**) और उन लोगों के हिस्से से संशोधित करके किया जा सकता है जिन्हें विशेष ध्यान की आवश्यकता है (जैसे **80 वर्ष से अधिक आयु और विधवाएं जिनका कोई समर्थन नहीं है**)। हम



सुझाव देते हैं कि इस तरह के संशोधित जनसंख्या वेरिफबल का उपयोग वितरण सूत्र में किया जाए, न कि पूरे जनसंख्या को 15% के भार के साथ,” राज्य सरकार ने अपनी प्रस्तुति में जोर दिया।

- Moreover, the government said that “using area as a proxy for density of population is incorrect because even smaller States may be sparsely populated, while a State large in size is not necessarily sparsely populated.”
इसके अलावा, सरकार ने कहा कि “जनसंख्या घनत्व के लिए क्षेत्र का उपयोग एक प्रॉक्सी के रूप में गलत है क्योंकि छोटे राज्य भी कम जनसंख्या घनत्व वाले हो सकते हैं, जबकि आकार में बड़ा राज्य जरूरी नहीं कि कम जनसंख्या घनत्व वाला हो।”

At least 80 killed as Army, militant outfit clash in Sudan; UN warns of ‘catastrophe’

GS Paper II: Africa

Agence France-Presse
PORT SUDAN

The United Nations warned on Thursday that two southern Sudan states were “on the brink of catastrophe” after a recent eruption of violence reportedly killed at least 80 people in one city.

Renewed fighting broke out last week in the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile between the Army and a faction of the Sudan People’s Liberation

Movement-North (SPLM-N) led by Abdel Aziz al-Hilu.

United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator in Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami said the fighting had reportedly claimed at least 80 lives in South Kordofan state capital Kadugli alone.

“I condemn the reported use of women and children as human shields in Kadugli, the obstruction of humanitarian aid, and the detention of civilians in-

cluding children,” the UN’s most senior official in the country said in a statement.
Army and SPLM-N have accused each other of launching attacks, and targeting civilians

Sudan’s Army and its main rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), have been at war for control of the country

since April 2023, creating a widespread humanitarian crisis. Mr. Hilu’s unaffiliated faction of the SPLM-N has clashed with both since the war broke out. In recent days, the Army and the SPLM-N have accused each other of launching attacks and targeting civilians in an attempt to capture territory.

The UN warned the escalating violence would only worsen the already dire humanitarian situation.

At least 80 killed as Army, militant outfit clash in Sudan; UN warns of ‘catastrophe’

सूडान में सेना और उग्रवादियों के बीच संघर्ष में कम से कम 80 लोगों की मौत; संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 'तबाही' की चेतावनी दी

UN Warns of Catastrophe in Southern Sudan

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने दक्षिणी सूडान में आपदा का चेतावनी दी

- The United Nations warned on Thursday that two southern Sudan states were “on the brink of catastrophe” after a recent eruption of violence reportedly killed at least 80 people in one city.



संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने गुरुवार को चेतावनी दी कि दक्षिणी सूडान के दो राज्य “आपदा के कगार पर हैं” क्योंकि हालिया हिंसा के बाद एक शहर में कम से कम 80 लोग मारे गए हैं।

- Renewed fighting broke out last week in the states of **South Kordofan** and **Blue Nile** between the **Army** and a faction of the **Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLMN)** led by **Abdel Aziz al-Hilu**.

पिछले सप्ताह दक्षिण कोर्डोफान और ब्लू नाइल राज्यों में सेना और सूडान पीपुल्स लिबरेशन मूवमेंट-नॉर्थ (SPLMN) के एक धड़े के बीच अब्देल अज़ीज़ अल-हिलु के नेतृत्व में नया संघर्ष शुरू हुआ।

- **United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator** in Sudan **Clementine Nkweta-Salami** said the fighting had reportedly claimed at least **80 lives** in **South Kordofan state capital Kadugli** alone.

सूडान में संयुक्त राष्ट्र की निवासी और मानवीय समन्वयक क्लेमेंटिन नेक्वेटा-सलामी ने कहा कि संघर्ष में दक्षिण कोर्डोफान राज्य की राजधानी कदुगली में अकेले कम से कम 80 जानें जा चुकी हैं।

- “I condemn the reported use of **women and children as human shields** in Kadugli, the obstruction of humanitarian aid, and the detention of civilians including children,” the UN’s most senior official in the country said in a statement.

“में कदुगली में महिलाओं और बच्चों के मानव ढाल के रूप में उपयोग, मानवीय सहायता में रुकावट, और नागरिकों, जिनमें बच्चे भी शामिल हैं, की हिरासत की कड़ी निंदा करता हूँ,” देश में संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सबसे वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने एक बयान में कहा।

- **Sudan’s Army** and its main rival, the **paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**, have been at war for control of the country since **April 2023**, creating a widespread **humanitarian crisis**.

सूडान की सेना और इसके मुख्य प्रतिद्वंदी, पैरा मिलिट्री रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्स (RSF), अप्रैल 2023 से देश के नियंत्रण के लिए युद्ध में हैं, जिसके कारण एक व्यापक मानवीय संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है।

- **Mr. Hilu’s unaffiliated faction of the SPLM-N** has clashed with both since the war broke out. In recent days, the **Army** and the **SPLM-N** have accused each other of launching attacks and targeting civilians in an attempt to capture territory.

हिलु का SPLM-N का अप्रतिबद्ध धड़ा युद्ध के शुरू होने के बाद से दोनों के साथ संघर्ष कर रहा है। हाल के दिनों में, सेना और SPLM-N ने एक-दूसरे पर हमले करने और नागरिकों को निशाना बनाने का आरोप लगाया है, ताकि क्षेत्र पर कब्जा किया जा सके।

- The **UN** warned the escalating violence would only worsen the already dire **humanitarian situation**.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने चेतावनी दी कि बढ़ती हुई हिंसा केवल पहले से ही गंभीर मानवीय स्थिति को और बिगाड़ेगी।



What ails India's massive diagnostics sector: putting labs under the lens

Industry experts estimate that there are around 300,000 labs across the country, and this number is growing. Within the healthcare sector, diagnostics accounts for around 9% of the industry, estimated to be worth ₹860 billion in the financial year 2024, and projected to grow to about ₹1,275 billion by the financial year 2028

GS Paper II: Health Sector
 The Hindu Bureau

Shankar Dhanje, 27, has been fighting a lone battle against the private diagnostics sector in Maharashtra for years now, but he is yet to make any headway. Six years ago, his sister, Sarika Bhonglat, lost her life following complications after a surgery. Shankar believes that the tests his sister underwent prior to the surgery were incorrect, and this led to the wrong treatment being given, causing her death. "The treatment that my sister was given was based on a lab report that was signed off by a technician and not a pathologist. It was this that led to incorrect treatment and complications and finally her death. How can a Class 12 graduate be allowed to sign off on medical imaging and diagnostic tests?" he asks.

Shankar's case is not unique and delves into the heart of what ails the diagnostics sector in India today – a shortage of trained personnel to meet the rapid burgeoning of medical laboratories/diagnostic facilities in the country.

While there are no exact figures available, industry experts estimate that there are around 300,000 labs across the country, and this number is growing. Within the healthcare sector, diagnostics accounts for around 9% of the industry, estimated to be worth ₹860 billion in the financial year 2024, and projected to grow to about ₹1,275 billion by the financial year 2028. This staggeringly huge sector, however, remains under-regulated, fragmented, and biased towards urban areas.

The regulations
 The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act 2010 aims to bring all diagnostic centres and labs under its ambit, with their registration with respective State councils as clinical establishments. The Act also aims to provide guidance on the minimum standards of facilities and services that should be provided by diagnostic centres and labs.

To date, the Act has been adopted by 12 States – Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Haryana – and all Union Territories, except Delhi. Some other States, including Kerala and Karnataka, have their own legislation to bring labs under the ambit of clinical establishments. However, implementation has, in many cases, not begun, or where it has, it often remains poor.

The fragmented nature of the sector
 Given the low entry barriers and the lack of a strong regulatory environment, there are many standalone players in the sector, making it competitive, fragmented, and prone to varying standards.

Diagnostic centres in India can obtain accreditation voluntarily from organisations such as the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). N. Venkateswaran, CEO, NABL, in an email interview with *The Hindu* highlighted the challenges created by the fast-paced growth of the private sector. India, he noted, has a highly fragmented market with many small, unorganised labs, largely not accredited and following uneven quality standards. "This is in terms of resources to bring in advanced diagnostic technologies, a large variation in pricing even for routine tests, and inadequately skilled manpower," he said.

He said that while the emphasis is on the quality and accuracy of results, lab regulation needs attention. "There has to be more awareness about biomedical waste management to prevent outbreaks; maintaining better labs and hospital environments is in focus, but there is much more to be done to ensure reliable and accurate results."

The shortage of manpower
 There is a significant shortage of full-time doctors and staff in the diagnostics industry. This situation makes it difficult for standalone diagnostic centres which may not be able to employ well-trained lab technicians and pathologists, affecting the quality of outcomes. Accredited labs must mandatorily employ a full-time lab technician/photomicrographist and a radiologist.

The Health Ministry's own research has indicated that India has the disadvantage of not having enough microbiologists and some places do not even have enough qualified doctors or technicians to operate a lab. There is also a lack of upgrading and training, as well as



geographical inequality in quality of services, the research said.

A top management official from a leading diagnostics chain based in North India points out: "The challenge lies in defining an unregulated lab. How do you define one? We do not have enough pathologists to run the number of labs there are in the country. This is where the problem comes in: some lab reports are issued with 'bought out' signatures from doctors, where signatures are obtained in exchange for money, but the lab has a licence obtained from local authorities and shows the presence of ghost employees and doctors."

This problem persists across most States. In Karnataka, the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act governs healthcare facilities; however, the scope and enforcement of this Act in the laboratories and diagnostics sector is limited, particularly in areas like quality assurance and patient safety.

Many hospitals and doctors running clinics have side laboratories and sample collection centres. "These are 'technician-only' facilities that are not run or owned by qualified pathologists. With one pathologist connected to multiple laboratories, reports only to have e-signatures of the pathologists. Although e-signatures are allowed, there is no rule on the number of laboratories a pathologist can be connected to," sources said.

Lack of proper regulations is an area of concern in Tamil Nadu as well, said V. Parthasarathy, general secretary, Tamil Nadu Government Medical Laboratory Technicians Association. He pointed out that an announcement made in the Assembly to constitute a State Council for Laboratory Technicians in 2009 is yet to be implemented. "We still have private laboratories run by unqualified persons," he said.

What does this mean for patients?
 In 2019, Shankar tried to file an FIR with the Paranda police station and raised his concerns with the Grahak Manch (consumer forum), but to no avail. He has now appealed at the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court against the doctors of a local hospital in Barshi, where he got his sister treated.

Doctors from the Maharashtra Association of Practising Pathologists and Microbiologists (MAPPM) indicate that this is not the only such case – and their number is only rising. "A complex diagnosis requires a report from a pathologist. The machine doesn't give reports; it gives readings. A pathologist is required to analyse it," said Sandeep Yadav, president of MAPPM. "The issue affects doctors too: in November last year, a Maharashtra-based

work gets done on time and faster." Tapas Pramanick, a medical officer at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, also said that with many district hospitals lacking decent testing facilities, most tests come to city hospitals, increasing the workload.

The pricing problem
 Pricing, as is always the issue when it comes to the private health sector, is of concern in diagnostics as well. A few government programmes and certain States are going some way towards addressing this. In January 2018, Telangana began the 'Telangana Diagnostics Programme' or 'T-Diagnostics' initiative. As of October 2024, over 18.10 crore tests have been conducted benefiting 1.01 crore individuals, collectively resulting in an estimated saving of ₹1,000 crore in out-of-pocket expenses for patients. However, supply issues such as those of reagents are marring the programme, a lab technician said. In Kerala, the government has invested significantly in upgrading primary health centres to family health centres to provide a range of services, including basic laboratory investigations (at nominal rates) as part of its 'Aardram Mission'.

Issues faced by labs
 While there are many issues in terms of regulation that still need to be streamlined and implemented, representatives from the diagnostics sector say they too, want change.

In Kerala for instance, lab representatives say the space and educational requirements under the Kerala State Clinical Establishments Act are unviable. "There are some 6,500 independent small and medium paramedical labs in the State and if one were to go by the minimum standards – only about 1,000 will be able to function. We have sought relaxations in the clauses regarding space requirement," says Shareef Paloli, State General Secretary of Kerala Private Medical Technicians' Association, and head, Kerala Paramedical Coordination Committee.

The State government also does not recognise paramedical degrees/diplomas even from recognised institutions in other States, he says. A two-year MLT/Diploma/BSc MLT or MSc MLT conducted by medical colleges or other government approved agencies is required. "We are cooperating with the government, but our request was that rather than tender professionals who have studied outside the State jobless, the government could conduct a training programme/exam for them. The government has now agreed to this in principle," he says.

The space constraints are a problem in T.N. as well: in November 2024, the Health Department, brought in amendments to the Tamil Nadu Clinical Establishments (Regulations) Rules, 2018, stipulating minimum space for sample collection for clinical laboratories – 300 sq ft in rural areas and 500-700 sq ft in urban areas. P. Kalidasan, national president, Paramedical Laboratory Educational and Welfare Association, says there is no need for such specifications. "There are nearly 10,000 laboratories in the State. Of these, at least 80% are small-sized. Among them, 30% are in rural areas. Small labs cater to around 10 patients a day and mandating 300 sq feet area for clinical laboratories cannot be accepted. The focus should be on adherence to quality programmes," he said.

The sector is willing to have regulations to bring in standardisation: the Karnataka Chapter of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists (KIAPM) is asking for the strengthening of the Karnataka Act. "The KPME Act must be expanded to include licensing criteria, accreditation mandates, and penalties for non-compliance. Mandatory SOPs for sample collection, testing, and reporting should be put in place to minimise errors," said Aditya Agnihotri, KIAPM secretary.

KIAPM president Vijay Shankar S. said ensuring every lab is supervised by qualified pathologists and supported by trained technicians was vital. "Licensing should include a needs assessment to prevent over-saturation in certain areas while ensuring coverage in underserved regions," he said.

Collected by Zubeda Hamid, with inputs from Maitri Pareekha and Bindu Shajin Perappadan in Delhi; Afshan Yasmeen in Bengaluru; C. Maya in Thiruvananthapuram; Sidharth Kumar Singh in Hyderabad; Snehal Matha in Mumbai; Shrabana Guatterjee in Kolkata and Serena Josephine M. in Chennai

THE GIST

India has a highly fragmented market with many small, unorganised labs, largely not accredited and following uneven quality standards.

Some reports are issued with signatures obtained in exchange for money. The lab has a licence but the rolls indicate 'ghost employees' and doctors.

Some States are addressing the price issue. Telangana has the T-Diagnostics initiative. Over 18.10 crore tests have been conducted. Kerala has its 'Aardram Mission' which provides basic laboratory tests at nominal rates.

For feedback and suggestion for 'Science', please write science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily 99'



Website: patrioticias.in

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



What ails India's massive diagnostics sector: putting labs under the lens

भारत के विशाल डायग्नोस्टिक्स क्षेत्र की समस्या क्या है: प्रयोगशालाओं पर नज़र रखना

Industry experts estimate that there are around 300,000 labs across the country, and this number is growing. Within the healthcare sector, diagnostics accounts for around 9% of the industry, estimated to be worth ₹860 billion in the financial year 2024, and projected to grow to about ₹1,275 billion by the financial year 2028

उद्योग विशेषज्ञों का अनुमान है कि देश भर में लगभग 300,000 प्रयोगशालाएँ हैं, और यह संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है। स्वास्थ्य सेवा क्षेत्र में, डायग्नोस्टिक्स उद्योग का लगभग 9% हिस्सा है, जिसका अनुमान वित्तीय वर्ष 2024 में ₹860 बिलियन है, और वित्तीय वर्ष 2028 तक लगभग ₹1,275 बिलियन तक बढ़ने का अनुमान है।

Shankar Dhange's Battle Against Private Diagnostics Sector

शंकर ढांगे की प्राइवेट डायग्नोस्टिक सेक्टर के खिलाफ लड़ाई

- **Shankar Dhange, 27**, has been fighting a lone battle against the **private diagnostics sector** in **Maharashtra** for years now, but he is yet to make any headway.
शंकर ढांगे, 27, वर्षों से महाराष्ट्र में प्राइवेट डायग्नोस्टिक सेक्टर के खिलाफ अकेली लड़ाई लड़ रहे हैं, लेकिन वह अभी तक किसी भी सफलता को प्राप्त नहीं कर पाए हैं।
- Six years ago, his sister, **Sarika Bhonglat**, lost her life following complications after a surgery.
छह साल पहले, उनकी बहन, **सारिका भोंगलत**, एक सर्जरी के बाद जटिलताओं के कारण अपनी जान गवा बैठी थीं।
- **Shankar believes** that the tests his sister underwent prior to the surgery were incorrect, and this led to the wrong treatment being given, causing her death.
शंकर का मानना है कि सर्जरी से पहले जिन परीक्षणों से उनकी बहन को गुजरना पड़ा था, वे गलत थे, और इसके कारण गलत उपचार दिया गया, जिससे उनकी मृत्यु हो गई।
- "The treatment that my sister was given was based on a lab report that was signed off by a technician and not a pathologist. It was this that led to incorrect treatment and complications and finally her death. How can a **Class 12 graduate** be allowed to sign off on **medical imaging** and **diagnostic tests**?" he asks.
"मेरी बहन को जो उपचार दिया गया, वह एक **तकनीशियन** द्वारा साइन किए गए लैब रिपोर्ट पर आधारित था, न कि एक **पैथोलॉजिस्ट** द्वारा। यह वही था जिसने गलत उपचार और जटिलताएँ

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



उत्पन्न कीं और अंततः उनकी मृत्यु का कारण बनी। एक कक्षा 12 के स्नातक को चिकित्सा इमेजिंग और डायग्नोस्टिक परीक्षणों पर साइन करने की अनुमति कैसे दी जा सकती है?” वह पूछते हैं।

- **Shankar's case** is not unique and delves into the heart of what ails the **diagnostics sector** in India today — a shortage of trained personnel to meet the rapid burgeoning of medical laboratories/diagnostic facilities in the country.
शंकर का मामला विशिष्ट नहीं है और यह आज के भारत में डायग्नोस्टिक्स सेक्टर की समस्याओं की जड़ में घुसता है – प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों की कमी जो देश में मेडिकल लैबोरेटरीज/डायग्नोस्टिक सुविधाओं के तीव्र विस्तार को पूरा कर सकें।
- While there are no exact figures available, **industry experts estimate** that there are around **300,000 labs** across the country, and this number is growing.
हालाँकि कोई सटीक आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, उद्योग विशेषज्ञों का अनुमान है कि देश भर में **300,000 लैब** हैं, और यह संख्या बढ़ रही है।
- Within the healthcare sector, **diagnostics** accounts for around **9%** of the industry, estimated to be worth **₹860 billion** in the **financial year 2024**, and projected to grow to about **₹1,275 billion** by the **financial year 2028**.
स्वास्थ्य सेवा क्षेत्र में, डायग्नोस्टिक्स उद्योग का 9% हिस्सा है, जिसका अनुमानित मूल्य वित्तीय वर्ष 2024 में ₹860 बिलियन है, और यह वित्तीय वर्ष 2028 तक बढ़कर लगभग ₹1,275 बिलियन हो सकता है।
- This staggeringly huge sector, however, remains under-regulated, fragmented, and biased towards urban areas.
हालाँकि, यह अत्यधिक विशाल सेक्टर अंडर-रेगुलेटेड, खंडित और शहरी क्षेत्रों की ओर पक्षपाती है।

The Regulations

नियम और कानून

- The **Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act 2010** aims to bring all diagnostic centres and labs under its ambit, with their registration with respective **State councils** as clinical establishments.
क्लिनिकल एस्टैब्लिशमेंट्स (रजिस्ट्रेशन और रेगुलेशन) एक्ट 2010 का उद्देश्य सभी डायग्नोस्टिक केंद्रों और लैब्स को इसके दायरे में लाना है, और इन्हें संबंधित राज्य परिषदों के साथ क्लिनिकल एस्टैब्लिशमेंट्स के रूप में पंजीकरण कराना है।
- The Act also aims to provide guidance on the minimum standards of **facilities and services** that should be provided by diagnostic centres and labs.
यह अधिनियम डायग्नोस्टिक केंद्रों और लैब्स द्वारा प्रदान की जाने वाली सुविधाओं और सेवाओं के न्यूनतम मानकों पर मार्गदर्शन देने का भी उद्देश्य रखता है।
- To date, the Act has been adopted by **12 States** — **Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Haryana** — and all **Union Territories**, except **Delhi**.



अब तक, यह अधिनियम 12 राज्यों — सिक्किम, मिजोरम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, झारखंड, राजस्थान, तेलंगाना, उत्तराखंड, असम, और हरियाणा — और सभी संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों द्वारा अपनाया गया है, सिवाय दिल्ली के।

- Some other States, including **Kerala** and **Karnataka**, have their own legislation to bring labs under the ambit of clinical establishments.

कुछ अन्य राज्यों, जिनमें **केरल** और **कर्नाटका** शामिल हैं, के पास लैब्स को क्लिनिकल एस्टैब्लिशमेंट्स के दायरे में लाने के लिए अपनी खुद की कानून व्यवस्था है।

- However, implementation has, in many cases, not begun, or where it has, it often remains poor.

हालांकि, कार्यान्वयन कई मामलों में शुरू नहीं हुआ है, या जहां हुआ है, वहां अक्सर यह कमजोर रहता है।

The Fragmented Nature of the Sector

सेक्टर की खंडित प्रकृति

- Given the low entry barriers and the lack of a strong regulatory environment, there are many standalone players in the sector, making it competitive, fragmented, and prone to varying standards.

कम प्रवेश बाधाओं और मजबूत नियामक वातावरण की कमी के कारण, इस क्षेत्र में कई **स्टैंडअलोन प्लेयर** हैं, जो इसे प्रतिस्पर्धी, खंडित और भिन्न मानकों के प्रति प्रवृत्त बनाते हैं।

- Diagnostic centres in India can obtain accreditation voluntarily from organisations such as the **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**.

भारत में **डायग्नोस्टिक केंद्र** स्वेच्छा से संगठनों जैसे **नेशनल एक्रेडिटेशन बोर्ड फॉर टेस्टिंग एंड कैलिब्रेशन लैबोरेटरीज (NABL)** से मान्यता प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

- **N. Venkateswaran, CEO, NABL**, in an email interview with **The Hindu** highlighted the challenges created by the fast-paced growth of the **private sector**.

N. वेणकटेश्वरन, सीईओ, NABL, ने **द हिंदू** के साथ एक ईमेल साक्षात्कार में **प्राइवेट सेक्टर** के तेज़ गति से विकास द्वारा उत्पन्न चुनौतियों को उजागर किया।

- India, he noted, has a highly **fragmented market** with many small, unorganised labs, largely not accredited and following uneven quality standards.

उन्होंने बताया कि भारत में एक अत्यधिक **खंडित बाजार** है जिसमें कई छोटे, अनऑर्गनाइज़्ड लैब्स हैं, जो मुख्य रूप से अप्रमाणित हैं और असमान गुणवत्ता मानकों का पालन करते हैं।

- “This is in terms of resources to bring in **advanced diagnostic technologies**, a large variation in pricing even for **routine tests**, and inadequately skilled **manpower**,” he said.

“यह **उन्नत डायग्नोस्टिक तकनीकों** को लाने के लिए संसाधनों, **रूटीन परीक्षणों** के लिए मूल्य निर्धारण में बड़े अंतर और अपर्याप्त रूप से प्रशिक्षित **मानव संसाधन** के संदर्भ में है,” उन्होंने कहा।

- He said that while the emphasis is on the **quality and accuracy** of results, **lab regulation** needs attention.



उन्होंने कहा कि जबकि परिणामों की गुणवत्ता और सटीकता पर जोर दिया जाता है, लैब रेगुलेशन पर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।

- “There has to be more awareness about **biomedical waste management** to prevent outbreaks; maintaining better labs and hospital environments is in focus, but there is much more to be done to ensure **reliable and accurate results**.”

“बायोमेडिकल कचरे के प्रबंधन के बारे में अधिक जागरूकता होनी चाहिए ताकि प्रकोपों से बचा जा सके; बेहतर लैब्स और अस्पतालों के वातावरण को बनाए रखना मुख्य ध्यान है, लेकिन विश्वसनीय और सटीक परिणामों को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बहुत कुछ किया जाना बाकी है।”

The Shortage of Manpower

कर्मियों की कमी

- There is a significant shortage of full-time **doctors** and **staff** in the **diagnostics industry**.

डायग्नोस्टिक उद्योग में पूर्णकालिक डॉक्टरों और कर्मियों की गंभीर कमी है।

- This situation makes it difficult for **standalone diagnostic centres**, which may not be able to employ well-trained **lab technicians** and **pathologists**, affecting the quality of outcomes.

यह स्थिति स्टैंडअलोन डायग्नोस्टिक सेंटरों के लिए कठिन बनाती है, जो अच्छी तरह से प्रशिक्षित लैब तकनीशियनों और पैथोलॉजिस्ट को नियुक्त नहीं कर सकते, जिससे परिणामों की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होती है।

- **Accredited labs** must mandatorily employ a full-time **lab technician/phlebotomist** and a **radiologist**.

प्रमाणित लैब्स को अनिवार्य रूप से एक पूर्णकालिक लैब तकनीशियन/फ्लेबोटोमिस्ट और एक रेडियोलॉजिस्ट को नियुक्त करना चाहिए।

- The **Health Ministry's research** has indicated that **India** has the disadvantage of not having enough **microbiologists** and some places do not even have enough qualified **doctors** or **technicians** to operate a lab.

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय का अनुसंधान यह दर्शाता है कि भारत के पास माइक्रोबायोलॉजिस्ट की पर्याप्त संख्या नहीं है और कुछ स्थानों पर तो लैब चलाने के लिए योग्य डॉक्टरों और तकनीशियनों की भी कमी है।

- There is also a lack of upgrading and **training**, as well as **geographical inequality** in the quality of services, the research said.

इसके अलावा, उन्नयन और प्रशिक्षण की कमी है, साथ ही सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता में भौगोलिक असमानता भी है, जैसा कि अनुसंधान में कहा गया है।

- A **top management official** from a leading diagnostics chain based in **North India** points out: “The challenge lies in defining an unregulated lab. How do you define one? We do not have enough **pathologists** to run the number of labs there are in the country.”

उत्तर भारत में स्थित एक प्रमुख डायग्नोस्टिक्स चेन के शीर्ष प्रबंधन अधिकारी ने बताया: “चुनौती



एक अनियंत्रित लैब को परिभाषित करने में है। आप इसे कैसे परिभाषित करेंगे? हमारे पास देश में जितनी लैब्स हैं, उन्हें चलाने के लिए पर्याप्त पैथोलॉजिस्ट नहीं हैं।”

- “This is where the problem comes in: some lab reports are issued with ‘**bought out signatures**’ from doctors, where signatures are obtained in exchange for money, but the lab has a **licence** obtained from **local authorities** and shows the presence of **ghost employees** and **doctors**.”

“यहां समस्या आती है: कुछ लैब रिपोर्ट्स में ‘**खरीदी गई**’ सिग्नेचर्स डॉक्टरों से लिए जाते हैं, जहाँ सिग्नेचर्स पैसे के बदले लिए जाते हैं, लेकिन लैब के पास **स्थानीय अधिकारियों** से प्राप्त **लाइसेंस** होता है और इसमें **घोस्ट कर्मचारी** और **डॉक्टरों** की उपस्थिति दिखाई जाती है।”

- This problem persists across most **States**.

यह समस्या अधिकांश राज्यों में बनी हुई है।

- In **Karnataka**, the **Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act** governs healthcare facilities; however, the scope and enforcement of this Act in the **laboratories** and **diagnostics sector** is limited, particularly in areas like **quality assurance** and **patient safety**.

कर्नाटका में, कर्नाटका प्राइवेट मेडिकल एस्टैब्लिशमेंट्स (KPME) एक्ट स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं को नियंत्रित करता है; हालांकि, इस एक्ट का **लैबोरेटरीज** और **डायग्नोस्टिक्स** सेक्टर में दायरा और प्रवर्तन सीमित है, विशेष रूप से **गुणवत्ता आश्वासन** और **रोगी सुरक्षा** जैसे क्षेत्रों में।

- Many hospitals and doctors running clinics have **side laboratories** and **sample collection centres**.

कई अस्पतालों और क्लीनिक चलाने वाले डॉक्टरों के पास **साइड लैबोरेटरीज** और **नमूना संग्रह केंद्र** होते हैं।

- “These are ‘**technician-only**’ facilities that are not run or owned by qualified **pathologists**. With one **pathologist** connected to multiple laboratories, reports only have e-signatures of the pathologists.

“यह ‘**केवल तकनीशियन**’ सुविधाएँ हैं, जिन्हें योग्य **पैथोलॉजिस्ट** द्वारा संचालित या स्वामित्व नहीं किया जाता है। एक **पैथोलॉजिस्ट** कई लैब्स से जुड़ा होता है, और रिपोर्ट्स में केवल पैथोलॉजिस्ट की **ई-सिग्नेचर्स** होती हैं।

- Although e-signatures are allowed, there is no rule on the number of laboratories a pathologist can be connected to,” sources said.

हालांकि ई-सिग्नेचर्स की अनुमति है, पैथोलॉजिस्ट कितनी लैब्स से जुड़ा हो सकता है, इस पर कोई नियम नहीं है,” स्रोतों ने कहा।

- Lack of proper regulations is an area of concern in **Tamil Nadu** as well, said **V. Parthasarathy**, general secretary, **Tamil Nadu Government Medical Laboratory Technicians Association**.

तमिलनाडु में भी उचित नियमों की कमी एक चिंता का विषय है, जैसा कि **वी. पार्थसारथी**, महासचिव, तमिलनाडु सरकार मेडिकल लैबोरेटरी टेक्नीशियन्स एसोसिएशन ने कहा।

- He pointed out that an announcement made in the **Assembly** to constitute a **State Council for Laboratory Technicians** in **2009** is yet to be implemented.



उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि 2009 में विधानसभा में लैबोरेटरी तकनीशियनों के लिए राज्य परिषद गठित करने की घोषणा अब तक लागू नहीं हुई है।

- “We still have **private laboratories** run by **unqualified persons**,” he said.
“हमारे पास अभी भी गैर-योग्य व्यक्तियों द्वारा चलाए जा रहे प्राइवेट लैब्स हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

What Does This Mean for Patients?

यह मरीजों के लिए क्या मायने रखता है?

- In 2019, **Shankar** tried to file an **FIR** with the **Paranda police station** and raised his concerns with the **Grahak Manch (consumer forum)**, but to no avail.
2019 में, शंकर ने परांडा पुलिस स्टेशन में FIR दर्ज करने की कोशिश की और अपनी चिंताओं को ग्राहक मंच (उपभोक्ता मंच) में उठाया, लेकिन कोई परिणाम नहीं निकला।
- He has now appealed at the **Aurangabad Bench** of the **Bombay High Court** against the doctors of a local hospital in **Barshi**, where he got his sister treated.
अब उन्होंने बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट के औरंगाबाद बेंच में बार्शी के एक स्थानीय अस्पताल के डॉक्टरों के खिलाफ अपील की है, जहां उन्होंने अपनी बहन का इलाज करवाया था।
- Doctors from the **Maharashtra Association of Practising Pathologists and Microbiologists (MAPPM)** indicate that this is not the only such case — and their number is only rising.
महाराष्ट्र एसोसिएशन ऑफ प्रैक्टिसिंग पैथोलॉजिस्ट्स एंड माइक्रोबायोलॉजिस्ट्स (MAPPM) के डॉक्टरों का कहना है कि यह केवल ऐसा मामला नहीं है — और इनकी संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है।
- “A complex diagnosis requires a report from a **pathologist**. The machine doesn’t give reports; it gives readings. A **pathologist** is required to analyse it,” said **Sandeep Yadav**, president of **MAPPM**.
“एक जटिल निदान के लिए एक पैथोलॉजिस्ट की रिपोर्ट की आवश्यकता होती है। मशीन रिपोर्ट नहीं देती; यह रीडिंग देती है। इसे विश्लेषित करने के लिए एक पैथोलॉजिस्ट की आवश्यकता होती है,” कहा संदीप यादव, MAPPM के अध्यक्ष ने।

The Issue Affects Doctors Too

यह समस्या डॉक्टरों को भी प्रभावित करती है

- In **November** last year, a **Maharashtra-based doctor, Rahul Mayur**, filed a complaint of **identity theft**, stating that a diagnostic lab in **Jalgaon** was fraudulently using his **name, degree, and signature** to give **fake reports** to patients.
**पिछले वर्ष नवंबर में, एक महाराष्ट्र-आधारित डॉक्टर, राहुल मयूर ने पहचान की चोरी की शिकायत दर्ज की, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि जलगांव के एक डायग्नोस्टिक लैब ने उनके नाम, डिग्री, और हस्ताक्षर का धोखाधड़ी से उपयोग कर मरीजों को नकली रिपोर्ट्स दी।
- The **Maharashtra Paramedical Council Act, 2011**, has established a **council** to regulate **paramedical personnel**, including **medical laboratory technicians**.



महाराष्ट्र पैरामेडिकल काउंसिल एक्ट, 2011 ने पैरामेडिकल कर्मियों, जिसमें मेडिकल लैब तकनीशियन भी शामिल हैं, को नियंत्रित करने के लिए एक काउंसिल स्थापित की है।

- This Act and the **National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act 2021** do not permit laboratory technicians to practice independently and issue reports without certification by a **pathologist**.
यह एक्ट और नेशनल कमीशन फॉर एलाइड एंड हेल्थकेयर प्रोफेशन (NCAHP) एक्ट 2021 लैब तकनीशियनों को स्वतंत्र रूप से अभ्यास करने और पैथोलॉजिस्ट द्वारा प्रमाणपत्र के बिना रिपोर्ट जारी करने की अनुमति नहीं देते।
- However, **Dr. Yadav** said such **fraudulent practices** were common.
हालांकि, डॉ. यादव ने कहा कि ऐसी धोखाधड़ी प्रथाएँ आम हैं।
- He highlighted the issue of **“ghost pathologists”** at many labs and underscored: **“everything done at a lab needs to be supervised by pathologists and not technicians.”** उन्होंने कई लैब्स में **“घोस्ट पैथोलॉजिस्ट”** की समस्या को उजागर किया और जोर देकर कहा: **“लैब में किया गया हर कार्य पैथोलॉजिस्ट द्वारा निगरानी किया जाना चाहिए, न कि तकनीशियनों द्वारा।”**

The Urban-Rural Divide

शहरी-ग्रामीण विभाजन

- One of the other issues in **India** is the concentration of labs in the **urban areas**.
भारत में एक अन्य समस्या है शहरी क्षेत्रों में लैब्स का केंद्रित होना।
- As of the **financial year 2023**, only **24%** of diagnostics revenue came from **rural areas** in **India**, though nearly **70%** of the population in the country resides rurally.
2023 वित्तीय वर्ष के अनुसार, भारत में **24%** डायग्नोस्टिक्स राजस्व ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से आया, जबकि देश की करीब **70%** जनसंख्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में निवास करती है।
- This is also mirrored in the **government-private labs divide**, with both doctors and patients pointing out that multiple gaps exist in government labs that make them a less favored option.
यह सरकारी-प्राइवेट लैब्स विभाजन में भी दिखाई देता है, जिसमें डॉक्टरों और मरीजों दोनों ने यह बताया कि सरकारी लैब्स में कई अंतर हैं जो उन्हें एक कम पसंदीदा विकल्प बनाते हैं।
- For instance, in **Telangana**, a government doctor said lack of essential upgrades was a hindrance.
उदाहरण के लिए, **तेलंगाना** में, एक सरकारी डॉक्टर ने कहा कि आवश्यक उन्नयन की कमी एक रुकावट थी।
- Both **Osmania** and **Gandhi hospitals** — major State healthcare facilities in **Hyderabad** — urgently required improvements, the doctor said, further noting that limited operational hours at government laboratories restricted access.
हैदराबाद में प्रमुख राज्य स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएँ, **उस्मानिया** और **गांधी अस्पताल**, डॉक्टर के अनुसार, तुरंत सुधार की आवश्यकता थी, उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि सरकारी लैब्स के सीमित संचालन घंटों ने पहुंच को प्रतिबंधित किया।



- “Even after diagnosis, the **unavailability of specialists** at government hospitals discourages patients and forces them to seek private care,” the doctor added.
“निदान के बाद भी, सरकारी अस्पतालों में विशेषज्ञों की अनुपलब्धता मरीजों को हतोत्साहित करती है और उन्हें निजी उपचार लेने के लिए मजबूर करती है,” डॉक्टर ने जोड़ा।
- The problem of varying standards and **shortage of staff** ails the **government sector** too.
मानकों में भिन्नता और कर्मियों की कमी की समस्या सरकारी क्षेत्र को भी प्रभावित करती है।
- **Paramita Sarkar**, a final-year **MD pathology student** from **Medical College, Kolkata**, said there was a huge workload — over **800 tests per day** — but a serious staff shortage.
परमिता सरकार, मेडिकल कॉलेज, कोलकाता की अंतिम वर्ष की **एमडी पैथोलॉजी छात्रा**, ने कहा कि एक बड़ा कार्यभार था – **800 से अधिक टेस्ट प्रति दिन** — लेकिन गंभीर कर्मियों की कमी थी।
- “Three of us work in shifts in the labs, but that is not enough. We need more **technicians** and people who can run the testing machines to ensure work gets done on time and faster.”
“हममें से तीन लोग लैब में शिफ्टों में काम करते हैं, लेकिन यह पर्याप्त नहीं है। हमें अधिक तकनीशियनों और ऐसे लोगों की जरूरत है जो टेस्टिंग मशीनों को चला सकें ताकि काम समय पर और तेजी से हो सके।”
- **Tapas Pramanick**, a **medical officer** at **R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata**, also said that with many **district hospitals** lacking decent testing facilities, most tests come to city hospitals, increasing the workload.
टापस प्रमाणिक, आर.जी. कर मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल, कोलकाता में एक **मेडिकल अधिकारी**, ने भी कहा कि कई **जिला अस्पतालों** में उचित टेस्टिंग सुविधाओं की कमी के कारण अधिकांश टेस्ट शहर के अस्पतालों में आते हैं, जिससे कार्यभार बढ़ता है।

The Pricing Problem

मूल्य निर्धारण समस्या

- **Pricing**, as is always the issue when it comes to the **private health sector**, is of concern in **diagnostics** as well.
मूल्य निर्धारण, जैसा कि हमेशा **निजी स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र** में होता है, **डायग्नोस्टिक्स** में भी चिंता का विषय है।
- A few government programmes and certain **States** are going some way towards addressing this.
कुछ सरकारी कार्यक्रम और कुछ **राज्य** इस दिशा में कदम बढ़ा रहे हैं।
- In **January 2018**, **Telangana** began the **Telangana Diagnostics Programme** or ‘**T-Diagnostics**’ initiative.
जनवरी 2018 में, **तेलंगाना** ने **तेलंगाना डायग्नोस्टिक्स प्रोग्राम** या ‘**टी-डायग्नोस्टिक्स**’ पहल शुरू की।
- As of **October 2024**, over **18.10 crore tests** have been conducted benefiting **1.01 crore individuals**, collectively resulting in an estimated saving of **₹1,100 crore** in out-of-pocket expenses for patients.



अक्टूबर 2024 तक, 18.10 करोड़ टेस्ट किए गए हैं, 1.01 करोड़ व्यक्तियों को लाभ हुआ है, जिससे कुल मिलाकर ₹1,100 करोड़ की अनुमानित बचत हुई है।

- However, **supply issues** such as those of **reagents** are marred in the programme, a lab technician said.

हालांकि, कार्यक्रम में **सप्लाई की समस्याएं**, जैसे **रियाजेंट्स** की कमी, एक लैब तकनीशियन ने कहा।

- In **Kerala**, the government has invested significantly in upgrading primary health centres to **family health centres** to provide a range of services, including basic laboratory investigations (at nominal rates) as part of its '**Aardram Mission**'.

केरल में, सरकार ने **प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों को परिवार स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों में** उन्नत करने में महत्वपूर्ण निवेश किया है, ताकि एक श्रृंखला सेवाएं प्रदान की जा सकें, जिसमें बुनियादी लैबोरेटरी जांच (नाममात्र दरों पर) शामिल हैं, इसके '**आद्रम मिशन**' के तहत।

Issues Faced by Labs

लैब्स द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याएँ

- While there are many issues in terms of **regulation** that still need to be streamlined and implemented, representatives from the diagnostics sector say they too, want change. हालाँकि **नियमन** के संदर्भ में कई समस्याएँ हैं जिन्हें अभी भी सुव्यवस्थित और लागू करने की आवश्यकता है, डायग्नोस्टिक्स क्षेत्र के प्रतिनिधियों का कहना है कि वे भी बदलाव चाहते हैं।
- In **Kerala**, lab representatives say the **space** and educational requirements under the **Kerala State Clinical Establishments Act** are unviable. केरल में, लैब प्रतिनिधियों का कहना है कि **केरल राज्य क्लिनिकल एस्टेब्लिशमेंट एक्ट** के तहत **स्थान और शैक्षिक आवश्यकताएँ असंभव हैं।**
- "There are some **6,500 independent small and medium paramedical labs** in the State and if one were to go by the **minimum standards**, only about **1,000** will be able to function."
"राज्य में कुछ **6,500 स्वतंत्र छोटे और मझोले पैरामेडिकल लैब्स** हैं, और यदि कोई **न्यूनतम मानकों** के अनुसार जाए, तो केवल **1,000** ही काम कर पाएंगे।"
- "We have sought **relaxations** in the clauses regarding **space requirement**," says **Shareef Paloli**, State General Secretary of **Kerala Private Medical Technicians' Association**, and head, **Kerala Paramedical Coordination Committee**.
"हमने **स्थान की आवश्यकता** से संबंधित खंडों में **छूट मांगी है**," कहते हैं **शरीफ पलोली**, राज्य महासचिव, **केरल प्राइवेट मेडिकल तकनीशियंस एसोसिएशन**, और प्रमुख, **केरल पैरामेडिकल कोऑर्डिनेशन कमिटी**।
- The **State government** also does not recognize paramedical degrees/diplomas even from recognized institutions in other states, he says.
राज्य सरकार **अन्य राज्यों** के मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थानों से पैरामेडिकल डिग्रियाँ/डिप्लोमास भी मान्यता नहीं देती है, वे कहते हैं।
- A **two-year MLT Diploma/BSc MLT or MSc MLT** conducted by medical colleges or other government approved agencies is required.



दो साल का MLT डिप्लोमा/ BSc MLT या MSc MLT, जिसे चिकित्सा कॉलेजों या अन्य सरकारी स्वीकृत एजेंसियों द्वारा संचालित किया गया हो, आवश्यक है।

- “We are cooperating with the government, but our request was that rather than render professionals who have studied outside the state jobless, the government could conduct a **training programme/exam** for them. The government has now agreed to this in principle,” he says.

"हम सरकार के साथ सहयोग कर रहे हैं, लेकिन हमारी मांग थी कि राज्य से बाहर पढ़ाई करने वाले पेशेवरों को बेरोजगार करने के बजाय, सरकार उनके लिए एक **प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम/परीक्षा** आयोजित कर सकती है। सरकार ने अब इस पर **सिद्धांत रूप से सहमति** व्यक्त की है," वे कहते हैं।

- The **space constraints** are a problem in T.N. as well: in **November 2024**, the Health Department brought in amendments to the **Tamil Nadu Clinical Establishments (Regulations) Rules, 2018**, stipulating minimum space for sample collection for clinical laboratories — **300 sq ft** in rural areas and **500-700 sq ft** in urban areas.

T.N. में भी **स्थान की कमी** एक समस्या है: **नवंबर 2024** में, स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने **तमिलनाडु क्लिनिकल एस्टेब्लिशमेंट्स (नियमावली) 2018** में संशोधन किए, जिसमें **क्लिनिकल लैब्स** के लिए **नमूना संग्रह** के लिए न्यूनतम स्थान निर्धारित किया गया — **300 वर्ग फीट** ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में और **500-700 वर्ग फीट** शहरी क्षेत्रों में।

- **P. Kalidasan**, national president, **Paramedical Laboratory Educational and Welfare Association**, says there is no need for such specifications.

पी. कालिदासन, राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष, **पैरामेडिकल लैबोरेटरी एजुकेशनल एंड वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन**, कहते हैं कि ऐसी **विशिष्टताओं** की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।

- “There are nearly **10,000 laboratories** in the State. Of these, at least **80%** are small-sized. Among them, **30%** are in rural areas. Small labs cater to around **10 patients a day** and mandating **300 sq feet** area for clinical laboratories cannot be accepted. The focus should be on adherence to **quality programmes**,” he said.

"राज्य में लगभग **10,000 लैब्स** हैं। इनमें से, कम से कम **80%** छोटे आकार की हैं। इनमें से **30%** ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में हैं। छोटे लैब्स **10 मरीजों प्रति दिन** की सेवा करते हैं और **क्लिनिकल लैब्स** के लिए **300 वर्ग फीट** क्षेत्र को अनिवार्य करना स्वीकार्य नहीं हो सकता। ध्यान **गुणवत्ता कार्यक्रमों** के पालन पर होना चाहिए," उन्होंने कहा।

- The sector is willing to have **regulations** to bring in standardisation: the **Karnataka Chapter** of the **Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists (KCIAPM)** is asking for the strengthening of the **Karnataka Act**.

क्षेत्र **मानकीकरण** लाने के लिए **नियमों** को स्वीकार करने को तैयार है: **भारतीय पैथोलॉजिस्ट्स और माइक्रोबायोलॉजिस्ट्स एसोसिएशन (KCIAPM)** का **कर्नाटक चैप्टर कर्नाटक एक्ट** को मजबूत करने की मांग कर रहा है।

- “The **KPME Act** must be expanded to include **licensing criteria, accreditation mandates**, and penalties for non-compliance. **Mandatory SOPs** for sample collection, testing, and reporting should be put in place to minimize errors,” said **Aditya Agnihotri**, KCIAPM secretary.



"KPME एक्ट को लाइसेंसिंग मानदंड, प्रमाणन अनिवार्यताएँ, और अनुपालन न करने पर दंड शामिल करने के लिए विस्तारित किया जाना चाहिए। नमूना संग्रह, परीक्षण, और रिपोर्टिंग के लिए अनिवार्य SOPs को लागू किया जाना चाहिए ताकि त्रुटियों को कम किया जा सके," कहा आदित्य अग्निहोत्री, KCIAPM सचिव।

- KCIAPM president **Vijay Shankar S.** said ensuring every lab is supervised by qualified **pathologists** and supported by trained **technicians** was vital. KCIAPM के अध्यक्ष **विजय शंकर एस.** ने कहा कि यह सुनिश्चित करना कि हर लैब को योग्य **पैथोलॉजिस्ट** द्वारा निगरानी की जाए और प्रशिक्षित **तकनीशियनों** द्वारा समर्थित किया जाए, महत्वपूर्ण था।
- "Licensing should include a **needs assessment** to prevent **over-saturation** in certain areas while ensuring coverage in underserved regions," he said. "लाइसेंसिंग में आवश्यकता **मूल्यांकन** शामिल किया जाना चाहिए ताकि कुछ क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त **संतृप्ति** को रोका जा सके और सेवा नहीं मिलने वाले क्षेत्रों में **कवरेज** सुनिश्चित किया जा सके," उन्होंने कहा।

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

1. The saga of regulating India's thermal power emissions / भारत में थर्मल पावर उत्सर्जन के नियमन की गाथा
2. Should India build a sovereign, foundational AI model? / क्या भारत को एक संप्रभु, बुनियादी एआई मॉडल बनाना चाहिए?
3. ₹10,147-crore worth contracts signed for Pinaka ammunition / पिनाका गोलाबारूद के लिए ₹10,147 करोड़ मूल्य के अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए
4. IAF's Mirage 2000 crashes near Gwalior after system malfunction; pilots safe / वायुसेना का मिराज 2000 सिस्टम में खराबी के कारण ग्वालियर के पास दुर्घटनाग्रस्त; पायलट सुरक्षित
5. Argentina bans gender transitions for minors / अर्जेंटीना ने नाबालिगों के लिए लिंग परिवर्तन पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया



The saga of regulating India's thermal power emissions

GS Paper III: Environment

On December 30, 2024, India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued a notification amending the Environment Protection Rules by pushing back the deadline for thermal plants to comply with sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emission norms by three years without any reasons being given. As it happens, the existing deadline for about 20 gigawatts (GW) of thermal plants, all located in close proximity to densely populated areas, was December 31, 2024. This is the latest instance in a nearly decade-long saga that fans of Franz Kafka would find appealing.

The MoEFCC revised the emission norms for Indian thermal plants in December 2015 after public consultations, and all thermal plants were expected to comply with them by December 2017 despite it being a tight deadline.

This notification tightened the prevalent norms for particulate matter emissions and introduced norms for other emissions, including SO₂, for the first time. These norms were understood to be broadly on a par with existing practices in countries such as Australia, China and the United States.

The morphing of a debate

Indian coal generally has a lower sulphur content than other coal, which should have made it easier for Indian thermal plants to meet the SO₂ emission norms. But rather than focusing on the best ways to meet the norms – given Indian coal's characteristics – the debate morphed into the challenges around implementing the flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) technology for desulphurisation of high-sulphur coal. Despite the norms never mandating FGDs, the discussion became one about issues such as the scheduling of FGD installations given their long gestation periods and the likely costs of installing them.

In parallel, a different discourse questioning the SO₂ emission norms themselves also took



Ashok Sreenivas

is with the Prayas
(Energy Group)



Maria Chirayil

is with the Prayas
(Energy Group)

shape, often driven by different arms of the government. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) published papers in 2020 and 2021, questioning the need for uniform norms across the country and proposing that its country-wide implementation be phased out till 2035. The CEA also commissioned a study from IIT Delhi in 2022 which concluded that the installation of FGDs does provide air quality benefits but argued for extending the timelines due to issues such as FGDs being expensive, their supply chain being inadequate, and their operation leading to increased coal consumption (and hence greenhouse gas emissions).

In 2024, NITI Aayog commissioned the CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute to conduct a study on this. This study concluded that SO₂ emission norms are not important to achieve good ambient air quality in India, and instead the focus should be on particulate emissions. There was also one strand of debate about secondary aerosol formation from SO₂ emissions as the reason to have norms for it even though Indian coal is relatively low sulphur. Thus, rather than debating these issues and building a consensus before notifying the first set of norms, it continues robustly nearly a decade after their notification.

Different deadlines

In the midst of these debates, the MoEFCC diluted some norms and also extended, multiple times, the deadlines for compliance, with the notification of December 2024 being the fourth in the series. As a result, there are different deadlines for thermal plants in different locations and for different types of emissions, with SO₂ emission deadlines being well after the deadline for other emissions.

Indeed, the final deadline for compliance with other emissions, which include particulate matter emissions that are considered important by all

government agencies, was December 31, 2024 with many plants having to comply from December 31 of 2022 and 2023. But it is not clear if various pollution control boards are verifying adherence to even these norms as there is no public source easily available that provides this information.

Consumer pays

Given the evolving timelines in the various notifications by the MoEFCC, many thermal plants have already tendered contracts to install FGDs – though not at a pace required to meet their deadlines before the latest notification. This was enabled by electricity regulators introducing regulations to pass on the costs of installing FGDs and other pollution control equipment to electricity consumers, irrespective of whether emission norms are met (so that it is not a burden on thermal plants).

As a result, though the earliest deadline for meeting SO₂ emission norms is now December 31, 2027, 22 GW of thermal plants have already installed FGDs. Additionally, 102 GW (nearly 50% of installed thermal capacity) is in advanced stages of setting up FGDs.

Given the new timelines for compliance, the chances are that plants with FGDs will not run them since this would increase the cost of generation and hence push them down the preferred list of generators. Thus, electricity consumers are likely to be paying for installed but unused equipment, even as citizens living around thermal plants do not get the benefit of cleaner air for at least three more years, if not longer.

Perhaps this modern variant of Birbal's *khichdi* will get cooked one day, but the institutional, environmental, health and financial costs of doing so are likely to end up being high. And, unlike the original fable, it is not even clear whether the right lessons would be learnt from this saga.

The saga of regulating India's thermal power emissions भारत में थर्मल पावर उत्सर्जन के नियमन की गाथा

- On December 30, 2024, India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued a notification amending the Environment Protection Rules by pushing back the deadline for **thermal plants** to comply with **sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emission** norms by three years without any reasons being given.
- 30 दिसंबर 2024 को भारत के पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) ने पर्यावरण संरक्षण नियमों में संशोधन कर थर्मल प्लांट्स के लिए सल्फर डाइऑक्साइड (SO₂) उत्सर्जन मानकों का अनुपालन करने की समयसीमा तीन साल आगे बढ़ा दी, बिना किसी कारण बताए।
- The existing deadline for about **20 gigawatts (GW) of thermal plants**, all located in densely populated areas, was **December 31, 2024**.



- 20 गीगावाट (GW) थर्मल प्लांट्स की मौजूदा समयसीमा जो कि घनी आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों में स्थित हैं, 31 दिसंबर 2024 थी।
- The MoEFCC revised the emission norms for Indian thermal plants in December 2015 after public consultations, expecting compliance by December 2017.
 - MoEFCC ने दिसंबर 2015 में भारतीय थर्मल प्लांट्स के उत्सर्जन मानकों में संशोधन किया और दिसंबर 2017 तक अनुपालन की अपेक्षा की।
- These norms tightened particulate matter emissions and introduced SO2 norms for the first time.
 - इन मानकों ने कण उत्सर्जन को कड़ा किया और पहली बार SO2 उत्सर्जन मानक पेश किए।

The morphing of a debate बहस का बदलता रूप

- **Indian coal generally has lower sulphur content**, which should have made it easier to meet the **SO2 emission norms**.
 - भारतीय कोयले में आमतौर पर कम सल्फर सामग्री होती है, जिससे SO2 उत्सर्जन मानकों को पूरा करना आसान होना चाहिए था।
- The debate shifted to challenges in **implementing Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) technology**, despite the norms never mandating FGDs.
- बहस फ्लू गैस डीसल्फराइजेशन (FGD) तकनीक को लागू करने की चुनौतियों पर केंद्रित हो गई, हालांकि मानकों ने कभी भी FGD को अनिवार्य नहीं किया।
- The **Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 2020 and 2021** questioned the need for **uniform norms** and suggested phasing implementation till **2035**.
- **2020 और 2021 में केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण (CEA) ने समान मानकों की आवश्यकता पर सवाल उठाया और 2035 तक चरणबद्ध कार्यान्वयन का सुझाव दिया।**
- **NITI Aayog in 2024** commissioned **CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute** to study **SO2 norms**, concluding they were **not crucial** for air quality improvement.
- **2024 में नीति आयोग ने सीएसआईआर-राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण इंजीनियरिंग अनुसंधान संस्थान को SO2 मानकों पर अध्ययन करने के लिए नियुक्त किया, जिसने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि वे वायु गुणवत्ता सुधार के लिए महत्वपूर्ण नहीं हैं।**
- **Rather than debating these issues** and building a consensus before notifying the norms, the discussion continues nearly **a decade later**.
- इन मुद्दों पर बहस करने और मानकों को अधिसूचित करने से पहले सहमति बनाने के बजाय, चर्चा लगभग एक दशक बाद भी जारी है।

Different deadlines अलग-अलग समय सीमा



Website: patrioticias.in

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



- In the midst of these debates, the **MoEFCC** diluted some norms and also extended, multiple times, the deadlines for compliance, with the **notification of December 2024** being the fourth in the series.
- इन बहसों के बीच, **MoEFCC** ने कुछ मानकों को कमजोर कर दिया और अनुपालन की समय सीमा को कई बार बढ़ाया, जिसमें **दिसंबर 2024 की अधिसूचना** चौथी बार थी।
- As a result, there are **different deadlines** for thermal plants in different locations and for different types of emissions, with **SO2 emission deadlines** being well after the deadline for other emissions.
- परिणामस्वरूप, विभिन्न स्थानों और विभिन्न प्रकार के उत्सर्जन के लिए थर्मल संयंत्रों की **अलग-अलग समय सीमा** हैं, जिसमें **SO2 उत्सर्जन की समय सीमा** अन्य उत्सर्जन की समय सीमा के बाद है।
- The final deadline for compliance with other emissions, including **particulate matter emissions**, was **December 31, 2024**, with many plants having to comply from **December 31 of 2022 and 2023**.
- अन्य उत्सर्जनों के अनुपालन की अंतिम समय सीमा, जिसमें **कण पदार्थ उत्सर्जन** शामिल है, **31 दिसंबर 2024** थी, और कई संयंत्रों को **31 दिसंबर 2022 और 2023** से अनुपालन करना था।
- However, it is not clear if various **pollution control boards** are verifying adherence to these norms as there is no publicly available source for this information.
- हालांकि, यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि विभिन्न **प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड** इन मानकों का पालन सुनिश्चित कर रहे हैं या नहीं, क्योंकि इस जानकारी के लिए कोई सार्वजनिक स्रोत उपलब्ध नहीं है।

Consumer pays उपभोक्ता को भुगतान करना पड़ता है

- Due to the evolving timelines in the various **MoEFCC notifications**, many thermal plants have already tendered contracts to install **FGDs** but not at a pace required to meet deadlines before the latest notification.
- विभिन्न **MoEFCC अधिसूचनाओं** में बदलती समय-सीमा के कारण, कई थर्मल संयंत्रों ने पहले ही **FGDs** स्थापित करने के लिए अनुबंध कर लिए हैं, लेकिन नवीनतम अधिसूचना से पहले समय सीमा को पूरा करने की गति नहीं थी।
- **Electricity regulators** introduced regulations to pass on the costs of installing **FGDs** and other pollution control equipment to **electricity consumers**, irrespective of whether emission norms are met.
- **बिजली नियामकों** ने **FGDs** और अन्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरणों की स्थापना की लागत को **बिजली उपभोक्ताओं** पर डालने के लिए नियम लागू किए, चाहे उत्सर्जन मानकों का पालन किया गया हो या नहीं।
- As a result, though the earliest deadline for **SO2 emission norms** is now **December 31, 2027**, **22 GW of thermal plants** have already installed **FGDs**, and **102 GW (nearly 50% of installed thermal capacity)** is in advanced stages of setting up **FGDs**.

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



- परिणामस्वरूप, हालांकि **SO₂ उत्सर्जन मानकों** की सबसे प्रारंभिक समय सीमा अब **31 दिसंबर 2027** है, **22 GW थर्मल संयंत्रों** ने पहले ही **FGDs** स्थापित कर लिए हैं, और **102 GW (लगभग 50% स्थापित थर्मल क्षमता)** उन्नत चरण में है।
- Given the new timelines for compliance, **plants with FGDs** may not operate them to avoid increased generation costs, pushing them down the preferred list of generators.
- अनुपालन के लिए नई समय-सीमा को देखते हुए, **FGDs वाले संयंत्र** बढ़ी हुई उत्पादन लागत से बचने के लिए उन्हें संचालित नहीं कर सकते हैं, जिससे वे प्राथमिक सूची में नीचे आ सकते हैं।
- As a result, **electricity consumers** may end up paying for installed but unused equipment, while citizens living near **thermal plants** may not benefit from **cleaner air** for at least three more years, if not longer.
- परिणामस्वरूप, **बिजली उपभोक्ताओं** को स्थापित लेकिन अनुपयोगी उपकरणों के लिए भुगतान करना पड़ सकता है, जबकि **थर्मल संयंत्रों** के पास रहने वाले नागरिकों को कम से कम तीन साल तक **स्वच्छ हवा** का लाभ नहीं मिल सकता है।
- Perhaps this modern variant of **Birbal's khichdi** will get cooked one day, but the **institutional, environmental, health, and financial costs** of doing so are likely to be high.
- शायद यह आधुनिक संस्करण **बीर्बल की खिचड़ी** किसी दिन पक ही जाएगी, लेकिन इसके **संस्थागत, पर्यावरणीय, स्वास्थ्य और वित्तीय लागतें** काफी अधिक हो सकती हैं।
- Unlike the original fable, it is not even clear whether the right lessons would be learned from this saga.
- मूल कहानी के विपरीत, यह भी स्पष्ट नहीं है कि इस पूरे घटनाक्रम से सही सबक लिया जाएगा या नहीं।

Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD)

- Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) is a technology used to remove **sulfur dioxide (SO₂)** from the exhaust gases of fossil-fuel power plants, primarily coal-fired plants.
- फ्ल्यू गैस डीसल्फराइजेशन (FGD) एक तकनीक है जिसका उपयोग **सल्फर डाइऑक्साइड (SO₂)** को जीवाश्म ईंधन आधारित बिजली संयंत्रों, विशेषकर कोयला-आधारित संयंत्रों के निकास गैसों से हटाने के लिए किया जाता है।

Objective of FGD

- The primary aim is to reduce **air pollution**, particularly the emission of sulfur dioxide, which contributes to **acid rain** and respiratory diseases.
- इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य **वायु प्रदूषण** को कम करना है, विशेष रूप से सल्फर डाइऑक्साइड के उत्सर्जन को, जो **अम्ल वर्षा** और श्वसन संबंधी रोगों का कारण बनता है।

How FGD Works



- The process involves introducing **lime or limestone slurry** into flue gas, which reacts with SO_2 to form **calcium sulfate (gypsum)**, a byproduct often used in the construction industry.

इस प्रक्रिया में फ्ल्यू गैस में चूना या चूना पत्थर का घोल डाला जाता है, जो SO_2 के साथ प्रतिक्रिया करके कैल्शियम सल्फेट (जिप्सम) बनाता है, जिसे अक्सर निर्माण उद्योग में उपयोग किया जाता है।

Importance in India

- India is the **second-largest consumer of coal** globally, and thermal power plants are the primary source of SO_2 emissions in the country.
- भारत विश्व में दूसरा सबसे बड़ा कोयले का उपभोक्ता है, और थर्मल पावर प्लांट देश में SO_2 उत्सर्जन का मुख्य स्रोत हैं।
- To comply with the **2015 emission norms** set by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, FGD systems have been made mandatory in thermal power plants.
- **2015 के उत्सर्जन मानदंडों** का पालन करने के लिए, जिन्हें पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) द्वारा निर्धारित किया गया था, थर्मल पावर प्लांट में FGD सिस्टम अनिवार्य कर दिए गए हैं।

Key Data and Facts

- According to a 2022 report by **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**, about **448 thermal units** in India were mandated to install FGD systems by **2022-2024**, with strict deadlines to reduce SO_2 emissions.
- **केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण (CEA)** की 2022 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में लगभग **448 थर्मल यूनिट्स** को **2022-2024** तक FGD सिस्टम स्थापित करना अनिवार्य किया गया था, SO_2 उत्सर्जन को कम करने के लिए।
- India contributes nearly **15% of global SO_2 emissions**, according to Greenpeace's 2019 report.
- ग्रीनपीस की 2019 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत वैश्विक SO_2 उत्सर्जन का लगभग **15%** योगदान करता है।

Challenges in Implementation

- **High Costs:** Installing FGD systems requires significant capital, with estimated costs ranging between **₹0.60-0.70 per unit of electricity** generated.
- **उच्च लागत:** FGD सिस्टम स्थापित करने में महत्वपूर्ण पूंजी की आवश्यकता होती है, जिसकी अनुमानित लागत **₹0.60-0.70 प्रति विद्युत इकाई** होती है।



Website: patrioticias.in

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



Should India build a sovereign, foundational AI model?

GS Paper III: S&T

PARLEY



Pranesh Prakash
ASPI/Concili Pathshala
www.patrioticias.in
9971932488
co-founded the Centre for Internet and Society, and is currently an Associate Fellow at the Yale Law School Information Society Project

In 2023, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman's remarks in India on the cost of training foundational AI models – like the ones that power ChatGPT – sparked a debate on whether Indian firms should spend millions of dollars on the aim of that technology. The issue pits sovereignty and national pride against financial constraints. Is it necessary for sovereignty and business reasons for India to work towards a foundational model, as the IT Ministry's IndiaAI Mission has announced it will? Pranesh Prakash and Tanuj Bhojwani discuss the question in a discussion moderated by Aroon Deep. Edited excerpts:

Does India need to build a sovereign foundational AI model for its local needs?

Pranesh Prakash: I believe that India should be working on foundation models, but not for the purpose of sovereignty. It is important to have people who are able to build foundation models and also to have people who can build on top of foundation models to deploy and build applications. We need to have people in India who are able to apply themselves to every part of building AI.

Sovereignty is something that we should be concerned about from the perspective of things such as sanctions, which we have seen the U.S. apply over specific kinds of chips, especially those that are used for training AI models, and export controls over things like software or models. Those may be coming down the road.

But I do not think you need to be worried about that. As things stand, what we have are not just proprietary models which are closed, under licence, and cannot legally be used without the permission of the person who created that model. We also have a lot of open weights models and a few open source models, such as DeepSeek RL. And because we have these, for which you do not need permission and can deploy locally, we do not need to approach these from the perspective of national security and sovereignty and concerned about sanctions, and so on.

If there are sanctions tomorrow which are applied to the usage of any models produced in the U.S., Indians can just "fork" the code of many of the existing open source models, refashion those, and build on top of them.

As long as these models exist, are state-of-the-art, and are competing well against proprietary models – and I believe we will soon come to a point where they will out-compete proprietary models – we do not need to be concerned about this from the perspective of sovereignty.



The DeepSeek page is seen on a smartphone. AP

Tanuj Bhojwani: I would say that for sovereignty we should do this, but if they really wanted to block you, they would start with chips, as Mr. Pranesh pointed out. Even if you had your own model, you need Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) to run it. DeepSeek uses Huawei's [Ascend HiSilicon] 910C chips – India cannot even put that up. We have no contract with manufacturers such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited (TSMC) to produce chips of even a previous generation.

More than sovereignty, there is an element of pride here; we are ambitious people, and want our own model. We have done this in other areas; we have reached beyond, in GDP per capita terms, what our *aukat* (station) would be. Infosys co-founder Nandan [Nilekani]'s point and my point is this: do this if you see returns. Do this if anybody sees the returns on it, whether the pride is the return for the investment, make sure the investment is proportionate to that end.

Does the emergence of DeepSeek at low cost make this more attainable? Is it worth the expense?

TB: Even with DeepSeek, this remains a game of a few hundreds of millions of dollars. DeepSeek V3's training run cost \$5.6 billion. But in cutting-edge research, there are a lot of failed attempts at that goal. So we are still talking about hundreds of millions of dollars in investments. Even if you produce a foundational model in India, there is still a lot to do – paying salaries and so on – before you can make money back on that investment.

The market is still majority U.S.-dominated. About 60% of the market cap of the entire globe is in the U.S. Even today, business-to-business



We should acknowledge that we have limited resources, and then we should think about what is the wisest way to spend them. Competing with a [ChatGPT] o3 or [DeepSeek] RL may not be the best idea with the absolute quantum of resources we are talking about
TANUJ BHOJWANI

software-as-a-service founders in India are largely selling to the U.S. If we believe we will make an Indian model with local language content, you are capping yourself on the knee because the overall Indian enterprise market that will purchase AI is much smaller.

Spending \$200 a month to replace a human worker may be possible in the U.S., but in India, that is what the human worker is being paid in the first place.

To succeed here anyway, the government needs to create an institute that has autonomy and spending power. 90% of the spending will go to failed experiments. Our public procurement system is not geared for that kind of error tolerance.

PP: There is a lot we can do even in terms of software, in which India has been seen as a success. We need more focus on what is built on top of models – how we commercialise the AI models that are already in use. The enthusiasm among young developers is very much there, even if they are not always well-versed. Students nowadays in their first year are learning how to use six different development tools right from the very beginning.

We should also promote innovation based on constraints, as Alibaba and DeepSeek have shown.

TB: I think the real question to ask is not whether we should undertake the Herculean effort of building one foundational model, but to ask what are the investments we should be making such that the research environment, the innovation, private market investors, etc., all come together and orchestrate in a way to produce – somewhere out of a lab or out of a private player – a foundational large language model (LLM). The real questions we are not paying attention to are: Why does it not happen? What is wrong with our research? What is wrong with our R&D investments, the spending both by the private market and government?

The IndiaAI Mission under the IT Ministry has announced that it is making GPU clusters

available to startups and academia at subsidised rates. What is your take on this announcement and on government AI policy in general as an impetus to investment?

PP: The capital expenditure is a good sign. I think the government should look at other ways of promoting the responsible usage of these technologies, including amongst them doing careful studies of what kinds of regulations ought to be put and, very importantly, what kinds of regulations ought not to be put.

TB: This does bring down the cost of renting a GPU significantly downwards, but even then somewhere in all of this are the margins that we are paying to data centre operators, providers, etc., to do these things. It is my understanding that both DeepSeek and, of course, all the large labs definitely have dedicated contracts where they are buying, installing the GPUs and using them completely by themselves for training runs.

Even with its low training run bills, DeepSeek has over a critical threshold of captive GPUs – they are known to have at least one cluster of Nvidia H-100s, and a calculation doing the rounds puts their investments at \$1.3 billion. The Big Tech firms are investing \$80 billion a year on infrastructure.

We have resource constraints here; the budget for this is less than the cost of training Meta's Llama 4 model, and that budget then has to be spread out equitably and fairly among the whole country. The government is not taking that concentrated bet. We are taking very sparse resources that we have and we are further thinning it out.

The subsidy is still a very good thing if people are using it for the right purposes. AI for Bharat is trying to train IndicTrans2, and a text-to-speech system for Indian languages. And those are critical things we need, and you can get away with, say, 500 or 1000 GPUs for that task, and you can get very good results compared to the state-of-the-art. So I think that is really the message that we should acknowledge that we have limited resources, and then we should think about what is the wisest way to spend them. Competing with a [ChatGPT] o3 or [DeepSeek] RL may not be the best idea with the absolute quantum of resources we are talking about.



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

Should India build a sovereign, foundational AI model?

क्या भारत को एक संप्रभु, बुनियादी एआई मॉडल बनाना चाहिए?

In 2023, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman's remarks in India on the cost of training foundational AI models sparked a debate on whether Indian firms should spend millions of dollars on this technology.

2023 में, OpenAI के सीईओ सैम ऑल्टमैन की भारत में बुनियादी एआई मॉडल को प्रशिक्षित करने की लागत पर टिप्पणियों ने इस पर बहस छेड़ दी कि क्या भारतीय कंपनियों को इस तकनीक पर मिलियन डॉलर खर्च करने चाहिए।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



- The issue pits **sovereignty and national pride** against **financial constraints**.
यह मुद्दा संप्रभुता और राष्ट्रीय गर्व को वित्तीय बाधाओं के विरुद्ध खड़ा करता है।
- The **IT Ministry's IndiaAI Mission** has announced plans to work towards a foundational AI model.
आईटी मंत्रालय के IndiaAI मिशन ने एक बुनियादी एआई मॉडल पर काम करने की घोषणा की है।

Does India need to build a sovereign foundational AI model for its local needs?

क्या भारत को अपनी स्थानीय जरूरतों के लिए एक संप्रभु बुनियादी एआई मॉडल बनाने की आवश्यकता है?

- **Pranesh Prakash** believes India should work on foundational models but **not for sovereignty**.
प्रणेश प्रकाश का मानना है कि भारत को बुनियादी मॉडल पर काम करना चाहिए, लेकिन संप्रभुता के लिए नहीं।
- It is important to have people in India **who can build AI models and applications**.
भारत में ऐसे लोगों का होना आवश्यक है जो एआई मॉडल और एप्लिकेशन बना सकें।
- Sovereignty concerns arise due to **sanctions on AI chips and software** by the **U.S.**
संप्रभुता की चिंताओं का कारण एआई चिप्स और सॉफ्टवेयर पर अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए प्रतिबंध हैं।
- However, **open-source models like DeepSeek R1** exist, which can be deployed **without permission**.
हालांकि, **DeepSeek R1** जैसे ओपन-सोर्स मॉडल मौजूद हैं, जिन्हें बिना अनुमति के लागू किया जा सकता है।
- If future **sanctions** occur, Indians can **“fork” existing open-source models** and build upon them.
यदि भविष्य में प्रतिबंध लगते हैं, तो भारतीय मौजूदा ओपन-सोर्स मॉडल को “फोर्क” कर सकते हैं और उन पर कार्य कर सकते हैं।
- **Tanuj Bhojwani** argues that **sovereignty is important**, but **chips are a bigger issue**.
तनुज भोजवानी का तर्क है कि संप्रभुता महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन चिप्स एक बड़ी समस्या हैं।
- India lacks **contracts with major chip manufacturers** like **TSMC**.
भारत के पास **TSMC** जैसे प्रमुख चिप निर्माताओं के साथ अनुबंध नहीं हैं।
- More than sovereignty, **national pride** and **economic returns** should justify the investment.
संप्रभुता से अधिक, **राष्ट्रीय गर्व** और **आर्थिक लाभ** को निवेश को सही ठहराना चाहिए।



Does the emergence of DeepSeek at low cost make this more attainable?

क्या कम लागत में DeepSeek का उभरना इसे अधिक सुलभ बनाता है?

- Even with **DeepSeek**, foundational AI remains a **costly investment** (hundreds of millions of dollars).
DeepSeek के बावजूद, बुनियादी एआई अब भी महंगा निवेश बना हुआ है (सैकड़ों मिलियन डॉलर)।
- **DeepSeek V3's training cost was \$5.6 million, but failed attempts increase expenses.**
DeepSeek V3 के प्रशिक्षण की लागत \$5.6 मिलियन थी, लेकिन विफल प्रयास लागत बढ़ाते हैं।
- The AI market is **U.S.-dominated** (60% of global market cap).
एआई बाजार में अमेरिका का वर्चस्व है (वैश्विक बाजार पूंजीकरण का 60%)।
- Indian AI models with **local language content** may have a **limited market.**
स्थानीय भाषा सामग्री वाले भारतीय एआई मॉडल का बाजार सीमित हो सकता है।
- U.S. firms can afford **\$200 per month** to replace a worker; in India, this is often a **worker's salary.**
अमेरिकी कंपनियां \$200 प्रति माह खर्च कर सकती हैं, जबकि भारत में यह अक्सर कर्मचारी का वेतन होता है।
- To succeed, **India needs an autonomous AI institute with funding.**
सफल होने के लिए, भारत को एक स्वतंत्र एआई संस्थान और वित्त पोषण की आवश्यकता है।
- **90% of spending will go into failed experiments, but India's public procurement system lacks error tolerance.**
90% खर्च विफल प्रयोगों में जाएगा, लेकिन भारत की सार्वजनिक खरीद प्रणाली में त्रुटि सहनशीलता नहीं है।
- **Pranesh Prakash emphasizes India's software strength** and commercializing AI applications.
प्रणेश प्रकाश ने भारत की सॉफ्टवेयर क्षमताओं और एआई एप्लिकेशन का व्यावसायीकरण करने पर जोर दिया।
- **Young developers** are enthusiastic and learning **multiple AI tools from the start.**
युवा डेवलपर्स उत्साही हैं और शुरुआत से ही कई एआई टूल्स सीख रहे हैं।
- India should promote **innovation based on constraints**, as seen with **Alibaba and DeepSeek.**
भारत को सीमाओं के आधार पर नवाचार को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए, जैसा कि अलीबाबा और DeepSeek ने किया।

Should India build a sovereign, foundational AI model? क्या भारत को एक संप्रभु, मूलभूत AI मॉडल बनाना चाहिए?



- **TB:** The real question is not whether India should build **one foundational model**, but rather what **investments** should be made to foster **research, innovation, and private market investment** to organically produce a **large language model (LLM)**.
- **TB:** असली सवाल यह नहीं है कि भारत को एक मूलभूत मॉडल बनाना चाहिए या नहीं, बल्कि यह कि अनुसंधान, नवाचार और निजी बाजार निवेश को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कौन से निवेश किए जाने चाहिए ताकि बड़ा भाषा मॉडल (LLM) स्वाभाविक रूप से विकसित हो सके।
- India needs to examine **why** such a model has not emerged yet and identify **issues in research, R&D investments, and government-private spending**.
- भारत को यह जांचने की जरूरत है कि ऐसा मॉडल अभी तक क्यों नहीं बना और अनुसंधान, R&D निवेश, और सरकारी-निजी खर्च में क्या समस्याएं हैं।

IndiaAI Mission and GPU clusters IndiaAI मिशन और GPU क्लस्टर्स

- **IndiaAI Mission** under the **IT Ministry** has announced **subsidized GPU clusters for startups and academia**.
- IT मंत्रालय के तहत IndiaAI मिशन ने स्टार्टअप्स और अकादमिक संस्थानों के लिए सब्सिडी वाले GPU क्लस्टर्स की घोषणा की है।
- **PP:** Government should focus not just on capital expenditure but also on **regulatory frameworks**, ensuring **responsible AI usage**.
- **PP:** सरकार को सिर्फ पूंजीगत व्यय पर ध्यान नहीं देना चाहिए, बल्कि नियामक ढांचे और AI के जिम्मेदार उपयोग को सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए।
- **TB:** Subsidized GPUs lower costs, but **data center margins** still add expenses.
- **TB:** सब्सिडी वाले GPU लागत को कम करते हैं, लेकिन डेटा सेंटर मार्जिन अभी भी अतिरिक्त खर्च जोड़ते हैं।
- **DeepSeek and major labs** have dedicated contracts for **GPU procurement**, investing **billions of dollars**.
- DeepSeek और प्रमुख लैब्स ने GPU खरीद के लिए विशेष अनुबंध किए हैं और अरबों डॉलर का निवेश किया है।
- **DeepSeek's GPU cluster** includes **Nvidia H-100s**, with a total investment estimate of **\$1.3 billion**.
- DeepSeek का GPU क्लस्टर Nvidia H-100s शामिल करता है, जिसकी कुल निवेश लागत \$1.3 बिलियन आंकी गई है।
- **Big Tech firms** are investing **\$80 billion per year** in AI infrastructure.
- बड़ी टेक कंपनियां हर साल \$80 बिलियन AI इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर में निवेश कर रही हैं।

Challenges in AI investment and development AI निवेश और विकास में चुनौतियां

- **India's AI budget is less than the cost of training Meta's Llama 4 model.**



- भारत का AI बजट, Meta के Llama 4 मॉडल को प्रशिक्षित करने की लागत से भी कम है।
- Government's **distributed budget strategy** makes concentrated AI investment difficult.
- सरकार की वितरित बजट रणनीति केंद्रित AI निवेश को कठिन बनाती है।
- **TB:** Subsidy is beneficial, but India should prioritize AI solutions for Indic languages like IndicTrans2 and text-to-speech systems.
- **TB:** सब्सिडी फायदेमंद है, लेकिन भारत को भारतीय भाषाओं के लिए AI समाधानों जैसे IndicTrans2 और टेक्स्ट-टू-स्पीच सिस्टम को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।
- **500-1000 GPUs** are sufficient for building **state-of-the-art Indic AI models**.
- **500-1000 GPUs** आधुनिक भारतीय AI मॉडल बनाने के लिए पर्याप्त हैं।
- Competing with ChatGPT-4 or DeepSeek R1 may not be the best use of India's limited resources.
- ChatGPT-4 या DeepSeek R1 से प्रतिस्पर्धा करना भारत के सीमित संसाधनों का सबसे अच्छा उपयोग नहीं हो सकता।

₹10,147-crore worth contracts signed for Pinaka ammunition

[GS Paper III: Defence](#)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Thursday signed contracts worth ₹10,147 crore for a variety of ammunition for the Army's **Pinaka Multiple Rocket Launch Systems (MRLS)**. The ammunition also enhances the range of the Pinaka systems.

Contracts were inked with Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL) for the procurement of Area Denial Muniton (ADM) Type-1 and High Explosive Pre-Fragmented (HEPF)-Mk-1 (enhanced) rockets respectively for Pinaka MRLS at a total cost of ₹10,147 crore, a Ministry statement said.

A contract for upgrades in Shakti software has also been signed with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

The ADM Type-1 ammunition has a specialised warhead to deliver a quantum of sub-munitions over a larger area targeting me-

A contract for upgrades in Shakti software has also been signed with Bharat Electronics Limited

chanised forces, vehicles and personnel, thereby denying specific areas to the enemy, the statement said.

The upgraded Pinaka is going to be the mainstay of the Army's long range rocket artillery.

Last November, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced the successful completion of flight tests of guided Pinaka rockets of 75 km paving the way for its induction doubling the original range. Work is on to enhance the range to 120 km and further to 300 km.

The fully automated 214-mm Pinaka MRLS battery can deliver a salvo of 72 rockets on the target up to 75 km in 44 seconds.

₹10,147-crore worth contracts signed for Pinaka ammunition

पिनाका गोलाबारूद के लिए ₹10,147 करोड़ मूल्य के अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए

Defence Ministry Signs Contracts for Pinaka MRLS Ammunition

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने पिनाका एमआरएलएस के लिए गोला-बारूद समझौतों पर किए हस्ताक्षर

• On Thursday, the Defence Ministry signed contracts worth **₹10,147 crore** for a variety of **ammunition** for the Army's **Pinaka Multiple Rocket Launch Systems (MRLS)**.

गुरुवार को रक्षा मंत्रालय ने सेना के पिनाका मल्टीपल रॉकेट लॉन्च सिस्टम (एमआरएलएस) के लिए विभिन्न गोला-बारूद के लिए **₹10,147 करोड़** के समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

• The ammunition also enhances the **range** of the **Pinaka systems**.

यह गोला-बारूद पिनाका सिस्टम्स की दूरी को भी बढ़ाता है।

• Contracts were inked with **Economic Explosives Limited (EEL)** and **Munitions India Limited (MIL)** for the procurement of **Area Denial Muniton (ADM) Type-1** and **High Explosive Pre-Fragmented (HEPF)-Mk-1 (enhanced)** rockets respectively for Pinaka MRLS at a total cost of **₹10,147 crore**.



Website: patrioticias.in

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



इकोनॉमिक एक्सप्लोजिक्स लिमिटेड (EEL) और मुनिशन्स इंडिया लिमिटेड (MIL) के साथ पिनाका एमआरएलएस के लिए एरिया डिनायल म्यूनिशन (ADM) टाइप-1 और हाई एक्सप्लोसिव प्री-फ्रैग्मेंटेड (HEPF)-Mk-1 (एन्हांसड) रॉकेट्स की खरीद के लिए ₹10,147 करोड़ की कुल लागत पर समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

- A contract for upgrades in **Shakti software** has also been signed with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

शक्ति सॉफ्टवेयर में सुधार के लिए भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (BEL) के साथ एक समझौता भी किया गया।

- The **ADM Type-1 ammunition** has a specialised **warhead** to deliver a quantum of **sub-munitions** over a larger area targeting **mechanised forces, vehicles, and personnel**, thereby denying specific areas to the enemy.

ADM टाइप-1 गोला-बारूद में एक विशेष **वॉरहेड** है जो एक बड़े क्षेत्र में **सब-म्यूनिशन्स** को वितरित करता है, जिसका लक्ष्य **मेकनाइज्ड फोर्सस, वाहन और कर्मचारी** होते हैं, इस प्रकार दुश्मन को विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों से वंचित कर दिया जाता है।

- The upgraded **Pinaka** is going to be the **mainstay** of the Army's **long-range rocket artillery**.

अपग्रेडेड पिनाका सेना की **लॉन्ग-रेंज रॉकेट आर्टिलरी** का मुख्य आधार बनने जा रहा है।

- Last November, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** announced the successful completion of flight tests of **guided Pinaka rockets** of **75 km**, paving the way for its **induction**, doubling the original range.

पिछले नवम्बर में, **रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन (DRDO)** ने **75 किमी** की **गाइडेड पिनाका रॉकेट्स** के उड़ान परीक्षणों की सफलतापूर्वक समाप्ति की घोषणा की, जिससे इसकी **इंडक्शन** का मार्ग प्रशस्त हुआ, और मूल रेंज को दोगुना किया गया।

- Work is on to enhance the range to **120 km** and further to **300 km**.

120 किमी तक रेंज बढ़ाने और आगे **300 किमी** तक रेंज बढ़ाने का काम जारी है।

- The fully automated **214-mm Pinaka MRLS** battery can deliver a salvo of **72 rockets** on the target up to **75 km** in **44 seconds**.

214-मिमी पिनाका एमआरएलएस बैटरी पूरी तरह से स्वचालित है, जो लक्ष्य पर **72 रॉकेट्स** की एक **सल्वो** **75 किमी** तक **44 सेकंड** में दाग सकती है।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



IAF's **Mirage 2000** crashes near Gwalior after system malfunction; pilots safe

GS Paper III: Defence

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

An Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft, a **twin-seater Mirage 2000**, crashed on Thursday in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh after a system malfunction. Both pilots safely ejected before the accident, authorities said.

The IAF said the fighter plane was out on a routine sortie and crashed after encountering a system malfunction.

The IAF said in a post on X that an inquiry had been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident.

The plane crashed around 2.30 p.m. near Sunari village in the Karera police station limits, according to the local police.

Shivpuri Superintendent of Police (SP) Aman Singh Rathore told *The Hindu* that the plane had taken off from the Gwalior



In flames: The Mirage 2000 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Shivpuri during a routine training sortie, in Gwalior on Thursday. ANI

airbase and crashed near Karera town. The authorities were alerted by the local people who spotted the plane in a field, he added.

Mr. Rathore said the two pilots had safely ejected from the plane before the crash and received minor injuries. A team of IAF officials arrived in Shivpuri on a helicopter and airlifted the pilots back to the base, he added.

Additional SP Sanjeev Mule told reporters that no

local person suffered injuries in the incident. "Local police, an ambulance, and a fire tender reached the spot immediately," he said.

Videos from the crash site surfaced on the Internet showing the aircraft in pieces and flames.

The IAF operates three squadrons of the Mirage 2000 fighters, manufactured by Dassault Aviation of France, which have since been upgraded, and are based at Gwalior.

IAF's Mirage 2000 crashes near Gwalior after system malfunction; pilots safe

वायुसेना का मिराज 2000 सिस्टम में खराबी के कारण ग्वालियर के पास दुर्घटनाग्रस्त; पायलट सुरक्षित

Indian Air Force Mirage 2000 Aircraft Crashes in Madhya Pradesh

मध्य प्रदेश में भारतीय वायु सेना का मिराज 2000 विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त

• An Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft, a twin-seater **Mirage 2000**, crashed on **Thursday** in **Shivpuri district** of **Madhya Pradesh** after a **system malfunction**.

भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) का ट्विन-सीटर मिराज 2000 विमान गुरुवार को

मध्य प्रदेश के शिवपुरी जिले में सिस्टम खराबी के कारण दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया।

- Both pilots **safely ejected** before the accident, authorities said. प्राधिकरणों के अनुसार, दोनों पायलट दुर्घटना से पहले सुरक्षित रूप से बाहर निकल गए थे।
- The IAF said the fighter plane was out on a **routine sortie** and crashed after encountering a **system malfunction**. IAF ने कहा कि **फाइटर विमान एक रूटीन सॉर्टी** पर था और **सिस्टम खराबी** के कारण दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया।
- The IAF said in a post on X that an **inquiry** had been ordered to ascertain the **cause** of the accident.



IAF ने X पर एक पोस्ट में कहा कि दुर्घटना के कारण का पता लगाने के लिए एक जांच का आदेश दिया गया है।

- The plane crashed around **2.30 p.m.** near **Sunari village** in the **Karera police station** limits, according to the local police.
स्थानीय पुलिस के अनुसार, विमान ने **2.30 बजे** के आसपास **सुनारी गांव** के पास **करैरा पुलिस थाना** क्षेत्र में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुआ।
- **Shivpuri Superintendent of Police (SP) Aman Singh Rathore** told **The Hindu** that the plane had taken off from the **Gwalior airbase** and crashed near **Karera town**.
शिवपुरी के पुलिस अधीक्षक (SP) अमन सिंह राठौर ने **द हिंदू** को बताया कि विमान **ग्वालियर एयरबेस** से उड़ान भरने के बाद **करैरा शहर** के पास दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया।
- The authorities were alerted by the local people who spotted the plane in a **field**, he added.
उन्होंने कहा कि स्थानीय लोगों द्वारा विमान को एक क्षेत्र में देखा गया, जिससे अधिकारियों को सूचित किया गया।
- Mr. Rathore said the two pilots had **safely ejected** from the plane before the crash and received **minor injuries**.
राठौर ने कहा कि दोनों पायलट दुर्घटना से पहले विमान से **सुरक्षित रूप से बाहर निकल गए** और उन्हें **हल्की चोटें** आईं।
- A team of IAF officials arrived in Shivpuri on a **helicopter** and airlifted the pilots back to the base, he added.
उन्होंने कहा कि IAF अधिकारियों की एक टीम **हेलीकॉप्टर** से शिवपुरी पहुंची और पायलटों को बुनियादी केंद्र वापस ले आईं।
- **Additional SP Sanjeev Mule** told reporters that **no local person** suffered injuries in the incident.
अतिरिक्त SP संजीव मुल्ले ने संवाददाताओं से कहा कि इस घटना में **कोई स्थानीय व्यक्ति** घायल नहीं हुआ।
- **“Local police, an ambulance, and a fire tender** reached the spot immediately,” he said. उन्होंने कहा, **“स्थानीय पुलिस, एक एंबुलेंस, और एक आग बुझाने वाला वाहन** तुरंत घटनास्थल पर पहुंच गए।”
- Videos from the crash site surfaced on the Internet showing the aircraft in pieces and flames.
दुर्घटना स्थल से वीडियो इंटरनेट पर सामने आए, जिसमें विमान के टुकड़े और **आग** दिखाई दे रही थी।
- The IAF operates **three squadrons** of the **Mirage 2000 fighters**, manufactured by **Dassault Aviation of France**, which have since been upgraded, and are based at **Gwalior**.
IAF **मिराज 2000 फाइटर्स** के **तीन स्क्वाड्रन** संचालित करता है, जिन्हें **फ्रांस की दसॉल्ट एविएशन** द्वारा निर्मित किया गया है, जो अब तक अपग्रेड हो चुके हैं और **ग्वालियर** में स्थित हैं।



Argentina bans gender transitions for minors

GS Paper III: S&T

Agence France-Presse
BUENOS AIRES

Argentina said on Wednesday it would ban gender transition procedures for minors, part of President Javier Milei's war on what he calls "woke ideology".

Presidential spokesperson Manuel Adorni said the government would amend a 2012 law to "ban hormone treatment and body adaptation surgery for people aged under 18". He argued that gender transition treatments posed a "serious risk" to the physical and mental health of minors.

"In many cases the effects of these treatments and surgeries are irreversible," he said, listing Finland, Sweden, Britain and the United States among countries that are restricting access to gender transitions for minors, including treatment such as puberty blockers.

"कई मामलों में, इन उपचारों और सर्जरी का प्रभाव अपरिवर्तनीय होता है," उन्होंने कहा, फिनलैंड, स्वीडन, ब्रिटेन, और संयुक्त राज्य को उन देशों के रूप में सूचीबद्ध किया जो नाबालिगों के लिए लिंग संक्रमण पर पहुंच को प्रतिबंधित कर रहे हैं, जिसमें यौवन अवरोधक जैसे उपचार शामिल हैं।

Argentina bans gender transitions for minors

अर्जेटीना ने नाबालिगों के लिए लिंग परिवर्तन पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया

Argentina to Ban Gender Transition Procedures for Minors

अर्जेटीना ने नाबालिगों के लिए लिंग संक्रमण प्रक्रियाओं पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का ऐलान किया

• Argentina said on Wednesday it would ban gender transition procedures for minors, part of President Javier Milei's war on what he calls "woke ideology".

अर्जेटीना ने बुधवार को कहा कि वह नाबालिगों के लिए लिंग संक्रमण प्रक्रियाओं पर प्रतिबंध लगाएगा, यह राष्ट्रपति जेवियर मिलेई के द्वारा "वोक विचारधारा" के खिलाफ युद्ध का हिस्सा है।

• Presidential spokesperson Manuel Adorni said the government would amend a 2012 law to "ban hormone treatment and body adaptation surgery for people aged under 18".

राष्ट्रपति प्रवक्ता मैनुअल अडोर्नी ने कहा कि सरकार 2012 के कानून में संशोधन कर 18 वर्ष से कम उम्र के लोगों के लिए हार्मोन उपचार और शारीरिक अनुकूलन सर्जरी को बंद कर देगी।

• He argued that gender transition treatments posed a "serious risk" to the physical and mental health of minors.

उन्होंने तर्क किया कि लिंग संक्रमण उपचार नाबालिगों के शारीरिक और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य के लिए "गंभीर खतरा" उत्पन्न करते हैं।

• "In many cases the effects of these treatments and surgeries are irreversible," he said, listing Finland, Sweden, Britain, and the United States among countries that are restricting access to gender transitions for minors, including treatment such as puberty blockers.