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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
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01_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. **22 Missing After Avalanche Hits Village in Uttarakhand**
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3. **Tribal Outfits Protest in Capital for Separate Religion Column in Census**
   जनगणना में अलग धर्म कॉलम की मांग को लेकर राजधानी में जनजातीय संगठनों का प्रदर्शन

4. No New Construction, Renovation Works in Mehrauli Park, Says SC

सुप्रीम कोर्ट का आदेश: महरौली पार्क में कोई नया निर्माण या नवीनीकरण नहीं

22 missing after avalanche hits village in Uttarakhand 22

Efforts to rescue BRO project workers trapped under ice affected by continuous snowfall; among the 55 civilian workers at the site, 10 have been rescued, says Army; 23 persons believed to be safe

GS Paper I: Geography

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In a life-or-death race against time, teams from the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police are working to save 22 workers who are feared to be trapped beneath the ice after a devastating glacier avalanche hit a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) project site at Mana village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district around 5 a.m. on Friday.

According to the Uttarakhand government, there were 57 civilian workers present at the affected site where BRO construction work has been ongoing for the past two years.

Chamoli district's Disaster Response Officer Nandkishore Joshi said that the workers had been sleeping

Herculean task: Indian Army personnel engaged in rescue work following an avalanche in Uttarakhand on Friday. PTI

inside a couple of containers when the avalanche hit their sheds. The victims include the construction workers as well as earth mover drivers and other machine operators.

"There has been continuous snowfall in the area for the past 48 hours," he said, adding that while many of the workers managed to run out of the sheds, many others are trapped under the mountain of ice that has covered the site.

Army Brigade Commander Mandeep Dhillon said that a dedicated rescue team – comprising seven officers, 17 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO), and

150 other personnel of the IBEX Brigade, which is trained for rescue operations in the Himalayas – has been deployed in Mana village since 8 a.m. They are equipped with a specialised medical team and engineering equipment.

"Ten people have been rescued so far, who are under treatment by Army doctors. The operation remains ongoing, with all resources focused on saving lives," Brigadier Dhillon said. He added that 22 other workers were reported to be safe. Later, the State government said that they had managed to trace the whereabouts of one more worker and clarified that two other workers had been on leave.

Missing After Avalanche Hits Village in Uttarakhand
उत्तराखंड के गांव में एवलांच के बाद 22 लोग लापता

Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) teams are conducting rescue operations to save 22 workers trapped under ice after a glacier avalanche hit a BRO project site at Mana village, Chamoli district, Uttarakhand, around 5 a.m. on Friday.

भारतीय सेना और भारत-तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस (ITBP) की टीमें 22 मजदूरों को बचाने के लिए अभियान चला रही हैं, जो उत्तराखंड के चमोली जिले के माणा गांव में सीमा सड़क संगठन (BRO) के प्रोजेक्ट साइट पर शुक्रवार सुबह 5 बजे आए हिमस्खलन के कारण बर्फ के नीचे फंसे हैं।

- According to the **Uttarakhand government**, **57 civilian workers** were present at the affected site, where BRO construction work has been ongoing for the **past two years**.
  उत्तराखंड सरकार के अनुसार, **57 नागरिक मजदूर** प्रभावित स्थल पर मौजूद थे, जहां **पिछले दो वर्षों से BRO का निर्माण कार्य चल रहा था।**

- **Chamoli District Disaster Response Officer Nandkishore Joshi** stated that workers were sleeping inside containers when the avalanche hit. The victims include **construction workers, earth mover drivers, and machine operators**.
  चमोली जिले के आपदा प्रतिक्रिया अधिकारी नंदकिशोर जोशी ने बताया कि हिमस्खलन के दौरान मजदूर कंटेनरों में सो रहे थे। पीड़ितों में **निर्माण मजदूर, अर्थ मूवर ड्राइवर और मशीन ऑपरेटर** शामिल हैं।

- **Continuous snowfall for the past 48 hours** has worsened rescue operations. While **some workers escaped**, many are still **trapped under heavy ice**.
  पिछले 48 घंटों से लगातार बर्फबारी हो रही है, जिससे बचाव अभियान कठिन हो गया है। **कुछ मजदूर भागने में सफल रहे**, लेकिन कई **भारी बर्फ के नीचे दबे हुए हैं।**

- **Army Brigade Commander Mandeep Dhillon** confirmed that a **dedicated rescue team**, including **7 officers, 17 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), and 150 personnel of the IBEX Brigade**, has been deployed in **Mana village since 8 a.m.** with medical and engineering teams.
  सेना ब्रिगेड कमांडर मंदीप ढिल्लों ने पुष्टि की कि **7 अधिकारी, 17 जूनियर कमीशंड अधिकारी (JCO), और IBEX ब्रिगेड के 150 सैनिकों** की एक विशेष **बचाव टीम सुबह 8 बजे से माणा गांव में तैनात** की गई है, जो **चिकित्सा और इंजीनियरिंग उपकरणों से लैस है।**

- **10 people have been rescued so far**, receiving treatment from **Army doctors**, while **22 workers are reported to be safe**.
  अब तक **10 लोगों को बचाया गया है**, जिन्हें सेना के डॉक्टरों द्वारा इलाज दिया जा रहा है, जबकि **22 अन्य मजदूर सुरक्षित बताए जा रहे हैं।**

- The **Uttarakhand government** later clarified that they have **traced one more worker**, and two others were **on leave during the incident**.
  उत्तराखंड सरकार ने बाद में बताया कि उन्होंने **एक और मजदूर का पता लगा लिया है**, और **दो अन्य मजदूर अवकाश पर थे।**

Avalanche

- An **avalanche** is a rapid flow of snow, ice, and debris down a mountainside. These events can cause significant damage to life and property, especially in mountainous regions.

Avalanches occur when the gravitational pull on the snowpack exceeds its internal cohesion, leading to a downward slide. Factors contributing to avalanches include:

- **Snowpack Conditions**: Variations in snow layers can create weak points.
- **Weather**: Heavy snowfall, rapid temperature changes, and wind can destabilize the snowpack.
- **Terrain**: Steep slopes, typically between 30 to 45 degrees, are more susceptible.
- **Human Activity**: Activities like skiing or construction can trigger avalanches.

The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** of India has established guidelines to mitigate avalanche risks. These include:

- **Hazard Mapping**: Identifying and mapping avalanche-prone areas.
- **Structural Measures**: Constructing barriers and deflection structures.
- **Early Warning Systems**: Implementing forecasting and alert mechanisms.
- **Public Awareness**: Educating communities about avalanche safety.

For instance, the NDMA's guidelines on managing landslides and snow avalanches emphasize the importance of community involvement and capacity building.

Sufi music our shared heritage: Modi

Anuj Kumar
NEW DELHI

GS Paper I: Art and Culture
GS Paper IV: Ethics

With spring in his step and *basant* in Sunder Nursery's air, Prime Minister Narendra Modi went lyrical at the Jahan-e-Khusrau Festival as he underscored the role of Sufi tradition in sustaining the country's pluralistic culture while inaugurating the 25th edition of the Sufi music festival on Friday.

Addressing connoisseurs of Sufi music at the festival that commemorates the 13th-century poet and mystic Hazrat Amir Khusrau, Mr. Modi said, "Sufi music is our shared heritage that we have been living with for centuries."

Quoting verses of Amir Khusrau, Rumi, Nizamuddin Auliya, and Raskhan, Mr. Modi said, "Sufi saints in India didn't limit themselves to mosques and shrines. If they read chapters of the holy Koran, they also listened to the Vedas. They added the sweetness of *bhakti sangeet* to the call of *azaan*."

'A unifying message'
Expressing the similarity between Upanishadic thought and Nizamuddin Auliya's Sufi chants, Mr. Modi said their syntax and style were different, but the message was the same.

"Whether you listen to Surdas or Rahim and Raskhan or close your eyes to Khusrau's poetry, when you step into depths of consciousness, you reach the height of spiritual love where you experience being one with the almighty."

'Connects countries'
The Prime Minister noted that Sufi saints also helped bridge geographical boundaries and remembered how he quoted Rumi when he addressed the Afghan parliament in 2015.

Mr. Modi stressed that when Rumi says he doesn't belong to any one place and belongs to every place, his philosophy is not different from the idea of Vasudhhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is a family).

"These ideas give me strength when I represent India in different countries," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Muzaffar Ali, founder of the Jahan-e-Khusrau Festival, and artistes performing at the 25th edition of the Sufi music fest at Sunder Nursery in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Sufi Music: Our Shared Heritage – Modi
सूफी संगीत: हमारी साझा विरासत – मोदी

With spring in the air at Sunder Nursery, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 25th edition of the Jahan-e-Khusrau Sufi Music Festival on Friday.

सुंदर नर्सरी में बसंत के माहौल में, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शुक्रवार को जहान-ए-खुसरो सूफी संगीत महोत्सव के 25वें संस्करण का उद्घाटन किया।

- Addressing the audience at the festival dedicated to **13th-century poet and mystic Hazrat Amir Khusrau**, **Mr. Modi** highlighted how **Sufi music has been part of India's pluralistic culture for centuries**.
  13वीं सदी के कवि और सूफी संत हजरत अमीर खुसरो को समर्पित इस महोत्सव में, श्री मोदी ने बताया कि सूफी संगीत सदियों से भारत की बहुसांस्कृतिक विरासत का हिस्सा रहा है।

- Quoting **Amir Khusrau, Rumi, Nizamuddin Auliya, and Raskhan**, he said, "**Sufi saints in India blended bhakti sangeet with the azaan**, creating a spiritual harmony."
  अमीर खुसरो, रूमी, निजामुद्दीन औलिया और रसखान का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में सूफी संतों ने भक्ति संगीत को अज़ान के साथ जोड़ा, जिससे आध्यात्मिक एकता बनी।

A Unifying Message
एकता का संदेश

- **Drawing a parallel between Upanishadic thought and Sufi philosophy**, **Mr. Modi** noted that while their style may differ, **their core message remains the same**.
उपनिषदों के विचार और सूफी दर्शन के बीच समानता दर्शाते हुए, श्री मोदी ने कहा कि हालांकि इनकी शैलियाँ अलग हैं, लेकिन इनका मूल संदेश समान है।

- "Whether you listen to Surdas, Rahim, or Khusrau, all lead to the depth of consciousness and the ultimate experience of spiritual love," he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "चाहे आप सूरदास, रहीम या खुसरो को सुनें, सभी आपको चेतना की गहराइयों तक ले जाते हैं और आध्यात्मिक प्रेम के चरम अनुभव तक पहुँचाते हैं।"

Connects Countries
देशों को जोड़ता है

- **Mr. Modi recalled quoting Rumi** in his **2015 address to the Afghan Parliament**, emphasizing how **Sufi philosophy transcends borders**.
श्री मोदी ने 2015 में अफगान संसद में दिए अपने भाषण में रूमी को उद्धृत करने की बात याद दिलाई, यह बताते हुए कि **सूफी दर्शन सीमाओं से परे जाता है**।

- He compared **Rumi's philosophy** to the Indian belief of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is One Family)**, stating that such ideals guide him when representing **India globally**.
उन्होंने **रूमी के दर्शन** को भारत के **'वसुधैव कुटुंबकम' (संपूर्ण विश्व एक परिवार है)** विचार से जोड़ते हुए कहा कि **ये आदर्श उन्हें वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करने में प्रेरित करते हैं।**

Hazrat Amir Khusrau: The 13th-Century Poet and Mystic

हज़रत अमीर खुसरो: 13वीं सदी के कवि और सूफी संत

- Hazrat Amir Khusrau, born as Ab'ul Hasan Yamīn ud-Dīn Khusrau in **1253 CE**, was a distinguished Sufi poet, musician, and scholar during the Delhi Sultanate era. Renowned for his literary and musical innovations, he is often hailed as the "Parrot of India" (*Tuti-e-Hind*).

- हज़रत अमीर खुसरो, जिनका जन्म **1253 ईस्वी** में अबुल हसन यमीन उद्दीन खुसरो के रूप में हुआ, दिल्ली सल्तनत काल के एक प्रतिष्ठित सूफी कवि, संगीतकार और विद्वान थे। अपने साहित्यिक और संगीत नवाचारों के लिए प्रसिद्ध, उन्हें अक्सर "तूती-ए-हिंद" कहा जाता है।

Early Life and Background

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प्रारंभिक जीवन और पृष्ठभूमि

- **Birthplace**: Khusrau was born in Patiyali, located in present-day Uttar Pradesh, India.
  जन्मस्थान: खुसरो का जन्म वर्तमान उत्तर प्रदेश, भारत के पटियाली में हुआ था।
- **Parentage**: His father, Amīr Saif-ud-Dīn Mahmūd, was of Turkish descent from Balkh (in modern-day Afghanistan), and his mother hailed from Delhi.
  माता-पिता: उनके पिता, अमीर सैफ-उद-दीन महमूद, तुर्की मूल के थे और बाल्ख (वर्तमान अफगानिस्तान) से थे, जबकि उनकी माता दिल्ली से थीं।

Literary Contributions

साहित्यिक योगदान

- **Multilingual Proficiency**: Khusrau primarily composed poetry in Persian but also wrote in Hindavi and Punjabi. His works reflect a harmonious blend of Persian and Indian cultures.
  बहुभाषी दक्षता: खुसरो ने मुख्यतः फ़ारसी में कविता रची, लेकिन हिंदवी और पंजाबी में भी लिखा। उनके कार्यों में फ़ारसी और भारतीय संस्कृतियों का समन्वय दिखाई देता है।
- **Poetic Forms**: He mastered various Persian poetic forms, including ghazal, masnavi, qata, rubai, and do-baiti. His ghazals, in particular, have had a lasting impact on Indian literature.
  काव्य रूप: उन्होंने ग़ज़ल, मस्नवी, क़ता, रुबाई, और दो-बैती सहित विभिन्न फ़ारसी काव्य रूपों में महारत हासिल की। विशेष रूप से, उनकी ग़ज़लों का भारतीय साहित्य पर स्थायी प्रभाव पड़ा है।
- **Hindavi Poetry**: While primarily a Persian poet, Khusrau is also credited with composing verses in Hindavi, contributing to the development of the language.
  हिंदवी कविता: मुख्यतः फ़ारसी कवि होते हुए भी, खुसरो ने हिंदवी में भी रचनाएँ कीं, जिससे भाषा के विकास में योगदान मिला।

Musical Innovations

संगीत में नवाचार

- **Father of Qawwali**: Amir Khusrau is often regarded as the pioneer of Qawwali, a devotional Sufi music form that remains integral to South Asian culture.
  क़व्वाली के जनक: अमीर खुसरो को अक्सर क़व्वाली के अग्रदूत के रूप में माना जाता है, जो एक भक्तिपूर्ण सूफी संगीत रूप है और दक्षिण एशियाई संस्कृति का अभिन्न हिस्सा है।
- **Introduction of Ghazal**: He played a pivotal role in introducing the Persian ghazal to Indian music, enriching the subcontinent's musical heritage.
  ग़ज़ल का परिचय: उन्होंने भारतीय संगीत में फ़ारसी ग़ज़ल को प्रस्तुत करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जिससे उपमहाद्वीप की संगीत विरासत समृद्ध हुई।

- **Creation of Musical Styles**: Khusrau is credited with developing various musical styles and instruments, though specific details and evidence are limited.
  संगीत शैलियों का सृजन: खुसरो को विभिन्न संगीत शैलियों और वाद्ययंत्रों के विकास का श्रेय दिया जाता है, हालांकि विशिष्ट विवरण और प्रमाण सीमित हैं।

Association with Sufism

सूफीवाद से संबंध

- **Disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya**: Khusrau was a devoted disciple of the renowned Sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. Their spiritual bond is celebrated in Sufi traditions, and Khusrau's compositions often reflect his deep reverence for his mentor.
  निज़ामुद्दीन औलिया के शिष्य: खुसरो प्रसिद्ध सूफी संत हज़रत निज़ामुद्दीन औलिया के समर्पित शिष्य थे। उनका आध्यात्मिक संबंध सूफी परंपराओं में मनाया जाता है, और खुसरो की रचनाएँ अक्सर अपने गुरु के प्रति उनकी गहरी श्रद्धा को दर्शाती हैं।

1. Rumi (Jalaluddin Rumi)

1. रूमी (जलालुद्दीन रूमी)

- **Jalaluddin Muhammad Rumi** (*1207-1273 CE*) was a Persian poet, Islamic scholar, and Sufi mystic. **जलालुद्दीन मुहम्मद रूमी** (*1207-1273 ईस्वी*) एक फ़ारसी कवि, इस्लामी विद्वान और सूफी संत थे।
- He is one of the most widely read poets in the world, known for his spiritual and mystical poetry. वह दुनिया के सबसे अधिक पढ़े जाने वाले कवियों में से एक हैं, जो अपनी आध्यात्मिक और रहस्यवादी कविताओं के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं।
- His major work, **Masnavi** (*Masnavi-ye-Ma'navi*), is considered one of the greatest pieces of Sufi literature. उनकी प्रमुख रचना, **मसनवी** (*मसनवी-ए-मानवी*), सूफी साहित्य के सबसे महान ग्रंथों में से एक मानी जाती है।

Teachings and Philosophy

शिक्षाएँ और दर्शन

- Rumi's philosophy centers around **love, devotion, and unity with God**. रूमी के दर्शन का केंद्र **प्रेम, भक्ति और ईश्वर के साथ एकता** है।

- He emphasized **Sama (whirling dance)** as a form of devotion to God. उन्होंने **समा (घूमने वाली नृत्य साधना)** को ईश्वर की भक्ति का एक रूप बताया।

- His poems reflect themes of divine love, human emotions, and Sufi mysticism. उनकी कविताएँ दिव्य प्रेम, मानवीय भावनाओं और सूफी रहस्यवाद के विषयों को दर्शाती हैं।

Influence and Legacy

प्रभाव और विरासत

- His works have been translated into multiple languages, influencing poets and thinkers across cultures. उनकी रचनाएँ कई भाषाओं में अनुवादित हुईं और विभिन्न संस्कृतियों के कवियों और विचारकों को प्रभावित किया।

- The **Mevlevi Order (Whirling Dervishes)** was founded based on his teachings. उनके शिक्षाओं के आधार पर **मेवलवी आदेश (घूमने वाले दरवेश)** की स्थापना हुई।

2. Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya

2. हज़रत निज़ामुद्दीन औलिया

- **Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya** (*1238-1325 CE*) was a famous Sufi saint of the Chishti order in India. **हज़रत निज़ामुद्दीन औलिया** (*1238-1325 ईस्वी*) भारत के चिश्ती सिलसिले के एक प्रसिद्ध सूफी संत थे।

- He lived in Delhi and is known for his deep spiritual wisdom and humanitarian teachings. वे दिल्ली में रहते थे और अपनी गहरी आध्यात्मिक ज्ञान और मानवतावादी शिक्षाओं के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं।

- His shrine (*Dargah of Nizamuddin Auliya*) in Delhi remains a major pilgrimage site. दिल्ली में स्थित उनका दरगाह (*निज़ामुद्दीन औलिया दरगाह*) एक प्रमुख तीर्थस्थल है।

Teachings and Philosophy

शिक्षाएँ और दर्शन

- He believed in **love for humanity, service to the poor, and devotion to God**. उन्होंने **मानवता के प्रति प्रेम, गरीबों की सेवा, और ईश्वर के प्रति भक्ति** में विश्वास किया।
- Promoted the idea of **universal brotherhood** (*Sulh-e-Kul*). **सर्वधर्म समभाव** (*सुलह-ए-कुल*) का प्रचार किया।
- He opposed the unnecessary rituals and orthodoxy in religion. उन्होंने धर्म में अनावश्यक रीति-रिवाजों और कट्टरता का विरोध किया।

Influence and Legacy

प्रभाव और विरासत

- Inspired poets like **Amir Khusrau**, who was his disciple. उन्होंने **अमीर खुसरो** जैसे कवियों को प्रेरित किया, जो उनके शिष्य थे।
- His teachings laid the foundation for the **Bhakti and Sufi movements in India**. उनकी शिक्षाओं ने **भारत में भक्ति और सूफी आंदोलनों की नींव रखी।**
- His annual **Urs festival** is celebrated at his Dargah with Qawwali performances. उनके दरगाह पर हर साल **उर्स महोत्सव** मनाया जाता है, जिसमें क़व्वाली प्रस्तुतियाँ होती हैं।

3. Raskhan

3. रसखान

- **Raskhan** (*1558-1628 CE*) was a poet devoted to Lord Krishna. **रसखान** (*1558-1628 ईस्वी*) भगवान कृष्ण के भक्त कवि थे।
- He was a **Muslim by birth** but later became a devout follower of Krishna. वे **जन्म से मुस्लिम थे**, लेकिन बाद में कृष्ण के परम भक्त बन गए।
- He wrote in **Braj Bhasha**, a dialect of Hindi. उन्होंने **ब्रज भाषा** में रचनाएँ लिखीं।

Teachings and Philosophy

शिक्षाएँ और दर्शन

- He emphasized **devotion (bhakti) towards Krishna**. उन्होंने **कृष्ण के प्रति भक्ति** पर जोर दिया।
- His poetry describes Krishna's **leelas (divine plays)** in Vrindavan. उनकी कविताएँ वृंदावन में कृष्ण की **लीलाओं** का वर्णन करती हैं।
- He expressed that **love for God transcends religious boundaries**. उन्होंने व्यक्त किया कि **ईश्वर के प्रति प्रेम धार्मिक सीमाओं से परे है**।

Influence and Legacy

प्रभाव और विरासत

- His works influenced **Vaishnavism and Bhakti poets** like Surdas and Tulsidas. उनकी रचनाएँ **वैष्णववाद और भक्ति कवियों** जैसे सूरदास और तुलसीदास को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- Some of his famous verses are included in **Bhakti literature**. उनकी प्रसिद्ध कविताएँ **भक्ति साहित्य** का हिस्सा हैं।
- His samadhi (tomb) is in **Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh**. उनकी समाधि **वृंदावन, उत्तर प्रदेश** में स्थित है।

Tribal outfits protest in Capital for separate religion column in Census

GS Paper I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Multiple organisations representing Scheduled Tribe communities from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and several other States on Friday held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi to press for the demand to add a separate column for religions followed by tribal communities in India in the upcoming Census exercise.

'Identity negated'
In a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, representatives of the protesting organisations said their distinct religious identity was negated when the 2001 and 2011 Censuses forced them to mark their religion under the "Others" column – bunching tribal faiths under a miscellaneous category, which led to many tribal families being marked as Hindu by enumerators despite mentioning their respective faiths.

The organisations, which were brought together by the Rashtriya Adivasi Samanvay Samiti, headed by Jharkhand BJP leader Deo Kumar Dhan, said multiple representations to the Union government over the last decade for a separate religion column have yielded no positive outcome.

"The government is not paying attention to our demands and neither is it taking it seriously," the memorandum said.

The protesters, hailing from States including Jharkhand, M.P., and Odisha, at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tribal Outfits Protest in Capital for Separate Religion Column in Census

जनगणना में अलग धर्म कॉलम की मांग को लेकर राजधानी में जनजातीय संगठनों का प्रदर्शन

Multiple organisations representing Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and other states protested at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, on Friday.

झारखंड, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान, ओडिशा, छत्तीसगढ़ और अन्य राज्यों के अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) समुदायों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले कई संगठन शुक्रवार को नई दिल्ली के जंतर मंतर पर प्रदर्शन किया।

- The demand is to **include a separate column for tribal religions** in the **upcoming Census**.
  उनकी मांग है कि आने वाली जनगणना में जनजातीय धर्मों के लिए एक अलग कॉलम शामिल किया जाए।

Identity Negated
पहचान से इनकार

- In a **memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, the protestors stated that their **distinct religious identity was ignored** in the **2001 and 2011 Census**.
  प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को सौंपे गए ज्ञापन में प्रदर्शनकारियों ने कहा कि 2001 और 2011 की जनगणना में उनकी विशिष्ट धार्मिक पहचान को नजरअंदाज कर दिया गया।
- Since tribal religions were forced to be categorized under the **"Others" column**, many tribal families were **incorrectly marked as Hindus** by enumerators.
  चूंकि जनजातीय धर्मों को "अन्य" कॉलम के तहत रखा गया था, इसलिए कई जनजातीय परिवारों को गणनाकारों द्वारा गलत तरीके से हिंदू के रूप में चिह्नित किया गया।
- The protest was led by the **Rashtriya Adivasi Samanvay Samiti**, under **Jharkhand BJP leader Deo Kumar Dhan**.
  इस प्रदर्शन का नेतृत्व झारखंड के भाजपा नेता देव कुमार धन द्वारा संचालित राष्ट्रीय आदिवासी समन्वय समिति ने किया।
- The organisations said they had made **multiple representations to the Union government** over the past **decade**, but there was **no positive response**.
  **संगठनों ने कहा कि पिछले **दशक में उन्होंने कई बार केंद्र सरकार से अनुरोध किया, लेकिन कोई सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया नहीं मिली।

- **The government is not paying attention to our demands**, the memorandum stated.
  ज्ञापन में कहा गया कि सरकार हमारी मांगों पर ध्यान नहीं दे रही है।

No new construction, renovation works in Mehrauli park, says SC

GS Paper I: Medieval History

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed new construction and renovation of the centuries-old religious structures inside the Mehrauli Archaeological Park in the Capital. This includes the 13th-century Ashiq Allah Dargah and Chillagah of Baba Farid, the revered Sufi saint.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar was hearing a plea filed by Zameer Ahmed Jumlana seeking to protect the religious structures inside the park.

The petitioner claimed that the Delhi Development Authority had planned the demolition of the structures in the name of removing encroachments without assessing their historical significance.

ASI status report
Senior advocate Nidhesh Gupta referred to the Archeological Survey of India's (ASI) status report and said that a historical monument found there was built around 700 years ago.

The CJI said, "People keep encroaching and putting up shops to earn money" while asking the ASI to prepare a site plan to prevent further encroachment. Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj said, "Let us find out which [structures] are built newly and which are old."

No New Construction, Renovation Works in Mehrauli Park, Says SC
सुप्रीम कोर्ट का आदेश: महरौली पार्क में कोई नया निर्माण या नवीनीकरण नहीं

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered a stay on new construction and renovation of centuries-old religious structures inside the Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Delhi.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को दिल्ली के महरौली पुरातत्विक पार्क में सदियों पुराने धार्मिक स्थलों के नए निर्माण और नवीनीकरण पर रोक लगाने का आदेश दिया।

- This includes the **13th-century Ashiq Allah Dargah and Chillagah of Baba Farid**, a revered **Sufi saint**.
  इसमें 13वीं शताब्दी की आशिक अल्लाह दरगाह और प्रसिद्ध सूफी संत बाबा फरीद की चिल्लागाह शामिल हैं।

- A **Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar** heard a plea filed by **Zameer Ahmed Jumlana** to protect these religious structures.
  मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना और न्यायमूर्ति संजय कुमार की पीठ ने ज़मीर अहमद जुमलाना द्वारा दायर याचिका पर सुनवाई की, जिसमें इन धार्मिक स्थलों की सुरक्षा की मांग की गई थी।

- The petitioner claimed that the **Delhi Development Authority (DDA)** planned to **demolish these structures under the pretext of removing encroachments** without assessing their **historical significance**.

याचिकाकर्ता ने दावा किया कि दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (DDA) अतिक्रमण हटाने के नाम पर इन संरचनाओं को गिराने की योजना बना रहा है, बिना उनके ऐतिहासिक महत्व का आकलन किए।

ASI Status Report
एएसआई की स्थिति रिपोर्ट

- **Senior advocate Nidhesh Gupta** referred to an **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) report**, stating that a **monument found in the park was built around 700 years ago**.

वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता निधेश गुप्ता ने भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (ASI) की रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए कहा कि पार्क में पाया गया एक स्मारक लगभग 700 साल पहले बनाया गया था।

- The **CJI observed that people keep encroaching on heritage sites**, setting up shops for money-making, and **asked ASI to prepare a site plan to prevent further encroachments**.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) ने कहा कि लोग लगातार विरासत स्थलों पर अतिक्रमण कर रहे हैं और दुकानें बनाकर पैसा कमा रहे हैं। उन्होंने एएसआई को आगे के अतिक्रमण को रोकने के लिए एक साइट योजना तैयार करने को कहा।

- **Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj** stated that authorities need to **distinguish between newly built and ancient structures** before taking any action.

अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल के.एम. नटराज ने कहा कि किसी भी कार्रवाई से पहले यह पता लगाना जरूरी है कि कौन सी संरचनाएं नई बनी हैं और कौन सी प्राचीन हैं।

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

1. **India, EU Set Year-End Deadline for Trade Deal, Security, Defence Pact**

   भारत और यूरोपीय संघ ने व्यापार समझौते, सुरक्षा और रक्षा संधि के लिए वर्ष के अंत तक समयसीमा तय की

2. **Pune Rape Accused Held After 3 Days, Sent to Police Custody**

   पुणे बलात्कार आरोपी 3 दिन बाद गिरफ्तार, पुलिस हिरासत में भेजा गया

3. **Trinamool Moves Privilege Motion Against Jaishankar**

   तृणमूल ने जयशंकर के खिलाफ विशेषाधिकार हनन प्रस्ताव पेश किया

4. **Kangana Ranaut and Javed Akhtar Settle Defamation Case**

   कंगना रनौत और जावेद अख्तर ने मानहानि का मामला सुलझाया

5. **Recognition of Universities Will Be Revoked if They Flout Discrimination Rules: Centre**

6. विश्वविद्यालयों की मान्यता समाप्त होगी यदि वे भेदभाव नियमों का उल्लंघन करते हैं: केंद्र

7. **Starmer to Host Ukraine Summit Tomorrow; NATO Leaders to Attend**

   स्टारमर कल यूक्रेन शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेंगे; NATO नेता होंगे शामिल

India, EU set year-end deadline for trade deal, security, defence pact

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

GS Paper II: India-EU

India and the European Union are working towards concluding their long-pending bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday after meeting with EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen here. They are also discussing a new strategic security and defence partnership agreement, to replace the current Strategic Roadmap for 2020-2025, ahead of the next EU-India summit expected later this year.

Ms. von der Leyen was in Delhi to lead the College of Commissioners, the biggest such visit by the EU Cabinet thus far. "We have prepared a blueprint for collaboration in the areas

Ursula von der Leyen with Narendra Modi ahead of their meeting at the Hyderabad House, in Delhi on Friday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

of trade, technology, investment, innovation, green growth, security, skilling, and mobility. We have directed our teams to conclude a mutually beneficial bilateral Free Trade Agreement by the end of this year," Mr. Modi announced on Friday.

Progress in the FTA talks – which began first in 2007 and were relaunched in

2022 – has eluded both teams of negotiators thus far. The new directive to complete the negotiations by the end of the year is intended to give them a "political push" ahead of the next round of talks to be held from March 10 to 14 in Brussels.

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India, EU Set Year-End Deadline for Trade Deal, Security, Defence Pact

भारत और यूरोपीय संघ ने व्यापार समझौते, सुरक्षा और रक्षा संधि के लिए वर्ष के अंत तक समयसीमा तय की

India and the European Union (EU) are working to finalize their long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of 2025, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi announced on Friday** after meeting **EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen**.

भारत और यूरोपीय संघ (EU) अपने लंबे समय से लंबित मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) को 2025 के अंत तक पूरा करने के लिए काम कर रहे हैं, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शुक्रवार को EU आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयन से मुलाकात के बाद घोषणा की।

- A **new strategic security and defence partnership agreement** is also being discussed to **replace the current 2020-2025 Strategic Roadmap**, ahead of the **next EU-India summit later this year**.

  एक नए रणनीतिक सुरक्षा और रक्षा साझेदारी समझौते पर भी चर्चा हो रही है, जो वर्तमान 2020-2025 रणनीतिक रोडमैप की जगह लेगा, इस साल के अंत में प्रस्तावित EU-भारत शिखर सम्मेलन से पहले।

- **Ms. von der Leyen led the College of Commissioners delegation to Delhi,** marking the **largest EU Cabinet visit to India so far**.

  सुश्री वॉन डेर लेयन ने यूरोपीय आयोग के प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व किया, जो **अब तक का सबसे बड़ा EU कैबिनेट दौरा था।**

- **Blueprints for collaboration** in **trade, technology, investment, innovation, green growth, security, skill development, and mobility** have been prepared.

  व्यापार, प्रौद्योगिकी, निवेश, नवाचार, हरित विकास, सुरक्षा, कौशल विकास और गतिशीलता के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग के लिए खाका तैयार किया गया है।

- **FTA negotiations began in 2007 and were relaunched in 2022**, but no significant progress has been made so far.

  FTA वार्ताएं 2007 में शुरू हुई थीं और 2022 में पुनः शुरू की गईं, लेकिन अब तक कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति नहीं हुई है।

- A **new political push** has been given to conclude the deal by the end of the year, ahead of the next **FTA negotiation round from March 10-14 in Brussels**.

इस वर्ष के अंत तक समझौते को पूरा करने के लिए एक नई राजनीतिक दिशा दी गई है, अगले **FTA** वार्ता दौर जो 10-14 मार्च को ब्रुसेल्स में होगा, से पहले।

Pune rape accused held after 3 days, sent to police custody

After identification with the help of CCTV footage, the police tracked Dattatray Gade to Gunat village in Shirur tehsil; an audit of deserted spots in Pune is being undertaken to bolster safety

GS Paper II: Vulnerable Section of Society

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

After an intense hunt for three days, police tracked down the man accused of the rape of a 26-year-old woman in Pune. Dattatray Gade has been sent to police custody for 12 days.

Gade was arrested from Gunat village in Shirur Tehsil of Pune district around 1 a.m. on Friday. The accused was nabbed with the help of the villagers and a dog squad, the police said. He was presented before the Judicial Magistrate of the First Class T.S. Gaigole at Shivajinagar District Court in the evening.

Gade is accused of the rape of the woman who was waiting for a bus to travel to her hometown, Phaltan, early on Tuesday. He allegedly approached her on the pretext of showing her the right bus and took her to a parked State-run bus, where he allegedly raped her.

During the hearing, the lawyer representing the accused argued that the physical relationship with the woman was with consent.

During their search operation, the police found a discarded shirt that was

In the net: The man accused of the rape of a woman inside a bus, being produced at a court in Pune on Friday. PTI

used to help a dog squad pick up the scent.

Found in a field
They were informed of Gade's visit to a house asking for food but he had fled before they could reach the spot. They eventually tracked him to a field near a canal, which was close to his relative's place, where he had gone for food and water. He was then brought to Pune and handed over to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Swargate Police Station, where he was

formally arrested.

Appreciating the villagers' help, Pune Commissioner Amitesh Kumar said: "A team has been formed to collect evidence and create a water-tight case. Special Counsel will put the case on the fast track to ensure the accused is punished. Over 400 local people from Gunat helped us in tracing the accused, for which I will honour them."

Several teams – consisting of at least 500 personnel from the Crime Branch,

Swargate Police, riot platoons and recruits from the headquarters – had been deployed on a search. Police had checked CCTV footage from 23 cameras inside the bus depot and 48 cameras in Pune city. The suspect was identified within two hours after the complaint was filed.

Mr. Kumar said an audit of deserted spots, the vicinity of the railway station, hilltop areas and bus stops was being undertaken to put in measures for women's safety. A mapping of deserted areas would be done to create a safety net, he added.

Shakti Bill
The long-due Shakti Bill for women's safety again took centre stage, with the Opposition demanding its clearance by the Union government. The Bill, which advocates for the death penalty for grievous offences of rape, gang-rape, and acid attacks, has been pending for the last four years.

Former State Home Minister and NCP (SP) leader Anil Deshmukh urged the State government to get approval from the Centre and the President and implement it in the State.

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Pune Rape Accused Held After 3 Days, Sent to Police Custody
पुणे बलात्कार आरोपी 3 दिन बाद गिरफ्तार, पुलिस हिरासत में भेजा गया

After a three-day search, police arrested Dattatray Gade, accused of **raping a 26-year-old woman in Pune**.

तीन दिन की तलाशी के बाद, पुलिस ने दत्तात्रय गाडे को गिरफ्तार किया, जो पुणे में 26 वर्षीय महिला से बलात्कार का आरोपी है।

- **He was arrested from Gunat village in Shirur Tehsil, Pune district**, around **1 a.m. on Friday**, with the help of **villagers and a dog squad**.
  उसे शुक्रवार तड़के 1 बजे पुणे जिले के शिरूर तहसील के गुनाट गांव से गिरफ्तार किया गया, जिसमें गांव वालों और डॉग स्क्वाड की मदद ली गई।
- **The accused was presented before Judicial Magistrate T.S. Gaigole at Shivajinagar District Court**, and was **remanded to 12 days of police custody**.
  आरोपी को न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट टी.एस. गैगोले के समक्ष शिवाजीनगर जिला अदालत में पेश किया गया, जहां उसे 12 दिनों की पुलिस हिरासत में भेज दिया गया।

Incident Details
घटना का विवरण

- **The woman was waiting for a bus to travel to Phaltan** when Gade allegedly **misled her**, took her to a **parked state-run bus**, and **raped her**.
  महिला फालतन जाने के लिए बस का इंतजार कर रही थी, जब गाडे ने कथित रूप से **उसे गुमराह किया**, उसे एक खड़ी सरकारी बस में ले गया, और **उसका बलात्कार किया**।
- **During the hearing, the accused's lawyer claimed that the act was consensual**, but police found evidence, including **a discarded shirt used for scent tracking**.
  सुनवाई के दौरान, आरोपी के वकील ने दावा किया कि यह संबंध सहमति से था, लेकिन पुलिस को एक छोड़ी गई शर्ट सहित कई सबूत मिले, जिसका उपयोग डॉग स्क्वाड ने गाडे का पता लगाने के लिए किया।

Tracking and Arrest
पता लगाना और गिरफ्तारी

- **Villagers informed police that Gade had asked for food at a house**, but he fled before police arrived.
  गांव वालों ने पुलिस को बताया कि गाडे ने एक घर में खाना मांगा था, लेकिन पुलिस के पहुंचने से पहले वह भाग गया।

- **Police tracked him to a field near a canal, close to his relative's house**, and arrested him.
  पुलिस ने उसे एक नहर के पास एक खेत में ढूंढ निकाला, जो उसके रिश्तेदार के घर के पास था, और उसे गिरफ्तार किया।

- **Over 400 local villagers from Gunat helped police in tracking the accused**, and they will be honored for their support.
  गुनाट गांव के 400 से अधिक स्थानीय लोगों ने पुलिस को आरोपी को पकड़ने में मदद की, जिसके लिए उन्हें सम्मानित किया जाएगा।

Police Investigation and Safety Measures
पुलिस जांच और सुरक्षा उपाय

- **A Special Investigation Team (SIT) from Swargate Police Station has taken over the case**, and **evidence collection is ongoing**.
  स्वरगेट पुलिस स्टेशन की विशेष जांच टीम (SIT) ने इस मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है, और सबूत इकट्ठा करने का काम जारी है।

- **500 police personnel from various units were deployed**, and **CCTV footage from 71 cameras was analyzed** to identify the suspect within **two hours**.
  500 पुलिसकर्मियों को तैनात किया गया था, और 71 सीसीटीवी कैमरों की फुटेज की जांच की गई, जिससे दो घंटे के भीतर आरोपी की पहचान हो गई।

- **Pune Commissioner Amitesh Kumar announced an audit of deserted spots, bus stops, railway station areas, and hilltops to enhance women's safety.**
  पुणे के पुलिस आयुक्त अमितेश कुमार ने महिलाओं की सुरक्षा बढ़ाने के लिए सुनसान स्थानों, बस स्टॉप, रेलवे स्टेशन क्षेत्रों और पहाड़ी स्थानों का ऑडिट कराने की घोषणा की।

Shakti Bill Demand
शक्ति बिल की मांग

- The **long-pending Shakti Bill for women's safety came into focus again**, with the **Opposition demanding its immediate approval**.
  महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए लंबित शक्ति विधेयक फिर से चर्चा में आया, और विपक्ष ने इसकी तत्काल मंजूरी की मांग की।

- The **Bill proposes the death penalty for serious crimes like rape, gang rape, and acid attacks**, but has been **pending for four years**.

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यह विधेयक बलात्कार, सामूहिक बलात्कार और एसिड हमलों जैसे गंभीर अपराधों के लिए मृत्युदंड का प्रावधान करता है, लेकिन चार वर्षों से लंबित है।

- Former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh urged the State Government to seek approval from the Centre and implement it in Maharashtra.

पूर्व गृह मंत्री अनिल देशमुख ने राज्य सरकार से केंद्र से मंजूरी लेने और इसे महाराष्ट्र में लागू करने की अपील की।

Trinamool moves privilege motion against Jaishankar

The Hindu GS Paper II: Parliament
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose on Friday moved a privilege motion against External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for allegedly giving "misleading and incomplete" information regarding the deportation of Indians from the United States.

She said that despite the Minister's assurance that the deportees would not be mistreated, the Indians who arrived on February 16 too were shackled.

In a letter to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, Ms. Ghose quoted from a statement Mr. Jaishankar made in the Upper House on February 6, when he reportedly said: "We are, of course, engaging the U.S. government to ensure that the returning deportees are not mistreated in any manner during the flight."

Nine days after the Minister's statement, Ms. Ghose pointed out that 116 deportees, who were sent back on a second flight, were once again handcuffed and shackled. "These deportees have provided disturbing testimonies of mistreatment,

Sagarika Ghose

which contradict the assurances given by the Minister in the House," she said, citing the example of an individual who was forced to "remove his turban, which was then thrown into a dustbin".

Calling it a "deeply offensive act against Sikh religious sentiments and rights", she claimed that the deportees were tortured and fed inadequate food, some of which was "half-cooked".

Testimonies from the February 16 deportees, Ms. Ghose said, strongly indicated a deterioration in treatment.

"Given the serious discrepancies between the Minister's statement and the first-hand accounts of deportees, I request that this matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges," Ms. Ghose said.

Trinamool Moves Privilege Motion Against Jaishankar
तृणमूल ने जयशंकर के खिलाफ विशेषाधिकार हनन प्रस्ताव पेश किया

Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose moved a privilege motion against **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** in **Rajya Sabha**.

तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद सागरिका घोष ने राज्यसभा में विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर के खिलाफ विशेषाधिकार हनन प्रस्ताव पेश किया।

- She accused him of giving **"misleading and incomplete" information** regarding **the deportation of Indians from the U.S.**.

उन्होंने जयशंकर पर अमेरिका से भारतीयों के निर्वासन के संबंध में "भ्रामक और अधूरी" जानकारी देने का आरोप लगाया।

- **Despite Jaishankar's assurance that deportees would not be mistreated, Indians deported on February 16 were shackled.**

जयशंकर के इस आश्वासन के बावजूद कि निर्वासित भारतीयों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार नहीं होगा, 16 फरवरी को लौटाए गए भारतीयों को हथकड़ी पहनाई गई।

Statement and Contradictions
बयान और विरोधाभास

- **In a statement in Rajya Sabha on February 6, Jaishankar had assured** that the **government was engaging with the U.S. to ensure humane treatment** of deportees.
  6 फरवरी को राज्यसभा में दिए गए बयान में, जयशंकर ने आश्वासन दिया था कि सरकार अमेरिकी प्रशासन के साथ मिलकर यह सुनिश्चित कर रही है कि निर्वासित भारतीयों के साथ अच्छा व्यवहार किया जाए।

- **However, on February 16, 116 deportees were handcuffed and shackled**, contradicting Jaishankar's statement.
  लेकिन 16 फरवरी को, 116 भारतीयों को हथकड़ी पहनाई गई और जंजीरों से बांधा गया, जिससे जयशंकर के बयान का खंडन हुआ।

- **A deportee alleged that his turban was forcibly removed and thrown into a dustbin**, which was seen as **an insult to Sikh religious sentiments**.
  एक निर्वासित व्यक्ति ने आरोप लगाया कि उसकी पगड़ी जबरन हटाकर कूड़ेदान में फेंक दी गई, जिसे सिख धार्मिक भावनाओं का अपमान माना गया।

- **Deportees complained about inhumane treatment, inadequate food, and unhygienic conditions**.
  निर्वासितों ने अमानवीय व्यवहार, अपर्याप्त भोजन और अस्वच्छ परिस्थितियों की शिकायत की।

Demand for Inquiry
जांच की मांग

- **Ms. Ghose demanded that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges**.
  सुश्री घोष ने मांग की कि इस मामले को विशेषाधिकार समिति को सौंपा जाए।

- She stated that **the government's assurances do not match the testimonies of deportees**, raising serious concerns.
  उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार के आश्वासन निर्वासित भारतीयों के बयान से मेल नहीं खाते, जिससे गंभीर चिंता उत्पन्न होती है।

What is Privilege Motion?
क्या है विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव?

• **Privilege Motion** is moved by a Member of Parliament (MP) when they believe that the privileges of the Parliament or any of its members have been violated by an individual, institution, or government.

• **विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव** तब लाया जाता है जब कोई सांसद मानता है कि किसी व्यक्ति, संस्था या सरकार द्वारा संसद या उसके किसी सदस्य के **विशेषाधिकारों का उल्लंघन** किया गया है।

• It serves as an important tool in a parliamentary democracy to **protect the rights and privileges of MPs**.

• यह संसदीय लोकतंत्र में **सांसदों के अधिकारों और विशेषाधिकारों की रक्षा** करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण साधन है।

Constitutional Provisions

संवैधानिक प्रावधान

• **Article 105** of the Indian Constitution grants **privileges to Members of Parliament (MPs) in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha** to ensure their independent functioning.

• **अनुच्छेद 105** लोकसभा और राज्यसभा के **सांसदों को विशेषाधिकार प्रदान करता है** ताकि वे स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य कर सकें।

• **Article 194** provides similar privileges to members of **State Legislatures**.

• **अनुच्छेद 194** राज्य विधानमंडलों के सदस्यों को **इसी तरह के विशेषाधिकार** प्रदान करता है।

• These articles grant MPs **freedom of speech** in Parliament and **immunity from legal action** for anything said or done in the course of parliamentary proceedings.

• ये अनुच्छेद **सांसदों को अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता** और **संसदीय कार्यवाही के दौरान कानूनी कार्रवाई से सुरक्षा** प्रदान करते हैं।

Types of Privileges

विशेषाधिकारों के प्रकार

1. Individual Privileges

1. व्यक्तिगत विशेषाधिकार

• MPs have the **right to speak and act freely in Parliament**.

• सांसदों को संसद में **पूर्ण स्वतंत्रता से बोलने और कार्य करने का अधिकार** होता है।

• **MPs cannot be arrested during parliamentary proceedings**, except in certain cases like **treason, corruption, or serious criminal offenses**.

• संसदीय कार्यवाही के दौरान किसी सांसद को गिरफ्तार नहीं किया जा सकता है, सिवाय **राजद्रोह, भ्रष्टाचार या गंभीर आपराधिक मामलों** के।

2. Collective Privileges

2. सामूहिक विशेषाधिकार

• Parliament has the **right to regulate its own proceedings without interference**.

• संसद को **अपने कार्यों के संचालन में किसी भी हस्तक्षेप से मुक्त रहने का अधिकार** होता है।

• Parliament is **protected from external pressure or influence**.

• संसद **किसी बाहरी दबाव या हस्तक्षेप से सुरक्षित** होती है।

• Parliament has the **right to keep its proceedings confidential**.

• संसद को **अपनी कार्यवाही को गोपनीय रखने का अधिकार** होता है।

What is Breach of Privilege?

विशेषाधिकार हनन का अर्थ

• If any individual or organization **violates a parliamentary privilege**, it is termed as a **Breach of Privilege**.

• यदि कोई व्यक्ति या संगठन **संसद के किसी विशेषाधिकार का उल्लंघन करता है**, तो इसे **विशेषाधिकार हनन** कहा जाता है।

• This breach can occur in various ways:

• यह हनन निम्नलिखित रूपों में हो सकता है:

- **Obstructing or threatening** a Member of Parliament.
- किसी सांसद को **बाधित करना या धमकाना**।
- **Misrepresenting parliamentary discussions** in public or media.
- **संसद में की गई चर्चाओं को तोड़-मरोड़कर प्रस्तुत करना**।
- **Making statements that damage the dignity of Parliament**.
- **संसद की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाने वाले बयान देना**।

How is a Privilege Motion Moved?

विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव कैसे लाया जाता है?

• If an MP believes their privileges have been violated, they can **submit a Privilege Motion to the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or Chairman (Rajya Sabha)**.

• यदि कोई सांसद मानता है कि उसके विशेषाधिकारों का हनन हुआ है, तो वह **लोकसभा अध्यक्ष (स्पीकर) या राज्यसभा अध्यक्ष (चेयरमैन) को विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।**

• The **Speaker or Chairman reviews the motion** and decides whether to allow a discussion.
• **स्पीकर या चेयरमैन इस प्रस्ताव की समीक्षा करते हैं** और चर्चा की अनुमति देने या अस्वीकार करने का निर्णय लेते हैं।

• If accepted, the motion is **referred to the Committee of Privileges**, which investigates the matter and submits a report.
• यदि प्रस्ताव स्वीकार कर लिया जाता है, तो इसे **विशेषाधिकार समिति को भेजा जाता है**, जो जांच कर रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करती है।

• Based on the report, **appropriate disciplinary action** may be taken against the guilty party.
• रिपोर्ट के आधार पर, **दोषी व्यक्ति के खिलाफ अनुशासनात्मक कार्रवाई की जा सकती है।**

Famous Cases of Breach of Privilege in India

भारत में विशेषाधिकार हनन के प्रमुख मामले

1. Indian Express Case (1978)

1. इंडियन एक्सप्रेस केस (1978)

• **Indian Express newspaper misreported parliamentary proceedings**, which was considered a **breach of privilege**.
• **इंडियन एक्सप्रेस अखबार ने संसद की कार्यवाही को गलत तरीके से रिपोर्ट किया,** जिसे **विशेषाधिकार हनन** माना गया।

• A **Privilege Motion was moved against the newspaper**.
• अखबार के खिलाफ **विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव लाया गया।**

2. Shashi Tharoor vs. Lok Sabha Speaker (2018)

2. शशि थरूर बनाम लोकसभा स्पीकर (2018)

• Congress MP **Shashi Tharoor made controversial remarks against the Lok Sabha Speaker**.
• कांग्रेस सांसद **शशि थरूर ने लोकसभा स्पीकर के खिलाफ विवादित बयान दिया।**

• BJP MPs **demanded a Privilege Motion against him**.
• बीजेपी सांसदों ने उनके खिलाफ **विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव लाने की मांग की।**

3. Arun Jaitley vs. Arvind Kejriwal (2015)

3. अरुण जेटली बनाम अरविंद केजरीवाल (2015)

• AAP leader **Arvind Kejriwal accused Rajya Sabha MP Arun Jaitley of corruption**.
• आम आदमी पार्टी के नेता अरविंद केजरीवाल ने राज्यसभा सांसद अरुण जेटली पर भ्रष्टाचार का आरोप लगाया।

• Jaitley **considered this an attack on parliamentary dignity** and warned of moving a Privilege Motion.
• जेटली ने इसे संसद की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाने वाला बताया और **विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव लाने की चेतावनी दी।**

GS Paper II: Defamation

Kangana Ranaut and Javed Akhtar settle defamation case

Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut and lyricist Javed Akhtar on Friday settled through mediation the defamation case against her to bring to an end their four-year-long legal battle, with the BJP MP also apologising for the "inconvenience" caused to him. According to the two separate orders of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate court, "the accused is acquitted" and the complaint is hereby "disposed as withdrawn". Mr. Akhtar had filed a complaint against Ms. Ranaut in July 2020, alleging that she had defamed and damaged his "immaculate reputation" by dragging his name into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death during an interview with a news channel. Ms. Ranaut had later filed a cross complaint against Mr. Akhtar, alleging criminal intimidation and insult to modesty. PTI

Kangana Ranaut and Javed Akhtar Settle Defamation Case
कंगना रनौत और जावेद अख्तर ने मानहानि का मामला सुलझाया

Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut and lyricist Javed Akhtar settled their defamation case through mediation on **Friday**, ending their **four-year-long legal battle**.
बॉलीवुड अभिनेत्री कंगना रनौत और गीतकार जावेद अख्तर ने शुक्रवार को मध्यस्थता के माध्यम से अपना मानहानि मामला सुलझा लिया, जिससे **चार साल पुराना कानूनी विवाद समाप्त हो गया।**

• **Kangana Ranaut apologised for the "inconvenience" caused to Javed Akhtar** as part of the settlement.
समझौते के तहत, कंगना रनौत ने जावेद अख्तर को हुई "असुविधा" के लिए माफी मांगी।
• **The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate court ruled that Kangana Ranaut was acquitted**, and the complaint was **withdrawn and disposed of**.

अतिरिक्त मुख्य न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट की अदालत ने फैसला दिया कि कंगना रनौत को बरी किया गया है, और शिकायत को वापस लेकर निपटा दिया गया।

Background of the Case
मामले की पृष्ठभूमि

- **Javed Akhtar filed a defamation complaint in July 2020**, alleging that **Kangana Ranaut had defamed him** by linking his name to **Sushant Singh Rajput's death** during a TV interview.
  जावेद अख्तर ने जुलाई 2020 में मानहानि की शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी, जिसमें आरोप लगाया गया था कि कंगना रनौत ने सुशांत सिंह राजपूत की मौत से उनका नाम जोड़कर उनकी छवि खराब की।
- **Kangana Ranaut later filed a counter-complaint**, accusing **Javed Akhtar of criminal intimidation and insult to modesty**.
  इसके जवाब में, कंगना रनौत ने जावेद अख्तर के खिलाफ "आपराधिक धमकी और मर्यादा के अपमान" का आरोप लगाते हुए एक जवाबी शिकायत दर्ज कराई।

What is Defamation?
मानहानि क्या है?

• **Defamation** refers to any **false statement** that harms the **reputation** of a person, organization, or entity.
• **मानहानि** का अर्थ किसी व्यक्ति, संगठन या संस्था की **साख को नुकसान पहुंचाने वाले झूठे बयान** से है।

• It can be classified into two types:
• इसे दो प्रकारों में विभाजित किया जा सकता है:

- **Libel (लिखित मानहानि):** Defamation in written or printed form, such as newspapers, books, or social media posts.
- **लिखित मानहानि (Libel):** समाचार पत्र, किताबें, सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट जैसी लिखित या मुद्रित सामग्री में मानहानि।
- **Slander (मौखिक मानहानि):** Defamation in spoken form, such as speeches or verbal statements.
- **मौखिक मानहानि (Slander):** भाषणों या मौखिक बयानों के माध्यम से मानहानि।

Constitutional Provisions on Defamation

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मानहानि पर संवैधानिक प्रावधान

• **Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees "Freedom of Speech and Expression"** to all citizens.
• **भारतीय संविधान का अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a) सभी नागरिकों को "अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता"** प्रदान करता है।

• However, **Article 19(2) imposes "reasonable restrictions" on free speech** in the interest of **public order, decency, morality, and defamation**.
• हालांकि, **अनुच्छेद 19(2) "सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था, शालीनता, नैतिकता और मानहानि"** के आधार पर अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर "उचित प्रतिबंध" लगाता है।

Legal Provisions on Defamation in India
भारत में मानहानि से जुड़े कानूनी प्रावधान

1. Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860

1. भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC), 1860

• **Section 499 of IPC defines defamation** as making or publishing a false statement with the intent to harm a person's reputation.
• **आईपीसी की धारा 499 मानहानि को परिभाषित करती है**, जिसमें झूठे बयान देना या प्रकाशित करना, जिससे किसी व्यक्ति की प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान पहुंचे।

• **Section 500 of IPC prescribes punishment for defamation**, which can be **up to 2 years of imprisonment, a fine, or both**.
• **आईपीसी की धारा 500 मानहानि के लिए दंड निर्धारित करती है**, जिसमें **2 साल तक की कैद, जुर्माना या दोनों हो सकते हैं।**

• Exceptions under **Section 499**:
• **धारा 499 के अंतर्गत अपवाद:**

- **Truth spoken in public good** is not defamation.
- **जनहित में कही गई सच्ची बात** मानहानि नहीं मानी जाती।
- **Fair criticism of public officials** or their work is not defamation.
- **लोक सेवकों या उनके कार्य की निष्पक्ष आलोचना** मानहानि नहीं मानी जाती।

2. Civil Law on Defamation

2. नागरिक कानून में मानहानि

• Defamation is also a **civil wrong** in India, where the victim can file a **civil lawsuit for monetary compensation**.

• मानहानि **नागरिक अपराध (Civil Wrong)** भी है, जिसमें पीड़ित व्यक्ति **आर्थिक क्षतिपूर्ति के लिए मुकदमा दायर कर सकता है**।

• Unlike criminal defamation, civil defamation **does not involve imprisonment but only monetary damages**.

• आपराधिक मानहानि के विपरीत, नागरिक मानहानि में **कैद नहीं होती, बल्कि केवल आर्थिक हर्जाने का प्रावधान होता है**।

3. Defamation under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000

3. सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (IT) अधिनियम, 2000 के तहत मानहानि

• **Section 66A of the IT Act (Now Scrapped by Supreme Court in 2015) penalized online defamation**, but it was struck down as unconstitutional.

• **आईटी अधिनियम की धारा 66A (अब 2015 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा रद्द की गई)** ऑनलाइन मानहानि को **दंडित करती थी**, लेकिन इसे असंवैधानिक करार दिया गया।

• However, **Section 79 of the IT Act** still holds intermediaries (such as social media platforms) liable if they fail to remove defamatory content.

• हालांकि, **आईटी अधिनियम की धारा 79** सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म जैसे **मध्यस्थों को उत्तरदायी ठहराती है**, यदि वे मानहानि वाली सामग्री को हटाने में विफल रहते हैं।

Landmark Judgments on Defamation in India

भारत में मानहानि पर महत्वपूर्ण न्यायिक फैसले

1. Subramanian Swamy vs. Union of India (2016)

1. सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी बनाम भारत संघ (2016)

• Supreme Court **upheld the constitutional validity of criminal defamation (Section 499 and 500 IPC)**.

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• सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **आपराधिक मानहानि (आईपीसी की धारा 499 और 500) की संवैधानिक वैधता को बरकरार रखा।**

• The court ruled that **defamation is a reasonable restriction on free speech under Article 19(2)**.

• अदालत ने निर्णय दिया कि **मानहानि, अनुच्छेद 19(2) के तहत अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर एक उचित प्रतिबंध है।**

2. R. Rajagopal vs. State of Tamil Nadu (1994)

2. आर. राजगोपाल बनाम तमिलनाडु राज्य (1994)

• Supreme Court ruled that **the right to privacy includes protection from defamatory false statements**.

• सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि **गोपनीयता का अधिकार, झूठे मानहानिकारक बयानों से सुरक्षा को भी शामिल करता है।**

• **Public figures have limited protection** and criticism of their public acts is allowed.

• **सार्वजनिक हस्तियों को सीमित सुरक्षा प्राप्त होती है** और उनके सार्वजनिक कार्यों की आलोचना की जा सकती है।

3. Ram Jethmalani vs. Subramanian Swamy (2006)

3. राम जेठमलानी बनाम सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी (2006)

• The Delhi High Court **awarded damages to Ram Jethmalani for defamatory statements made by Subramanian Swamy**.

• दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने **सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी द्वारा दिए गए मानहानिपूर्ण बयानों के लिए राम जेठमलानी को हर्जाना दिया।**

Criticism of Defamation Laws in India

भारत में मानहानि कानून की आलोचना

• **Criminal defamation is seen as a tool to suppress free speech and press freedom**.

• आपराधिक मानहानि को अक्सर अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और प्रेस की आजादी को दबाने का माध्यम माना जाता है।

• **Many countries have decriminalized defamation**, but India still considers it a criminal offense.

• **कई देशों ने मानहानि को अपराध की श्रेणी से हटा दिया है**, लेकिन भारत में इसे अभी भी **आपराधिक अपराध** माना जाता है।

• **Powerful politicians and businesspersons misuse defamation laws to silence critics and journalists**.

• शक्तिशाली नेता और व्यापारी अक्सर आलोचकों और पत्रकारों को चुप कराने के लिए मानहानि कानून का दुरुपयोग करते हैं।

Recognition of universities will be revoked if they flout discrimination rules: Centre

In case of non-compliance, an institution can be debarred from participating in UGC schemes or from offering degrees; UGC can also take additional punitive measures on a case-to-case basis

GS Paper II: Education Sector

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that a new set of Regulations to wipe out discrimination, especially on the basis of religion or caste, will give the University Grants Commission (UGC) "teeth and power" to derecognise non-compliant higher education institutions.

"Recognition will be cancelled if they do not comply," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, informed a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant.

The top law officer said the draft UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations of 2025 have already been published in the UGC website for inviting public comments and suggestions. Thereafter, it would be notified in accordance with law.

The court was hearing a petition filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, represented by senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocates Prasanna S. and Disha Wadekar, who had appealed to the Supreme Court to act

Seeking strict action: The court was hearing a petition filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

against the "rampant" caste discrimination in universities. Rohith Vemula, a Ph.D. scholar at Hyderabad Central University, and Payal Tadvi, a tribal student of Topiwala National Medical College, died by suicide in January 2016 and May 2019, respectively, after being subject to on-campus caste bias.

The draft Regulations describe its objective as the eradication of discrimination on the basis of religion, race, sex, place of birth, or caste, particularly against the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, socially and educationally backward classes, economically weaker sections, or any of them, and to promote full equity and inclusion

amongst the stakeholders in higher education institutions (HEI).

If non-compliance is established, an HEI can be debarred from participating in UGC schemes or from offering degrees, open and distance learning and online programmes. The draft Regulations also give the UGC power to remove errant HEIs from the list of recognised universities maintained under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956. It has proposed the imposition of Section 12B (prohibition on the grant of funds to universities) on HEIs found unfit under the draft Regulations.

The Regulations also allow the UGC to take "additional punitive actions" on a case-to-case basis.

Ms. Jaising said there have been at least 18 deaths by suicides in HEIs in the past 14 months.

Mr. Mehta said the draft Regulations of 2025 takes care of the lacuna by proposing 'Equity Committees' in HEIs with members drawn from civil society, students and faculty. The draft legislation showed one member to be a woman and one member each from the SC and ST category. Justice Kant assured that the top court was dedicated to facilitating the creation of a robust mechanism to prevent and stop discrimination.

"There have been violations. The compliance is low. Probably it may have been due to the lack of sufficient teeth and power for the UGC. Once UGC's hands are strengthened, especially to cancel the recognition of HEIs, things will start moving in the right direction," Justice Kant addressed Ms. Jaising.

Ms. Jaising said the IITs and the IIMs and some of the national law schools had not even responded to a communication by the UGC, on the basis of January 3 order of the court, seeking data on the Equal Opportunity Cells set up by the HEIs.

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Discrimination Rules: Centre

विश्वविद्यालयों की मान्यता समाप्त होगी यदि वे भेदभाव नियमों का उल्लंघन करते हैं: केंद्र

UGC to Take Strict Action Against Discrimination

भेदभाव के खिलाफ UGC सख्त कार्रवाई करेगा

- **The Union Government informed the Supreme Court on Friday** that new regulations will empower the **University Grants Commission (UGC) to revoke recognition** of universities that do not comply with anti-discrimination norms.

  केंद्र सरकार ने शुक्रवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट को सूचित किया कि नए नियमों के तहत विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC) को अधिकार मिलेगा कि वह भेदभाव विरोधी मानदंडों का पालन न करने वाले विश्वविद्यालयों की मान्यता रद्द कर सके।

- **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta stated** that these regulations will give the **UGC power to act against institutions violating rules** based on **caste, religion, or gender**.

  सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने कहा कि ये नियम **UGC को जाति, धर्म या लिंग के आधार पर नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वाले संस्थानों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने की शक्ति देंगे।

Implementation of UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2025

UGC (उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में समानता को बढ़ावा) नियम, 2025 का कार्यान्वयन

- **Draft regulations for promoting equity in higher education institutions (HEI) have been published on the UGC website** for public feedback and will soon be **notified as law**.

  उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों (HEI) में समानता बढ़ाने के लिए प्रस्तावित नियमों का मसौदा UGC की वेबसाइट पर सार्वजनिक प्रतिक्रिया के लिए प्रकाशित किया गया है, और जल्द ही इसे **कानून के रूप में अधिसूचित किया जाएगा।

- **UGC will have the authority to:**
  - **Debar non-compliant institutions from participating in UGC schemes**
  - **Prohibit them from offering degrees, distance learning, and online programs**
  - **Remove institutions from the recognized universities list (under Section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956)**
  - **Stop funding under Section 12B of the UGC Act**
  - **Take additional punitive measures on a case-to-case basis**

- **UGC को निम्नलिखित कार्य करने का अधिकार होगा:**
  - नियमों का पालन न करने वाले संस्थानों को **UGC योजनाओं में भाग लेने से रोकना
  - उन्हें डिग्री देने, दूरस्थ शिक्षा और ऑनलाइन कार्यक्रमों से प्रतिबंधित करना

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o **UGC अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 2(f) के तहत मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालयों की सूची से हटाना**

o **UGC अधिनियम की धारा 12B के तहत वित्तीय सहायता बंद करना**

o **मामले के अनुसार अतिरिक्त दंडात्मक उपाय लागू करना**

Supreme Court Hearing on Caste Discrimination in Universities

सुप्रीम कोर्ट में विश्वविद्यालयों में जातीय भेदभाव पर सुनवाई

- The **case was filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi**, who died by suicide due to **caste discrimination in their universities**.
  मामला रोहित वेमुला और पायल तडवी की माताओं द्वारा दायर किया गया था, जिन्होंने अपने विश्वविद्यालयों में जातीय भेदभाव के कारण आत्महत्या कर ली थी।

- **Senior advocate Indira Jaising argued that caste discrimination is rampant in universities**, citing **at least 18 student suicides in higher education institutions in the past 14 months**.
  वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता इंदिरा जयसिंह ने तर्क दिया कि विश्वविद्यालयों में जातीय भेदभाव व्यापक रूप से फैला हुआ है, और पिछले 14 महीनों में उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में कम से कम 18 आत्महत्याओं की घटनाएं हुई हैं।

- **Justice Surya Kant assured that the Supreme Court is committed to enforcing strict anti-discrimination measures** in higher education institutions.
  न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत ने आश्वासन दिया कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में सख्त भेदभाव विरोधी उपाय लागू करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

Formation of 'Equity Committees' in Universities

विश्वविद्यालयों में 'समानता समितियों' का गठन

- **The draft regulations propose setting up 'Equity Committees' in HEIs**, comprising members from **civil society, faculty, and students**.
  प्रस्तावित नियमों के अनुसार, उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में 'समानता समितियों' का गठन किया जाएगा, जिसमें नागरिक समाज, संकाय और छात्रों के सदस्य शामिल होंगे।

- **Each committee will have at least one woman and one member each from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) categories**.
  प्रत्येक समिति में कम से कम एक महिला और अनुसूचित जाति (SC) और अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) से एक-एक सदस्य शामिल होगा।

Lack of Response from IITs, IIMs, and National Law Schools

IIT, IIM और राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालयों की प्रतिक्रिया नहीं

- **Indira Jaising pointed out that IITs, IIMs, and some National Law Schools have not responded to UGC's request** for data on their Equal Opportunity Cells.
  इंदिरा जयसिंह ने बताया कि IIT, IIM और कुछ राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालयों ने UGC के समान अवसर प्रकोष्ठों (Equal Opportunity Cells) पर डेटा की मांग का जवाब नहीं दिया है।

Judicial Push for Stronger UGC Regulations
UGC नियमों को सख्त बनाने के लिए न्यायिक दबाव

- **Justice Surya Kant remarked that lack of enforcement power has weakened UGC's ability to curb discrimination.**
  न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत ने कहा कि प्रवर्तन शक्ति की कमी के कारण UGC की भेदभाव रोकने की क्षमता कमजोर हो गई है।
- **With these new regulations, universities violating anti-discrimination rules will face strict consequences.**
  इन नए नियमों के तहत, भेदभाव विरोधी नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वाले विश्वविद्यालयों को कड़ी सजा का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

Strict Action Against Non-Compliance in Higher Education Institutions

उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में गैर-अनुपालन पर सख्त कार्रवाई

UGC's Power to Take Action Against Violating Institutions

नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वाले संस्थानों पर UGC की कार्रवाई

- **If non-compliance is established, an HEI (Higher Education Institution) can be debarred** from:
  - **Participating in UGC schemes**
  - **Offering degrees, open and distance learning, and online programs**
  - **Receiving UGC grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956**
  - **Being recognized as a university under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956**
  - **Facing additional punitive actions on a case-to-case basis**
- **यदि किसी उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान (HEI) में गैर-अनुपालन पाया जाता है, तो उसे प्रतिबंधित किया जा सकता है:**
  - **UGC योजनाओं में भाग लेने से**
  - डिग्री प्रदान करने, दूरस्थ शिक्षा और ऑनलाइन कार्यक्रमों की पेशकश से
  - **UGC अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 12B के तहत वित्तीय सहायता प्राप्त करने से**
  - **UGC अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 2(f) के तहत विश्वविद्यालय के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त करने से**
  - मामले के आधार पर अतिरिक्त दंडात्मक कार्रवाई का सामना करने से

Concerns Over Rising Suicides in Higher Education Institutions

उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में आत्महत्याओं की बढ़ती घटनाओं पर चिंता

- **Senior Advocate Indira Jaising informed the Supreme Court that at least 18 student suicides** have taken place in **HEIs in the past 14 months** due to caste discrimination.

  वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता इंदिरा जयसिंह ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को सूचित किया कि पिछले 14 महीनों में HEI में कम से कम 18 छात्रों ने जातीय भेदभाव के कारण आत्महत्या की है।

- **The Supreme Court is taking steps to ensure robust mechanisms to prevent discrimination**.

  सुप्रीम कोर्ट भेदभाव को रोकने के लिए मजबूत तंत्र सुनिश्चित करने के उपाय कर रहा है।

Introduction of 'Equity Committees' in Universities

विश्वविद्यालयों में 'समानता समितियों' का गठन

- **To address caste discrimination, 'Equity Committees' will be formed in HEIs**.

  जातीय भेदभाव को रोकने के लिए उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में 'समानता समितियों' का गठन किया जाएगा।

- **These committees will include members from civil society, faculty, and students**, ensuring:
  - **One woman member**
  - **One member from Scheduled Caste (SC) category**
  - **One member from Scheduled Tribe (ST) category**

- **इन समितियों में नागरिक समाज, संकाय और छात्रों के सदस्य शामिल होंगे**, जिसमें:**
  - एक महिला सदस्य होगी
  - एक सदस्य अनुसूचित जाति (SC) से होगा
  - एक सदस्य अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) से होगा

Supreme Court's Stand on Strengthening UGC's Authority

UGC के अधिकार को मजबूत करने पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख

- **Justice Surya Kant emphasized that past violations indicate a lack of compliance** due to **UGC's limited enforcement powers**.

  न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत ने जोर देकर कहा कि पिछले उल्लंघनों से संकेत मिलता है कि UGC की सीमित प्रवर्तन शक्तियों के कारण अनुपालन की कमी थी।

- **With stronger enforcement, institutions will be compelled to follow anti-discrimination norms**.

  मजबूत प्रवर्तन के साथ, संस्थानों को भेदभाव विरोधी नियमों का पालन करने के लिए मजबूर किया जाएगा।

Lack of Response from IITs, IIMs, and Law Schools

IIT, IIM और विधि विश्वविद्यालयों की प्रतिक्रिया का अभाव

- Indira Jaising pointed out that IITs, IIMs, and some National Law Schools have not responded to UGC's request for data on Equal Opportunity Cells.
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- The Supreme Court urged all HEIs to comply with UGC regulations and provide necessary data.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सभी HEI को UGC नियमों का पालन करने और आवश्यक डेटा प्रदान करने का निर्देश दिया।

LONDON
Starmer to host Ukraine summit tomorrow; NATO leaders to attend

REUTERS

GS Paper II: Geopolitics

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer will host a Sunday summit with over 45 European leaders to bolster support for Ukraine and discuss security. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will attend, alongside NATO and EU leaders. Talks will address military aid, economic pressure on Russia, and lasting peace. AFP

Starmer to Host Ukraine Summit Tomorrow; NATO Leaders to Attend

स्टारमर कल यूक्रेन शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेंगे; NATO नेता होंगे शामिल

Summit to Strengthen Support for Ukraine

यूक्रेन के लिए समर्थन मजबूत करने के लिए शिखर सम्मेलन

- U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer will host a high-level summit on Sunday.
यूके के प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टारमर रविवार को एक उच्च-स्तरीय शिखर सम्मेलन की मेजबानी करेंगे।

- Over 45 European leaders will attend the meeting to discuss security and support for Ukraine.
45 से अधिक यूरोपीय नेता इस बैठक में भाग लेंगे ताकि सुरक्षा और यूक्रेन के समर्थन पर चर्चा की जा सके।

ISTANBUL

Erdogan says PKK leader's call to disband a 'historic opportunity'

GS Paper II: Geopolitics

REUTERS

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday said that Abdullah Ocalan's appeal for his Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) to disband and disarm was a "historic opportunity". He added that Turkiye would "keep a close watch" to make sure the talks to end the insurgency were "brought to a successful conclusion". AFP

Presence of Key International Leaders

महत्वपूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेताओं की उपस्थिति

- **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will attend the summit.**
यूक्रेन के राष्ट्रपति वोलोडिमिर ज़ेलेंस्की इस शिखर सम्मेलन में भाग लेंगे।

- **Leaders from NATO and the European Union (EU) will also participate.**
NATO और यूरोपीय संघ (EU) के नेता भी इसमें भाग लेंगे।

Main Agendas of the Summit

शिखर सम्मेलन के प्रमुख एजेंडे

- **Military aid to Ukraine will be a key topic of discussion.**
यूक्रेन को सैन्य सहायता प्रमुख चर्चा का विषय होगा।

- **Strategies to increase economic pressure on Russia will be explored.**
रूस पर आर्थिक दबाव बढ़ाने की रणनीतियों पर विचार किया जाएगा।

- **Talks will also focus on achieving lasting peace in the region.**
चर्चा क्षेत्र में स्थायी शांति स्थापित करने पर भी केंद्रित होगी।

(GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, IS)

1. **GDP Grows 6.2% on Rising Govt., Consumer Spending**
   सरकारी और उपभोक्ता खर्च में वृद्धि से जीडीपी 6.2% बढ़ी

2. **BJP, Congress Trade Charges as Trial Burning of Union Carbide Waste Begins**
   यूनियन कार्बाइड के कचरे के परीक्षण जलाने पर भाजपा और कांग्रेस में आरोप-प्रत्यारोप

3. **ISRO's Aditya-L1 Mission Unlocks Solar Flare Secrets with New Image**
   इसरो के आदित्य-L1 मिशन ने सौर ज्वाला के रहस्यों को उजागर किया

4. **The Necessity of Mainstreaming Wetland Conservation**
   आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण को मुख्यधारा में लाने की आवश्यकता

5. **The Steps That Will Shape India's AI Ambition**
   भारत की एआई महत्वाकांक्षा को आकार देने वाले कदम

6. **India to Go Past U.S. in Scientific Publications by 2029, Says Minister**
   वैज्ञानिक प्रकाशनों की संख्या में 2029 तक भारत अमेरिका को पीछे छोड़ देगा: मंत्री

GDP Grows 6.2% on Rising Govt., Consumer Spending
सरकारी और उपभोक्ता खर्च में वृद्धि से जीडीपी 6.2% बढ़ी

GDP grows 6.2% on rising govt., consumer spending
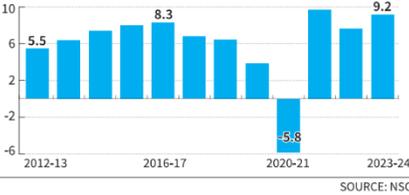
GS Paper III: Growth and Development

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 6.2% in the October to December 2024 period, the third quarter of the fiscal year, picking up pace from the 5.6% growth recorded in the previous quarter, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Friday. However, this was considerably slower than the 9.5% growth over the same period in 2023. Third quarter growth trailed the Reserve Bank of India's estimates by 0.2 percentage points.

"Rebound in growth momentum in Q3 was largely anticipated, as indicated by several high-frequency macroeconomic indicators, including improved GST collections, public spending, electricity generation, and a recovery in export performance," said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist at Care Edge ratings. "On demand

Slow rebound

The chart shows the annual growth rate of GDP at constant market prices (in %). Real GDP has grown by 9.2% in 2023-24, highest in the previous 12 years, except for 2021-22

SOURCE: NSO

side, recovery in consumption growth, government expenditure and export growth look encouraging."

The growth was mostly led by a significant uptick of 8.3% in government spending and 6.9% growth in private final consumption expenditure in the third quarter, compared to just 2.3% and 5.7%, respectively, in the same period last year. Exports too rose 10.4% in the third quarter of 2024-25, significantly higher than the 3% growth the

previous year.

Imports slid 1.1%, entering negative territory. Experts say this can partly be attributed to the depreciation of the rupee. The increase in government and private consumption offset the slowdown in investment rate, measured by the growth of Gross Fixed Capital Formation, which fell to 5.7% in Q3, from 9.3% in the year ago period.

India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 6.2% in the October-December 2024 period, higher than 5.6% in the previous quarter, as per National Statistics Office (NSO) data released on Friday.

भारत की वास्तविक सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP) अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2024 तिमाही में 6.2% बढ़ी, जो पिछले तिमाही के 5.6% से अधिक थी, राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (NSO) द्वारा शुक्रवार को जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार।

• However, this growth was **slower than the 9.5% recorded in the same period in 2023** and **fell short of the Reserve Bank of India's estimates by 0.2 percentage points**.

हालांकि, यह वृद्धि **2023 की इसी अवधि में दर्ज 9.5% से धीमी रही** और भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के अनुमान से 0.2 प्रतिशत अंक कम रही।

• **Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist at Care Edge Ratings**, stated that **growth momentum was expected** due to improvements in **GST collections, public spending, electricity generation, and export performance**.

केयर एज रेटिंग्स की मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री रजनी सिन्हा ने कहा कि वृद्धि की गति पहले से अनुमानित थी, क्योंकि **GST संग्रह, सरकारी खर्च, बिजली उत्पादन और निर्यात प्रदर्शन में सुधार हुआ था।**

Key Growth Factors

मुख्य वृद्धि कारक

• **Government spending grew by 8.3%**, while **private final consumption expenditure increased by 6.9%** in Q3, compared to **2.3% and 5.7% in the same period last year**.

सरकारी खर्च में 8.3% की वृद्धि हुई, जबकि **निजी अंतिम उपभोग व्यय 6.9% बढ़ा**, जो पिछले वर्ष की 2.3% और 5.7% वृद्धि से अधिक है।

• **Exports rose 10.4% in Q3 2024-25**, significantly higher than the **3% growth recorded in the previous year**.

Q3 2024-25 में निर्यात 10.4% बढ़ा, जो **पिछले वर्ष की 3% वृद्धि** से कहीं अधिक है।

- **Imports declined by 1.1%**, entering **negative territory**, partly due to the **depreciation of the rupee**.
  आयात 1.1% घटकर नकारात्मक क्षेत्र में चला गया, जिसका एक कारण रुपये का अवमूल्यन भी है।
- **Investment rate (Gross Fixed Capital Formation) slowed down to 5.7% in Q3**, compared to **9.3% in the same period last year**.
  निवेश दर (सकल स्थिर पूंजी निर्माण) Q3 में 5.7% पर आ गई, जो पिछले वर्ष की 9.3% वृद्धि से कम है।

BJP, Cong. trade charges as trial burning of Union Carbide waste begins

M.P. Congress chief says BJP has given 'cancer' to future generations with incineration of the toxic waste in Pithampur; Congress had 'distributed death' during the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy: CM

GS Paper III: Pollution

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and State Congress president Jitu Patwari on Friday engaged in counter allegations after the incineration of the Union Carbide's 40-year-old toxic waste began at a facility in Pithampur, as part of the first trial run allowed by the High Court.

Mr. Patwari alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has given "cancer" to the future generations as he claimed that "cancer-causing elements" will be found in the groundwater in areas around the facility in Pithampur.

In response, Mr. Yadav charged the Congress had "distributed death" during the 1984's Bhopal's gas tragedy and termed the waste as "Congress' garbage", going on to allege that Mr. Patwari is "scaring" people.

Burning of a 10-tonne consignment began at the private facility in Dhar district's Pithampur industrial area, near Indore, in the early hours of Friday after the preparations that began on Thursday were complete, shortly after the Supreme Court refused to intervene into the High Court's February 18 order of three trial runs.

'May take 72 hours'
Swatantra Kumar Singh, Director, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department, told The Hindu that the process is likely to be completed in 72 hours.

Demanding a test of groundwater in a 10-km radius around the facility in Pithampur, Mr. Patwari said, "I once again challenge the Chief Minister and the entire system of the State BJP government. If there is no poison in the Union Carbide waste, then get the groundwater tested within a 10-km radius around the Ramky company [parent group of the facility]. If cancer-causing elements are not found, I will publicly apologise."

He went on to allege that the waste had been trans- ported to Pithampur as "there are hidden financial interests" of the government and its leaders.

Talking to reporters, Mr. Yadav responded saying, "Jitu Patwari is doing his job as per his understanding. Has he forgotten that this was Congress's garbage. The Congress had distributed death in Bhopal. If more than 10 lakh people died in the Union Carbide [tragedy], it was due to the lapses on part of the Congress regime of that time. And they kept spreading this disease for years. On one side they left Bhopal to die, and on the other, Mr. Patwari is scaring people. He should apologise and be ashamed of it."

Meanwhile, Indore Divisional Commissioner Deepak Kumar Singh, who inspected the burning process, said the incineration process was going on under the supervision of experts from the Central Pollution Control Board and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

The incineration process is going on under the supervision of experts from Central and State Pollution Control Boards. FILE PHOTO

BJP, Congress Trade Charges as Trial Burning of Union Carbide Waste Begins
यूनियन कार्बाइड के कचरे के परीक्षण जलाने पर भाजपा और कांग्रेस में आरोप-प्रत्यारोप

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and State Congress President Jitu Patwari exchanged accusations over the incineration of Union Carbide's 40-year-old toxic waste at a facility in Pithampur.
मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री मोहन यादव और प्रदेश कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष जीतू पटवारी ने पिथमपुर में यूनियन कार्बाइड के 40 साल पुराने जहरीले कचरे के जलाने को लेकर आरोप-प्रत्यारोप किया।

- The **first trial run** of incineration was **approved by the High Court**, and the process **began on Friday**.
  हाई कोर्ट द्वारा मंजूरी दिए गए पहले परीक्षण जलाने की प्रक्रिया शुक्रवार को शुरू हुई।
- **Mr. Patwari alleged that BJP is exposing future generations to cancer** as the **toxic waste may contaminate groundwater** around Pithampur.

श्री पटवारी ने आरोप लगाया कि भाजपा भविष्य की पीढ़ियों को कैंसर की ओर धकेल रही है, क्योंकि **यह जहरीला कचरा पिथमपुर के आसपास के भूजल को दूषित कर सकता है।**

- In response, **Mr. Yadav accused Congress of being responsible for the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy**, calling the toxic waste **"Congress' garbage"**.
  जवाब में, श्री यादव ने कांग्रेस पर 1984 भोपाल गैस त्रासदी के लिए जिम्मेदार होने का आरोप लगाया और जहरीले कचरे को "कांग्रेस का कचरा" बताया।

Incineration Process and Supervision
कचरे के जलाने की प्रक्रिया और निगरानी

- **A 10-tonne consignment of waste** was burned at a **private facility in Pithampur, Dhar district**, near **Indore**, under strict supervision.
  10 टन कचरे की खेप को **पिथमपुर, धार जिले (इंदौर के पास) की एक निजी सुविधा** में कड़ी निगरानी के तहत जलाया गया।
- The **Supreme Court refused to intervene** in the **High Court's February 18 order** allowing **three trial runs** of incineration.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हाई कोर्ट के 18 फरवरी के आदेश में हस्तक्षेप करने से इनकार कर दिया, जिसमें **तीन परीक्षण जलाने की अनुमति दी गई थी।**
- **Swatantra Kumar Singh, Director of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department**, stated that the **process would take 72 hours**.
  भोपाल गैस त्रासदी राहत और पुनर्वास विभाग के निदेशक स्वतंत्र कुमार सिंह ने कहा कि **इस प्रक्रिया में 72 घंटे लगेंगे।**

Congress Demands Groundwater Testing
कांग्रेस ने भूजल परीक्षण की मांग की

- **Mr. Patwari challenged the government**, demanding a **groundwater test within a 10-km radius** of the facility.
  **श्री पटवारी ने सरकार को चुनौती दी और मांग की कि संयंत्र के 10 किमी के दायरे में भूजल परीक्षण कराया जाए।
- He alleged that the waste was transported to **Pithampur due to the hidden financial interests** of government officials.
  उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि यह कचरा सरकारी अधिकारियों के छिपे हुए वित्तीय हितों के कारण पिथमपुर लाया गया।

Government's Response and Monitoring
सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया और निगरानी

- **Indore Divisional Commissioner Deepak Kumar Singh** confirmed that the **Central and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Boards were monitoring the process**.

  इंदौर संभागीय आयुक्त दीपक कुमार सिंह ने पुष्टि की कि केंद्रीय और मध्य प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड इस प्रक्रिया की निगरानी कर रहे हैं।

- **Mr. Yadav accused Congress of spreading fear**, stating that they should **apologize for the Bhopal Gas Tragedy** instead of misleading the public.

  श्री यादव ने कांग्रेस पर **भय फैलाने का आरोप लगाया और कहा कि **उन्हें भोपाल गैस त्रासदी के लिए माफी मांगनी चाहिए, बजाय जनता को गुमराह करने के।

ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission unlocks solar flare secrets with new image

SUIT payload of the mission observed an X6.3-class solar flare in lower solar atmosphere and captured its first-ever image, says ISRO; this is a major step towards understanding the Sun's explosive activity and its impact on earth, says the agency
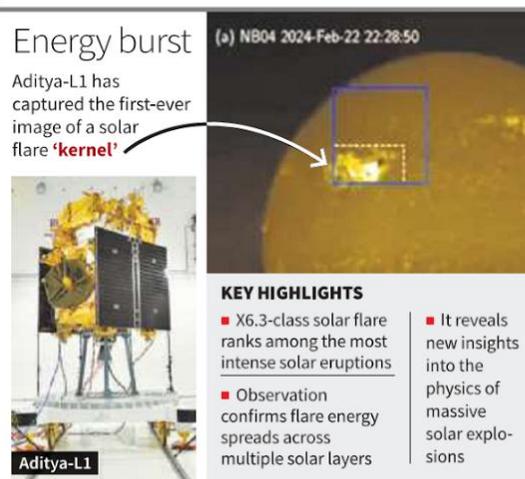
GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's first dedicated space-based solar mission, Aditya-L1, has made a ground-breaking observation as one of its scientific payloads has captured the first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel'.

The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) payload has captured the image in the lower solar atmosphere – the photosphere and chromosphere.

ISRO said that this observation and associated scientific results mark a major step towards understanding the Sun's explosive activity and its impact on Earth.

According to ISRO, "On February 22, 2025, the SUIT payload onboard Aditya-L1 observed an X6.3-class solar flare, which is one of the most intense categories of solar eruptions. The unique feature of this observation was that SUIT detected brightening in the Near Ultra Violet (NUV) wavelength range (200-400 nm) – a wavelength range never observed before in such greater detail".

The space agency added that these observations confirm that the energy released from the flare spread through different layers of the Sun's atmosphere. This provides new insights into the complex physics responsible for these massive solar explosions, according to the space agency.

One of the most exciting revelations in this observation is that the localised brightening captured in the lower solar atmosphere corresponds directly with an increase in the temperature of plasma in the solar corona at the top of the solar atmosphere.

According to ISRO "This confirms the linkage between flare energy deposition and associated temperature evolution. This finding also validates long-standing theories while offering new data that will help to reshape our understanding of physics of solar flare".

The Aditya-L1 mission was launched on September 2, 2023. On January 6, 2024, the spacecraft was successfully placed in a large halo orbit around first Earth-Sun Lagrange Point, known as Lagrange Point L1.

Energy burst

Aditya-L1 has captured the first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel'

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- X6.3-class solar flare ranks among the most intense solar eruptions
- Observation confirms flare energy spreads across multiple solar layers
- It reveals new insights into the physics of massive solar explosions

Aditya-L1

ISRO's Aditya-L1 Mission Unlocks Solar Flare Secrets with New Image

इसरो के आदित्य-L1 मिशन ने सौर ज्वाला के रहस्यों को उजागर किया

India's first space-based solar mission, Aditya-L1, has made a **groundbreaking observation**, capturing the **first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel'**.

भारत के पहले अंतरिक्ष-आधारित सौर मिशन, आदित्य-L1, ने एक महत्वपूर्ण खोज की है, जिसमें सौर ज्वाला के 'कर्नेल' की पहली छवि कैद की गई है।

- The **Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) payload** captured the image in the **lower solar atmosphere**, specifically in the **photosphere and chromosphere**.
  सोलर अल्ट्रावायलेट इमेजिंग टेलीस्कोप (SUIT) पेलोड ने यह छवि सूर्य के निचले वायुमंडल, विशेष रूप से प्रकाशमंडल और क्रोमोस्फीयर में कैद की।
- **ISRO stated that this observation is a major step in understanding the Sun's explosive activity and its impact on Earth**.
  इसरो ने कहा कि यह अवलोकन सूर्य की विस्फोटक गतिविधियों और पृथ्वी पर उनके प्रभाव को समझने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

Key Discovery: Observation of an X6.3-Class Solar Flare
मुख्य खोज: X6.3-श्रेणी की सौर ज्वाला का अवलोकन

- On **February 22, 2025**, the **SUIT payload on Aditya-L1 observed an X6.3-class solar flare**, one of the **most intense categories of solar eruptions**.
  22 फरवरी 2025 को, आदित्य-L1 के SUIT पेलोड ने X6.3-श्रेणी की सौर ज्वाला का अवलोकन किया, जो सबसे तीव्र सौर विस्फोटों में से एक है।
- A **unique feature of this observation** was that SUIT **detected brightening in the Near Ultraviolet (NUV) wavelength range (200-400 nm)**, a wavelength never observed before in such **high detail**.
  इस अवलोकन की खास बात यह थी कि SUIT ने निकट-अल्ट्रावायलेट (NUV) तरंग दैर्ध्य सीमा (200-400 nm) में चमक दर्ज की, जो पहले इतनी उच्च स्पष्टता में कभी नहीं देखी गई थी।
- ISRO confirmed that the **energy released from the flare spread through different layers of the Sun's atmosphere**, offering **new insights into the physics of solar explosions**.
  इसरो ने पुष्टि की कि सौर ज्वाला से निकली ऊर्जा सूर्य के वायुमंडल की विभिन्न परतों में फैली, जिससे सौर विस्फोटों की भौतिकी को समझने में नई जानकारी मिली।

Confirmation of Flare Energy Linkage
ज्वाला ऊर्जा कनेक्शन की पुष्टि

- The observation revealed that the **localized brightening in the lower solar atmosphere** directly corresponds to a **rise in plasma temperature in the solar corona**.

अवलोकन से पता चला कि सूर्य के निचले वायुमंडल में चमक की तीव्रता सीधे सौर कोरोना में प्लाज्मा तापमान में वृद्धि से जुड़ी हुई है।

- ISRO stated that this finding **confirms the linkage between flare energy deposition and temperature evolution**, validating long-standing theories while **offering new data to reshape solar physics**.

इसरो ने कहा कि यह खोज सौर ज्वाला की ऊर्जा निक्षेपण और तापमान विकास के बीच संबंध को पुष्टि करती है, जिससे लंबे समय से चली आ रही सिद्धांतों को प्रमाणित करने के साथ-साथ सौर भौतिकी को नए डेटा से समृद्ध करती है।

Aditya-L1 Mission Background
आदित्य-L1 मिशन की पृष्ठभूमि

- The **Aditya-L1 mission was launched on September 2, 2023**, and on **January 6, 2024**, the spacecraft was **successfully placed in a large halo orbit around the first Earth-Sun Lagrange Point (L1)**.
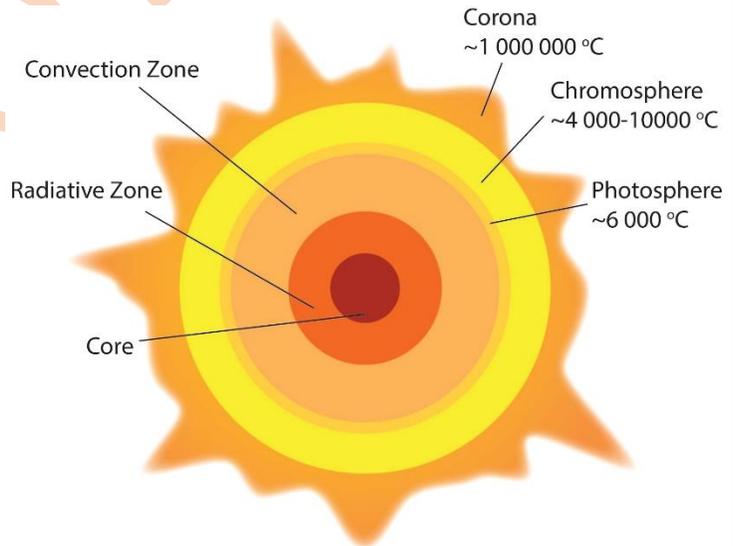
आदित्य-L1 मिशन को 2 सितंबर 2023 को लॉन्च किया गया था, और 6 जनवरी 2024 को इसे सफलतापूर्वक पहले पृथ्वी-सूर्य लग्रांज बिंदु (L1) के चारों ओर बड़े हेलो ऑर्बिट में स्थापित किया गया था।

Solar Atmosphere

- The Sun is divided into multiple layers. From the inside out, the solar interior contains the core, radiative zone and convective zone.
- These layers are opaque to photons and therefore not directly observable.
- The solar atmosphere is composed of the photosphere, chromosphere and corona.

A sketch of the structure of the Sun.

Solar Interior
Core
The core is the major zone of energy production through nuclear fusion, where 99% of the energy of the Sun is generated in it. It has a temperature over 15 million kelvins.
Radiative Zone

The radiative zone is the region in which energy transfer is mainly through thermal radiation instead of convection.

Convection Zone

The convection zone is the layer unstable to convection. In this region, convection is a more effective way of energy transport than radiation.

Solar Atmosphere

Photosphere
- The photosphere is the deepest layer of the Sun that is transparent to photons of certain wavelengths, i.e. the deepest region that can be directly observed with electromagnetic radiations Features like sunspots and solar flares can be observed on its surface.
- The temperature of this layer is about 6,000 $^\circ$C.

Chromosphere
- The chromosphere is the layer above the photosphere. It has a reddish color but is usually not seen without using specific filters due to the much brighter photosphere beneath it.
- The temperature of the lower (inner) chromosphere is about 4,000 $^\circ$C, while the upper (outer) chromosphere is about 10,000 $^\circ$C.

Corona
- The corona is a layer of hot plasma at the outermost part of the Sun's atmosphere. It extends millions kilometres into space from the surface of the chromosphere and has an irregular shape.
- It is usually too faint to be observed without specific filters. It is also an important observable feature during a total solar eclipse, during which the light from the photosphere is completely blocked by the Moon.
- The temperature of the corona is about 1,000,000 $^\circ$C.

The necessity of mainstreaming wetland conservation

GS Paper III: Conservation

The *suo motu* public interest litigation by the Meghalaya High Court very recently, to monitor the conservation of wetlands in the State brings the focus back on this important ecosystem. Since 1971, February 2 is observed every year as 'World Wetland Day' to mark the adoption of the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation of wetlands, which was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar. The theme this year was 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future". It is a theme that has appropriately positioned wetlands in the sustainable development perspective, as espoused in the Brundtland report, 'Our Common Future', and published by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987.

Srikumar Chattopadhyay

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Many pressures

Wetlands, one of the most biologically productive ecosystems, provide multiple benefits. Globally, wetlands cover an area of 12.1 million km², or around 6% of the earth surface, providing 40.6% of global ecosystem services. However, they are under severe stress, both qualitatively and quantitatively, due to various development activities including population growth, urbanisation, industrialisation, and increasing demand for land to cater to various human needs and climate change.

Since 1900, as much as 50% of the area under wetlands has been diverted to accommodate various other uses, as one of the studies indicated. Wetland surface area, both coastal and inland, declined by about 35% between 1970 and 2015. Globally, the rate of loss estimated with the Wetland Extend Trends (WET) index is (-)0.78% a year, which is more than three times higher than the loss rate of natural vegetation as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Around 81% of inland wetland species population and 36% of coastal and marine species have declined since 1970. The extinction risk of wetland species, both plants and animals, is increasing, globally.

The conservation and the management of wetlands have emerged as a major challenge as they are linked to other development issues and can serve in devising nature-based solutions for water management and the mitigation of climate change impacts, besides providing blue-green infrastructures in urban areas. Recognising the importance of wetlands in the larger development context, the Ramsar Convention COP14 that was held in Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland from November 5-13, 2022,

> The conservation and the management of wetlands have emerged as a challenge as these are linked to other development issues

laid stress on preparation of the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan and recognised that the conservation and management of wetlands cannot be a stand-alone initiative. It needs to be contextualised and appropriately linked to other international environment development initiatives.

Accordingly, the COP14 argued that implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan would be an important contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, meeting the Global Biodiversity targets, the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change. It would also align with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and any relevant work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other global programmes relating to wetlands. The global changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and greater knowledge about the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change since COP13, or the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (2018), reinforce the urgency to arrest the loss of wetlands.

The situation in India

India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention. As of 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has designated 75 Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance) in the country. These are distributed from the coasts to Himalayan territory, and are diverse in nature. Even some of the river stretches such as that of the Upper Ganga river are designated as Ramsar sites.

However, identification of Ramsar site does not necessarily contribute to its conservation. Moreover, the area under Ramsar sites together cover 1.33 million hectares or around 8% of 15.98 million ha wetlands, presently known and mapped as reported in the National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas, 2017-18 prepared by Space Applications Centre (SAC), Government of India. Based on the location, wetlands are classified as inland and man-made. By 2017-18, India had 66.6% of wetlands as natural wetland (43.9% as inland wetland and 22.7% as coastal wetland).

The area under wetlands is not a static figure. The general trends indicate a reduction in natural wetlands and an increase in man-made wetlands across the country. The SAC study showed that natural wetlands along the coast are declining even in a short span of 2006-07 to 2017-18.

According to an estimate by the Wetlands International South-Asia (WISA), nearly 30% of the natural wetlands in India have been lost in the last four decades due to urbanisation, infrastructure building, agricultural expansion and pollution. The loss is more in urban areas, especially around major urban centres. It is reported that from 1970 to 2014, Mumbai lost 71% of its wetlands.

Another study has shown that wetlands in east Kolkata have shrunk by 36% in 30 years from 1991 to 2021. A recent WWF study has indicated that Chennai has lost 85% of its wetlands. There have been several studies indicating the loss of ecosystem services due to the degradation of wetlands around the world. One such study, of Cali city in Colombia, has brought out that the estimated loss of total ecosystem services due to loss of urban wetlands is $76,827 a hectare in a year. In the peri-urban area the loss is estimated at $30,354 a ha a year.

The bigger dimension

At present, most wetland management initiatives in India address the ecological and environmental aspects of the wetland ecosystem. The studies are also limited to some of the major wetlands. At the global level, apart from wetland biodiversity, there is stress on wetland distribution and a characterisation of wetland and human impacts to evaluate and prioritise wetlands for conservation.

Given the varied ecosystem services and values that they offer to society, wetlands form an integral part of ecological, economic and social security. It is important to recognise this larger dimension and investigate the physical, social and economic factors, including alterations, in land use within the catchment area, the drivers which have led to modifications in wetland surroundings, and the ex-situ pressure contributing to wetland degradation and the governance structure.

Wetlands act as a source as well as sink of carbon. Therefore, their role in climate change mitigation has to be carefully evaluated and monitored, something which is hardly attempted now. More effective and comprehensive management strategies are required in response to escalating stress from various climatic and anthropogenic factors. The present approach is insufficient to address all these issues. Wetland management warrants an innovative ecosystem-based approach and it should be mainstreamed within the development plan, as advocated during the Ramsar COP14.

The Necessity of Mainstreaming Wetland Conservation
आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण को मुख्यधारा में लाने की आवश्यकता

The Meghalaya High Court recently took suo motu public interest litigation to monitor wetland conservation in the state.

मेघालय उच्च न्यायालय ने हाल ही में स्वतः संज्ञान जनहित याचिका दायर कर राज्य में आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण की निगरानी शुरू की।

- **February 2** is observed as **World Wetlands Day** to commemorate the adoption of the **Ramsar Convention (1971)**, an **international treaty** for wetland conservation.

2 फरवरी को **विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस** मनाया जाता है, जो **1971 में अपनाए गए रामसर सम्मेलन**, एक **अंतरराष्ट्रीय संधि** के संरक्षण के रूप में चिन्हित है।

- The **theme for 2024** was **"Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future"**, linking wetlands to **sustainable development**, as outlined in the **1987 Brundtland Report**.
  2024 की थीम "हमारे साझा भविष्य के लिए आर्द्रभूमियों की सुरक्षा" थी, जो **1987 की ब्रुंटलैंड रिपोर्ट** में वर्णित **सतत विकास** से जुड़ी है।

Many Pressures on Wetlands
आर्द्रभूमियों पर कई प्रकार के दबाव

- Wetlands cover **12.1 million km²** globally (**~6% of Earth's surface**) and contribute **40.6% of global ecosystem services**.
  आर्द्रभूमियां वैश्विक स्तर पर 12.1 मिलियन वर्ग किमी (पृथ्वी के **लगभग 6% क्षेत्र**) में फैली हुई हैं और **वैश्विक पारिस्थितिक तंत्र सेवाओं में 40.6% योगदान** देती हैं।
- Since **1900, around 50% of wetlands have been lost** due to **urbanization, industrialization, and climate change**.
  1900 के बाद से, लगभग 50% आर्द्रभूमि का नुकसान शहरीकरण, औद्योगीकरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण हुआ है।
- Between **1970 and 2015, global wetland surface area declined by 35%**, with an annual loss rate of **(-)0.78%**, three times higher than the rate of **natural vegetation loss**.
  1970 से 2015 के बीच वैश्विक आर्द्रभूमि क्षेत्र 35% घट गया, जिसकी वार्षिक हानि दर **(-)0.78%** थी, जो **प्राकृतिक वनस्पति के नुकसान की तुलना में तीन गुना अधिक** थी।
- Since **1970, 81% of inland wetland species** and **36% of coastal and marine species** have declined.
  1970 के बाद से, आंतरिक आर्द्रभूमि प्रजातियों का 81% और तटीय तथा समुद्री प्रजातियों का 36% गिरावट दर्ज की गई है।

Conservation Challenges and Global Initiatives
संरक्षण की चुनौतियां और वैश्विक पहल

- Wetlands play a key role in **water management, climate change mitigation, and urban blue-green infrastructure**.
  आर्द्रभूमियां जल प्रबंधन, जलवायु परिवर्तन न्यूनीकरण और शहरी नीले-हरे बुनियादी ढांचे में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं।
- **Ramsar Convention COP14 (2022)** held in **Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland**, emphasized linking **wetland conservation** with **broader environmental initiatives**.

रामसर सम्मेलन COP14 (2022) वुहान, चीन और जिनेवा, स्विट्जरलैंड में आयोजित हुआ, जिसमें आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण को व्यापक पर्यावरणीय पहलों से जोड़ने पर बल दिया गया।

- The **Fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan** aligns wetland conservation with:
  पांचवीं **रामसर रणनीतिक योजना** ने आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण को निम्नलिखित से जोड़ा:
    - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
      संयुक्त राष्ट्र सतत विकास लक्ष्य (SDGs)
    - **Global Biodiversity Targets**
      वैश्विक जैव विविधता लक्ष्य
    - **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)**
      संयुक्त राष्ट्र पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पुनर्स्थापन दशक (2021-2030)
    - **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platforms like IPCC and IPBES**
      आईपीसीसी और आईपीबीईएस जैसे अंतर-सरकारी विज्ञान-नीति मंच
- The **COVID-19 pandemic and climate change impacts** have reinforced the **urgency to prevent wetland loss**.
  कोविड-19 महामारी और जलवायु परिवर्तन प्रभावों ने आर्द्रभूमि हानि को रोकने की तात्कालिकता को और अधिक मजबूत किया है।

The Situation in India
भारत में स्थिति

- **India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention** and as of **2023**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** has designated **75 Ramsar sites** (wetlands of international importance).
  भारत रामसर सम्मेलन का हस्ताक्षरकर्ता है और **2023 तक**, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय ने **75 रामसर स्थलों** (अंतरराष्ट्रीय महत्व की आर्द्रभूमियां) को नामित किया है।
- These wetlands **span from coastal areas to the Himalayas** and include **river stretches like the Upper Ganga River**.
  ये आर्द्रभूमियां **तटीय क्षेत्रों से हिमालय तक फैली हुई हैं** और **ऊपरी गंगा नदी जैसे नदी क्षेत्र** भी इसमें शामिल हैं।
- However, **designation as a Ramsar site does not guarantee conservation**.
  हालांकि, **रामसर स्थल के रूप में पहचान मिलने का मतलब इसका संरक्षण होना नहीं है।**
- The total area of **Ramsar sites in India covers 1.33 million hectares**, which is only **8% of India's total wetland area (15.98 million hectares)**, as per the **National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas (2017-18), Space Applications Centre (SAC), Government of India**.
  भारत में रामसर स्थलों का कुल क्षेत्रफल 1.33 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है, जो देश की कुल 15.98 मिलियन हेक्टेयर आर्द्रभूमि का केवल 8% है, (**राष्ट्रीय आर्द्रभूमि दशक परिवर्तन एटलस (2017-18), अंतरिक्ष अनुप्रयोग केंद्र (SAC), भारत सरकार)** के अनुसार।

Decline of Wetlands
आर्द्रभूमियों की गिरावट

- Wetlands in India are classified into **inland and man-made**. By **2017-18**, about **66.6% of wetlands** were **natural** (43.9% inland, 22.7% coastal).
  भारत में आर्द्रभूमियों को **आंतरिक और मानव निर्मित** श्रेणियों में वर्गीकृत किया गया है। **2017-18 तक**, **66.6% आर्द्रभूमियां प्राकृतिक** थीं (43.9% आंतरिक, 22.7% तटीय)।

- **Natural wetlands are declining**, while **man-made wetlands are increasing**.
  प्राकृतिक आर्द्रभूमियों में गिरावट आ रही है, जबकि **मानव निर्मित आर्द्रभूमियों की संख्या बढ़ रही है**।

- The **SAC study (2006-07 to 2017-18)** showed that **coastal wetlands declined significantly** in a **short span**.
  SAC अध्ययन (2006-07 से 2017-18) ने दर्शाया कि **तटीय आर्द्रभूमियां अल्पकाल में ही तेजी से घट गईं**।

- **Wetlands International South-Asia (WISA)** estimates that **30% of India's natural wetlands have been lost in the last 40 years** due to **urbanization, infrastructure development, agricultural expansion, and pollution**.
  वेटलैंड्स इंटरनेशनल साउथ-एशिया (WISA) के अनुमान के अनुसार, **पिछले 40 वर्षों में भारत की 30% प्राकृतिक आर्द्रभूमियां शहरीकरण, बुनियादी ढांचे के निर्माण, कृषि विस्तार और प्रदूषण** के कारण नष्ट हो गई हैं।

- Between **1970-2014**, **Mumbai lost 71% of its wetlands**.
  1970 से 2014 के बीच, मुंबई ने अपनी **71% आर्द्रभूमि खो दी**।

- Between **1991-2021**, **East Kolkata wetlands shrunk by 36%**, while **Chennai lost 85% of its wetlands**.
  1991 से 2021 के बीच, **पूर्वी कोलकाता की आर्द्रभूमियां 36% घट गईं**, जबकि **चेन्नई ने अपनी 85% आर्द्रभूमि खो दी**।

- **A WWF study** reported that **wetland loss in urban areas has caused a decline in ecosystem services**, with **Cali city (Colombia) estimating losses of $76,827 per hectare per year**.
  WWF अध्ययन ने बताया कि **शहरी क्षेत्रों में आर्द्रभूमि के नुकसान से पारिस्थितिक तंत्र सेवाओं में गिरावट आई है**, काली शहर (कोलंबिया) में अनुमानित नुकसान $76,827 प्रति हेक्टेयर प्रति वर्ष हुआ।

The Bigger Dimension
विस्तृत परिप्रेक्ष्य

- **Most wetland conservation efforts in India** focus **only on ecological and environmental aspects**.
  भारत में अधिकांश आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण प्रयास केवल **पारिस्थितिक और पर्यावरणीय पहलुओं** पर केंद्रित हैं।

- Globally, **wetland management includes biodiversity conservation, land use impact assessment, and socio-economic factors**.

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वैश्विक स्तर पर, **आर्द्रभूमि प्रबंधन में जैव विविधता संरक्षण, भूमि उपयोग प्रभाव मूल्यांकन और सामाजिक-आर्थिक कारक शामिल हैं।**

- **Wetlands contribute to climate change mitigation** by acting as **carbon sinks**; however, this role is **not effectively monitored in India**.
  आर्द्रभूमियां कार्बन सिंक के रूप में जलवायु परिवर्तन न्यूनीकरण में योगदान करती हैं; लेकिन **भारत में इस भूमिका की प्रभावी निगरानी नहीं की जाती है।**

- **The Ramsar COP14 conference** emphasized the **need for an ecosystem-based approach** and **mainstreaming wetland conservation within development planning**.
  रामसर COP14 सम्मेलन ने पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र आधारित दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता और **आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण को विकास योजना में शामिल करने** पर जोर दिया।

The steps that will shape India's AI ambition

GS Paper III: S&T

In the heart of Bengaluru, software developers find themselves racing against time to outbid Chinese rivals for major Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven projects with international clients. Despite being part of a skilled workforce, deals often slip away due to capabilities Indian firms struggle to match. This is not just a single developer's dilemma. It is a glimpse into India's crossroads.

Faced with a three-way race to catch up with Silicon Valley while being chased by China and South East Asia, India is being subject to rigorous competition. But, if it wants to prevail at the forefront of the AI race, India must recognise that the challenge lies not in whether businesses prefer a local or foreign AI platform but in whether market regulations will inadvertently stifle India's momentum.

The issues in India
Export competitiveness hinges on the nationwide deployment of productivity-enhancing technologies. Indian services and consultancies must incorporate AI technologies to maintain their lead position in the global market. But concerns remain over the massive loss of routine jobs, discriminatory algorithmic decision-making, and the negative risks of human impersonation. In particular, "deepfakes" undermine trust by spreading misinformation, and destabilize political processes eroding credibility rapidly.

AI adoption issues such as misinformation and intermediary liability are at the forefront of the AI discussion in India, as digital platforms have become primary conduits for information dissemination. The general opinion among startups in India is that intermediaries – usually foreign tech giants – often set the rules of engagement, making it challenging for local startups to compete.

Tension has increased since, with recent Indian app developers filing a complaint against Google before the Competition Commission of India. But, putting regulatory and administrative pressure on those companies will not necessarily resolve the core problem of monopolistic

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If it wants to lead in the AI race, India must recognise that the challenge lies in whether market regulations will stifle its momentum

business practices. Regulating AI will interfere with technological adaptation, which will have undesirable consequences on India's relative competitiveness.

India has already localised a significant portion of the AI value chain, and additional AI-related compliance costs may hamper India's ability to outpace commercial rivals such as China and the United States, which have decided to leave AI unregulated.

Navigating the global AI race
India's position as the world's IT powerhouse gives it a unique advantage in the AI era. Attempts to govern and regulate AI occur as industrialised nations compete globally for industrial leadership. The European Union (EU) opted for strict regulation to address risks and societal impacts. In contrast, the U.S. maintains a more hands-off stance, prioritising innovation. India finds itself in a delicate balancing act between these two paths. But the sooner misconceptions about quickly outdated market rules addressing a limited set of hypothetical risks are set aside, the better India can focus on outpacing commercial rivals such as China and the U.S.

There are very good reasons why the EU has chosen to legislate through binding laws, mainly due to its unique structural deficiencies. The EU lacks a supranational constitution that safeguards human rights and protects citizens against AI-based surveillance or policing by its member-states. Therefore, unlike India, the EU must enact binding rules to pre-empt AI laws by national governments that will otherwise fragment its single market.

Additionally, the costs of regulatory failure are too high if India's exporting capabilities are at stake, particularly given Chinese dominance in hardware and cloud technologies. India has previously taken inspiration from EU or U.S. laws. However, it must follow its own paths and pursue its national interests based on its services-driven industrial profile.

Introducing regulatory attempts that can

impede AI development in India may allow businesses to repatriate from India and relocate IT development and software research and development to other countries with more AI-friendly rules. In other words, Indian IT services and consultancies held back by AI regulations run the risk of losing their hold of the global market.

Instead, the Indian government can use its diplomatic influence to ensure that open-source models remain open, accessible, and commercially viable, paired with international strategic partnerships for energy security, computing resources, and international standardisation.

A case for regulatory clarity
Building on the expected strong adoption of AI, public officials have a responsibility to listen to political and social concerns. While India is not explicitly pursuing ex-ante product regulation on AI akin to that in Europe (or previously planned in California), various agencies have launched conflicting policies, resulting in a minor power struggle that resulted in a fragmented policy landscape.

Lessons learnt from the EU and the U.S. point to the need to strengthen and future-proof existing laws rather than produce new ones. Current transitional guidelines have shown a feasible pathway to avoiding overlapping liability or regulatory blindspots by re-interpreting existing legislation. India has a comprehensive framework for antitrust, corporate liability, free speech, and public order that covers AI development and use cases. India may not need AI-specific rules legislation such as the IT Act.

India must choose its own path according to its national interests. The challenge lies not in whether businesses prefer a local or foreign AI platform but in encouraging rapid adoption and supporting open-source and other alternatives accessible for fine-tuning and transferring learning in its IT industry.

The views expressed are personal

The Steps That Will Shape India's AI Ambition
भारत की एआई महत्वाकांक्षा को आकार देने वाले कदम

In Bengaluru, software developers are competing with Chinese rivals for AI-driven projects with international clients.

बेंगलुरु में, सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर्स अंतरराष्ट्रीय ग्राहकों के एआई-आधारित प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिए चीनी प्रतिस्पर्धियों से मुकाबला कर रहे हैं।

- Despite having a **skilled workforce**, Indian firms often lose deals due to **capability gaps**.
  कुशल कार्यबल होने के बावजूद, भारतीय कंपनियां **क्षमता की कमी** के कारण प्रोजेक्ट गंवा देती हैं।
- India is caught in a **three-way race** — trying to **catch up with Silicon Valley** while being **chased by China and Southeast Asia**.
  भारत एक त्रिकोणीय प्रतिस्पर्धा में है – सिलिकॉन वैली की बराबरी करने की कोशिश करते हुए चीन और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया से प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना कर रहा है।
- The key challenge is **not choosing between local or foreign AI platforms**, but ensuring that **market regulations do not slow down AI growth**.
  मुख्य चुनौती यह नहीं है कि स्थानीय या विदेशी एआई प्लेटफॉर्म को चुना जाए, बल्कि यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि बाजार नियमन भारत की एआई प्रगति को बाधित न करे।

The Issues in India
भारत में एआई से जुड़ी चुनौतियां

- **Export competitiveness** depends on the **nationwide adoption of AI** in services and consultancies.
  निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता का **एआई के व्यापक उपयोग** पर निर्भर होना आवश्यक है।
- However, AI raises concerns like **job losses, biased decision-making, and misinformation**.
  हालांकि, एआई से नौकरी छूटने, पक्षपाती निर्णय लेने, और गलत सूचना फैलने जैसी चिंताएं भी उत्पन्न हो रही हैं।
- **Deepfakes and misinformation** are major threats, impacting **trust, politics, and digital platforms**.
  डीपफेक और गलत सूचना एक बड़ा खतरा हैं, जो **विश्वास, राजनीति और डिजिटल प्लेटफार्मों** को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
- **Startups struggle** as **foreign tech giants set the market rules**, making it **hard for Indian firms to compete**.
  भारतीय स्टार्टअप्स को कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि **विदेशी टेक कंपनियां बाजार के नियम तय करती हैं**, जिससे **भारतीय कंपनियों के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा करना मुश्किल हो जाता है**।
- Recently, **Indian app developers filed a complaint against Google** before the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.

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हाल ही में, **भारतीय ऐप डेवलपर्स ने गूगल के खिलाफ भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) में शिकायत दर्ज कराई**।

- However, **regulating AI strictly may slow India's growth** compared to **China and the U.S., where AI remains largely unregulated**.
  लेकिन, एआई के कड़े नियमन से भारत की प्रगति धीमी हो सकती है, जबकि **चीन और अमेरिका में एआई अभी भी बिना कड़े नियंत्रण के विकसित हो रहा है**।

The Way Forward
आगे की राह

- **Balancing AI regulations and innovation** is key to India's global **AI leadership**.
  एआई के नियमन और नवाचार के बीच संतुलन बनाना, भारत की वैश्विक **एआई नेतृत्व** की कुंजी है।
- **Reducing compliance costs** and **supporting local AI startups** will enhance India's position.
  अनुपालन लागत को कम करना और **स्थानीय एआई स्टार्टअप्स का समर्थन करना** भारत की स्थिति को मजबूत करेगा।
- **AI investments and R&D initiatives** need acceleration to stay ahead in the **global AI race**.
  वैश्विक एआई प्रतिस्पर्धा में आगे रहने के लिए, एआई में निवेश और अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) पहलों को गति देने की आवश्यकता है।

Navigating the Global AI Race
वैश्विक एआई प्रतिस्पर्धा में भारत की स्थिति

- **India, as a global IT powerhouse, holds a unique advantage in the AI era**.
  भारत, एक वैश्विक आईटी हब के रूप में, एआई युग में एक अनूठी बढ़त रखता है।
- **Industrialized nations are competing for AI dominance**. The **European Union (EU) has adopted strict regulations**, while the **U.S. prioritizes innovation with minimal intervention**.
  औद्योगिक राष्ट्र एआई प्रभुत्व के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहे हैं। यूरोपीय संघ (EU) ने कड़े नियम अपनाए हैं, जबकि **अमेरिका नवाचार को प्राथमिकता देते हुए न्यूनतम हस्तक्षेप की नीति अपना रहा है।**
- **India must balance between strict regulation and innovation**. It should avoid **outdated market rules** that **restrict AI growth**.
  भारत को सख्त नियमों और नवाचार के बीच संतुलन बनाना होगा। पुराने बाजार नियमों से बचना चाहिए जो एआई विकास को बाधित कर सकते हैं।
- The **EU enforces binding laws due to structural deficiencies** in its governance system, unlike **India, which has constitutional safeguards**.

यूरोपीय संघ अपनी संरचनात्मक कमियों के कारण बाध्यकारी कानून लागू करता है, जबकि **भारत के पास संवैधानिक सुरक्षा मौजूद है।**

- **Strict AI regulations could weaken India's global competitiveness**, especially against **China's dominance in hardware and cloud technologies**.
  सख्त एआई नियम भारत की वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा को कमजोर कर सकते हैं, विशेष रूप से **हार्डवेयर और क्लाउड टेक्नोलॉजी में चीन की बढ़त के मुकाबले।**

- **If India imposes strict AI regulations, IT companies may shift R&D to AI-friendly countries**, affecting the Indian economy.
  यदि भारत कड़े एआई नियम लागू करता है, तो आईटी कंपनियां अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) को अन्य एआई-फ्रेंडली देशों में स्थानांतरित कर सकती हैं, जिससे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था प्रभावित होगी।

- The **government should leverage diplomatic influence** to keep **open-source AI models accessible and commercially viable**.
  सरकार को कूटनीतिक प्रभाव का उपयोग करना चाहिए ताकि **ओपन-सोर्स एआई मॉडल सुलभ और व्यावसायिक रूप से उपयोगी बने रहें।**

A Case for Regulatory Clarity
नियमों की स्पष्टता की आवश्यकता

- **AI adoption is inevitable**, but **public officials must address societal concerns** regarding **job loss, misinformation, and security risks**.
  एआई को अपनाना अनिवार्य है, लेकिन **लोक अधिकारी समाज से जुड़े मुद्दों जैसे नौकरी छूटने, गलत सूचना और सुरक्षा जोखिमों पर ध्यान दें।**

- **India does not need separate AI-specific laws** like those in **Europe and California**. Instead, **existing laws should be strengthened**.
  भारत को एआई के लिए अलग कानूनों की आवश्यकता नहीं है, जैसा कि **यूरोप और कैलिफोर्निया में देखा गया है।** इसके बजाय, **मौजूदा कानूनों को मजबूत किया जाना चाहिए।**

- **India already has frameworks for antitrust, corporate liability, free speech, and public order** that can cover AI regulations.
  भारत के पास पहले से ही **प्रतिस्पर्धा कानून, कॉर्पोरेट देयता, अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था के लिए कानूनी ढांचा मौजूद है**, जो एआई नियमन को कवर कर सकता है।

- **The focus should be on AI adoption, open-source access, and IT industry innovation** rather than **over-regulation**.
  ध्यान एआई अपनाने, ओपन-सोर्स पहुंच और आईटी उद्योग में नवाचार पर होना चाहिए, न कि **अधिक नियमन पर।**

- **India must define its own AI strategy** based on **national interests**, ensuring **rapid adoption and technological leadership**.
  भारत को अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों के आधार पर अपनी एआई रणनीति को परिभाषित करना चाहिए, ताकि तेजी से एआई अपनाने और तकनीकी नेतृत्व को सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।

India to Go Past U.S. in Scientific Publications by 2029, Says Minister

वैज्ञानिक प्रकाशनों की संख्या में 2029 तक भारत अमेरिका को पीछे छोड़ देगा: मंत्री

India to go past U.S. in scientific publications by 2029, says Minister

GS Paper III: S&T

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India will overtake the U.S. in the number of scientific publications by 2029, Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said at a public function on Friday to commemorate National Science Day.

"Future projections say that we will overcome the United States in the number of (scientific) publications in the next four years, by 2029. These are facts that are not known very widely, but these are extremely important to us," Mr. Singh said.

The Minister did not cite a specific source but a 2023 ranking by the U.S.-based National Science Foundation of countries' scientific output says that China, with 8,98,949 publications, leads the world, followed by the U.S. (4,57,335) and India (2,07,390).

Mr. Singh also cited a December 31, 2024, compilation of the top 2% scientists in the world that says that in this list, there are 5,351 Indian scientists. "This is something that would have been unbelievable a few years ago and cynics will not believe,

Jitendra Singh

even today. But the figures speak for themselves," he remarked.

The 'Top 2% Scientists', an annual compilation by the U.S.'s Stanford University and scientific publisher Elsevier ranks scientists by fields and number of highly cited publications. India with 5,351 scientists ranks 10th with the U.S. ranked first with 71,392 scientists and China second with 27,165 scientists.

Increase in budget

Mr. Singh stated that the budgetary allocations for various departments have seen significant growth over the years. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) received an allocation of ₹2,777 crore in 2013-14, which has surged to ₹28,509 crore in 2024-25, marking a 926% increase.

India will surpass the U.S. in the number of scientific publications by 2029, according to Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh.

केंद्रीय विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री जितेंद्र सिंह के अनुसार, भारत 2029 तक वैज्ञानिक प्रकाशनों की संख्या में अमेरिका को पीछे छोड़ देगा।

• The statement was made at a **public function on National Science Day**.
यह घोषणा राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान दिवस के अवसर पर एक सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रम में की गई।

• **Mr. Singh did not cite a specific source**, but a **2023 ranking by the U.S. National Science Foundation** lists **China as the global leader with 8,98,949 publications**, followed by the **U.S. (4,57,335) and India (2,07,390)**.
श्री सिंह ने किसी विशिष्ट स्रोत का उल्लेख नहीं किया, लेकिन **2023 में** अमेरिकी नेशनल साइंस फाउंडेशन की रैंकिंग के अनुसार, चीन (8,98,949 प्रकाशन) पहले स्थान पर है, अमेरिका (4,57,335) दूसरे और भारत (2,07,390) तीसरे स्थान पर है।

India's Presence in the Top 2% Scientists List

शीर्ष 2% वैज्ञानिकों की सूची में भारत की उपस्थिति

• **Mr. Singh mentioned a December 31, 2024, report** that lists **5,351 Indian scientists among the world's top 2% scientists**.

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श्री सिंह ने 31 दिसंबर 2024 की रिपोर्ट का उल्लेख किया, जिसमें दुनिया के शीर्ष 2% वैज्ञानिकों में 5,351 भारतीय वैज्ञानिक शामिल हैं।

- The **list is compiled annually by Stanford University (U.S.) and Elsevier**, ranking scientists based on **fields and citation impact**.
  यह सूची प्रतिवर्ष स्टैनफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी (अमेरिका) और एल्सेवियर द्वारा तैयार की जाती है, जिसमें वैज्ञानिकों को उनके अनुसंधान क्षेत्रों और उद्धरण प्रभाव के आधार पर रैंक दिया जाता है।

- **India ranks 10th globally in this list**, with the **U.S. at first place (71,392 scientists) and China at second (27,165 scientists)**.
  इस सूची में भारत 10वें स्थान पर है, जबकि अमेरिका पहले स्थान (71,392 वैज्ञानिक) और चीन दूसरे स्थान (27,165 वैज्ञानिक) पर है।

Increase in Budget for Science and Technology
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी के बजट में वृद्धि

- Budget allocations for science and technology departments have significantly increased over the years.
  विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभागों के लिए बजट आवंटन वर्षों में काफी बढ़ा है।

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) received ₹2,777 crore in 2013-14, which has **increased to ₹28,509 crore in 2024-25**, marking a **926% growth**.
  2013-14 में विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (DST) को ₹2,777 करोड़ का बजट आवंटित किया गया था, जो 2024-25 में ₹28,509 करोड़ तक बढ़ गया, यानी 926% की वृद्धि।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1.SC sets aside dismissal of two women judicial officers
SC ने दो महिला न्यायिक अधिकारियों की बर्खास्तगी को रद्द किया

SC sets aside dismissal of two women judicial officers

Essay

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in a judgment on Friday said that with more and more women joining judicial ranks, it was time for the judiciary to be more sensitive to their well-being at work.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, heading a Bench, voiced her concern about the physical and mental health of women in district judiciary, a branch haunted by tremendous workload, pendency of cases and long hours perennially.

"It is not enough to find comfort solely in the growing number of women judicial officers if we are unable to secure for them a sensitive work environment and guidance," the court said.

The judgment came on a petition filed by two women judicial officers from Madhya Pradesh who were sacked for "inefficiency" and "misconduct" despite one of them having suffered back-to-back personal trauma, including a miscarriage, days in the intensive care unit for COVID and her brother being diagnosed with cancer.

The top court said though gender cannot be an excuse for poor work performance by women judicial officers, it certainly was a critical consideration.

Justice Nagarathna said the case reflected the need to provide a sensitive and inclusive work atmosphere within the judiciary, which is witnessing more and more women legal professionals and judges.

> Higher numbers and greater visibility of women judges can increase the willingness of women to seek justice and enforce their rights through the courts
>
> **JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA**
> Supreme Court judge

The top court said the judiciary, with greater women representation and sense of equality, must set an example for the government and the legislature. Justice Nagarathna is currently one of only two women judges in the Supreme Court, which has a sanctioned judicial strength of 34.

The judge explained that greater women representation would shift gender stereotypes, especially at the senior levels in the judiciary, change attitudes and patriarchal perceptions.

"Women's visibility as judicial officers can pave the way for women's greater representation in other decision-making positions, such as in legislative and executive branches of government. Higher numbers, and greater visibility of women judges can increase the willingness of women to seek justice and enforce their rights through the courts," Justice Nagarathna noted.

'Arbitrary move'
The judgment set aside the termination orders of Savita Choudhary and Aditi Kumar Sharma, the two civil judges concerned, terming them "punitive, arbitrary and illegal".

The top court ordered the two women to be reinstated within 15 days according to their seniority. Senior advocate Indira Jaising, who appeared for the two women judicial officers, said the verdict may help to provide an "enabling environment" for women in the judiciary.

Taking note of Ms. Sharma's case, Justice Nagarathna said a miscarriage could be mentally and physically debilitating for a woman. "A miscarriage affects a person's identity, leading to disappointments and challenges to motherhood identity and role, stigma and isolation, amongst other aspects," Justice Nagarathna observed.

The top court referred to Article 10 of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights that accorded special protection to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth.

Justice Nagarathna, after the pronouncement of the judgment in court, remarked on the distress women judges undergo when they have to sit through court work the whole day "sometimes taking tablets to ease the monthly pain".

SC sets aside dismissal of two women judicial officers
SC ने दो महिला न्यायिक अधिकारियों की बर्खास्तगी को रद्द किया

- The Supreme Court in a judgment on Friday said that with more and more women joining judicial ranks, it was time for the judiciary to be more sensitive to their well-being at work.
  शुक्रवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपने फैसले में कहा कि जैसे-जैसे अधिक महिलाएं न्यायिक सेवाओं में शामिल हो रही हैं, न्यायपालिका को उनके कल्याण के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील होने की आवश्यकता है।

- Justice **B.V. Nagarathna**, heading a Bench, voiced her concern about the **physical and mental health** of women in **district judiciary**, a branch haunted by **tremendous workload**, **pendency of cases**, and **long working hours**.
  न्यायमूर्ति बी.वी. नागरत्ना, जो एक पीठ की अध्यक्षता कर रही थीं, ने **जिला न्यायपालिका** में कार्यरत महिलाओं के **शारीरिक और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य** को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की, जो कि **भारी कार्यभार**, **लंबित मामलों** और **लंबे कार्य घंटों** से प्रभावित होती है।

- "It is not enough to find comfort solely in the **growing number of women judicial officers** if we are unable to secure for them a **sensitive work environment and guidance**," the court said.
  कोर्ट ने कहा, "यदि हम **महिला न्यायिक अधिकारियों की बढ़ती संख्या** के बावजूद उनके लिए **संवेदनशील कार्य वातावरण और मार्गदर्शन** सुनिश्चित नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, तो यह पर्याप्त नहीं है।"

- The judgment came on a petition filed by **two women judicial officers from Madhya Pradesh**, who were sacked for **inefficiency** and **misconduct**, despite one of them suffering from **personal trauma** including a **miscarriage**, days in the **ICU for COVID**,

and her **brother being diagnosed with cancer**.

यह फैसला **मध्य प्रदेश की दो महिला न्यायिक अधिकारियों** की याचिका पर आया, जिन्हें **अक्षमता** और **दुराचार** के आरोप में बर्खास्त कर दिया गया था, जबकि उनमें से एक **गर्भपात, कोविड के कारण ICU में भर्ती**, और **अपने भाई के कैंसर निदान** जैसी व्यक्तिगत त्रासदियों से गुजर रही थी।

- The top court said though **gender cannot be an excuse** for poor work performance, it was certainly a **critical consideration**.

शीर्ष अदालत ने कहा कि हालांकि **लिंग खराब कार्य प्रदर्शन का बहाना नहीं बन सकता**, लेकिन यह एक **महत्वपूर्ण कारक** जरूर है।

- Justice Nagarathna said the case reflected the need to provide a **sensitive and inclusive work atmosphere** within the judiciary, which is witnessing more **women legal professionals and judges**.

न्यायमूर्ति नागरत्ना ने कहा कि यह मामला न्यायपालिका में **संवेदनशील और समावेशी कार्य वातावरण** प्रदान करने की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है, जहां **अधिक महिलाएं कानूनी पेशे में और न्यायाधीशों के रूप में कार्यरत हो रही हैं**।

- The top court said the judiciary, with **greater women representation** and a **sense of equality**, must set an example for the **government and the legislature**.

शीर्ष अदालत ने कहा कि न्यायपालिका को **अधिक महिला प्रतिनिधित्व** और **समानता की भावना** के साथ **सरकार और विधायिका** के लिए एक उदाहरण स्थापित करना चाहिए।

- Justice Nagarathna is currently **one of only two women judges** in the **Supreme Court**, which has a sanctioned judicial strength of **34**.

न्यायमूर्ति नागरत्ना वर्तमान में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट की केवल दो महिला न्यायाधीशों में से एक** हैं, जबकि इसकी **स्वीकृत न्यायिक शक्ति 34** है।

- The judge explained that **greater women representation** would shift **gender stereotypes**, especially at the **senior levels in the judiciary**, and change **attitudes and patriarchal perceptions**.

न्यायाधीश ने समझाया कि **अधिक महिला प्रतिनिधित्व** से **लिंग पूर्वाग्रह** में बदलाव आएगा, विशेष रूप से **न्यायपालिका के वरिष्ठ स्तरों पर**, और यह **रवैये व पितृसत्तात्मक धारणाओं** को भी बदलेगा।

Women's visibility as judicial officers
महिला न्यायिक अधिकारियों की दृश्यता

- *Justice Nagarathna* noted that the **greater visibility and higher numbers of women judges** can lead to **greater representation of women** in other decision-making positions like **legislative and executive branches of government**.

न्यायमूर्ति नागरत्ना ने कहा कि **महिला न्यायाधीशों की अधिक संख्या और दृश्यता** अन्य निर्णय लेने वाले पदों जैसे **विधायी और कार्यकारी शाखाओं** में महिलाओं की भागीदारी बढ़ा सकती है।

- More women in the judiciary can **increase the willingness of women to seek justice** and enforce their rights through the courts.
न्यायपालिका में अधिक महिलाओं की उपस्थिति **महिलाओं को न्याय की मांग करने और अपने अधिकारों को लागू करने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकती है।**

'Arbitrary move'
'मनमानी कार्रवाई'

- The judgment **set aside the termination orders** of **Savita Choudhary and Aditi Kumar Sharma**, terming them **"punitive, arbitrary, and illegal"**.
इस फैसले में **सविता चौधरी और अदिति कुमार शर्मा** की **बर्खास्तगी को "दंडात्मक, मनमानी और अवैध"** बताया गया और इसे **रद्द कर दिया।**

- The **Supreme Court ordered reinstatement** of the two women judges **within 15 days** as per their **seniority**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आदेश दिया कि इन दोनों महिला न्यायाधीशों को **15 दिनों के भीतर** उनकी **वरिष्ठता** के अनुसार **पुनः नियुक्त किया जाए।**

- **Senior advocate Indira Jaising** argued that the **verdict could help in creating an "enabling environment" for women in the judiciary**.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता इंदिरा जयसिंह ने कहा कि यह **फैसला न्यायपालिका में महिलाओं के लिए "सहायक वातावरण"** बनाने में मदद कर सकता है।

Impact of miscarriage on women
गर्भपात का महिलाओं पर प्रभाव

- **Justice Nagarathna** noted that **miscarriage can be mentally and physically debilitating** for a woman.
न्यायमूर्ति नागरत्ना ने कहा कि **गर्भपात मानसिक और शारीरिक रूप से कमजोर करने वाला हो सकता है।**

- A miscarriage can impact a woman's **identity, cause disappointment, and lead to stigma and isolation**.
गर्भपात एक महिला की **पहचान को प्रभावित कर सकता है, निराशा ला सकता है और कलंक व एकाकीपन की स्थिति उत्पन्न कर सकता है।**

- The Supreme Court referred to **Article 10 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights**, which **provides special protection to mothers before and after childbirth**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक अधिकार समझौते के अनुच्छेद 10** का हवाला दिया, जो **माताओं को प्रसव से पहले और बाद में विशेष सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है।**

Challenges faced by women judges
महिला न्यायाधीशों को आने वाली चुनौतियाँ

- After the judgment, **Justice Nagarathna** commented on the **distress faced by women judges** during court sessions.

  फैसले के बाद, **न्यायमूर्ति नागरत्ना** ने **न्यायालय की कार्यवाही के दौरान महिला न्यायाधीशों द्वारा झेली जाने वाली पीड़ा** पर टिप्पणी की।

- She highlighted how women judges **often work through severe pain during menstruation, sometimes taking painkillers** to continue their duties.

  उन्होंने बताया कि कैसे महिला न्यायाधीश **मासिक धर्म के दौरान गंभीर दर्द के बावजूद कार्य करती हैं** और कभी-कभी दर्द निवारक दवाएँ लेनी पड़ती हैं।