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PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
09 MARCH 2025

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09_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. More women should be part of workforce: Murmu
अधिक महिलाओं को कार्यबल का हिस्सा बनना चाहिए: मुर्मू
2. The taste of a frigid lake
जमी हुई झील का स्वाद

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More women should be part of workforce: Murmu

GS Paper I: Society

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

When India is moving towards becoming the third largest economy in the world, the participation of women in the country's workforce should increase rapidly, President Droupadi Murmu said on Saturday, on the occasion of International Women's Day.

She was speaking at the inauguration of a national conference on the theme 'Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat (Developed India through the development of women)' organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Stating that there was no doubt that women had made unprecedented progress over the last 50 years, the President offered the example of her own life. Born in a simple family living in a backward area of Odisha, her journey to Rashtrapati Bhavan is the story of equal opportunities and social justice for



President Droupadi Murmu with Union Minister Annpurna Devi at a conference on International Women's Day in New Delhi. PTI

women in Indian society, the President said.

Childcare tasks

Ms. Murmu pointed out that not only in India but also in other countries, one of the reasons for the low participation of women in the workforce is the belief that women will take leave to look after their children or will pay less attention to their work.

"But this thinking is not correct. We have to ask ourselves whether society has no responsibility to-

wards children. We all know that the first teacher is the mother. If a mother takes leave to look after children... it is also for the betterment of society. A mother can make her child an ideal citizen through her efforts," she said.

A better environment for girls to move forward is necessary to realise the dream of a developed India. In such an environment, they can make independent decisions about their lives without pressure or fear, she said.

More women should be part of workforce: Murmu
अधिक महिलाओं को कार्यबल का हिस्सा बनना चाहिए: मुर्मू



When India is moving towards becoming the third largest economy in the world, the participation of women in the workforce should increase rapidly, said President Droupadi Murmu on International Women's Day.

जब भारत दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बनने की ओर बढ़ रहा है, तो महिलाओं की कार्यबल में भागीदारी तेजी से बढ़नी चाहिए, ऐसा राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर कहा।

- She was speaking at the inauguration of a national conference on the theme 'Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat' (Developed India through the development of women), organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
वह 'नारी शक्ति से विकसित भारत' विषय पर राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन के उद्घाटन पर बोल रही थीं, जिसे केंद्रीय महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित किया गया था।
- Women have made unprecedented progress over the last 50 years, and the President gave her own life as an example.
पिछले 50 वर्षों में महिलाओं ने अभूतपूर्व प्रगति की है, और राष्ट्रपति ने अपने जीवन को इसका उदाहरण दिया।
- She said that being born in a simple family in a backward area of Odisha, her journey to Rashtrapati Bhavan reflects equal opportunities and social justice for women in India.
उन्होंने कहा कि वह ओडिशा के एक पिछड़े इलाके में साधारण परिवार में जन्मी थीं, और उनका राष्ट्रपति भवन तक का सफर भारत में समान अवसरों और सामाजिक न्याय का प्रतीक है।

Childcare tasks

बाल देखभाल की जिम्मेदारियाँ

- Low participation of women in the workforce is due to the belief that women take leave for childcare or pay less attention to work.
महिलाओं की कार्यबल में कम भागीदारी का कारण यह धारणा है कि महिलाएं बच्चों की देखभाल के लिए अवकाश लेती हैं या काम पर कम ध्यान देती हैं।
- "This thinking is incorrect," said the President, questioning whether society has no responsibility towards children.
"यह सोच गलत है," राष्ट्रपति ने कहा और पूछा कि क्या समाज की बच्चों के प्रति कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं है।



- "A mother is the first teacher, and if she takes leave for childcare, it benefits society as well."
"माँ पहली शिक्षक होती है, और अगर वह बच्चों की देखभाल के लिए अवकाश लेती है, तो यह समाज के लिए भी लाभदायक होता है।"
- She emphasized the need for a **better environment for girls** so they can make **independent decisions** without **pressure or fear**.
उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि लड़कियों के लिए बेहतर माहौल जरूरी है, जिससे वे बिना दबाव या डर के स्वतंत्र निर्णय ले सकें।



The taste of a frigid lake

Known for its crunchy texture, the exquisite lotus stems harvested from the **Anchar Lake in Srinagar** have a pride of place on menus around the world

GS Paper I: Geography



Imran Nissar
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Lotus stem, *nadru* in the local language, is an exquisite aquatic vegetable found in the Kashmir Valley. The Anchar Lake, which is connected to the Dal Lake through a channel and located on the outskirts of Srinagar, is one of the primary sources of this vegetable, which has found a pride of place on menus around the globe.

This lake has a varied biodiversity, and the traditional practice of harvesting lotus stem is an important annual activity that attracts onlookers as well. The harvesting season starts with the onset of winter and continues till February, when the water levels drop. Farmers have to dive in near freezing waters with their equipment to cut the stem at the root while making sure they are not damaged, so as not to impact its market value.

After harvesting, the lotus stem is traditionally sold in bundles tied with a wicker rope. Those

exporting it dry the stems and send them in boxes.

An exquisite dish, *nadru yakhti*, made in yogurt sauce is one of the finest examples of vegetarian dishes served in the Valley. The stem is known for its crunchy texture. Fritters made from it, locally known as *nadru monje*, are sold by street vendors across the Valley, especially outside shrines, markets, and public transport yards. Local people send the fare to their family and friends living in other parts of the country and across the world.

Nadru farming provides a livelihood to many families who live around the lakes and have inherited the practice going back centuries from their forefathers.

Growing pollution in the lake has not only impacted the growth of the stems but also made it difficult for the farmers to harvest them in the contaminated waters.



Bundled up: A boy sells lotus stems and other vegetables on the banks of the Dal Lake on a cold winter morning.



The taste of a frigid lake

जमी हुई झील का स्वाद

Lotus stem (nadru) is an exquisite aquatic vegetable found in the Kashmir Valley.

कमल का तना (नद्र) एक अद्वितीय जलीय सब्जी है, जो कश्मीर घाटी में

पाई जाती है।

- **Anchar Lake**, connected to **Dal Lake**, is one of the **primary sources** of this vegetable, which is now popular **worldwide**.

आँचर झील, जो डल झील से जुड़ी है, इस सब्जी का एक मुख्य स्रोत है, और अब यह पूरी दुनिया में लोकप्रिय हो चुकी है।

- The lake has a **varied biodiversity**, and **harvesting lotus stem** is an **important annual activity** that attracts **onlookers**.

इस झील में विविध जैव विविधता है, और कमल के तने की कटाई एक महत्वपूर्ण वार्षिक गतिविधि है,



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जो दर्शकों को आकर्षित करती है।

- **Harvesting season starts in winter** and continues **till February**, when **water levels drop**.
कटाई का मौसम सर्दियों में शुरू होता है और फरवरी तक चलता है, जब जल स्तर घट जाता है।
- Farmers **dive in near-freezing waters** to cut the **stem at the root** carefully to **preserve market value**.
किसान लगभग जमा देने वाले पानी में गोता लगाकर जड़ से तने को सावधानीपूर्वक काटते हैं, ताकि इसकी बाजार में गुणवत्ता बनी रहे।
- After harvesting, **lotus stems** are traditionally **tied with a wicker rope** and sold in **bundles**.
कटाई के बाद, कमल के तनों को पारंपरिक रूप से बांस की रस्सी से बांधकर गठों में बेचा जाता है।
- For **export**, the stems are **dried and packed in boxes**.
निर्यात के लिए, तनों को सुखाकर डिब्बों में पैक किया जाता है।

Famous dishes made from nadru

नद्रू से बनी प्रसिद्ध व्यंजन

- **Nadru yakhni**, a dish cooked in **yogurt sauce**, is one of the **finest vegetarian delicacies** in the **Valley**.
नद्रू यखनी, जो दही की ग्रेवी में पकाई जाती है, घाटी के सबसे बेहतरीन शाकाहारी व्यंजनों में से एक है।
- **Nadru monje (fritters)** are a **popular street snack**, sold outside **shrines, markets, and transport yards**.
नद्रू मॉजे (पकोड़े) एक लोकप्रिय स्ट्रीट स्नैक है, जो मजारों, बाजारों और परिवहन केंद्रों के पास बेचा जाता है।
- People **send nadru dishes** to their **family and friends** across **India and the world**.
लोग नद्रू व्यंजन को अपने परिवार और दोस्तों को भारत और दुनिया भर में भेजते हैं।

Livelihood and challenges

रोजगार और चुनौतियाँ

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- **Nadru farming** is a centuries-old practice, providing **livelihood** to families living around the lakes.
नदरू की खेती एक सदियों पुरानी परंपरा है, जो झीलों के आसपास रहने वाले परिवारों को रोजगार प्रदान करती है।
- **Increasing pollution in Anchar Lake** has negatively impacted the growth of lotus stems.
आँचर झील में बढ़ते प्रदूषण ने कमल के तनों की वृद्धि पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डाला है।
- Contaminated waters make it **difficult for farmers** to harvest nadru safely.
प्रदूषित पानी किसानों के लिए सुरक्षित रूप से नदरू की कटाई करना कठिन बना देता है।

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

1. **V. Ramaswami, former apex court judge, no more**
वी. रामास्वामी, पूर्व सर्वोच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश, नहीं रहे
2. **Rebel without arms**
हथियारों के बिना विद्रोही
3. **In the terror web**
आतंक के जाल में
4. **Anti-government agency**
सरकार विरोधी एजेंसी



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V. Ramaswami,
former apex
court judge,
no more

GS Paper II:
Judiciary

CHENNAI

Former Supreme Court judge V. Ramaswami died at his residence in Chennai following a cardiac arrest on Saturday morning. He was 96. He is survived by his two sons and three daughters.

Ramaswami was born on February 15, 1929. He studied at the Hindu High School in Srivilliputtur, Virudhunagar district. He then obtained a degree in law from the Madras Law College.

He enrolled as an advocate on July 13, 1953. He was appointed as an Additional Government Pleader in 1962 and as a State Public Prosecutor in 1969, before being elevated as a judge of the Madras High Court in 1971.

Impeachment motion

In 1987, he was appointed as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, and was elevated to the Supreme Court in 1989.

An impeachment motion was moved against him for extravagant spending, but the motion failed in 1993. He retired from service in 1994.

V. Ramaswami, former apex court judge, no more
वी. रामास्वामी, पूर्व सर्वोच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश, नहीं रहे

Former Supreme Court judge V. Ramaswami passed away at his residence in Chennai following a cardiac arrest on Saturday morning.

पूर्व सर्वोच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश वी. रामास्वामी का शनिवार सुबह चेन्नई स्थित आवास पर हृदयगति रुकने से निधन हो गया।

- He was 96 years old.
वह 96 वर्ष के थे।
- He is survived by his two sons and three daughters.
उनके पीछे दो बेटे और तीन बेटियाँ हैं।

Early Life and Education

प्रारंभिक जीवन और शिक्षा

- V. Ramaswami was born on February 15, 1929.
वी. रामास्वामी का जन्म 15 फरवरी 1929 को हुआ था।
- He studied at Hindu High School in Srivilliputtur, Virudhunagar district.
उन्होंने श्रीविल्लिपुत्तूर, विरुधुनगर जिले के हिंदू हाई स्कूल में पढ़ाई की।
- He obtained a law degree from Madras Law College.
उन्होंने मद्रास लॉ कॉलेज से कानून की डिग्री प्राप्त की।

Legal Career

कानूनी करियर

- He enrolled as an advocate on July 13, 1953.
उन्होंने 13 जुलाई 1953 को वकील के रूप में नामांकन किया।
- He was appointed as an Additional Government Pleader in 1962 and later became a State Public Prosecutor in 1969.

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उन्हें 1962 में अतिरिक्त सरकारी वकील और 1969 में राज्य के लोक अभियोजक के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया।

- He was elevated as a judge of the Madras High Court in 1971.
उन्हें 1971 में मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश के रूप में पदोन्नत किया गया।

Impeachment Motion and Supreme Court Tenure महाभियोग प्रस्ताव और सर्वोच्च न्यायालय कार्यकाल

- In 1987, he was appointed as the **Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court**.
1987 में, उन्हें पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय का मुख्य न्यायाधीश नियुक्त किया गया।
- In 1989, he was elevated to the **Supreme Court**.
1989 में, उन्हें सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में पदोन्नत किया गया।
- An **impeachment motion** was moved against him for **extravagant spending**, but it **failed in 1993**.
उनके खिलाफ अनावश्यक खर्चों को लेकर महाभियोग प्रस्ताव लाया गया, लेकिन यह 1993 में विफल हो गया।
- He **retired from service in 1994**.
उन्होंने 1994 में सेवा से सेवानिवृत्ति ली।



Rebel without arms

Abdullah Öcalan

The PKK founder's call to his supporters to lay down weapons and dissolve the organisation opens the possibility of bringing the 40-year conflict between Türkiye's Kurdish minority militants and the state to an end

GS Paper II

Stanly Johny

Mahir Çayan, a Stalinist and an admirer of the Cuban revolution, was the head of the People's Liberation Party-Front of Türkiye in the early 1970s. In March 1972, Çayan and 10 of his comrades abducted three NATO technicians from a radar station in Türkiye's Ünye. Their demand was to prevent the execution of Deniz Gezmiş, a fellow guerilla who was called the 'Che Guevara of Turkey'. The group was hiding in a safe house in Kızılder. On March 30, 1972, they were attacked by Türkiye's security personnel and everyone except one was killed. Among those who hit the street to protest the killing of the Marxist leader was Abdullah Öcalan, a 24-year-old graduate from Ankara University. He was arrested and charged with distributing a left-wing political magazine and jailed for seven months.

For Mr. Öcalan (pronounced Ojajan), incarceration only inflamed his radicalism. Out of jail, he became active in leftwing groups and then founded the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which initially blended Kurdish identity politics with Marxism-Leninism and launched an armed militancy. More than 40,000 people have been killed in 40 years of the Turkish civil war between the state and Kurdish militants. Several attempts to bring peace in the past remained unsuccessful. On February 27, 2023, Mr. Öcalan, who has been imprisoned since 1999, made a public announcement, asking the PKK to lay down arms and dissolve itself. The PKK had "reached the end of its lifespan, making its dissolution necessary", Mr. Öcalan wrote in a letter from the prison. His call, which has been welcomed by the Turkish government, has rekindled hope that the decades-long civil war could be brought to an end.

Marxist beginning

While growing up, Abdullah Öcalan's hero was Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Türkiye. He wanted to get enrolled into a military high school, but was rejected. While in

college, he joined the Revolutionary Youth Federation of Türkiye. Later two convictions led him to found the PKK. One, he was convinced that "Kurdistan is a colony". Two, he concluded that the Kurdistan issue was not a priority for the mainstream left-wing parties. Mr. Öcalan and his comrade Kemal Pir started mobilising radical youth on the assertion that "the liberation of the Turkish people depends upon the liberation of the Kurdish people".

In 1978, at a conference in the village of Fis in Diyarbakir, Mr. Öcalan announced the formation of the Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan (Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK). The PKK called for the "liberation" of the Kurdish regions of Türkiye, Kurds, who make up 15-20% of Türkiye's population, are a persecuted ethnic minority, they argued. The PKK built inroads among the Kurds living across the Syria-Türkiye border. In 1979, Mr. Öcalan moved to Syria's Kobane from where he would continue to lead the PKK.

In 1980, the Turkish military seized power through a coup. The subsequent years saw mass arrests and torture of those who dissented. The crackdown on Kurdish political groups intensified. On August 15, 1984, amid growing state violence, the PKK launched its first armed offensive against two military posts. "It was my idea alone," Mr. Öcalan later said of his decision to launch the guerilla war. The state responded with massive force. Kurds saw Apo (uncle) Öcalan as a charismatic leader who fought for their cause. But for Türkiye, he has been a "terrorist". In mainstream Turkish media, he was labelled a "baby killer". "We are not in favour of violence to solve the problems," Mr. Öcalan said in an interview in 1988. "But it was required to prevent our national identity from being destroyed entirely."

The second phase of Mr. Öcalan's militant activism began after he was expelled from Syria in 1998. Mr. Öcalan moved to Europe, but European countries, under pressure from Türkiye and its allies, refused to give him asylum. In February 1999, he was abducted by the Turkish National

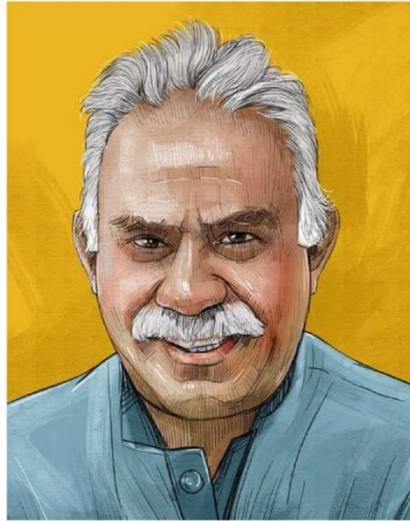


ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Intelligence Organization (MIT), with help from the CIA and Mossad, in Nairobi, Kenya, and was jailed on Imrali island in Türkiye. After a show trial, Mr. Öcalan was sentenced to death. In 2002, when Türkiye abolished the death penalty, Mr. Öcalan's death sentence was commuted to "aggravated life imprisonment" (incarceration until death without parole). For years, he was the lone prisoner in Imrali. But it was during this period of solitary confinement that Mr. Öcalan transitioned from Marxist Leninism into "democratic confederalism", which he described as a borderless, community-based democracy that promotes ecological living and radical

gender equality. He was inspired by the writings of American political theorist Murray Bookchin (1921-2006), a strong advocate of social decentralisation. "Nation-states have become serious obstacles for any social development. Democratic confederalism is the contrasting paradigm of the oppressed people," Mr. Öcalan said, explaining his theory. "Democratic confederalism is a non-state social paradigm." In essence, Mr. Öcalan gave up his demand for an independent Kurdistan and asked for greater autonomy for the Kurdish regions which can sustain themselves through local councils while being part of different national states. In 1993, Mr. Öcalan had declared a

unilateral ceasefire, demanding a political and peaceful solution. But it did not lead to any breakthrough. After he was abducted and jailed, the insurgency intensified. Between 2003 and 2015, there were multiple rounds of talks between the PKK and the Turkish state, now ruled by Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP). But the peace process collapsed in April 2015, triggering a new wave of violence. This period also saw the Kurds in Syria acquiring greater autonomy during the country's civil war.

Ice breaking

Alarmed by the political empowerment of Syrian Kurds, Türkiye carried out multiple military incursions into Syria's border regions. But at home, the PKK continued its armed attacks. The ice broke in October when an ally of President Erdogan made a surprise call to Mr. Öcalan to end the insurgency in return for peace and his freedom. After this, the restrictions on Mr. Öcalan were eased and his relatives and political allies were allowed to visit him. A successful solution to the Kurdish question could strengthen the political hands of Mr. Erdogan, whose second term as President under the new Constitution would come to an end in 2028. If Mr. Erdogan wants to extend his power, he needs to amend the Constitution. And to amend the Constitution, he would need new political allies. Peace with Kurds will also better Türkiye's domestic security and improve its regional standing.

For Mr. Öcalan, now 76, the rapprochement provides an opportunity to shut down the civil war, gain freedom and open a new chapter of Kurdish-Türkish relations. "There is no alternative to democracy in the pursuit and realisation of a political system," Mr. Öcalan wrote in his letter from jail. From a former separatist guerilla to a 'democratic confederalist', who spent 26 years in prison, Mr. Öcalan has come a long way. Those who take the sword must know when to put it back into the sheath. The theorist and commander of the Kurdish militancy believes this is the time.

THE GIST

In 1978, at a conference in the village of Fis in Diyarbakir, Abdullah Öcalan announced the formation of the PKK, which called for the "liberation" of the Kurdish regions of Türkiye

On August 15, 1984, amid growing state violence, the PKK launched its first armed offensive against two military posts, beginning the civil war

In February 1999, he was abducted by the Turkish National Intelligence Organization, with help from the CIA and Mossad, in Nairobi, Kenya, and was jailed on Imrali island in Türkiye

Rebel without arms हथियारों के बिना विद्रोही

The PKK founder, Abdullah Öcalan, has called on his supporters to lay down weapons and dissolve the organization, opening the possibility of ending the 40-year conflict between Türkiye's Kurdish minority militants and the state.

पीकेके के संस्थापक, अब्दुल्ला ओजलान, ने अपने समर्थकों से हथियार डालने और संगठन को भंग करने का आह्वान किया, जिससे 40 साल पुराने संघर्ष को समाप्त करने की संभावना बनी है, जो तुर्किये के कुर्द अल्पसंख्यक विद्रोहियों और सरकार के बीच चला आ रहा था।



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Early Marxist Influence

प्रारंभिक मार्क्सवादी प्रभाव

- **Mahir Çayan**, a **Stalinist** and admirer of the **Cuban revolution**, led the **People's Liberation Party-Front of Türkiye** in the **early 1970s**.
माहिर कायान, एक स्टालिनवादी और क्यूबा क्रांति के प्रशंसक, 1970 के दशक की शुरुआत में पीपुल्स लिबरेशन पार्टी-फ्रंट ऑफ तुर्किये के नेता थे।
- In **March 1972**, Çayan and his comrades **abducted three NATO technicians** to prevent the **execution of Deniz Gezmiş**, a fellow guerrilla.
मार्च 1972 में, कायान और उनके साथियों ने तीन नाटो तकनीशियनों का अपहरण किया, ताकि डेनिज़ गेज़मिश को फांसी देने से रोका जा सके।
- On **March 30, 1972**, Turkish security forces **attacked their hideout in Kizildere**, killing **all except one**.
30 मार्च 1972 को, तुर्कीय सुरक्षा बलों ने किज़िल्देरे में उनके ठिकाने पर हमला किया, जिसमें सभी मारे गए, एक को छोड़कर।
- **Abdullah Öcalan**, then **24 years old**, protested against the killings and was **jailed for seven months** for distributing a **left-wing political magazine**.
अब्दुल्ला ओजलान, जो उस समय 24 वर्ष के थे, इस हत्या के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन में शामिल हुए और एक वामपंथी पत्रिका वितरित करने के आरोप में सात महीने जेल में रहे।

Formation of PKK and Armed Struggle

पीकेके का गठन और सशस्त्र संघर्ष

- **After release**, Öcalan became **active in leftist groups** and later **founded the PKK** to promote **Kurdish identity politics with Marxism-Leninism**.
रिहाई के बाद, ओजलान वामपंथी समूहों में सक्रिय हो गए और बाद में मार्क्सवाद-लेनिनिवाद के साथ कुर्द पहचान की राजनीति को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए पीकेके की स्थापना की।
- The **Kurdish-Turkish civil war** led to the death of **over 40,000 people in 40 years**.
कुर्द-तुर्कीय गृहयुद्ध में 40 वर्षों में 40,000 से अधिक लोग मारे गए।
- **Past peace attempts failed**, but on **February 27, 2025**, Öcalan, **imprisoned since 1999**, called for **PKK's dissolution**, which was welcomed by the **Turkish government**.
पिछले शांति प्रयास असफल रहे, लेकिन 27 फरवरी 2025 को, 1999 से कैद ओजलान ने पीकेके को भंग करने का आह्वान किया, जिसे तुर्कीय सरकार ने स्वीकार किया।

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PKK's Beginnings and Öcalan's Leadership

पीकेके की शुरुआत और ओजलान का नेतृत्व

- As a young man, **Öcalan admired Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**, the founder of modern **Türkiye**, and wanted to **join the military**, but was **rejected**.
युवा ओजलान, आधुनिक तुर्किये के संस्थापक मुस्तफा कमाल अतातुर्क के प्रशंसक थे और सेना में शामिल होना चाहते थे, लेकिन उन्हें अस्वीकृत कर दिया गया।
- In **1978**, at a conference in **Fis, Diyarbakır**, **Öcalan officially founded the PKK**, advocating for **Kurdish "liberation" from Türkiye**.
1978 में, फिस, दियारबकिर में एक सम्मेलन में, ओजलान ने आधिकारिक रूप से पीकेके की स्थापना की, जिसमें तुर्किये से कुर्दों की "मुक्ति" की मांग की गई।
- The PKK gained **support among Kurds in Türkiye and Syria**.
पीकेके को तुर्किये और सीरिया में कुर्दों के बीच समर्थन मिला।

PKK's Armed Conflict and Crackdown

पीकेके का सशस्त्र संघर्ष और दमन

- **August 15, 1984**, PKK launched its **first armed attack** on **two military posts**.
15 अगस्त 1984 को, पीकेके ने पहली बार दो सैन्य चौकियों पर हमला किया।
- **Turkish authorities responded with heavy force**, and **Öcalan became a symbolic leader (Apo/Uncle)** for Kurds, while **Türkiye** labeled him a **"terrorist" and "baby killer"**.
तुर्कीय सरकार ने कड़ी कार्रवाई की, और ओजलान कुर्दों के लिए एक प्रतीक (अपो/चाचा) बन गए, जबकि तुर्किये ने उन्हें "आतंकवादी" और "बच्चों का हत्यारा" कहा।

Öcalan's Capture and Imprisonment

ओजलान की गिरफ्तारी और कैद

- In **1998**, **Öcalan was expelled from Syria** and moved to **Europe**, but was denied **asylum** due to pressure from **Türkiye and its allies**.
1998 में, ओजलान को सीरिया से निकाल दिया गया और वह यूरोप चले गए, लेकिन तुर्किये और उसके सहयोगियों के दबाव के कारण शरण नहीं मिली।



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- On February 1999, Turkish intelligence (MIT), with help from CIA and Mossad, captured Öcalan in Nairobi, Kenya.
फरवरी 1999 में, तुर्कीय खुफिया एजेंसी (MIT) ने CIA और मोसाद की मदद से नैरोबी, केन्या में ओजलान को गिरफ्तार किया।
- He was tried and sentenced to death, but in 2002, when Türkiye abolished the death penalty, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.
उन्हें मृत्युदंड की सजा सुनाई गई, लेकिन 2002 में, जब तुर्किये ने मृत्युदंड समाप्त कर दिया, उनकी सजा को आजीवन कारावास में बदल दिया गया।

For years, he was the lone prisoner in İmralı
कई वर्षों तक, वह इमराली में अकेले कैदी थे

- During his solitary confinement, Abdullah Öcalan transitioned from Marxist-Leninism to 'democratic confederalism', which he described as a borderless, community-based democracy.
अकेले कारावास के दौरान, अब्दुल्ला ओजलान ने मार्क्सवाद-लेनिनवाद से 'लोकतांत्रिक संघवाद' की ओर परिवर्तन किया, जिसे उन्होंने बिना सीमाओं वाली, सामुदायिक आधारित लोकतंत्र के रूप में वर्णित किया।
- He was influenced by American political theorist Murray Bookchin (1921-2006), who advocated social decentralization.
वह अमेरिकी राजनीतिक विचारक मरे बुचकिन (1921-2006) से प्रभावित थे, जो सामाजिक विकेंद्रीकरण के समर्थक थे।
- Öcalan abandoned the demand for an independent Kurdistan and instead sought greater autonomy for Kurdish regions within existing nation-states.
ओजलान ने स्वतंत्र कुर्दिस्तान की मांग छोड़ दी और इसके बजाय मौजूदा राष्ट्र-राज्यों के भीतर कुर्द क्षेत्रों के लिए अधिक स्वायत्तता की मांग की।

Failed Ceasefire and Renewed Conflict
विफल संघर्ष विराम और नवीनीकृत संघर्ष

- In 1993, Öcalan declared a unilateral ceasefire, seeking a political and peaceful solution, but it failed.
1993 में, ओजलान ने एकतरफा संघर्ष विराम घोषित किया और राजनीतिक व शांतिपूर्ण समाधान की मांग की, लेकिन यह असफल रहा।

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- After his abduction and imprisonment in 1999, the Kurdish insurgency intensified. 1999 में उनकी गिरफ्तारी और कैद के बाद, कुर्द विद्रोह और तेज हो गया।
- Between 2013 and 2015, there were peace talks between the PKK and the Turkish state, but the process collapsed in April 2015, leading to a new wave of violence. 2013 और 2015 के बीच, पीकेके और तुर्कीय सरकार के बीच शांति वार्ता हुई, लेकिन अप्रैल 2015 में यह विफल हो गई, जिससे एक नई हिंसा की लहर पैदा हुई।
- Meanwhile, Syrian Kurds gained autonomy during Syria's civil war, which further complicated the situation. इस बीच, सीरिया के कुर्दों ने गृहयुद्ध के दौरान स्वायत्तता हासिल की, जिससे स्थिति और जटिल हो गई।

Ice Breaking and a Possible Peace Deal

बर्फ पिघलना और संभावित शांति समझौता

- Alarmed by the political empowerment of Syrian Kurds, Türkiye conducted multiple military incursions into Syria's border regions. सीरिया के कुर्दों के राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण से चिंतित, तुर्किये ने सीमा क्षेत्रों में कई सैन्य घुसपैठ की।
- In October 2024, an ally of President Erdoğan unexpectedly called on Öcalan to end the insurgency in exchange for peace and his possible freedom. अक्टूबर 2024 में, राष्ट्रपति एर्दोगान के एक सहयोगी ने ओजलान से विद्रोह समाप्त करने की अप्रत्याशित अपील की, शांति और संभावित रिहाई के बदले।
- After this, restrictions on Öcalan were eased, and he was allowed visits from relatives and political allies. इसके बाद, ओजलान पर लगी पाबंदियाँ कुछ हद तक हटा दी गईं, और उन्हें रिश्तेदारों व राजनीतिक सहयोगियों से मिलने की अनुमति दी गई।
- If Erdogan wants to extend his power beyond 2028, he needs to amend the Constitution, which requires new political allies. यदि एर्दोगान 2028 के बाद अपनी सत्ता बनाए रखना चाहते हैं, तो उन्हें संविधान में संशोधन करना होगा, जिसके लिए नए राजनीतिक सहयोगियों की जरूरत होगी।
- A peace deal with the Kurds could improve Türkiye's domestic security and boost its regional influence. कुर्दों के साथ शांति समझौता, तुर्किये की आंतरिक सुरक्षा में सुधार कर सकता है और क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव बढ़ा



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सकता है।

Öcalan's Transformation and Legacy

ओजलान का परिवर्तन और विरासत

- Now **76 years old**, Öcalan sees the negotiations as a **chance to end the civil war, secure his freedom, and redefine Kurdish-Turkish relations.**
अब 76 वर्षीय ओजलान, इन वार्ताओं को गृहयुद्ध समाप्त करने, अपनी रिहाई सुनिश्चित करने और कुर्द-तुर्कीय संबंधों को फिर से परिभाषित करने के अवसर के रूप में देखते हैं।
- "There is **no alternative to democracy** in building a **political system**," Öcalan wrote in his letter from jail.
"राजनीतिक प्रणाली बनाने में लोकतंत्र का कोई विकल्प नहीं है," ओजलान ने जेल से अपने पत्र में लिखा।
- From being a **separatist guerrilla** to a **democratic confederalist**, Öcalan has undergone a **remarkable transformation** during **26 years in prison.**
एक अलगाववादी गुरिल्ला से लोकतांत्रिक संघवादी बनने तक, 26 वर्षों की कैद में ओजलान ने उल्लेखनीय परिवर्तन किया।
- "Those who take the **sword must know when to put it back into the sheath**," Öcalan believes **this is the time.**
"जो तलवार उठाते हैं, उन्हें यह भी पता होना चाहिए कि उसे कब म्यान में रखना है," ओजलान मानते हैं कि अब वह समय आ गया है।



In the terror web

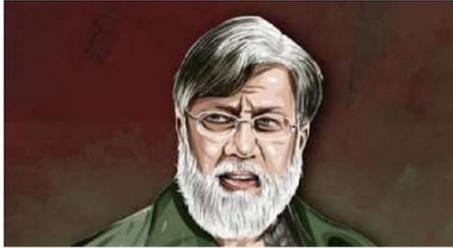
Tahawwur Hussain Rana

The Mumbai attack accused has filed a fresh petition before U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts seeking a stay on his extradition to India

GS Paper II

Suhasini Haidar

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



According to U.S. investigations, Tahawwur Hussain Rana's links to the 26/11 attacks go back to August 2005, when he and his old school-mate from the Hasan Abdal Cadet College in Pakistan's Punjab province, David Coleman Headley (born Daood Syed Gilani) first discussed the plot. Headley had been chosen and trained by Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed to conduct reconnaissance surveys in Mumbai and in other Indian cities for targets that would maximise the death of civilians. Rana, a businessman with a Canadian passport who ran a travel and immigration consultancy and butchery in Chicago, was well-placed to provide Headley with support, a place to stay, and the ability to provide false travel documents for tickets and visas.

As children at the Hasan Abdal Cadet College, Rana and Headley had become close friends, said U.S. prosecutors, and although they separated in their teens when Headley's American mother took him out of school and returned to the U.S., they stayed in touch. Rana joined the Pakistani Army, serving for several years before he reportedly developed a medical condition,

and left under a cloud for Canada in 1997. In Chicago a few years later, Rana reunited with his former cadet-schoolmate, and the two met regularly.

Headley proposed using Rana's immigration business as a front for Lashkar's surveillance activities, with Headley posing as an "immigration consultant" for Rana in Mumbai. To sweeten the deal for Rana, Headley offered to help resolve Rana's status as a deserter from the Pakistani Army," said the facts recorded by the U.S. District Court of Appeals in California, while ordering his extradition to India.

Pawn or handler?

While Rana has consistently denied being anything but a pawn in Headley's plans, some investigators have questioned whether Rana was in fact Headley's "handler", and had been sent to Canada early to serve the ISI's objectives by building a 'cover'.

Indian prosecutors who secured his conviction in absentia in 2011 argued that Rana's involvement was intense – from helping Headley secure a five-year multiple entry visa to India to organising his tickets and stay in Mumbai and other cities, to liaising with a Pakistani known as "Major Iqbal" for instructions.

In November 2008, just days before the attacks, Rana himself travelled to Mumbai with his wife, although he claimed he was there for business only.

A month later, fresh from their "success" in plotting and planning the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, which was carried out by 10 Pakistani terrorists of the LeT who killed 166, Rana reportedly listened as Headley described their next target. Headley had been assigned by the LeT to conduct a surveillance operation on the *Jylland-Posten* newspaper in Denmark. The plan was to build the blueprint for terrorists on a suicide mission

to attack the newspaper that had published cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad. The plea bargain filed after Headley was arrested in Chicago in October 2009 for "The Mickey Mouse" conspiracy (named after the cartoons) in Denmark, which exempted Headley from the death penalty or from being extradited, was a setback for Indian officials. But more than that, it was a blow for Tahawwur Rana's hopes that he could escape justice for his role in the attacks, by pleading that he was an innocent bystander on Headley's work.

Although the U.S. courts acquitted Rana of charges on the Mumbai 26/11 attacks, they convicted him for involvement in the *Jylland-Posten* case and his links with the LeT, sentencing him to 14 years imprisonment before he was released early in 2020. As Rana worked his way through levels of appeal after U.S. courts approved his extradition to India, and now awaits the last port of appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts, he has had much time to think about the twists of fate that mean that it is he, and not his friend and co-conspirator who then testified against him, who will have to answer for the Mumbai attacks, and face justice for both their actions.

In the terror web आतंक के जाल में

The Mumbai attack accused, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, has filed a fresh petition before U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts, seeking a stay on his extradition to India.

मुंबई हमले के आरोपी, तहव्वुर हुसैन राणा, ने अमेरिकी सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश रॉबर्ट्स के समक्ष नई याचिका दायर की, जिसमें भारत प्रत्यर्पण पर रोक लगाने की मांग की गई।

Rana's Links to the 26/11 Attacks

राणा के 26/11 हमलों से जुड़े संबंध

- According to U.S. investigations, Rana's links to the 26/11 attacks go back to August 2005, when he first discussed the plot with his old schoolmate, David Coleman Headley (Daood Syed Gilani).



अमेरिकी जांच के अनुसार, राणा के 26/11 हमलों से संबंध अगस्त 2005 तक जाते हैं, जब उन्होंने अपने स्कूल के पुराने दोस्त डेविड कोलमैन हेडली (दाऊद सैयद गिलानी) के साथ हमले की योजना पर चर्चा की।

- Headley was trained by Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed to conduct reconnaissance surveys in Mumbai and other Indian cities.
हेडली को लश्कर-ए-तैयबा (LeT) प्रमुख हाफिज सईद द्वारा प्रशिक्षित किया गया था, ताकि वह मुंबई और अन्य भारतीय शहरों में निगरानी सर्वेक्षण कर सके।
- The targets were selected to maximize civilian casualties.
लक्ष्यों का चयन नागरिक हताहतों की संख्या अधिकतम करने के लिए किया गया था।

Rana's Role in the 26/11 Plot

26/11 साजिश में राणा की भूमिका

- Rana, a Canadian passport holder, was a businessman who ran a travel and immigration consultancy and a butchery in Chicago.
राणा, जो कनाडाई पासपोर्ट धारक थे, शिकागो में एक ट्रैवल और इमिग्रेशन कंसल्टेंसी और मांस की दुकान चलाते थे।
- His business helped provide Headley with shelter, financial support, and fake travel documents for visas and tickets.
उनका व्यवसाय हेडली को ठहरने की जगह, वित्तीय सहायता और नकली यात्रा दस्तावेज प्रदान करने में सहायक था।

Childhood Bond and Reconnection

बचपन की दोस्ती और पुनर्मिलन

- Rana and Headley became close friends at Hasan Abdal Cadet College in Pakistan's Punjab province.
राणा और हेडली पाकिस्तान के पंजाब प्रांत के हसन अबदल कैडेट कॉलेज में घनिष्ठ मित्र बने।
- Later, Headley moved to the U.S. with his American mother, while Rana joined the Pakistani Army and served for several years.
बाद में, हेडली अपनी अमेरिकी माँ के साथ अमेरिका चले गए, जबकि राणा पाकिस्तानी सेना में शामिल हुए और कई वर्षों तक सेवा की।
- Rana left the army in 1997 due to a medical condition and moved to Canada under suspicious circumstances.
राणा ने 1997 में एक चिकित्सा समस्या के कारण सेना छोड़ दी और संदिग्ध परिस्थितियों में कनाडा



चले गए।

- In Chicago, years later, Rana reunited with Headley, and they began meeting regularly.
शिकागो में कुछ वर्षों बाद, राणा फिर से हेडली से मिले, और वे नियमित रूप से मिलने लगे।

Using Immigration Business as a Cover

इमिग्रेशन व्यवसाय को छद्म रूप में उपयोग करना

- Headley proposed using Rana's immigration business as a front for Lashkar's surveillance activities.
हेडली ने राणा के इमिग्रेशन व्यवसाय को लश्कर की निगरानी गतिविधियों के लिए छद्म रूप में इस्तेमाल करने का प्रस्ताव दिया।
- He posed as an "immigration consultant" in Mumbai to conduct surveillance for the attacks.
उन्होंने मुंबई में "इमिग्रेशन कंसल्टेंट" के रूप में प्रस्तुत होकर हमलों के लिए निगरानी की।
- To convince Rana, Headley offered to help clear his status as a deserter from the Pakistani Army.
राणा को सहमत करने के लिए, हेडली ने उन्हें पाकिस्तानी सेना से भगोड़ा होने के आरोप को मिटाने में मदद करने की पेशकश की।

Legal Proceedings and Extradition Order

कानूनी प्रक्रिया और प्रत्यर्पण आदेश

- The U.S. District Court of Appeals in California found Rana guilty and ordered his extradition to India.
अमेरिकी जिला अपील अदालत, कैलिफोर्निया ने राणा को दोषी ठहराया और भारत प्रत्यर्पित करने का आदेश दिया।
- Rana has now petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for a stay on his extradition.
राणा ने अब अमेरिकी सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपने प्रत्यर्पण पर रोक लगाने के लिए याचिका दायर की है।

Pawn or handler?

मात्र मोहरा या योजनाकार?

- Tahawwur Hussain Rana has consistently denied being anything more than a pawn in Headley's plans, but investigators question whether he was actually Headley's



handler.

तहव्वुर हुसैन राणा ने लगातार दावा किया है कि वह केवल हेडली की योजनाओं में एक मोहरा था, लेकिन जांचकर्ता यह सवाल उठा रहे हैं कि क्या वह वास्तव में हेडली का हैंडलर था।

- Some theories suggest that Rana was sent to Canada early to serve ISI's objectives by building a cover identity.
कुछ सिद्धांत यह कहते हैं कि राणा को पहले ही कनाडा भेज दिया गया था ताकि वह ISI के उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति के लिए छद्म पहचान बना सके।

Rana's Deep Involvement in 26/11 Attacks

26/11 हमलों में राणा की गहरी संलिप्तता

- Indian prosecutors who convicted him in absentia in 2011 argued that Rana's involvement was intense.
भारतीय अभियोजकों, जिन्होंने 2011 में अनुपस्थित में राणा को दोषी ठहराया, ने तर्क दिया कि राणा की भागीदारी गहरी थी।
- He helped Headley secure a five-year multiple-entry visa to India and arrange his travel and stay in Mumbai.
उन्होंने हेडली को भारत के लिए पांच साल का मल्टीपल-एंट्री वीजा दिलाने में मदद की और मुंबई में यात्रा व ठहरने की व्यवस्था की।
- He also coordinated with a Pakistani known as "Major Iqbal" for instructions.
उन्होंने "मेजर इकबाल" नामक एक पाकिस्तानी व्यक्ति से निर्देश प्राप्त करने में भी सहयोग किया।

Rana's Mumbai Visit Before 26/11 Attacks

26/11 हमलों से पहले राणा की मुंबई यात्रा

- In November 2008, just days before the attacks, Rana himself traveled to Mumbai with his wife.
नवंबर 2008 में, हमलों से कुछ दिन पहले, राणा अपनी पत्नी के साथ मुंबई गया।
- He claimed the visit was for business purposes, but authorities suspect otherwise.
उन्होंने दावा किया कि यह यात्रा व्यापारिक कारणों से थी, लेकिन अधिकारियों को इस पर संदेह है।

Post-26/11 Attack and Jyllands-Posten Plot

26/11 हमले के बाद और जिलैंड्स-पोस्टेन साजिश



- A month after the **Mumbai attacks**, Rana allegedly listened as **Headley described their next target**.
मुंबई हमले के एक महीने बाद, राणा ने सुना कि हेडली अगला लक्ष्य क्या होगा।
- **LeT had assigned Headley to conduct a surveillance operation on the Jyllands-Posten newspaper in Denmark.**
LeT ने हेडली को जिम्मेदारी दी थी कि वह डेनमार्क के जिलैंड्स-पोस्टेन समाचार पत्र पर निगरानी अभियान चलाए।
- The plan was to **prepare for a terrorist suicide mission** in response to the newspaper publishing **cartoons of Prophet Muhammad**.
योजना थी कि आत्मघाती हमला करने के लिए ब्लूप्रिंट तैयार किया जाए, क्योंकि इस समाचार पत्र ने पैगंबर मुहम्मद के कार्टून प्रकाशित किए थे।

Legal Setbacks for India and Rana's Conviction

भारत के लिए कानूनी झटके और राणा की सजा

- In **October 2009, Headley was arrested in Chicago** under "**The Mickey Mouse**" **conspiracy case** related to the Denmark plot.
अक्टूबर 2009 में, हेडली को शिकागो में गिरफ्तार किया गया "मिकी माउस" साजिश मामले के तहत, जो डेनमार्क की साजिश से जुड़ा था।
- **Headley's plea bargain** exempted him from **the death penalty and extradition**, which was a **setback for Indian officials**.
हेडली के प्ली बार्गेन ने उसे मृत्युदंड और प्रत्यर्पण से बचा लिया, जो भारतीय अधिकारियों के लिए एक बड़ा झटका था।
- However, it also weakened **Rana's defense**, as he could no longer claim to be an **innocent bystander**.
लेकिन इसने राणा की बचाव रणनीति को कमजोर कर दिया, क्योंकि अब वह खुद को निर्दोष दर्शक के रूप में पेश नहीं कर सकता था।

Rana's Conviction and Release

राणा का दोषसिद्धि और रिहाई

- While the **U.S. courts acquitted Rana of charges related to 26/11**, they convicted him for his **involvement in the Jyllands-Posten case and links with LeT**.
अमेरिकी अदालतों ने राणा को 26/11 के आरोपों से बरी कर दिया, लेकिन जिलैंड्स-पोस्टेन मामले और LeT से जुड़े होने के लिए दोषी ठहराया।



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- He was sentenced to **14 years in prison** but was released early in 2020.
उन्हें 14 साल की सजा सुनाई गई, लेकिन 2020 में समय से पहले रिहा कर दिया गया।

Final Appeal and Awaiting Justice

अंतिम अपील और न्याय की प्रतीक्षा

- After exhausting multiple appeals, Rana **now awaits a final decision from U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts** regarding his **extradition to India**.
कई अपीलों के बाद, राणा अब अमेरिकी सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश रॉबर्ट्स के अंतिम निर्णय का इंतजार कर रहा है, जो भारत प्रत्यर्पण से जुड़ा है।
- Unlike **Headley, who turned approver**, Rana now faces **extradition and justice for both their actions**.
हेडली, जिसने सरकारी गवाह बनकर सजा से बचाव किया, के विपरीत राणा को अब प्रत्यर्पित होकर दोनों के अपराधों के लिए न्याय का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।



Anti-government agency

GS Paper II

DOGE

The Elon Musk-dominated department targets the wings of government that administer social protections for millions of Americans

G. Sampath

Smaller government and spending cuts have been core Republican objectives at least since the advent of Reaganomics in the 1980s. So when Donald Trump announced in September 2024 that he would create a “government efficiency commission” to eliminate wasteful expenditure, people were not surprised. He also made it known that the idea came from Elon Musk, who had contributed \$290 million to his presidential campaign.

However, as the past month has revealed, what Mr. Musk had in mind was not merely the usual staff/spending cuts. His aim was far more radical: to drastically shrink the government bureaucracy and thereby create the space to install a regime of ‘AI-first’ governance, with the AI tools under the control of a tiny Silicon Valley elite of which he is a leading member. The AI researcher Eryk Salvaggio has described DOGE as an ‘AI Coup’.

Signing DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) into existence was one of Mr. Trump’s first moves post-inauguration. His Executive Order (EO) dated January 20 stated that its purpose was to “implement the President’s DOGE Agenda, by moder-



PICTURE: AP

nising Federal technology and software to maximise governmental efficiency and productivity”. It makes no mention of reducing staff or spending cuts. Instead, it devotes an entire section to elaborating what the “modernising” technology and software would entail: throwing open the federal government’s databases to “facilitate data collection and synchronisation”.

Panic and chaos

DOGE was created as an entity that took over the U.S. Digital Service. The U.S. Digital Service was housed in the Office of Management and Budget, where it was subject to open records laws. But Mr. Trump created a U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organisation and moved it to the Executive Office of the President, thereby potentially exempting it from the federal Freedom of Information Act. So Mr. Musk, who does not have a clearly defined role in

DOGE – Amy Gleason, a former health tech executive, is officially the acting administrator of DOGE – is answerable to no one but Mr. Trump.

In the short span of time it has been in existence, DOGE has unleashed panic and chaos in the ranks of the country’s 2.3 million-strong federal bureaucracy. Mr. Musk adopted the same wrecking ball tactics he used to eviscerate Twitter, where he laid off 80% of the staff soon after he took over. At DOGE, he sent out buyout offers, accepted by 77,000 federal staffers so far. He has sent termination notices to more than 25,000 workers. He has dismantled entire agencies, such as U.S. Agency for International Development and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which protects Americans from loan sharks. He has cancelled leases and contracts worth millions of dollars.

Given the lack of transparency, the only window

into DOGE’s operations is its website. Mr. Musk had claimed that DOGE’s goal was to shave off \$2 trillion from the \$6.75 trillion U.S. budget. The DOGE website runs live updates on savings accrued. It claims to have saved \$105 billion as of March 8. Not only is this a far cry from the \$2 trillion goal, a *New Yorker* calculation estimates that even if Mr. Musk fired all the 2.3 million federal employees, the total savings would only be \$245.8 billion.

The pursuit of mega-savings through staff cuts is a quixotic venture because the bulk of U.S. government spending is on programmes and benefits, not salaries.

All this lends credence to the view that saving money by cutting the bureaucracy is only the means. The end is to embed AI at the heart of decision-making in the federal executive. As Salvaggio puts it, “The Trump administration frames generative AI as a remedy to ‘government waste’”. However, what it seeks to automate is not paperwork but democratic decision-making.” In all this, the hatred against the ‘deep state’ whipped up by the MAGA propaganda machinery will only ensure DOGE retains popular support even as it decimates the very wings of government that administer their social protections.



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Anti-government agency

सरकार विरोधी एजेंसी

Smaller government and spending cuts have been core Republican objectives since the 1980s (Reaganomics era).

छोटी सरकार और खर्च में कटौती 1980 के दशक (रेगनोमिक्स युग) से रिपब्लिकन पार्टी के मुख्य लक्ष्य रहे हैं।

- In September 2024, Donald Trump announced the creation of a "government efficiency commission" to eliminate wasteful expenditure.
सितंबर 2024 में, डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने "सरकारी दक्षता आयोग" बनाने की घोषणा की, जिसका उद्देश्य अनावश्यक खर्च को समाप्त करना था।
- Elon Musk contributed \$290 million to Trump's presidential campaign and inspired the efficiency commission idea.
एलन मस्क ने ट्रंप के राष्ट्रपति अभियान में \$290 मिलियन का योगदान दिया और इस आयोग की अवधारणा को प्रेरित किया।

The Radical Vision Behind DOGE

DOGE के पीछे की कट्टर सोच

- Musk's goal was not just reducing staff or spending but drastically shrinking government bureaucracy.
मस्क का लक्ष्य केवल कर्मचारियों या खर्च को कम करना नहीं था, बल्कि सरकारी नौकरशाही को अत्यधिक घटाना था।
- He aimed to implement AI-first governance, controlled by a small Silicon Valley elite.
उनका उद्देश्य AI-आधारित शासन लागू करना था, जिसे एक छोटे सिलिकॉन वैली अभिजात वर्ग द्वारा नियंत्रित किया जाए।
- AI researcher Eryk Salvaggio called DOGE an "AI Coup".
AI शोधकर्ता एरिक साल्वाजियो ने DOGE को "AI तख्तापलट" कहा।

Creation of DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency)

DOGE (सरकारी दक्षता विभाग) की स्थापना

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- On January 20, 2025, Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) creating DOGE to "modernize federal technology and software".
20 जनवरी 2025 को, ट्रंप ने एक कार्यकारी आदेश (EO) पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे DOGE की स्थापना हुई, जिसका उद्देश्य "संघीय प्रौद्योगिकी और सॉफ्टवेयर को आधुनिक बनाना" था।
- The order did not mention reducing staff or spending cuts, but focused on opening government databases for "data collection and synchronization".
आदेश में कर्मचारियों की कटौती या खर्च में कमी का कोई उल्लेख नहीं था, बल्कि सरकारी डेटाबेस को "डेटा संग्रह और समन्वय" के लिए खोलने पर केंद्रित था।

Panic and Chaos in Federal Bureaucracy

संघीय नौकरशाही में दहशत और अराजकता

- DOGE replaced the U.S. Digital Service, previously housed in the Office of Management and Budget, which was subject to open records laws.
DOGE ने यू.एस. डिजिटल सेवा को प्रबंधन और बजट कार्यालय से स्थानांतरित कर दिया, जो पहले खुली रिकॉर्ड नीति के तहत था।
- Trump moved DOGE under the Executive Office of the President, potentially exempting it from Freedom of Information laws.
ट्रंप ने DOGE को राष्ट्रपति के कार्यकारी कार्यालय के अधीन रखा, जिससे यह सूचना की स्वतंत्रता कानूनों से छूट प्राप्त कर सकता था।
- Amy Gleason, a former health tech executive, was named the acting administrator of DOGE.
एमी ग्लीसन, जो एक पूर्व स्वास्थ्य तकनीकी कार्यकारी थीं, को DOGE की कार्यवाहक प्रशासक नियुक्त किया गया।
- Musk, despite no official role in DOGE, has unchecked influence over its operations.
मस्क, जिनका DOGE में आधिकारिक रूप से कोई पद नहीं है, फिर भी उनकी इस पर असीमित पकड़ है।

Mass Layoffs and Budget Cuts

बड़ी संख्या में छंटनी और बजट कटौती

- In just a few months, DOGE has caused widespread panic in the 2.3 million-strong federal workforce.
कुछ ही महीनों में, DOGE ने 2.3 मिलियन संघीय कर्मचारियों के बीच बड़ी चिंता फैला दी।



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- Musk offered buyouts, accepted by 77,000 federal employees, and sent termination notices to 25,000 more.
मस्क ने नौकरी छोड़ने के लिए भुगतान योजना दी, जिसे 77,000 संघीय कर्मचारियों ने स्वीकार किया, और 25,000 को बर्खास्तगी नोटिस भेजा।
- Entire agencies were dismantled, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).
यू.एस. अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी (USAID) और उपभोक्ता वित्तीय संरक्षण ब्यूरो (CFPB) जैसी संपूर्ण एजेंसियों को समाप्त कर दिया गया।
- Government contracts and leases worth millions of dollars were canceled.
लाखों डॉलर के सरकारी अनुबंध और पट्टे रद्द कर दिए गए।

Financial Reality of DOGE's Cuts

DOGE की बजट कटौती की वास्तविकता

- DOGE aimed to cut \$2 trillion from the \$6.75 trillion U.S. budget.
DOGE का लक्ष्य \$6.75 ट्रिलियन अमेरिकी बजट में से \$2 ट्रिलियन की कटौती करना था।
- By March 8, 2025, DOGE claimed to have saved only \$105 billion, far from its \$2 trillion goal.
8 मार्च 2025 तक, DOGE ने केवल \$105 बिलियन बचाने का दावा किया, जो \$2 ट्रिलियन लक्ष्य से बहुत दूर था।
- A New Yorker estimate found that even firing all 2.3 million federal employees would save only \$245.8 billion, proving staff cuts were not the real solution.
न्यू यॉर्कर के एक अनुमान में पाया गया कि अगर सभी 2.3 मिलियन संघीय कर्मचारियों को भी निकाल दिया जाए, तो केवल \$245.8 बिलियन ही बचेंगे, जिससे साबित होता है कि कर्मचारी कटौती असली समाधान नहीं थी।

The Real Purpose: AI Control over Governance

असली उद्देश्य: शासन पर AI का नियंत्रण

- Experts believe that cutting bureaucracy is just a means; the true goal is embedding AI into federal decision-making.
विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि नौकरशाही को खत्म करना केवल एक माध्यम है; असली उद्देश्य संघीय निर्णय-निर्माण में AI को स्थापित करना है।



- Eryk Salvaggio argues that the Trump administration presents AI as a tool to eliminate "government waste", but the real aim is to automate democratic decision-making.

एरिक साल्वाजियो का तर्क है कि ट्रंप प्रशासन AI को "सरकारी बर्बादी समाप्त करने" के उपकरण के रूप में पेश करता है, लेकिन असली उद्देश्य लोकतांत्रिक निर्णय-निर्माण को स्वचालित करना है।

The anti-deep state narrative pushed by MAGA propaganda ensures that DOGE retains popular support, even as it dismantles government protections for ordinary citizens. MAGA प्रचार द्वारा प्रचारित "डीप स्टेट विरोधी" विचारधारा यह सुनिश्चित करती है कि DOGE को जनता का समर्थन मिलता रहे, भले ही यह सामान्य नागरिकों के लिए सरकारी सुरक्षा को नष्ट कर दे।

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

1. **Rubber Board to kick off geo-mapping of plantations; growers may get better price**
रबर बोर्ड करेगा बागानों का जियो-मैपिंग; उत्पादकों को मिल सकती है बेहतर कीमत
2. **Emergency procurement route comes to the rescue as Army tries to buy very short-range air defence system**
अत्यल्प दूरी वायु रक्षा प्रणाली खरीदने के प्रयास में सेना के लिए आपातकालीन खरीद मार्ग मददगार
3. **India's cotton imports shoot up as farmers battle low yields, prices**
कपास के आयात में तेज़ी, किसान कम उत्पादन और कीमतों से जूझ रहे
4. **When birds lose the ability to fly, their bodies change first**
जब पक्षी उड़ने की क्षमता खो देते हैं, तो उनके शरीर में पहले बदलाव आता है



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5. **100-day TB elimination campaign far from achieving main objective**
100-दिनीय टीबी उन्मूलन अभियान अपने मुख्य लक्ष्य से दूर
6. **Ganges and Indus River Dolphins**
गंगा और सिंधु नदी डॉल्फिन
7. **Daylight Hours**
दिन के उजाले के घंटे
8. **Why has India promised to buy more U.S. oil?**
भारत ने अधिक अमेरिकी तेल खरीदने का वादा क्यों किया है?

PATRIOTIC IAS



Rubber Board to kick off geo-mapping of plantations; growers may get better price

**GS Paper III:
Environment**

The
KOTTAYAM

The Rubber Board is set to begin geo-mapping of rubber plantations in Kerala next week. The move is expected to enhance market access and help growers secure better prices for their produce.

The geo-mapping initiative is a key step in certifying natural rubber under the Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber (iSNR) framework, aligning Indian rubber production with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). As part of this digital mapping process, essential details such as land ownership, area, and plantation boundaries will be recorded. Initially, the project will



The initiative is critical in establishing a deforestation-free supply chain for rubber products, enhancing marketability. FILE PHOTO

focus on 10 key rubber-growing districts in Kerala before expanding to other regions. The Rubber Board has partnered with Trayambu Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad, for this purpose.

According to board officials, the initiative is critical in establishing a defor-

estation-free supply chain for rubber products, thereby enhancing their global marketability. The EUDR mandates that all commodities entering the EU market must be free from deforestation after December 31, 2020, and comply with local regulations.

To meet these require-

ments, supply chain mapping, traceability system development, and geo-mapping of plantations are mandatory for the iSNR certification. This certification guarantees the origin of rubber, ensuring compliance with the EUDR regulations. In addition, a due diligence certificate will be issued based on risk assessment and legality analysis, certifying that the products fully comply with deforestation-free regulations.

Rubber exporters can register on the iSNR platform via the Rubber Board website (www.rubberboard.gov.in) to access essential documents, traceability certificates, due diligence declarations, and geolocation datasets.

Rubber Board to kick off geo-mapping of plantations; growers may get better price

रबर बोर्ड करेगा बागानों का जियो-मैपिंग; उत्पादकों को मिल सकती है बेहतर कीमत

The Rubber Board is set to begin geo-mapping of rubber plantations in Kerala next week.

रबर बोर्ड अगले सप्ताह केरल में रबर बागानों का जियो-मैपिंग शुरू करने जा रहा है।

- This initiative is expected to enhance market access and help growers secure better prices for their produce.
इस पहल से बाजार तक पहुंच में सुधार होगा और उत्पादकों को अपने उत्पादों के लिए बेहतर कीमत प्राप्त करने में मदद मिलेगी।



Alignment with Sustainability Standards

स्थिरता मानकों के साथ तालमेल

- The geo-mapping initiative is a key step in **certifying natural rubber under the Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber (iSNR) framework**.
यह जियो-मैपिंग पहल भारतीय सतत प्राकृतिक रबर (iSNR) ढांचे के तहत प्राकृतिक रबर के प्रमाणन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।
- It aligns **Indian rubber production with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)**.
यह भारतीय रबर उत्पादन को यूरोपीय संघ वनों की कटाई विनियमन (EUDR) के अनुरूप बनाएगा।

Digital Mapping Process

डिजिटल मैपिंग प्रक्रिया

- Essential details such as **land ownership, area, and plantation boundaries** will be recorded.
इस प्रक्रिया में भूमि स्वामित्व, क्षेत्रफल और बागानों की सीमाओं जैसी महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी दर्ज की जाएगी।
- Initially, the project will focus on **10 key rubber-growing districts in Kerala**, later expanding to other regions.
शुरुआत में, यह परियोजना केरल के 10 प्रमुख रबर उत्पादक जिलों पर केंद्रित होगी और बाद में अन्य क्षेत्रों तक विस्तारित होगी।
- The **Rubber Board has partnered with Trayambu Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad**, for this initiative.
इस पहल के लिए रबर बोर्ड ने हैदराबाद की त्रयंबु टेक सॉल्यूशंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के साथ साझेदारी की है।

Deforestation-Free Supply Chain

वन-विहीन आपूर्ति श्रृंखला

- This initiative will help establish a **deforestation-free supply chain for rubber products**, enhancing their **global marketability**.
यह पहल रबर उत्पादों के लिए एक वनों की कटाई मुक्त आपूर्ति श्रृंखला स्थापित करने में मदद करेगी, जिससे उनकी वैश्विक विपणन क्षमता बढ़ेगी।
- The **EUDR mandates that all commodities entering the EU market must be free from deforestation after December 31, 2020**.



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EUDR के अनुसार, यूरोपीय संघ बाजार में प्रवेश करने वाली सभी वस्तुएं 31 दिसंबर 2020 के बाद वनों की कटाई से मुक्त होनी चाहिए।

Mandatory Certification and Compliance

अनिवार्य प्रमाणन और अनुपालन

- To comply with **EUDR regulations**, supply chain mapping, **traceability system development**, and **geo-mapping of plantations** are mandatory for **iSNR certification**.
EUDR विनियमों का पालन करने के लिए, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला मैपिंग, ट्रेसबिलिटी सिस्टम विकास और बागानों का जियो-मैपिंग iSNR प्रमाणन के लिए अनिवार्य है।
- A **due diligence certificate** will be issued based on **risk assessment and legality analysis**, ensuring compliance with **deforestation-free regulations**.
जोखिम मूल्यांकन और वैधता विश्लेषण के आधार पर एक उचित परिश्रम प्रमाण पत्र जारी किया जाएगा, जो वन-विहीन नियमों के अनुपालन को सुनिश्चित करेगा।

Registration for Exporters

निर्यातकों के लिए पंजीकरण

- **Rubber exporters can register on the iSNR platform via the Rubber Board website (www.rubberboard.gov.in)**.
रबर निर्यातक iSNR प्लेटफॉर्म पर पंजीकरण कर सकते हैं रबर बोर्ड की वेबसाइट (www.rubberboard.gov.in) के माध्यम से।
- Registered exporters can access **essential documents, traceability certificates, due diligence declarations, and geolocation datasets**.
पंजीकृत निर्यातक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज, ट्रेसबिलिटी प्रमाणपत्र, उचित परिश्रम घोषणाएं और जियोलोकेशन डेटा सेट प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।



Emergency procurement route comes to the rescue as Army tries to buy very short range air defence system

GS Paper III: Defence

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The emergency route for defence procurements has once again come to the Indian Army's rescue in its bid to buy man-portable Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) systems, as repeated attempts to acquire the critical systems have failed. Since 2020, the Army has unsuccessfully tried to close three deals for two different missile systems, constituting 88 launchers, 372 missiles and associated equipment.

A VSHORAD is the soldier's last line of defence against enemy combat aircraft and helicopters in the multilayered air defence network, and its criticality has been reinforced in the

ongoing war in Ukraine.

Under emergency procurement (EP) provisions, the armed services can procure weapons systems worth upto ₹300 crore on an urgent basis without any further clearances. Deliveries should begin in six months and end within a year of the contract date. This route has been previously used four times since 2016, with the fifth now under way.

Stringent timeline

"The EP has been quite helpful in getting new equipment on a fast-track basis," a defence source observed, adding that delivery delays have been an issue as companies have not been able to meet the stringent EP timeline.



Test flight: The DRDO conducts flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. ANI

At the height of the stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh in December 2020, the Army contracted 24 Iglu-S VSHORAD launchers, 216 missiles and testing equipment from Russia's Rosoboronexport, with deliveries being completed by December 2021.

Under EP-4, the Army placed a ₹260-crore order for more Iglu-S, consisting of 48 launchers, 100 missiles, 48 night sights, and one missile testing station, with deliveries to begin by the end of May 2024. This order was placed to Adani Defence Systems And

Technologies Limited (ADSTL), which is assembling the system in India under a technology transfer initiative.

A third deal for laser beam riding man-portable VSHORADs was announced at Aero India last month by Thales UK and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), with the "initial supply" of Starstreak high velocity missiles and launchers to be delivered this year.

Defence sources confirmed that the deal, under EP-4, was for 16 launchers, 56 missiles and one simulator worth just under ₹300 crore. The overall order has been delayed, two sources independently confirmed.

The fourth EP tranche

was undertaken by the Army between September 2022 and 2023, with over 70 schemes concluded worth nearly ₹11,000 crore.

EP-5 was recently sanctioned and is focussed particularly on counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist equipment, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said in January.

During a recent media interaction, Director General of the Army Air Defence Lt. Gen. Sumer Ivan D'Cunha noted that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has carried out some tests of indigenous VSHORADs, but it will be still some time before they can release a final version.

Emergency procurement route comes to the rescue as Army tries to buy very short-range air defence system

अत्यल्प दूरी वायु रक्षा प्रणाली खरीदने के प्रयास में सेना के लिए आपातकालीन खरीद मार्ग मददगार

The emergency procurement (EP) route has once again helped the Indian Army in its attempt to acquire Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) systems.

आपातकालीन खरीद (EP) मार्ग ने एक बार फिर भारतीय सेना को अत्यल्प दूरी वायु रक्षा (VSHORAD) प्रणाली प्राप्त करने में सहायता की है।

- Since 2020, the Army has tried but failed three times to finalize deals for two different missile systems comprising 88 launchers, 372 missiles, and related equipment. 2020 से, सेना ने दो अलग-अलग मिसाइल प्रणालियों के लिए 88 लॉन्चर, 372 मिसाइलें और संबंधित उपकरणों की खरीद के तीन प्रयास किए, लेकिन वे असफल रहे।



Importance of VSHORAD Systems

VSHORAD प्रणालियों का महत्व

- A VSHORAD system is the **last line of defense** for soldiers against **enemy aircraft and helicopters** in a **multi-layered air defense network**.
VSHORAD प्रणाली सैनिकों के लिए दुश्मन के लड़ाकू विमानों और हेलीकॉप्टरों के खिलाफ बहु-स्तरीय वायु रक्षा नेटवर्क में अंतिम सुरक्षा पंक्ति होती है।
- The **ongoing Ukraine war** has reinforced the **critical need** for these systems.
यूक्रेन युद्ध ने इन प्रणालियों की महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता को और मजबूत किया है।

Emergency Procurement Provisions

आपातकालीन खरीद प्रावधान

- Under **EP provisions**, the armed forces can **procure weapons worth up to ₹300 crore** on an **urgent basis** without additional approvals.
EP प्रावधानों के तहत, सशस्त्र बल ₹300 करोड़ तक के हथियारों की त्वरित खरीद कर सकते हैं, वह भी बिना किसी अतिरिक्त स्वीकृति के।
- Deliveries must **begin within six months** and be **completed within one year** of signing the contract.
डिलीवरी छह महीनों के भीतर शुरू होनी चाहिए और एक साल के भीतर पूरी हो जानी चाहिए।
- Since **2016**, this route has been **used four times**, with the **fifth instance currently in progress**.
2016 से, इस मार्ग का चार बार उपयोग किया गया है, और अब पांचवीं बार इसका उपयोग किया जा रहा है।

Challenges in Meeting EP Timelines

EP समय सीमा को पूरा करने में चुनौतियाँ

- A **defence source** stated that **EP has been effective** in **fast-tracking equipment procurement**, but **delivery delays** remain an issue.
एक रक्षा स्रोत ने कहा कि EP प्रणाली ने तेजी से उपकरण प्राप्त करने में मदद की है, लेकिन डिलीवरी में देरी एक समस्या बनी हुई है।
- Many companies **struggle to meet the stringent timelines** set under EP.
कई कंपनियाँ EP के तहत निर्धारित कड़े समय-सीमा को पूरा करने में असमर्थ रही हैं।



Previous Emergency Procurement During India-China Standoff

भारत-चीन गतिरोध के दौरान पिछली आपातकालीन खरीद

- During the India-China standoff in eastern Ladakh in December 2020, the Army procured 24 Igla-S VSHORAD launchers, 216 missiles, and testing equipment from Russia's Rosoboronexport.
दिसंबर 2020 में पूर्वी लद्दाख में भारत-चीन गतिरोध के दौरान, सेना ने रूस की रोसोबोरोनएक्सपोर्ट से 24 Igla-S VSHORAD लॉन्चर, 216 मिसाइलें और परीक्षण उपकरण खरीदे।
- The deliveries were completed by December 2021.
इनकी डिलीवरी दिसंबर 2021 तक पूरी हो गई थी।

Army's Emergency Procurement of VSHORAD Systems

सेना की अत्यल्प दूरी वायु रक्षा प्रणालियों की आपातकालीन खरीद

- Under EP-4, the Army placed a ₹260-crore order for more Igla-S systems, consisting of:
EP-4 के तहत, सेना ने ₹260 करोड़ के Igla-S सिस्टम के लिए ऑर्डर दिया, जिसमें शामिल हैं:
 - 48 launchers
48 लॉन्चर
 - 100 missiles
100 मिसाइलें
 - 48 night sights
48 नाइट साइट्स
 - One missile testing station
एक मिसाइल परीक्षण केंद्र
- Deliveries are expected to begin by the end of May 2024.
डिलीवरी मई 2024 के अंत तक शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।
- The order was placed to Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL), assembling the system in India under a technology transfer initiative.
यह ऑर्डर अदानी डिफेंस सिस्टम्स एंड टेक्नोलॉजीज लिमिटेड (ADSTL) को दिया गया, जो इसे तकनीक हस्तांतरण पहल के तहत भारत में असेंबल कर रहा है।

Starstreak VSHORAD Deal

स्टारस्ट्रेक VSHORAD सौदा

- A third deal for laser beam riding man-portable VSHORADs was announced at Aero India last month by Thales UK and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).



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एयरो इंडिया में पिछले महीने, थेल्स यूके और भारत डायनेमिक्स लिमिटेड (BDL) ने लेजर बीम राइडिंग मैन-पोर्टेबल VSHORADs के लिए तीसरे सौदे की घोषणा की।

- The initial supply of Starstreak high-velocity missiles and launchers is expected to be delivered this year.

स्टारस्ट्रेक हाई-वेलोसिटी मिसाइलें और लॉन्चर की प्रारंभिक आपूर्ति इस वर्ष होने की उम्मीद है।

- The deal under EP-4 includes:

EP-4 के तहत इस सौदे में शामिल हैं:

- 16 launchers
16 लॉन्चर
- 56 missiles
56 मिसाइलें
- One simulator
एक सिम्युलेटर
- The total deal value is just under ₹300 crore, but delivery has been delayed, as confirmed by two sources.

इस सौदे का कुल मूल्य ₹300 करोड़ से थोड़ा कम है, लेकिन डिलीवरी में देरी हुई है, जैसा कि दो स्वतंत्र स्रोतों ने पुष्टि की है।

Previous Emergency Procurement Under EP-4

EP-4 के तहत पिछली आपातकालीन खरीद

- The fourth EP tranche was executed between September 2022 and 2023, with over 70 schemes completed worth nearly ₹11,000 crore.

EP-4 के तहत चौथा चरण सितंबर 2022 से 2023 के बीच पूरा हुआ, जिसमें ₹11,000 करोड़ से अधिक की 70 से अधिक योजनाएं पूरी की गईं।

Upcoming EP-5 Procurement

आगामी EP-5 खरीदारी

- EP-5 was recently sanctioned and focuses specifically on counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist equipment.

EP-5 को हाल ही में मंजूरी दी गई, और यह विद्रोह और आतंकवाद विरोधी उपकरणों पर केंद्रित है।

- Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi confirmed this in January 2024.

सेना प्रमुख जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी ने जनवरी 2024 में इसकी पुष्टि की।

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Indigenous VSHORAD Development

स्वदेशी VSHORAD विकास

- **DRDO has conducted tests** of indigenous **VSHORAD systems**, but the **final version is still under development**.
DRDO ने स्वदेशी VSHORAD प्रणालियों के परीक्षण किए हैं, लेकिन अंतिम संस्करण अभी विकासाधीन है।
- **Lt. Gen. Sumer Ivan D'Cunha**, Director General of Army Air Defence, confirmed this during a recent media interaction.
लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल सुमेर इवान डी'कुन्हा, सेना वायु रक्षा के महानिदेशक, ने हाल ही में एक मीडिया बातचीत में इसकी पुष्टि की।

IPCC begins work on new series of climate reports, to build on earlier assessments

**GS Paper III:
Environment**

NEW DELHI

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global scientific authority on the state of knowledge and challenges from global warming, has begun work on its **seventh cycle of assessment reports**, Jim Skea, its Chairperson, said at the **World Sustainable Development Summit** organised by The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) earlier this week.

During the **sixth assessment cycle** (October 2015 - July 2023), the IPCC produced the **Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)** with contributions by its three Working Groups and a Synthesis Report, three Special Reports, and a refinement to its latest Methodology Report.

These reports are the basis of the scientific litera-



Jim Skea

ture that countries draw on during negotiations at the annual climate conferences. They are also the signposts that guide government and business action on weaning their economies and business activities away from fossil fuel and towards clean fuels.

Outline agreed upon

Laying out the progress made so far in the 7th As-

essment cycle, Mr. Skea said that an "outline" of a **Special Report on Climate Change and Cities** had been agreed and the lead authors selected. These authors were expected to convene in Osaka, Japan, next week. An outline of another report on "Short lived climate forcers – or volatile organic compounds that influence warming" – had been agreed upon. This report will be ready late 2027.

As in the sixth cycle, the new cycle will also have three working groups each detailing, as before, the latest evidence regarding the physical science basis of climate change; the impacts, adaptation and vulnerability and, the mitigation of climate change respectively.

A final "synthesis report" will be ready by 2029.

IPCC begins work on new series of climate reports, to build on earlier assessments

आईपीसीसी ने नई जलवायु रिपोर्टों पर काम शुरू किया, पहले के मूल्यांकनों को आगे बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global scientific authority on climate change, has begun work on its **seventh assessment cycle**.

जलवायु परिवर्तन पर अंतर-सरकारी पैनल (IPCC), जो जलवायु परिवर्तन पर वैश्विक वैज्ञानिक प्राधिकरण है, ने सातवें



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मूल्यांकन चक्र पर काम शुरू कर दिया है।

- This announcement was made by **IPCC Chairperson Jim Skea** at the **World Sustainable Development Summit**, organized by **The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)**.
यह घोषणा **IPCC अध्यक्ष जिम स्की** ने **वर्ल्ड सस्टेनेबल डेवलपमेंट समिट** में की, जिसे **ऊर्जा संसाधन संस्थान (TERI)** ने आयोजित किया था।

Key Outcomes of the Sixth Assessment Cycle

छठे मूल्यांकन चक्र के प्रमुख निष्कर्ष

- The **sixth assessment cycle (October 2015 - July 2023)** produced the **Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)**, including:
छठे मूल्यांकन चक्र (अक्टूबर 2015 - जुलाई 2023) के दौरान **छठा मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट (AR6)** जारी किया गया, जिसमें शामिल थे:
 - Reports from **three Working Groups**
तीन कार्य समूहों की रिपोर्ट
 - A **Synthesis Report**
एक संश्लेषण रिपोर्ट
 - **Three Special Reports**
तीन विशेष रिपोर्टें
 - **Refinement to the latest Methodology Report**
नवीनतम कार्यप्रणाली रिपोर्ट में संशोधन
- These reports serve as **scientific references** for countries during **annual climate negotiations** and help guide policies toward **clean energy**.
ये रिपोर्टें देशों के लिए **वार्षिक जलवायु वार्ताओं** में **वैज्ञानिक संदर्भ** के रूप में कार्य करती हैं और **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा** की नीतियों को मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करती हैं।

Seventh Assessment Cycle Developments

सातवें मूल्यांकन चक्र की प्रगति

- The **outline for a Special Report on Climate Change and Cities** has been finalized, and the **lead authors** have been selected.
जलवायु परिवर्तन और शहरों पर विशेष रिपोर्ट के लिए **रूपरेखा तय कर ली गई है**, और **मुख्य लेखक चुने गए हैं**।



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- These authors will meet in **Osaka, Japan, next week** to begin work.
ये लेखक अगले सप्ताह जापान के ओसाका में बैठक करेंगे।
- Another report on **Short-lived Climate Forcers** (volatile organic compounds influencing warming) is planned and will be **ready by late 2027**.
अल्पायु जलवायु कारकों (जो वैश्विक तापमान को प्रभावित करने वाले वाष्पशील जैविक यौगिक हैं) पर एक अन्य रिपोर्ट की योजना बनाई गई है, और यह **2027 के अंत तक तैयार होगी**।

Structure of the Seventh Cycle

सातवें चक्र की संरचना

- Similar to the **sixth cycle**, the **seventh cycle** will have **three working groups**, each focusing on:
छठे चक्र की तरह, सातवें चक्र में भी तीन कार्य समूह होंगे, जिनका ध्यान इन बिंदुओं पर होगा:
 - **Physical science basis of climate change**
जलवायु परिवर्तन का भौतिक वैज्ञानिक आधार
 - **Impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability**
प्रभाव, अनुकूलन, और संवेदनशीलता
 - **Mitigation of climate change**
जलवायु परिवर्तन का शमन



- The final synthesis report is expected to be ready by 2029.
अंतिम संश्लेषण रिपोर्ट 2029 तक तैयार होने की उम्मीद है।

India's cotton imports shoot up as farmers battle low yields, prices

Indian farmers are urging the government to introduce measures to improve cotton productivity in the country, in the hopes of making local markets internationally competitive, amid the falling price of the produce in the global market

GS Paper III: Agriculture
COIMBATORE

Increasing import of raw and waste cotton in the last seven months has brought to fore the urgent need for measures to improve cotton productivity in India.

Cotton imports were to the tune of \$104 million in August 2024, \$134.2 million in September 2024, \$127.71 million in October, \$170.73 million in November, and \$142.89 million in December, 2024. In January this year, it stood at \$184.64 million.

Comparably, the imports were \$74.4 million in August 2023, \$39.91 million in September 2023, \$36.68 million in October 2023, \$30.61 million in No-

vember 2023, and \$29.47 million in December 2023. In January 2024, the imports were \$19.62 million.

Meanwhile, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has procured close to 100 lakh bales of Indian cotton that has come into the market since the beginning of the new season on October 1, 2024. In the peak cotton arrival season in December 2024, the CCI bought almost 60% of the daily arrivals at the minimum support price (MSP). The price of the Shankar 6 variety of cotton on Saturday was ₹52,500 a quintal.

Jaipal, a cotton farmer in Telangana, said at the beginning of the season that farmers are not happy because yield is less. "International prices are weak

Import woes

An increase in the import of cotton in the last two years has brought to fore the urgent need for measures to improve cotton productivity in India



and mills are able to buy from there," he said.

Kurbur Shanthakumar, president of Karnataka State Federation of Farmer Associations, said the cost of production per quintal is ₹9,000 and the MSP is ₹7,235. But, brokers were buying in the open market

Cotton and raw cotton imports (in \$ million)

Month	2023	2024
January	28.99	19.62
February	34.69	31.43
March	55.01	48.8
April	45.3	37.91
May	58.09	43.88
June	95.1	70.22
July	88.72	86.29
August	74.9	104.89
September	39.91	134.2
October	36.68	127.71

at only ₹5,000 to ₹5,500 per quintal.

The Union Budget announced in February has a Cotton Mission aimed at improving productivity.

For the Indian textile industry, international cotton prices are weak and with export demand look-

ing up for garments and home textiles, there is a need for the textile industry to be internationally competitive. Over 60% of garments exported are cotton-based. Extra Long Staple cotton can be imported duty free and exporters can import cotton without duty under Advance Authorisation. The mills seem to have imported cotton as international cotton prices were lower than Indian prices and the imports have not disturbed the local market, sources said.

"Cotton productivity in India is about 450 kg per hectare as against 1,800-2,000 kg/ha in Brazil. Indian yarn exports should increase," Pankaj Sharda, director, Indian Cotton Association, said.

India's cotton imports shoot up as farmers battle low yields, prices

कपास के आयात में तेज़ी, किसान कम उत्पादन और कीमतों से जूझ रहे

Indian farmers are urging the government to introduce measures to improve cotton productivity to make local markets internationally competitive.

भारतीय किसान सरकार से कपास की उत्पादकता बढ़ाने के उपाय लागू करने का अनुरोध कर रहे हैं, ताकि स्थानीय बाजार अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी बन सके।



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- **Falling global cotton prices** have led to **increased imports** of raw and waste cotton in the last **seven months**.
वैश्विक कपास की कीमतों में गिरावट के कारण पिछले सात महीनों में कच्चे और अपशिष्ट कपास के आयात में वृद्धि हुई है।

Surge in Cotton Imports

कपास के आयात में वृद्धि

- **Cotton imports (in million dollars):**
कपास आयात (मिलियन डॉलर में):
 - **August 2024:** \$104 million | **अगस्त 2024:** \$104 मिलियन
 - **September 2024:** \$134.2 million | **सितंबर 2024:** \$134.2 मिलियन
 - **October 2024:** \$127.71 million | **अक्टूबर 2024:** \$127.71 मिलियन
 - **November 2024:** \$170.73 million | **नवंबर 2024:** \$170.73 मिलियन
 - **December 2024:** \$142.89 million | **दिसंबर 2024:** \$142.89 मिलियन
 - **January 2025:** \$184.64 million | **जनवरी 2025:** \$184.64 मिलियन
- **Comparative cotton imports (2023):**
पिछले साल की तुलना में कपास आयात (2023):
 - **August 2023:** \$74.4 million | **अगस्त 2023:** \$74.4 मिलियन
 - **September 2023:** \$39.91 million | **सितंबर 2023:** \$39.91 मिलियन
 - **October 2023:** \$36.68 million | **अक्टूबर 2023:** \$36.68 मिलियन
 - **November 2023:** \$30.61 million | **नवंबर 2023:** \$30.61 मिलियन
 - **December 2023:** \$29.47 million | **दिसंबर 2023:** \$29.47 मिलियन
 - **January 2024:** \$19.62 million | **जनवरी 2024:** \$19.62 मिलियन

Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Procurement

भारतीय कपास निगम (CCI) की खरीद

- The CCI has procured nearly 100 lakh bales of Indian cotton since **October 1, 2024**.
CCI ने 1 अक्टूबर 2024 से अब तक लगभग 100 लाख गांठ भारतीय कपास खरीदी है।
- During the **peak arrival season (December 2024)**, CCI bought **60% of daily arrivals** at the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**.
पीक सीजन (दिसंबर 2024) में CCI ने **MSP पर प्रतिदिन आने वाले कपास का 60% खरीदा**।

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- The price of Shankar 6 variety cotton on Saturday was ₹52,500 per quintal.
शनिवार को शंकर 6 किस्म की कपास की कीमत ₹52,500 प्रति क्विंटल थी।

Farmers' Concerns Over Low Yields and Prices

कम उत्पादन और कीमतों पर किसानों की चिंता

- Jaipal, a cotton farmer from Telangana, said farmers are unhappy due to low yields.
तेलंगाना के कपास किसान जयपाल ने कहा कि कम उत्पादन के कारण किसान नाखुश हैं।
- He also noted that international cotton prices are weak, making it cheaper for mills to buy imported cotton.
उन्होंने कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय कपास की कीमतें कमजोर हैं, जिससे मिलों के लिए आयातित कपास खरीदना सस्ता हो रहा है।
- Kurbur Shanthakumar, President of Karnataka State Federation of Farmer Associations, stated:
कर्नाटक राज्य किसान संघ के अध्यक्ष कुर्बुर शांताकुमार ने बताया:
 - Cost of production per quintal: ₹9,000
उत्पादन लागत प्रति क्विंटल: ₹9,000
 - MSP: ₹7,235 per quintal
न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP): ₹7,235 प्रति क्विंटल
 - Market price by brokers: ₹5,000-₹5,500 per quintal
बिचौलियों द्वारा दी गई कीमत: ₹5,000-₹5,500 प्रति क्विंटल

Government's Cotton Mission and Textile Industry Impact

सरकार का कपास मिशन और कपड़ा उद्योग पर प्रभाव

- The Union Budget (February 2025) announced a Cotton Mission to improve productivity.
फरवरी 2025 के केंद्रीय बजट में उत्पादकता बढ़ाने के लिए कपास मिशन की घोषणा की गई।
- Over 60% of India's garment exports are cotton-based, making international pricing crucial.
भारत के 60% से अधिक वस्त्र निर्यात कपास-आधारित हैं, जिससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतें महत्वपूर्ण बनती हैं।



- Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton can be imported duty-free.
एक्स्ट्रा लॉन्ग स्टेपल (ELS) कपास इयूटी-फ्री आयात किया जा सकता है।
- Exporters can also import cotton without duty under Advance Authorization.
निर्यातक एडवांस ऑथराइजेशन के तहत बिना इयूटी कपास आयात कर सकते हैं।
- Mills preferred importing cotton as global prices were lower than domestic prices, but imports have not disturbed the local market.
मिलों ने कपास आयात करना पसंद किया क्योंकि वैश्विक कीमतें घरेलू कीमतों से कम थीं, लेकिन आयात से स्थानीय बाजार प्रभावित नहीं हुआ।

Need to Improve Cotton Productivity

कपास की उत्पादकता बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता

- India's cotton productivity is 450 kg per hectare, whereas Brazil produces 1,800-2,000 kg per hectare.
भारत की कपास उत्पादकता 450 किलोग्राम प्रति हेक्टेयर है, जबकि ब्राजील में 1,800-2,000 किलोग्राम प्रति हेक्टेयर उत्पादन होता है।
- Pankaj Sharda, Director of Indian Cotton Association, emphasized the need to increase India's yarn exports.
भारतीय कपास संघ के निदेशक पंकज शारदा ने भारत के धागे के निर्यात को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

When birds lose the ability to fly, their bodies change first

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

In a new study in *Evolution*, researchers compared the feathers and bodies of different species of flightless birds and their closest relatives who can still fly. They were able to determine which features change first when birds evolve to be flightless, versus which traits take more

time for evolution to alter.

All the flightless birds alive today evolved from ancestors who could fly and later lost that ability. In general, there are two common reasons why birds evolve flightlessness. When birds land on an island with no predators that would hunt them or steal their eggs, they sometimes settle there and gradually

adapt to living on the ground. Since they do not experience evolutionary pressure to stay in flying form, they gradually lose some of the features of their skeletons and feathers that help them fly. Meanwhile, some birds' bodies change when they evolve semi-aquatic lifestyles. Penguins, for instance, cannot fly, but they

swim in a way that is akin to "flying underwater". Their feathers and skeletons have changed accordingly.

Previous research has revealed how long ago different species of flightless birds branched off from their flying relatives. The ancestors of ostriches, for example, lost the ability to fly much longer ago than

the ancestors of a flightless South American duck called the Fuegian steamer. Dr. Evan Saitta from the Field Museum in Chicago, Saitta and the corresponding author of the paper found that these species' feathers are very different. "Ostriches have been flightless for so long that their feathers are no longer optimised for being aero-

dynamic," Dr. Saitta says in a press release. As a result, their feathers have become so long and shaggy that they're sometimes used in feather dusters and boas. But even though Fuegian streamers can no longer fly, they lost this ability relatively recently, and their feathers remain similar to those of their flying cousins.

When birds lose the ability to fly, their bodies change first
जब पक्षी उड़ने की क्षमता खो देते हैं, तो उनके शरीर में पहले बदलाव आता है



A new study in Evolution compared the feathers and bodies of different flightless birds and their closest flying relatives.

'इवोल्यूशन' पत्रिका में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन में अब उड़ान रहित पक्षियों और उनके निकटतम उड़ने वाले रिश्तेदारों के पंखों और शरीर की तुलना की गई।

- Researchers found that some **traits evolve faster than others** when birds **lose their ability to fly**.

शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि जब पक्षी उड़ने की क्षमता खो देते हैं, तो कुछ गुण तेजी से विकसित होते हैं, जबकि अन्य में अधिक समय लगता है।

Why Do Birds Lose the Ability to Fly?

पक्षी उड़ने की क्षमता क्यों खो देते हैं?

- **All flightless birds today** evolved from **ancestors who could fly** but later lost the ability.

आज के सभी उड़ान रहित पक्षी ऐसे पूर्वजों से विकसित हुए हैं जो पहले उड़ सकते थे, लेकिन बाद में उन्होंने यह क्षमता खो दी।

- There are **two main reasons** why birds **evolve flightlessness**:
पक्षियों के उड़ान रहित बनने के दो मुख्य कारण हैं:

1. **Island Adaptation** – When birds reach **predator-free islands**, they **adapt to ground living** over time.

द्वीप अनुकूलन – जब पक्षी ऐसे द्वीपों पर पहुंचते हैं जहां कोई शिकारी नहीं होता, तो वे धीरे-धीरे भूमिगत जीवन के लिए अनुकूलित हो जाते हैं।

2. **Aquatic Evolution** – Some birds develop **semi-aquatic lifestyles**, such as **penguins**, which "fly" underwater.

जलजीवी विकास – कुछ पक्षी अर्ध-जलीय जीवनशैली विकसित कर लेते हैं, जैसे पेंगुइन, जो पानी के अंदर "उड़ते" हैं।

Differences in Evolutionary Changes

विकास संबंधी परिवर्तनों में अंतर

- **Previous research** has determined **when different flightless birds diverged** from their **flying ancestors**.

पिछले शोधों से यह पता चला है कि कौन से उड़ान रहित पक्षी अपने उड़ने वाले पूर्वजों से कब अलग हुए।



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- Example:
 - **Ostriches lost flight ability long ago** and now have **long, shaggy feathers**, unsuitable for flight.
शुतुरमुर्गा ने बहुत पहले उड़ने की क्षमता खो दी, और अब उनके लंबे और झबरेदार पंख होते हैं, जो उड़ान के लिए अनुपयुक्त हैं।
 - **Fuegian Steamer Ducks lost flight recently**, so their feathers **still resemble their flying relatives**.
फ्यूगियन स्टीमर बतखों ने हाल ही में उड़ने की क्षमता खोई, इसलिए उनके पंख अब भी उनके उड़ने वाले रिश्तेदारों जैसे ही हैं।
- **Dr. Evan Saitta from the Field Museum, Chicago**, explained that **ostrich feathers** are no longer aerodynamic and are used in **feather dusters and boas**.
शिकागो के फील्ड म्यूजियम के डॉ. इवान साइट्टा ने बताया कि शुतुरमुर्ग के पंख वायुगतिकीय नहीं रहे, और अब धूल झाड़ने और फैशन में उपयोग किए जाते हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS



100-day TB elimination campaign far from achieving main objective

Compared with the corresponding period last year, the total TB notifications across India increased by only 44,585 and not over 3.5 lakh between December 7, 2024 and February 22, 2025

GS Paper III: S&T

R. Prasad

The 100-day intensified TB elimination campaign was launched on December 7, 2024 across 455 intervention districts in 33 States and Union Territories to screen and test for TB among people belonging to the vulnerable or high-risk group – diabetics, smokers, alcoholics, people living with HIV, those with TB in the past, geriatric population, household contacts of TB patients. Besides screening people who have TB symptoms, the main intent of the intensified campaign is to use a chest X-ray to screen people for subclinical or asymptomatic TB disease followed by bacteriological confirmation using a molecular test.

“This isn’t just about diagnosing patients who show symptoms; it’s about finding those hidden cases who would otherwise remain undetected by using Chest X-rays, enhanced with AI, an effective method for screening individuals who may have TB but may not have the classical symptoms of TB,” Dr. Vinod Paul, Member of Niti Aayog wrote in an Opinion article in *Business Line* on March 5, 2025.

As per a February 22, 2025 PIB press release, over 5.1 lakh (0.51 million) TB notifications have been recorded across India. Of the 5.1 lakh total notifications across India, over 3.5 lakh TB notifications are from the 455 intervention districts after more than 10 crore (100 million) vulnerable individuals were screened between December 7, 2024 and February 22, 2025. The detection of over 3.5 lakh TB cases in

‘New strategy’ weighed down by major limitation

Over 10 crore individuals were screened between December 7, 2024 and February 22, 2025

- The main objective of the campaign is not diagnosing TB in people who show TB symptoms but detecting asymptomatic TB cases
- For early detection of TB cases, the campaign uses a “new strategy” of using chest X-rays for screening
- Only 836 vans with portable X-ray machines were available for screening the high-risk population across 455 intervention districts
- Only 3.8 lakh of the over 10 crore individuals were screened using X-rays as of February 22, which is just 3.8%
- A “substantial population” among the 3.8 lakh people screened using a chest X-ray had no symptoms of TB
- The total TB notifications across India increased by only 44,585 between December 7, 2024 and February 22, 2025 compared with the corresponding period last year
- The number of TB cases notified has been increasing by 81,000 to 1,15,000 each year in the last few years



the intervention districts have been as a “result of accelerated case detection efforts and reduced diagnostic delays”, the press release says.

According to data available on the Ni-kshay website, the number of TB cases notified across India from December 7, 2024 to March 6, 2025 is 6,35,035. During the corresponding period last year – December 7, 2023 to March 6, 2024 – 6,34,815 cases were notified across India. Between December 7, 2024 and February 22, 2025, there have been 5,77,676 TB notifications across India, which are more than the 5,10,000 notifications mentioned in the February 22 press release.

The increase in the TB notifications on the Ni-kshay website is not unusual as there is generally a 15-day lag for the exact data to get reflected on the website. The number of TB notifications during the corresponding period last

year – December 7, 2023 to February 22, 2024 – was 5,33,091. So compared with the corresponding period last year, the total TB notifications even across India has increased by only 44,585 between December 7, 2024 and February 22, 2025.

Therefore, it is certainly wrong to attribute all the 3.5 lakh TB cases detected in the intervention districts to accelerated case detection during the 100-day intensified TB elimination campaign. In other words, the government’s claim would mean that all 3.5 lakh cases would have been missed in the absence of the accelerated case detection, which does not get reflected in the TB notifications on the Ni-kshay website. The total number of TB notifications across India between December 7, 2024 and March 6, 2025 has been almost the same as the corresponding period last year.

While the campaign

would have surely picked up more cases, even the increase of 44,585 cases during the period December 7, 2024 to February 22, 2025 compared with the corresponding period last year cannot be ascribed to intensified case detection alone. The reason: aside from the fact that the 44,585 more TB cases notified are across India (788 districts) and not from the 455 intervention districts alone, the number of TB cases notified has been increasing each year in the last few years. From 21,35,830 TB cases notified in 2021, it increased to 24,22,121 notifications in 2022, and then to 25,37,235 notifications in 2023, and 26,18,499 notifications in 2024.

As per the National TB Prevalence Survey 2019-2021, 42.6% of TB cases would have been “missed” if a chest X-ray was not used for screening, thus revealing the magnitude of subclinical/asymptomatic

TB cases in India. To detect such cases, the campaign claimed that a “new strategy was designed” for early identification of TB by using X-ray for screening people without TB symptoms. Yet, only 3.8 lakh of the over 10 crore (100 million) individuals have been using X-rays as of February 22, which is just 3.8%. Worse, despite the fact that asymptomatic TB disease cases can be detected only with a chest X-ray, all the 3.8 lakh people screened using a chest X-ray did not belong to this category. As per the press release, only a “substantial population” of people without TB symptoms were screened with a chest X-ray. Though it claims “several asymptomatic TB patients” are detected, there is no mention of the actual numbers.

Major limitation

It is not surprising that only a small fraction of the high-risk population was screened using a chest X-ray. As per the press release, there are just 836 vans equipped with portable X-ray machines to screen the high-risk population in the 455 intervention districts. Thus, the “new strategy” for early TB identification has very few portable X-ray machines for screening despite the 100-day intensified door-to-door outreach campaign relying on portable X-ray units for screening. Limited use, if at all, of the untested, HTA-unapproved AI-assisted chest X-ray interpretation tool is another major limitation of the campaign. Finally, the 100-day campaign is too short to come anywhere close to achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s goal of “eliminating” TB by 2025.



100-day TB elimination campaign far from achieving main objective

100-दिनीय टीबी उन्मूलन अभियान अपने मुख्य लक्ष्य से दूर

The 100-day intensified TB elimination campaign was launched on December 7, 2024, in 455 intervention districts across 33 States and Union Territories.

100-दिनीय तीव्र टीबी उन्मूलन अभियान 7 दिसंबर 2024 को 33 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के 455 हस्तक्षेप जिलों में शुरू किया गया था।

- The campaign aimed to screen and test for TB among high-risk groups, including diabetics, smokers, alcoholics, HIV-positive individuals, elderly people, and household contacts of TB patients.
इस अभियान का उद्देश्य टीबी के उच्च जोखिम वाले समूहों की जांच और परीक्षण करना था, जिसमें मधुमेह रोगी, धूम्रपान करने वाले, शराबी, एचआईवी संक्रमित व्यक्ति, बुजुर्ग और टीबी रोगियों के परिवार के सदस्य शामिल थे।

Use of Chest X-rays and AI Technology

छाती एक्स-रे और एआई तकनीक का उपयोग

- The campaign aimed to detect subclinical or asymptomatic TB cases using chest X-rays enhanced with AI.
अभियान का उद्देश्य एआई-सक्षम छाती एक्स-रे का उपयोग करके उप-नैदानिक या बिना लक्षण वाली टीबी की पहचान करना था।
- Dr. Vinod Paul (NITI Aayog) stated that this method helps find hidden TB cases that would otherwise remain undetected.
डॉ. विनोद पॉल (नीति आयोग) ने कहा कि यह तरीका उन छिपे हुए टीबी मामलों को खोजने में मदद करता है, जो सामान्य रूप से नहीं पहचाने जाते।

TB Notifications and Data Comparison

टीबी अधिसूचनाएँ और डेटा तुलना

- According to a February 22, 2025 PIB press release, over 5.1 lakh TB notifications were recorded across India.



22 फरवरी 2025 की PIB प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, पूरे भारत में 5.1 लाख से अधिक टीबी अधिसूचनाएँ दर्ज की गईं।

- Out of these, 3.5 lakh TB notifications came from 455 intervention districts, after screening 10 crore (100 million) individuals between December 7, 2024, and February 22, 2025.
इनमें से 3.5 लाख टीबी अधिसूचनाएँ 455 हस्तक्षेप जिलों से आईं, जहाँ 7 दिसंबर 2024 से 22 फरवरी 2025 के बीच 10 करोड़ (100 मिलियन) लोगों की जांच की गई।
- According to the Ni-kshay website, from December 7, 2024, to March 6, 2025, 6,35,035 TB cases were notified across India.
नीक्षय वेबसाइट के अनुसार, 7 दिसंबर 2024 से 6 मार्च 2025 तक 6,35,035 टीबी मामले अधिसूचित किए गए।
- Compared to last year's data (December 7, 2023 – March 6, 2024):
पिछले वर्ष (7 दिसंबर 2023 – 6 मार्च 2024) के आंकड़ों की तुलना में:
 - TB cases notified in 2023: 6,34,815 cases
2023 में अधिसूचित टीबी मामले: 6,34,815 मामले
 - Increase in notifications: Only 44,585 cases
अधिसूचनाओं में वृद्धि: सिर्फ 44,585 मामले

Challenges and Limitations of the Campaign

अभियान की चुनौतियाँ और सीमाएँ

- The government's claim that 3.5 lakh TB cases were detected due to the campaign is not supported by the overall TB notification data.
सरकार का यह दावा कि अभियान के कारण 3.5 लाख टीबी मामले सामने आए, कुल टीबी अधिसूचना डेटा से मेल नहीं खाता।
- TB notifications have been increasing annually, from 21,35,830 in 2021 to 26,18,499 in 2024, making it difficult to attribute all additional cases to the campaign alone.
टीबी अधिसूचनाएँ प्रति वर्ष बढ़ रही हैं, 2021 में 21,35,830 से 2024 में 26,18,499 तक, जिससे सभी अतिरिक्त मामलों को केवल अभियान का परिणाम मानना मुश्किल हो जाता है।

Use of Chest X-rays in Screening

स्क्रीनिंग में छाती एक्स-रे का उपयोग



- The National TB Prevalence Survey (2019-2021) estimated that 42.6% of TB cases would be missed without chest X-ray screening.
राष्ट्रीय टीबी प्रसार सर्वेक्षण (2019-2021) के अनुसार, अगर छाती एक्स-रे का उपयोग नहीं किया जाए, तो 42.6% टीबी मामलों की पहचान नहीं हो पाएगी।
- However, only 3.8 lakh out of 10 crore individuals (3.8%) were screened using X-rays as of February 22, 2025.
लेकिन, 22 फरवरी 2025 तक 10 करोड़ व्यक्तियों में से केवल 3.8 लाख (3.8%) की जांच छाती एक्स-रे के माध्यम से की गई।
- Moreover, not all 3.8 lakh people screened with X-rays were asymptomatic cases, making it unclear how many asymptomatic cases were actually detected.
इसके अलावा, 3.8 लाख में से सभी लोग बिना लक्षणों वाले नहीं थे, जिससे यह स्पष्ट नहीं हो पाता कि वास्तव में कितने बिना लक्षण वाले टीबी मामले पहचाने गए।

Infrastructure and Technological Challenges

बुनियादी ढाँचे और तकनीकी चुनौतियाँ

- There are only 836 portable X-ray vans available for screening in 455 intervention districts, making it difficult to achieve widespread coverage.
455 हस्तक्षेप जिलों में केवल 836 पोर्टेबल एक्स-रे वैन उपलब्ध हैं, जिससे बड़े पैमाने पर स्क्रीनिंग करना मुश्किल हो जाता है।
- The HTA-unapproved AI-assisted chest X-ray interpretation tool has been used minimally, limiting the impact of AI-driven TB detection.
HTA-अनुमोदित नहीं किए गए एआई-सक्षम छाती एक्स-रे व्याख्या उपकरण का सीमित उपयोग किया गया, जिससे एआई आधारित टीबी पहचान की प्रभावशीलता सीमित हो गई।

Conclusion: Campaign Falls Short of TB Elimination Goal

निष्कर्ष: अभियान टीबी उन्मूलन लक्ष्य से बहुत दूर

- The 100-day TB elimination campaign has helped detect more cases, but the increase of 44,585 cases cannot be solely attributed to intensified case detection.
100-दिनीय टीबी उन्मूलन अभियान ने अधिक मामलों की पहचान में मदद की, लेकिन 44,585 मामलों की वृद्धि को केवल तीव्र जांच का परिणाम नहीं कहा जा सकता।
- Limited screening infrastructure, low use of AI-based X-rays, and short campaign duration have prevented the campaign from achieving its main goal of TB elimination by 2025.
सीमित स्क्रीनिंग बुनियादी ढाँचा, एआई-आधारित एक्स-रे का कम उपयोग और अभियान की छोटी



अवधि ने इसे 2025 तक टीबी उन्मूलन के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने से रोका।

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of eliminating TB by 2025 requires more sustained and long-term interventions beyond just a 100-day campaign.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का 2025 तक टीबी उन्मूलन का लक्ष्य सिर्फ 100-दिनीय अभियान से पूरा नहीं होगा, बल्कि इसके लिए निरंतर और दीर्घकालिक प्रयासों की आवश्यकता होगी।

Counting our vulnerable dolphins

हमारी संवेदनशील डॉल्फिन की गणना

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change released a population study of dolphins in Indian rivers, estimating their number at 6,327.
पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय ने भारतीय नदियों में डॉल्फिन की जनसंख्या अध्ययन रिपोर्ट जारी की, जिसमें इनकी संख्या 6,327 आंकी गई।
- These playful creatures with torpedo-like bodies attract tourists and are often described as 'cute' by urban teenagers.
ये चंचल जीव, जिनके टारपीडो जैसी आकृति होती है, पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करते हैं और शहरी किशोर इन्हें 'प्यारा' कहते हैं।

Types of River Dolphins

नदी डॉल्फिन के प्रकार

- Facultative river dolphins are found in both marine and freshwater.
फैकल्टेटिव नदी डॉल्फिन समुद्री और मीठे पानी दोनों में पाई जाती हैं।
- In India, Irrawaddy dolphins are found in Chilika Lake (155 dolphins) and near the Sundarbans.
भारत में, इरावडी डॉल्फिन चिल्का झील (155 डॉल्फिन) और सुंदरबन के आसपास पाई जाती हैं।
- Tucuxi dolphins are found in the Amazon and Orinoco rivers, while the Yangtze finless porpoise is about 1 metre long.
टुकुसी डॉल्फिन अमेज़न और ओरिनोको नदियों में पाई जाती हैं, जबकि यांग्त्ज़े फिनलेस पोरपोइस लगभग 1 मीटर लंबी होती है।
- Obligate river dolphins are found only in freshwater bodies.
ऑब्लिगेट नदी डॉल्फिन केवल मीठे पानी के जल निकायों में पाई जाती हैं।



- The Yangtze river dolphin (China) is presumed to be extinct, last seen in 2007.
यांग्त्ज़े नदी डॉल्फ़िन (चीन) को 2007 में आखिरी बार देखा गया था, और अब इसे विनुप्त माना जाता है।

Counting our vulnerable dolphins

GS Paper III:
Environment



**SPEAKING OF
SCIENCE**

D. Balasubramanian

Earlier this week, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change released the findings of a population study of dolphins found in Indian rivers, putting their numbers at 6,327. These playful creatures with their torpedo-like bodies generate excitement whenever they are spotted. People flock to see them. Urban teenagers describe them as 'cute'.

There are two kinds of river dolphins. Facultative river dolphins occur in both marine and fresh waters. In India, Irrawaddy dolphins are seen around the Chilka lake, where an estimated 155 of these are a major tourist attraction,

and off the Sunderbans. The smaller tucuxi is found in the Amazon and Orinoco rivers, and the Yangtze finless porpoise is about 1 metre long.

Obligate river dolphins are found only in fresh water bodies. The Yangtze river dolphin of China is presumed to be extinct, having been last spotted in 2007. The distinctively pink Amazon river dolphin is over 2.5 metres long. The equally large Ganges river dolphin has a widespread habitat, and is found in the main bodies and some tributaries of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra.

Closely related to the Ganges dolphin, the Indus river dolphin is the State aquatic animal of Punjab. Here, it is found in the river Beas and its Harike wetlands in the Tarn Taran district. The Environment Ministry study could locate only three of these dol-



The Environment Ministry study could locate only three Indus river dolphins. FILE PHOTO

phins, indicating their precarious existence. Only about 1,800 survive in the Indus in Pakistan.

Muddy water

Dolphins and toothed whales have a prominent, fatty mass on their foreheads called the melon. It acts as a lens that focuses sound, and is very important in echolocation. Our

river dolphins prefer waters that are muddy, with low salt content. An unusual feature of the Ganges and Indus river dolphins is their poor eyesight. Navigation and feeding is done by echolocation, where ultrasound waves, in the form of distinctive clicks, are emanated from their vocal chords, and the melon on the forehead is used

to sense the echoes of these waves bouncing off nearby objects. These dolphins also show a tendency to swim on their sides, using the fins on the sides of their bodies to feel along the bottom of riverbeds in their search for food.

In our river dolphin species, the eye is barely a centimeter across, and has a thick cornea and no eye lens. The retina has very few cells for registering light, and the optic nerve that carries visual sensations to the brain is thin, barely a filament. Visual perception seems restricted to detecting light, and the direction from which light is coming. Comparisons of brain regions involved in sensory perception in these river dolphins with the marine bottlenose dolphin show that the sight areas are unusually small, and the hearing areas much larger. This indicates

a reliance on their biosonar for echolocation. In experiments, Indus river dolphins can detect a 4 mm ball bearing suspended on a nylon thread, and quickly head for it.

Human danger to river dolphins comes from the use of their oil in remedies for conditions ranging from muscular strains to arthritis. Overfishing deprives their food supply, and they are snared in fishing nets as unwanted by-catch. Chemical pollutants pose another danger.

Despite increasingly refined counting methods, river dolphin population trends remain unclear. Either way, their numbers are critically low. We must foster greater public awareness of these remarkable creatures.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling)

Ganges and Indus River Dolphins

गंगा और सिंधु नदी डॉल्फ़िन

The Amazon river dolphin is pink-colored and grows over 2.5 meters long.

अमेज़न नदी डॉल्फ़िन गुलाबी रंग की होती है और 2.5 मीटर से अधिक लंबी हो सकती है।

- The Ganges river dolphin is widespread and found in the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers and their tributaries.
गंगा नदी डॉल्फ़िन गंगा और ब्रह्मपुत्र नदियों व उनकी सहायक नदियों में व्यापक रूप से पाई जाती है।



- The Indus river dolphin, closely related to the Ganges dolphin, is the State Aquatic Animal of Punjab.
सिंधु नदी डॉल्फिन, जो गंगा डॉल्फिन से निकटता से संबंधित है, पंजाब का राज्य जलीय पशु है।
- In India, the Indus river dolphin is found in the Beas River and Harike Wetlands (Tarn Taran district).
भारत में, सिंधु नदी डॉल्फिन ब्यास नदी और हरिके वेटलैंड्स (तरनतारन जिला) में पाई जाती है।
- The Environment Ministry study found only 3 Indus dolphins, indicating their precarious existence.
पर्यावरण मंत्रालय के अध्ययन में केवल 3 सिंधु डॉल्फिन मिलीं, जो उनके अस्तित्व की गंभीर स्थिति को दर्शाता है।
- In Pakistan, about 1,800 Indus river dolphins survive in the Indus River.
पाकिस्तान में, लगभग 1,800 सिंधु नदी डॉल्फिन जीवित हैं।

Muddy Water

गंदला पानी

- Dolphins and toothed whales have a fatty mass on their foreheads called the melon, which helps in echolocation by focusing sound waves.
डॉल्फिन और दाँतेदार व्हेल के माथे पर मेलन नामक वसायुक्त भाग होता है, जो ध्वनि तरंगों को केंद्रित करके इकोलोकेशन में मदद करता है।
- Ganges and Indus river dolphins prefer muddy waters with low salt content.
गंगा और सिंधु नदी डॉल्फिन गंदले पानी और कम नमक सामग्री वाले जल में रहना पसंद करती हैं।

Poor Eyesight and Echolocation

कम दृष्टि क्षमता और इकोलोकेशन

- Ganges and Indus river dolphins have poor eyesight and rely on echolocation for navigation and feeding.
गंगा और सिंधु नदी डॉल्फिन की दृष्टि कमजोर होती है, और वे इकोलोकेशन के जरिए दिशा खोजने और भोजन करने पर निर्भर रहती हैं।
- They emit ultrasound waves as clicks from their vocal cords, and the melon detects echoes bouncing off nearby objects.
वे अपनी आवाज़ की तंत्रिकाओं से अल्ट्रासोनिक तरंगों (क्लिक्स) को उत्सर्जित करती हैं, और मेलन इन तरंगों की प्रतिध्वनि को पकड़ता है।



- These dolphins tend to **swim sideways**, using their **side fins** to feel along the **riverbed while searching for food**.
ये डॉल्फिन अक्सर अपने शरीर को एक तरफ झुकाकर तैरती हैं, और अपनी पार्श्व पंखों का उपयोग नदी की तलहटी महसूस करने और भोजन खोजने के लिए करती हैं।

Anatomical Adaptations

शारीरिक अनुकूलन

- The **eye** of these dolphins is **barely 1 cm across**, has a **thick cornea**, and **no lens**.
इन डॉल्फिन की आंख का आकार केवल 1 सेमी होता है, मोटी कॉर्निया होती है, और इनमें लेंस नहीं होता।
- Their **retina has very few light-sensitive cells**, and the **optic nerve is very thin**, limiting their ability to see.
इनकी रेटिना में बहुत कम प्रकाश-संवेदनशील कोशिकाएँ होती हैं, और ऑप्टिक तंत्रिका बहुत पतली होती है, जिससे उनकी दृष्टि क्षमता सीमित हो जाती है।
- Studies show that **Ganges and Indus river dolphins have smaller brain regions for sight but larger brain areas for hearing**, confirming their reliance on **biosonar**.
अध्ययन बताते हैं कि गंगा और सिंधु नदी डॉल्फिन के मस्तिष्क में देखने वाले क्षेत्र छोटे होते हैं, लेकिन श्रवण क्षेत्र बड़े होते हैं, जिससे वे बायोसोनार पर निर्भर रहती हैं।
- **Experiments with Indus river dolphins show they can detect a 4mm ball bearing suspended on a nylon thread** and move towards it quickly.
सिंधु नदी डॉल्फिन पर किए गए प्रयोगों से पता चला कि वे नायलॉन धागे से लटकी 4 मिमी की बॉल बेयरिंग को पहचान सकती हैं और तेजी से उसकी ओर बढ़ती हैं।

Threats to River Dolphins

नदी डॉल्फिन को खतरे

- **Traditional medicine uses dolphin oil** to treat conditions like **muscle strains and arthritis**, leading to **hunting**.
पारंपरिक चिकित्सा में डॉल्फिन के तेल का उपयोग मांसपेशियों में खिंचाव और गठिया जैसी बीमारियों के इलाज के लिए किया जाता है, जिससे इनका शिकार किया जाता है।
- **Overfishing** reduces their **food supply**, and they often get **accidentally caught in fishing nets as bycatch**.
अत्यधिक मछली पकड़ने से उनका भोजन स्रोत कम हो जाता है, और वे गलती से मछली पकड़ने के जाल



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में फंस जाती हैं।

- **Chemical pollutants** in rivers pose **serious health risks** to these dolphins.
नदियों में रासायनिक प्रदूषण इन डॉल्फिन के स्वास्थ्य के लिए गंभीर खतरा पैदा करता है।

Need for Conservation Efforts

संरक्षण प्रयासों की आवश्यकता

- Despite **advanced counting methods**, the **population trends of river dolphins remain unclear**, but their numbers are **critically low**.
उन्नत गणना विधियों के बावजूद, नदी डॉल्फिन की जनसंख्या प्रवृत्ति स्पष्ट नहीं है, लेकिन उनकी संख्या गंभीर रूप से कम हो रही है।
- **Public awareness and conservation efforts** are essential to **protect these remarkable creatures**.
इन अद्भुत जीवों को बचाने के लिए जन-जागरूकता और संरक्षण प्रयास अत्यंत आवश्यक हैं।



Question Corner

Daylight hours

How do dogs adjust to daylight savings time?

GS Paper III: S&T

Working dogs take a day to adjust to the change in routine caused by **Daylight Savings Time (DST)**, whereas pet dogs and their owners seem unaffected. To investigate how DST impacts domestic dogs, researchers used motion-sensitive watches to monitor the activity patterns of 25 working sled dogs, 29 pet dogs, and their human caregivers living in Canada, during the weeks surrounding the autumn DST time shift. For sled dogs, DST represented a change to their strict daily routine. Before the time shift, sled dog handlers arrived at the

reserve at sunrise, but after DST came into effect, sunrise was an hour before their arrival. As a result of this, after the DST time shift, sled dogs were less active in the hour after sunrise than they were before. However, they did not immediately adjust to the change in their routine. On the day DST came into effect, sled dogs were more active than usual in the hour prior to their handler's arrival. Pet dogs and their owners showed no change in their morning activity patterns on the Sunday that DST came into effect.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

before and after the autumn DST time shift.

गति-संवेदनशील घड़ियों का उपयोग उनकी गतिविधियों को पतझड़ के DST समय परिवर्तन से पहले और बाद में ट्रैक करने के लिए किया गया।

Daylight Hours

दिन के उजाले के घंटे

Working dogs take one day to adjust to the routine change caused by Daylight Savings Time (DST), whereas pet dogs and their owners remain unaffected.

काम करने वाले कुत्तों को डे लाइट सेविंग्स टाइम (DST) के कारण दिनचर्या में बदलाव के अनुकूल होने में एक दिन लगता है, जबकि पालतू कुत्ते और उनके मालिक अप्रभावित रहते हैं।

Study on DST and Dogs DST और कुत्तों पर अध्ययन

- Researchers monitored activity patterns of 25 working sled dogs, 29 pet dogs, and their owners in Canada.

शोधकर्ताओं ने कनाडा में 25 काम करने वाले स्लेज कुत्तों, 29 पालतू कुत्तों और उनके मालिकों की गतिविधियों का अध्ययन किया।

- Motion-sensitive watches were used to track their activity



Effect on Working Sled Dogs

काम करने वाले स्लेज कुत्तों पर प्रभाव

- Before DST, sled dog handlers arrived at sunrise. After DST, sunrise occurred an hour before their arrival.
DST से पहले, स्लेज कुत्तों के प्रशिक्षक सूर्योदय के समय आते थे। DST के बाद, सूर्योदय उनके आने से एक घंटे पहले होने लगा।
- After DST shift:
 - Sled dogs were less active in the hour after sunrise compared to before.
स्लेज कुत्ते सूर्योदय के बाद पहले घंटे में कम सक्रिय थे।
 - On the day DST took effect, sled dogs were more active than usual before their handler's arrival.
DST प्रभावी होने के दिन, प्रशिक्षक के आने से पहले स्लेज कुत्ते सामान्य से अधिक सक्रिय थे।

Effect on Pet Dogs and Owners

पालतू कुत्तों और उनके मालिकों पर प्रभाव

- Pet dogs and their owners showed no change in their morning activity patterns on the Sunday when DST began.
पालतू कुत्तों और उनके मालिकों की सुबह की गतिविधियों में कोई बदलाव नहीं आया जब DST शुरू हुआ।



Why has India promised to buy more U.S. oil?

Why is India looking to diversify its crude supply? Who are its largest suppliers and how much of crude oil does it import? How is the government **balancing the needs of its energy transition and its energy security**? What role is America going to play?

GS Paper III: Energy, External Sector

The story so far:

India committed to procure more oil and natural gas from the U.S. when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met U.S. President Donald Trump in February in Washington amid tariff threats. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said India's energy purchases from the U.S. could increase from last year's \$15 billion to \$25 billion in the near future. A Reuters report showed that the U.S. exported about 3,57,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude to India in February, compared with exports of about 2,21,000 bpd last year.

What has India agreed on?

India is the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer. For a country which relies on imports for more than 85% of its crude oil requirements, any step to secure hydrocarbon supplies is crucial. The country has promised to enhance oil and gas purchase from the U.S., which will bolster energy ties, and also help, to an extent, in achieving the ambitious doubling of bilateral trade to \$500 billion over the next five years. At present, the bilateral trade is in India's favour. The statistics of the Office of the United States Trade Representative show that the goods trade deficit with India was \$45.7 billion in 2024, which is a 5.4% increase from 2023. Executive Director (Energy Transition and Cleantech Consulting) at S&P Global Commodity Insights Gauri Jauhar said that procuring more oil and gas from the U.S. will add to the diversity of major, long-term sources of supply.

What about LNG requirements and supply?

The aim is to establish the U.S. as a leading



Rise in demand: Crude oil tanks at the Cushing oil hub, in Oklahoma. REUTERS

'Procuring more oil and gas from the U.S. will add to the diversity of major, long-term sources of supply'

supplier of crude oil and petroleum products and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India. It has been decided to ramp up trade in the hydrocarbon sector, including ethane and petroleum products, with an eye on supply diversification and energy security. The two sides agreed to enhance investments, particularly in oil and gas infrastructure, and facilitate greater cooperation between energy companies. Strengthening cooperation in civil nuclear energy and U.S. support for India to be made a full member of the International Energy Agency (IEA) were also mentioned.

What are India's needs on oil and gas?

India imported a total of 234.26 million tonnes of crude oil in 2023-24. Import dependence touched 87.8% against 87.4% in the previous financial year. Domestic production corresponds to less than 13% of the requirement, with domestic crude oil production remaining almost unchanged at 29.36 million tonnes last fiscal (2023-24). In volume terms, the imports were almost similar, but the import bill in 2023-24 declined year-on-year to \$133.37 billion on the back of lower international rates. In 2022-23, the oil import bill was \$157.53 billion. Additionally, India spent \$22.93 billion on the import of 48.69 million tonnes of petroleum products like LPG, fuel oil and petcoke. It also exported 62.59 million tonnes of products for \$47.72 billion.

India also imports LNG. In 2023-24, the country imported 31.80 billion cubic metres (bcm) for \$13.405 billion. In the previous fiscal, gas imports were 26.30 bcm for \$17.11 billion, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry said in a report, citing the price shock of 2022-23 in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

India is keen on increasing the share of clean fuel in its energy basket. Emphasising on the strategic importance of energy ties with the U.S., especially for LNG, petroleum and natural gas, Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India wants to increase its natural gas consumption to 15% from the existing about 6%.

In recent years, the U.S. has emerged as one of the largest suppliers of LNG to India. If war-related sanctions against Russian are lifted, Europe may resume sourcing natural gas from Russia again, making the U.S. intensify efforts to enhance supplies to other existing customers and explore new markets.

How much energy is sourced from Russia?

While India would like to engage with the U.S. on enhancing energy imports, it is unlikely to stop the country from consolidating and forging energy ties with others. The Petroleum Minister said the new U.S. administration's push for

increased oil supply has created favourable conditions in global markets. The emergence of new oil sources from the Western hemisphere, including Brazil, Argentina, Suriname, Canada, the U.S. and Guyana are poised to be beneficial for major consuming nations like India.

Supply commitments from multiple sources may not necessarily insulate against long-term price volatility but provide the country different options in the event of geopolitical disturbances. Interestingly, the Trump administration has in recent weeks got down to resetting ties with Russia for the first time since the war on Ukraine began in 2022. This would make things easier for India as Russia in the last three years has emerged as a major crude oil supplier at discounted prices amid a cap introduced as part of the sanctions by G7. Citing a report of global think tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, PTI reported that India bought crude oil worth €49 billion from Russia in the third year of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

India, which has traditionally sourced oil from West Asia, began importing a large volume of oil from Russia after the invasion of Ukraine. This led to India's imports of Russian oil seeing a dramatic rise, growing from less than 1% of its total crude oil imports to 40% in a short period.

What are India's plans on LNG?

The IEA, in its India Gas Market Report: Outlook to 2030, says the country's gas consumption is set to reach 103 bcm annually by the end of the decade. Emerging from a decade of slow growth and periodic declines, the country's natural gas demand increased by more than 10% in both 2023 and 2024, indicating an inflection point. India's domestic gas production, which met 50% of demand in 2023, is projected to grow, reaching just under 38 bcm by 2030.

While total gas consumption in 2023 was only marginally higher than 2011 levels, three key factors are converging to drive substantial growth – rapid infrastructure expansion, recovering domestic production and an expected easing of global gas market conditions. "India's gas market is entering a new phase of growth, supported by significant infrastructure development and clear policy direction," IEA Director of Energy Markets and Security Keisuke Sadamori said. "The prospect of higher gas demand in India coincides with an expected wave of new global LNG supply. However, it will require planning and market coordination to ensure supply security and to help gas to compete in a price-sensitive market," he said.

Broadly, what is India's energy roadmap?

The government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to reduce import dependency and substituting demand for crude oil. It is also pushing renewable and alternative fuels such as ethanol, compressed biogas and biodiesel, alongside the establishment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Why has India promised to buy more U.S. oil?

भारत ने अधिक अमेरिकी तेल खरीदने का वादा क्यों किया है?



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Prime Minister Narendra Modi met U.S. President Donald Trump in February in Washington and committed to increase oil and gas imports from the U.S.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने फरवरी में वाशिंगटन में अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप से मुलाकात की और अमेरिका से तेल और गैस आयात बढ़ाने का वादा किया।

- **India's energy purchases** from the U.S. may increase from \$15 billion to \$25 billion in the near future.
भारत की ऊर्जा खरीद \$15 बिलियन से बढ़कर \$25 बिलियन तक पहुंच सकती है।
- **U.S. oil exports to India in February** were 3,57,000 barrels per day (bpd), compared to 2,21,000 bpd last year.
फरवरी में अमेरिका से भारत को तेल निर्यात 3,57,000 बैरल प्रति दिन (bpd) था, जबकि पिछले साल यह 2,21,000 bpd था।

Why is India looking to diversify its crude supply?

भारत अपने कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति में विविधता क्यों लाना चाहता है?

- **India is the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer** and relies on imports for over 85% of its crude oil needs.
भारत दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा तेल आयातक और उपभोक्ता है और 85% से अधिक कच्चे तेल की जरूरतों के लिए आयात पर निर्भर है।
- **Increasing oil and gas imports from the U.S.** will help India secure its energy needs and support the goal of **doubling bilateral trade to \$500 billion in five years.**
अमेरिका से तेल और गैस आयात बढ़ाने से भारत को अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतों को सुरक्षित करने और पांच वर्षों में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को \$500 बिलियन तक बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी।
- **The U.S. trade deficit with India** was \$45.7 billion in 2024, a 5.4% increase from 2023.
2024 में अमेरिका का भारत के साथ व्यापार घाटा \$45.7 बिलियन था, जो 2023 की तुलना में 5.4% अधिक था।

Who are India's largest oil suppliers and how much does it import?

भारत के सबसे बड़े तेल आपूर्तिकर्ता कौन हैं और वह कितना तेल आयात करता है?

- **India imported 234.26 million tonnes of crude oil in 2023-24**, with 87.8% import dependence (compared to 87.4% in 2022-23).
भारत ने 2023-24 में 234.26 मिलियन टन कच्चा तेल आयात किया, और तेल आयात पर निर्भरता

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87.8% थी (2022-23 में 87.4% थी)।

- India's domestic oil production was only 29.36 million tonnes in 2023-24, covering less than 13% of its total needs.
2023-24 में भारत का घरेलू तेल उत्पादन केवल 29.36 मिलियन टन था, जो उसकी कुल जरूरत का 13% से भी कम था।
- Oil import bill:
 - 2023-24: \$133.37 billion
2023-24: \$133.37 बिलियन
 - 2022-23: \$157.53 billion
2022-23: \$157.53 बिलियन
- India also imported 48.69 million tonnes of petroleum products for \$22.93 billion and exported 62.59 million tonnes of products for \$47.72 billion.
भारत ने 48.69 मिलियन टन पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का आयात \$22.93 बिलियन में किया और 62.59 मिलियन टन उत्पादों का निर्यात \$47.72 बिलियन में किया।

What are India's natural gas needs and how is the U.S. helping?

भारत की प्राकृतिक गैस आवश्यकताएँ क्या हैं और अमेरिका कैसे मदद कर रहा है?

- India imported 31.80 billion cubic metres (bcm) of LNG in 2023-24, worth \$13.405 billion.
भारत ने 2023-24 में 31.80 बिलियन घन मीटर (bcm) LNG आयात किया, जिसकी कीमत \$13.405 बिलियन थी।
- In 2022-23, India imported 26.30 bcm for \$17.11 billion, showing a decline in cost due to lower gas prices.
2022-23 में, भारत ने 26.30 bcm \$17.11 बिलियन में आयात किया, जो गैस की कम कीमतों के कारण सस्ता हुआ।
- India aims to increase natural gas consumption from 6% to 15% in its energy mix.
भारत अपनी ऊर्जा खपत में प्राकृतिक गैस की हिस्सेदारी 6% से बढ़ाकर 15% करना चाहता है।
- The U.S. has emerged as one of India's largest LNG suppliers, strengthening energy ties between both nations.
अमेरिका भारत का सबसे बड़ा LNG आपूर्तिकर्ता बनकर उभरा है, जिससे दोनों देशों के ऊर्जा संबंध मजबूत हुए हैं।



How is the government balancing energy transition and security?

सरकार ऊर्जा संक्रमण और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलन कैसे बना रही है?

- India is focusing on clean energy but remains dependent on oil and gas for energy security.
भारत स्वच्छ ऊर्जा पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहा है, लेकिन ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के लिए अभी भी तेल और गैस पर निर्भर है।
- The U.S. is expected to play a key role in India's energy strategy by supplying LNG, crude oil, and petroleum products.
अमेरिका भारत की ऊर्जा रणनीति में प्रमुख भूमिका निभाने की उम्मीद है, जो LNG, कच्चा तेल और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की आपूर्ति करेगा।
- If sanctions on Russia are lifted, Europe may resume Russian gas imports, pushing the U.S. to expand its supply to India and other markets.
यदि रूस पर लगे प्रतिबंध हटते हैं, तो यूरोप फिर से रूस से गैस खरीदना शुरू कर सकता है, जिससे अमेरिका को भारत और अन्य बाजारों में अपनी आपूर्ति बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता होगी।

How much energy is sourced from Russia?

रूस से कितनी ऊर्जा प्राप्त की जाती है?

- While India is looking to enhance energy imports from the U.S., it is also strengthening ties with other energy suppliers.
भारत अमेरिका से ऊर्जा आयात बढ़ाने की योजना बना रहा है, लेकिन अन्य ऊर्जा आपूर्तिकर्ताओं के साथ संबंध मजबूत करना भी जारी रख रहा है।
- Russia has become a major crude oil supplier to India in the last three years due to discounted prices amid G7 sanctions.
पिछले तीन वर्षों में रूस भारत का प्रमुख कच्चे तेल आपूर्तिकर्ता बन गया है, क्योंकि G7 प्रतिबंधों के कारण रियायती कीमतों पर तेल मिल रहा है।
- According to a Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air report, India bought Russian crude worth €49 billion in the third year of the Ukraine war.
सेंटर फॉर रिसर्च ऑन एनर्जी एंड क्लीन एयर की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत ने यूक्रेन युद्ध के तीसरे वर्ष में रूस से €49 बिलियन का कच्चा तेल खरीदा।



- India's imports of Russian crude oil increased from less than 1% to 40% of total crude oil imports after the Ukraine invasion.
यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण के बाद भारत में रूस से आयातित कच्चे तेल की हिस्सेदारी 1% से बढ़कर 40% हो गई।

What are India's plans on LNG?

भारत की LNG योजनाएँ क्या हैं?

- According to the IEA India Gas Market Report, India's natural gas consumption is projected to reach 103 bcm per year by 2030.
IEA (अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी) की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत की प्राकृतिक गैस खपत 2030 तक 103 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर (bcm) प्रति वर्ष तक पहुँच सकती है।
- Natural gas demand grew by more than 10% in both 2023 and 2024, indicating a new phase of energy growth.
2023 और 2024 में प्राकृतिक गैस की मांग 10% से अधिक बढ़ी, जो ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में नई वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।
- Domestic gas production met 50% of demand in 2023 and is expected to reach nearly 38 bcm by 2030.
2023 में घरेलू गैस उत्पादन ने 50% मांग पूरी की, और 2030 तक यह लगभग 38 bcm तक पहुँच सकता है।
- India's gas market growth is driven by three key factors:
 - Rapid infrastructure expansion
तेजी से बुनियादी ढांचे का विस्तार
 - Increasing domestic production
घरेलू उत्पादन में वृद्धि
 - Easing global gas market conditions
वैश्विक गैस बाजार की स्थितियों में सुधार
- IEA Energy Markets Director Keisuke Sadamori highlighted that ensuring supply security and market coordination is essential.
IEA के ऊर्जा बाजार निदेशक केईसूके सदामोरी ने कहा कि आपूर्ति सुरक्षा और बाजार समन्वय सुनिश्चित करना आवश्यक है।

Broadly, what is India's energy roadmap?

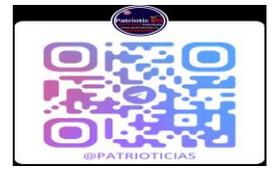
समग्र रूप से भारत की ऊर्जा नीति क्या है?



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- India is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to reduce import dependency and crude oil demand.
भारत आयात पर निर्भरता और कच्चे तेल की मांग को कम करने के लिए बहुआयामी रणनीति अपना रहा है।
- Key focus areas include:
 - Promoting renewable and alternative fuels (ethanol, compressed biogas, and biodiesel).
नवीकरणीय और वैकल्पिक ईंधनों (इथेनॉल, संपीड़ित बायोगैस, और बायोडीजल) को बढ़ावा देना।
 - Expanding electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.
इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV) चार्जिंग बुनियादी ढांचे का विस्तार करना।
 - Diversifying energy sources by importing from multiple countries.
विभिन्न देशों से ऊर्जा आयात कर ऊर्जा स्रोतों में विविधता लाना।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. **Six women handle Modi's social media accounts; PM hails their inspiring posts**
छह महिलाओं ने संभाले मोदी के सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट; पीएम ने उनकी प्रेरणादायक पोस्ट की सराहना की
2. **Allow women to commit one murder without punishment: Rohini Khadse**
महिलाओं को एक हत्या की छूट दी जाए: रोहिणी खड़से
3. **Mohun Bagan celebrates League Shield victory in style**
मोहून बागान ने लीग शील्ड जीत का जश्न धूमधाम से मनाया



Six women handle Modi's social media accounts; PM hails their inspiring posts

छह महिलाओं ने संभाले मोदी के सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट; पीएम ने उनकी प्रेरणादायक पोस्ट की सराहना की

Women Take Over PM Modi's Social Media on Women's Day

Six women handle Modi's social media accounts; PM hails their inspiring posts

Essay

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday handed over his social media accounts to six women on the occasion of International Women's Day.

These women, hailing from various parts of the country, shared their remarkable journeys, achievements, and challenges with the nation.

They are Vaishali Rameshbabu from Chennai, Dr. Anjlee Agarwal from Delhi, Anita Devi from Nalanda (Bihar), Elina Mishra from Bhubaneswar, Ajaita Shah from Rajasthan and Shilpi Soni from Sagar (Madhya Pradesh).

Strong stories

Ms. Rameshbabu, a chess prodigy, has been competing at the highest level since the age of six. Her dedication to the game culminated in her achieving the prestigious title of Chess Grandmaster in 2023. She continues to make India proud on the global stage



Narendra Modi

with her strategic brilliance and perseverance.

"I want to give a message to all the women out there, especially the young girls – follow your dreams, no matter the hurdles. Your passion will power your success," she wrote from Mr. Modi's account on X.

Ms. Devi from Bihar, shared her journey as a self-reliant farmer-entrepreneur. She narrated how her venture, Madhopur Farmers Producer Company Ltd., has created opportunities for hundreds of women in her village.

Ms. Mishra and Ms. Soni, both scientists, highlighted the importance of women's participation in

science, urging more women to pursue careers in nuclear and space technology.

Ms. Agarwal, an advocate for universal accessibility, called for a stronger push towards a more inclusive India under the 'Sugamya Bharat' initiative.

Ms. Shah, founder and CEO of Frontier Markets, delivered a message on financial empowerment and rural entrepreneurship for women.

Reflecting on their inspiring journeys after their messages, Mr. Modi said: "Since morning, you've all seen inspiring posts by extraordinary women sharing their own journeys and inspiring other women. These women have excelled in different areas, but there's one underlying theme – the prowess of India's Nari Shakti. Their determination and success remind us of the boundless potential women hold." "Today and every day, we celebrate their contributions in shaping a Viksit Bharat," he said.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर महिलाओं ने संभाले पीएम मोदी के सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट

• On the occasion of International Women's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over his social media accounts to six women from different parts of India.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अवसर पर, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने अपना सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट भारत के विभिन्न हिस्सों की छह महिलाओं को सौंप दिया।

• These women shared their remarkable journeys, achievements, and challenges with the nation.

इन महिलाओं ने देश के साथ अपनी प्रेरणादायक यात्राएँ, उपलब्धियाँ और चुनौतियाँ साझा कीं।

• The six women were:

○ Vaishali Rameshbabu – Chennai
वैशाली रमेशबाबू – चेन्नई



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- **Dr. Anjlee Agarwal** – Delhi
डॉ. अंजली अग्रवाल – दिल्ली
- **Anita Devi** – Nalanda, Bihar
अनीता देवी – नालंदा, बिहार
- **Elina Mishra** – Bhubaneswar
एलीना मिश्रा – भुवनेश्वर
- **Ajaita Shah** – Rajasthan
अजैता शाह – राजस्थान
- **Shilpi Soni** – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
शिल्पी सोनी – सागर, मध्य प्रदेश**

Inspiring Stories Shared by Women

महिलाओं द्वारा साझा की गई प्रेरणादायक कहानियाँ

- **Vaishali Rameshbabu**, a chess prodigy, became a **Chess Grandmaster in 2023**. She encouraged young girls to **follow their dreams despite hurdles**.
वैशाली रमेशबाबू, जो एक शतरंज प्रतिभा हैं, **2023 में शतरंज ग्रैंडमास्टर बनीं**। उन्होंने युवा लड़कियों को बाधाओं के बावजूद अपने सपनों को पूरा करने का संदेश दिया।
- **Anita Devi** from Bihar shared her **journey as a self-reliant farmer-entrepreneur**, highlighting how her venture **Madhopur Farmers Producer Company Ltd.** has empowered hundreds of women in her village.
बिहार की अनीता देवी ने अपनी स्वावलंबी किसान-उद्यमी के रूप में यात्रा साझा की और बताया कि कैसे उनके उद्यम माधोपुर फार्मर्स प्रोड्यूसर कंपनी लिमिटेड ने उनके गाँव की सैकड़ों महिलाओं को सशक्त किया।
- **Elina Mishra and Shilpi Soni**, both scientists, emphasized the **importance of women in nuclear and space technology**, urging more women to take up careers in science.
वैज्ञानिक एलीना मिश्रा और शिल्पी सोनी ने परमाणु और अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी में महिलाओं की भागीदारी के महत्व को उजागर किया और महिलाओं से इस क्षेत्र में करियर बनाने का आग्रह किया।
- **Dr. Anjlee Agarwal**, a disability rights activist, called for a **more inclusive India** under the **Sugamya Bharat (Accessible India) initiative**.
डॉ. अंजली अग्रवाल, जो विकलांग अधिकारों की समर्थक हैं, ने **सुगम्य भारत (Accessible India)** पहल के तहत एक अधिक समावेशी भारत की वकालत की।
- **Ajaita Shah**, founder of **Frontier Markets**, spoke about **financial empowerment and rural entrepreneurship for women**.
अजैता शाह, जो फ्रंटियर मार्केट्स की संस्थापक हैं, ने महिलाओं के वित्तीय सशक्तिकरण और ग्रामीण उद्यमिता पर अपने विचार साझा किए।

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PM Modi's Response

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की प्रतिक्रिया

- After their inspiring messages, **PM Modi** praised the women for their contributions, stating:
"आज सुबह से आपने इन असाधारण महिलाओं के प्रेरणादायक पोस्ट देखे हैं, जिन्होंने अपनी सफलताओं और संघर्षों को साझा किया।"
"इन महिलाओं ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उत्कृष्टता हासिल की है, लेकिन एक बात समान है—भारत की नारी शक्ति की ताकत।"
- **PM Modi** emphasized that these women symbolize India's boundless potential and determination.
प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि ये महिलाएँ भारत की असीम संभावनाओं और दृढ़ संकल्प का प्रतीक हैं।
- He concluded by saying, "Today and every day, we celebrate their contributions in shaping a Viksit Bharat."
उन्होंने कहा, "आज और हर दिन, हम विकसित भारत के निर्माण में उनके योगदान का जश्न मनाते हैं।"

Allow women to commit one murder without punishment: Rohini Khadse

Essay

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

On International Women's Day, the women's wing of the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) on Saturday urged President Droupadi Murmu to allow women to commit one murder without any punishment in view of the growing incidence of crime against them.

Its president, Rohini Khadse, wrote to President Murmu saying women



Rohini Khadse.

want to kill the oppressive mentality, rapist mindset and ignorant law and order

in India.

Referring to the recent gang rape of a 12-year-old girl in Mumbai, Ms. Khadse said, "The incident happened two days ago in Mumbai, think what the situation might be across the country. In the World Population Review Survey, India was ranked the most unsafe country for women in Asia concerning their safety. The survey includes information on the abduction of women, the disappearance of women, dom-

estic violence, and other heinous issues. Given the scenario, we demand on behalf of all women to allow us immunity against one murder."

"Women are vulnerable in our country, as violence against them is increasing with each passing day," she added, saying Maharani Tara Rani and Ahilya Devi Holkar picked up weapons to protect their motherland, so to improve our society, why should we stay behind?



Allow women to commit one murder without punishment: Rohini Khadse

महिलाओं को एक हत्या की छूट दी जाए: रोहिणी खड़से

Women's Wing of NCP (Sharad Pawar) Makes a Bold Demand
एनसीपी (शरद पवार) की महिला शाखा ने रखा साहसिक प्रस्ताव

- On International Women's Day, the women's wing of the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) urged President Droupadi Murmu to allow women to commit one murder without punishment, citing the rising crimes against women.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर, एनसीपी (शरद पवार) की महिला शाखा ने राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू से मांग की कि महिलाओं को एक हत्या करने की छूट दी जाए, क्योंकि महिलाओं के खिलाफ अपराध बढ़ रहे हैं।
- Rohini Khadse, the president of the women's wing, wrote to President Murmu stating that women want to kill oppressive mindsets, rapist mentalities, and the ignorant law and order system in India.
**महिला शाखा की अध्यक्ष रोहिणी खड़से ने राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू को पत्र लिखकर कहा कि महिलाएं दमनकारी मानसिकता, बलात्कारी सोच और लचर कानून व्यवस्था को खत्म करना चाहती हैं।

Reference to Mumbai Gang Rape Case

मुंबई गैंगरेप मामले का हवाला

- Ms. Khadse referred to the gang rape of a 12-year-old girl in Mumbai, saying, "The incident happened two days ago in Mumbai. Imagine the situation across the country."
**खड़से ने मुंबई में 12 वर्षीय लड़की के गैंगरेप का हवाला देते हुए कहा, "यह घटना मुंबई में दो दिन पहले हुई, सोचिए पूरे देश की स्थिति क्या होगी।"
- She cited the World Population Review Survey, which ranked India as the most unsafe country for women in Asia in terms of safety, covering kidnappings, disappearances, domestic violence, and other heinous crimes.
उन्होंने वर्ल्ड पॉपुलेशन रिव्यू सर्वे का हवाला दिया, जिसमें भारत को एशिया में महिलाओं के लिए सबसे असुरक्षित देश बताया गया है। इसमें अपहरण, महिलाओं का गायब होना, घरेलू हिंसा और अन्य गंभीर अपराधों की जानकारी शामिल है।
- "Given this scenario, we demand on behalf of all women to allow us immunity against one murder," she stated.
"इस स्थिति को देखते हुए, हम सभी महिलाओं की ओर से मांग करते हैं कि हमें एक हत्या करने की छूट दी जाए," उन्होंने कहा।

Women Are Vulnerable, Says Khadse

महिलाएं असुरक्षित हैं, खड़से का बयान



- Ms. Khadse emphasized that violence against women is increasing daily and that women need self-defense measures.
**खड़से ने जोर देकर कहा कि महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा दिन-ब-दिन बढ़ रही है और उन्हें आत्मरक्षा के उपायों की जरूरत है।
- She invoked historical figures like Maharani Tara Rani and Ahilya Devi Holkar, who picked up weapons to protect their homeland, stating, "To improve our society, why should we stay behind?"
**उन्होंने महारानी तारा रानी और अहिल्या देवी होल्कर जैसी ऐतिहासिक हस्तियों का उल्लेख किया, जिन्होंने अपनी मातृभूमि की रक्षा के लिए हथियार उठाए थे। उन्होंने कहा, "समाज को सुधारने के लिए, हम पीछे क्यों रहें?"

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- Ms. Khadse's statement is seen as symbolic, reflecting frustration over increasing crimes against women and the ineffectiveness of the justice system.
खड़से का बयान प्रतीकात्मक रूप में देखा जा रहा है, जो महिलाओं के खिलाफ बढ़ते अपराधों और न्याय प्रणाली की विफलता को दर्शाता है।
- The demand has sparked debates on women's safety, law enforcement, and justice delivery in India.
इस मांग ने महिला सुरक्षा, कानून व्यवस्था और न्याय प्रणाली पर बहस छेड़ दी है।



Mohun Bagan celebrates League Shield victory in style

PCS

The win over Goa helps the Kolkata giant set three records; an own goal by Boris and a strike by Stewart in injury time prove to be the difference on the night

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant celebrated its ISL League Shield triumph with a 2-0 win over FC Goa in its final league outing at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday.

The result helped Mohun Bagan tally a record 56 points from 24 matches in the history of the tournament.

Goa remained in second spot with 48 points from 24 games.

Mohun Bagan secured the lead off Goa defender Boris Singh's own goal in the 62nd minute before its Scottish playmaker Greg Stewart doubled the lead in added time.

Milestones galore

In this process Mohun Bagan created two more milestones in the competition – registering the most number of wins (17) and an unbeaten run at home with



Joy unbound: Mohun Bagan players celebrate with the League Shield. DEBASISH BHADURI

11 wins and a draw.

Goa started well and showed greater urgency in the opening half.

It created multiple scoring opportunities, but its attackers kept missing from close.

Mohun Bagan found the net in the added time of the first half, but Manvir Singh's goal was disallowed

as the referee hauled up his teammate Dimitri Petratos for infringement.

Miscommunication

Mohun Bagan did not have to wait for long as a miscommunication in the Goa defence saw Boris heading a clearance into his own goal.

Mohun Bagan effective-

ly sealed its defence to see off the Goa attacks and secured the win when Stewart finished off a counter-attack in the fourth minute of added time.

The result: Mohun Bagan SG 2 (Boris Singh 62-og, Greg Stewart 90+4) bt FC Goa 0.

Sunday's match:
At Chennai: Chennaiyin vs. Jamshedpur.

Mohun Bagan celebrates League Shield victory in style

मोहुन बागान ने लीग शील्ड जीत का जश्न धूमधाम से मनाया

Mohun Bagan Super Giant celebrated its ISL League Shield triumph with a 2-0 win over FC Goa in its final league outing at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday.

○ **मोहुन बागान सुपर जाइंट ने अपने आईएसएल लीग शील्ड खिताब को एफसी गोवा पर 2-0 की**

जीत के साथ शनिवार को सॉल्ट लेक स्टेडियम में अपने अंतिम लीग मैच में जश्न मनाया।

- The result helped Mohun Bagan tally a record 56 points from 24 matches in the history of the tournament.
 - इस जीत से मोहुन बागान ने टूर्नामेंट के इतिहास में 24 मैचों में 56 अंकों का रिकॉर्ड बनाया।
- Goa remained in second spot with 48 points from 24 games.
 - एफसी गोवा 24 मैचों में 48 अंकों के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर रहा।
- Boris Singh's own goal in the 62nd minute gave Mohun Bagan the lead, before Scottish playmaker Greg Stewart doubled the score in injury time.
 - 62वें मिनट में बोरीस सिंह के आत्मघाती गोल से मोहुन बागान को बढ़त मिली, जिसके बाद स्कॉटिश प्लेमेकर ग्रेग स्टीवर्ट ने इंजुरी टाइम में स्कोर को दोगुना कर दिया।



Milestones galore

उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धियाँ

- Mohun Bagan created two more records:
 - **Most wins (17) in a single season.**
 - **Unbeaten home run with 11 wins and 1 draw.**
 - मोहुन बागान ने दो और रिकॉर्ड बनाए:
 - एक सीज़न में सबसे ज्यादा जीत (17)।
 - घरेलू मैदान पर अजेय रहने का रिकॉर्ड (11 जीत और 1 ड्रॉ)।
- **Goa started well and created multiple scoring opportunities but failed to convert.**
 - एफसी गोवा ने अच्छी शुरुआत की और कई गोल करने के मौके बनाए, लेकिन उन्हें भुनाने में नाकाम रहा।
- **Manvir Singh's goal was disallowed in the first-half injury time due to Dimitri Petratos' infringement.**
 - पहले हाफ के इंजुरी टाइम में मनवीर सिंह का गोल रद्द कर दिया गया क्योंकि दिमित्री पेट्राटोस द्वारा फाउल किया गया था।

Miscommunication led to Goa's own goal

गलतफहमी के कारण गोवा का आत्मघाती गोल

- A defensive miscommunication in Goa's defence led to **Boris Singh's own goal.**
 - गोवा की रक्षा पंक्ति में गलतफहमी के कारण बोरीस सिंह ने आत्मघाती गोल किया।
- **Mohun Bagan sealed its defence**, thwarting Goa's attacks and securing the win with Stewart's goal in added time.
 - मोहुन बागान ने अपनी रक्षा को मजबूत किया, गोवा के आक्रमणों को विफल किया और इंजुरी टाइम में स्टीवर्ट के गोल के साथ जीत पक्की की।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. **Jamia violence left an indelible impact on me, says Payal Kapadia**

जामिया हिंसा ने मुझ पर गहरा प्रभाव छोड़ा, पायल कपाड़िया ने कहा

2. **Gagan Gill, Easterine Kire among 23 who received Sahitya Akademi Award**

गगन गिल, ईस्टराइन किरि सहित 23 को साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार मिला



Jamia violence left an indelible impact on me, says Payal Kapadia

जामिया हिंसा ने मुझ पर गहरा प्रभाव छोड़ा, पायल कपाड़िया ने कहा

Noted filmmaker Payal Kapadia stated that the 2020 Jamia Millia

Jamia violence left an indelible impact on me, says Payal Kapadia

Ashna Butani PCS
NEW DELHI

Noted filmmaker Payal Kapadia on Saturday said the violence on the Jamia Millia Islamia campus in 2020 against the backdrop of anti-CAA protests left an indelible impact on her, which she tried to portray in the feature film *A Night of Knowing Nothing*.

"When we saw the Jamia footage, we felt this overwhelming emotion. We tried to frame the film through that emotion," said the 38-year-old director.

The award-winning 2021 film about students' protests at Indian university campuses was screened on Saturday at the India International Centre (IIC) as



Filmmaker Payal Kapadia's 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' was screened at IIC. FILE PHOTO

part of the Asian Women's Film Festival. It was selected for the Directors' Fortnight section at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

"The people of Delhi would be familiar with what's shown in the film. Sorry for reminding you...

but it's good not to forget," said Ms. Kapadia

She added that her films, which often blend fact with fiction, are a form of negotiation between "interpersonal relationships and the larger politics of our country".

In 2015, Ms. Kapadia led a student protest at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune against actor-turned-politician Gajendra Chauhan, who had been appointed as the institute's chairman. The students called the appointment "politically motivated." The 139-day protest led to Ms. Kapadia and 34 other students being booked on several charges, including unlawful assembly and rioting.

Islamia violence during the anti-CAA protests had a deep impact on her, which she tried to depict in her film *A Night of Knowing Nothing*.

प्रसिद्ध फिल्म निर्माता पायल कपाड़िया ने कहा कि 2020 में नागरिकता संशोधन कानून (CAA) विरोधी प्रदर्शनों के दौरान जामिया मिलिया इस्लामिया में हुई हिंसा का उन पर गहरा प्रभाव पड़ा, जिसे उन्होंने अपनी फिल्म "ए नाइट ऑफ नॉइंग नथिंग" में दर्शाने की कोशिश की।

- Kapadia, 38, said that when she saw the Jamia footage, it evoked overwhelming emotions, which shaped the film's narrative.

38 वर्षीय कपाड़िया ने कहा कि जब उन्होंने जामिया की फुटेज देखी, तो यह बेहद भावनात्मक था, और इसी भावना के आधार पर फिल्म बनाई गई।

Screening and Recognition
स्क्रीनिंग और मान्यता



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- The film was screened at the India International Centre (IIC) on Saturday as part of the Asian Women's Film Festival.
फिल्म को शनिवार को इंडिया इंटरनेशनल सेंटर (IIC) में एशियन वुमेन्स फिल्म फेस्टिवल के हिस्से के रूप में प्रदर्शित किया गया।
- It was selected for the Directors' Fortnight section at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.
फिल्म को 2021 के कान्स फिल्म फेस्टिवल के "डायरेक्टर्स फोर्टनाइट" सेक्शन में चुना गया था।
- Kapadia said, "The people of Delhi would be familiar with what's shown in the film. Sorry for reminding you... but it's good not to forget."
कपाड़िया ने कहा, "दिल्ली के लोग इस फिल्म में दिखाए गए दृश्यों से परिचित होंगे। क्षमा करें कि आपको याद दिलाया... लेकिन कुछ चीजों को भूलना भी सही नहीं है।"

Filmmaking Style and Political Themes

फिल्म निर्माण शैली और राजनीतिक विषय

- Kapadia's films often blend fact with fiction and explore interpersonal relationships within the larger political landscape of India.
**कपाड़िया की फिल्में अक्सर तथ्यों और कल्पना को मिलाकर बनती हैं और व्यक्तिगत संबंधों और भारत की व्यापक राजनीतिक स्थिति को दर्शाती हैं।

Past Activism and FTII Protest

पूर्व सक्रियता और FTII विरोध प्रदर्शन

- In 2015, Kapadia led a student protest at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, against the appointment of actor-turned-politician Gajendra Chauhan as chairman.
2015 में, कपाड़िया ने पुणे के फिल्म एंड टेलीविजन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया (FTII) में अभिनेता से नेता बने गजेंद्र चौहान की अध्यक्ष के रूप में नियुक्ति के खिलाफ छात्र आंदोलन का नेतृत्व किया।
- The students called the appointment politically motivated, leading to a 139-day protest.
छात्रों ने इस नियुक्ति को "राजनीतिक रूप से प्रेरित" बताया, जिससे 139 दिनों तक विरोध प्रदर्शन चला।
- As a result, Kapadia and 34 other students were booked on multiple charges, including unlawful assembly and rioting.

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****इसके परिणामस्वरूप, कपाड़िया और 34 अन्य छात्रों पर गैरकानूनी सभा और दंगा करने सहित कई आरोप लगाए गए।**

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Gagan Gill, Easterine Kire among 23 who received Sahitya Akademi Award

PCS

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Hindi poet Gagan Gill and Naga author Easterine Kire, who writes in English, are among 23 recipients of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for 2024, honoured at a ceremony on Saturday during the ongoing "Sahityotsav: Festival of Letters".

The annual awards, recognising works in various categories such as novels, short stories, poetry, essays, and plays, were announced in December. Mr. Gill received the award for his poetry collection *Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar*, and Ms. Kire for her novel *Spirit Nights*.

The diverse awardees include Sohan Koul for his Kashmiri novel *Psychiatric*



Easterine Kire

Ward, and Paul Kaur for her Punjabi poetry book *Sun Gunvanta Sun Budhivanta: Itihaasnama Punjab*. The recipients include K. Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati), Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani), and Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit).

Aron Raja Basomatary

received the award for his Bodo novel *Swrni Thakhai*.

In the short stories section, Yuva Baral received the award for *Chhichimira* (Nepali) and Hundraj Balwani for *Purzo* (Sindhi).

Each awardee received a plaque, a shawl, and ₹1 lakh.

Celebrating diversity

Speaking at the event, noted playwright Mahesh Dattani said that Indians, especially writers, acknowledged and celebrated their diversity, as a singular identity was not enough to define them.

Mr. Dattani called for support and promotion of Indian languages and literature lest they get "homogenised or marginalised in an increasingly capitalised world".

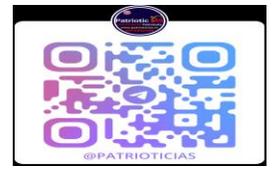
Gagan Gill, Easterine Kire among 23 who received Sahitya Akademi Award



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गगन गिल, ईस्टराइन किर्रे सहित 23 को साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार मिला

Hindi poet Gagan Gill and Naga author Easterine Kire (who writes in English) were among the 23 recipients of the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024.

हिंदी कवि गगन गिल और नागा लेखिका ईस्टराइन किर्रे (जो अंग्रेजी में लिखती हैं) साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार 2024 के 23 विजेताओं में शामिल रहीं।

- The awards were presented during the "Sahityotsav: Festival of Letters" on Saturday.

यह पुरस्कार शनिवार को "साहित्योत्सव: फेस्टिवल ऑफ लेटर्स" के दौरान प्रदान किए गए।

Award-Winning Works

पुरस्कृत कृतियाँ

- Gagan Gill received the award for his poetry collection "Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar". गगन गिल को उनके कविता संग्रह "मैं जब तक आई बहार" के लिए पुरस्कार मिला।
- Easterine Kire was honored for her novel "Spirit Nights". ईस्टराइन किर्रे को उनके उपन्यास "स्पिरिट नाइट्स" के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।

Other Notable Awardees

अन्य प्रमुख विजेता

- Sohan Koul – Kashmiri novel "Psychiatric Ward" सोहन कौल – कश्मीरी उपन्यास "साइकियाट्रिक वार्ड"
- Paul Kaur – Punjabi poetry book "Sun Gunvanta Sun Budhivanta: Itihaasnama Punjab" पॉल कौर – पंजाबी कविता संग्रह "सुन गुणवंता सुन बुद्धिवंता: इतिहासनामा पंजाब"
- Other recipients include:
 - K. Jayakumar (Malayalam) के. जयकुमार (मलयालम)

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- Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri)
हाओबम सत्यवती देवी (मणिपुरी)
- Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati)
दिलीप झावेरी (गुजराती)
- Sameer Tanti (Assamese)
समीर टांटी (असमिया)
- Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani)
मुकुट मणिराज (राजस्थानी)
- Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit)
दीपक कुमार शर्मा (संस्कृत)
- Aron Raja Basomatary received the award for his Bodo novel "Swrni Thakhai".
एरोन राजा बसुमतारी को बोडो उपन्यास "स्वर्नी थाखाई" के लिए पुरस्कार मिला।
- In short stories:
 - Yuva Baral won for "Chhichimira" (Nepali).
युवा बराल को "छिछिमिरा" (नेपाली) के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।
 - Hundraj Balwani won for "Purzo" (Sindhi).
हंद्राज बालवानी को "पुरजो" (सिंधी) के लिए पुरस्कार मिला।

Award Ceremony and Recognition

पुरस्कार समारोह और मान्यता

- Each awardee received a plaque, a shawl, and ₹1 lakh.
प्रत्येक विजेता को एक पट्टिका, एक शॉल और ₹1 लाख की पुरस्कार राशि प्रदान की गई।
- Noted playwright Mahesh Dattani spoke at the event, emphasizing that Indians celebrate their linguistic and cultural diversity.
प्रसिद्ध नाटककार महेश दत्तानी ने कार्यक्रम में कहा कि भारतीय अपनी भाषाई और सांस्कृतिक विविधता का जश्न मनाते हैं।
- He warned that Indian languages and literature need more support to prevent marginalization in a capitalist world.
उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय भाषाओं और साहित्य को अधिक समर्थन की आवश्यकता है ताकि उन्हें पूंजीवादी दुनिया में हाशिए पर जाने से बचाया जा सके।