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PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
08 MARCH 2025

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08_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

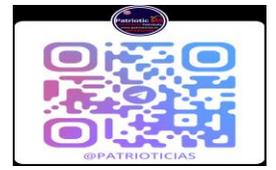
1. Three men rape two women, including a foreigner, near Hampi

तीन लोगों ने दो महिलाओं, जिनमें एक विदेशी भी शामिल है, का हम्पी के पास बलात्कार किया

2. Downsizing at NOAA Will Impact India, Says Congress

NOAA में कटौती का भारत पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा, कांग्रेस ने कहा

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Three men rape two women, including a foreigner, near Hampi

GS Paper I: Hampi

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Two women – a 27-year-old traveller from Israel and a 29-year-old homestay owner from Aneundi in Koppal district – were allegedly raped by three men near the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal in Sanapur, near Hampi, late on Thursday when they were stargazing with three male travellers from the U.S., Odisha, and Maharashtra.

The attackers demanded mo-

ney, then assaulted the group, pushing the men into the canal. One man, Bibash from Odisha, remains missing.

Following the complaint, the Gangavati Rural police have registered an FIR under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 64 (rape), 309 (robbery), 311 (robbery or dacoity) and others.

SP Ram L. Arasiddi confirmed the incident and said that the women were sent for medical examination and the reports were awaited.

Two women—a 27-year-old traveller from Israel and a 29-year-old homestay owner from Aneundi, Koppal district—were allegedly raped by three men near the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal in Sanapur, near Hampi, late on Thursday.

दो महिलाएं—एक 27 वर्षीय इज़राइली यात्री और एक 29 वर्षीय होमस्टे मालिक, अनेगुंडी, कोप्पल जिला—का तीन लोगों द्वारा गुरुवार देर रात हम्पी के पास तुंगभद्रा लेफ्ट बैंक कैनाल, सनापुर में बलात्कार किया गया।

- The women were stargazing with three male travellers from the U.S., Odisha, and Maharashtra when the attackers arrived.
महिलाएं अमेरिका, ओडिशा और महाराष्ट्र के तीन पुरुष यात्रियों के साथ सितारे देख रही थीं, जब हमलावर वहां पहुंचे।
- The attackers demanded money and then assaulted the group, pushing the three men into the canal.
हमलावरों ने पैसे मांगे, फिर समूह पर हमला किया और तीन पुरुषों को नहर में धक्का दे दिया।



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- One of the men, **Bibash from Odisha**, is still missing.
ओडिशा के बिबाश नामक व्यक्ति अभी भी लापता है।
- Following a **complaint**, the **Gangavati Rural Police** have registered an **FIR** under the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 64 (rape), 309 (robbery), and 311 (robbery or dacoity)**, among others.
शिकायत दर्ज होने के बाद, गंगावती ग्रामीण पुलिस ने भारतीय न्याय संहिता की धारा 64 (बलात्कार), 309 (डकैती), और 311 (लूट या डकैती) समेत अन्य धाराओं के तहत **FIR दर्ज** की है।
- **SP Ram L. Arasiddi** confirmed the incident and stated that the **women were sent for medical examination**, and **reports are awaited**.
एसपी राम एल. अरासिड्डी ने घटना की पुष्टि की और बताया कि महिलाओं को मेडिकल जांच के लिए भेजा गया है, और रिपोर्ट का इंतजार किया जा रहा है।

Vijayanagara Empire (1336-1565)

विजयनगर साम्राज्य (1336-1565)

- It was ruled by four dynasties:
इस पर चार वंशों ने शासन किया:
 - **Sangama Dynasty (1336-1485)**
संगम वंश (1336-1485)
 - **Saluva Dynasty (1485-1505)**
सलुव वंश (1485-1505)
 - **Tuluva Dynasty (1505-1565)**
तुलुव वंश (1505-1565)
 - **Aravidu Dynasty (1565-1643)**
अरविदु वंश (1565-1643)
- The empire was founded by **Swami Vijayaranya in 1336** on the banks of the **Tungabhadra River** at a place called **Anegondi**.
साम्राज्य की स्थापना स्वामी विजयरण्य ने 1336 में तुंगभद्रा नदी के किनारे अनेगोंडी नामक स्थान पर की थी।
- Swami Vijayaranya was well supported by **Harihara** and **Bukka**, both of whom were commanders of **King Pratap Rudra** of the **Kakatiya dynasty (Warangal)**.



स्वामी विजयराण्य को हरिहर और बुक्का का अच्छा समर्थन प्राप्त था, जो वारंगल के काकतीय वंश के राजा प्रताप रुद्र के सेनापति थे।

- They were captured by **Muhammad bin Tughlaq**, converted to **Islam**, and appointed as governors of **Kampili in Karnataka**.

उन्हें मुहम्मद बिन तुगलक ने बंदी बना लिया, इस्लाम में परिवर्तित कर दिया, और कर्नाटक के कंपिली का गवर्नर नियुक्त किया।

- They were reconverted to **Hinduism** by **Swami Vijayaranya** in the **Virupaksha Temple in Hampi**.

स्वामी विजयराण्य ने उन्हें हम्पी के विरुपाक्ष मंदिर में हिंदू धर्म में पुनः परिवर्तित किया।

- **Harihara Raya** was defeated by **Bahmani Sultan Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah**.
हरिहर राय को बहमनी सुल्तान अलाउद्दीन हसन बहमन शाह ने पराजित किया।

- The main cause of frequent wars between **Vijayanagara rulers** and the **Bahmani Sultanate** was the control over the **Raichur Doab (land between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers)**.

विजयनगर शासकों और बहमनी सल्तनत के बीच बार-बार होने वाले युद्धों का मुख्य कारण रायचूर दोआब (जो कृष्णा और तुंगभद्रा नदी के बीच की भूमि है) पर नियंत्रण था।

- **Bukka Raya** sent a delegation to **China**.

बुक्का राय ने चीन में एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल भेजा।

- He resolved conflicts between **Vaishnavas** and **Jains**.

उन्होंने वैष्णवों और जैनों के बीच संघर्षों को हल किया।

- **Bukka's son, Veera Kampana Raya**, conquered **Madurai**.

बुक्का के पुत्र वीर कंपन राय ने मदुरै पर विजय प्राप्त की।

- **Veera Kampana's wife, Ganga Devi**, wrote *Madura Vijayam* in **Sanskrit**.

वीर कंपन राय की पत्नी गंगा देवी ने संस्कृत में *मदुरा विजयम* ग्रंथ लिखा।

Dev Raya-I and Dev Raya-II

देव राय-I और देव राय-II

Dev Raya-I built a **dam** on river **Tungabhadra** at **Hampi**.

देव राय-I ने हम्पी में तुंगभद्रा नदी पर एक बांध बनाया।



According to Persian chronicler **Perista**, a war took place between **Dev Raya-I** and **Bahmani Sultan Taj-ud-din Firoz Shah** for the sake of **Nahal**, the beautiful daughter of a blacksmith.

फारसी इतिहासकार **पेरिस्ता** के अनुसार, **देव राय-I** और **बहमनी सुल्तान ताज-उद-दीन फिरोज शाह** के बीच **नाहल**, एक **लोहार की सुंदर बेटी** के कारण **युद्ध** हुआ।

Dev Raya-II was the greatest of the dynasty, called **Prauda Dev Raya** for his **perfection in 64 types of arts**.

देव राय-II अपने **64 प्रकार की कलाओं में निपुणता** के कारण **प्रौढ़ देव राय** कहलाए और वे इस वंश के सबसे महान शासक थे।

His title was **Gajabetkara** (expert in hunting animals).

उनका **उपाधि गजABETकार** थी (जो शिकार करने में निपुण थे)।

Persian ambassador **Abdul Razak** and Italian traveler **Nicolo Conti** both visited **Hampi** during the times of **Dev Raya-II**.

फारसी राजदूत **अब्दुल रज़ाक** और इतालवी यात्री **निकोलो कॉन्टी** दोनों ने **देव राय-II** के शासनकाल में **हम्पी** का दौरा किया।

Both described the **prosperity** of the city of **Hampi** and declared that **Dev Raya-II** was the **richest king of India**.

दोनों ने **हम्पी** की **समृद्धि** का वर्णन किया और **देव राय-II** को **भारत का सबसे धनी राजा** बताया।

Dev Raya-II employed **Muslims** to train **Vijayanagar cavalry forces**.

देव राय-II ने **विजयनगर की घुड़सवार सेना** को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए **मुसलमानों** को नियुक्त किया।

He respected the **holy Quran** and built a **mosque** for **Muslims** in **Hampi**.

उन्होंने **पवित्र कुरान** का सम्मान किया और **हम्पी** में **मुसलमानों** के लिए एक **मस्जिद** बनवाई।

He conducted a **literary council** called **Mutyalasala**.

उन्होंने **मुत्यालसाला** नामक एक **साहित्य परिषद** का आयोजन किया।

He conferred the title **Emperor of Poets** on **Sreenath**, the **Telugu poet**.

उन्होंने **तेलुगु कवि श्रीनाथ** को **कवियों का सम्राट** की उपाधि दी।



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Dev Raya-II himself was a great **scholar** and wrote **Mahanataka Sudha Nidhi** on **Carnatic music**.

देव राय-II स्वयं एक महान विद्वान थे और उन्होंने कर्नाटक संगीत पर महानाटक सुधा निधि नामक ग्रंथ लिखा।

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Downsizing at NOAA Will Impact India, Says Congress

NOAA में कटौती का भारत पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा, कांग्रेस ने कहा

Downsizing
at NOAA will
impact India,
says Congress

GS Paper I:
Geography

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday expressed its concern over the reported downsizing at the U.S.'s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its impact on India.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said on X that the country would have to enhance its own research capacity and capability in earth sciences very significantly.

Sharing a media report claiming that the move to downsize the U.S. meteorological body could hurt its data collection, Mr. Ramesh said, "Right now the Modi government's priority appears to be a trade deal to deal with President Donald Trump's threats on tariffs. But his actions in other areas could have adverse impacts on India."

"The NOAA has been of great importance to our understanding of the monsoon," he said, adding that it collected global data on parameters such as temperature, salinity, and sea levels. Ocean data used for monsoon forecasts since 2009 had come largely from the NOAA, he pointed out, and said it contributed about 40% of the subsurface observations in the Indian Ocean while India contributes around 11%.

"It is not just for India – the NOAA is a global public good essential to monitoring and managing climate change. It faces an uncertain future," Mr. Ramesh noted.

- The Congress party expressed concern over the downsizing of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its impact on India.

कांग्रेस पार्टी ने अमेरिका के राष्ट्रीय महासागरीय और वायुमंडलीय प्रशासन (NOAA) में कटौती और इसके भारत पर प्रभाव को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की।

- Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh stated that India must enhance its research capacity in earth sciences significantly.

कांग्रेस संचार प्रमुख जयराम रमेश ने कहा कि भारत को पृथ्वी विज्ञान में अपनी अनुसंधान क्षमता को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है।

- He shared a media report claiming that the downsizing of NOAA could hamper data collection, affecting monsoon predictions.

उन्होंने एक मीडिया रिपोर्ट साझा की, जिसमें कहा गया कि NOAA में कटौती से डेटा संग्रह प्रभावित हो सकता है, जिससे मानसून पूर्वानुमानों पर असर पड़ेगा।

- Mr. Ramesh stated that the Modi government's current priority appears to be a trade deal with the U.S. to counter President Donald Trump's tariff threats.

श्री रमेश ने कहा कि मोदी सरकार की वर्तमान प्राथमिकता अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के शुल्क खतरों से निपटने के लिए एक व्यापार समझौता करना है।

NOAA's Role in Monsoon Prediction

मानसून पूर्वानुमान में NOAA की भूमिका

- NOAA has played a crucial role in understanding the monsoon, as it collects global climate data on temperature, salinity, and sea levels.

NOAA ने मानसून को समझने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है, क्योंकि यह तापमान, लवणता और समुद्र स्तर पर वैश्विक जलवायु डेटा एकत्र करता है।

- Since 2009, ocean data for monsoon forecasts has largely come from NOAA, contributing about 40% of subsurface observations in the Indian Ocean.



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2009 से, NOAA द्वारा प्रदान किया गया महासागरीय डेटा मानसून पूर्वानुमानों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण रहा है, और यह हिंद महासागर में लगभग 40% उपसतही अवलोकनों का योगदान देता है।

- In comparison, India contributes around 11% of subsurface observations in the Indian Ocean.

इसके विपरीत, भारत हिंद महासागर में केवल 11% उपसतही अवलोकनों का योगदान देता है।

Global Impact of NOAA's Downsizing

NOAA में कटौती का वैश्विक प्रभाव

- NOAA is not just important for India, but it is a **global public good** essential for monitoring and managing climate change.
NOAA केवल भारत के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि यह जलवायु परिवर्तन की निगरानी और प्रबंधन के लिए एक वैश्विक सार्वजनिक संसाधन है।
- Mr. Ramesh warned that NOAA faces an **uncertain future**, which could have long-term consequences for global climate research.
श्री रमेश ने चेतावनी दी कि NOAA का भविष्य अनिश्चित है, जिससे वैश्विक जलवायु अनुसंधान पर दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

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

1. PM Modi mocks Cong. with 'those with zero seats' jibe on first day of Gujarat tour

पीएम मोदी ने गुजरात दौरे के पहले दिन 'शून्य सीट वाले' तंज से कांग्रेस पर निशाना साधा

2. Ranveer Allahbadia, Apoorva Mukhija apologise to NCW

रणवीर अल्लाहबादिया, अपूर्वा मुखिजा ने NCW से माफी मांगी

3. Plight of prisoners with disabilities needs attention: SC

विकलांग कैदियों की दुर्दशा पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

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4.Philippines set to sign agreement for troop deployment with Canada

फिलीपींस कनाडा के साथ सैन्य तैनाती समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए तैयार

5.Monitor says Syria security forces 'executed' 52 Alawites in Latakia

निगरानी संस्था का दावा: सीरिया की सुरक्षा बलों ने लटाकिया में 52 अलावी लोगों को 'फांसी दी'

6.Trump writes to Iran's top leader asking him to open nuclear dialogue

ट्रंप ने ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता को पत्र लिखकर परमाणु वार्ता शुरू करने की अपील की

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PM Modi mocks Cong. with 'those with zero seats' jibe on first day of Gujarat tour

GS Paper II: PM Mudra Yojana

Press Trust of India

SILVASSA/SURAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday stressed the need to reduce weight as he cited a report claiming that nearly 44 crore people in India may be obese by 2050, and described the figure as "huge and scary". He also took a swipe at the Congress, saying those who have zero seats may not be able to count the zeros in Central loans.

On the first day of his two-day tour of Gujarat and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, the Prime Minister inaugurated as well as performed groundbreaking ceremony for projects worth ₹2,587 crore for the UT, and launched a Food Security Saturation Campaign in Surat, Gujarat.



PM Narendra Modi with Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel during the launch of Food Security Saturation Campaign in Surat on Friday. PTI

He addressed gatherings in Silvassa and later at Surat.

'Control obesity'

Speaking in Silvassa, Mr. Modi called obesity the root cause of many diseases and urged people to fight the chronic health condition by doing regular physical exercises and reducing edible oil consumption by 10%.

From Silvassa, the PM travelled to Surat, where he launched the food security campaign. In his address, Mr. Modi took a swipe at the Congress, saying those who have zero seats may not be able to count the zeros in ₹32 lakh crore loans disbursed by the Centre under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana targeted at micro enterprises.

PM Modi mocks Cong. with 'those with zero seats' jibe on first day of Gujarat tour



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पीएम मोदी ने गुजरात दौरे के पहले दिन 'शून्य सीट वाले' तंज से कांग्रेस पर निशाना साधा

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday stressed the need to reduce weight, citing a report that nearly **44 crore people in India may be obese by 2050**, calling the figure "huge and scary."

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शुक्रवार को वजन कम करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया और एक रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए बताया कि 2050 तक भारत में लगभग 44 करोड़ लोग मोटापे के शिकार हो सकते हैं, इसे "भारी और डरावना" बताया।

- He also took a **swipe at Congress**, saying **those with zero seats** may not be able to **count the zeros** in Central loans.
उन्होंने कांग्रेस पर तंज कसते हुए कहा कि जिनके पास शून्य सीटें हैं, वे केंद्रीय ऋणों में शून्य गिनने में सक्षम नहीं हो सकते।
- On the first day of his two-day tour of Gujarat and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, PM Modi inaugurated and performed **groundbreaking ceremonies** for projects worth **₹2,587 crore** for the UT.
गुजरात और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश दादरा और नगर हवेली, दमन और दीव के दो दिवसीय दौरे के पहले दिन, पीएम मोदी ने ₹2,587 करोड़ के परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और शिलान्यास किया।
- He also launched the **Food Security Saturation Campaign** in **Surat, Gujarat**.
उन्होंने सूरत, गुजरात में खाद्य सुरक्षा संतृप्ति अभियान भी शुरू किया।
- He addressed **gatherings** in **Silvassa** and later in **Surat**.
उन्होंने सिलवासा और बाद में सूरत में जनसभाओं को संबोधित किया।

'Control obesity'

'मोटापे पर नियंत्रण'

- Speaking in **Silvassa**, Mr. Modi called **obesity the root cause of many diseases** and urged people to **fight the chronic health condition** by doing **regular physical exercises** and **reducing edible oil consumption by 10%**.

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सिलवासा में बोलते हुए, श्री मोदी ने मोटापे को कई बीमारियों की जड़ बताया और लोगों से नियमित शारीरिक व्यायाम करने और खाद्य तेल की खपत 10% तक कम करने का आग्रह किया।

- From **Silvassa**, the PM traveled to **Surat**, where he launched the **food security campaign**.

सिलवासा से पीएम सूरत गए, जहां उन्होंने खाद्य सुरक्षा अभियान शुरू किया।

- In his **address in Surat**, Mr. Modi again took a **swipe at the Congress**, saying those with **zero seats may not be able to count the zeros in ₹32 lakh crore loans** disbursed by the Centre under the **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana** targeted at **micro enterprises**.

सूरत में अपने संबोधन के दौरान, श्री मोदी ने फिर से कांग्रेस पर तंज कसा और कहा कि जिनके पास शून्य सीटें हैं, वे ₹32 लाख करोड़ के ऋण में शून्य गिनने में सक्षम नहीं हो सकते, जो केंद्र सरकार द्वारा प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना के तहत सूक्ष्म उद्यमों को दिया गया है।

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना (पीएमएमवाई)

- Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a flagship scheme launched by the Government of India on **April 8, 2015**, aiming to **provide financial support to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro enterprises**.
- Under this scheme, loans of up to **₹10 lakh** were initially provided to promote entrepreneurship and economic growth.

Key Features of PMMY / पीएमएमवाई की प्रमुख विशेषताएं

- **Objective / उद्देश्य**: To facilitate easy access to finance for small businesses, thereby promoting self-employment and reducing unemployment.
- **Loan Categories / ऋण श्रेणियां**:
 - **Shishu (शिशु)**: Loans up to **₹50,000**.
 - **Kishore (किशोर)**: Loans above **₹50,000** and up to **₹5 lakh**.
 - **Tarun (तरुण)**: Loans above **₹5 lakh** and up to **₹10 lakh**.
 - **Tarun Plus (तरुण प्लस)**: Introduced in **October 2024**, this category covers loans above **₹10 lakh** and up to **₹20 lakh**.



- **Eligibility / पात्रता:** Non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises engaged in manufacturing, trading, or service sectors, including activities allied to agriculture such as poultry, dairy, beekeeping, etc.
- **Funding Partners / वित्तीय साझेदार:** Loans under PMMY are provided by various financial institutions, including Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

Ranveer Allahbadia, Apoorva Mukhija apologise to NCW रणवीर अल्लाहबादिया, अपूर्वा मुखिजा ने NCW से माफी मांगी



GS Paper II: NCW

Ranveer Allahbadia, Apoorva Mukhija apologise to NCW

The National Commission for Women (NCW) said on Friday that YouTubers Ranveer Allahbadia and Apoorva Mukhija have submitted written apologies to the panel over the offensive remarks they had made on the show *India's Got Latent*. Mr. Allahbadia, Ms. Mukhija, and producers of the show had appeared before the commission on Thursday, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said at a press conference. "They said they should not have spoken in such a manner and have now submitted '*maafinama*' (written apology)," the NCW chief said. Meanwhile, the crime branch of the Assam Police on Friday grilled Mr. Allahbadia for his controversial remarks.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) stated on Friday that YouTubers Ranveer Allahbadia and Apoorva Mukhija have submitted a written apology over their offensive remarks on the show *India's Got Latent*.

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (NCW) ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि यूट्यूबर्स रणवीर अल्लाहबादिया और अपूर्वा मुखिजा ने 'इंडियाज़ गॉट लैटेंट' शो में आपत्तिजनक टिप्पणियों को लेकर लिखित माफी सौंपी है।

- Mr. Allahbadia, Ms. Mukhija, and the producers of the show appeared before the commission on Thursday, as confirmed by NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar at a press conference.

श्री अल्लाहबादिया, सुश्री मुखिजा और शो के निर्माता गुरुवार को आयोग के सामने पेश हुए, जिसकी पुष्टि NCW अध्यक्ष विजया रहाटकर ने एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में की।



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- They admitted that they **should not have spoken in such a manner** and have now submitted a **'maafnama' (written apology)**.

उन्होंने स्वीकार किया कि उन्हें इस तरह की भाषा का उपयोग नहीं करना चाहिए था और अब उन्होंने 'माफनामा' (लिखित माफी) सौंप दिया है।

- Meanwhile, the **crime branch of Assam Police on Friday** interrogated **Mr. Allahbadia** for his **controversial remarks**.

इसी बीच, असम पुलिस की अपराध शाखा ने शुक्रवार को श्री अल्लाहबादिया से उनकी विवादित टिप्पणियों के संबंध में पूछताछ की।

National Commission for Women (NCW)

Background:

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) was established in **January 1992** as a **statutory body** under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**.
- It was formed following the recommendations of various committees such as the **Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI)** in **1974**, and the **National Perspective Plan for Women (1988-2000)**, which emphasized the need for a central body to promote, protect, and safeguard the interests of women in India.

Objectives: The NCW aims to:

1. Review constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
2. Recommend legislative measures for redressal.
3. Facilitate grievance redressal.
4. Advise the government on policies affecting women.

Nodal Ministry

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is responsible for coordinating NCW activities.

History

- The **Committee on the Status of Women in India (1974)** played a pivotal role in shaping the foundation for NCW.



- The committee recommended the establishment of a national body to monitor women's issues, provide solutions to grievances, and accelerate their socio-economic development.
- Several recommendations by subsequent committees further pushed for the NCW's creation, such as the **National Perspective Plan for Women (1988-2000)**.
- In **1992**, the NCW was finally constituted to protect, promote, and safeguard women's interests.

Composition and Tenure

The NCW is a **multi-member body** consisting of:

- **Chairperson:** Nominated by the **Central Government**, the Chairperson must be dedicated to women's welfare.
- **Five members:** Nominated from individuals with experience in areas like law, education, trade unions, social work, and more.
- **Member-Secretary:** A civil service officer or expert in organizational management.
- At least **one member** must belong to the **Scheduled Castes** and another from the **Scheduled Tribes**. The tenure of the Chairperson and members is **three years or until she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first**. They can resign or be removed under conditions of insolvency, mental unsoundness, or other misconduct.

Functions of the Commission

1. Investigating and examining safeguards provided under the **Constitution** and other laws for women.
2. Presenting **annual reports** on the working of these safeguards to the **Central Government**.
3. Reviewing existing laws and recommending **amendments** where necessary to address inadequacies or gaps.
4. Addressing complaints of **deprivation of women's rights** and other issues through **suo moto actions** or direct interventions.
5. Undertaking studies, investigations, and research related to women's welfare and gender equality.
6. Participating in socio-economic development planning processes and evaluating the **progress** of women in the country.
7. Inspecting jails, remand homes, or any place of custody involving women.

Powers of the Commission

The NCW has quasi-judicial powers to:

- Summon and enforce the attendance of any person from any part of India.
- Requisition public records and documents.



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- Receive affidavits and issue commissions for witness examination.
- Call for special studies on issues like atrocities against women.
- The NCW can also regulate its own procedures and form committees for specific issues.

Important Data and Facts:

- **Chairperson:** The current chairperson (as of October 2024) is **Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development
- **Key Legislation:** National Commission for Women Act, 1990
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Recent Updates:

- The NCW has launched a **Digital Shakti Campaign** to promote women's safety online. This includes awareness programs to combat cybercrimes against women.
- In 2023, the NCW addressed over **30,000 complaints** regarding women's issues, including domestic violence, harassment, and workplace discrimination.
- The NCW has taken **suo moto** notice of several high-profile cases, including issues of gender-based violence in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.



Plight of prisoners with disabilities needs attention: SC विकलांग कैदियों की दुर्दशा पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

Plight of prisoners with disabilities needs attention: SC

Top court issues notice to Centre on plea that highlighted the trauma and inhumane conditions suffered by G.N. Saibaba and Stan Swamy

GS Paper II: PwD

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said a petition highlighting the trauma and inhumane conditions suffered by Professor G.N. Saibaba and the elderly Stan Swamy raised a "serious" issue about the lack of disabled-friendly accommodation and facilities in prisons across the country.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta agreed with advocate Kaleeswaram Raj, representing petitioner Sathyan Nadavoor, that even the **Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016 did not contain a legal framework to protect the rights of prisoners with disabilities and provide them "reasonable accommodation"**.

Both judges said the specific issue had not been adjudicated by the top court and needed serious attention. The court issued formal notice to the Union government.

"The demise of Prof.



Major drawback: The Persons with Disabilities Act does not have a legal framework to protect the rights of prisoners, said the plea.

G.N. Saibaba, a scholar and human rights activist with disabilities, was directly attributable to his deteriorating health, exacerbated by prolonged incarceration and the inhumane conditions of his detention. Stan Swamy also struggled with disability due to **Parkinson's syndrome** and died while in prison. He was denied medical treatment and basic support," the petition submitted.

"There are no provisions for disabled prisoners that provide for their specific needs. **They are still housed in the same fa-**

ilities as non-disabled inmates, thereby receiving similar treatment regardless of their specialised requirements. This vitiates the purpose of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016," the petition noted.

The prison manuals of most States continue to **lack mandatory provisions for ramps and other accessibility measures in prisons.** This failure persists in matters of basic mobility within prison premises, in direct contravention of the statutory requirements set forth by the Act, it said.

The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday stated that a petition highlighting the trauma and inhumane conditions faced by Professor G.N. Saibaba and Stan Swamy raised a serious issue regarding the lack of disabled-friendly facilities in prisons across India.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट (SC) ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि प्रोफेसर जी.एन. साईबाबा और स्टेन स्वामी द्वारा झेली गई यातना और अमानवीय परिस्थितियों को उजागर करने वाली याचिका ने भारत की जेलों में विकलांगों के अनुकूल सुविधाओं की कमी पर गंभीर मुद्दा उठाया है।

• A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta agreed with advocate Kaleeswaram Raj, representing petitioner Sathyan Nadavoor, that even the **Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, does not provide a legal framework for protecting the rights of disabled prisoners.**

न्यायमूर्ति विक्रम नाथ और संदीप मेहता की

पीठ ने याचिकाकर्ता सत्यन नदवूर के वकील कलीश्वरम राज की इस दलील से सहमति जताई कि



विकलांग व्यक्तियों का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2016 भी विकलांग कैदियों के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा के लिए कोई कानूनी ढांचा प्रदान नहीं करता।

- The court issued a formal notice to the Union government, emphasizing the need for serious attention on this issue.

अदालत ने केंद्र सरकार को औपचारिक नोटिस जारी किया, और इस मुद्दे पर गंभीर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता जताई।

Death of G.N. Saibaba and Stan Swamy

जी.एन. साईबाबा और स्टेन स्वामी की मौत

- The petition claimed that the death of Professor G.N. Saibaba, a human rights activist with disabilities, was directly caused by his deteriorating health due to prolonged incarceration and inhumane prison conditions.

याचिका में कहा गया कि विकलांग मानवाधिकार कार्यकर्ता प्रोफेसर जी.एन. साईबाबा की मृत्यु उनके लंबे कारावास और अमानवीय जेल स्थितियों के कारण बिगड़ती स्वास्थ्य स्थिति के चलते हुई।

- Stan Swamy, who suffered from Parkinson's syndrome, was also denied proper medical treatment and basic support, leading to his death in prison.

स्टेन स्वामी, जो पार्किंसंस सिंड्रोम से पीड़ित थे, उन्हें भी उचित चिकित्सा उपचार और बुनियादी सहायता नहीं दी गई, जिसके कारण उनकी जेल में मृत्यु हो गई।

Lack of Provisions for Disabled Prisoners

विकलांग कैदियों के लिए प्रावधानों की कमी

- There are no special provisions in prisons for disabled inmates, and they are housed in the same facilities as non-disabled prisoners.

जेलों में विकलांग कैदियों के लिए कोई विशेष प्रावधान नहीं हैं, और उन्हें सामान्य कैदियों के साथ ही रखा जाता है।

- This violates the purpose of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which aims to ensure equal rights and facilities for disabled individuals.

यह विकलांग व्यक्तियों के अधिकार अधिनियम, 2016 के उद्देश्य का उल्लंघन करता है, जो विकलांग व्यक्तियों को समान अधिकार और सुविधाएं सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बनाया गया था।

- The prison manuals of most States do not have mandatory provisions for ramps and accessibility measures, leading to mobility challenges for disabled prisoners.

अधिकांश राज्यों की जेल नियमावलियों में रैंप और अन्य आवश्यक सुविधाओं के अनिवार्य प्रावधान नहीं हैं, जिससे विकलांग कैदियों को चलने-फिरने में कठिनाई होती है।



- This lack of accessibility directly contradicts the statutory requirements under the Persons with Disabilities Act.

यह सुविधा की कमी विकलांग व्यक्तियों के अधिकार अधिनियम के तहत निर्धारित कानूनी आवश्यकताओं का उल्लंघन है।

Monitor says Syria security forces 'executed' 52 Alawites in Latakia



GS Paper II: West Asia

REUTERS

A Syrian war monitor said security forces "executed" 52 members of the Alawite minority in Latakia province, while the interior ministry referred to "individual violations". Fierce clashes broke out on Thursday in Latakia province, the heartland of the Alawite faith, an offshoot of Shiite Islam to which the Assad clan belongs. AFP

Monitor says Syria security forces 'executed' 52 Alawites in Latakia

निगरानी संस्था का दावा: सीरिया की सुरक्षा बलों ने लटाकिया में 52 अलावी लोगों को 'फांसी दी'

A Syrian war monitor reported that security forces "executed" 52 members of the Alawite minority in Latakia province.

सीरिया के युद्ध निगरानी संगठन ने बताया कि सुरक्षा बलों ने लटाकिया प्रांत में अलावी अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के 52

लोगों को "फांसी" दी।

- The Syrian interior ministry referred to these actions as "individual violations" rather than an organized operation.

सीरिया के गृह मंत्रालय ने इन घटनाओं को "व्यक्तिगत उल्लंघन" करार दिया, न कि संगठित अभियान।

- Fierce clashes broke out on Thursday in Latakia province, the heartland of the Alawite faith, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, to which the Assad clan belongs.

गुरुवार को लटाकिया प्रांत में भीषण झड़पें हुईं, जो कि अलावी समुदाय का केंद्र है। अलावी समुदाय शिया इस्लाम का एक शाखा समूह है और असद परिवार इसी समुदाय से संबंध रखता है



Alawites / अलाईट्स

- Alawites are an **Arab ethnoreligious group** primarily residing in the **Levant region** of West Asia.
- They follow **Alawism**, a sect of Islam that emerged as a branch of Shia Islam during the **9th century**.

Historical Background / ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- **Origins / उत्पत्ति:** The Alawite faith was founded by **Ibn Nusayr** in the **9th century**. He was a disciple of the **tenth Twelver Imam, Ali al-Hadi**, and the **eleventh Twelver Imam, Hasan al-Askari**. Due to this lineage, Alawites are also referred to as **Nusayris**.

Beliefs and Practices / विश्वास और प्रथाएँ

- **Veneration of Ali / अली की पूजा:** Alawites hold **Ali ibn Abi Talib**, the cousin and son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad, in high esteem, considering him a manifestation of the divine essence.
- **Syncretic Elements / समन्वित तत्व:** Their religious practices incorporate aspects from various beliefs, including **Islamic, Christian, Gnostic, and Neoplatonic** traditions.

Demographics / जनसांख्यिकी

- **Syria / सीरिया:** Alawites constitute a significant portion of the Syrian population, estimated between **2 to 3 million** individuals.
- **Turkey / तुर्की:** Approximately **500,000 to 1 million** Alawites reside in the **Hatay Province**.
- **Lebanon / लेबनान:** The Alawite community in Lebanon numbers around **180,000** individuals.



Philippines set to sign agreement for troop deployment with Canada

MANILA

Philippines set to sign agreement for troop deployment with Canada



GS Paper II: South East Asia

AP

The Philippines and Canada have negotiated a deal for the deployment of troops, Manila said on Friday. While the two parties held talks, no timetable was given for the deal. Manila already has similar pacts with the United States, Australia and Japan, against a backdrop of China's actions in the disputed South China Sea. AFP

फिलीपींस कनाडा के साथ सैन्य तैनाती समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए तैयार

The Philippines and Canada have negotiated a deal for the deployment of troops, as announced by Manila on Friday.

फिलीपींस और कनाडा ने सैनिकों की तैनाती के लिए एक समझौते पर चर्चा की है, जिसे मनीला ने शुक्रवार को घोषित किया।

• While the two parties held talks, no timetable was given for the finalization of the deal.

दोनों पक्षों के बीच बातचीत हुई, लेकिन समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए कोई समयसीमा तय नहीं की गई।

• Manila already has similar agreements with the United States, Australia, and Japan, amid tensions over China's actions in the disputed South China Sea.

मनीला के पहले से ही अमेरिका, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और जापान के साथ इसी तरह के समझौते हैं, जो कि दक्षिण चीन सागर में चीन की गतिविधियों के कारण बढ़ते तनाव के बीच किया गया है।



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Trump writes to Iran's top leader asking him to open nuclear dialogue

ट्रंप ने ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता को पत्र लिखकर परमाणु वार्ता शुरू करने की अपील की

Trump writes to Iran's top leader asking him to open nuclear dialogue

'I hope you are going to negotiate because if we have to go in militarily it's going to be a terrible thing for them,' says the U.S. President; we will not enter any direct talks with U.S. so long as they continue their maximum pressure policy, says Tehran

GS Paper II: US-Iran

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said he has written to Iran pressing for talks on preventing the development of nuclear weapons, warning it faces possible military action if not.

Iran's Foreign Minister said on Friday that the country would not negotiate so long as the United States applies "maximum pressure," but he was not responding directly to Mr. Trump's letter.

Mr. Trump's outreach marks a departure at least in tone from the hardline stance in the Republican



Bitter lesson: The JCPOA deal between the U.S. and Iran fell apart after Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018. AP

leader's first term and could cause a rift with close ally Israel, which last year carried out bombing strikes inside Iran.

Mr. Trump said he

wrote a letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei telling him that a negotiated solution "will be a lot better for Iran."

"I have written them a

letter, saying I hope you are going to negotiate because if we have to go in militarily it's going to be a terrible thing for them," Mr. Trump told *Fox Business* in a clip broadcast on Friday. "You can't let them have a nuclear weapon."

A landmark 2015 deal negotiated under former President Barack Obama – known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear program in return for sanctions relief.

It fell apart after Mr. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the agreement in 2018 in his first presidential term and reimposed

sweeping sanctions.

Iran has been cautious about a return to diplomacy since the collapse of the JCPOA.

Iran's warnings

"We will not enter any direct negotiations with the U.S. so long as they continue their maximum pressure policy and their threats," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an Organization of Islamic Cooperation meeting in Jeddah, Mr. Araghchi also warned that Iran's nuclear program "cannot be destroyed through military operations."

U.S. President Donald Trump said he has written to Iran urging for talks on preventing nuclear weapons

development, warning of possible military action if Iran refuses.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा कि उन्होंने ईरान को पत्र लिखा है, जिसमें परमाणु हथियारों के विकास को रोकने के लिए बातचीत करने की अपील की गई है और इन्कार करने पर सैन्य कार्रवाई की चेतावनी दी गई है।

- Iran's Foreign Minister stated on Friday that Iran will not negotiate as long as the U.S. continues its "maximum pressure" policy.

ईरान के विदेश मंत्री ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि जब तक अमेरिका अपनी "अधिकतम दबाव" नीति जारी रखेगा, तब तक ईरान कोई बातचीत नहीं करेगा।

Trump's Shift in Approach

ट्रंप के रुख में बदलाव



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- **Trump's letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei signals a shift in tone from his previous hardline stance.**
ट्रंप का पत्र ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता अयातुल्लाह अली खामेनेई को भेजा गया, जिससे उनके पहले के कठोर रुख में बदलाव का संकेत मिलता है।
- **The move could cause a rift with close ally Israel, which conducted airstrikes inside Iran last year.**
यह कदम इसराइल के साथ तनाव पैदा कर सकता है, जिसने पिछले साल ईरान में हवाई हमले किए थे।
- **Trump said a negotiated solution would be "a lot better for Iran" than military action.**
ट्रंप ने कहा कि सैन्य कार्रवाई से बेहतर यह होगा कि ईरान वार्ता के माध्यम से समाधान निकाले।
- **"If we have to go in militarily, it's going to be a terrible thing for them," Trump told Fox Business on Friday.**
"अगर हमें सैन्य कार्रवाई करनी पड़ी, तो यह ईरान के लिए बहुत बुरा होगा," ट्रंप ने शुक्रवार को फॉक्स बिजनेस को बताया।

Background of U.S.-Iran Nuclear Talks

अमेरिका-ईरान परमाणु वार्ता का इतिहास

- **In 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was negotiated under former President Barack Obama, imposing curbs on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.**
2015 में, पूर्व राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा के कार्यकाल में संयुक्त व्यापक कार्य योजना (JCPOA) समझौता हुआ, जिसने ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम पर प्रतिबंध लगाए और बदले में प्रतिबंधों में छूट दी।
- **In 2018, Trump withdrew the U.S. from the JCPOA and reimposed sanctions, leading to increased tensions.**
2018 में, ट्रंप ने अमेरिका को JCPOA से बाहर कर लिया और फिर से प्रतिबंध लगाए, जिससे तनाव बढ़ गया।
- **Since the JCPOA's collapse, Iran has been cautious about re-entering diplomatic negotiations.**
JCPOA समझौते के टूटने के बाद से, ईरान फिर से कूटनीतिक वार्ता में शामिल होने को लेकर सतर्क है।

Iran's Response and Warnings

ईरान की प्रतिक्रिया और चेतावनी

- **Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stated that Iran will not enter direct talks with the U.S. as long as their maximum pressure policy continues.**
ईरान के विदेश मंत्री अब्बास अराघची ने कहा कि जब तक अमेरिका की अधिकतम दबाव नीति जारी

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रहेगी, तब तक ईरान प्रत्यक्ष वार्ता में शामिल नहीं होगा।

- Speaking at an **Organization of Islamic Cooperation meeting in Jeddah**, Araghchi warned that Iran's nuclear program "cannot be destroyed through military operations".

जेद्दा में इस्लामिक सहयोग संगठन की बैठक में बोलते हुए, अराघची ने चेतावनी दी कि ईरान का परमाणु कार्यक्रम "सैन्य अभियानों के माध्यम से नष्ट नहीं किया जा सकता"।

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

संयुक्त व्यापक कार्य योजना (JCPOA)

- The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**, commonly known as the **Iran nuclear deal**, is an agreement aimed at limiting Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.
- **संयुक्त व्यापक कार्य योजना (JCPOA)**, जिसे आमतौर पर **ईरान परमाणु समझौता** के रूप में जाना जाता है, का उद्देश्य ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम को सीमित करना है, बदले में आर्थिक प्रतिबंधों को हटाना।

Background and Negotiations

पृष्ठभूमि और वार्ताएँ

- Formal negotiations began with the adoption of the **Joint Plan of Action** in **November 2013**, an interim agreement between Iran and the **P5+1 countries (China, France, Russia, the UK, the US, plus Germany)** along with the European Union.
- औपचारिक वार्ताएँ **नवंबर 2013** में **संयुक्त कार्य योजना** को अपनाने के साथ शुरू हुईं, जो ईरान और P5+1 देशों (चीन, फ्रांस, रूस, यूके, यूएस, प्लस जर्मनी) और यूरोपीय संघ के बीच एक अंतरिम समझौता था।
- After **20 months** of negotiations, the JCPOA was finalized in **Vienna on 14 July 2015**.
- **20 महीनों** की वार्ताओं के बाद, JCPOA को **14 जुलाई 2015** को **वियना में अंतिम रूप दिया गया**।

Key Provisions of the JCPOA

JCPOA के मुख्य प्रावधान

- **Uranium Enrichment:** Iran agreed to limit its uranium enrichment to **3.67%** and reduce its stockpile of enriched uranium.
- **यूरेनियम संवर्धन:** ईरान ने अपने यूरेनियम संवर्धन को **3.67%** तक सीमित करने और संवर्धियूरेनियम के भंडार को कम करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।



- **Centrifuges:** The number of centrifuges was reduced, limiting Iran's capacity to enrich uranium.
- **सेंट्रीफ्यूज:** सेंट्रीफ्यूज की संख्या कम की गई, जिससे ईरान की यूरेनियम संवर्धन क्षमता सीमित हुई।
- **Inspections:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was granted access to monitor and verify Iran's compliance.
- **निरीक्षण:** अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA) को ईरान की अनुपालन की निगरानी और सत्यापन के लिए पहुँच प्रदान की गई।

Implementation and Challenges

कार्यान्वयन और चुनौतियाँ

- The agreement took effect on **20 January 2016**.
- यह समझौता **20 जनवरी 2016** को प्रभावी हुआ।
- In **May 2018**, the United States withdrew from the JCPOA and reinstated sanctions on Iran under the "maximum pressure" policy.
- **मई 2018** में, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने JCPOA से हटकर ईरान पर "अधिकतम दबाव" नीति के तहत प्रतिबंध फिर से लागू किए।
- In response, Iran began breaching certain limits set by the agreement, including exceeding uranium enrichment levels.
- जवाब में, ईरान ने समझौते द्वारा निर्धारित कुछ सीमाओं का उल्लंघन करना शुरू किया, जिसमें यूरेनियम संवर्धन स्तर को पार करना शामिल है।

Recent Developments

हाल के विकास

- As of **March 2025**, diplomatic efforts are ongoing to revive the JCPOA.
- **मार्च 2025** तक, JCPOA को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए कूटनीतिक प्रयास जारी हैं।



- Russia has offered to mediate between the United States and Iran to resolve tensions related to Iran's nuclear program.
रूस ने ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम से संबंधित तनाव को हल करने के लिए संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच मध्यस्थता की पेशकश की है।
The IAEA continues to monitor Iran's nuclear activities and has reported that Iran is enriching uranium beyond the levels necessary for civilian purposes.
- IAEA ईरान की परमाणु गतिविधियों की निगरानी जारी रखे हुए है और उसने बताया है कि ईरान नागरिक उद्देश्यों के लिए आवश्यक स्तरों से परे यूरेनियम का संवर्धन कर रहा है।

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

1. Teach MBBS, engineering in Tamil, Shah tells Stalin

अमित शाह ने स्टालिन से एमबीबीएस, इंजीनियरिंग को तमिल में पढ़ाने का आग्रह किया

2. Now, CPCB tells green tribunal Maha Kumbh water fit for bathing

अब, CPCB ने ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल को बताया कि महाकुंभ का पानी स्नान योग्य है

3. Diversify now: India needs to expand its trading base to overcome global headwinds

विविधीकरण आवश्यक: भारत को वैश्विक आर्थिक चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए अपने व्यापारिक आधार का विस्तार करना चाहिए

Teach MBBS, engineering in Tamil, Shah tells Stalin



अमित शाह ने स्टालिन से एमबीबीएस, इंजीनियरिंग को तमिल में पढ़ाने का आग्रह किया

Teach MBBS, engineering in Tamil, Shah tells Stalin

GS Paper III: IS

B. Kolappan
THAKKOLAM

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to impart medical and engineering education in Tamil.

Addressing the 56th CISF Raising Day at the newly named Rajaditya Cholan Recruits Training Centre (RTC) here in Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Shah said various States had offered courses in their regional language.

The Minister's suggestion comes amid Mr. Stalin's allegation that the Union government was trying



Amit Shah

to impose Hindi on the southern States through the National Education Policy.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister too should take steps to teach medical and technical courses in Tamil. "It will benefit Tamil medium students along with strengthening Tamil as a

mother tongue," he said.

Incidentally, Tamil Nadu had introduced Tamil medium BE/BTech courses in 2010 under the Karunanidhi government.

Words of praise

Praising Tamil Nadu, Mr. Shah said whether it was "administrative reforms, achieving spiritual heights, setting educational standards, or promoting the message of unity and integrity of the country", the State had greatly strengthened Indian culture in every field.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to introduce medical and engineering education in Tamil.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने शुक्रवार को तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन से मेडिकल और इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा तमिल में शुरू करने का आग्रह किया।

- Speaking at the 56th CISF

Raising Day at the Rajaditya Cholan Recruits Training Centre (RTC) in Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu, he emphasized that several States had introduced courses in their regional languages.

तमिलनाडु के रानीपेट जिले में स्थित राजादित्य चोलन रिक्रूट्स ट्रेनिंग सेंटर (RTC) में 56वें CISF स्थापना दिवस समारोह में बोलते हुए, उन्होंने बताया कि कई राज्यों ने अपनी क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में पाठ्यक्रम शुरू किए हैं।

- The suggestion comes amid M.K. Stalin's allegations that the Union government is trying to impose Hindi on southern States through the National Education Policy (NEP).

यह सुझाव ऐसे समय आया है जब एम.के. स्टालिन ने केंद्र सरकार पर राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) के माध्यम से दक्षिणी राज्यों पर हिंदी थोपने का आरोप लगाया है।



- Mr. Shah urged the Tamil Nadu government to take steps to introduce medical and technical courses in Tamil, stating that it would benefit Tamil-medium students and strengthen Tamil as a mother tongue.
श्री शाह ने तमिलनाडु सरकार से आग्रह किया कि वह मेडिकल और तकनीकी पाठ्यक्रम तमिल में पढ़ाने की व्यवस्था करे, क्योंकि इससे तमिल माध्यम के छात्रों को लाभ मिलेगा और तमिल भाषा को मजबूती मिलेगी।
- Incidentally, Tamil Nadu had introduced Tamil-medium BE/BTech courses in 2010 under the Karunanidhi government.
संयोगवश, तमिलनाडु में 2010 में करुणानिधि सरकार के दौरान तमिल माध्यम में BE/BTech पाठ्यक्रम शुरू किए गए थे।

Words of Praise for Tamil Nadu

तमिलनाडु की सराहना

- Amit Shah praised Tamil Nadu, saying that the State has played a significant role in administrative reforms, spiritual achievements, setting educational standards, and promoting national unity.
अमित शाह ने तमिलनाडु की प्रशंसा की, यह कहते हुए कि राज्य ने प्रशासनिक सुधारों, आध्यात्मिक उपलब्धियों, शैक्षिक मानकों को स्थापित करने और राष्ट्रीय एकता को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।
- He acknowledged that Tamil Nadu has greatly contributed to strengthening Indian culture in multiple fields.
उन्होंने यह भी स्वीकार किया कि तमिलनाडु ने भारतीय संस्कृति को विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में मजबूत करने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है।

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (CISF)

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a central armed police force in India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (CISF) भारत में गृह मंत्रालय के अधीन एक केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल है।

Establishment and Evolution

स्थापना और विकास



- **Established on 10 March 1969** with an initial strength of 2,800 personnel, CISF was created to provide integrated security cover to public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- **10 मार्च 1969 को स्थापित**, CISF की प्रारंभिक संख्या 2,800 कर्मियों की थी, और इसे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (PSUs) को समेकित सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए बनाया गया था।
- **The CISF Act was enacted in 1968**, and the force was subsequently authorized by another Act of Parliament passed on 15 June 1983, which transformed it into an armed force of the Union.
- **CISF अधिनियम 1968 में अधिनियमित किया गया था**, और बल को बाद में 15 जून 1983 को संसद द्वारा पारित एक अन्य अधिनियम द्वारा अधिकृत किया गया, जिसने इसे संघ का एक सशस्त्र बल बना दिया।

Roles and Responsibilities

भूमिकाएँ और जिम्मेदारियाँ

- **CISF provides security to critical infrastructure installations** such as nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants, and sensitive government buildings.
- **CISF महत्वपूर्ण बुनियादी ढांचा प्रतिष्ठानों** जैसे परमाणु प्रतिष्ठानों, अंतरिक्ष संस्थानों, हवाई अड्डों, समुद्री बंदरगाहों, बिजली संयंत्रों और संवेदनशील सरकारी भवनों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है।
- **The force also offers consultancy services** to private industries and other organizations within the Indian government, including security and fire protection consulting.
- **बल निजी उद्योगों और भारतीय सरकार के अन्य संगठनों को परामर्श सेवाएँ भी प्रदान करता है**, जिसमें सुरक्षा और अग्नि सुरक्षा परामर्श शामिल हैं।

Fire Wing

अग्नि शाखा

- **CISF has a dedicated Fire Wing** responsible for fire protection and firefighting services in industries where it is deployed.
- **CISF की एक समर्पित अग्नि शाखा है**, जो उन उद्योगों में अग्नि सुरक्षा और अग्निशमन सेवाओं के लिए जिम्मेदार है जहाँ इसे तैनात किया गया है।

Recent Developments

हाल के विकास

- **As of May 2024**, CISF took over the security of the Parliament complex, deploying its specialized units for enhanced protection.



- मई 2024 तक, CISF ने संसद परिसर की सुरक्षा का कार्यभार संभाला, उन्नत सुरक्षा के लिए अपनी विशेष इकाइयों को तैनात किया।

Now, CPCB tells green tribunal Maha Kumbh water fit for bathing

अब, CPCB ने ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल को बताया कि महाकुंभ का पानी स्नान योग्य है

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the water at Sangam in Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh was fit for bathing, based on the “median” value of faecal coliform.

Now, CPCB tells green tribunal Maha Kumbh water fit for bathing

GS Paper III:
Pollution

NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the water at the Sangam during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj was fit for bathing after taking the “median” value of faecal coliform (microbes from human and animal excreta) at the confluence into consideration.

This is in contrast to its statement last month, which deemed the water quality unfit due to high levels of faecal coliform.

Data on the CPCB website, however, show that faecal coliform levels exceeded the “desired” and “maximum permissible” levels on multiple days during the Maha Kumbh.

In a report dated February 28 and uploaded on the NGT’s website on March 7, the CPCB stated that statistical analysis revealed median values of pH, dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, and faecal coliform at various ghats were “within the criteria/permissible limits for bathing water”.

According to the report, the CPCB considered the “median value” of 1700 MPN/100 ml for faecal coliform from January 12 to February 22, which is below the maximum permissible level of 2500 MPN/100 ml, but exceeds the desired level of 500 MPN/100 ml.

“These values reflect water quality parameters at the exact time and place from where these samples were collected,” it stated.

केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (CPCB) ने राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (NGT) को सूचित किया कि प्रयागराज में संगम का पानी महाकुंभ के दौरान स्नान योग्य था, जो कि फीकल कोलीफॉर्म (मल जीवाणु) के “माध्यिका” मान पर आधारित था।

- This contradicts CPCB’s statement last month, which had deemed the water unfit due to high levels of faecal coliform.

यह पिछले महीने के CPCB के बयान के विपरीत है, जिसमें पानी को मल जीवाणु की उच्च मात्रा के कारण अयोग्य घोषित किया गया था।

Data Shows Variability in Water Quality

डेटा ने जल गुणवत्ता में बदलाव को दिखाया

- Data on the CPCB website revealed that faecal coliform levels exceeded both the “desired” and



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"maximum permissible" limits on multiple days during the Maha Kumbh.

CPCB वेबसाइट के डेटा से पता चला कि महाकुंभ के दौरान कई दिनों तक फीकल कोलीफॉर्म का स्तर "वांछित" और "अधिकतम स्वीकार्य" सीमा से अधिक था।

- In a report dated February 28, uploaded on the NGT website on March 7, the CPCB stated that statistical analysis showed that pH, dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, and faecal coliform levels at various ghats were within permissible limits for bathing water.
28 फरवरी की रिपोर्ट, जिसे 7 मार्च को NGT की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया गया, में CPCB ने कहा कि विभिन्न घाटों पर pH, घुलित ऑक्सीजन, जैव रासायनिक ऑक्सीजन मांग और फीकल कोलीफॉर्म के स्तर स्नान योग्य पानी के लिए स्वीकृत सीमा के भीतर थे।

Faecal Coliform Levels During Maha Kumbh

महाकुंभ के दौरान फीकल कोलीफॉर्म का स्तर

- The CPCB considered the "median value" of 1700 MPN/100 ml for faecal coliform from January 12 to February 22, which is below the maximum permissible level of 2500 MPN/100 ml but exceeds the desired level of 500 MPN/100 ml.
CPCB ने 12 जनवरी से 22 फरवरी तक फीकल कोलीफॉर्म का "माध्यिका मान" 1700 MPN/100 ml माना, जो कि अधिकतम स्वीकृत सीमा 2500 MPN/100 ml से कम है, लेकिन वांछित स्तर 500 MPN/100 ml से अधिक है।
- The report stated that these values reflect water quality at the exact time and place from where the samples were collected.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि ये मान उन स्थानों और समय को दर्शाते हैं, जहां से नमूने एकत्र किए गए थे।



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GS Paper III: PMI

Diversify now

India needs to expand its trading base to overcome global headwinds

February's sharp rise in the monthly services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), to 59, has provided a welcome relief to investors and policymakers, following the rise in GDP growth numbers, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) for the December quarter of the current fiscal (Q3FY25). The strong rebound in the services PMI, up from 56.5 in January, which marked a 25-month low, helped offset the decline in the manufacturing PMI, which fell to a 14-month low of 56.3 in February. A PMI reading above 50 signals expansion, while anything below this indicates contraction. The PMI survey, conducted every month by S&P Global across over 40 countries, is a key indicator of economic momentum. The fact that manufacturing and services – sectors that have accounted for about 80% of India's GDP since 2010 – remain in expansion mode is positive. This resilience persists despite capital outflows from Indian markets, suggesting that the country's economic fundamentals remain strong. A more telling indicator of long-term economic strength is the quarterly earnings of the Sensex, India's benchmark index comprising 30 of the most valued and actively traded companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The Q3FY25 results point to solid net profit growth for nearly all firms.

However, looming economic risks remain. The threat of reciprocal tariffs announced by United States President Donald Trump, and set to take effect on April 2, poses a challenge for the manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, the services sector is facing a different disruption: the rapid pivot to artificial intelligence (AI)-driven solutions. While the NSO reported 6.2% real GDP growth for Q3FY25, top executives from India's leading IT firms have, at an industry event in Mumbai, cautioned that growth in the sector could be as low as 5.1% in FY25, up from 3.8% in FY24. Although this may seem concerning for an industry that has enjoyed a 16% compounded annual growth rate for nearly 25 years, it still represents an increase of \$29 billion, bringing the sector's expected value to \$283 billion in FY25. In its 2025 Strategic Review report, NASSCOM has identified geopolitical upheavals and rising tariffs as key challenges. But business leaders at the event attributed much of the slowdown to the disruptive impact of AI, which is reducing earnings from new contracts and reshaping hiring and training practices. India's services and manufacturing sectors face a triple challenge: rapid technological transformation, increasing global protectionism, and the potential for a U.S. recession. This could have significant repercussions for India, given that the U.S. remains its largest trading partner. To navigate these headwinds, India must urgently diversify its trading base.

Diversify now: India needs to expand its trading base to overcome global headwinds

विविधीकरण आवश्यक: भारत को वैश्विक आर्थिक चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए अपने व्यापारिक आधार का विस्तार करना चाहिए

February's sharp rise in the monthly services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) to 59 provided relief to investors and policymakers, following the rise in GDP growth numbers for Q3FY25.

फरवरी में सेवा क्षेत्र के मासिक परचेजिंग मैनेजर्स इंडेक्स (PMI) में तेज वृद्धि (59 तक पहुंचना) निवेशकों और नीति-निर्माताओं के लिए राहत लेकर आई, जो Q3FY25 में GDP वृद्धि के आंकड़ों के बाद सामने आई।

• The services PMI rebounded from 56.5 in January, which was a 25-month low, helping to offset the decline in the manufacturing PMI, which fell to a 14-month low of 56.3 in February.

सेवा क्षेत्र का PMI जनवरी में 56.5 से बढ़कर फरवरी में 59 हो गया, जो 25 महीनों का न्यूनतम स्तर था। इससे उत्पादन क्षेत्र के PMI में आई गिरावट की भरपाई हुई, जो फरवरी में 56.3 तक गिर गया (14 महीनों का न्यूनतम स्तर)।

• A PMI above 50 signals expansion, while a PMI below 50 indicates contraction.

50 से अधिक का PMI वृद्धि दर्शाता है, जबकि 50 से कम का PMI संकुचन को दर्शाता है।

• India's manufacturing and services sectors, which account for about 80% of GDP since 2010, remain in expansion mode, showing strong economic fundamentals despite capital

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outflows.

भारत का निर्माण और सेवा क्षेत्र, जो 2010 से GDP का लगभग 80% योगदान देता है, विस्तार की स्थिति में बना हुआ है, जिससे यह संकेत मिलता है कि पूंजी प्रवाह में गिरावट के बावजूद भारत की आर्थिक नींव मजबूत बनी हुई है।

- The Q3FY25 earnings report of the Sensex, which represents 30 of the most valued companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), shows strong net profit growth across nearly all firms.

Q3FY25 में सेंसेक्स की आय रिपोर्ट, जो BSE की 30 प्रमुख कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, लगभग सभी कंपनियों में शुद्ध लाभ में मजबूत वृद्धि दिखाती है।

Looming Economic Risks

आर्थिक जोखिम बढ़ रहे हैं

- U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed reciprocal tariffs, set to take effect on April 2, pose a challenge for India's manufacturing sector.
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा प्रस्तावित पारस्परिक शुल्क, जो 2 अप्रैल से लागू होने वाले हैं, भारत के निर्माण क्षेत्र के लिए एक बड़ी चुनौती बन सकते हैं।
- The services sector is facing disruption due to the rapid shift towards AI-driven solutions.
सेवा क्षेत्र में बाधाएं आ रही हैं, क्योंकि यह तेजी से AI-आधारित समाधानों की ओर बढ़ रहा है।
- While India's real GDP growth for Q3FY25 was reported at 6.2%, industry experts caution that growth in the IT sector could be as low as 5.1% in FY25, up from 3.8% in FY24.
Q3FY25 के लिए भारत की वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि 6.2% रही, लेकिन उद्योग विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी कि FY25 में IT क्षेत्र की वृद्धि केवल 5.1% तक हो सकती है, जो FY24 में 3.8% थी।
- Despite this slowdown, the IT sector is still expected to grow by \$29 billion, reaching a total value of \$283 billion in FY25.
इस मंदी के बावजूद, IT क्षेत्र में \$29 बिलियन की वृद्धि की उम्मीद है, जिससे FY25 में इसका कुल मूल्य \$283 बिलियन हो जाएगा।
- NASSCOM's 2025 Strategic Review report identifies geopolitical upheavals and rising tariffs as major challenges for the sector.
NASSCOM की 2025 की रणनीतिक समीक्षा रिपोर्ट में भू-राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल और बढ़ते शुल्कों को क्षेत्र के लिए प्रमुख चुनौतियों के रूप में चिह्नित किया गया है।
- Business leaders state that AI is disrupting earnings from new contracts and reshaping hiring and training practices.



उद्योग जगत के नेताओं का कहना है कि AI नए अनुबंधों से होने वाली कमाई को प्रभावित कर रहा है और भर्ती और प्रशिक्षण प्रक्रियाओं को बदल रहा है।

Key Challenges for India's Economy

भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए प्रमुख चुनौतियां

- India's services and manufacturing sectors face three major challenges: भारत के सेवा और निर्माण क्षेत्र तीन प्रमुख चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे हैं:
 - Rapid technological transformation (AI integration) तेजी से हो रहा तकनीकी बदलाव (AI का एकीकरण)
 - Increasing global protectionism (rising tariffs, trade restrictions) वैश्विक संरक्षणवाद में वृद्धि (बढ़ते शुल्क, व्यापार प्रतिबंध)
 - The risk of a U.S. recession अमेरिका में मंदी की आशंका
- These challenges are significant because the U.S. remains India's largest trading partner. ये चुनौतियां इसलिए भी गंभीर हैं क्योंकि अमेरिका भारत का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक भागीदार है।
- To mitigate these risks, India must urgently diversify its trading base and reduce dependence on a single market. इन जोखिमों को कम करने के लिए, भारत को अपने व्यापारिक आधार में विविधता लानी होगी और एक ही बाजार पर निर्भरता कम करनी होगी।

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

परचेज़िंग मैनेजर्स इंडेक्स (PMI)

- **Definition:** The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an economic indicator derived from monthly surveys of private sector companies. It reflects the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- **परिभाषा:** परचेज़िंग मैनेजर्स इंडेक्स (PMI) एक आर्थिक सूचकांक है जो निजी क्षेत्र की कंपनियों के मासिक सर्वेक्षणों से प्राप्त होता है। यह विनिर्माण और सेवा क्षेत्रों में आर्थिक रुझानों की वर्तमान दिशा को दर्शाता है।

Key Features of PMI

PMI की प्रमुख विशेषताएं



- **Scale:** The PMI is measured on a scale from **0 to 100**. A **PMI above 50** indicates expansion in the sector, while a **PMI below 50** signifies contraction.
- **स्केल:** PMI को **0 से 100** के पैमाने पर मापा जाता है। **50 से ऊपर** का PMI विस्तार को दर्शाता है, जबकि **50 से नीचे** का PMI संकुचन को इंगित करता है।
- **Components:** The PMI consists of several sub-indices, including:
- **घटक:** PMI कई उप-सूचकांकों से मिलकर बना होता है, जिनमें शामिल हैं:
 - **New Orders:** Measures the level of new orders received.
 - **नए ऑर्डर:** प्राप्त नए ऑर्डरों के स्तर को मापता है।
 - **Production:** Assesses the production levels.
 - **उत्पादन:** उत्पादन स्तरों का मूल्यांकन करता है।
 - **Employment:** Evaluates employment trends.
 - **रोजगार:** रोजगार प्रवृत्तियों का मूल्यांकन करता है।
 - **Supplier Deliveries:** Monitors the speed of supplier deliveries.
 - **आपूर्तिकर्ता डिलीवरी:** आपूर्तिकर्ता डिलीवरी की गति की निगरानी करता है।
 - **Inventory Levels:** Tracks the levels of inventories.



- इन्वेंटरी स्तर: इन्वेंटरी के स्तर को ट्रैक करता है।

Importance of PMI

PMI का महत्व

- **Economic Indicator:** PMI is a leading indicator of economic health, providing insights into business conditions and economic trends.
- **आर्थिक सूचक:** PMI आर्थिक स्वास्थ्य का एक अग्रणी सूचक है, जो व्यावसायिक परिस्थितियों और आर्थिक रुझानों की जानकारी देता है।
- **Decision-Making Tool:** Policymakers and investors use PMI data to make informed decisions regarding monetary policies and investment strategies.
- **निर्णय लेने का उपकरण:** नीति निर्माता और निवेशक मौद्रिक नीतियों और निवेश रणनीतियों के संबंध में सूचित निर्णय लेने के लिए PMI डेटा का उपयोग करते हैं।

Recent Trends in India's PMI

भारत के PMI में हालिया रुझान

- **Manufacturing Sector:** In recent months, India's **manufacturing PMI** has shown fluctuations, reflecting changing demand and supply conditions. A PMI above **50** has indicated steady growth in the sector, while a decline below **50** has signaled contraction.
- **विनिर्माण क्षेत्र:** हाल के महीनों में, भारत का **विनिर्माण PMI** मांग और आपूर्ति की स्थितियों के अनुसार उतार-चढ़ाव दिखा रहा है। **50 से ऊपर** का PMI इस क्षेत्र में स्थिर वृद्धि को दर्शाता है, जबकि **50 से नीचे** का PMI संकुचन का संकेत देता है।



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- **Services Sector:** The **services PMI** has remained strong due to robust demand and a positive business outlook. The sector has contributed significantly to employment generation and economic expansion.
- **सेवा क्षेत्र:** सेवा **PMI** मजबूत मांग और सकारात्मक व्यावसायिक दृष्टिकोण के कारण स्थिर बना हुआ है। यह क्षेत्र रोजगार सृजन और आर्थिक विस्तार में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे रहा है।

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GS Paper III: Disaster Management

Himalayan tragedy

Impact of natural disasters, which are not very predictable, can be controlled

Earlier this week, Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police teams rescued 23 workers who were stuck in a rubble of snow and ice, following an avalanche at Mana village, Uttarakhand. Eight workers died in the disaster, which occurred at a Border Roads Organisation construction site that had housed 54 labourers in eight containers. To say that the rescue operation was arduous would be an understatement. The rescue teams worked in a near-continuous 60-hour shift amidst heavy snowfall at an elevation of 10,500 feet above mean sea level. With the roads blocked by the snow, helicopters were used to evacuate those rescued to the Joshimath Army Hospital – five helicopters from the Indian Army, two from the Indian Air Force and one civilian copter. Along with the sheer physical effort expended in the extraction, the rescue operation employed a drone-based detection system to detect the containers that were buried under several feet of snow, ice and rock.

Avalanches in the Himalayan States, like the one in Mana, which is among the last outposts in Indian territory and close to the border with China, are not uncommon. Villagers here have historically been 'winter-migrants', which means that during the winter months the village is deserted. Coinciding with the ritual closing of the Badrinath temple in November, there is migration to villages lower down, such as Gopeshwar and Jyotirmath, for the winter, with residents returning only when the temple reopens in April or May. This is part of traditional wisdom and has a lot to do with the historical experience of the upper Himalayan stretches being prone to disasters. While these practices may have saved the resident villagers, it still raises the question as to whether the workers – several of them migrants – were adequately aware of the risks of their enterprise. Given the strategic location of the village and the need to develop improved roads for civilian and military access, there will always be a sizeable number of people engaged in activity in regions that are inherently inhospitable and risk-prone. Once disaster strikes, efforts focus on the rescue operation, and once they conclude, there is little reflection on whether preventive measures could have been taken. Avalanches cannot be predicted with precision, but steps can be taken to design containers that are safer to live in and can improve the odds of survival. There is much to learn from the way bomb shelters are imagined or how research stations at Antarctica are designed. All of this requires a greater sensitivity to workers who toil amidst hazards and not merely label these tragedies as inevitable consequences of natural disasters.

Himalayan Tragedy हिमालयी त्रासदी

Earlier this week, Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) teams rescued 23 workers who were trapped under snow and ice after an avalanche in Mana village, Uttarakhand.

इस सप्ताह की शुरुआत में, भारतीय सेना और भारत-तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस (ITBP) की टीमों ने उत्तराखंड के माना गांव में हिमस्खलन के बाद बर्फ और बर्फीले मलबे में फंसे 23 मजदूरों को बचाया।

• Eight workers died in the disaster, which occurred at a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) construction site that housed 54 labourers in eight containers.

इस आपदा में आठ मजदूरों की मौत हो गई, जो सीमा सड़क संगठन (BRO) के निर्माण स्थल पर हुई, जहां 54 मजदूर आठ कंटेनरों में रह रहे थे।

• The rescue operation lasted for nearly 60 hours under heavy snowfall at an altitude of 10,500 feet above sea level.

बचाव अभियान लगभग 60 घंटे तक चला, जिसमें भारी हिमपात के बीच 10,500 फीट की ऊंचाई पर राहत कार्य किया गया।

• Blocked roads due to snow made helicopter evacuation necessary. Five helicopters from the Indian Army, two from the Indian Air Force, and one civilian helicopter were used to transport rescued workers to Joshimath Army Hospital.

बर्फबारी के कारण सड़कें अवरुद्ध होने से हेलीकॉप्टरों द्वारा निकासी अनिवार्य हो गई। भारतीय सेना के पांच, भारतीय वायु सेना के दो और एक नागरिक हेलीकॉप्टर के माध्यम से जोशीमठ सेना अस्पताल में बचाए गए लोगों को ले जाया गया।



- A drone-based detection system was used to locate buried containers under several feet of snow, ice, and rock.
ड्रोन-आधारित खोज प्रणाली का उपयोग करके कई फीट बर्फ, हिमखंड और चट्टानों के नीचे दबे कंटेनरों का पता लगाया गया।

Frequent Avalanches in the Himalayas

हिमालय में बार-बार होने वाले हिमस्खलन

- Avalanches in Himalayan states, like the one in Mana village, are not uncommon.
हिमालयी राज्यों में हिमस्खलन, जैसे कि माना गांव में हुआ हिमस्खलन, असामान्य नहीं हैं।
- Mana village, near the India-China border, is one of the last outposts of Indian territory.
माना गांव, जो भारत-चीन सीमा के पास स्थित है, भारतीय क्षेत्र की अंतिम चौकियों में से एक है।
- Villagers traditionally migrate to lower altitude areas such as Gopeshwar and Jyotirmath during winters, returning only when the Badrinath temple reopens in April or May.
गांव के निवासी परंपरागत रूप से सर्दियों के दौरान गोपेश्वर और ज्योतिरमठ जैसे निचले क्षेत्रों में चले जाते हैं और बद्रीनाथ मंदिर के अप्रैल या मई में खुलने पर वापस लौटते हैं।

Were Workers Aware of the Risks?

क्या मजदूरों को जोखिम का पता था?

- Traditional winter migration may have saved the local villagers, but it raises concerns about whether the migrant workers were adequately informed about the risks.
परंपरागत शीतकालीन प्रवासन ने स्थानीय ग्रामीणों को बचाया हो सकता है, लेकिन इससे यह सवाल उठता है कि क्या प्रवासी मजदूरों को इन जोखिमों की पर्याप्त जानकारी दी गई थी।
- Given the strategic location of Mana village, road construction for military and civilian access will always require a significant workforce in this high-risk region.
माना गांव की रणनीतिक स्थिति को देखते हुए, सैन्य और नागरिक आवाजाही के लिए सड़क निर्माण के लिए हमेशा बड़ी संख्या में श्रमिकों की आवश्यकता होगी, जो जोखिम भरे क्षेत्र में काम करेंगे।

Need for Preventive Measures

रोकथाम उपायों की आवश्यकता

- Once a disaster occurs, focus shifts to rescue operations, but little attention is given to preventive measures after the immediate crisis is over.



जब आपदा आती है, तो बचाव कार्यों पर ध्यान केंद्रित होता है, लेकिन आपदा समाप्त होने के बाद रोकथाम उपायों पर कम ध्यान दिया जाता है।

- **Avalanches cannot be precisely predicted, but safety improvements in workers' shelters can increase survival chances.**
हिमस्खलन को सटीक रूप से पूर्वानुमानित नहीं किया जा सकता, लेकिन मजदूरों के रहने की व्यवस्था में सुरक्षा सुधार करके उनके बचने की संभावनाओं को बढ़ाया जा सकता है।
- **Lessons can be learned from bomb shelter designs or Antarctic research stations, where structures are built to withstand extreme conditions.**
बम शेल्टर डिज़ाइनों या अंटार्कटिका के अनुसंधान केंद्रों से सबक लिया जा सकता है, जहां संरचनाओं को चरम परिस्थितियों का सामना करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया जाता है।

Greater Sensitivity Towards Workers

मजदूरों के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशीलता की आवश्यकता

- There is a need for better awareness and infrastructure to protect workers engaged in high-risk environments.
उच्च जोखिम वाले क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की सुरक्षा के लिए बेहतर जागरूकता और बुनियादी ढांचे की आवश्यकता है।
- Instead of labeling such tragedies as **inevitable natural disasters**, authorities must focus on **proactive measures to reduce risk**.
ऐसी त्रासदियों को मात्र प्राकृतिक आपदाओं का परिणाम बताने के बजाय, प्रशासन को जोखिम कम करने के लिए सक्रिय कदम उठाने चाहिए।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. Inclusion in Public Spaces — From Fear to Freedom

सार्वजनिक स्थानों में समावेश — डर से आज़ादी की ओर

2. An Equitable Future for Women in Science, in India

भारत में विज्ञान में महिलाओं के लिए एक समान भविष्य

3. A party, a street fight, and the death of a boy

एक पार्टी, एक सड़क झगड़ा, और एक लड़के की मौत



Inclusion in public spaces — from fear to freedom

Essay

India is often considered to be one of the most unsafe countries for women, a reality that demands urgent and deliberate change. India was ranked 128 among 177 countries rated in Women, Peace and Security Index 2023. While deeply entrenched patriarchal norms that lead to violence cannot be dismantled overnight, meaningful progress can be made by challenging the everyday barriers that women face. On International Women's Day today, it is crucial to reflect on a fundamental but an often-ignored issue – the accessibility of public spaces for women.

While the topic is deeply studied and researched in the academic world, very little has changed practically. For instance, how many women do we see on roads when compared to men at any given point of time? Which are the spaces where they are more visible? And which are the areas which they completely avoid? How freely can women walk on the streets? Or do women consciously regulate their body language to conform to the male gaze?

Gendered spatial control

It is important to understand them because public spaces serve as arenas where socio-economic life thrives and evolves through mutual interactions and collective experiences, shaping community identities and social dynamics. It is where people cultivate political identities, build livelihoods, and actively engage in community life. By enthusiastically participating in the everyday nuances of public spaces, individuals get more integrated into societal processes. Moreover, a key indicator of a place's safety is the presence of women freely choosing to relax and enjoy themselves there. What impacts women's mobilities? Studies indicate that public spaces are both gendered and political where a majority of women are mostly confined to the private and domestic sphere. This gendered spatial control takes place in many ways. According to National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4) data (2015-16), 54% of Indian women had the freedom to visit markets alone, while 50% could access health-care facilities independently, and 48% were permitted to travel outside their village or community unaccompanied.

Also, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2023-24 indicates that the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women is 35.6%. Even though it has risen significantly over the years, unfortunately, this highlights that more



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than half the female population remains outside the workforce. Therefore, while a majority of women are confined to private spaces, there is a rising number of women who are using public spaces.

However, for working women, public spaces primarily serve as transitional zones, facilitating their commute between home and workplace. These spaces are rarely utilised for leisure or recreation. Consequently, women's engagement with public spaces is purpose-driven and time-bound, reinforcing spatial restrictions that limit their presence to functional necessities rather than unrestricted social participation.

A space is truly safe and inclusive when women can navigate it freely and without hesitation. As argued in 'Why Loiter?' (Phadke, Ranade, Khan, 2011), reclaiming public spaces is not just about necessity but also about leisure and uninhibited presence. When women can move without a purpose, without urgency, without having to conform to the male gaze, they assert their right to belong, transforming public spaces into shared, equitable environments. Simply put, women should be able to just exist in public spaces.

The issue of safety

During such instances, the issue of women's safety becomes a pressing concern. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that violence against women is not confined to public spaces as many face threats even within their homes which is considered to be a comparatively safer space. In open spaces, the risk of gendered violence from multiple strangers is high. This has reinforced the belief that women need protection, ultimately restricting their autonomy. As a result, women are largely found in curated spaces such as malls, theatres, and cafes, where the likelihood of violence is perceived to be lower. But what about women on footpaths, bus stations, or narrow streets – just a group of girls sitting around and having fun?

Street amusement where women are the participants is not a normal sight. Everyday public spaces – those that men navigate freely – continue to be unwelcoming to women. The fact that women cannot simply exist in these spaces without discomfort or fear raises a critical question. What is fundamentally flawed in the design of public spaces that prevents women

from fully claiming and navigating them as their own? It is here that the community and the government can be great enablers. As a society, we must acknowledge and accept the fact that public spaces offer a sense of freedom. Yet, this very freedom often translates to a loss of control for families over women's mobility. Risk is inevitable but avoiding public spaces is not the solution. Men are subjected to street violence as well, even though their nature of vulnerability is different from that of women. Women need to reclaim these spaces with the same ease as men, fostering autonomy rather than restriction. For this, women should have more conversations about this problem, take out time to go around and 'hang out' and have fun in public spaces. Normalising a woman's use of public space for leisure can contribute to this shift.



Policy level changes

At the policy level, the government can drive change by reimagining public space planning and design. This includes improving street lighting, ensuring safe and accessible public toilets, installing street furniture such as benches, and creating more recreational spaces tailored for women. Another critical area requiring government intervention is strengthening public safety through stringent laws and their effective enforcement to address crimes against women in public spaces. How many men are actually punished for gender-based violence in public spaces? How many secure bail, only to repeat their crimes? The low conviction rate remains a glaring issue that must be addressed. Even today, women are often blamed for being in the "wrong place at the wrong time", shifting the focus from the perpetrator to the victim. Society places the burden of safety on women while simultaneously excusing or downplaying the actions of offenders. This not only fosters a culture of impunity but also reinforces a gendered fear that serves as a tool for patriarchal control.

So, by consciously reshaping public spaces, we can create environments where women feel safe and truly welcome. While centuries of patriarchy cannot be dismantled overnight, meaningful change begins with small, everyday actions. From the built environment of public space to societal attitudes, every shift, no matter how gradual, brings us closer to an inclusive society where women can navigate and own public spaces freely, without fear or restriction.

Public spaces, which are arenas where socio-economic life thrives, need to be reshaped where women feel safe and welcome

Inclusion in Public Spaces — From Fear to Freedom

सार्वजनिक स्थानों में समावेश — डर से आज़ादी की ओर

India is often considered one of the most unsafe countries for women, ranking 128 out of 177 countries in the Women, Peace, and Security Index 2023.

भारत को अक्सर महिलाओं के लिए सबसे असुरक्षित देशों में से एक माना जाता है, और 2023 के वुमेन, पीस एंड सिक्योरिटी इंडेक्स में 177 देशों में 128वें स्थान पर था।



- Deeply entrenched patriarchal norms that lead to violence against women cannot be dismantled overnight, but challenging everyday barriers can bring meaningful progress.
गहराई से जमी हुई पितृसत्तात्मक परंपराएं, जो महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा का कारण बनती हैं, रातोंरात समाप्त नहीं की जा सकती, लेकिन प्रतिदिन की बाधाओं को चुनौती देकर महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति लाई जा सकती है।
- On International Women's Day, it is crucial to reflect on the accessibility of public spaces for women, an often ignored issue.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर, महिलाओं के लिए सार्वजनिक स्थानों की उपलब्धता पर विचार करना महत्वपूर्ण है, जो अक्सर अनदेखी की जाती है।

Gendered Spatial Control

लैंगिक स्थानिक नियंत्रण

- Public spaces are crucial for socio-economic life, where people build livelihoods, develop political identities, and engage in community life.
सार्वजनिक स्थान सामाजिक-आर्थिक जीवन के लिए आवश्यक हैं, जहां लोग रोजगार कमाते हैं, राजनीतिक पहचान बनाते हैं और सामुदायिक जीवन में भाग लेते हैं।
- A key indicator of a place's safety is the presence of women freely choosing to relax and enjoy in that space.
किसी स्थान की सुरक्षा का प्रमुख संकेतक यह है कि क्या महिलाएं वहां स्वतंत्र रूप से घूम सकती हैं और आराम कर सकती हैं।
- Studies show that public spaces are gendered and political, where most women are confined to private and domestic spheres.
अध्ययन बताते हैं कि सार्वजनिक स्थान लैंगिक और राजनीतिक होते हैं, जहां अधिकांश महिलाएं निजी और घरेलू क्षेत्र तक सीमित रहती हैं।

Statistics on Women's Mobility

महिलाओं की गतिशीलता पर आंकड़े

- National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4) (2015-16) data shows:
राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण-4 (NFHS-4) (2015-16) के अनुसार:
 - 54% of Indian women had the freedom to visit markets alone.
54% भारतीय महिलाओं को अकेले बाजार जाने की स्वतंत्रता थी।
 - 50% could access healthcare facilities independently.
50% महिलाएं स्वतंत्र रूप से स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं का उपयोग कर सकती थीं।



- 48% were permitted to travel outside their village or community unaccompanied.
48% महिलाओं को बिना किसी साथी के अपने गांव या समुदाय से बाहर जाने की अनुमति थी।
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (2023-24) indicates that the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women is 35.6%.
आवधिक श्रम बल सर्वेक्षण (PLFS) (2023-24) के अनुसार, महिलाओं की श्रम बल भागीदारी दर (LFPR) 35.6% है।
- Despite an increase in LFPR, over half of the female population remains outside the workforce.
LFPR में वृद्धि के बावजूद, आधी से अधिक महिला आबादी अभी भी कार्यबल से बाहर है।

Limited Engagement with Public Spaces

सार्वजनिक स्थानों से सीमित जुड़ाव

- For working women, public spaces are transitional zones, primarily used for commuting between home and workplace.
कामकाजी महिलाओं के लिए, सार्वजनिक स्थान आवागमन के लिए स्थान हैं, जो मुख्य रूप से घर और कार्यस्थल के बीच यात्रा करने के लिए उपयोग किए जाते हैं।
- Public spaces are rarely used by women for leisure or recreation, reinforcing spatial restrictions.
सार्वजनिक स्थानों का उपयोग महिलाएं शायद ही कभी मनोरंजन या आराम के लिए करती हैं, जिससे स्थानिक प्रतिबंध और मजबूत हो जाते हैं।
- A space is truly safe and inclusive when women can navigate it freely and without hesitation.
कोई स्थान तभी सुरक्षित और समावेशी होता है जब महिलाएं वहां बिना किसी झिझक और स्वतंत्र रूप से आ-जा सकें।

Reclaiming Public Spaces

सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर महिलाओं का अधिकार

- As argued in the book 'Why Loiter?' (Phadke, Ranade, Khan, 2011), reclaiming public spaces is not just about necessity but also about leisure and uninhibited presence.
'व्हाई लोटर?' (Phadke, Ranade, Khan, 2011) पुस्तक में कहा गया है कि, सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर महिलाओं का अधिकार सिर्फ आवश्यकता के लिए नहीं, बल्कि मनोरंजन और स्वतंत्र उपस्थिति के लिए भी हना चाहिए।



- Women should be able to move freely, without urgency, and without conforming to the male gaze.
महिलाओं को बिना किसी हड़बड़ी और बिना पुरुषों की निगाहों के दबाव में स्वतंत्र रूप से घूमने की अनुमति होनी चाहिए।
- When women assert their right to belong in public spaces, it transforms these spaces into shared, equitable environments.
जब महिलाएं सार्वजनिक स्थानों में अपने अधिकार का दावा करती हैं, तो ये स्थान साझा और समानता-आधारित परिवेश में बदल जाते हैं।
- Simply put, women should be able to just exist in public spaces without fear.
सीधे शब्दों में कहें, तो महिलाओं को बिना किसी भय के सार्वजनिक स्थानों में रहने का अधिकार होना चाहिए।

The Issue of Safety

सुरक्षा का मुद्दा

- Women's safety becomes a major concern in public spaces, but violence against women is not limited to these areas—many face threats even within their homes, which are perceived as safer spaces.
सार्वजनिक स्थानों में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा एक महत्वपूर्ण चिंता बन जाती है, लेकिन महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा केवल इन क्षेत्रों तक सीमित नहीं है—कई महिलाएं अपने घरों में भी खतरे का सामना करती हैं, जिन्हें सुरक्षित स्थान माना जाता है।
- In open spaces, the risk of gendered violence from multiple strangers is high, reinforcing the belief that women need protection, ultimately restricting their autonomy.
खुले स्थानों में, अजनबियों से लैंगिक हिंसा का खतरा अधिक होता है, जिससे यह धारणा मजबूत होती है कि महिलाओं को सुरक्षा की आवश्यकता है, और अंततः उनकी स्वायत्तता सीमित हो जाती है।
- As a result, women are mostly seen in curated spaces such as malls, theatres, and cafes, where the likelihood of violence is perceived to be lower.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप, महिलाएं ज्यादातर मॉल, थिएटर और कैफे जैसे सुरक्षित स्थानों में देखी जाती हैं, जहां हिंसा की संभावना कम मानी जाती है।
- But what about women in bus stations, narrow streets, or sitting freely in open areas? Street amusement where women are active participants is rarely seen.
लेकिन बस स्टेशनों, संकरी गलियों में या खुले स्थानों पर स्वतंत्र रूप से बैठने वाली महिलाओं का क्या?



सड़कों पर महिलाओं द्वारा किया गया मनोरंजन बहुत कम देखने को मिलता है।

- **Everyday public spaces remain unwelcoming to women**, and the fact that they cannot exist without discomfort or fear raises a critical question—**why are public spaces still designed in ways that prevent women from fully claiming them?**
प्रतिदिन उपयोग किए जाने वाले सार्वजनिक स्थान अभी भी महिलाओं के लिए असहज बने हुए हैं, और यह तथ्य कि वे वहां बिना डर और असुविधा के नहीं रह सकतीं, एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठाता है—आखिर सार्वजनिक स्थानों की संरचना ऐसी क्यों है कि महिलाएं इन्हें पूरी तरह अपना नहीं बना पातीं?

Need for Community and Government Support

समुदाय और सरकार की भूमिका

- **Public spaces symbolize freedom**, but this freedom often translates into a loss of control for families over women's mobility.
सार्वजनिक स्थान स्वतंत्रता का प्रतीक हैं, लेकिन यह स्वतंत्रता अक्सर परिवारों के लिए महिलाओं की गतिशीलता पर नियंत्रण खोने के रूप में देखी जाती है।
- **Avoiding public spaces is not the solution**, as men also face street violence, even though their vulnerability differs from that of women.
सार्वजनिक स्थानों से बचना समाधान नहीं है, क्योंकि पुरुष भी सड़क पर हिंसा का शिकार होते हैं, भले ही उनकी असुरक्षा महिलाओं से अलग हो।
- Women must **reclaim public spaces with the same ease as men**, fostering autonomy instead of restriction.
महिलाओं को पुरुषों की तरह सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर अधिकार जताने की जरूरत है, जिससे प्रतिबंध के बजाय स्वतंत्रता को बढ़ावा दिया जाए।
- **To achieve this, women should actively participate in public spaces**—having conversations, hanging out, and using these spaces for leisure.
इसके लिए, महिलाओं को सार्वजनिक स्थानों में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लेना चाहिए—बातचीत करना, घूमना और इन स्थानों का मनोरंजन के लिए उपयोग करना चाहिए।
- **Normalizing women's presence in public spaces for leisure can bring about a positive change.**
मनोरंजन के लिए सार्वजनिक स्थानों में महिलाओं की उपस्थिति को सामान्य बनाना सकारात्मक बदलाव ला सकता है।

Policy-Level Changes

नीतिगत सुधारों की आवश्यकता



- The **government must reimagine public space planning and design**, including:
सरकार को सार्वजनिक स्थानों की योजना और डिजाइन पर दोबारा विचार करना चाहिए, जिसमें शामिल हैं:
 - **Improving street lighting** (सड़क रोशनी में सुधार)
 - **Ensuring safe and accessible public toilets** (सुरक्षित और सुलभ सार्वजनिक शौचालयों की व्यवस्था)
 - **Installing street furniture like benches** (सड़कों पर बेंच जैसी सुविधाओं की स्थापना)
 - **Creating more recreational spaces tailored for women** (महिलाओं के लिए विशेष रूप से बनाए गए मनोरंजन स्थलों का निर्माण)
- **Strengthening public safety laws and their enforcement is crucial to address crimes against women in public spaces.**
सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा कानूनों को मजबूत करना और उनका प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन आवश्यक है, ताकि सार्वजनिक स्थानों में महिलाओं के खिलाफ अपराधों को रोका जा सके।
- A critical issue is the **low conviction rate for gender-based violence**—many offenders secure bail and repeat crimes.
लैंगिक हिंसा के मामलों में दोषसिद्धि दर बहुत कम है—कई अपराधी जमानत पर छूट जाते हैं और अपराध दोहराते हैं।
- Even today, **women are often blamed for being in the “wrong place at the wrong time”**, shifting focus from **perpetrators to victims**.
आज भी, महिलाओं को "गलत समय पर गलत स्थान पर" होने के लिए दोषी ठहराया जाता है, जिससे ध्यान अपराधियों से हटकर पीड़िता पर केंद्रित हो जाता है।
- Society must **stop excusing offenders** and instead focus on **creating a culture of accountability**.
समाज को अपराधियों को बचाने की प्रवृत्ति समाप्त करनी होगी और जवाबदेही की संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देना होगा।

Towards an Inclusive Society

समावेशी समाज की ओर एक कदम

- By **consciously reshaping public spaces**, we can **create environments where women feel safe and truly welcome**.
सार्वजनिक स्थानों को नए सिरे से तैयार करके, हम ऐसा वातावरण बना सकते हैं, जहां महिलाएं सुरक्षित और स्वागतयोग्य महसूस करें।
- While **centuries of patriarchy cannot be dismantled overnight**, meaningful change begins with **small, everyday actions**.



सदियों से चली आ रही पितृसत्ता को रातोंरात समाप्त नहीं किया जा सकता, लेकिन छोटे-छोटे दैनिक प्रयासों से सार्थक बदलाव शुरू किया जा सकता है।

- Every shift—whether in urban design or societal attitudes—brings us closer to a society where women can navigate public spaces freely, without fear or restriction.

हर बदलाव—चाहे वह शहरी संरचना में हो या सामाजिक मानसिकता में—हमें ऐसे समाज की ओर ले जाता है, जहां महिलाएं बिना डर और रोक-टोक के सार्वजनिक स्थानों में स्वतंत्र रूप से घूम सकें।

An equitable future for women in science, in India

Essay

Women in science navigate a minefield of challenges that often start early. Educational barriers, such as limited access to quality schools and gendered societal norms, can discourage girls from pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). For those who persist and are fortunate to get past these early hurdles, cultural expectations frequently demand that they prioritise family over careers, severely jeopardising professional growth. Gender stereotypes further restrict opportunities, affecting hiring, promotions and funding. Harassment and discrimination in academic settings add another dimension of hostility that push many women out of the field.

A study of STEM scientists

Globally, as well as in India, we see similar patterns. A study of STEM scientists across 38 countries reveals higher attrition rates for women, driven by non-inclusive workplaces, work-life balance struggles, and limited access to high-impact research.

These barriers slow career progression and reduce access to senior roles and professional networks, increasing dropout rates. The postdoc-to-faculty transition is especially challenging for women, with familial responsibilities, low confidence, and a lack of female role models cited as key factors, as highlighted by research from the National Institutes of Health.

These barriers compel us to consider why it is vital to prioritise the retention of women in science. Diverse teams drive creativity and innovation, leading to breakthroughs by integrating multiple perspectives. More women in science also results in role models for future generations, inspiring girls to pursue STEM. Promoting equity ensures that women can contribute fully to scientific progress, enriching society with a more inclusive workforce.

This conversation has progressed little over the centuries. The “Matilda Effect” – named after 19th-century feminist Matilda Joselyn Gage – describes the tendency to downplay or overshadow women’s scientific contributions in favour of their male colleagues, highlighting the



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With India continuing to push the boundaries of scientific and technological advancement, it must ensure the full inclusion of women in this journey

historic struggle for proper recognition of women’s innovations. Nearly 200 years later, gender inequity in STEM persists. Jacob Clark Blickenstaff’s “leaky pipeline” metaphor describes women dropping out of STEM due to biased pedagogy, a lack of role models, and hostile workplaces. Critiqued as somewhat simplistic, this model does not consider systemic power dynamics. A more recent “Chutes and Ladders” model focuses on broader structural and environmental barriers, highlighting how mentorship, access to hidden knowledge, and career disruptions disproportionately hinder women, minorities, and marginalised groups, emphasising the need to address inequities within academic systems.

A survey across India

Examining these concepts is particularly valuable in the context of India, where conservative attitudes abound. In an extensive survey across 98 institutions across India conducted in 2020-21, the proportion of women faculty members across all the fields was a mere 17%, ranging from 23% in biology to 8% in engineering. The proportion was even lower within higher-ranked institutions, with dwindling ratios within senior career faculty. The data showed that women scientists were vastly under-represented at conferences and often overlooked in career-enhancing activities.

Addressing these challenges demands a reimagined approach that embraces diverse career paths and involves policymakers, institutions, and the scientific community in fostering inclusivity, particularly for underrepresented and economically disadvantaged women. Approaches vary based on the timing of intervention. Early intervention, engaging parents, educators, and the broader social environment, is key to lasting impact.

We propose three key recommendations to improve the retention of women in STEM at the early- and mid-career levels. First, institutional changes such as flexible work options, affordable childcare, and policies supporting work-family integration are essential. Second, public

recognition of both triumphs and obstacles is crucial. Showcasing successful women in science challenges stereotypes, inspires the next generation, and reinforces the need for greater visibility and representation. At the same time, calling out setbacks, as exemplified by BiasWatchIndia, can drive incremental progress by exposing gender inequities in academia. Finally, a nuanced approach across career stages is crucial, eliminating age restrictions on grants, fostering mentorship networks, supporting career re-entry after a break for family or personal reasons, and amplifying senior women’s voices in leadership and decision-making.

Interventions

The Indian government has taken significant steps to advance gender equity in science and technology. The Department of Science and

Technology (DST) launched the Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) pilot in 2020 to foster an inclusive environment for women and gender-diverse individuals in STEM, supporting participation-boosting initiatives such as the Women in Science and Engineering-Knowledge

Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing, or WISE-KIRAN, and the Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) programmes. Noteworthy efforts include the Department of Biotechnology’s Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation (BioCARE) programme, which supports women scientists returning to research after career breaks.

Additionally, the Indian Council of Medical Research spearheads several programmes promoting women’s health and training for women scientists. While these initiatives reflect progress, they must scale into broader reforms to ensure that women scientists are recognised, empowered, and valued.

As India continues to push the boundaries of scientific and technological advancement, the full inclusion of women in this journey is not only a matter of fairness but also an example of true progress that can set a powerful example for the world to emulate.



An Equitable Future for Women in Science, in India

भारत में विज्ञान में महिलाओं के लिए एक समान भविष्य

Challenges Faced by Women in Science

विज्ञान में महिलाओं के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियां



- **Women in science face multiple challenges**, which often begin early in their education.
विज्ञान क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, जो अक्सर उनकी शिक्षा के शुरुआती चरण से शुरू हो जाती हैं।
- **Limited access to quality schools and gendered societal norms** discourage girls from pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).
उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले स्कूलों तक सीमित पहुंच और लैंगिक सामाजिक मानदंड लड़कियों को STEM (विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, इंजीनियरिंग और गणित) में करियर बनाने से हतोत्साहित करते हैं।
- Women who **overcome these barriers** still face **cultural expectations** that require them to **prioritize family over careers**, hindering their **professional growth**.
जो महिलाएं इन बाधाओं को पार कर लेती हैं, उन्हें भी संस्कृति-जनित अपेक्षाओं का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिससे उन्हें परिवार को करियर से अधिक प्राथमिकता देनी पड़ती है, और इससे उनके व्यावसायिक विकास में बाधा आती है।
- **Gender stereotypes** restrict **hiring, promotions, and funding opportunities**, making career progression difficult for women in STEM.
लैंगिक पूर्वाग्रह भर्ती, पदोन्नति और वित्त पोषण के अवसरों को सीमित कर देते हैं, जिससे STEM में महिलाओं के लिए करियर में आगे बढ़ना कठिन हो जाता है।
- **Harassment and discrimination in academic settings** create a **hostile environment**, pushing many women out of scientific fields.
शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में उत्पीड़न और भेदभाव एक शत्रुतापूर्ण माहौल बनाते हैं, जिससे कई महिलाएं विज्ञान के क्षेत्र से बाहर चली जाती हैं।

A Study of STEM Scientists

STEM वैज्ञानिकों पर अध्ययन

- A **global study across 38 countries** shows that **women have higher attrition rates** due to:
38 देशों में किए गए एक वैश्विक अध्ययन से पता चला कि महिलाओं की STEM में छोड़ने की दर अधिक है, इसके कारण:
 - **Non-inclusive workplaces** (गैर-समावेशी कार्यस्थल)
 - **Work-life balance struggles** (कार्य और व्यक्तिगत जीवन में संतुलन की कठिनाइयाँ)
 - **Limited access to high-impact research opportunities** (उच्च प्रभावशाली शोध अवसरों तक सीमित पहुंच)
- These barriers slow **career progression**, reduce **access to senior roles**, and increase **dropout rates** for women in STEM.



ये बाधाएँ करियर की प्रगति को धीमा कर देती हैं, वरिष्ठ पदों तक पहुंच को कम कर देती हैं और STEM में महिलाओं की छोड़ने की दर को बढ़ा देती हैं।

- The transition from postdoc to faculty is especially difficult due to:
पोस्टडॉक से फैकल्टी तक का सफर विशेष रूप से कठिन होता है, इसके कारण:
 - Family responsibilities (पारिवारिक जिम्मेदारियाँ)
 - Low confidence (आत्मविश्वास की कमी)
 - Lack of female role models (महिला रोल मॉडल की कमी)

The Importance of Retaining Women in Science

विज्ञान में महिलाओं की भागीदारी बनाए रखना क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

- Diverse teams foster creativity and innovation, leading to scientific breakthroughs by integrating multiple perspectives.
विविध टीमों से रचनात्मकता और नवाचार को बढ़ावा मिलता है, जिससे अलग-अलग दृष्टिकोणों के संयोजन से वैज्ञानिक खोजें संभव होती हैं।
- More women in science create role models for future generations, inspiring young girls to pursue STEM careers.
विज्ञान में अधिक महिलाओं की भागीदारी भविष्य की पीढ़ियों के लिए रोल मॉडल तैयार करती है, जिससे युवा लड़कियाँ STEM करियर अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित होती हैं।
- Promoting equity ensures that women can contribute fully to scientific progress, leading to a more inclusive and diverse workforce.
समानता को बढ़ावा देने से यह सुनिश्चित होता है कि महिलाएं विज्ञान में पूरी तरह योगदान दे सकें, जिससे एक अधिक समावेशी और विविध कार्यबल का निर्माण होगा।

Historical Challenges in Recognizing Women's Contributions

महिलाओं के योगदान को मान्यता देने में ऐतिहासिक चुनौतियाँ

- The “Matilda Effect”, named after 19th-century feminist Matilda Joslyn Gage, describes how women’s scientific contributions are overshadowed in favor of their male colleagues.
“मैटिल्डा प्रभाव”, जिसका नाम 19वीं सदी की नारीवादी मैटिल्डा जोस्लिन गेज के नाम पर रखा गया है, यह दर्शाता है कि महिलाओं के वैज्ञानिक योगदान को पुरुष सहयोगियों के पक्ष में नजरअंदाज किया जाता है।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

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- Nearly 200 years later, gender inequity in STEM still persists.
लगभग 200 साल बाद भी, STEM में लैंगिक असमानता बनी हुई है।
- The "leaky pipeline" metaphor, introduced by Jacob Clark Blickenstaff, explains how women drop out of STEM due to biased teaching methods, lack of mentors, and workplace discrimination.
"लीकी पाइपलाइन" उपमा, जिसे जैकब क्लार्क ब्लिकेनस्टाफ ने प्रस्तुत किया था, यह बताती है कि पूर्वाग्रहपूर्ण शिक्षण पद्धतियों, मार्गदर्शन की कमी और कार्यस्थल भेदभाव के कारण महिलाएं STEM छोड़ देती हैं।
- A more recent model, "Chutes and Ladders", highlights:
एक नया मॉडल, "च्यूट्स एंड लैडर्स", दर्शाता है:
 - Systemic power dynamics (व्यवस्थित शक्ति संरचना)
 - Mentorship gaps (मार्गदर्शन की कमी)
 - Limited access to professional networks (व्यावसायिक नेटवर्क तक सीमित पहुंच)
 - Career disruptions that disproportionately affect women, minorities, and marginalized groups.
करियर में बाधाएँ, जो महिलाओं, अल्पसंख्यकों और हाशिए पर पड़े समूहों को अधिक प्रभावित करती हैं।

Way Forward: Addressing Inequities in STEM

आगे का रास्ता: STEM में असमानताओं को दूर करना

- Encouraging girls from an early age to explore STEM education through scholarships and mentorship programs.
लड़कियों को प्रारंभिक अवस्था से ही STEM शिक्षा को अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना, जिसमें छात्रवृत्ति और मार्गदर्शन कार्यक्रम शामिल हों।
- Strengthening workplace policies to address gender bias, discrimination, and harassment in scientific and academic institutions.
कार्यस्थल की नीतियों को मजबूत करना, ताकि वैज्ञानिक और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में लैंगिक भेदभाव, पूर्वाग्रह और उत्पीड़न को दूर किया जा सके।
- Providing funding opportunities specifically for women-led research projects.
विशेष रूप से महिलाओं द्वारा संचालित शोध परियोजनाओं के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना।
- Encouraging equal parental leave policies so that career progression is not solely hindered for women.
समान माता-पिता अवकाश नीतियों को प्रोत्साहित करना, ताकि केवल महिलाओं का करियर प्रभावित न



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हो।

- **Promoting representation of women in leadership roles**, creating more female role models in science.
नेतृत्व पदों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी बढ़ाना, जिससे विज्ञान में अधिक महिला रोल मॉडल तैयार किए जा सकें।
- **Implementing structural reforms** in academic institutions to **ensure inclusivity and equal opportunities**.
शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में संरचनात्मक सुधार लागू करना, ताकि समावेशिता और समान अवसर सुनिश्चित किए जा सकें।

A Survey Across India

भारत में एक सर्वेक्षण

- A survey conducted across 98 institutions in India (2020-21) found that women faculty members accounted for only 17% across all fields.
भारत में 98 संस्थानों में 2020-21 में किए गए सर्वेक्षण में पाया गया कि सभी क्षेत्रों में महिला संकाय सदस्य केवल 17% थीं।
- The proportion of women faculty ranged from 23% in biology to just 8% in engineering.
जीवविज्ञान में महिलाओं की भागीदारी 23% थी, जबकि इंजीनियरिंग में यह केवल 8% थी।
- The representation was even lower in higher-ranked institutions, with fewer women in senior faculty positions.
उच्च रैंक वाले संस्थानों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी और भी कम थी, और वरिष्ठ संकाय पदों पर उनकी संख्या घटती जा रही थी।
- Women scientists were under-represented at conferences and often excluded from career-enhancing opportunities.
महिला वैज्ञानिकों की वैज्ञानिक सम्मेलनों में भागीदारी कम थी, और उन्हें अक्सर करियर में आगे बढ़ने के अवसरों से बाहर रखा जाता था।

Need for a Reimagined Approach

नए दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता

- Addressing these challenges requires a **fresh approach** that includes **policymakers, institutions, and the scientific community**.
इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए एक नए दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें नीति-निर्माता, संस्थान

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और वैज्ञानिक समुदाय शामिल हों।

- **Special attention should be given to underrepresented and economically disadvantaged women.**
अल्पसंख्यक और आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर महिलाओं पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।
- **Early intervention through engagement with parents, educators, and society is key to lasting impact.**
प्रारंभिक हस्तक्षेप, जिसमें माता-पिता, शिक्षकों और समाज को शामिल किया जाए, स्थायी प्रभाव डालने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

Key Recommendations to Improve Retention of Women in STEM

STEM में महिलाओं की भागीदारी बनाए रखने के लिए प्रमुख सिफारिशें

- **Institutional changes** such as **flexible work options, affordable childcare, and work-family integration policies** are essential.
संस्थागत सुधार, जैसे कि लचीले कार्य विकल्प, किफायती बाल देखभाल, और कार्य-परिवार संतुलन नीतियां, आवश्यक हैं।
- **Public recognition** of both **achievements and challenges** is crucial.
सार्वजनिक रूप से महिलाओं की उपलब्धियों और चुनौतियों को पहचानना महत्वपूर्ण है।
- **Highlighting successful women in science** helps **challenge stereotypes and inspire the next generation.**
विज्ञान में सफल महिलाओं को उजागर करना रुढ़ियों को तोड़ने और अगली पीढ़ी को प्रेरित करने में मदद करता है।
- **Addressing setbacks** through initiatives like **BiasWatchIndia** can **expose gender inequities in academia** and drive progress.
BiasWatchIndia जैसे प्रयासों के माध्यम से शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में लैंगिक असमानताओं को उजागर किया जा सकता है, जिससे सुधार की गति बढ़ेगी।
- **Career support across different stages**, including:
विभिन्न करियर स्तरों पर समर्थन, जिसमें शामिल हैं:
 - **Removing age restrictions on research grants** (शोध अनुदानों पर आयु सीमा समाप्त करना)
 - **Fostering mentorship networks** (मार्गदर्शन नेटवर्क को बढ़ावा देना)

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- Providing support for career re-entry after family or personal breaks (परिवार या व्यक्तिगत कारणों से ब्रेक लेने के बाद करियर में वापसी के लिए समर्थन प्रदान करना)
- Increasing representation of senior women in leadership and decision-making (वरिष्ठ महिलाओं की नेतृत्व और निर्णय लेने में भागीदारी बढ़ाना)

Government Initiatives for Women in Science

विज्ञान में महिलाओं के लिए सरकारी पहल

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched the GATI pilot (2020) to foster an inclusive environment for women and gender-diverse individuals in STEM.
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (DST) ने 2020 में GATI पायलट लॉन्च किया, जिससे STEM में महिलाओं और लैंगिक विविधता वाले व्यक्तियों के लिए समावेशी वातावरण तैयार किया जा सके।
- Other major initiatives include:
अन्य प्रमुख पहलें शामिल हैं:
 - WISE-KIRAN (Women in Science and Engineering-Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)
WISE-KIRAN (महिलाओं के लिए विज्ञान और इंजीनियरिंग में अनुसंधान उन्नति को बढ़ावा देने वाली योजना)।
 - Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) to support women in STEM careers.
महिला वैज्ञानिक योजना (WOS) जो STEM करियर में महिलाओं का समर्थन करती है।
- The Department of Biotechnology's BioCARE programme helps women scientists return to research after career breaks.
जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग की BioCARE योजना महिला वैज्ञानिकों को करियर ब्रेक के बाद अनुसंधान में लौटने में मदद करती है।
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) promotes programmes for women's health and training of women scientists.
भारतीय चिकित्सा अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR) महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य और महिला वैज्ञानिकों के प्रशिक्षण के लिए कई कार्यक्रम चलाती है।

The Need for Scaling Up Reforms

सुधारों के विस्तार की आवश्यकता

- While these initiatives reflect progress, they must be scaled into broader reforms to ensure that women scientists are recognized, empowered, and valued.
हालांकि ये पहल प्रगति को दर्शाती हैं, इन्हें व्यापक सुधारों में बदला जाना चाहिए, जिससे महिला



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वैज्ञानिकों को मान्यता, सशक्तिकरण और मूल्यांकन मिल सके।

- **Full inclusion of women in India's scientific and technological advancements is not just a matter of fairness, but a true sign of progress.**
भारत की वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी प्रगति में महिलाओं की पूर्ण भागीदारी केवल न्याय का विषय नहीं है, बल्कि वास्तविक प्रगति का संकेत है।
- **India's efforts can set a global example, proving that inclusion and equity in science are essential for innovation and development.**
भारत के प्रयास दुनिया के लिए एक उदाहरण बन सकते हैं, यह साबित करते हुए कि विज्ञान में समावेश और समानता नवाचार और विकास के लिए आवश्यक हैं।

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A party, a street fight, and the death of a boy

On March 1, Mohammed Shahabaz, a Class 10 student in Kozhikode district, succumbed to the injuries he had sustained during a street fight between students a few days prior. Six students have been nabbed by the police in connection with the incident. **Mithosh Joseph** reports on the ongoing police investigation in the case and the increasing worries about minors in conflict with the law

GS Paper II: Ethics Essay

While the streets of Kozhikode were partly closed, Mohammed Iqbal, 47, is immersed in prayer. Clad in a white shirt and dhoti at his ancestral home in Thamarassery, a village in Kerala's Kozhikode district, Iqbal is at a religious ritual for the third day. He is mourning the death of his eldest son, Mohammed Shahabaz, 15. When he starts chanting prayers, tears roll down his cheeks. His relatives stand around him. "His wife and three children have not accepted the fact that Shahabaz is no more," one of them says.

Iqbal, who had toiled for years as a daily wage labourer abroad, says his eldest son was really smart. "He performed well in school. He would make electronic toys. He loved playing sports. He always took care of his younger siblings. I couldn't even buy him a mobile phone, as I was short of money," he says. Iqbal wants to fight until death to secure justice for his son.

Shahabaz, a Class 10 student at a government-aided school at Elettli village, died on March 1 after he was brutally assaulted during a clash between two groups of teenagers at Thamarassery in Kozhikode on February 27. His death led to widespread protests by the Youth Congress, the Kerala Students' Union, and the Muslim Students Federation, among others. These organisations allege that Shahabaz was murdered and that there was a conspiracy behind his death. The Kerala government described the incident as "unfortunate" and said a comprehensive investigation would be conducted. The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights also registered a suo motu case on the incident.



A deadly brawl

The problem began on February 23, when there was an argument between the students of two schools - Muhammedali Jauhar Higher Secondary School, Elettli; and Government Vocational Higher Secondary School, Thamarassery - at Trizz, a local training centre in Thamarassery, according to trainers at the centre. There was a farewell party for Class 10 students from the two schools that day at the centre. When the music that was being played for a dance performance at the party stopped due to technical glitches, students from the Thamarassery school laughed, and this led to a heated argument between the students of the two schools, say trainers.

The students met again on February 27 at the centre. "Shahabaz was not a student at Trizz, but he came to the spot along with his friends from the Muhammedali School to settle scores with the students from Thamarassery," says a trainer. Witnesses say the first clash between the two groups took place along a dingy corridor of a building complex near the tuition centre. When the locals intervened, the students moved to other spots. They clashed four times in front of about 50 students at the centre, say locals.

"The students from both the schools began assembling near the tuition centre at around 4.30 in the evening. The clash broke out around 5.30 and went on till 7," recall Siddique and Shukkur, two tea shop owners who saw the brawl. According to them, after the students fought the first time, teachers from the tuition centre intervened and forced the students to disperse.

Hajira and Jaseera, who run a stitching unit

There are many deviant characters these days, and they are a big concern for teachers. We are helpless; we cannot combat the issue alone

J. MINI
Headmistress
Muhammedali Jauhar Higher Secondary School at Elettli

near the incident spot, say they heard loud noises around the building but they were too scared to intervene. "We thought that this was a minor quarrel between the students as such incidents happen sometimes. We never thought that it would lead to this," Hajira says.

K.K. Akhilesh, the head of the tuition centre, says the five students who were nabbed the next day by the police in connection with the incident, based on a complaint by Shahabaz's parents, had not turned up for classes that day and were waiting outside the centre. "They did not have any criminal background, nor were they aggressive. They were good students who studied hard," Akhilesh says. A sixth student was nabbed in connection with the incident on March 4. When Shahabaz sustained a head injury and collapsed, the tuition centre trainers and locals called his family, who rushed him to the Thamarassery taluk hospital. There, he was referred to the Kozhikode Medical College, according to the police. Shahabaz had become unconscious after several episodes of vomiting and also had severe wounds in his eyes. He succumbed to injuries on March 1. That evening, he was laid to rest at the Kedaroor Juma Masjid Khabar Stn.

Murmurs of a conspiracy

According to the postmortem report, Shahabaz had suffered a deep head injury and a fractured skull. The police later found that he had been attacked with a *nunchaku*, a martial arts weapon consisting of two sticks. The police say one of the six students involved in the incident had brought the weapon, which had been in the possession of his older brother, with him.

Anger built up when a photo emerged showing the father of one of the accused alongside a convict in the 2012 murder of Revolutionary Marxist Party leader, T.P. Chandrasekharan. Further, the police say they found a WhatsApp group that was created by the six accused. They say the messages on the group of 60 people and another Instagram group showed that the six boys had



Student activists stage a protest in front of the government observation home in Kozhikode. K. RAJESH



The voice messages sent by some of the students on the WhatsApp group clearly explain their plan. The messages indicate a dangerous criminal trend among adolescents

Senior police officer

been planning the clash for more than four days. The police recovered a laptop, four phones, and the weapon from the houses of the accused.

A senior police officer says the accused show no repentance. "They had discussed everything on a social media group and even posted details of the *nunchaku* that was brought to the spot. The voice messages sent by some of the students on the group clearly explained the plan. The messages indicate a dangerous criminal trend among adolescents," he says.

P. Jayesh, a professional karate trainer, says the *nunchaku* is banned in several countries, but not in India. "If people simply watch some demonstration videos and use it, they may use it crudely. This can lead to an unpredictable outcome. There should be a proper vigil against the misuse of such weapons," he says.

Iqbal worries about the probe. "One of the key accused is the son of a policeman, while a few others are the children of politically influential people," he says.

The police have charged the teenagers under Sections 1030 (murder), 1182 (causing grievous hurt using dangerous weapons), 1262 (wrongful restraint), 1892 (unlawful assembly), 1912 (rioting), and 190 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. They say more sections of the BNS are likely to be invoked once the probe is complete and the final report submitted. The police have also reached out to Meta and other social media platforms to collect evidence.

A recurring phenomenon

Some traders say that students from the two schools, located nearly 7 kilometers apart, have been fighting for years on various issues, such as sports and cultural programmes. They even have a name for it - 'Friday Thallumala', an act of revenge. Some local traders also sought action from the police a few months ago, to end the street scuffles that took place on Fridays.

The incident and investigation have largely affected the two schools and their students and teachers. Mohammed Basheer, headmaster of the Government Vocational Higher Secondary School, Thamarassery, is in tears. All the six students who have been held are from his school. "The school has been putting up a good performance. Now, everyone is shaken. This is my last year in my career as a teacher and this happens," he says, sitting in his office room.

The situation is no different at the Muhammedali Jauhar Higher Secondary School at Elettli, where the students are mourning the death of their close friend and struggling to focus on exams. One of them says, "Shahabaz was a tech-savvy student." Another says, "Shahabaz was athletic and was active in the school football team." Two Class 10 students say Shahabaz was never part of any gang and never got into trouble. Teachers also echo these sentiments.

J. Mini, the headmistress of the school, says the school authorities have arranged for counselling sessions for Shahabaz's classmates to help them cope with the trauma. She also worries about this becoming more common: "There are many deviant characters these days, who are a big concern for teachers. We are helpless; we cannot combat the issue alone. Throughout the State, we are seeing such unhealthy developments. Incidents of substance abuse and related crimes are also increasing. It is time for stronger interventions."

The students involved in the incident were shifted to a government observation home in Kozhikode and allowed to write the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exam. This has

led to protests by students' organisations.

Iqbal, too, is furious with the Education Department. "A special exam centre with police protection should not have been sanctioned by the government inside the observation home. It was humiliating for us when the boys wrote their exams so comfortably when my son, who was also supposed to write the SSLC exam, was being 'buried'," he told politicians who visited him.

Iqbal says he received the biggest shock when he found out that one of Shahabaz's former close friends participated in the assault. The boy had studied with Shahabaz for about seven years in another school and had even visited Shahabaz's home and shared meals with him. The two of them had moved to different schools after Class 8. Class photos of the two students have been recovered and support the father's claims, according to the police.

District Police Chief (Kozhikode rural) K.E. Baiju says the police have taken all possible legal action, as part of their investigation. He says they cannot endorse any stand that advocates curtailing the right of students to write exams, as this would be unconstitutional. Baiju also says that the police will investigate more to track all those who were part of the "conspiracy".

"The students involved in the incident were not found to have the thoughts of ordinary students. Our investigation indicates that this was a well-planned attack," he adds.

Juvenile Justice Board member Mohan Kumar says the trial will be conducted immediately after the police submit the final investigation report.

"All the legal procedures have been followed as the involved students are minors. They can also move for bail complying with the existing rules and regulations," Kumar says.

Distressing figures

'Kaval' is a programme implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development with support from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru. It focuses on the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children in conflict with the law through a psychosocial approach. Data with Kaval shows that 2,274 children in the 14-18 age group attended counselling sessions between April 2023 and March 2024. Of them, about 100 were involved in murder attempt cases and about 800 in various cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The majority of the children did not have any criminal background and at least 1,600 of them were from rural areas. More than 1,750 of them came from families below the poverty line. Only 296 students were found to have behavioral issues.

Dr. P.N. Suresh Kumar, a psychiatrist, points out that only a multi-dimensional approach with a focus on reducing adolescents' exposure to violent content on social media and films will help society address the issue. "The unrestricted exposure to violence affects the frontal lobe of the brain that controls thoughts, movements, and social skills," he says. Teachers should work with the Health Department to screen adolescents with behavioral issues, Dr. Suresh Kumar adds.

An official from the Department of Education says there are ongoing discussions on the formation of a State-level intervention module. Kerala is also trying to strengthen existing projects such as 'Our Responsibility to Children' and 'Student Police Cadets'. A meeting of the heads of various schools will be convened before the next academic year to finalise the action plan, he adds.

Shahabaz's uncle, Muijeeb Rahman, says he was close to his nephew. "He would ask me for money for his electronic experiments. He had the freedom to ask me anything. We used to travel together when he had school vacations. He was not a child with any criminal tendencies; he was a creative and imaginative boy," he says.

Another uncle, Najieb, says the family will meet the Chief Minister and senior police officers and demand that everyone responsible for the boy's death be arrested. "No parent should be allowed to go through the trauma of seeing their child being killed," he says.

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A party, a street fight, and the death of a boy

एक पार्टी, एक सड़क झगड़ा, और एक लड़के की मौत

On March 1, Mohammed Shahabaz, a Class 10 student from Kozhikode district, succumbed to injuries sustained during a street



fight between students a few days earlier.

1 मार्च को, कोझीकोड जिले के कक्षा 10 के छात्र मोहम्मद शहबाज़ की सड़क झगड़े में लगी चोटों के कारण मृत्यु हो गई।

- **Six students** have been nabbed by the police in connection with the incident.
इस घटना के सिलसिले में छह छात्रों को पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार किया है।
- **Mithosh Joseph** reports on the ongoing police investigation and the increasing concerns about minors in conflict with the law.
मिथोश जोसेफ ने चल रही पुलिस जांच और कानून के साथ संघर्ष में नाबालिगों की बढ़ती चिंताओं पर रिपोर्ट की है।

A father's grief

एक पिता का दुख

- **Mohammed Iqbal, 47**, is mourning the death of his eldest son, **Mohammed Shahabaz, 15**, at his ancestral home in **Thamarassery, Kerala**.
47 वर्षीय मोहम्मद इकबाल अपने सबसे बड़े बेटे, 15 वर्षीय मोहम्मद शहबाज़ की मृत्यु का केरल के थमारास्सेरी में अपने पैतृक घर में शोक मना रहे हैं।
- **Iqbal**, a former daily wage laborer abroad, says his son was smart, performed well in school, loved sports, and built electronic toys.
इकबाल, जो विदेश में दिहाड़ी मजदूर के रूप में काम कर चुके हैं, बताते हैं कि उनका बेटा होशियार था, स्कूल में अच्छा करता था, खेलों को पसंद करता था और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक खिलौने बनाता था।
- He couldn't afford to buy his son a mobile phone due to financial difficulties.
वह आर्थिक तंगी के कारण अपने बेटे के लिए मोबाइल फोन भी नहीं खरीद सके।
- **Iqbal vows to fight until death** to secure justice for his son.
इकबाल ने अपने बेटे के लिए न्याय पाने के लिए अंतिम सांस तक लड़ने की कसम खाई।

A deathly brawl

एक जानलेवा झगड़ा

- The fight started on **February 23** when an argument broke out between students of **Muhammedali Jauhar Higher Secondary School, Eletttil**, and **Government Vocational Higher Secondary School, Thamarassery** at **Trizz**, a local training center.
23 फरवरी को मुहम्मद अली जौहर हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूल, एलेटिल, और गवर्नमेंट वोकेशनल हायर



सेकेंडरी स्कूल, थमारास्सेरी के छात्रों के बीच स्थानीय प्रशिक्षण केंद्र 'Trizz' में बहस हुई।

- The argument occurred during a **farewell party** when the **music stopped due to technical issues**, leading to laughter and a heated exchange.
फेयरवेल पार्टी के दौरान जब तकनीकी खराबी के कारण संगीत बंद हो गया, तो एक समूह हंसने लगा, जिससे गंभीर बहस छिड़ गई।
- On **February 27**, the students **clashed again at the center**, and **Shahabaz joined the fight** to support his friends.
27 फरवरी को छात्रों के बीच फिर झगड़ा हुआ, और शहबाज़ अपने दोस्तों का समर्थन करने के लिए झगड़े में शामिल हुआ।
- Witnesses say the **fight took place at multiple spots** and **lasted from 4:30 PM to 7 PM**.
गवाहों के अनुसार, झगड़ा कई जगहों पर हुआ और शाम 4:30 बजे से रात 7 बजे तक चला।
- **Locals and tuition center teachers** tried to intervene, but the students continued fighting.
स्थानीय लोग और ट्यूशन सेंटर के शिक्षक बीच-बचाव करने की कोशिश करते रहे, लेकिन छात्र झगड़ते रहे।

Shahabaz's fatal injuries

शहबाज़ की घातक चोटें

- When **Shahabaz sustained a head injury**, locals and tuition trainers **called his family**, who rushed him to **Thamarassery Taluk Hospital**.
जब शहबाज़ को सिर में चोट लगी, तो स्थानीय लोग और ट्यूशन प्रशिक्षकों ने उसके परिवार को बुलाया, जिन्होंने उसे थमारास्सेरी तालुक अस्पताल पहुंचाया।
- He was later **referred to Kozhikode Medical College**, but by then, he had **become unconscious and suffered severe eye injuries**.
बाद में उसे कोझीकोड मेडिकल कॉलेज रेफर कर दिया गया, लेकिन तब तक वह बेहोश हो चुका था और उसकी आंखों में गंभीर चोटें थीं।
- On **March 1**, Shahabaz **succumbed to his injuries**.
1 मार्च को, शहबाज़ अपनी चोटों से जूझते हुए चल बसा।
- That evening, he was **laid to rest at Kedavoor Juma Masjid Khabar Sthan**.
उसी शाम, उसे केदावूर जुम्मा मस्जिद कब्रिस्तान में दफनाया गया।

Investigation and protests



जांच और विरोध प्रदर्शन

- His death led to widespread protests by Youth Congress, Kerala Students' Union, and Muslim Students Federation.
उनकी मौत के बाद यूथ कांग्रेस, केरल स्टूडेंट्स यूनियन और मुस्लिम स्टूडेंट्स फेडरेशन के नेतृत्व में विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए।
- These organizations alleged a conspiracy behind Shahabaz's death and demanded justice.
इन संगठनों ने शहबाज़ की मौत में साजिश का आरोप लगाते हुए न्याय की मांग की।
- The Kerala government described the incident as "unfortunate" and assured a comprehensive investigation.
केरल सरकार ने इस घटना को "दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण" बताया और विस्तृत जांच का आश्वासन दिया।
- The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights registered a suo motu case in the incident.
केरल राज्य बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग ने स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए मामला दर्ज किया।

Police action

पुलिस की कार्रवाई

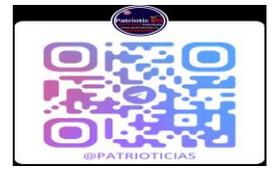
- On March 2, police nabbed five students based on a complaint by Shahabaz's parents.
2 मार्च को पुलिस ने शहबाज़ के माता-पिता की शिकायत पर पांच छात्रों को गिरफ्तार किया।
- A sixth student was arrested on March 4 in connection with the incident.
4 मार्च को छठे छात्र को भी गिरफ्तार किया गया।
- The head of the tuition center, K.K. Akhilesh, stated that the arrested students had no criminal background and were hardworking students.
ट्यूशन सेंटर के प्रमुख, के.के. अखिलेश, ने कहा कि गिरफ्तार छात्र अपराधी प्रवृत्ति के नहीं थे और मेहनती विद्यार्थी थे।

This incident has raised serious concerns about student violence and juvenile delinquency in the region.

यह घटना छात्रों में बढ़ती हिंसा और किशोर अपराध को लेकर गंभीर चिंताएं पैदा कर रही है।

Murmurs of a conspiracy

षडयंत्र की आहट



- According to the **postmortem report**, Shahabaz suffered a deep head injury and a **fractured skull**.
पोस्टमॉर्टम रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, शहबाज़ को गंभीर सिर की चोट और खोपड़ी में फ्रैक्चर हुआ था।
- The police later found that he had been **attacked with a nunchaku**, a martial arts **weapon** made of **two sticks**.
पुलिस को बाद में पता चला कि उस पर नन्चकू से हमला किया गया था, जो दो डंडों से बना मार्शल आर्ट हथियार है।
- One of the **six accused students** brought the **nunchaku**, which originally belonged to **his older brother**.
छह आरोपी छात्रों में से एक ने यह नन्चकू लाया था, जो पहले उसके बड़े भाई के पास था।
- **Anger grew** when a **photo emerged** showing the **father of one of the accused with a convict** in the **2012 murder case of T.P. Chandrasekharan**.
गुस्सा बढ़ गया जब एक तस्वीर सामने आई, जिसमें आरोपियों में से एक के पिता 2012 में टी.पी. चंद्रशेखरन की हत्या के दोषी के साथ दिखे।
- The police also found a **WhatsApp group** created by the **six accused students**, where messages showed that they had been **planning the fight for over four days**.
पुलिस को छह आरोपी छात्रों द्वारा बनाया गया एक व्हाट्सएप ग्रुप भी मिला, जिसमें चार दिनों से झगड़े की योजना बनाने के सबूत मिले।
- The police recovered a **laptop, four phones, and the weapon** from the accused students' houses.
पुलिस ने एक लैपटॉप, चार मोबाइल फोन और हथियार आरोपियों के घरों से जब्त किए।

Digital Evidence and Police Findings

डिजिटल साक्ष्य और पुलिस की जांच

- A **senior police officer** stated that the **accused students showed no remorse**.
एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी ने बताया कि आरोपी छात्रों में कोई पछतावा नहीं था।
- The **social media group** had **detailed discussions** about the **nunchaku** and the **clash plan**.
सोशल मीडिया ग्रुप में नन्चकू और झगड़े की योजना को लेकर विस्तार से चर्चा हुई थी।
- The police believe the **messages indicate a rising criminal trend among adolescents**.
पुलिस के अनुसार, ये संदेश किशोरों में बढ़ती आपराधिक प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाते हैं।
- **P. Jayesh**, a professional karate trainer, mentioned that **nunchaku is banned in several countries but not in India**.



पी. जयेश, एक पेशेवर कराटे प्रशिक्षक, ने बताया कि नन्चकू कई देशों में प्रतिबंधित है, लेकिन भारत में नहीं।

- He warned that untrained use of nunchaku could lead to dangerous and unpredictable outcomes.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि बिना प्रशिक्षण के नन्चकू का उपयोग खतरनाक और अप्रत्याशित परिणाम दे सकता है।

Iqbal's concerns about the probe

इकबाल की जांच को लेकर चिंता

- Iqbal, Shahabaz's father, expressed concerns that one of the main accused is a policeman's son, and some others belong to politically influential families.
शहबाज़ के पिता, इकबाल, ने चिंता जताई कि मुख्य आरोपियों में से एक पुलिसकर्मी का बेटा है, और कुछ अन्य राजनीतिक रूप से प्रभावशाली परिवारों से जुड़े हैं।
- The police have charged the accused under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.
पुलिस ने आरोपियों के खिलाफ भारतीय न्याय संहिता (BNS), 2023 की कई धाराओं के तहत मामला दर्ज किया है।
- The sections include:
 - 103(1) - Murder
 - 118(2) - Causing grievous hurt using dangerous weapons
 - 126(2) - Wrongful restraint
 - 189(2) - Unlawful assembly
 - 191(2) - Rioting
 - 190 - Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offense committed in prosecution of common object
 - पुलिस ने आरोपियों पर धारा 103(1) (हत्या), 118(2) (खतरनाक हथियारों से गंभीर चोट पहुंचाना), 126(2) (गलत तरीके से रोकना), 189(2) (गैरकानूनी सभा), 191(2) (दंगा) और 190 (गैरकानूनी सभा के सभी सदस्य अपराध के लिए दोषी) के तहत मामला दर्ज किया है।
- The police have also reached out to Meta and other social media platforms to collect further evidence.
पुलिस ने मेटा और अन्य सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्मों से और सबूत जुटाने के लिए संपर्क किया है।

A recurring phenomenon

बार-बार होने वाली घटनाएं



- Some **local traders** revealed that students from the **two schools** (7 km apart) have been **fighting for years over sports and cultural programs**.
कुछ स्थानीय व्यापारियों ने बताया कि दोनों स्कूलों के छात्र (जो 7 किमी दूर हैं) पिछले कई वर्षों से खेल और सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों को लेकर झगड़ते रहे हैं।
- These fights are so common that locals **call them 'Friday Thallumala', meaning an act of revenge**.
ये झगड़े इतने आम हो गए हैं कि स्थानीय लोग इसे 'फ्राइडे थल्लुमाला' (बदले की लड़ाई) कहते हैं।
- **A few months ago, local traders had requested police intervention to stop these weekly fights**.
कुछ महीने पहले, स्थानीय व्यापारियों ने इन साप्ताहिक झगड़ों को रोकने के लिए पुलिस से हस्तक्षेप करने का अनुरोध किया था।

Impact on schools and students

स्कूलों और छात्रों पर प्रभाव

- The incident has **deeply affected both schools, their students and teachers**.
यह घटना दोनों स्कूलों, उनके छात्रों और शिक्षकों को गहराई से प्रभावित कर रही है।
- **Mohammed Basheer, headmaster of the Government Vocational Higher Secondary School, Thamarassery**, was emotional as **all six accused students belong to his school**.
गवर्नमेंट वोकेशनल हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूल, थमारासेरी के प्रधानाचार्य, मोहम्मद बशीर, भावुक हो गए क्योंकि गिरफ्तार सभी छह छात्र उनके स्कूल के हैं।
- He said, "**Our school was performing well. Now, everything is shaken.**"
उन्होंने कहा, "हमारा स्कूल अच्छा प्रदर्शन कर रहा था, लेकिन अब सबकुछ हिल गया है।"
- At **Muhammedali Jauhar Higher Secondary School, Elettil**, students are **mourning Shahabaz's death** and struggling to focus on exams.
मुहम्मद अली जौहर हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूल, एलेटिल में छात्र शहबाज़ की मौत पर शोक मना रहे हैं और परीक्षा पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने में कठिनाई महसूस कर रहे हैं।
- One student said, "**Shahabaz was a tech-savvy student.**"
एक छात्र ने कहा, "शहबाज़ तकनीकी रूप से होशियार छात्र था।"
- Another said, "**He was athletic and played in the school football team.**"
एक अन्य छात्र ने कहा, "वह खेलों में सक्रिय था और स्कूल फुटबॉल टीम का हिस्सा था।"
- Two **Class 10 students** confirmed that **Shahabaz was never part of any gang and never got into trouble**.



दो कक्षा 10 के छात्रों ने पुष्टि की कि शहबाज़ कभी किसी गिरोह का हिस्सा नहीं था और कभी किसी परेशानी में नहीं पड़ा था।

Counseling and Concerns for the Future

काउंसलिंग और भविष्य को लेकर चिंताएं

- **J. Mini, headmistress of the school**, said they have **arranged counseling sessions** to help students **cope with trauma**.
जे. मिनी, स्कूल की प्रधानाध्यापिका, ने बताया कि छात्रों को आघात से उबरने में मदद के लिए काउंसलिंग सत्र आयोजित किए गए हैं।
- She warned that **there are increasing deviant behaviors among students**, making it **difficult for teachers to handle**.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि छात्रों में असामान्य व्यवहार बढ़ रहा है, जिससे शिक्षकों के लिए इसे संभालना मुश्किल हो गया है।
- She urged **stronger interventions** to address **rising cases of substance abuse and violence among teenagers**.
उन्होंने बढ़ते नशीली पदार्थों के दुरुपयोग और किशोरों में बढ़ती हिंसा से निपटने के लिए मजबूत हस्तक्षेप की जरूरत बताई।

Students Allowed to Write Exams Amid Protests

छात्रों को परीक्षा देने की अनुमति, विरोध प्रदर्शन जारी

- The students involved in the incident were shifted to a **government observation home in Kozhikode** and were allowed to **write the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exam**.
घटना में शामिल छात्रों को कोझीकोड के सरकारी पर्यवेक्षण गृह में भेजा गया और **सेकेंडरी स्कूल लीविंग सर्टिफिकेट (SSLC) परीक्षा देने की अनुमति दी गई**।
- This decision led to **protests by students' organizations**.
इस फैसले के खिलाफ छात्र संगठनों ने विरोध प्रदर्शन किया।
- **Iqbal, Shahabaz's father**, was furious with the **Education Department**, stating that a **special exam center with police protection** should not have been set up inside the observation home.
शहबाज़ के पिता, इकबाल, शिक्षा विभाग से नाराज़ थे और उन्होंने कहा कि **पुलिस सुरक्षा के साथ विशेष परीक्षा केंद्र पर्यवेक्षण गृह के अंदर नहीं बनाया जाना चाहिए था**।
- He found it humiliating that **the accused students wrote their exams comfortably** while his son, who was also supposed to write the SSLC exam, was being buried.



उन्हें यह अपमानजनक लगा कि जब उनके बेटे का अंतिम संस्कार किया जा रहा था, तब आरोपी छात्र आराम से अपनी परीक्षा दे रहे थे।

Betrayal by a Close Friend

करीबी दोस्त की गद्दारी

- Iqbal was **shocked** to learn that **one of Shahabaz's former close friends was involved in the assault.**
इकबाल को गहरा झटका लगा जब उन्हें पता चला कि शहबाज़ का एक पुराना करीबी दोस्त इस हमले में शामिल था।
- The two had **studied together for seven years**, shared meals, and had even visited each other's homes before moving to different schools after **Class 8.**
दोनों ने सात साल तक एक साथ पढ़ाई की थी, साथ में खाना खाया था, और कक्षा 8 के बाद अलग-अलग स्कूलों में जाने से पहले एक-दूसरे के घरों में भी गए थे।
- **Class photos recovered by the police** supported Iqbal's claim.
पुलिस द्वारा बरामद की गई कक्षा की तस्वीरों ने इकबाल के दावे की पुष्टि की।

Police Stand and Legal Investigation

पुलिस का रुख और कानूनी जांच

- **District Police Chief (Kozhikode rural), K.E. Baiju**, stated that the **police have taken all possible legal actions** as part of their investigation.
जिला पुलिस प्रमुख (कोझीकोड ग्रामीण), के.ई. बैजू, ने कहा कि पुलिस ने अपनी जांच के तहत सभी कानूनी कदम उठाए हैं।
- He mentioned that **students' right to write exams cannot be curtailed**, as it would be **unconstitutional.**
उन्होंने कहा कि छात्रों के परीक्षा देने के अधिकार को रोका नहीं जा सकता, क्योंकि यह असंवैधानिक होगा।
- The police **will investigate further** to track down everyone involved in the **conspiracy.**
पुलिस आगे जांच करेगी ताकि षड्यंत्र में शामिल सभी लोगों का पता लगाया जा सके।
- The **Juvenile Justice Board member, Mohan Kumar**, stated that the **trial will begin immediately** after the final police report is submitted.
जुवेनाइल जस्टिस बोर्ड के सदस्य, मोहन कुमार, ने कहा कि अंतिम पुलिस रिपोर्ट जमा होते ही मुकदमा शुरू किया जाएगा।



- He added that **since the accused are minors**, all legal procedures have been followed, and they **can apply for bail** under existing laws.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि **क्योंकि आरोपी नाबालिग हैं**, इसलिए सभी **कानूनी प्रक्रियाओं का पालन किया गया है** और वे **जमानत के लिए आवेदन कर सकते हैं**।

Disturbing Trends Among Juveniles

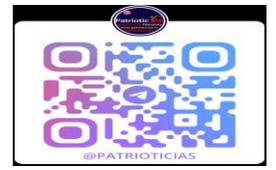
नाबालिगों में बढ़ती आपराधिक प्रवृत्तियां

- 'Kaval', a programme by the **Department of Women and Child Development** in collaboration with **NIMHANS, Bengaluru**, works on **rehabilitating juvenile offenders**.
'कवल', जो **महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग** और **NIMHANS, बंगलुरु** द्वारा संचालित है, **नाबालिग अपराधियों के पुनर्वास पर काम करता है**।
- Between **April 2023 and March 2024**, **2,274 children (aged 14-18)** attended **counseling sessions**.
अप्रैल 2023 से मार्च 2024 के बीच, **2,274 (14-18 वर्ष के) बच्चों ने काउंसलिंग सत्रों में भाग लिया**।
- Among them:
 - **100 children were involved in attempted murder cases.**
 - **800 were booked under the POCSO Act, 2012.**
 - **1,600 were from rural areas, and 1,750 came from families below the poverty line.**
 - **100 बच्चे हत्या के प्रयास मामलों में शामिल थे।**
 - **800 बच्चों पर POCSO अधिनियम, 2012 के तहत मामले दर्ज किए गए।**
 - **1,600 बच्चे ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से थे, और 1,750 गरीबी रेखा से नीचे के परिवारों से थे।**
- Only **296 students** were found to have **behavioral issues**.
केवल **296 छात्रों में व्यवहार संबंधी समस्याएं पाई गईं**।

Need for a Multi-Dimensional Approach

बहु-आयामी दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता

- **Dr. P.N. Suresh Kumar, a psychiatrist**, stated that **unrestricted exposure to violence in films and social media affects the brain's frontal lobe**, impacting thoughts, movements, and social skills.
मनोचिकित्सक डॉ. पी.एन. सुरेश कुमार ने कहा कि फिल्मों और सोशल मीडिया में हिंसा की असीमित पहुंच मस्तिष्क के फ्रंटल लोब को प्रभावित करती है, जिससे सोचने, हिलने-डुलने और सामाजिक कौशल पर असर पड़ता है।



- He recommended **screening adolescents with behavioral issues** and involving the **Health Department in school programs**.
उन्होंने व्यवहार संबंधी समस्याओं वाले किशोरों की जांच करने और स्वास्थ्य विभाग को स्कूल कार्यक्रमों में शामिल करने की सिफारिश की।
- An **Education Department official** said discussions are ongoing to **form a State-level intervention module** to prevent such incidents.
शिक्षा विभाग के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए राज्य-स्तरीय हस्तक्षेप मॉड्यूल बनाने पर चर्चा चल रही है।
- Kerala is also trying to **strengthen existing projects**, such as **'Our Responsibility to Children'** and **'Student Police Cadets'**.
केरल 'Our Responsibility to Children' और 'Student Police Cadets' जैसी मौजूदा परियोजनाओं को मजबूत करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।
- A **meeting with school heads** will be conducted before the **next academic year** to **finalize the action plan**.
अगले शैक्षणिक वर्ष से पहले स्कूल प्रमुखों की बैठक आयोजित की जाएगी, ताकि कार्य योजना को अंतिम रूप दिया जा सके।

Family's Demand for Justice परिवार की न्याय की मांग

- **Shahabaz's uncle, Mujeeb Rahman**, recalled how **Shahabaz loved electronics** and would often ask for money for his projects.
शहबाज़ के चाचा, मुजीब रहमान, ने याद किया कि शहबाज़ को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स का बहुत शौक था और वह अक्सर अपने प्रोजेक्ट्स के लिए पैसे मांगता था।
- Another **uncle, Najeeb**, stated that the family would **meet the Chief Minister and senior police officers** to demand the **arrest of everyone responsible**.
एक अन्य चाचा, नजीब, ने कहा कि परिवार मुख्यमंत्री और वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारियों से मिलकर सभी दोषियों की गिरफ्तारी की मांग करेगा।
- He added, **"No parent should have to go through the trauma of losing their child like this."**
उन्होंने कहा, "किसी भी माता-पिता को अपने बच्चे की इस तरह की मौत का दर्द नहीं सहना चाहिए।"

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1. Rajnath Singh Interacts with Women Crew of INSV Tarini

राजनाथ सिंह ने आईएनएसवी तारिणी की महिला दल से बातचीत की

2. Ladki Bahin Yojana: ₹17,500 Cr. Disbursed to 2.38 Crore Women

लाड़की बहिन योजना: ₹17,500 करोड़ की राशि 2.38 करोड़ महिलाओं को वितरित

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Rajnath Singh interacts with women crew of INSV Tarini

PCS

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

On the eve of International Women's Day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday, via videoconference, interacted with the two women Naval officers – Lt. Cdr. Dilna K and Lt. Cdr. Roopa A – undertaking global circumnavigation in sailing vessel **INSV Tarini** under Navika Sagar Parikrama II.

“During the interaction, the Defence Minister lauded the courage, dedication, and resilience of the NSP-II crew, who have embarked on this challenging voyage as part of India's continued efforts to showcase Nari Shakti in high-endurance missions,” the Navy said in a statement. He congratulated the crew for the remarkable milestones of crossing Point Nemo – the world's most isolated waters – and sailing through the Drake Passage, one of the most treacherous water bodies, it stated.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding opportunities for women in the defence sector, it added.

Rajnath Singh Interacts with Women Crew of INSV Tarini

राजनाथ सिंह ने आईएनएसवी तारिणी की महिला दल से बातचीत की

On the eve of International Women's Day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh interacted via videoconference with two women Naval officers undertaking global circumnavigation in INSV Tarini under Navika Sagar Parikrama II.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर, रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से आईएनएसवी तारिणी पर नविका सागर परिक्रमा II के तहत वैश्विक परिभ्रमण कर रही दो महिला नौसेना अधिकारियों से बातचीत की।

• The two officers, Lt. Cdr. Dilna K and Lt. Cdr. Roopa A, are sailing across the world showcasing Nari Shakti in high-endurance missions.

दो अधिकारी, लेफ्टिनेंट कमांडर दिलना के और लेफ्टिनेंट कमांडर रूपा ए, विश्व की समुद्री यात्रा कर रही हैं, जिससे नारी शक्ति को दीर्घकालिक अभियानों में प्रदर्शित किया जा रहा है।

Defence Minister's Appreciation

रक्षा मंत्री की सराहना

• Rajnath Singh praised the courage, dedication, and resilience of the NSP-II crew, calling it a remarkable journey.

**राजनाथ सिंह ने एनएसपी-II दल की साहस, समर्पण और दृढ़ता की सराहना की और इसे एक उल्लेखनीय यात्रा बताया।

• He congratulated the crew for achieving significant milestones like: उन्होंने दल को इन महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धियों के लिए बधाई दी:

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- **Crossing Point Nemo, the world's most isolated waters.**
प्वाइंट नेमो पार करने के लिए, जो दुनिया का सबसे पृथक जल क्षेत्र है।
- **Sailing through the Drake Passage, one of the most treacherous water bodies.**
डेक पैसेज पार करने के लिए, जो दुनिया की सबसे खतरनाक जलधाराओं में से एक है।

Government's Commitment to Women in Defence

रक्षा क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के लिए सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता

- The Defence Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding opportunities for women in the defence sector.

Ladki Bahin Yojana: ₹17,500 cr. disbursed to 2.38 crore women

रक्षा मंत्री ने रक्षा क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के लिए अवसरों के विस्तार के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
PCS



The Economic Survey was tabled in the Maharashtra Assembly on Friday. FILE PHOTO

The Maharashtra government disbursed ₹17,500 crore to 2.38 crore women under the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana till December 2024, stated the Economic Survey tabled in the State Assembly on Friday.

"The State launched the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana in June 2024 with the objective of promoting rehabilitation, economic development, and empowerment of women and girls in the 21 to 65 age group. Under this scheme, financial aid of ₹17,505.90 crore was provided to 2.38 crore women beneficiaries up to December 2024," the Economic Survey stated.

Through disbursement of monthly aid of ₹1,500, the scheme intends to rehabilitate women economically and socially to make them self-reliant, promote empowerment, and improve the health and nutritional status of the women and children dependent on them, the report stated.

The details come amid criticism that the scheme was introduced by the ruling Mahayuti for electoral gain ahead of last year's Assembly election and a dip in the number of eligible

beneficiaries in the State.

The Economic Survey stated that the allocation for the gender budget was increased. "The share of the gender budget in the total State budget was 3.1% in 2023-24 and 3.3% in 2024-25," it stated. In 2023-24, the allocation was ₹20,391 crore, which increased marginally to ₹21,951 crore in 2024-25.

Dip in expenditure

However, expenditure on certain women-specific schemes in the State saw a dip. For example, expenditure on women shelter homes, government women hostels, and protective homes recorded a drop from ₹15.31 crore in 2023-24 to ₹9.82 crore in 2024-25 (up to December 2024). Beneficiaries also dipped from 6,654 in 2023-24 to 4,527 in 2024-25.

Ladki Bahin Yojana: ₹17,500 Cr. Disbursed to 2.38 Crore Women

लाइकी बहिन योजना: ₹17,500 करोड़ की राशि 2.38 करोड़ महिलाओं को वितरित

- The Maharashtra government disbursed ₹17,500 crore under the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana till December 2024, benefiting 2.38 crore women.

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने दिसंबर 2024 तक 'माझी लाइकी बहिन योजना' के तहत ₹17,500 करोड़ वितरित किए, जिससे 2.38 करोड़ महिलाएं लाभान्वित हुईं।

- The scheme was launched in June 2024 to promote rehabilitation, economic development, and empowerment of women aged 21 to 65 years.

यह योजना जून 2024 में शुरू की गई थी, जिसका उद्देश्य 21 से 65 वर्ष की महिलाओं के पुनर्वास, आर्थिक विकास और सशक्तिकरण को बढ़ावा देना था।

- A financial aid of ₹1,500 per month is provided to help women become self-reliant, improve their health and nutrition, and support their children.

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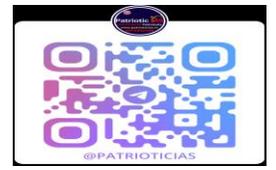
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महिलाओं को आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर बनाने, उनके स्वास्थ्य और पोषण में सुधार लाने और उनके बच्चों का समर्थन करने के लिए प्रति माह ₹1,500 की वित्तीय सहायता दी जाती है।

Criticism and Budget Allocation

आलोचना और बजट आवंटन

- The scheme has been criticized as an electoral move by the ruling Mahayuti alliance ahead of the Assembly elections.
इस योजना की आलोचना महायुति गठबंधन द्वारा विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले एक चुनावी कदम के रूप में की गई।
- The Economic Survey stated that the gender budget share in the State budget increased from 3.1% in 2023-24 to 3.3% in 2024-25.
आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, राज्य के कुल बजट में लैंगिक बजट की हिस्सेदारी 2023-24 में 3.1% से बढ़कर 2024-25 में 3.3% हो गई।
- The gender budget allocation was ₹20,391 crore in 2023-24, which marginally increased to ₹21,951 crore in 2024-25.
लैंगिक बजट का आवंटन 2023-24 में ₹20,391 करोड़ था, जो 2024-25 में मामूली बढ़कर ₹21,951 करोड़ हो गया।

Dip in Women-Specific Expenditure

महिला-विशिष्ट योजनाओं में खर्च में गिरावट

- Expenditure on women's shelter homes, government hostels, and protective homes declined from ₹15.31 crore in 2023-24 to ₹9.82 crore in 2024-25 (till December 2024).
महिला आश्रय गृह, सरकारी महिला हॉस्टल और सुरक्षात्मक गृहों पर खर्च 2023-24 में ₹15.31 करोड़ से घटकर 2024-25 (दिसंबर 2024 तक) में ₹9.82 करोड़ रह गया।
- The number of beneficiaries in these schemes dropped from 6,654 in 2023-24 to 4,527 in 2024-25.
इन योजनाओं के लाभार्थियों की संख्या 2023-24 में 6,654 से घटकर 2024-25 में 4,527 हो गई।