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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
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15_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Modern day summitry, its perils and its prospects

GS Paper I: World History

Across the world, there is broad agreement, including in the area of politics and diplomacy, that a strong leader can be useful. The term, no doubt, carries more than one interpretation, but is generally taken to mean a leader who concentrates a great deal of power in his hands and dominates both a wide swathe of public policy and also the political party to which he or she belongs.

In today's world, United States President Donald Trump and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi are presumed to fall into this category. Confirming this perception very recently, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (addressing a Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington via video link) mentioned Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi as two strong leaders who are now shaping 'A New Conservative Movement'. Both leaders also appear more than willing to engage in modern day summit diplomacy, even though it contains both positives and negatives as far as outcomes are concerned. Welding power decisively has its benefits. However, belief in one's sole judgment can have many negative consequences or fallout. Nevertheless, summit diplomacy has increasingly become the stock-in-trade of 'maximum leader' when it comes to issues such as war and peace.

From the past to the present

Most commentators link the beginning of summit diplomacy to the **Congress of Vienna (1814-15)**, which sought to **reshape the map of Europe after the Napoleonic Wars**. More recently, summit diplomacy has been resorted to in conflict resolution and peace building. The **Camp David Accords, signed in 1978**, which led to a **tentative peace between Egypt and Israel**, is a conspicuous example of the success of modern day summitry. Another significant instance of the advantage of summit diplomacy was the interaction between **U.S. President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union**, which helped to significantly reduce Cold War tensions. However, there are many more instances of failures than successes in the course of resorting to summit diplomacy. More often than not, the desire for visible success at a summit leads to superficial agreements or compromises that lack substance.

This is more true in the case of leaders who, notwithstanding the real outcome, are anxious to sustain their image of being a strong leader. A classic instance of this was how the West misinterpreted reality in the case of Iraq under Saddam Hussein, viz., regarding the possession of nuclear weapons by him. Summit diplomacy is, hence, fraught with several complexities.

The perils of 'pseudo' summit diplomacy are clearly evident in the backdrop of recent exchanges between Mr. Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Their heated



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exchanges in the White House, on February 28, 2025, showcase summit diplomacy at its worst. Summitry is normally conducted in private. The Zelenskyy-Trump summitry took place instead in the glare of publicity, and what it achieved was providing Mr. Zelenskyy another opportunity for 'grandstanding' rather than finding a solution or a mutually acceptable outcome for the Ukraine conflict. Seldom has a discussion between leaders degenerated to levels that were seen during the Trump-Zelenskyy exchanges, much of it on television. With Mr. Zelenskyy almost 'daring' Mr. Trump, well aware of his nature, this could have but one result. Mr. Trump's response was, therefore, not unexpected, and his diktat to Mr. Zelenskyy to accept the deal or else have the U.S. opt out of the Ukraine-Russia imbroglio was a 'fait accompli'.

Mr. Zelenskyy's embarking on a new variant of summit diplomacy was by going to Washington with an offer to seal an agreement with the U.S. on handing over many billions of dollars worth of 'mineral rights', in repayment for past U.S. military aid to Ukraine.

The sequel to this is in some ways even more problematic. Europe, caught in the cross hairs of the Trump-Zelenskyy exchanges, was seen scrambling to put in place an alternative. A hurriedly arranged meeting, in London, of 19 European leaders, put forward a fresh menu of sentiments, but which was lacking in substance. The declaration by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom that Europe must "do the heavy lifting" for the future defence of Ukraine at a summit which took place "at a crossroads in history today", further adding that his country was 'willing to put boots on the ground and planes in the air to support a deal', which was met with acclaim. He did not, however, forget to add – possibly as an afterthought – that no two countries were more closely aligned than the U.K. and the U.S. The latter sentiment is, perhaps, more real. The dominant sentiment in Europe, meanwhile, appears to be that the U.S. under Mr. Trump is in no mood to pursue former U.S. President Joe Biden's strategy of supporting Zelenskyy's Ukraine.

India and a working visit

The Trump-Zelenskyy exchanges are seen in some quarters as further enhancing Mr. Trump's reputation in the realm of global politics today as being a 'bully', but this may not be all too true. In the meeting held between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi during the Indian leader's brief working visit on February 13, 2025, there was little evidence of 'bullying' despite Mr. Trump's opposition to India's tariffs and tariff barriers. The U.S. President did, however, lash out at the tariff barriers erected by India, warning that there could be serious consequences as a result. The exchanges were, however, civil and did not tantamount to 'bullying'. No doubt, the U.S. side

sought concessions and Mr. Modi did make some, but there is no evidence that he buckled under a Trump onslaught. The general consensus among analysts worldwide is that as far as the Modi-Trump meeting is concerned, the latter was not the obvious winner in the exchanges. Instead, the two 'strong leaders' seemed to adhere to Newton's 'Third Law of Motion', in which there are no winners or losers. One should not, however, overlook 'the bait' the U.S. President held out to India – the sale of F-35 fighter jets to India.

The Joint Statement issued at the end of the Modi-Trump talks was, however, 'a masterpiece in obfuscation', long on possible collaboration while containing a gratuitous nod to India's security concerns across Asia. The hidden agenda was, no doubt, on how best to increase U.S. defence sales to India. The offer of possibly the best aircraft in the world, the F-35 (which has so far not been available to India) was the 'icing on the cake' since this was a proposal that the Indian Air Force could be expected to use to pressurise the civil administration into accepting it as a counterweight to China. All in all, this was the best of possible outcomes, but given Mr. Trump's penchant for producing surprises, the outcome of the first meeting between Mr. Modi and President Trump (in his second avatar) is probably yet to be determined.

The Indian Prime Minister did resort to various stratagems to prepare the ground for his meeting with Mr. Trump. The meetings with the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, the National Security Adviser, Michael Waltz, and industrialist and Tesla CEO, Elon Musk, prior to the Trump meet reveal a degree of careful preparation, given the U.S. President's image as someone who makes few concessions. In any case, there are no set guidelines for a summit meeting of this kind. Further, in summit diplomacy, there are seldom clear cut winners or losers.

In perspective

Mr. Trump's initial forays into summit diplomacy, however, do not quite fit the mould of summitry in diplomacy, which is principally aimed at conflict resolution and peace building at one level, and building relationships and trust at another. The truth is that notwithstanding sharp divergences in national interests and power imbalances, most world leaders today embark on summit diplomacy without adequate preparation. It often turns into a public relations exercise without worthwhile outcomes. Nevertheless, summit diplomacy will continue to occupy a vital, and often indispensable, place in modern international relations. It is even possible that summit diplomacy will become even more crucial in a world facing increasingly complex challenges which demand collective actions and cooperation.

Despite obtuse exercises such as the Trump-style meets, summit diplomacy could continue to occupy a vital place in modern international relations

Modern day summitry, its perils and its prospects

आधुनिक युग की शिखर कूटनीति, इसकी चुनौतियाँ और संभावनाएँ

The Role of Strong Leaders

मजबूत नेताओं की भूमिका



- Across the world, there is a belief that a **strong leader can be beneficial**, particularly in **politics and diplomacy**.
दुनिया भर में यह मान्यता है कि एक मजबूत नेता फायदेमंद हो सकता है, खासकर राजनीति और कूटनीति में।
- A **strong leader is often defined as someone who concentrates power and dominates public policy and political parties**.
एक मजबूत नेता वह होता है जो सत्ता को अपने हाथों में केंद्रित करता है और सार्वजनिक नीति और राजनीतिक दलों पर प्रभाव डालता है।
- **Examples:** U.S. President **Donald Trump** and Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** are considered strong leaders.
उदाहरण: अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** और भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** को मजबूत नेता माना जाता है।
- **Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni** recently cited **Trump and Modi** as leaders shaping "**A New Conservative Movement**."
इटली की प्रधानमंत्री **जॉर्जिया मेलोनी** ने हाल ही में **ट्रंप और मोदी** को "नए रूढ़िवादी आंदोलन" को आकार देने वाले नेता बताया।

The Evolution of Summit Diplomacy

शिखर कूटनीति का विकास

- **Summit diplomacy dates back to the Congress of Vienna (1814-15)**, which reshaped Europe after the Napoleonic Wars.
शिखर कूटनीति की शुरुआत 1814-15 में वियना कांग्रेस से हुई, जिसने नेपोलियन युद्धों के बाद यूरोप का पुनर्गठन किया।
- **Modern examples:**
 - **1978 Camp David Accords** → Peace between **Egypt and Israel**.
 - **Cold War talks between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev** → Helped **reduce tensions**.
 - **Failures:** Many summits result in **superficial agreements** that lack depth.
- **आधुनिक उदाहरण:**
 - **1978 कैंप डेविड समझौता** → **मिस्र और इजरायल के बीच शांति**।
 - **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति रोनाल्ड रीगन और सोवियत नेता मिखाइल गोर्बाचेव की बैठकें** → **शीत युद्ध तनाव कम करने में मदद**।
 - **असफलताएँ:** कई शिखर बैठकें सतही समझौतों में समाप्त होती हैं, जिनमें गहराई की कमी होती है।



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The Risks of Summit Diplomacy

शिखर कूटनीति के खतरे

- Leaders focus on their personal image rather than actual outcomes.
नेता वास्तविक परिणामों के बजाय अपनी व्यक्तिगत छवि पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं
- Example: Saddam Hussein and the Iraq War – The West misinterpreted intelligence about nuclear weapons, leading to war.
उदाहरण: सद्दाम हुसैन और इराक युद्ध – पश्चिम ने परमाणु हथियारों की गलत व्याख्या की, जिससे युद्ध हुआ।
- Pseudo summit diplomacy can lead to chaotic negotiations instead of real conflict resolution.
छद्म शिखर कूटनीति वास्तविक समस्या समाधान के बजाय अराजक वार्ताओं को जन्म देती है।

Trump-Zelenskyy Summit: A Case Study

ट्रंप-ज़ेलेन्स्की शिखर बैठक: एक अध्ययन

- February 28, 2025: Donald Trump and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a highly publicized summit in Washington.
28 फरवरी, 2025: डोनाल्ड ट्रंप और यूक्रेन के वलोडिमिर ज़ेलेन्स्की ने वाशिंगटन में एक अत्यधिक प्रचारित शिखर बैठक की।
- The meeting turned into a heated public exchange, where Zelenskyy challenged Trump on live TV.
बैठक एक गरमागरम सार्वजनिक बहस में बदल गई, जहाँ ज़ेलेन्स्की ने ट्रंप को लाइव टीवी पर चुनौती दी।
- Trump issued an ultimatum: Accept the U.S. deal, or the U.S. would withdraw support for Ukraine against Russia.
ट्रंप ने एक अल्टीमेटम दिया: या तो यूक्रेन अमेरिका की शर्तें माने, अन्यथा अमेरिका रूस के खिलाफ समर्थन वापस लेगा।
- Zelenskyy offered mineral rights in exchange for military aid, making diplomacy look like a business transaction.
ज़ेलेन्स्की ने सैन्य सहायता के बदले खनिज संसाधनों के अधिकार देने की पेशकश की, जिससे कूटनीति व्यापारिक लेन-देन जैसी लगने लगी।

European Response and Fallout

यूरोपीय प्रतिक्रिया और इसके परिणाम

- Europe felt sidelined in Trump-Zelenskyy talks, leading to an urgent meeting in London with 19 European leaders.
यूरोप ने खुद को ट्रंप-ज़ेलेन्स्की वार्ता में उपेक्षित महसूस किया, जिससे लंदन में 19 यूरोपीय नेताओं की आपात बैठक बुलाई गई।



- **UK Prime Minister announced military support**, saying **Europe must take responsibility for Ukraine's defense**.
यूके के प्रधानमंत्री ने सैन्य समर्थन की घोषणा की, यह कहते हुए कि यूरोप को यूक्रेन की रक्षा की ज़िम्मेदारी लेनी होगी।
- **Europe criticized Trump's stance**, realizing **U.S. policy had shifted from Biden's approach**.
यूरोप ने ट्रंप के रुख की आलोचना की, यह महसूस करते हुए कि अमेरिका की नीति बाइडेन के दृष्टिकोण से अलग हो चुकी है।
- **Trump's unpredictable foreign policy left allies uncertain about future U.S. commitments**.
ट्रंप की अप्रत्याशित विदेश नीति ने सहयोगियों को भविष्य में अमेरिकी प्रतिबद्धताओं को लेकर अनिश्चित कर दिया।

Conclusion: Prospects and Risks of Summitry

निष्कर्ष: शिखर कूटनीति की संभावनाएँ और जोखिम

- **Summit diplomacy has both advantages and risks**: It can **resolve major conflicts**, but also lead to **superficial deals and global instability**.
शिखर कूटनीति के फायदे और नुकसान दोनों हैं: यह बड़े विवादों को हल कर सकती है, लेकिन सतही समझौतों और वैश्विक अस्थिरता को भी जन्म दे सकती है।
- **Strong leaders like Trump and Modi prefer direct negotiations**, but these can be **high-risk and unpredictable**.
मजबूत नेता, जैसे ट्रंप और मोदी, प्रत्यक्ष वार्ता को प्राथमिकता देते हैं, लेकिन ये उच्च जोखिम और अप्रत्याशित हो सकती हैं।
- **The future of summitry depends on balancing power and diplomatic caution**.
शिखर कूटनीति का भविष्य शक्ति संतुलन और राजनयिक सतर्कता पर निर्भर करेगा।

India and a working visit

भारत और एक कार्य यात्रा

Trump-Zelenskyy Exchanges vs. Modi-Trump Meeting

ट्रंप-ज़ेलेन्स्की वार्ता बनाम मोदी-ट्रंप बैठक

- **Trump-Zelenskyy exchanges have strengthened Trump's reputation as a global bully**, but this was **not evident** in his meeting with **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on February 13, 2025.



ट्रंप-ज़ेलेन्स्की वार्ता ने ट्रंप की वैश्विक दबाव छवि को और मजबूत किया, लेकिन यह 13 फरवरी 2025 को भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के साथ उनकी बैठक में नहीं दिखा।

- Despite Trump's criticism of India's tariff barriers, the discussions were civil and did not amount to bullying.

भारत के टैरिफ प्रतिबंधों पर ट्रंप की आलोचना के बावजूद, बातचीत शिष्ट रही और इसे दबाव बनाना नहीं कहा जा सकता।

- Modi made some concessions, but there is no evidence that he succumbed to Trump's pressure.

मोदी ने कुछ रियायतें दीं, लेकिन ऐसा कोई प्रमाण नहीं है कि उन्होंने ट्रंप के दबाव में झुकाव दिखाया।

Key Takeaways from Modi-Trump Meeting

मोदी-ट्रंप बैठक के मुख्य निष्कर्ष

- **Newton's Third Law of Motion:** The meeting did not produce a clear winner or loser. न्यूटन के तीसरे गति नियम की तरह, इस बैठक में कोई स्पष्ट विजेता या पराजित नहीं था।
- **F-35 fighter jets offer:** Trump offered India the advanced F-35 fighter jets, which had not been available to India before.
F-35 फाइटर जेट प्रस्ताव: ट्रंप ने भारत को उन्नत F-35 लड़ाकू विमान की पेशकश की, जो पहले भारत को उपलब्ध नहीं थे।
- The **Joint Statement** was vague, focusing on **broad collaboration** while subtly promoting **U.S. defense sales to India**.
संयुक्त बयान अस्पष्ट था, जिसमें व्यापक सहयोग पर ध्यान दिया गया, लेकिन भारत को अमेरिकी रक्षा बिक्री बढ़ाने का संकेत भी दिया गया।
- The **Indian Air Force** is likely to push for the F-35 deal, citing it as a **counterweight to China's military strength**.
भारतीय वायु सेना संभवतः F-35 सौदे को आगे बढ़ाएगी, इसे चीन की सैन्य शक्ति का संतुलन बनाने के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जा सकता है।

Modi's Strategic Preparations Before Meeting Trump

ट्रंप से मुलाकात से पहले मोदी की रणनीतिक तैयारी

- **Meetings before Trump Summit:**
 - Tulsi Gabbard (U.S. Director of National Intelligence)
 - Michael Waltz (U.S. National Security Adviser)
 - Elon Musk (Tesla CEO & Industrialist)
- **ट्रंप से मुलाकात से पहले की बैठकें:**
 - टुलसी गबार्ड (अमेरिकी राष्ट्रीय खुफिया निदेशक)
 - माइकल वॉल्ट्ज (अमेरिकी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार)



- एलोन मस्क (टेस्ला के सीईओ और उद्योगपति)
- These preparations suggest a well-planned approach, considering Trump's reputation for tough negotiations.
ये तैयारियाँ ट्रंप की कठिन वार्ता शैली को ध्यान में रखते हुए एक अच्छी तरह से सोची-समझी रणनीति को दर्शाती हैं।
- Summit diplomacy lacks fixed guidelines, making preparation essential for favorable outcomes.
शिखर कूटनीति के लिए कोई निश्चित दिशानिर्देश नहीं होते, इसलिए अनुकूल परिणामों के लिए तैयारी महत्वपूर्ण होती है।

The Reality of Summit Diplomacy

शिखर कूटनीति की वास्तविकता

- Summit diplomacy should aim at conflict resolution and trust-building, but in practice, many leaders use it as a public relations exercise.
शिखर कूटनीति का उद्देश्य संघर्ष समाधान और विश्वास निर्माण होना चाहिए, लेकिन व्यवहार में, कई नेता इसे केवल प्रचार का साधन बना लेते हैं।
- Trump's approach does not align with traditional summit diplomacy, which prioritizes peace-building and relationship management.
ट्रंप की रणनीति पारंपरिक शिखर कूटनीति से मेल नहीं खाती, जो शांति निर्माण और संबंध प्रबंधन को प्राथमिकता देती है।
- Despite its flaws, summit diplomacy remains crucial in a world facing complex global challenges.
इसके दोषों के बावजूद, शिखर कूटनीति आधुनिक दुनिया में महत्वपूर्ण बनी रहेगी, क्योंकि वैश्विक समस्याओं का समाधान सहयोग से ही संभव है।



A school closure that must be called out

GS Paper I: Society

The order to close down the **only Gondi-medium school in a village of Maharashtra** raises important questions. The school was started in **Mohgaon village in the Fifth Schedule area of the Gadchiroli district**, in 2019, as a result of a resolution by the gram panchayat, for tribal students to achieve better learning outcomes by **imparting primary education in their mother tongue**. **This initiative was in consonance with Article 29 of the Constitution**, which provides minorities the right to preserve distinct languages, scripts and cultures, and Article 350(a) which mandates that the state should make adequate provisions so that children of minority groups may receive instruction in their mother tongue.

However, the local administration has argued that as the school is not registered under the Right to Education Act, 2009, its standards cannot be monitored. Non-recognition would also jeopardise the future of students when they transition to higher classes. However, an education officer has said that in case of closure, the students will be 'absorbed' in other schools.

Subordination by bias

While the objection of the administration is couched in bureaucratic language, it must be emphasised that the question of recognition is fundamentally a question of power, and only derivatively that of procedure. Non-recognition of the school is linked to the structural and socio-political subordination of the Adivasi communities owing to the normative bias of the state against their language and culture. Therefore, spotlighting the moral and political context of this 'bureaucratic' refusal by the local administration becomes important.

Jawaharlal Nehru was of the firm view that the Adivasi communities must grow according to



Anshul Trivedi
is a member of the Indian National Congress

The order to close down Maharashtra's only Gondi-medium school is also an affront to the Constitution

their own genius. His view was informed by the historical experience of the past two centuries which saw many tribal communities being driven to the verge of extinction as a result of the vicious violence unleashed by the colonial state across the world.

Therefore, the Constitution has provisions to preserve and protect the tribal way of life – rights over land, language, culture and customs. These provisions are intended to enable tribal communities to participate in the process of nation-building while guarding against the loss of their identity.

Forces of absorption

However, the forces of absorption, which operate in the secular and religious realms, have had an immensely deleterious impact on the tribal communities since independence. In the secular realm, absorption is carried out by the state and the market, while in the religious realm, absorption is carried out through the denigration, distortion and erasure of tribal religious beliefs. Both these forces of absorption complement each other.

This particular case, of the school's possible closure, is one of absorption through the state which is operationalised through the non-recognition of the elements of tribal culture. This is reflected most clearly in the current status of Adivasi languages in the Constitution. Out of the 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule, major tribal languages such as Gondi and Bhili are absent.

Gondi, which according to the 2011 Census, is spoken by more than 29 lakh people primarily across six States, is not included within the Eighth Schedule. Therefore, the state has no obligation to promote it at the national level.

On the contrary, Sanskrit, which is considered

the *Devbhasha* or the language of the gods, is spoken by less than 25,000 people across the country, is listed in the Eighth Schedule. The contrast between Sanskrit and Gondi is necessary in this context because both are minority languages. Both are unlikely to be amplified by the market nor can they be considered necessary in getting employment. However, both these minority languages have contrasting fates due to the socio-political power wielded by the community which seeks to promote them – one is recognised by the state while the other is neglected.

Specificity of Adivasi languages

The need to confer state recognition becomes all the more important in the case of Adivasi communities because their culture has an oral tradition which includes their originary myths, religious beliefs and tales of the past. In the present context, given the rapid erosion of the Adivasi identity due to the clearing of forests, increasing urbanisation and rampant marketisation of society, the primary site of the construction of the Adivasi identity (historical memory which is transmitted orally) may face danger. The extinction of an Adivasi language might cause irreparable loss to that identity. Therefore, Adivasi languages must be accorded special status to ensure their protection.

It is ironic that those who claim to follow the Constitution, which derives its legitimacy from 'we, the people', recognise and promote the *Devbhasha* but neglect the *Janbhasha* (language of the people) of the Adivasi people. This gross moral failure must be addressed. It can be remedied, with the first step being the recognition of the Gondi-speaking school in focus and then expanding such schools. This would be in line with the spirit of the Constitution as well.

A school closure that must be called out

एक स्कूल बंदी जिसे उजागर करना आवश्यक है

Closure of Gondi-medium School in Maharashtra

महाराष्ट्र में गोंडी-माध्यम स्कूल का बंद होना

- The **only Gondi-medium school in Mohgaon village (Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra)** was ordered to be closed.
महाराष्ट्र के गढ़चिरोली जिले के मोहगांव गांव में स्थित एकमात्र गोंडी-माध्यम स्कूल को बंद करने का आदेश दिया गया।
- **Established in 2019**, it was started by the **gram panchayat** to help **tribal students learn in their mother tongue for better learning outcomes**.
2019 में स्थापित इस स्कूल को ग्राम पंचायत द्वारा शुरू किया गया था, ताकि आदिवासी छात्र अपनी मातृभाषा में शिक्षा प्राप्त कर बेहतर सीख सकें।
- The school followed **Article 29** (right to preserve distinct language and culture) and **Article 350(A)** (mandates instruction in mother tongue for minorities).
यह स्कूल अनुच्छेद 29 (विशिष्ट भाषा और संस्कृति को संरक्षित करने का अधिकार) और अनुच्छेद 350(A) (अल्पसंख्यकों को मातृभाषा में शिक्षा देने की व्यवस्था) के अनुरूप था।



Reasons for Closure by Local Administration

स्थानीय प्रशासन द्वारा बंद करने के कारण

- The administration argued that the school was **not registered under the Right to Education Act, 2009**, making **monitoring impossible**.
प्रशासन का तर्क था कि यह स्कूल शिक्षा का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2009 के तहत पंजीकृत नहीं था, जिससे इसकी निगरानी संभव नहीं थी।
- **Non-recognition** could **jeopardize students' future** when they move to **higher classes**.
अमान्यता के कारण छात्रों का भविष्य खतरे में पड़ सकता है, जब वे उच्च कक्षाओं में प्रवेश करेंगे।
- An **education officer assured** that students would be absorbed in other schools, but no clear plan was provided.
एक शिक्षा अधिकारी ने कहा कि छात्रों को अन्य स्कूलों में समायोजित किया जाएगा, लेकिन इसका कोई स्पष्ट खाका नहीं दिया गया।

Bias Against Tribal Language and Culture

आदिवासी भाषा और संस्कृति के प्रति पूर्वाग्रह

- The real issue is **not procedural but political and structural discrimination** against Adivasi communities.
वास्तविक समस्या केवल प्रक्रिया की नहीं, बल्कि यह आदिवासी समुदायों के प्रति राजनीतिक और संरचनात्मक भेदभाव का मामला है।
- **Normative bias** in governance often results in **exclusion of tribal languages and cultures** from mainstream education.
प्रशासनिक पूर्वाग्रह के कारण आदिवासी भाषाओं और संस्कृतियों को मुख्यधारा की शिक्षा से बाहर कर दिया जाता है।
- The **bureaucratic refusal** to recognize such schools must be seen in a **larger moral and political context**.
ऐसे स्कूलों को मान्यता न देने को एक व्यापक नैतिक और राजनीतिक संदर्भ में देखा जाना चाहिए।

Historical Perspective on Tribal Rights

आदिवासी अधिकारों का ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य

- **Jawaharlal Nehru believed** that Adivasi communities should develop on their own terms, preserving their unique identities.
जवाहरलाल नेहरू का मानना था कि आदिवासी समुदायों को अपनी विशिष्ट पहचान बनाए रखते हुए विकसित होने दिया जाना चाहिए।



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- History shows that **colonial policies led to the near extinction of several tribal communities worldwide.**
इतिहास बताता है कि औपनिवेशिक नीतियों ने दुनिया भर में कई आदिवासी समुदायों को विलुप्त होने के कगार पर ला दिया।
- The **Constitution provides protections** for tribal communities over **land, language, culture, and customs**, ensuring their participation in **nation-building** without **losing their identity.**
संविधान आदिवासी समुदायों को भूमि, भाषा, संस्कृति और परंपराओं पर अधिकार देता है, जिससे वे अपनी पहचान खोए बिना राष्ट्र निर्माण में भाग ले सकें।

Conclusion: The Need for Recognition and Protection

निष्कर्ष: मान्यता और संरक्षण की आवश्यकता

- **Closing the school violates constitutional rights** and **exposes systemic bias** against indigenous education.
स्कूल को बंद करना संवैधानिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन है और आदिवासी शिक्षा के प्रति प्रणालीगत पूर्वाग्रह को उजागर करता है।
- The **government must recognize and support indigenous language schools** instead of shutting them down.
सरकार को आदिवासी भाषाओं के स्कूलों को बंद करने के बजाय उन्हें मान्यता और समर्थन देना चाहिए।
- **Ensuring education in mother tongues** is not just a legal necessity but a **moral obligation** to protect **tribal identity and heritage.**
मातृभाषा में शिक्षा देना केवल कानूनी अनिवार्यता नहीं, बल्कि आदिवासी पहचान और विरासत की रक्षा के लिए एक नैतिक दायित्व भी है।

Forces of Absorption

समावेशन की ताकतें

Impact of Absorption on Tribal Communities

आदिवासी समुदायों पर समावेशन का प्रभाव

- **Since Independence, tribal communities have faced cultural and linguistic absorption,** harming their unique identity.
स्वतंत्रता के बाद से, आदिवासी समुदायों को सांस्कृतिक और भाषाई समावेशन का सामना करना पड़ा है, जिससे उनकी विशिष्ट पहचान प्रभावित हुई है।
- **In the secular realm, absorption happens through state policies and market forces.**
धर्मनिरपेक्ष क्षेत्र में, समावेशन राज्य नीतियों और बाजार शक्तियों के माध्यम से होता है।



- In the religious realm, it occurs by distorting or erasing tribal religious beliefs.
धार्मिक क्षेत्र में, यह आदिवासी धार्मिक विश्वासों को विकृत या मिटाने के माध्यम से होता है।
- The closure of the Gondi-medium school is an example of state-driven absorption, as it refuses to recognize tribal education.
गोंडी-माध्यम स्कूल का बंद होना राज्य द्वारा संचालित समावेशन का उदाहरण है, क्योंकि यह आदिवासी शिक्षा को मान्यता देने से इनकार करता है।

Neglect of Tribal Languages in the Constitution

संविधान में आदिवासी भाषाओं की उपेक्षा

- The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution includes 22 languages, but major tribal languages like Gondi and Bhili are absent.
संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में 22 भाषाएँ शामिल हैं, लेकिन गोंडी और भीली जैसी प्रमुख आदिवासी भाषाएँ अनुपस्थित हैं।
- Gondi is spoken by over 29 lakh people across six states, yet it is not recognized officially.
गोंडी भाषा 29 लाख से अधिक लोगों द्वारा छह राज्यों में बोली जाती है, फिर भी इसे आधिकारिक मान्यता नहीं मिली है।
- In contrast, Sanskrit is included in the Eighth Schedule despite being spoken by fewer than 25,000 people.
इसके विपरीत, संस्कृत, जिसे पूरे देश में 25,000 से भी कम लोग बोलते हैं, आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल है।
- The difference in recognition is due to socio-political power—one language is promoted while the other is neglected.
मान्यता में यह अंतर सामाजिक-राजनीतिक शक्ति के कारण है—एक भाषा को बढ़ावा दिया जाता है जबकि दूसरी की उपेक्षा की जाती है।

Need for Recognition of Tribal Languages

आदिवासी भाषाओं की मान्यता की आवश्यकता

- Adivasi culture is primarily oral, with myths, religious beliefs, and historical tales passed down verbally.
आदिवासी संस्कृति मुख्य रूप से मौखिक है, जिसमें मिथक, धार्मिक विश्वास और ऐतिहासिक कहानियाँ मौखिक रूप से प्रेषित की जाती हैं।
- Deforestation, urbanization, and commercialization threaten the survival of these oral traditions.
वनों की कटाई, शहरीकरण और बाज़ारीकरण इन मौखिक परंपराओं के अस्तित्व के लिए खतरा हैं।



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- The extinction of an Adivasi language would mean a loss of historical memory and cultural identity.
किसी आदिवासी भाषा का विलुप्त होना ऐतिहासिक स्मृति और सांस्कृतिक पहचान के नुकसान के समान होगा।
- Recognizing and protecting tribal languages is essential to preserving Adivasi heritage.
आदिवासी विरासत को संरक्षित करने के लिए आदिवासी भाषाओं को मान्यता और संरक्षण देना आवश्यक है।

The Constitutional Contradiction

संवैधानिक विरोधाभास

- The Constitution is built on "We, the People", yet it prioritizes Devbhasha (language of the gods) over Janbhasha (language of the people).
संविधान "हम, भारत के लोग" पर आधारित है, फिर भी यह देवभाषा को जनभाषा से अधिक महत्व देता है।
- Ignoring tribal languages contradicts the spirit of the Constitution, which aims to protect minority rights.
आदिवासी भाषाओं की उपेक्षा संविधान की भावना के खिलाफ है, जो अल्पसंख्यक अधिकारों की रक्षा करना चाहता है।
- This moral failure must be corrected by officially recognizing and promoting tribal languages.
इस नैतिक विफलता को सुधारने की आवश्यकता है, जिससे आदिवासी भाषाओं को आधिकारिक मान्यता और प्रोत्साहन मिले।

Conclusion: The Path Forward

निष्कर्ष: आगे का रास्ता

- The first step is to recognize the Gondi-medium school instead of closing it.
पहला कदम गोंडी-माध्यम स्कूल को बंद करने के बजाय उसे मान्यता देना होना चाहिए।
- Expanding such schools would align with constitutional principles and protect tribal identity.
ऐसे स्कूलों का विस्तार संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों के अनुरूप होगा और आदिवासी पहचान की रक्षा करेगा।
- Adivasi languages must be granted special status to ensure their survival and cultural continuity.
आदिवासी भाषाओं को विशेष दर्जा दिया जाना चाहिए ताकि उनका अस्तित्व और सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता बनी रहे।



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Authorities inspect the crime spot near Sanapura lake in Koppal district of Karnataka. SRIHAR KAVU

Near historical Hampi, a heinous crime

On the night of March 6, Bibhas Nayak from Odisha was killed and two women — an Israeli tourist and an Indian homestay operator — were gang-raped by three men when they went stargazing at Sanapura lake near **Hampi**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in Karnataka. **Kumar Buradikatti** pieces together the crime that took place in a region that is generally considered safe

GS Paper I: A&C

Trigger warning: This story contains details of rape and murder. Please avoid reading if you're distressed by the subject

Grief hangs heavy over the church at G. Udaygiri, a town in Odisha's Kandhamal district, on March 8. Around 2,000 people from across the country have gathered here, each of them carrying memories of Bibhas Nayak. On March 6, Bibhas, a 29-year-old freelance, died in Karnataka's Koppal district, close to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi, while trying to protect two women from sexual assault and violence.

The last stories that Bibhas had posted on Instagram were from the monuments of Hampi, the last capital of the Hindu kingdom of the Vijayanagara empire (14th-16th Century CE), with the caption, "Never been so fascinated by ruins". Bibhas, whose account reveals his zest for life and love for travel and adventure, had gone to Hampi after visiting Dhanushkodi and Kameswaram in Tamil Nadu, and Kochi in Kerala. Hampi was the final leg of his south India tour.

"My brother would get into local tractors, take buses, and stay under any roof that offered shelter from the rain. He managed his finances carefully, ensuring he could visit as many places as possible," says Bibhas' older sister, Bonhomie. In Hampi, Bibhas, whom his friends describe as "affable", bonded with fellow travellers — Daniel, 23, from the U.S.; Pankaj, 43, from Nashik, Maharashtra; and Aliza, 27, from Israel — and Kartika, 23, who ran the homestay in Anegundi village, Koppal district, where all of them met.

"On March 6, Bibhas went rock climbing. Later, when someone pitched the idea of stargazing, he was excited," says Anish Paul, Bibhas' brother-in-law, who has heard the sequence of events from Pankaj and Daniel. "He and his friends went to an area near Anegundi. Three men approached the group, got into an argument with them about money, and started attacking them. When Bibhas and the others tried to stop them, they were pushed into the canal. Bibhas was an expert swimmer, but he couldn't survive because he had suffered a head injury."

The attackers allegedly gang-raped Aliza and Kartika at the spot, which is full of rocks and thorny bushes. The crime sent shockwaves through Hampi, a tourist destination which locals say has never seen such a crime in decades.

Bibhas was the son of Bijay Kumar Nayak, the 16th Moderator of the Church of North India (CNI) and Bishop of the Diocese of Agra, CNI. The last post on Bibhas' Instagram, dated July 19, 2022, was a letter from a friend and reads like a prophecy: "Yes, when you leave this world, you take nothing with you but memories of what you did. Leave nothing on this earth. Or, unless I want to be comfortable here on Earth, but having an abundance of things is not necessary. The best thing to remember is to keep on the right path with God. Everything else will fade away."

A crime near a canal
On March 6, soon after dinner, Kartika, who hails from Tamil Nadu and has been running the homestay at Anegundi for the past four years, took Daniel, Aliza, Pankaj and Bibhas stargazing.

According to Rajkumar, a resort owner, there

are around 500 resorts and homestays within a 15-kilometre radius of Hampi, which has lush paddy fields and shrublands dotted with stone structures. Most of these are located in villages such as Anegundi, Basapura, Sanapura, Hanmana Halli, and Anjanahalli in Koppal on the northern side of the Tungabhadra river. The ancient stone monuments of Hampi, which are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), are located on the southern bank of the river in Vijayanagara district. The river serves as a border between Koppal and Vijayanagara, separating the ruins from the resorts and homestays.

Ravichandra, a local resident and the owner of a resort in Sanapura, who spoke to the survivors, says the group of five hopped onto scooters and left for Sanapura lake, located about 8 km from the homestay. At the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal bend, Daniel played his guitar, while the rest counted stars.

According to the police complaint filed by Kartika, three men approached the group on a motorcycle on the narrow bund road half an hour later. Speaking in Kannada, they asked where they could get petrol. "Sanapura," she replied.

Her complaint says one of the men then came closer and demanded 1000. Kartika refused to pay the strangers. When the other two men also began demanding money, Bibhas offered them 200. Enraged by the amount, the three men began verbally abusing the group and hitting them with stones and Daniel's guitar. When Pankaj, Daniel, and Bibhas tried to stop two of the men from hitting the women, the third man pushed all three of them into the canal.

"Pankaj says he did not know how to swim, so Daniel came to his rescue," says Ravichandra. Bibhas tried to climb the canal bund — "But one of the attackers hit him on the head and he fell back into the canal," says Ravichandra.

Meanwhile, according to the complaint, two of the attackers hit Kartika with stones and raped her. Seeing the third man assault Aliza, they joined him and raped her too. When the women's screams got louder, the attackers snatched their mobile phones, took 40,000 in cash from Kartika, and vanished into the night.

When Daniel and Pankaj returned to the crime spot, they found that the women were bleeding, says Ravichandra. There was no sign of Bibhas. When the panic-stricken group could not find him, they went to the nearest resort.

Ravichandra, who was at a family function, re-



Foreign tourists cycle near the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal. SRIHAR KAVU

ceived a distress call at about 11.30 p.m. from the resort. "I called some hoteliers and friends and asked them to rush to the resort and assist the group in every possible way," he says. He adds that he called Somashekhar Jural, the Circle Inspector of Police attached to Gangavathi Rural, and shared the location of the victims.

About past midnight, Ravichandra arrived at the resort. "The police were already there. Within a few minutes, an ambulance came and took the victims to a government hospital in Gangavathi (about 20 km away)," he says.

Ravichandra joined his friends and the police in the search for Bibhas. "We searched until 4 in the morning, but couldn't find him," he says.

On the morning of March 7, following the complaint lodged by Kartika, an FIR was registered at Gangavathi Rural police station under Sections 309(6) (robbery), 70(1) (gang rape), 109 (attempt to murder) read with 3(5) (joint criminal liability) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The same day, the Koppal police recovered Bibhas' body near a powerhouse gate at Mallapur in the district. Friends say Bibhas, who could "never make an enemy" and who was "the life of any gathering", died trying to save lives.

At Bibhas' memorial service, Jennifer Walker, whose older brother was Bibhas' friend and who had flown down from Delhi to Odisha, says, "I don't understand why anyone would be so angry with Bibhas. He knew nothing but kindness."

Kartika, Aliza, Pankaj, and Daniel were treated for a couple of days and then discharged from the hospital. While a traumatised Kartika returned to the homestay, Aliza, who had been treated for injuries, wanted to go back to Israel, says Koppal Superintendent of Police Ram L. Arasiddi. The police accompanied her to the airport.

A search from the river to a beach
On March 7, the day Bibhas' body was found, Arasiddi formed six teams to nab the culprits. "The teams examined the CCTV footage installed in the shops along the road connecting to the crime spot," says the officer investigating the case. "The footage led us to a locality that is predominantly inhabited by the working population in Gangavathi."

The police identified the three culprits as Mallesh Dasra (22), Chetan Sai (20), and Sharanabasavaraj (30). All three did irregular masonry work. The police found Mallesh and Chetan, but Sharanabasavaraj managed to escape.

"Two of the accused were arrested and have admitted to the crime. We are investigating whether they have any criminal background," Arasiddi said at a press conference.

"Tracing Sharanabasavaraj was a challenge as he did not use a mobile phone. We kept all the phones of his close friends and relatives under surveillance in the hope that he would contact them," says a police officer.

After escaping, the accused made his first call to one of the numbers that were under police surveillance. "He made the call from the mobile phone of a passer-by in Raichur and asked for money," says the officer.

A police team reached Raichur and examined CCTV footage and found that Sharanabasavaraj had gone from the bus stand to the railway station. "Two trains had left the Raichur railway station — one for Bengaluru and the other for Chennai. Since he didn't have money, we expected him to get down at Mantralayam in Andhra Pradesh to eat charity food at the Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt. But CCTV footage showed that he had not got down there," the officer says.

The accused then made a second call, from Chennai, for money to another number that was under surveillance. "We caught him at a beach in Chennai on Sunday (Mar 19)," the officer says.

Tayamma, Sharanabasavaraj's mother, who works as a labourer in Gangavathi, says, "My son worked as a construction labourer in Bengaluru and returned home a week ago. He has spoiled his life because of being in bad company. Mallesh would steal material from construction sites and was known to harass women. I had told my son not to associate with him, but he didn't listen."

'A safe destination'
According to C. Baranidharan, Deputy Superin-

Mallesh used to steal material from construction sites and was known to harass women. I had advised my son not to associate with him, but he didn't listen to me.

TAYAMMA
Mother of Sharanabasavaraj, one of the accused

tending Archaeological Engineer, Hampi Circle, in 2024-25 (up to December), 5.8 lakh Indian tourists and 9,357 foreign tourists visited Hampi. Ravichandra says most of the foreign tourists are from Israel and Europe.

A majority of the local people around Hampi depend on tourism for their livelihood. While many of them work as taxi drivers, auto drivers, and tourist guides, others work in the hospitality industry and businesses that serve tourists.

"Many of the homestays are unregistered and operate without permission from the authorities," says Shashikanth S. Shembelli, a local journalist. According to Nagaraj, Assistant Director of Tourism, Koppal, no homestay is registered with the department in the Anegundi area.

In 2020, the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority with the help of the local administration demolished all the illegal resorts on the Virupapura Gaddi islet, created by the Tungabhadra river. There had been representations by the local communities about alcohol and drug abuse, followed by a Supreme Court order directing that the illegal structures be removed.

Legally operating resorts continued to organise bonfire nights. Though Hampi does not have a bustling nightlife, the resorts on the other side of the river do. Many resorts advertise riverside dining, stargazing, and night walks for tourists.

"However, going to remote areas late at night for stargazing is not common," says Vijaykumar, a resident of Sanapura. "This is not because of the fear of criminals; this area has not seen a crime like this in at least the past 25 years. It is because people fear encountering wild animals, especially leopards and bears." He adds that the bund road is mostly deserted.

A visibly shaken Kartika says, "It was not that deserted as some people claim. There was a car and a bike parked on the side of the road when we went there. Why shouldn't I take my guests there to enjoy nature at night?"

Shawrin Robello, a travel blogger, writes in a post titled 'How safe is Hampi for female solo backpackers in 2024?': "It's important to remember that Hampi is an extremely safe place to go backpacking... Violent crime is rare, and most travellers report feeling safe during their visit."

A matter of restoring trust
Every year, Indian and foreign tourists come together to celebrate Holi in Hampi, against the backdrop of the ruins and the rocky landscape. However, this year, the mood is sombre. Rajkumar, the owner of a resort, says, "I have a resort with 10 rooms. All of them were full during Holi last year, but they are vacant this year. We see only a few tourists visiting us for lunch."

Ramu, a shopkeeper in Sanapura, says, "If Hampi receives a substantial number of tourists, we can get some income and lead a decent life. The incident has shaken us all and also affected our business." While his turnover was around 85,000 a day during the previous Holi seasons, it has fallen to about 25,000 a day this year, he says.

However, Nithi Das, Superintendent and anecdotist of the Hampi Circle, says he cannot confirm the drastic reduction in footfall at Hampi after the incident. "One way to estimate the number of tourists visiting ASI-protected sites is to check the number of entry tickets sold. Most foreign tourists book their tickets for the monuments online. We don't know whether or not they have visited the monuments after the incident," Das says.

Chief Minister Siddaramanah said after the incident that his government would take measures to prevent such incidents from recurring. Culture Minister and Koppal district in-charge, Shivaraj Tangadagi, advised people not to go to remote areas without proper precautions.

Soon after, the State Home Department issued guidelines to be followed by homestay and resort owners for the safety of tourists. It has made it mandatory for them to get permission from the police or the Forest Department before taking tourists to deserted spots or forest areas. If they fail to do this, they will be held "responsible for any mishap that occurs... and subjected to legal action..." say the guidelines. The document has been circulated to all the districts of Karnataka.

Homestay owners are unhappy about this. "We already follow the regulations and submit C-Forms to register the arrival of foreign tourists to the police, but we can't take responsibility when tourists go in local vehicles or on their own. These guidelines might be misused even by officials in case something goes wrong," says N.R. Thejaswi, a homestay owner and president of the Chikmagalur Homestay Association.

Foreign tourists in Hampi are shocked by the incident, but some have nevertheless made the trip to the tourist site. Chloe, a tourist from France who is in Hampi with her friends, says, "Such incidents happen rarely and can occur anywhere in the world, including France."

Amit, a tourist from Israel, says, "I learnt about the incident two days ago when I was in Gokarna (a coastal town in Karnataka). I thought the local police would have tightened security, so I decided to come here."

Bibhas' cousin, Phiroz Kumar Pradhan, cannot understand how anyone can blame the tourists. "What more precautions could Bibhas have taken? Law and order should not be at the hands of bootleggers. While the culprits must be held accountable, it is the government's responsibility to restore tourists' trust," he says.

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*Names of the women have been changed to protect their identity

The story includes inputs from Sanyasudhar Bank from Odisha

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Near historical Hampi, a heinous crime ऐतिहासिक हम्पी के पास एक जघन्य अपराध

On the night of March 6, Bibhas Nayak from Odisha was killed and two women — an Israeli tourist and an Indian homestay operator — were gang-raped by three men when they went stargazing at Sanapura lake near Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in Karnataka.

6 मार्च की रात, ओडिशा के बिभास नायक की हत्या कर दी गई और दो महिलाओं—एक इजरायली पर्यटक और एक भारतीय होमस्टे संचालक—के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार किया गया, जब वे हम्पी के पास सनापुरा झील पर सितारों को देखने गए थे।

- Around 2,000 people from across the country gathered at G. Udaygiri, Odisha, on March 13 to mourn Bibhas Nayak.
13 मार्च को ओडिशा के जी. उदयगिरि में करीब 2,000 लोग बिभास नायक को श्रद्धांजलि देने के लिए एकत्र हुए।
- Bibhas Nayak (29) was a freelancer who was on a South India tour, visiting places like Dhanushkodi, Rameswaram, and Kochi before arriving in Hampi.
29 वर्षीय बिभास नायक एक स्वतंत्र यात्रा प्रेमी थे, जो दक्षिण भारत की यात्रा पर थे और धनुषकोडी, रामेश्वरम और कोच्चि घूमने के बाद हम्पी पहुँचे थे।
- On March 6, Bibhas and his friends planned to go stargazing near Anegundi, but were attacked by three men who demanded money.
6 मार्च को बिभास और उनके दोस्त अनेगुंडी के पास सितारे देखने गए, लेकिन तीन लोगों ने उन पर हमला किया और पैसे की मांग की।
- When Bibhas and others tried to resist, they were pushed into a canal. Bibhas, despite being a good swimmer, could not survive due to a head injury.
जब बिभास और उनके दोस्तों ने विरोध किया, तो उन्हें नहर में धक्का दे दिया गया। बिभास अच्छे तैराक थे, लेकिन सिर पर चोट लगने के कारण बच नहीं सके।
- The attackers gang-raped the Israeli tourist and Indian homestay operator in a rocky and bushy area.
हमलावरों ने इजरायली पर्यटक और भारतीय होमस्टे संचालक के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार किया, जो एक चट्टानी और झाड़ीदार इलाके में हुआ।
- The incident sent shockwaves through Hampi, a place known for safety and tourism.
यह घटना हम्पी में गहरी सनसनी फैला गई, जो सुरक्षा और पर्यटन के लिए प्रसिद्ध था।



- **Bibhas Nayak** was the son of **Bijay Kumar Nayak**, the **16th Moderator of the Church of North India (CNI)**.
बिभास नायक के पिता बिजय कुमार नायक थे, जो नॉर्थ इंडिया चर्च (CNI) के 16वें मॉडरेटर थे।
- His last Instagram post spoke about memories and life's journey, showing his deep love for adventure and travel.
उनकी अंतिम इंस्टाग्राम पोस्ट जीवन की यात्रा और यादों के बारे में थी, जो उनके यात्रा और रोमांच के प्रति प्रेम को दर्शाती हैं।
- The crime occurred near **Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal**, where the group was playing guitar and watching stars.
अपराध तुंगभद्रा लेफ्ट बैंक नहर के पास हुआ, जहाँ समूह गिटार बजा रहा था और सितारों को देख रहा था।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- This **heinous crime** has raised concerns over **safety in tourist destinations** like Hampi.
यह गहन अपराध पर्यटक स्थलों जैसे हम्पी की सुरक्षा पर सवाल उठाता है।
- The **bravery of Bibhas Nayak**, who tried to protect the women, must be acknowledged and honored.
बिभास नायक की बहादुरी, जिन्होंने महिलाओं को बचाने की कोशिश की, उन्हें मान्यता और सम्मान दिया जाना चाहिए।
- **Strict legal action** must be taken against the **perpetrators**, ensuring **justice for the victims**.
अपराधियों के खिलाफ सख्त कानूनी कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए, ताकि पीड़ितों को न्याय मिल सके।

A Crime Near a Canal

नहर के पास हुआ एक अपराध

- On **March 6**, after dinner, **Karthika** (a homestay operator from Tamil Nadu) took **Daniel (USA), Aliza (Israel), Pankaj (Nashik), and Bibhas Nayak (Odisha)** for stargazing near **Sanapura lake**.
6 मार्च को रात के खाने के बाद, कार्तिका (तमिलनाडु की एक होमस्टे संचालक) ने डैनियल (अमेरिका), अलीजा (इजरायल), पंकज (नासिक), और बिभास नायक (ओडिशा) को सनापुरा झील के पास सितारे देखने के लिए ले गई।
- The area around **Hampi** has about **500 resorts and homestays**, mostly located in **Anegundi, Basapura, Sanapura, Hanumana Halli, and Anjanahalli** on the northern side of **Tungabhadra River**.



हम्पी के आसपास के क्षेत्र में लगभग 500 रिसॉर्ट और होमस्टे हैं, जो ज्यादातर अनेगुंडी, बसापुरा, सनापुरा, हनुमानाहल्ली और अंजनाहल्ली में तुंगभद्रा नदी के उत्तरी किनारे पर स्थित हैं।

- The group rode scooters to Sanapura lake (8 km from the homestay) and gathered at the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal bund to enjoy the night.

समूह ने स्कूटरों पर सनापुरा झील (होमस्टे से 8 किमी दूर) का सफर किया और तुंगभद्रा लेफ्ट बैंक नहर बांध पर रात का आनंद लेने के लिए इकट्ठा हुआ।

Attack and Violence

हमला और हिंसा

- Around 30 minutes later, three men on a motorcycle approached them and asked for petrol in Kannada.

करीब 30 मिनट बाद, एक मोटरसाइकिल पर सवार तीन लोग उनके पास आए और कन्नड़ में पेट्रोल के बारे में पूछा।

- When Karthika refused to give them ₹100, one of them became aggressive. Bibhas offered ₹20, which enraged the attackers.

जब कार्तिका ने उन्हें ₹100 देने से इनकार कर दिया, तो उनमें से एक आक्रामक हो गया। बिभास ने ₹20 दिए, जिससे हमलावर गुस्से में आ गए।

- The attackers began abusing the group and started hitting them with stones and Daniel's guitar.

हमलावरों ने समूह को गालियाँ देना शुरू किया और उन्हें पत्थरों और डैनियल के गिटार से मारना शुरू कर दिया।

- When Bibhas, Daniel, and Pankaj tried to protect Karthika and Aliza, the attackers pushed them into the canal.

जब बिभास, डैनियल और पंकज ने कार्तिका और अलीजा को बचाने की कोशिश की, तो हमलावरों ने उन्हें नहर में धक्का दे दिया।

- Bibhas tried to climb out, but an attacker hit his head, causing him to fall back into the canal.

बिभास ने बाहर निकलने की कोशिश की, लेकिन एक हमलावर ने उनके सिर पर वार किया, जिससे वह फिर से नहर में गिर गए।

Sexual Assault and Robbery

यौन उत्पीड़न और लूट

- The attackers then brutally raped Karthika and Aliza in the rocky, bushy area.

हमलावरों ने कार्तिका और अलीजा के साथ बेरहमी से बलात्कार किया, जो चट्टानी और झाड़ीदार इलाके में हुआ।



- They snatched their mobile phones and stole ₹9,500 in cash from Karthika before escaping.
हमलावरों ने मोबाइल फोन छीन लिए और कार्तिका से ₹9,500 लूट लिए और भाग गए।

Search for Bibhas and Police Investigation

बिभास की तलाश और पुलिस जांच

- Daniel and Pankaj returned to the crime spot and found Karthika and Aliza injured and bleeding.
डैनियल और पंकज अपराध स्थल पर लौटे और उन्होंने कार्तिका और अलीजा को घायल और खून से लथपथ पाया।
- The group rushed to a nearby resort, where they called for help.
समूह एक पास के रिसॉर्ट में गया और वहां मदद के लिए कॉल किया।
- Ravichandra (a local resort owner) contacted the police and arranged for an ambulance, which took the victims to Gangavathi Government Hospital (20 km away).
रविचंद्र (एक स्थानीय रिसॉर्ट मालिक) ने पुलिस से संपर्क किया और एक एंबुलेंस की व्यवस्था की, जो पीड़ितों को गंगावती सरकारी अस्पताल (20 किमी दूर) ले गई।
- The search for Bibhas continued till 4 AM, but he was not found.
बिभास की तलाश सुबह 4 बजे तक जारी रही, लेकिन वह नहीं मिले।
- On March 7, an FIR was registered at Gangavathi Rural Police Station under:
7 मार्च को, गंगावती ग्रामीण पुलिस स्टेशन में FIR दर्ज की गई, जिसमें शामिल धाराएँ:
 - Section 309(6) - Robbery (लूट)
 - Section 70(1) - Gang Rape (सामूहिक बलात्कार)
 - Section 109 - Attempt to Murder (हत्या का प्रयास)
 - Section 3(5) - Joint Criminal Liability (संयुक्त आपराधिक उत्तरदायित्व)

Bibhas' Body Found

बिभास का शव मिला

- On March 7, police recovered Bibhas' body near a powerhouse gate at Mallapur, Koppal district.
7 मार्च को, पुलिस ने बिभास का शव मल्लापुर, कोप्पल जिले में एक पावरहाउस गेट के पास पाया।
- Friends and family remember Bibhas as kind and selfless, saying he died trying to save lives.
दोस्त और परिवार बिभास को दयालु और निःस्वार्थ बताते हैं, यह कहते हुए कि वह दूसरों की जान बचाने की कोशिश में मारे गए।



- At his memorial service, friends questioned why such a gentle person faced such violence.

उनकी श्रद्धांजलि सभा में, दोस्तों ने सवाल उठाया कि इतने अच्छे इंसान को इतनी हिंसा का सामना क्यों करना पड़ा।

Aftermath

परिणाम

- Karthika, Aliza, Pankaj, and Daniel were treated in the hospital for a few days and then discharged.
कार्तिका, अलीजा, पंकज और डैनियल का अस्पताल में इलाज किया गया और कुछ दिनों बाद छुट्टी दे दी गई।
- Aliza, traumatized by the incident, requested to return to Israel.
घटना से आहत अलीजा ने इजरायल वापस जाने की इच्छा जताई।
- The police accompanied her to the airport to ensure her safety.
पुलिस ने उसकी सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उसे हवाई अड्डे तक पहुँचाया।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- This shocking crime raises serious questions about tourist safety in India.
यह चौंकाने वाली घटना भारत में पर्यटकों की सुरक्षा पर गंभीर सवाल उठाती है।
- Bibhas Nayak's bravery must be honored, and justice should be ensured for the victims.
बिभास नायक की बहादुरी को सम्मान मिलना चाहिए, और पीड़ितों को न्याय दिलाया जाना चाहिए।
- The government must take strong action to prevent such incidents in the future.
सरकार को भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए कड़े कदम उठाने चाहिए।

A Search from the River to a Beach

नदी से समुद्र तट तक हुई तलाश

- On March 7, after finding Bibhas' body, the police formed six teams to catch the culprits.
7 मार्च को, बिभास का शव मिलने के बाद, पुलिस ने छह टीमों बनाई ताकि अपराधियों को पकड़ा जा सके।
- CCTV footage from shops led the police to a working-class neighborhood in Gangavathi.
दुकानों के CCTV फुटेज ने पुलिस को गंगावती के एक श्रमिक बस्ती तक पहुँचाया।



- The culprits were identified as **Mallesh Dasara (22), Chetan Sai (21), and Sharanabasavaraj (30)**.
अपराधियों की पहचान मल्लेश दासरा (22), चेतन साई (21) और शरणबसवराज (30) के रूप में हुई।
- Mallesh and Chetan were arrested, but **Sharanabasavaraj managed to escape**.
मल्लेश और चेतन को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया, लेकिन शरणबसवराज भागने में सफल रहा।

Tracking the Third Accused

तीसरे आरोपी की तलाश

- **Sharanabasavaraj did not use a mobile phone**, making his tracking difficult.
शरणबसवराज मोबाइल फोन इस्तेमाल नहीं करता था, जिससे उसकी तलाश मुश्किल हो गई।
- He **made a call from Raichur** to a relative for money, which was under police surveillance.
उसने रायचूर से अपने रिश्तेदार को पैसे के लिए कॉल किया, जो पहले से पुलिस की निगरानी में था।
- CCTV footage **showed him at Raichur railway station**, where **two trains** had left for **Bengaluru and Chennai**.
CCTV फुटेज में वह रायचूर रेलवे स्टेशन पर दिखा, जहाँ से दो ट्रेनें बंगलुरु और चेन्नई के लिए रवाना हुई थीं।
- Police suspected he might get down at **Mantralayam (Andhra Pradesh) for free food at Raghavendra Swamy Mutt**, but he did not.
पुलिस को संदेह था कि वह मंत्रालयम (आंध्र प्रदेश) में राघवेंद्र स्वामी मठ में मुफ्त भोजन लेने उतरेगा, लेकिन वह वहाँ नहीं गया।
- His **second call from Chennai** was also traced, leading to his **arrest at a beach on March 9**.
उसका दूसरा कॉल चेन्नई से आया, जिससे पुलिस ने 9 मार्च को समुद्र तट पर उसे गिरफ्तार कर लिया।

Local Reactions and Impact on Tourism

स्थानीय प्रतिक्रिया और पर्यटन पर प्रभाव

- **5.8 lakh Indian tourists and 9,357 foreign tourists** visited Hampi in 2024-25 (till December).
2024-25 (दिसंबर तक) में 5.8 लाख भारतीय पर्यटक और 9,357 विदेशी पर्यटक हम्पी आए।
- Local people **depend on tourism** for their livelihood as **taxi drivers, guides, and hospitality workers**.
स्थानीय लोग पर्यटन पर निर्भर हैं, वे टैक्सी ड्राइवर, गाइड और होटल व्यवसायी के रूप में काम करते हैं।
- Many **homestays are unregistered** and operate without government approval.
कई होमस्टे बिना पंजीकरण के चलते हैं और सरकारी अनुमति के बिना संचालित होते हैं।



- In 2020, illegal resorts in Virupapura Gaddi were demolished after complaints about alcohol and drug abuse.
2020 में, विरुपपुरा गड्डी के अवैध रिसॉर्ट्स को नष्ट कर दिया गया, क्योंकि शराब और नशे के दुरुपयोग की शिकायतें मिली थीं।
- Resorts still organize bonfire nights, stargazing, and night walks, but going to remote areas at night is uncommon.
रिसॉर्ट अभी भी बोनफायर, सितारे देखने और रात में घूमने जैसी गतिविधियाँ आयोजित करते हैं, लेकिन देर रात दूरस्थ स्थानों पर जाना आम नहीं है।
- Local residents claim that wild animals like leopards and bears are more of a concern than criminals.
स्थानीय लोग दावा करते हैं कि हिंसक जानवर जैसे तेंदुए और भालू अपराधियों से बड़ा खतरा हैं।
- Travel bloggers describe Hampi as a safe place, with rare violent crimes.
यात्रा ब्लॉगर हम्पी को सुरक्षित स्थान बताते हैं, जहाँ हिंसक अपराध बहुत कम होते हैं।

Impact on Business and Tourists

व्यवसाय और पर्यटकों पर प्रभाव

- Holi celebrations were dull this year, affecting local businesses.
इस साल होली का माहौल उदास था, जिससे स्थानीय व्यवसाय प्रभावित हुए।
- Rajkumar, a resort owner, says his 10-room resort was fully booked last year, but empty this year.
राजकुमार, एक रिसॉर्ट मालिक, कहते हैं कि पिछले साल उनका 10-कमरों वाला रिसॉर्ट फुल था, लेकिन इस साल खाली है।
- Local shopkeepers say their daily earnings dropped from ₹8,000 to ₹3,000 after the incident.
स्थानीय दुकानदारों का कहना है कि उनकी रोज़ की कमाई ₹8,000 से घटकर ₹3,000 हो गई।
- Some foreign tourists still visit, believing such crimes are rare and can happen anywhere.
कुछ विदेशी पर्यटक अब भी आते हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें लगता है कि ऐसे अपराध दुर्लभ होते हैं और कहीं भी हो सकते हैं।

Government Response

सरकारी प्रतिक्रिया

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured strict action to prevent such crimes.
कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धारमैया ने ऐसे अपराधों को रोकने के लिए सख्त कदम उठाने का आश्वासन दिया।



- **New guidelines for homestays and resorts** now require permission before taking tourists to remote areas.
होमस्टे और रिसॉर्ट्स के लिए नए दिशानिर्देश अब दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों में पर्यटकों को ले जाने से पहले अनुमति लेने को अनिवार्य करते हैं।
- Homestay owners are **concerned about these strict rules**, saying they cannot control where tourists go independently.
होमस्टे मालिक इन कड़े नियमों से चिंतित हैं, क्योंकि वे यह नियंत्रित नहीं कर सकते कि पर्यटक कहाँ जाएँ।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- Bibhas Nayak's bravery should be honored, and the culprits must be punished.
बिभास नायक की बहादुरी को सम्मान मिलना चाहिए, और अपराधियों को सख्त सजा दी जानी चाहिए।
- The government must ensure security in tourist areas to rebuild trust.
पर्यटन स्थलों में सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना सरकार की जिम्मेदारी होनी चाहिए, ताकि विश्वास बहाल हो सके।

Tourists should take safety precautions, but law and order is the government's responsibility.

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

1. India denies role in Pakistan train attack

भारत ने पाकिस्तान ट्रेन हमले में भूमिका से इनकार किया

2. Democrats press Rubio for details of 'voter turnout' funds to India

डेमोक्रेट्स ने रूबियो से भारत में 'मतदाता मतदान' फंड के विवरण की मांग की

3. Hike MGNREGS wages to match price rise: parliamentary panel

मनरेगा मजदूरी को महंगाई के अनुरूप बढ़ाया जाए: संसदीय समिति

4. Centre sanctions 116 new tourist spots across the country



केंद्र ने देशभर में 116 नए पर्यटन स्थलों को मंजूरी दी

India denies role in Pakistan train attack

The whole world knows where the epicentre of terrorism lies, says an MEA spokesperson

GS Paper II: Pakistan

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Islamabad should "look inwards" instead of pointing fingers and shifting blame, India said in its first official comment after an attack on a Quetta-Peshawar train by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) left 21 passengers dead. At least 33 Baloch rebels were killed by Pakistan security forces.

India pushed back against allegations made by the Pakistan Foreign Office and military establishment, who claimed that the Baloch militants were receiving support from India and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. This was the largest attack by the Baloch rebels in nearly two decades.

"We strongly reject the baseless allegations made by Pakistan. The whole world knows where the epicentre of global terrorism lies. Pakistan should look inwards instead of pointing fingers and shifting the blame for its own internal problems and failures on others," the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Earlier, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan blamed the attack on India. "India has been involved in terrorism in Pakistan in the particular attack on Jaffar Express," he alleged, adding that "the terrorists had been in contact with their handlers and ring leaders in Afghanistan."

Pakistan continued this refrain on Friday, with the

Islamabad alleged that Baloch rebels used Indian and Afghan weapons in their ambush of the Jaffar Express



Rebel strike: Soldiers board a relief train to help people affected in the militant attack in Mach, Balochistan, Pakistan. REUTERS

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry amplifying the Pakistan Foreign Office's attempt to blame India as the main sponsor of terrorism in Balochistan. In a

media briefing, Mr. Chaudhry alleged that the BLA's fighters had used Afghan and Indian weapons in the attack against the Jaffar Express, which connects

Quetta with Peshawar. Mr. Chaudhry claimed that none of the hostages were harmed during the two-day operation that began on Tuesday and concluded on Wednesday.

However, Pakistani media had earlier cited sources to report that at least four members of the Frontier Corps died while clearing the rebel fighters from the ambushed train.

'Cover up of lies, defeat' BLA spokesperson Jeevand Baloch disputed Mr. Chaudhry's remarks about the operation, terming it an "attempt to cover up lies and defeat" in an email to *The Hindu*.

On March 11, Mr. Baloch had announced the dramatic escalation in the group's activities in a state-

The BLA says at least 100 of the passengers were personnel from the military, police, ATF, and ISI

ment, claiming that nearly 182 passengers were taken hostage after the Jaffar Express was forced to stop. The BLA alleged that at least 100 of the passengers were "active-duty personnel from the Pakistan military, police, Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF), and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)." Mr. Baloch had added: "During the operation, BLA fighters have released women, children, and Baloch passengers, ensuring that all remaining hostages are serving personnel of the occupying forces."

The BLA was declared a terrorist organisation by the United States during the first presidency of Donald Trump on July 2, 2019.

Insurgency in Balochistan - Pakistan's largest

province, which has rich petroleum and natural gas resources - is an old problem that goes back to the country's inception. T

he Baloch have traditionally resisted the State, with various clans and tribes joining hands, including the Marris, Bugtis and Bizenjos. The last big crackdown against the traditional Baloch resistance came in 2006, in the last days of President Pervez Musharraf's rule, when Nawab Akbar Bugti and his followers were killed in a helicopter gunship attack. Younger Baloch rebels have thereafter teamed up under more militant banners like the BLA, while most of the traditional Baloch elite now live in exile in Europe and the Gulf countries.

India denies role in Pakistan train attack

भारत ने पाकिस्तान ट्रेन हमले में भूमिका से इनकार किया

Islamabad should "look inwards" instead of blaming others, India said after the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) attacked a Quetta-Peshawar train, killing 21 passengers.

भारत ने कहा कि इस्लामाबाद को "अपने भीतर झांकने" की जरूरत है बजाय दूसरों पर आरोप लगाने के, जब बलूच लिबरेशन आर्मी (BLA) ने क्वेटा-पेशावर ट्रेन पर हमला किया, जिसमें 21 यात्री मारे गए।

- At least 33 Baloch rebels were killed by Pakistan security forces in retaliation. पाकिस्तानी सुरक्षा बलों द्वारा जवाबी कार्रवाई में कम से कम 33 बलूच विद्रोही मारे गए।
- Pakistan's Foreign Office and military accused India and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan of supporting Baloch militants. पाकिस्तान के विदेश कार्यालय और सेना ने भारत और तालिबान-नियंत्रित अफगानिस्तान पर बलूच उग्रवादियों का समर्थन करने का आरोप लगाया।
- This was the largest Baloch rebel attack in nearly two decades. यह लगभग दो दशकों में बलूच विद्रोहियों द्वारा किया गया सबसे बड़ा हमला था।



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

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

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India's response

भारत की प्रतिक्रिया

- "We strongly reject the baseless allegations made by Pakistan," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.
"हम पाकिस्तान द्वारा लगाए गए निराधार आरोपों को सख्ती से खारिज करते हैं," विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रंधीर जायसवाल ने कहा।
- "The whole world knows where the epicentre of global terrorism lies. Pakistan should look inwards instead of blaming others," India stated.
"पूरी दुनिया जानती है कि वैश्विक आतंकवाद का केंद्र कहाँ है। पाकिस्तान को दूसरों पर आरोप लगाने के बजाय आत्ममंथन करना चाहिए," भारत ने कहा।
- Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson, Shafqat Ali Khan, blamed India for the attack on Jaffar Express, alleging that the terrorists had contacts with handlers in Afghanistan.
पाकिस्तान के विदेश कार्यालय प्रवक्ता, शफकत अली खान, ने जाफर एक्सप्रेस पर हमले के लिए भारत को दोषी ठहराया, और आरोप लगाया कि आतंकवादियों के अफगानिस्तान में अपने संचालकों से संपर्क थे।
- Pakistan's ISPR (Inter-Services Public Relations) Director General Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry repeated accusations that India was the main sponsor of terrorism in Pakistan.
पाकिस्तान की ISPR (इंटर-सर्विसेज पब्लिक रिलेशंस) के निदेशक जनरल, लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल अहमद शरीफ चौधरी ने भी भारत पर आतंकवाद का मुख्य प्रायोजक होने का आरोप दोहराया।
- Chaudhry alleged that the BLA fighters used Afghan and Indian weapons in the attack on Jaffar Express, which connects Quetta with Peshawar.
चौधरी ने आरोप लगाया कि BLA लड़ाकों ने अफगान और भारतीय हथियारों का उपयोग किया जाफर एक्सप्रेस पर हमले में, जो क्वेटा को पेशावर से जोड़ती है।

Details of the attack

हमले का विवरण

- The BLA claimed responsibility, stating that at least 100 of the passengers were military, police, ATF, and ISI personnel.
BLA ने हमले की जिम्मेदारी ली, यह दावा करते हुए कि कम से कम 100 यात्री सैन्य, पुलिस, ATF और ISI के सदस्य थे।
- On March 11, BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch claimed that 182 passengers were taken hostage, and that women, children, and Baloch passengers were released.
11 मार्च को, BLA प्रवक्ता जियान्द बलूच ने दावा किया कि 182 यात्रियों को बंधक बनाया गया, और महिलाओं, बच्चों और बलूच यात्रियों को रिहा कर दिया गया।

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- "During the operation, only military and intelligence personnel remained as hostages," said BLA.
"ऑपरेशन के दौरान, केवल सैन्य और खुफिया एजेंसी के सदस्य ही बंधक रहे," BLA ने कहा।
- Pakistan claimed that none of the hostages were harmed during the two-day operation, which started on Tuesday and concluded on Wednesday.
पाकिस्तान ने दावा किया कि दो दिवसीय ऑपरेशन के दौरान किसी भी बंधक को नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाया गया, जो मंगलवार को शुरू हुआ और बुधवार को समाप्त हुआ।
- However, Pakistani media reported that at least four members of the Frontier Corps died while clearing the rebel fighters from the train.
हालांकि, पाकिस्तानी मीडिया ने रिपोर्ट किया कि फ्रंटियर कॉर्प्स के कम से कम चार सदस्य मारे गए, जब वे ट्रेन से विद्रोहियों को हटाने की कोशिश कर रहे थे।

Historical context: Baloch insurgency

ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ: बलूच विद्रोह

- The BLA was declared a terrorist organisation by the United States on July 2, 2019, during Donald Trump's presidency.
BLA को 2 जुलाई 2019 को अमेरिका द्वारा एक आतंकवादी संगठन घोषित किया गया था, जब डोनाल्ड ट्रंप राष्ट्रपति थे।
- Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, has rich petroleum and natural gas resources, but has faced long-standing insurgency issues.
बलूचिस्तान, जो पाकिस्तान का सबसे बड़ा प्रांत है, तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस संसाधनों से समृद्ध है, लेकिन लंबे समय से विद्रोह की समस्याओं का सामना कर रहा है।
- The Baloch have traditionally resisted the Pakistani state, with various clans like Marris, Bugtis, and Bizenjos joining the movement.
बलूच परंपरागत रूप से पाकिस्तानी राज्य के खिलाफ संघर्ष करते रहे हैं, जिसमें मर्री, बुग्ती और बिजेंजो जैसी विभिन्न जनजातियाँ इस आंदोलन में शामिल हुई हैं।
- The last major crackdown on Baloch rebels occurred in 2006, when President Pervez Musharraf ordered a military attack, killing Nawab Akbar Bugti.
बलूच विद्रोहियों पर आखिरी बड़ा सैन्य हमला 2006 में हुआ था, जब राष्ट्रपति परवेज मुशर्रफ ने सैन्य कार्रवाई का आदेश दिया था, जिसमें नवाब अकबर बुग्ती मारे गए थे।
- After this, younger Baloch rebels formed militant groups like the BLA, while many traditional Baloch leaders went into exile in Europe and Gulf countries.
इसके बाद, युवा बलूच विद्रोहियों ने BLA जैसे उग्रवादी समूह बनाए, जबकि अधिकांश पारंपरिक बलूच नेता यूरोप और खाड़ी देशों में निर्वासन में चले गए।



Democrats press Rubio for details of 'voter turnout' funds to India

Democrats press Rubio for details of 'voter turnout' funds to India

GS Paper II: India-US

Sriram Lakshman

Two Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) have written to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio seeking details of the alleged \$21 million spent by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on "voter turnout" in India.

They also ask for details on how the **Department for Government Efficiency (DOGE)** cancelled the programme and communicated the cancellation to stakeholders.

The letter, dated March 13, 2025, refers to the "\$21 million for voter turnout in India" – an alleged programme cancelled by DOGE, led by billionaire and Trump administration adviser Elon Musk.



Under pressure: The lawmakers ask Marco Rubio for a response to their letter by March 21, 2025. REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump had repeatedly cited the alleged programme as an example of wasteful foreign assistance.

Mr. Trump's claims had led to an uproar in Parliament with the BJP and the Congress trading charges.

The committee has oversight over the U.S. State Department and the authors of the letter say

they had written to Mr. Rubio three times in February seeking details of the funding, but had not received a reply.

The letter is signed by HFAC's Ranking Member (i.e., a Democrat) Gregory Meeks and the ranking member of its South and Central Asia subcommittee, Sydney Kamlager-Dove.

"The President's [Mr. Trump's] statements, including his unsubstantiated claim that the Biden Administration used these funds to 'get somebody else elected' ignited a political firestorm in India," the U.S. lawmakers say in their letter.

Citing examples such as the USAID had provided for the setting up of IIT-Kanpur, the letter says Mr. Trump's "inflammatory statements" had created suspicion around the development agency's work in India and jeopardised a long-lasting partnership.

"India is a key strategic partner and sustaining this relationship requires skilled diplomacy," it says.

The lawmakers ask Mr. Rubio for a response to their letter by March 21, 2025.

डेमोक्रेट्स ने रुबियो से भारत में 'मतदाता मतदान' फंड के विवरण की मांग की

Two Democrats from the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) wrote to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, seeking details on the alleged \$21 million spent by USAID on "voter turnout" in India.

अमेरिकी प्रतिनिधि सभा की विदेश मामलों की समिति (HFAC) के दो डेमोक्रेट्स ने अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो को पत्र लिखा, जिसमें USAID द्वारा भारत में



"मतदाता मतदान" के लिए कथित रूप से खर्च किए गए \$21 मिलियन के विवरण की मांग की गई।

- They also requested details on how the Department for Government Efficiency (DOGE) cancelled the programme and communicated it to stakeholders.
उन्होंने यह भी पूछा कि सरकारी दक्षता विभाग (DOGE) ने इस कार्यक्रम को कैसे रद्द किया और इसे हितधारकों को कैसे सूचित किया।

Trump administration's involvement

ट्रंप प्रशासन की भूमिका

- The letter, dated March 13, 2025, refers to the alleged \$21 million programme cancelled by DOGE, which is led by billionaire and Trump administration adviser Elon Musk.
13 मार्च 2025 को लिखे गए पत्र में, DOGE द्वारा रद्द किए गए कथित \$21 मिलियन कार्यक्रम का उल्लेख किया गया, जिसे अरबपति और ट्रंप प्रशासन के सलाहकार एलोन मस्क के नेतृत्व में चलाया जा रहा था।
- Former U.S. President Donald Trump repeatedly cited this programme as an example of wasteful foreign aid.
पूर्व अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने इस कार्यक्रम का बार-बार जिक्र किया, इसे अनावश्यक विदेशी सहायता का उदाहरण बताया।
- Trump's claims caused an uproar in the Indian Parliament, with BJP and Congress trading accusations.
ट्रंप के दावों से भारतीय संसद में हंगामा हुआ, जिसमें बीजेपी और कांग्रेस ने एक-दूसरे पर आरोप लगाए।

HFAC's demand for answers

HFAC की जानकारी की मांग

- The HFAC committee, which oversees the U.S. State Department, stated that they had written to Rubio three times in February seeking details but received no response.
HFAC समिति, जो अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग की निगरानी करती है, ने कहा कि उन्होंने फरवरी में तीन बार रुबियो को पत्र लिखा, लेकिन कोई जवाब नहीं मिला।
- The letter was signed by HFAC's Ranking Member Gregory Meeks and South and Central Asia Subcommittee Ranking Member Sydney Kamlager-Dove.
पत्र पर HFAC के रैंकिंग सदस्य ग्रेगरी मीक्स और दक्षिण और मध्य एशिया उपसमिति के रैंकिंग सदस्य सिडनी कामलेगर-डव के हस्ताक्षर थे।



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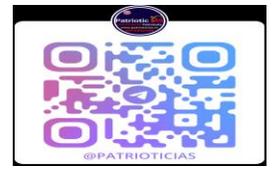
CONTACT: 9971932488



Concerns over U.S.-India relations

अमेरिका-भारत संबंधों को लेकर चिंता

- Trump's "inflammatory statements" created suspicion about USAID's work in India and put a long-standing partnership at risk, the letter said.
पत्र में कहा गया कि ट्रम्प के "भड़काऊ बयान" ने भारत में USAID के कार्यों को संदेहास्पद बना दिया और एक लंबे समय से चले आ रहे साझेदारी को खतरे में डाल दिया।
- The letter cited past USAID contributions, such as helping set up IIT-Kanpur, to emphasize the importance of sustaining strong U.S.-India ties.
पत्र में USAID द्वारा आईआईटी-कानपुर की स्थापना में मदद जैसे उदाहरणों का हवाला दिया गया, ताकि मजबूत अमेरिका-भारत संबंध बनाए रखने के महत्व पर जोर दिया जा सके।
- "India is a key strategic partner, and sustaining this relationship requires skilled diplomacy," the letter stated.
पत्र में कहा गया कि "भारत एक प्रमुख रणनीतिक भागीदार है, और इस संबंध को बनाए रखने के लिए कुशल कूटनीति आवश्यक है"।
- The lawmakers asked Rubio to respond to their letter by March 21, 2025.
सांसदों ने रूबियो से 21 मार्च 2025 तक अपने पत्र का जवाब देने की मांग की।



Hike MGNREGS wages to match price rise: parliamentary panel

Govt. is yet to take action despite multiple recommendations, says committee headed by Cong. MP; it seeks uniform wage rates across the country and criticises Centre for the delay in release of pending wages to States, including West Bengal

GS Paper II: Government Scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

A parliamentary committee has strongly argued for the revision of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in view of the rising cost of living.

In its report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, headed by Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, also sought uniform wage rates across the country.

Currently, the per day wages vary from ₹234 in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to ₹374 in Haryana and Sikkim. The panel expressed disappointment that despite its multiple recommendations on this matter over the years, the government had not implemented any significant changes.

The wages currently are linked to the Consumer Price Index for agricultural



Suspension of funds has resulted in severe consequences in West Bengal, including an increase in distress migration. DEBASISH BHADURI

labourers. "The committee believes that this index does not fully capture the real impact of inflation, and therefore, the method of wage calculation must be reviewed and updated on a priority basis to reflect the actual economic conditions at the ground level," it said.

The panel urged the government to implement a "uniform wage rate" across all States and Union Territories, since the scheme is primarily fund-

ed by the Union government. "This would help ensure fairness and consistency in wage payments under the scheme," said the panel, while reviewing the budgetary allocation of the Department of Rural Development.

Payments delayed

The panel also criticised the government for the delay in disbursement of wages to the States. As per the report, till February 15, the total pending liabilities

stood at ₹23,446.27 crore, including ₹12,219.18 crore in wage dues.

The panel report pointed out that one-fourth of the allocated funds (₹86,000 crore) will go in clearing the last financial year's dues. "Consequently, the actual working budget for the current financial year is reduced to ₹62,553.73 crore, significantly limiting the scheme's capacity to function effectively and meet its primary objective of preventing rural distress and ensuring livelihood security," the report said.

West Bengal's case

The report mentioned the case of West Bengal, which has not been receiving funds for MGNREGS activities since March 2022. The Centre stopped the funds to the State over allegations of corruption in the implementation of the scheme. "The continued suspension of funds has resulted in severe consequences, including a sharp increase in distress migra-

tion and disruptions in rural development initiatives. This has had a significant adverse impact on the livelihoods of rural populations, exacerbating economic hardships in the State. The committee strongly recommends that West Bengal receive its rightful dues for all the eligible years, except for the year currently under dispute in court."

Strained ties

The Centre froze the funding after invoking Section 27 of the MGNREGA, 2005, which allows for stoppage of funds for violation of rules in implementation of the scheme. This has strained the Centre-State ties with the Trinamool Congress holding protests both in Delhi and in West Bengal. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written several letters to the Centre over the issue of the release of funds and announced a separate scheme – Karmashree – to provide jobs to the rural population in the State.

Hike MGNREGS wages to match price rise: parliamentary panel

मनरेगा मजदूरी को महंगाई के अनुरूप बढ़ाया जाए: संसदीय समिति

A parliamentary committee has strongly recommended revising wages under MGNREGS, citing the rising cost of living.

एक संसदीय समिति ने मनरेगा के तहत मजदूरी संशोधित करने की सिफारिश की है, क्योंकि जीवन यापन की लागत बढ़ रही है।

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, led by Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, has also demanded uniform wage rates across the



country.

ग्रामीण विकास पर संसदीय स्थायी समिति, जिसके अध्यक्ष कांग्रेस सांसद सप्तगिरि शंकर उलाका हैं, ने पूरे देश में समान मजदूरी दरों की मांग की है।

- Currently, per-day wages vary across States, from ₹234 in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to ₹374 in Haryana and Sikkim.
वर्तमान में, विभिन्न राज्यों में प्रति दिन मजदूरी अलग-अलग है, जैसे नागालैंड और अरुणाचल प्रदेश में ₹234, जबकि हरियाणा और सिक्किम में ₹374।
- The panel expressed disappointment that despite multiple recommendations, the government has not implemented significant changes.
समिति ने नाराजगी जताई कि कई सिफारिशों के बावजूद सरकार ने अब तक कोई बड़ा बदलाव लागू नहीं किया है।

Issues with the wage calculation system

मजदूरी गणना प्रणाली से जुड़ी समस्याएँ

- MGNREGS wages are currently linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for agricultural labourers, but the panel believes this does not fully capture the impact of inflation.
मनरेगा की मजदूरी वर्तमान में कृषि श्रमिकों के उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) से जुड़ी हुई है, लेकिन समिति का मानना है कि यह मुद्रास्फीति के वास्तविक प्रभाव को पूरी तरह नहीं दर्शाता।
- The panel recommended updating the wage calculation system to reflect actual economic conditions.
समिति ने मजदूरी गणना प्रणाली को अद्यतन करने की सिफारिश की, ताकि यह वास्तविक आर्थिक स्थितियों को दर्शाए।
- The government should implement a uniform wage rate across all States and Union Territories, as the scheme is primarily funded by the Union government.
सरकार को सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में समान मजदूरी दर लागू करनी चाहिए, क्योंकि यह योजना मुख्य रूप से केंद्र सरकार द्वारा वित्त पोषित है।

Delay in wage payments

मजदूरी भुगतान में देरी

- The committee criticized the government for delays in disbursing wages to States.
समिति ने राज्यों को मजदूरी भुगतान में देरी के लिए सरकार की आलोचना की।
- As of February 15, the total pending liabilities stood at ₹23,446.27 crore, including ₹12,219.18 crore in wage dues.
15 फरवरी तक, कुल बकाया देनदारियाँ ₹23,446.27 करोड़ थीं, जिसमें ₹12,219.18 करोड़ मजदूरी बकाया शामिल था।



- One-fourth of the allocated funds (₹86,000 crore) will be used to clear previous year's dues, reducing the actual working budget to ₹62,553.73 crore.
आवंटित ₹86,000 करोड़ में से एक-चौथाई हिस्सा पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष के बकाए चुकाने में चला जाएगा, जिससे वास्तविक कार्यशील बजट ₹62,553.73 करोड़ रह जाएगा।
- The committee warned that this financial constraint could limit the scheme's capacity to prevent rural distress and ensure livelihood security.
समिति ने चेतावनी दी कि यह वित्तीय बाधा इस योजना की ग्रामीण संकट को रोकने और आजीविका सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने की क्षमता को सीमित कर सकती है।

West Bengal's case

पश्चिम बंगाल का मामला

- The report highlighted that West Bengal has not received MGNREGS funds since March 2022, due to allegations of corruption in scheme implementation.
रिपोर्ट में जोर दिया गया कि मार्च 2022 से पश्चिम बंगाल को मनरेगा फंड नहीं मिला है, क्योंकि योजना के कार्यान्वयन में भ्रष्टाचार के आरोप लगे हैं।
- The continued suspension of funds has led to severe distress migration and disruptions in rural development projects.
फंड रोकने से राज्य में गंभीर संकट प्रवास (माइग्रेशन) बढ़ा है और ग्रामीण विकास परियोजनाएँ प्रभावित हुई हैं।
- The committee recommended that West Bengal should receive its rightful dues for all eligible years, except for the disputed year under court review.
समिति ने सिफारिश की कि पश्चिम बंगाल को सभी योग्य वर्षों के लिए बकाया राशि दी जाए, सिवाय उस वर्ष के जो वर्तमान में अदालत में विवादित है।

Strained Centre-State relations

केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में तनाव

- The Centre froze MGNREGS funding under Section 27 of MGNREGA, 2005, which allows stoppage of funds in case of rule violations.
केंद्र ने मनरेगा अधिनियम, 2005 की धारा 27 के तहत फंड रोक दिया, जो योजना के नियमों के उल्लंघन की स्थिति में वित्तीय सहायता रोकने की अनुमति देता है।
- This decision led to tensions between the Centre and West Bengal, with the Trinamool Congress staging protests in Delhi and Kolkata.
इस फैसले से केंद्र और पश्चिम बंगाल के बीच तनाव बढ़ गया, और तृणमूल कांग्रेस ने दिल्ली और कोलकाता में विरोध प्रदर्शन किया।



- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** has written multiple letters to the Centre, demanding the release of pending wages.
पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने केंद्र को कई पत्र लिखे, जिनमें बकाया मजदूरी जारी करने की मांग की गई।
- **The West Bengal government** launched its own scheme, 'Karmashree', to provide jobs to rural workers in the absence of MGNREGS funds.
पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने 'कर्माश्री' नामक अपनी योजना शुरू की, ताकि मनरेगा फंड न मिलने की स्थिति में ग्रामीण श्रमिकों को रोजगार दिया जा सके।

Centre sanctions 116 new tourist spots across the country

GS Paper II:
Government Scheme

NEW DELHI

The Centre has sanctioned 116 new tourist destinations across the country under various schemes in partnership with State governments which would be developed at a cost of ₹4,088 crores.

Out of these, 34 have been sanctioned under the *Swadesh Darshan 2.0* scheme, 42 have been identified under the "Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)", a sub-scheme of *Swadesh Darshan*, and 40 would be developed under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

The *Swadesh Darshan* scheme aims to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations by focusing on theme-based circuits and providing financial assistance to State governments for infrastructure development. The scheme was revamped as *Swadesh Darshan 2.0* (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable tourism destinations.

The Ministry has also formulated CBDD as a sub-scheme under SD2.0 aiming for holistic development of destinations to enhance tourist experience.



The *Swadesh Darshan* scheme aims to develop sustainable tourism destinations.

The Centre, through the Union Finance Ministry, sanctioned 40 projects in 23 States for ₹3,295.76 crore in 2024-25 under the 'SASCI - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale' scheme with the objective to comprehensively develop iconic tourist centres in the country, branding, and marketing them at global scale, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat informed Parliament earlier this week.

Tribal homestays

The Centre has also approved the initiative to develop tribal homestays under the *Swadesh Darshan* scheme as part of the *Pradhan Mantri Janatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan*.

Centre sanctions 116 new tourist spots across the country

केंद्र ने देशभर में 116 नए पर्यटन स्थलों को मंजूरी दी

The Centre has sanctioned 116 new tourist destinations in partnership with State governments, with a total development cost of ₹4,088 crore.

केंद्र सरकार ने 116 नए पर्यटन स्थलों को मंजूरी दी, जो राज्य सरकारों के सहयोग से विकसित किए जाएंगे, और इनकी कुल लागत ₹4,088 करोड़ होगी।

- These destinations will be developed under various schemes, including *Swadesh Darshan 2.0*, *Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)*, and *Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)*.

ये स्थल विभिन्न योजनाओं के तहत विकसित किए जाएंगे, जिनमें स्वदेश दर्शन 2.0, चैलेंज बेस्ड डेस्टिनेशन डेवलपमेंट (CBDD) और राज्यों को पूंजी निवेश के लिए विशेष सहायता (SASCI) शामिल हैं।

Breakdown of sanctioned destinations मंजूर किए गए पर्यटन स्थलों का विवरण

- 34 destinations under *Swadesh Darshan 2.0* (SD2.0).
34 पर्यटन स्थल स्वदेश दर्शन 2.0 (SD2.0) के तहत।
- 42 destinations under *Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)*, a sub-scheme of SD2.0.



42 पर्यटन स्थल चैलेंज बेस्ड डेस्टिनेशन डेवलपमेंट (CBDD) के तहत, जो SD2.0 की एक उप-योजना है।

- 40 destinations under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).
40 पर्यटन स्थल राज्यों को पूंजी निवेश के लिए विशेष सहायता (SASCI) योजना के तहत।

Objectives of Swadesh Darshan 2.0

स्वदेश दर्शन 2.0 के उद्देश्य

- Develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations with a focus on theme-based circuits.
सतत और जिम्मेदार पर्यटन स्थलों का विकास करना, जिसमें थीम-आधारित सर्किट पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाएगा।
- Provide financial assistance to State governments for infrastructure development.
राज्य सरकारों को बुनियादी ढांचा विकास के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना।
- Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), a sub-scheme under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, aims to holistically develop tourist destinations to enhance the visitor experience.
चैलेंज बेस्ड डेस्टिनेशन डेवलपमेंट (CBDD), स्वदेश दर्शन 2.0 की एक उप-योजना है, जिसका उद्देश्य पर्यटन स्थलों का समग्र विकास करना और पर्यटकों के अनुभव को बेहतर बनाना है।

SASCI: Development of Iconic Tourist Centres

SASCI: प्रतिष्ठित पर्यटन केंद्रों का विकास

- The Union Finance Ministry sanctioned 40 projects in 23 States under the SASCI scheme, with a budget of ₹3,295.76 crore for 2024-25.
वित्त मंत्रालय ने SASCI योजना के तहत 23 राज्यों में 40 परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी, जिनका बजट 2024-25 के लिए ₹3,295.76 करोड़ है।
- The objective is to comprehensively develop iconic tourist centres and promote them on a global scale.
इसका उद्देश्य प्रतिष्ठित पर्यटन केंद्रों का व्यापक विकास करना और उन्हें वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रचारित करना है।
- Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, informed Parliament about the initiative.
संस्कृति और पर्यटन मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने संसद में इस पहल की जानकारी दी।

Tribal Homestay Initiative

आदिवासी होमस्टे पहल



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- The Centre has approved the development of tribal homestays under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, as part of the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan.
केंद्र सरकार ने स्वदेश दर्शन 2.0 के तहत आदिवासी होमस्टे के विकास को मंजूरी दी, जो प्रधानमंत्री जनजातीय उन्नत ग्राम अभियान का हिस्सा है।
- The aim is to promote rural and tribal tourism while providing economic opportunities to tribal communities.
इसका उद्देश्य ग्रामीण और जनजातीय पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देना और आदिवासी समुदायों को आर्थिक अवसर प्रदान करना है।

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GS Paper II: Government Policies

A voluntary mandate

The APAAR ID should not be imposed without a law in place

The introduction of an Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID by the Ministry of Education, to digitise the academic transcripts of every student, aims to ensure a "single source of truth" for all their records throughout their life in the academic ecosystem in India. Linked with Aadhaar, APAAR is far from the first such step towards a rapid digitisation of school records in India: since the implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020, education authorities have pushed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) and the Student Database Management Information System. While these radically novel technocratic overhauls of record-keeping are one thing, the blatantly unlawful ways in which they are being pushed on parents and wielded as weapons at the State level are quite another. The description of APAAR as unlawful is no mere interpretation: the Education Ministry's website is clear that the programme is not mandatory, with no law mandating its usage. But schools and district education administrators do not seem to be operating within that reality.

In Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, schools have been given an unambiguous target: 100% "saturation," or complete enrolment of all students. In their fervour to attain this target, schools have warned parents of consequences in the event of non-enrolment, and State education authorities have rattled their sabres at religious minority institutions and even at fellow administrators, alleging a mismatch of enrolment data between APAAR and existing records. In the initial days of what has now been rechristened as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), the government had similarly been all too keen to propagate Aadhaar and services such as Digi Yatra to an unsuspecting (and too often non-consenting) public, achieving such broad coverage that a formal mandate later becomes a *fait accompli*. All-too-familiar issues such as name mismatches, leading to failure of enrolment, have also emerged. It is important for informed consent to be the bedrock of any DPI. Else, it risks being mandated de facto. Collecting and digitising this data – with tall claims of security and convenience – should be alarming when the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 has yet to take effect. More importantly, the Supreme Court of India has ruled, in its right to privacy judgment, that Aadhaar cannot be mandated for basic education. APAAR is an ill-disguised proxy that steers clear of the text – but not the spirit – of that judgment. If the government wishes to undertake the goal of improving the reliability and accessibility of education records, it should back its administration of that effort with legislation.

A voluntary mandate

ऐच्छिक अनिवार्यता

The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID was introduced by the Ministry of Education to digitise academic transcripts of students.

शिक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा स्वचालित स्थायी अकादमिक खाता रजिस्ट्री (APAAR) आईडी शुरू की गई, जिसका उद्देश्य छात्रों के अकादमिक ट्रांसक्रिप्ट्स का डिजिटलीकरण करना है।

- APAAR is linked with Aadhaar and aims to create a "single source of truth" for student records throughout their academic journey. APAAR को आधार से जोड़ा गया है, और इसका उद्देश्य छात्रों के रिकॉर्ड के लिए "एकल सत्य स्रोत" स्थापित करना है।

Concerns over implementation

कार्यान्वयन को लेकर चिंताएँ

- APAAR is not mandatory by law, but schools and district education officials are pushing for 100% enrollment. APAAR को कानूनन अनिवार्य नहीं किया गया है, लेकिन स्कूल और जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी 100% नामांकन के लिए दबाव बना रहे हैं।
- In Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, schools have warned parents of consequences if they do not enroll their children in APAAR. उत्तर प्रदेश और कर्नाटक में, स्कूलों ने माता-पिता को नामांकन न कराने पर दंडात्मक कार्रवाई की चेतावनी दी है।
- State education authorities have targeted religious minority institutions, claiming enrollment mismatches between APAAR and existing records. राज्य शिक्षा अधिकारियों ने धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यक संस्थानों को निशाना बनाया है, यह कहते हुए कि APAAR और मौजूदा रिकॉर्ड के बीच नामांकन डेटा मेल नहीं खा रहा।

Parallel to Aadhaar expansion

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आधार विस्तार के समान प्रक्रिया

- The government previously promoted **Aadhaar and Digi Yatra services aggressively**, making them **de facto mandatory**.
सरकार ने पहले आधार और डिजी यात्रा सेवाओं को आक्रामक रूप से बढ़ावा दिया, जिससे वे व्यवहारिक रूप से अनिवार्य हो गए।
- **Issues like name mismatches and failed enrollments** have already emerged with APAAR, mirroring previous Aadhaar-related challenges.
नाम मिलान न होने और नामांकन विफल होने जैसी समस्याएँ पहले से ही APAAR के साथ देखी जा रही हैं, जो आधार से संबंधित चुनौतियों की तरह हैं।

Legal and privacy concerns

कानूनी और गोपनीयता संबंधी चिंताएँ

- The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** has not yet come into effect, raising concerns over **data security**.
डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 अभी तक लागू नहीं हुआ है, जिससे डेटा सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ गई हैं।
- The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that Aadhaar cannot be mandated for basic education, but APAAR functions as an indirect substitute.
भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फैसला दिया था कि आधार को बुनियादी शिक्षा के लिए अनिवार्य नहीं किया जा सकता, लेकिन APAAR इसे अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से लागू करने की कोशिश कर रहा है।

Need for legislative backing

कानूनी समर्थन की आवश्यकता

- If the government wants to improve the **reliability and accessibility of education records**, it must introduce **proper legislation**.
यदि सरकार शिक्षा रिकॉर्ड की विश्वसनीयता और पहुंच में सुधार करना चाहती है, तो उसे उचित कानून पेश करना चाहिए।
- **Informed consent should be the foundation** of any digital public infrastructure (DPI).
किसी भी डिजिटल सार्वजनिक बुनियादी ढांचे (DPI) की आधारशिला सूचित सहमति होनी चाहिए।
- Without a **clear legal framework**, APAAR risks becoming a **de facto mandate**, undermining privacy rights.
एक स्पष्ट कानूनी ढांचे के बिना, APAAR व्यवहारिक रूप से अनिवार्य हो सकता है, जिससे गोपनीयता अधिकारों का उल्लंघन हो सकता है।



Massive surveillance



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

1. Real-money gaming firms flag spike in offshore betting apps

रियल-मनी गेमिंग कंपनियों ने ऑफशोर सट्टेबाजी ऐप्स में वृद्धि को चिन्हित किया

2. Aditya-L1 Mission: Scientists Observe a Flareless Coronal Mass Ejection

आदित्य-एल1 मिशन: वैज्ञानिकों ने बिना फ्लेयर वाले कोरोनल मास इजेक्शन का अवलोकन किया



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3. Raising the Rusty Dust of Red Soil

लाल मिट्टी की जंग लगी धूल उठती हुई

4. Gold hits \$3,000/oz, a first in a historic safe-haven rally

सोना \$3,000/oz तक पहुंचा, ऐतिहासिक सुरक्षित-आश्रय वृद्धि में पहली बार

5. Actions by govts, businesses to shape trade resilience for years: UNCTAD

सरकारों और व्यवसायों द्वारा उठाए गए कदम व्यापार लचीलेपन को वर्षों तक आकार देंगे: UNCTAD

6. RBI sets Sovereign Gold Bond redemption at ₹8,624 a unit

RBI ने सॉवरेन गोल्ड बॉन्ड का मोचन मूल्य ₹8,624 प्रति यूनिट निर्धारित किया

7. Dividends from CPSEs exceed RE, surge to a record ₹66,000 crore

CPSEs के लाभांश संशोधित अनुमान (RE) से अधिक, रिकॉर्ड ₹66,000 करोड़ तक पहुंचे



Summer is here

GS Paper III: Environment



A depleted waterhole being replenished with water in **Nagarahole Tiger Reserve in Karnataka**. Waterholes serve as the main source of water for the animals. They also help in preventing animals from entering human settlements to quench their thirst. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PATRIOTIC



Real-money gaming firms flag spike in offshore betting apps

These firms argued that heavy taxation would lead to the proliferation of illegal offshore apps; with the apprehension now materialising, financial strain is leading to industry consolidation

GS Paper III

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Real-money gaming (RMG) firms are watching with alarm as illegal offshore gambling sites and apps grow at a rapid rate in India, but have not yet been able to convince the government to reduce taxes on the legal industry as a way to curb illegal players.

Indian RMG firms, which offer games and fantasy sports that allow users to stake money for rewards – with the risk of losses – have largely been given legal status, thanks to successive legal judgments in their favour. Courts have ruled that their activities do not constitute betting and gambling, thus insulating them from State bans.

However, the 28% GST imposed on these firms has increased their costs significantly and given an opening to offshore services with no claim to legality.

The existence of these offshore firms have long been potent fodder in RMG executives' efforts to seek lower taxes from the government. Since these firms operate illegally in India, switching domains



Indian RMG firms are now increasingly worried by the fast growth of foreign competitors doing business in India. GETTY IMAGES

and using “mule” bank accounts to stay online and collect payments from players, they do not pay GST at all and cannot be regulated, unlike Indian firms like Dream11 and PokerBaazi.

Swift growth

Even as that argument has been floated as an effort to reduce the domestic industry's tax burden, Indian RMG firms are now increasingly worried by the fast growth of foreign competitors doing business in India.

One industry executive said that offshore apps have been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 30%, similar to the initial days of the le-

gal RMG industry before GST imposition. The legal industry's growth rate has now plateaued to 10% to 15%, the executive said.

A 2024 industry report by a group called the Think Change Forum estimated the cumulative size of the illegal betting firms at ₹8.2 lakh crore, noting that this is growing rapidly.

Authorities have cracked down on some of these, such as the Mahadev app. But those based on foreign shores, such as 1xBet, are harder to crack down on, since they constantly change their banking providers. The argument – that the government is foregoing tax revenues with the proliferation of such betting sites – has so far

not convinced policymakers to change tack.

Industry consolidation

In the meantime, the RMG industry is consolidating. Head Digital Works, an RMG firm, acquired the parent company of Adda52, one of India's oldest poker platforms, for ₹491 crore last month. Nazara Technologies, which offers both RMG and video games, has acquired a major stake in Moonshine Technology, which runs PokerBaazi. Another firm, OneVerse, has acquired the platform PokerDangal.

Regulations seem to be in pause mode, with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023 on standby, as the government is yet to formally recognise any self-regulatory body under the Rules' provisions. The industry has taken a few steps to burish its own legitimacy in light of this inaction, such as assisting a study that positively assessed the effectiveness of playtime limits, and putting out a code of ethics that reaffirmed RMG firms' existing safeguards.



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Real-money gaming firms flag spike in offshore betting apps रियल-मनी गेमिंग कंपनियों ने ऑफशोर सट्टेबाजी ऐप्स में वृद्धि को चिन्हित किया

These firms argued that heavy taxation would lead to the proliferation of illegal offshore apps.

इन कंपनियों ने तर्क दिया कि भारी कराधान से अवैध ऑफशोर ऐप्स की संख्या में वृद्धि होगी।

- With the apprehension now materializing, **financial strain** is leading to **industry consolidation**.

इस आशंका के सच होने के कारण, **वित्तीय दबाव उद्योग के एकीकरण** की ओर ले जा रहा है।

Real-money gaming (RMG) firms worried over illegal offshore gambling sites

रियल-मनी गेमिंग (RMG) कंपनियां अवैध ऑफशोर जुआ साइटों को लेकर चिंतित

- **Illegal offshore gambling sites and apps** are growing at a rapid rate in **India**.
अवैध ऑफशोर जुआ साइटें और ऐप्स भारत में तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं।
- **RMG firms have not yet convinced** the government to reduce **taxes** on the legal industry to curb illegal players.
RMG कंपनियां अब तक सरकार को आश्वस्त नहीं कर पाई हैं कि कानूनी उद्योग पर करों में कटौती करके अवैध खिलाड़ियों को रोका जाए।

Legal status and taxation issues

कानूनी स्थिति और कराधान की समस्याएं

- **Indian RMG firms** offer games and **fantasy sports**, allowing users to **stake money for rewards**.
भारतीय **RMG कंपनियां** गेम्स और **फैंटेसी स्पोर्ट्स** प्रदान करती हैं, जिससे उपयोगकर्ता **पुरस्कारों के लिए** पैसे लगा सकते हैं।
- **Courts have ruled** that these activities do not constitute **betting and gambling**, thus insulating them from state bans.
अदालतों ने फैसला दिया है कि ये गतिविधियां **सट्टेबाजी और जुए** की श्रेणी में नहीं आती हैं, जिससे उन्हें राज्य सरकारों के प्रतिबंध से बचाया गया है।

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- The **28% GST** imposed on these firms has **increased costs significantly**, giving an opening to **offshore services**.
28% जीएसटी इन कंपनियों पर लगने से लागत में भारी वृद्धि हुई है, जिससे ऑफशोर सेवाओं को अवसर मिला है।

Growth of offshore RMG firms

ऑफशोर RMG कंपनियों की वृद्धि

- Offshore firms **operate illegally in India**, switching domains and using **“mule” bank accounts**.
ऑफशोर कंपनियां भारत में अवैध रूप से संचालित होती हैं, डोमेन बदलती हैं और "म्यूल" बैंक खातों का उपयोग करती हैं।
- They **do not pay GST at all and cannot be regulated**, unlike legal Indian firms like **Dream11 and PokerBaazi**.
वे बिल्कुल भी जीएसटी नहीं चुकाते और नियंत्रित नहीं किए जा सकते, जबकि कानूनी भारतीय कंपनियां जैसे **Dream11 और PokerBaazi** नियमों का पालन करती हैं।

Swift growth of illegal offshore apps

अवैध ऑफशोर ऐप्स की तेज़ वृद्धि

- Offshore apps have been growing at a **CAGR of 30%**, similar to the initial days of **legal RMG industry before GST**.
ऑफशोर ऐप्स की वृद्धि **30% की वार्षिक चक्रवृद्धि दर (CAGR)** से हो रही है, जो **GST से पहले कानूनी RMG उद्योग की शुरुआत के समान** है।
- The **legal industry's growth rate** has now plateaued to **10%-15%**.
कानूनी उद्योग की वृद्धि दर अब घटकर **10%-15%** रह गई है।

2024 Industry Report on Illegal Betting Firms

2024 की इंडस्ट्री रिपोर्ट: अवैध सट्टेबाजी कंपनियां

- A **2024 industry report by Think Change Forum** estimated the **cumulative size of illegal betting firms at ₹8.2 lakh crore**, noting that this is **growing rapidly**.
Think Change Forum द्वारा प्रकाशित **2024 की इंडस्ट्री रिपोर्ट** के अनुसार, अवैध सट्टेबाजी कंपनियों का कुल आकार **₹8.2 लाख करोड़** आंका गया है, और यह तेज़ी से बढ़ रहा है।
- **Authorities have cracked down** on some of these, such as the **Mahadev app**.
अधिकारियों ने कुछ पर कार्रवाई की है, जैसे **Mahadev ऐप**।

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- However, **foreign-based firms like 1xBet are harder to crack down on**, as they constantly **change banking providers**.
लेकिन विदेशी आधारित कंपनियां, जैसे 1xBet, पर कार्रवाई करना मुश्किल है क्योंकि वे बार-बार अपने बैंकिंग प्रदाताओं को बदलती रहती हैं।
- The argument that **the government is foregoing tax revenues** due to these betting sites has **not yet convinced policymakers** to change their approach.
यह तर्क कि सरकार इन सट्टेबाजी साइटों के कारण कर राजस्व खो रही है, अब तक नीतिनिर्माताओं को अपनी रणनीति बदलने के लिए राजी नहीं कर पाया है।

Industry Consolidation

उद्योग का एकीकरण

- The **RMG industry is undergoing consolidation**.
RMG उद्योग में एकीकरण की प्रक्रिया चल रही है।
- **Head Digital Works**, an RMG firm, acquired the **parent company of Adda52**, one of India's oldest poker platforms, for **₹491 crore** last month.
Head Digital Works, एक RMG कंपनी, ने पिछले महीने ₹491 करोड़ में Adda52 की मूल कंपनी का अधिग्रहण किया, जो भारत के सबसे पुराने पोकर प्लेटफॉर्मों में से एक है।
- **Nazara Technologies**, which offers both **RMG and video games**, has acquired a **major stake in Moonshine Technology**, which runs **PokerBaazi**.
Nazara Technologies, जो RMG और वीडियो गेम्स दोनों प्रदान करता है, ने Moonshine Technology में बहुसंख्यक हिस्सेदारी खरीद ली है, जो PokerBaazi संचालित करता है।
- **OneVerse** has acquired the platform **PokerDangal**.
OneVerse ने PokerDangal प्लेटफॉर्म का अधिग्रहण किया है।

Regulations in Pause Mode

नियम-कानून स्थगित अवस्था में

- **Regulations seem to be in pause mode**, with the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023** on standby.
नियम-कानून फिलहाल स्थगित हैं, और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (मध्यस्थ दिशानिर्देश और डिजिटल मीडिया आचार संहिता) संशोधन नियम, 2023 अभी भी लंबित हैं।
- The government has **not yet formally recognized any self-regulatory body** under these rules.
सरकार ने अब तक इन नियमों के तहत किसी भी स्व-नियामक संस्था को आधिकारिक मान्यता नहीं दी है।



- The **RMG industry** has taken some steps to **improve its legitimacy**, such as:
RMG उद्योग ने अपनी वैधता सुधारने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाए हैं, जैसे:
 - **Assisting a study** that positively assessed the **effectiveness of playtime limits**.
एक अध्ययन में सहयोग करना, जिसमें प्ले टाइम लिमिट की प्रभावशीलता को सकारात्मक रूप से आंका गया।
 - **Publishing a code of ethics**, reaffirming **RMG firms' existing safeguards**.
आचार संहिता प्रकाशित करना, जिससे RMG कंपनियों के मौजूदा सुरक्षा उपायों की पुष्टि हुई।

Aditya-L1 mission: scientists observe a flareless coronal mass ejection

GS Paper III: S&T

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have reported observations of a **flareless coronal mass ejection (CME)** from the solar atmosphere with the **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)** instrument onboard **Aditya-L1 mission**.

The **Aditya-L1 mission is India's first scientific mission dedicated to studying the sun** and the VELC payload was developed by the Bengaluru-based IIA.

Scientists associated with the IIA said that using the VELC payload, it was possible to observe the corona not only closer to where its base is located in the solar atmosphere, but also obtain data at shorter time intervals compared with other existing coronagraphs in orbit.

The VELC team ob-

served the onset of a CME that erupted from the sun on July 5, 2024, with no association to any flare.

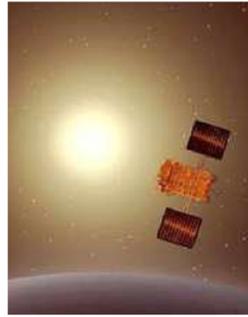
Magnetic instability

They said that the data obtained provide valuable clues to **understand and differentiate the magnetic instabilities on the sun that causes the flares and the CMEs**.

The results of the study will be appearing soon in the *Astrophysical Journal*, an international peer-reviewed scientific journal.

“Observation of CMEs as and when they originate on the sun and understanding their association with flares is one of the major science goals for VELC, and we are happy that the instrument is doing that,” said R. Ramesh, senior professor at the IIA and the principal investigator for the VELC.

Prof. Ramesh added



The Aditya-L1 mission is India's first scientific mission dedicated to studying the sun.

that with the **sun approaching the maximum phase of the current solar cycle 25**, the CMEs are expected to occur frequently.

Closer monitoring

“Hence, uninterrupted monitoring of the sun with VELC for CMEs is expected to provide valuable data to the Indian and international scientific community. The unique design of VELC

helps to observe the CMEs close to the limb of the solar surface, and their onset time. These advantages facilitate better investigation of the association between CMEs and flares near the solar limb,” Prof. Ramesh added.

Flares and CMEs are explosive events in the sun. They are **due to magnetic reconnection during which magnetic field lines rearrange**.

During a flare, energy is released primarily as **electromagnetic radiation from the heated plasma**. Compared with flares, the CMEs are **massive eruptions of plasma and magnetic field weighing about trillion kilograms that race outwards from the sun through the interplanetary space at speeds up to 3,000 kilometres per second**. The association between flares and CMEs is ambiguous till date.

Aditya-L1 Mission: Scientists Observe a Flareless Coronal Mass Ejection



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

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

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आदित्य-एल1 मिशन: वैज्ञानिकों ने बिना फ्लेयर वाले कोरोनल मास इजेक्शन का अवलोकन किया

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) observed a flareless coronal mass ejection (CME) from the solar atmosphere using the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) onboard Aditya-L1 mission.

भारतीय खगोल भौतिकी संस्थान (IIA) के वैज्ञानिकों ने आदित्य-एल1 मिशन पर मौजूद Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) का उपयोग करते हुए बिना फ्लेयर वाले कोरोनल मास इजेक्शन (CME) का अवलोकन किया।

- The Aditya-L1 mission is India's first scientific mission dedicated to studying the sun.
आदित्य-एल1 मिशन भारत का पहला वैज्ञानिक मिशन है, जो सूर्य के अध्ययन के लिए समर्पित है।
- The VELC payload, developed by the Bengaluru-based IIA, allows scientists to observe the corona closer to its base and collect data at shorter time intervals than other coronagraphs in orbit.
बंगलुरु स्थित IIA द्वारा विकसित VELC पेलोड वैज्ञानिकों को कोरोना के आधार के करीब से अवलोकन करने और अन्य कक्षा में मौजूद कोरोनाग्राफ की तुलना में कम समय के अंतराल पर डेटा प्राप्त करने में सक्षम बनाता है।

Observation of CME Without Flare

बिना फ्लेयर के CME का अवलोकन

- The VELC team observed the onset of a CME that erupted from the sun on July 5, 2024, with no association to any flare.
VELC टीम ने 5 जुलाई 2024 को सूर्य से निकले एक CME का अवलोकन किया, जो किसी भी फ्लेयर से संबंधित नहीं था।
- Magnetic instability is believed to be the cause of this flareless CME.
चुंबकीय अस्थिरता को इस बिना फ्लेयर वाले CME का कारण माना जा रहा है।

Understanding Magnetic Instabilities

चुंबकीय अस्थिरताओं की समझ

- The data obtained provides valuable clues to understand and differentiate the magnetic instabilities that cause flares and CMEs.



प्राप्त डेटा महत्वपूर्ण संकेत देता है जिससे फ्लेयर और CME उत्पन्न करने वाली चुंबकीय अस्थिरताओं को समझा और अलग किया जा सकता है।

- The results of the study will be published soon in the **Astrophysical Journal**, an international peer-reviewed scientific journal.
इस अध्ययन के परिणाम जल्द ही **Astrophysical Journal**, जो कि एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय वैज्ञानिक शोध पत्रिका है, में प्रकाशित किए जाएंगे।
- **R. Ramesh**, senior professor at IIA and principal investigator for VELC, said that one of the major goals of VELC is to observe CMEs as and when they originate on the sun.
IIA के वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर और VELC के प्रमुख अन्वेषक, आर. रमेश ने कहा कि VELC का प्रमुख लक्ष्य CME के उत्सर्जन के समय ही उनका अवलोकन करना है।

Closer Monitoring as Sun Approaches Solar Maximum

सौर अधिकतम चरण के करीब आते ही गहन निगरानी

- Prof. Ramesh added that as the sun approaches the maximum phase of the current solar cycle 25, CMEs are expected to occur more frequently.
प्रो. रमेश ने बताया कि जैसे-जैसे सूर्य अपने वर्तमान सौर चक्र 25 के अधिकतम चरण के करीब आ रहा है, CME अधिक बार होने की संभावना है।
- Uninterrupted monitoring of the sun with VELC will provide valuable data to both Indian and international scientific communities.
VELC के माध्यम से सूर्य की निरंतर निगरानी भारतीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय वैज्ञानिक समुदायों को महत्वपूर्ण डेटा प्रदान करेगी।
- The unique design of VELC allows for better investigation of the association between CMEs and flares near the solar limb.
VELC का अनूठा डिज़ाइन सौर सतह के किनारे के पास CME और फ्लेयर के बीच संबंध की बेहतर जांचमें मदद करता है।

Difference Between Flares and CMEs

फ्लेयर और CME में अंतर

- Flares and CMEs are explosive events on the sun, caused by magnetic reconnection where magnetic field lines rearrange.
फ्लेयर और CME सूर्य पर होने वाली विस्फोटक घटनाएँ हैं, जो चुंबकीय पुनर्संयोजन के कारण होती हैं, जिसमें चुंबकीय क्षेत्र रेखाएँ पुनः व्यवस्थित होती हैं।
- During a flare, energy is released as electromagnetic radiation from the heated plasma.
फ्लेयर के दौरान, गर्म प्लाज्मा से ऊर्जा विद्युतचुंबकीय विकिरण के रूप में उत्सर्जित होती है।



- Compared to flares, CMEs are massive eruptions of plasma and magnetic field, weighing about a trillion kilograms, and moving at speeds up to 3,000 km per second.

फ्लेयर की तुलना में, CME प्लाज्मा और चुंबकीय क्षेत्र के विशाल विस्फोट होते हैं, जिनका भार लगभग एक ट्रिलियन किलोग्राम होता है और जो 3,000 किमी प्रति सेकंड की गति से आगे बढ़ते हैं।

- The association between flares and CMEs is still not clearly understood.

फ्लेयर और CME के बीच का संबंध अब तक स्पष्ट रूप से समझा नहीं गया है।



Mining in Redi village of Sindhudurg district that has been going on from the 1950s, leading to a depletion of nature, livelihood loss, and health concerns. EMMANUAL YOGINI

PATRIOTIC



Raising the rusty dust of red soil

Residents from six villages of Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra oppose iron ore mining projects entering their lands. **Purnima Sah** reports on their fear of losing natural resources, livelihoods, and their health, much like Redi, their neighbouring village

GS Paper III: Environment

The Aijaon zila parishad government school library in Sawantwadi taluka, in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, is over 100 years old. On the first floor of the building, about 40 people between 20 and 70 are gathered from the villages around. On the walls are painted pictures of Savitribai Phule, C.V. Raman, and other social reformers. People have come in from neighbouring villages to discuss their worry over the ongoing geological survey for a potential mine in Nanos village.

Mahadev Shetye, 52, a farmer from Nanos, says that in October 2024, when he was climbing the hill to his farm, he heard the sound of machines drilling the earth and felt tremors. He ventured into the forest and saw a patch of land had been cleared of fruit trees. Mahadev himself grows cashew, mango, jackfruit, along with *chawli* (black-eyes peas), and *suran* (elephant foot yam). He says he saw three men holding "some machines". One, sitting next to a jar of red paint with a brush in hand, was marking a plastic box that held samples of stones and soil. "They said they had been hired by a mining company to conduct a survey of the land, as there could be a mineral to be mined. I rushed to the sarpanch (village head) with other residents of Nanos, but she too was not aware of this," says Mahadev.

In July 2022, the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Maharashtra, had commissioned an iron ore mine in Agravadi and Nanos villages on 372 hectares of land to the Goa-based Sociadade De Fomento Industrial Pvt Ltd. The first villagers say they heard about it was in October 2024, with the start of drilling sounds.

The Nanos population of around 600 people, is against the impending mining. They feel it will upset the balance of natural resources that will in turn impact their livelihood. From the mining experience of another neighbouring village, Redi, they also fear health conditions that come from the red dust that hangs in the air.

The next shock for the residents came when they learnt about another agreement signed between JSW Steel Limited and the District Mining Officer of Sindhudurg, Government of Maharashtra, in 2024. This granted a prospecting licence of iron ore in the Aijaon block, which included Shiroda, Aravali, Talavne, Nanos, and Malewad villages of Sawantwadi taluka.

JSW Steel Ltd has been given the right to conduct an initial investigation of geology and mineral resources in 849 hectares of land for iron ore, manganese, chrome, and nickel associated minerals. A prospecting licence for mining is a government permit granted by the government to a mining company to conduct initial investigations to determine if mining operations are viable in that location. If minerals are discovered, a mining lease is granted.

A looming presence

Sindhudurg, the southernmost district of Maharashtra, is bordered by the Sahayadri mountain range on the east and the Arabian sea on the west. It harbours varied habitats and a rich biodiversity. In Nanos, like several other villages, people create step-like platforms on steep slopes to either practise farming or build their homes. Any movement on the hill above could have an impact on those living below or around them.



They said they had been hired by a mining company to conduct a survey of the land, as there could be a mineral to be mined. I rushed to the sarpanch (village head) with other residents of Nanos, but she too was not aware of this.

MAHADEV SHETYE
Farmer from Nanos

At the meeting, people talk over each other for about half an hour, expressing their anxiety. Sagar Sonkant Nanoskar, 36, who makes *kotum sharbat* (juice made from a fruit from the mangosteen family), in Nanos, is asking Ramesh Gauns, 74, a retired schoolteacher from Bicholim in Goa, to guide the villagers with steps they can take to stop the mining projects. Gauns is an environmental activist, who has taken the Vedanta group to the National Green Tribunal over their mining project in Bicholim, and several other mining companies to the Supreme Court. "First decide, whether you want *khazni* (mines) or *paani* (water)," he asks and people respond, "Paani".

"So far, we have examined the geographical location of this region and taken photographs and maps of forest patches, water resources, hills, schools, religious sanctuaries, and homes. Our next step is to file RTI (Right to Information) requests with the forest department, mining department, water resource department, pollution control board, and local panchayat body," Gauns shares with the attendees. After they receive the responses, they will file a case against the authorities, he says. He warns that since it is not a tribal village, their fight with the mining company could be extra challenging.

He explains that a **gram sabha resolution in a non-tribal area around a mining project does hold weight**, as it represents the collective voice of the community, but **its legal power is less robust compared to a resolution passed in a Scheduled Area**.

"There, under the provision of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996, gram sabhas have greater authority over forest land and resource management due to the tribal population's rights," he says.

Nanos sarpanch, Prajakta Umesh Shetye, says that government authorities did not inform her or any villager about the geological survey. It was only when drilling sounds were heard that she approached the District Collector's office, where she learnt about the mining contract.

"I wrote a letter to oppose the prospective mining operation in our village, but the gram panchayat members filed a no-confidence motion against me. In the first week of March 2025, I received orders from government officials to cooperate with the survey. I will have to obey to the orders," she says.



Activist environmentalist Ramesh Gauns; Aijaon sarpanch Yashashree Soudagar at a village meeting. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Nanos residents accuse the sarpanch and her husband of having sold the village out for personal gain. The sarpanch's husband, Umesh Purushottam Shetye says the new mining projects will create jobs.

In their letter in 2022 to the gram panchayat of the Venguria taluka, Sindhudurg district, for another project seeking a no-objection certificate, JSW Steel had said that they would "mostly carry out... surface exploration followed by drilling in the mineral potential areas" but that "there will be no damage of the land in the grant area".

Ecologically sensitive zones

The Maharashtra Minor Mineral Extraction Rules, 2013, says that no commercial quarrying can take place in an eco-sensitive zone. Also, for the mining of minerals, the prior approval of local bodies such as gram sabhas or a municipality is necessary.

A Central government report, updated in July 2024, identified approximately 35% of the Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive. It covers 56,825.7 square km, spread across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

A July 6, 2022, gazette notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,

Government of India, says that the Western Ghats are an important geological landform and a global biodiversity hotspot. As per the notification, all the Sindhudurg villages where mining prospecting licences have been granted, either fall under the eco-sensitive zone or eco-sensitive buffer zones.

Nanoskar and about 50 others had planned to go on a hunger strike against the ongoing survey on Republic Day, but the day before, on January 25, the Sindhudurg District Collector's office called them for a meeting with the Guardian Minister of the district and the Minister of Fisheries and Ports in Maharashtra, Nitesh Narayan Rane.

"The Minister assured us that no mining project would be forced on us if the entire village was against it. He directed the mining department to prepare a report saying that villagers are against it and submit it to the State and Central government. But since then, there has been no update," says Nanoskar.

Over a call, the Minister says, "No mining project can start without the consent of people. In a meeting with the residents in January, I had assured them that even if it is a Central government project and approval has come, as a Guardian Minister, it is my duty to preserve the natural resources in Sindhudurg."

Depleting resources
Nanos' residents' fears stem from iron ore mining in Redi that began in the late 1950s and continues to date. Redi is about 8 kilometres from Nanos and 6 km from Aijaon, where the meeting is held. Several companies operate here.

Aijaon sarpanch Yashashree Soudagar says, "Once Redi used to be like our village; today it is only covered in red dust. We do not want a Redi to be repeated." Redi's people were once farmers and fisherfolk. The forests and coasts only had sounds of the waves hitting the beach and the chirping of birds.

Now, villagers say that all they hear is the noise heavy lorries transporting minerals sold across India and the world. Over the years, their independent livelihoods have been denuded. Now, they mostly work for the mining companies as labourers and cleaners.

In Nanos, every house in the village has a kitchen garden where red and green chillies, ladies' fingers, and brinjal grow. Fruit trees like mango and *chikoo* (sapota) are everywhere.

Prasad Gawade, 31, an environmentalist, popular as Konkani Rannman on Instagram, has been creating awareness on the rich biodiversity of Sindhudurg since 2019. "If giant companies start mining in this area, there can be major environmental disasters. Every region in this district grows some crop: paddy, pulses, fruits, vegetables. There are clean sources of drinking water that do not need filtration. The coastal residents, *kolis*, practise fishing," says Gawade, emphasising the need to have an environmental impact assessment study to understand the impact of mining projects in eco-sensitive zones.

He claims Sindhudurg has over 2,000 sacred groves that are home to ancient deities. "We have a rare freshwater wetland which we call, *dev ka jungle* (forest of the gods). There is a unique flowering tree called *surangi* that blooms in spring and *nagkesar* flower that is used to make perfume. There are salt pans and freshwater fish too," he says, adding that the laterite rock on the Konkani coast acts as an aquifer.

On March 22, 2024, the Bombay High Court had declared Sawantwadi and Dodamarg (both in Sindhudurg district) an ecologically sensitive area to ensure protection for the wildlife corridor. Stalin Dayanand, project director of Vanashakti, a Mumbai-based non-profit that works towards restoring natural habitats and protecting biological diversity across Maharashtra, was one of the petitioners.

He says, "People in Dodamarg have seen how the only mine at Kalavne, just 10 km away, destroyed forests and wildlife habitats, and caused natural disasters like landslides." He says the court took evidence into account, but, "the State government is yet to comply with the order."

Redi's health crisis
Depleting natural resources though, are not the only fear of the villagers. Dr. Vivek Eknath Redkar, who has worked for over 35 years treating and studying people exposed to mining in Maharashtra, has published various scientific research papers on the issue. One of his research papers published in the *European Heart Journal* found that because of deeply dug mines, the groundwater table of wells has gone down.

"In our 2019 research, we found that all water sources in Redi were contaminated with metals, unsuitable for drinking by humans or animals. The water contains high levels of fluoride, detrimental to bone and tooth health. It also causes gastrointestinal infections," Dr. Redkar, who runs the Redkar Charitable Hospital in Redi, says.

His research among 4,000 people found that a region exposed to mining for over 60 years has congestive cardiac failure because of repeated lungs infections. "Such patients were given steroids on a repetitive basis that later caused diabetes in the area. At present, every 6 patients out of 10 suffers from diabetes that could have been avoided if they had been given masks."

Sunanda Gawande, 84, from Sukalbhath hamlet in Redi, suffers from acute bronchitis. She has an oxygen cylinder at home to use in emergencies. "My husband used to load and unload minerals in the minefields. He had two heart attacks before 50 and a third one at 76, when he died."

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Raising the Rusty Dust of Red Soil

लाल मिट्टी की जंग लगी धूल उठती हुई

Residents from six villages in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, oppose iron ore mining projects entering their lands.



महाराष्ट्र के सिंधुदुर्ग जिले के छह गांवों के निवासी अपनी जमीनों में लौह अयस्क खनन परियोजनाओं के प्रवेश का विरोध कर रहे हैं।

- They fear losing natural resources, livelihoods, and health, similar to Redi, their neighboring village.
वे प्राकृतिक संसाधनों, आजीविका और स्वास्थ्य के नुकसान से डरते हैं, जैसा कि उनके पड़ोसी गांव रेडी में हुआ।

Discovery of Mining Survey

खनन सर्वेक्षण की खोज

- Mahadev Shetye, 52, a farmer from Nanos, heard drilling sounds and saw a patch of land cleared of fruit trees in October 2024.
नानोस गांव के 52 वर्षीय किसान महादेव शेट्ये ने अक्टूबर 2024 में ड्रिलिंग की आवाजें सुनीं और देखा कि फलों के पेड़ काटकर एक जमीन का टुकड़ा साफ किया गया था।
- He found three men with machines, marking plastic boxes filled with soil and stone samples.
उन्होंने तीन लोगों को मशीनों के साथ देखा, जो मिट्टी और पत्थर के नमूनों से भरे प्लास्टिक बॉक्स चिह्नित कर रहे थे।
- The workers said they were hired by a mining company for a land survey.
श्रमिकों ने बताया कि उन्हें खनन कंपनी ने भूमि सर्वेक्षण के लिए नियुक्त किया था।
- The village sarpanch was unaware of the survey, which raised concerns among the villagers.
गांव की सरपंच को सर्वेक्षण की कोई जानकारी नहीं थी, जिससे ग्रामीणों में चिंता बढ़ गई।

Government Mining Contracts

सरकारी खनन अनुबंध

- In July 2022, the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Maharashtra, commissioned an iron ore mine in Agralvadi and Nanos villages (372 hectares) to Goa-based Sociedade De Fomento Industrial Pvt Ltd.
जुलाई 2022 में, महाराष्ट्र के भूविज्ञान और खनन निदेशालय ने गोवा स्थित सोसाइडेड डे फोमेंटो इंडस्ट्रियल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड को अग्रालवडी और नानोस गांवों (372 हेक्टेयर) में लौह अयस्क खदान का ठेका दिया।
- JSW Steel Ltd was also granted a prospecting licence in 2024 for iron ore, manganese, chrome, and nickel across 849 hectares in Ajgaon block (including five villages).



JSW स्टील लिमिटेड को 2024 में अजयगांव ब्लॉक (पांच गांवों सहित) में 849 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में लौह अयस्क, मैंगनीज, क्रोम और निकल के लिए अन्वेषण लाइसेंस मिला।

- A prospecting licence allows initial geological investigations, and if minerals are found, a mining lease is granted.

अन्वेषण लाइसेंस प्रारंभिक भूवैज्ञानिक जांच की अनुमति देता है, और यदि खनिज पाए जाते हैं, तो खनन पट्टा दिया जाता है।

Geographical and Ecological Concerns

भौगोलिक और पारिस्थितिक चिंताएँ

- Sindhudurg district is surrounded by the Sahyadri mountains on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west, making it ecologically rich.
सिंधुदुर्ग जिला पूर्व में सहयाद्री पर्वत और पश्चिम में अरब सागर से घिरा हुआ है, जिससे यह पारिस्थितिक रूप से समृद्ध है।
- Villagers in Nanos practice farming on step-like platforms on steep slopes, which could be affected by mining activities.
नानोस गांव के लोग ढलानों पर सीढ़ीनुमा खेतों में खेती करते हैं, जो खनन गतिविधियों से प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।

Villagers' Protest and Legal Actions

गांव वालों का विरोध और कानूनी कार्रवाई

- Environmental activist Ramesh Gauns, who has fought mining companies in Goa and Supreme Court, advised villagers to file RTI requests.
पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ता रमेश गौस, जिन्होंने गोवा और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में खनन कंपनियों के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ी है, ने ग्रामीणों को सूचना का अधिकार (RTI) आवेदन दाखिल करने की सलाह दी।
- Gram sabha resolutions hold weight, but in non-tribal areas, they have less legal power compared to Scheduled Areas under PESA, 1996.
ग्राम सभा प्रस्तावों का महत्व होता है, लेकिन गैर-आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में इनका कानूनी प्रभाव अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों (PESA, 1996) की तुलना में कम होता है।

Sarpanch Controversy

सरपंच विवाद

- Nanos sarpanch, Prajakta Umesh Shetye, was not informed about the geological survey.
नानोस की सरपंच, प्राजक्ता उमेश शेट्टे, को भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण की कोई सूचना नहीं दी गई थी।



- She opposed the project but later **received orders in March 2025 to cooperate with the survey.**
उन्होंने परियोजना का विरोध किया, लेकिन मार्च 2025 में सर्वेक्षण में सहयोग करने का आदेश मिला।
- Villagers accused her and her husband of **supporting mining for personal gain.**
ग्रामीणों ने उन पर और उनके पति पर व्यक्तिगत लाभ के लिए खनन का समर्थन करने का आरोप लगाया।

Eco-Sensitive Zones and Legal Violations

पर्यावरण-संवेदनशील क्षेत्र और कानूनी उल्लंघन

- **Maharashtra Minor Mineral Extraction Rules, 2013**, prohibit **quarrying in eco-sensitive zones** without local gram sabha approval.
महाराष्ट्र लघु खनिज निष्कर्षण नियम, 2013, के अनुसार ग्राम सभा की पूर्व स्वीकृति के बिना पर्यावरण-संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में खनन निषिद्ध है।
- A **July 2024 Central Government report** classified **35% of the Western Ghats (56,825.7 sq. km)** as **ecologically sensitive.**
जुलाई 2024 की केंद्र सरकार की रिपोर्ट ने पश्चिमी घाट के 35% क्षेत्र (56,825.7 वर्ग किमी) को पर्यावरण-संवेदनशील घोषित किया।
- The **July 6, 2022, Gazette Notification** by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change** recognized the **Western Ghats as a global biodiversity hotspot.**
6 जुलाई 2022 की राजपत्र अधिसूचना, जो कि पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी की गई थी, ने पश्चिमी घाट को वैश्विक जैव विविधता हॉटस्पॉट के रूप में मान्यता दी।

Political Assurances and Lack of Action

राजनीतिक आश्वासन और कार्रवाई की कमी

- On **January 25, 2025**, the **Sindhudurg District Collector's office** called protesting villagers for a meeting with **Minister Nitesh Narayan Rane.**
25 जनवरी 2025 को, सिंधुदुर्ग जिला कलेक्टर कार्यालय ने विरोध कर रहे ग्रामीणों को मंत्री नितेश नारायण राणे से बैठक के लिए बुलाया।
- The minister assured them that **no mining project would proceed** if the entire village opposed it.
मंत्री ने आश्वासन दिया कि यदि पूरा गांव विरोध करेगा तो कोई भी खनन परियोजना नहीं चलेगी।
- The **mining department was directed** to report villagers' opposition, but **no further update has been given.**
खनन विभाग को ग्रामीणों के विरोध की रिपोर्ट तैयार करने के निर्देश दिए गए, लेकिन अब तक कोई अपडेट नहीं मिला।



Minister's Statement on Mining Projects

खनन परियोजनाओं पर मंत्री का बयान

- Over a call, the Minister stated that no mining project can start without the consent of the people.
एक कॉल पर, मंत्री ने कहा कि जनता की सहमति के बिना कोई भी खनन परियोजना शुरू नहीं हो सकती।
- In January 2025, during a meeting with the residents, he assured them that even if the project has Central Government approval, his duty as Guardian Minister is to preserve natural resources in Sindhudurg.
जनवरी 2025 में, निवासियों के साथ एक बैठक के दौरान, उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया कि भले ही परियोजना को केंद्र सरकार की मंजूरी मिल गई हो, लेकिन संरक्षक मंत्री के रूप में उनका कर्तव्य सिंधुदुर्ग के प्राकृतिक संसाधनों को संरक्षित करना है।

Depleting Resources and Redi's Mining Impact

संपदा की कमी और रेडी में खनन का प्रभाव

- Iron ore mining in Redi began in the late 1950s and continues today.
रेडी में लौह अयस्क खनन 1950 के दशक के अंत में शुरू हुआ था और आज भी जारी है।
- Redi is 8 km from Nanos and 6 km from Ajsaon, where the meeting was held. Several companies operate there.
रेडी नानोस से 8 किमी और अजयगांव से 6 किमी दूर है, जहां बैठक हुई थी। वहां कई कंपनियां काम कर रही हैं।
- Ajsaon sarpanch Yashashree Saudagar stated that Redi was once like their village but is now covered in red dust.
अजयगांव की सरपंच यशश्री सौदागर ने कहा कि रेडी पहले उनके गांव की तरह था, लेकिन अब यह पूरी तरह लाल धूल से ढका हुआ है।
- Earlier, Redi's residents were farmers and fisherfolk, but now most work for mining companies as laborers and cleaners.
पहले, रेडी के निवासी किसान और मछुआरे थे, लेकिन अब अधिकांश खनन कंपनियों में श्रमिक और सफाईकर्मी के रूप में काम करते हैं।

Agricultural Wealth of Nanos

नानोस का कृषि संपदा भंडार

- Every house in Nanos has a kitchen garden growing red and green chillis, ladies' fingers, and brinjals.
नानोस में हर घर के पास रसोई बागीचा है, जहां लाल और हरी मिर्च, भिंडी और बैंगन उगाए जाते हैं।



- Fruit trees like mango and chikoo (sapota) are abundant in the village.
गांव में आम और चीकू (सपोटा) के पेड़ प्रचुर मात्रा में हैं।

Environmental Concerns Raised by Activists

पर्यावरणीय चिंताएं जो कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा उठाई गईं

- Prasad Gawade, 31, an environmentalist known as Konkani Ranmanus on Instagram, has been spreading awareness on Sindhudurg's biodiversity since 2019.
प्रसाद गवड़े, 31, जो इंस्टाग्राम पर 'कोंकणी रानमनुष' के नाम से प्रसिद्ध पर्यावरणविद हैं, 2019 से सिंधुदुर्ग की जैव विविधता के बारे में जागरूकता फैला रहे हैं।
- He warns that large-scale mining could lead to major environmental disasters.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि बड़े पैमाने पर खनन से बड़े पर्यावरणीय आपदाएं हो सकती हैं।
- Sindhudurg grows crops like paddy, pulses, fruits, and vegetables, and has clean water sources that do not require filtration.
सिंधुदुर्ग में धान, दालें, फल और सब्जियां उगाई जाती हैं, और यहां स्वच्छ जल स्रोत हैं जिनके लिए किसी फिल्टर की आवश्यकता नहीं होती।
- The coastal Koli community depends on fishing for livelihood.
तटीय कोली समुदाय अपनी आजीविका के लिए मछली पकड़ने पर निर्भर है।

Sacred Groves and Sindhudurg's Biodiversity

पवित्र वन और सिंधुदुर्ग की जैव विविधता

- Sindhudurg has over 2,000 sacred groves, home to ancient deities.
सिंधुदुर्ग में 2,000 से अधिक पवित्र वन हैं, जो प्राचीन देवताओं का निवास स्थान हैं।
- A rare freshwater wetland called "Dev ka Jungle" (Forest of the Gods) exists in the region.
क्षेत्र में "देव का जंगल" नामक एक दुर्लभ मीठे पानी का आर्द्रभूमि क्षेत्र मौजूद है।
- Unique flowering trees like Surangi (blooms in spring) and Nagkesar (used for perfume making) are found here.
यहां सुरंगी (जो वसंत में खिलता है) और नागकेसर (इत्र बनाने के लिए प्रयुक्त) जैसे अद्वितीय फूलदार वृक्ष पाए जाते हैं।
- The laterite rock in the Konkan region acts as a natural aquifer.
कोंकण क्षेत्र की लैटेराइट चट्टान एक प्राकृतिक जलवाहक के रूप में कार्य करती है।



Legal Ruling on the Environment

पर्यावरण पर कानूनी निर्णय

- On March 22, 2024, the Bombay High Court declared Sawantwadi and Dodamarg in Sindhudurg as ecologically sensitive areas to protect wildlife corridors.
22 मार्च 2024 को, बॉम्बे हाईकोर्ट ने सिंधुदुर्ग के सावंतवाड़ी और दोडामार्ग को वन्यजीव गलियारों की सुरक्षा के लिए पर्यावरणीय रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्र घोषित किया।
- Stalin Dayanand, director of Vanashakti (a Mumbai-based NGO), stated that Kalane mine in Dodamarg destroyed forests and wildlife habitats, leading to landslides.
वृक्ष संरक्षण संगठन 'वनशक्ति' के निदेशक स्टालिन दयानंद ने कहा कि दोडामार्ग की कलाने खदान ने जंगलों और वन्यजीव आवासों को नष्ट कर दिया, जिससे भूस्खलन हुआ।
- The court ruled in favor of environmental protection, but the State Government has yet to comply.
अदालत ने पर्यावरण संरक्षण के पक्ष में फैसला सुनाया, लेकिन राज्य सरकार ने अब तक इसका पालन नहीं किया है।

Redi's Health Crisis Due to Mining

खनन के कारण रेडी में स्वास्थ्य संकट

- Dr. Vivek Eknath Redkar, a doctor with over 35 years of experience, has studied the health impacts of mining in Maharashtra.
डॉ. विवेक एकनाथ रेडकर, 35 वर्षों के अनुभव वाले डॉक्टर, ने महाराष्ट्र में खनन के स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों का अध्ययन किया है।
- His 2019 research in the European Heart Journal found that Redi's groundwater was contaminated with metals, making it unsafe for drinking.
उनके 2019 के शोध (European Heart Journal) में पाया गया कि रेडी का भूजल धातुओं से दूषित था, जिससे यह पीने के लिए असुरक्षित हो गया।
- The water contains high levels of fluoride, which causes bone and tooth decay and gastrointestinal infections.
इस पानी में उच्च स्तर का फ्लोराइड पाया गया, जिससे हड्डियों और दांतों की क्षति तथा जठरांत्र संक्रमण हुआ।
- A study of 4,000 people found that prolonged exposure to mining dust led to congestive cardiac failure due to repeated lung infections.
4,000 लोगों के अध्ययन में पाया गया कि खनन धूल के लंबे समय तक संपर्क में रहने से बार-बार फेफड़ों के संक्रमण के कारण हृदय विफलता हुई।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Prolonged use of steroids for lung infections led to a high incidence of diabetes in the region.
फेफड़ों के संक्रमण के लिए लंबे समय तक स्टेरॉयड के उपयोग ने इस क्षेत्र में मधुमेह की घटनाओं को बढ़ा दिया।
- Sunanda Gawande, 84, from Sukalbhat hamlet in Redi, suffers from acute bronchitis and relies on an oxygen cylinder.
रेडी के सुकालभट गांव की 84 वर्षीय सुनंदा गवांडे को गंभीर ब्रॉकाइटिस है और वह ऑक्सीजन सिलेंडर पर निर्भर हैं।
- Her husband, a former mine worker, suffered two heart attacks before 50 and a third at 76, which was fatal.
उनके पति, जो खदान में काम करते थे, को 50 वर्ष से पहले दो और 76 वर्ष की आयु में तीसरा दिल का दौरा पड़ा, जिससे उनकी मृत्यु हो गई।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Gold hits **\$3,000/oz**, a first in a historic safe-haven rally

Bullion has risen almost 14% so far this year, driven by concerns over impact of Trump's tariffs and stock sell-off though it is traditionally viewed as a safe store of value during geopolitical turmoil

GS Paper III: Capital Market

Editors

BENGALURU

Gold broke through the key **\$3,000 barrier** on Friday for the first time as investors piled on to a historic rally in the safe haven asset to seek cover from economic uncertainty sparked by U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war.

Spot gold rose 0.1% to **\$2,991 an ounce** at 9:42 am ET after hitting an all-time high of **\$3,004.86**.

U.S. gold futures gained 0.4% to **\$3,002.30**.

Gold's surge past the **\$3000 milestone** was driven by "beleaguered investors seeking the ultimate safe-haven asset given Mr. Trump's tumult on stock markets," said Tai Wong, an independent metals trader.

Traditionally viewed as a safe store of value during geopolitical turmoil, bul-



Code red: Gold could see a significant correction when a resolution to trade issues appears and asset markets recover. REUTERS

lion has risen nearly 14% so far this year, driven by concerns over the impact of Mr. Trump's tariffs and a sell-off in stock markets.

Unsettled markets

Mr. Trump's protectionist policies have unsettled global markets, with U.S. stocks witnessing a week-long sell-off, sending the S&P 500 plunging into correction territory, losing \$4

trillion.

"Real asset money managers, particularly in the West, needed a strong stock market and economic slowdown scare to return to gold – and that's happening now," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank.

Gold has also been supported by central bank demand, with key buyer China building its bullion

reserves for a fourth straight month in February.

"Central banks continue record-level gold acquisitions, seeking to diversify away from an increasingly volatile U.S. dollar," said GoldCore CEO, David Russell.

Expectations of monetary easing by the U.S. Federal Reserve have also helped zero-yield gold. The Fed is expected to keep rates unchanged next week, although traders are betting on cuts to resume in June.

However, gold could see a significant correction, "when a resolution to trade issues appears and asset markets recover," Wong said.

In other metals, silver added 0.3% to **\$33.9 an ounce**, platinum gained 0.3% to **\$997.00** and palladium firmed 2.1% to **\$978.18**.

Gold hits **\$3,000/oz**, a first in a historic safe-haven rally

सोना \$3,000/oz तक पहुंचा, ऐतिहासिक सुरक्षित-आश्रय वृद्धि में पहली बार

Bullion has risen almost 14% so far this year, driven by concerns over the impact of Trump's tariffs and stock sell-off, though it is traditionally viewed as a safe store of value during geopolitical turmoil.



सोना इस साल अब तक लगभग 14% बढ़ चुका है, जो ट्रंप के टैरिफ और स्टॉक बिक्री के प्रभाव को लेकर चिंताओं से प्रेरित है, हालांकि इसे पारंपरिक रूप से भू-राजनीतिक अशांति के दौरान मूल्य के सुरक्षित भंडार के रूप में देखा जाता है।

- **Gold** broke through the key **\$3,000** barrier on **Friday** for the first time as investors piled on to a historic rally in the **safe-haven** asset to seek cover from economic uncertainty sparked by **U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war**.

शुक्रवार को पहली बार सोना महत्वपूर्ण **\$3,000** की सीमा पार कर गया क्योंकि निवेशकों ने आर्थिक अनिश्चितता से बचने के लिए **सुरक्षित-आश्रय** संपत्ति में निवेश किया, जो **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** के टैरिफ युद्ध के कारण उत्पन्न हुई।

- **Spot gold** rose **0.1%** to **\$2,991** an ounce at **9:42 am ET** after hitting an all-time high of **\$3,004.86**.

स्पॉट गोल्ड सुबह **9:42 बजे ईटी** पर **0.1%** बढ़कर **\$2,991** प्रति औंस हो गया, इससे पहले यह अपने सर्वकालिक उच्च स्तर **\$3,004.86** तक पहुंचा।

- **U.S. gold futures** gained **0.4%** to **\$3,002.30**.

अमेरिकी गोल्ड फ्यूचर्स **0.4%** बढ़कर **\$3,002.30** हो गया।

- **Gold's surge** past the **\$3,000** milestone was driven by "**beleaguered investors seeking the ultimate safe-haven asset**", said **Tai Wong**, an independent metals trader.

सोने की वृद्धि ने **\$3,000** की सीमा पार की, क्योंकि "**परेशान निवेशक अंतिम सुरक्षित-आश्रय संपत्ति की तलाश कर रहे थे**," स्वतंत्र धातु व्यापारी **ताई वॉंग** ने कहा।

- **Trump's protectionist policies** have unsettled global markets, with **U.S. stocks** witnessing a **week-long sell-off**, sending the **S&P 500** plunging into **correction territory**, losing **\$4 trillion**.

ट्रंप की संरक्षणवादी नीतियों ने वैश्विक बाजारों को अस्थिर कर दिया, जिससे **अमेरिकी शेयर बाजार** में सप्ताह भर की बिकवाली हुई, **S&P 500 सुधार क्षेत्र** में गिर गया और **\$4 ट्रिलियन** का नुकसान हुआ।

- **Real asset money managers** needed a **strong stock market** and **economic slowdown scare** to return to gold, said **Ole Hansen**, head of commodity strategy at **Saxo Bank**.

वास्तविक संपत्ति प्रबंधकों को **मजबूत स्टॉक बाजार** और **आर्थिक मंदी के डर** की आवश्यकता थी ताकि वे सोने में वापस लौट सकें, **ओले हैंसन**, प्रमुख, **सैक्सो बैंक** ने कहा।

- **Central bank demand** has also supported gold, with key buyer **China** building its **bullion reserves** for a **fourth straight month** in **February**.

केंद्रीय बैंक की मांग ने भी सोने को समर्थन दिया है, जिसमें प्रमुख खरीदार **चीन** ने **फरवरी** में लगातार चौथे महीने अपनी सोने की भंडार बढ़ाई।

- **GoldCore CEO, David Russell** said, "**Central banks continue record-level gold acquisitions, seeking to diversify away from an increasingly volatile U.S. dollar.**"



गोल्डकोर सीईओ, डेविड रसेल ने कहा, "केंद्रीय बैंक रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर सोने की खरीदारी जारी रखे हुए हैं, जो बढ़ती अस्थिरता वाले अमेरिकी डॉलर से दूर विविधता लाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।"

- Expectations of monetary easing by the U.S. Federal Reserve have also helped zero-yield gold.

अमेरिकी फेडरल रिजर्व द्वारा मौद्रिक सहजता की उम्मीदों ने भी बिना ब्याज वाले सोने को मदद दी है।

- The Fed is expected to keep rates unchanged next week, although traders are betting on cuts to resume in June.

फेड अगले सप्ताह ब्याज दरों को अपरिवर्तित रखने की संभावना है, हालांकि व्यापारी जून में कटौती फिर से शुरू होने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।

- However, gold could see a significant correction, "when a resolution to trade issues appears and asset markets recover," said Wong.

हालांकि, सोना एक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार देख सकता है, "जब व्यापार मुद्दों का समाधान होगा और संपत्ति बाजार में सुधार होगा," वॉंग ने कहा।

- Other metals:

अन्य धातुएं:

- Silver added 0.3% to \$33.9 an ounce.
चांदी 0.3% बढ़कर \$33.9 प्रति औंस हो गई।
- Platinum gained 0.3% to \$997.00.
प्लैटिनम 0.3% बढ़कर \$997.00 हो गया।
- Palladium firmed 2.1% to \$978.18.
पैलेडियम 2.1% बढ़कर \$978.18 हो गया।

Actions by govts, businesses to shape trade resilience for years: UNCTAD

GS Paper III: International Trade

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Global cooperation and balanced policies are critical to preventing economic fragmentation and safeguarding long-term growth

amid growing trade uncertainty, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has said.

While China's stimulus and lower inflation in some regions are likely to support trade, protectionism

and shifting policies in major economies are key risks, UNCTAD said in an update on global trade covering data through early March. The challenge in 2025 will be to prevent global fragmentation – where

nations form isolated trade blocs – while managing policy shifts without undermining long-term growth. Actions taken now by governments and businesses will shape trade resilience for years to come.



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

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Actions by govts, businesses to shape trade resilience for years: UNCTAD

सरकारों और व्यवसायों द्वारा उठाए गए कदम व्यापार लचीलेपन को वर्षों तक आकार देंगे: UNCTAD

Global cooperation and balanced policies are critical to preventing economic fragmentation and safeguarding long-term growth amid growing trade uncertainty, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has said.

वैश्विक सहयोग और संतुलित नीतियां बढ़ती व्यापारिक अनिश्चितता के बीच आर्थिक विखंडन को रोकने और दीर्घकालिक वृद्धि की सुरक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, संयुक्त राष्ट्र व्यापार और विकास सम्मेलन (UNCTAD) ने कहा।

- While **China's stimulus** and **lower inflation** in some regions are likely to support **trade, protectionism** and **shifting policies** in major economies are key risks, **UNCTAD** said in an update on **global trade** covering data through **early March**.

चीन के प्रोत्साहन उपायों और कुछ क्षेत्रों में कम मुद्रास्फीति से व्यापार को समर्थन मिलने की संभावना है, लेकिन संरक्षणवाद और प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में नीतिगत बदलाव मुख्य जोखिम बने हुए हैं, UNCTAD ने मार्च की शुरुआत तक के आंकड़ों पर आधारित वैश्विक व्यापार अद्यतन में कहा।

- The challenge in **2025** will be to prevent **global fragmentation** — where nations form **isolated trade blocs** — while managing **policy shifts** without undermining **long-term growth**.

2025 में चुनौती वैश्विक विखंडन को रोकना होगी — जहां देश अलग-थलग व्यापार समूह बना सकते हैं — और नीतिगत बदलावों को इस तरह प्रबंधित करना होगा कि दीर्घकालिक वृद्धि प्रभावित न हो।

- **Actions taken now** by **governments and businesses** will shape **trade resilience** for **years to come**.

सरकारों और व्यवसायों द्वारा अभी उठाए गए कदम व्यापार लचीलेपन को भविष्य के वर्षों तक प्रभावित करेंगे।



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RBI sets Sovereign Gold Bond redemption at ₹8,624 a unit

GS Paper III: Capital Market

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the price for the final redemption of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) due on March 17 would be ₹8,624 per unit of SGB.

Closing price

"This price has been fixed based on the simple average of closing gold price for the week March 10-13, 2025," the banking regulator said.

"The redemption price of SGB shall be based on the simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity of the week (Monday-Friday), preceding the date of redemption, as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd. (IBJA)," the central bank added.

The SGBs 2016-17 Series IV issued on March 17, 2017 as per the Union Government's Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme are repayable on the expiration of eight years from the date of issue of the gold bonds.

"Accordingly, the final redemption date of the above tranche shall be March 17, 2025," it said.

RBI sets Sovereign Gold Bond redemption at ₹8,624 a unit

RBI ने सॉवरेन गोल्ड बॉन्ड का मोचन मूल्य ₹8,624 प्रति यूनिट निर्धारित किया

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the price for the final redemption of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) due on March 17 would be ₹8,624 per unit of SGB.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने कहा कि सॉवरेन गोल्ड बॉन्ड (SGBs) के 17 मार्च को होने वाले अंतिम मोचन का मूल्य ₹8,624 प्रति यूनिट होगा।

• **Closing price:** "This price has been fixed based on the simple average of closing gold price for the week **March 10-13, 2025**," the banking regulator said.

समापन मूल्य: "यह मूल्य 10-13 मार्च 2025 के सप्ताह के सोने की समापन कीमत के साधारण औसत के आधार पर निर्धारित किया गया है," बैंकिंग नियामक ने कहा।

• "The **redemption price of SGB** shall be based on the simple average of closing price of gold of **999 purity** of the week (**Monday-Friday**), preceding the date of redemption, as published by the **India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd. (IBJA)**," the central bank added.

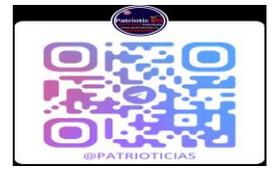
"**SGB का मोचन मूल्य** उस सप्ताह (सोमवार-शुक्रवार) के **999 शुद्धता** वाले सोने की समापन कीमत के साधारण औसत पर आधारित होगा, जो मोचन तिथि से पहले का सप्ताह होगा, जैसा कि **इंडिया बुलियन एंड ज्वेलर्स एसोसिएशन लिमिटेड (IBJA)** द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया है," केंद्रीय बैंक ने जोड़ा।

• The **SGBs 2016-17 Series IV**, issued on **March 17, 2017**, as per the **Union Government's Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme**, are repayable on the expiration of **eight years** from the date of issue of the gold bonds.

SGBs 2016-17 सीरीज IV, जो 17 मार्च 2017 को केंद्र सरकार की सॉवरेन गोल्ड बॉन्ड योजना के तहत जारी किए गए थे, इन्हें जारी होने की तिथि से आठ साल के बाद चुकाया जाना है।

• "Accordingly, the **final redemption date** of the above tranche shall be **March 17, 2025**," it said.

"तदनुसार, उपरोक्त श्रृंखला की अंतिम मोचन तिथि 17 मार्च 2025 होगी," यह कहा गया।



Dividends from CPSEs exceed RE, surge to a record ₹66,000 crore

GS Paper III: Investment

Shishir Sinha
NEW DELHI

Dividends from Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have surpassed the revised estimates (RE) for the current fiscal, FY25, by over ₹10,000 crore, marking an all-time high.

This figure excludes dividends from public sector banks and public sector financial institutions.

Data from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) show that about ₹66,000 crore have been received as dividend from CPSEs so far. With 16 more days left in the current fis-



cal, the total amount is likely to touch about ₹67,000 crore.

This amount is a key component of non-tax revenue. It is also likely to bridge part of the shortfall in 'Miscellaneous Capital Receipts' (the amount to

be raised through selling of minority shareholding or strategic disinvestment by the government).

Earnings update

The Budget, presented in July, pegged 'Dividends from Public Sector Enterprises and other investments' at ₹56,260 crore, which was lowered to ₹55,000 crore in the RE. However, the total realisation till date has surpassed the previous fiscal's ₹65,381 crore.

At the same time, the amount under 'Miscellaneous Capital Receipts' has reached just ₹8,625 crore, as against the RE of

₹33,000 crore and actual of ₹33,121 crore in FY24

According to the Public Enterprises Survey, there are 272 operating CPSEs, of which 212 reported a net profit of ₹3.43 lakh crore in FY24, an approximate 48% increase from ₹2.18 lakh crore in FY23.

Dividends declared by operating CPSEs in FY24 stood at ₹1.23 lakh crore compared with ₹1.05 lakh crore in FY23, marking a rise of over 16%. Since only 66 CPSEs are listed on the exchanges, the entire dividend from the CPSEs goes to the government only.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Dividends from CPSEs exceed RE, surge to a record ₹66,000 crore

CPSEs के लाभांश संशोधित अनुमान (RE) से अधिक, रिकॉर्ड ₹66,000 करोड़ तक पहुँचे

Dividends from Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have surpassed the revised estimates (RE) for FY25 by over ₹10,000 crore, marking an all-time high.

केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (CPSEs) के लाभांश ने FY25 के संशोधित अनुमान (RE) को ₹10,000 करोड़ से अधिक पार कर लिया, जिससे अब तक का उच्चतम स्तर दर्ज हुआ।



- This figure **excludes dividends** from **public sector banks** and **public sector financial institutions**.
यह आंकड़ा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों और सार्वजनिक वित्तीय संस्थानों से प्राप्त लाभांश को शामिल नहीं करता।
- **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** data shows that about **₹66,000 crore** have been received as **dividends from CPSEs so far**.
निवेश और सार्वजनिक संपत्ति प्रबंधन विभाग (DIPAM) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, अब तक CPSEs से ₹66,000 करोड़ का लाभांश प्राप्त हुआ है।
- With **16 more days left** in the current fiscal, the total amount is **likely to reach ₹67,000 crore**.
वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष में अभी 16 दिन शेष हैं, जिससे कुल राशि ₹67,000 करोड़ तक पहुँचने की संभावना है।
- This amount is a **key component of non-tax revenue** and is likely to **bridge part of the shortfall** in 'Miscellaneous Capital Receipts' (funds raised through **minority shareholding sales** or **strategic disinvestment** by the government).
यह राशि गैर-कर राजस्व का एक प्रमुख घटक है और सरकार द्वारा अल्पसंख्यक हिस्सेदारी बिक्री या रणनीतिक विनिवेश के माध्यम से प्राप्त होने वाले 'विविध पूंजीगत प्राप्तियों' के घाटे को आंशिक रूप से पूरा करने में सहायक होगी।

Earnings update

आय की स्थिति

- The **Budget presented in July** pegged 'Dividends from Public Sector Enterprises and other investments' at **₹56,260 crore**, which was later revised to **₹55,000 crore** in the RE.
जुलाई में पेश किए गए बजट में 'सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों और अन्य निवेशों से लाभांश' का अनुमान ₹56,260 करोड़ लगाया गया था, जिसे बाद में संशोधित कर ₹55,000 करोड़ कर दिया गया।
- However, the **total realisation till date** has **surpassed the previous fiscal's ₹65,381 crore**.
हालांकि, अब तक की कुल प्राप्ति पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष के ₹65,381 करोड़ को पार कर चुकी है।
- At the same time, the **amount under 'Miscellaneous Capital Receipts'** has reached just **₹8,625 crore**, compared to the **RE of ₹33,000 crore** and **actual of ₹33,121 crore** in **FY24**.
इसी दौरान, 'विविध पूंजीगत प्राप्तियों' की राशि केवल ₹8,625 करोड़ तक पहुंची है, जबकि RE ₹33,000 करोड़ और FY24 में वास्तविक प्राप्ति ₹33,121 करोड़ थी।
- According to the **Public Enterprises Survey**, there are **272 operating CPSEs**, of which **212 reported a net profit of ₹3.43 lakh crore** in **FY24**, an **approximate 48% increase**



from ₹2.18 lakh crore in FY23.

सार्वजनिक उद्यम सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, 272 संचालित CPSEs में से 212 ने FY24 में ₹3.43 लाख करोड़ का शुद्ध लाभ दर्ज किया, जो FY23 के ₹2.18 लाख करोड़ की तुलना में लगभग 48% अधिक है।

- Dividends declared by operating CPSEs in FY24 stood at ₹1.23 lakh crore, compared with ₹1.05 lakh crore in FY23, marking a rise of over 16%.
संचालित CPSEs द्वारा FY24 में घोषित लाभांश ₹1.23 लाख करोड़ रहा, जबकि FY23 में यह ₹1.05 लाख करोड़ था, जो 16% से अधिक वृद्धि दर्शाता है।
- Since only 66 CPSEs are listed on stock exchanges, the entire dividend from CPSEs goes to the government only.
चूंकि सिर्फ 66 CPSEs ही स्टॉक एक्सचेंजों पर सूचीबद्ध हैं, इसलिए पूरा लाभांश केवल सरकार को ही प्राप्त होता है।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. The many layers behind the mayhem अराजकता के पीछे की कई परतें

The many layers behind the mayhem

A spate of violent incidents involving students and teenagers, which include street fights and brutal attacks aimed at maiming or even killing their peers, have left the State shell-shocked. Several lives have been lost in the ghastly acts with the future of those involved turning bleak. **M.P. Praveen** and **G. Krishnakumar** explore the trigger factors forcing the teenagers into the gruesome acts



styles, unresolved sibling rivalry, feuds between family members and

the moralistic elements in society have been craving for long.
The first salvo has been fired with the Central Board of Film Certification denying satellite rights to a recent Malayalam flick on the grounds of extreme violence, points out a popular filmmaker, who wished not to be quoted.
P. Vijayan, Additional Director General of Police, Intelligence, who was behind the concepts of social policing and Student Police Cadet programme, feels that attributing the violence amongst youth to a few convenient factors may result in a lopsided conclusion.
"The general deterioration in mental health, loss of a values-based system, the rising pleasure-seeking attitude, and the environment around the younger generation also play a role in shaping their responses and behaviour," he says.
"Films and drugs may serve as triggers but portraying them as foundational issues will not



GS Paper IV: Ethics

Essay

When he retires as Principal of a government school in Palakkad district this May, A.K. Anilkumar is likely to carry the memory of an incident that happened towards the fag end of his 36-year-long career, though he would prefer to forget it.

In January 2025, the video of a 17-year-old Plus One student from his school went viral on social media. Furious over the confiscation of his mobile phone, which was not allowed in the school, the boy could be seen making a death threat at his teachers, including Anilkumar. It created such a furore that it prompted the State government to order a probe.

"It was the first such experience in my long teaching career. It wasn't the fear of bodily harm that hurt me but the pain of whether all my years in teaching have been rewarded in such a manner," rues Anilkumar.

The incident came close on the heels of another incident in which a man was stabbed to death by two minor boys, aged 14 and 16, for allegedly questioning the public use of drugs at Thekkinkadu Maidan in Thrissur district on the New Year eve.

Since then, a spate of violent incidents involving youngsters has struck Kerala, claiming many lives and disrupting several families. A gang war-like clash between two groups of teenage students led to the death of a 15-year-old boy at **Thamarassery in Kozhikode**. Several instances of group clashes involving school students have gone viral on social media.

Many trigger factors

The violent incidents involving schoolchildren and teenagers have triggered a debate about what has gone wrong with the youth. While some blame it on the drug menace and the alleged influence of violent movies, others have raised deeper concerns that include gaps in parenting, mental health anxieties, and the impact of tech and social media on Gen Z.

Arun B. Nair, Professor of Psychiatry, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, feels that the younger generation is facing a social disconnect syndrome, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 lockdowns and the digital revolution.

"Digital revolution appears to have made humans more impulsive and impatient. The revolution, which facilitates instant fulfilment of a desire, whether going for a movie or expressing love, has also eliminated the previously existent time lapse between a desire and gratification. This leaves the brain hardly any time to evolve an

Aggressive behaviour by children to a large extent can be attributed to authoritarian and violent parenting styles, unresolved sibling rivalry, feuds between family members and with neighbours, and lack of parental supervision.

AMRUTH G. KUMAR
Professor of Education, School of Education, Central University of Kerala

alternative plan if that desire goes unfulfilled, resulting in aggressive overreaction with suicidal or homicidal ramifications," Dr. Nair says.

Thampy Mathai, Director of Maitri, the Kochi chapter of Befrienders Worldwide, a global organisation working for suicide prevention, points out that "suicidal tendencies are often found to be triggered by relationships, which, in the first place, are built on fleeting interactions on social media. When those relationships go haywire, they are hell-bent on either self-destruction or the destruction of the other partner," he says.

Asaad Muhammed, a social media influencer and a third-year psychology student at Farook College, Kozhikode, accuses the older generation of setting the narrative over the violent conduct of the new generation and the mainstream media running debates pandering to that.

'Convenient scapegoats'

"The older generation who runs the system is not willing to admit their follies in parenting and deficiencies in academic curriculum. They are even unwilling for a course correction. They, along with the media, are impatient to wrap up the debate by finding convenient scapegoats such as cinema and solutions like bringing back corporal punishment to straighten up the children. The stressful surroundings in which children are growing, their emotional well-being, and lack of avenues to express themselves are often neglected," he says.

Amruth G. Kumar, Professor of Education, School of Education, Central University of Kerala, attributes the child aggression to a large extent to the **authoritarian and violent parenting**

with neighbours, and lack of parental supervision.

"Violence can be used as a tool to establish dominance and status in peer groups. Students grab this idea from their surroundings. Violence from dominance is rampant around them and if the family environment also suggests that violence is an effective means for gaining control or respect, children tend to emulate it," he says.

Award-winning Malayalam filmmaker Blessy says that a few recent movies in Malayalam, which had an overdose of violence and reaped success at the box office, had tried to normalise killings or murdering. "I feel there is an attempt to celebrate such violence on screen knowingly or unknowingly," he says.

Mubsin Parari, a popular scriptwriter, questions the very premise of the debate, which he alleges has put the entire Gen Z under the needle of suspicion. "Have we carried out any scientific study yet on whether there is a spike in violence among the youth? Isn't it irresponsible to make such inferences without concrete data-based evidence?" he wonders. Coming to the defence of cinema, Parari feels that the grip of a social media giant on public opinion was way more dangerous than cinema's influence on the youth. The public falls for algorithm-driven sensationalism and populism, producing absurd paranoia to evade accountability, he says.

Blessy agrees that the blame of instilling aggression and violence in the minds of the youth cannot be placed on cinema alone, as it figures among several other psychological and social issues prevalent in society. "But cinema is capable of an instant transfer of an emotion to the audience," he says.

A few members of the film fraternity, who preferred not to be quoted, share the apprehension that the debate may even lead to backdoor censorship of cinemas, which, according to them,

help. Working in silos will not help but collective societal efforts are needed. Also, scientific studies on behaviour of the youth are needed," he says.

Collaborative approach called for
Prof. Kumar has called for the elimination of undemocratic spaces in households and society as the first step towards preventing violence among children, besides a collaborative approach from the family, school, and community.

"Parents shall provide emotional security and a safe home environment for their children. Also, schools should learn to decode the cues to understand the problems students face at home and in the community, their fears, and concerns. Rather than having a counsellor in every school, every teacher needs to become a psychologist who understands the child," he says.

Dr. Nair finds faulty parenting practices as problematic, especially parents' lack of communication during their children's adolescence.

Authoritative parenting need of the hour
"Adolescents often complain that parents either don't listen to their problems or trivialise them while parents complain of their adolescent children being not obedient. What is needed is not authoritarian parenting, which the previous generations were used to, but authoritative parenting, which is a blend of affection and discipline. Parents need to understand that their children were born in a more rights-based world with greater emphasis on personal rights and space," Dr. Nair says.

He also warns that addiction to gadgets and graphically violent online games could serve as a trigger to a generation, which is already subjected to faulty parenting and is impatient and impulsive owing to their over exposure to digital technology.

Anilkumar remains worried about the aggressive behaviour of his teenaged student. So are many parents and teachers about the lives of the youth lost to violence on the streets.

<p>The younger generation is facing a social disconnect syndrome, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 lockdowns and the digital revolution.</p> <p>ARUN B. NAIR Professor of Psychiatry, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram</p> 	<p>A few recent Malayalam movies have tried to normalise killings or murdering. I feel there is an attempt to celebrate such violence on screen knowingly or unknowingly.</p> <p>BLESSY Filmmaker</p> 	<p>Films and drugs may serve as triggers, but portraying them as foundational issues will not help. Working in silos will not help, collective societal efforts are needed.</p> <p>P. VIJAYAN Additional Director General of Police, Intelligence</p> 
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The many layers behind the mayhem

अराजकता के पीछे की कई परतें

A spate of violent incidents involving students and teenagers, including street fights and brutal attacks, has shocked the State.

छात्रों और किशोरों से जुड़े हिंसक घटनाओं की लहर, जिनमें सड़क झगड़े और क्रूर हमले शामिल हैं, ने राज्य को झकझोर कर रख दिया है।

- Several lives have been lost in these gruesome acts, leaving the future of those involved uncertain.

इन भयावह घटनाओं में कई लोगों की जान चली गई, जिससे शामिल लोगों का भविष्य अनिश्चित हो गया।

A shocking school incident

एक चौंकाने वाली स्कूल घटना



- In January 2025, a video of a 17-year-old Plus One student from a government school in Palakkad went viral.
जनवरी 2025 में, पलक्कड़ के एक सरकारी स्कूल के 17 वर्षीय प्लस वन छात्र का वीडियो वायरल हुआ।
- The student, angry over the confiscation of his mobile phone, was seen threatening his teachers with death, including Principal A.K. Anilkumar.
मोबाइल फोन जब्त किए जाने से नाराज छात्र ने अपने शिक्षकों को जान से मारने की धमकी दी, जिसमें प्रधानाचार्य ए.के. अनिलकुमार भी शामिल थे।
- The incident caused an uproar, leading the State government to order a probe.
इस घटना से हंगामा मच गया, जिसके कारण राज्य सरकार ने जांच के आदेश दिए।
- Anilkumar, set to retire in May after 36 years, expressed deep disappointment over the incident.
अनिलकुमार, जो मई में 36 साल की सेवा के बाद सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले हैं, ने इस घटना पर गहरी निराशा व्यक्त की।

Other violent incidents

अन्य हिंसक घटनाएं

- Shortly after, two minor boys (14 and 16 years old) fatally stabbed a man in Thrissur on New Year's Eve for questioning their public drug use.
इसके तुरंत बाद, 14 और 16 वर्षीय दो नाबालिग लड़कों ने नए साल की पूर्व संध्या पर त्रिशूर में एक व्यक्ति की चाकू मारकर हत्या कर दी, क्योंकि उसने सार्वजनिक स्थान पर नशीली दवाओं के उपयोग पर सवाल उठाया था।
- A gang war between two teenage groups led to the death of a 15-year-old boy in Thamarassery, Kozhikode.
कोझिकोड के थामरसेरी में दो किशोर समूहों के बीच गैंगवार में 15 वर्षीय लड़के की मौत हो गई।
- Several group clashes among school students have gone viral on social media.
स्कूल छात्रों के बीच कई समूह झगड़ों के वीडियो सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल हो गए हैं।

Many trigger factors

कई कारणों से बढ़ती हिंसा

- The rise in violent acts by teenagers has sparked a debate on causes.
किशोरों द्वारा बढ़ती हिंसा ने इसके कारणों पर बहस छेड़ दी है।
- Some blame the drug menace and violent movies, while others point to parenting gaps, mental health issues, and social media influence.
कुछ लोग इसे नशीली दवाओं की समस्या और हिंसक फिल्मों का प्रभाव मानते हैं, जबकि अन्य पालन-पोषण की खामियों, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं और सोशल मीडिया प्रभाव को जिम्मेदार ठहराते हैं।

Expert Opinions



विशेषज्ञों की राय

- **Dr. Arun B. Nair, Professor of Psychiatry**, believes teenagers are facing **social disconnect syndrome**, worsened by the **COVID-19 lockdowns** and the **digital revolution**.
मनोचिकित्सा प्रोफेसर अरुण बी. नायर का मानना है कि किशोर सामाजिक अलगाव सिंड्रोम से जूझ रहे हैं, जो कोविड-19 लॉकडाउन और डिजिटल क्रांति के कारण और बढ़ गया है।
- The **digital revolution** has made youth **impulsive and impatient**, reducing **time for alternative decision-making**, which leads to **aggressive reactions**.
डिजिटल क्रांति ने युवाओं को आवेगशील और अधीर बना दिया है, जिससे विकल्प सोचने का समय कम हो गया है, और इसका परिणाम आक्रामक प्रतिक्रियाओं में दिखता है।
- **Thampy Mathai, Director of Maithri**, states that **suicidal tendencies** among youth arise from **social media-based relationships**, which often end in **self-destruction or violence**.
मैत्री संगठन के निदेशक थंपी मैथाई के अनुसार, युवाओं में आत्महत्या की प्रवृत्ति अक्सर सोशल मीडिया आधारित रिश्तों से उत्पन्न होती है, जो आत्म-विनाश या हिंसा में बदल जाती हैं।
- **Aseel Muhammed, a social media influencer**, argues that **older generations unfairly blame youth**, while the **mainstream media exaggerates their actions**.
सोशल मीडिया इन्फ्लुएंसर असील मुहम्मद का मानना है कि पुरानी पीढ़ी युवाओं को गलत तरीके से दोष देती है, जबकि मुख्यधारा की मीडिया उनके कार्यों को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर पेश करती है

Convenient scapegoats'

'सुविधाजनक बलि के बकरे'

- **Older generations** running the system **refuse to admit** their **parenting mistakes** and **academic curriculum deficiencies**.
पुरानी पीढ़ी, जो व्यवस्था चला रही है, अपनी पालन-पोषण की गलतियों और शैक्षिक पाठ्यक्रम की कमियों को स्वीकार करने से इनकार करती है।
- Instead of making **course corrections**, they and the **media** prefer **blaming cinema** and suggesting **corporal punishment** as a solution.
सुधार करने के बजाय, वे और मीडिया, सिनेमाजगत को दोषी ठहराना और शारीरिक दंड को समाधान के रूप में सुझाना पसंद करते हैं।
- **Children's emotional well-being**, **stressful surroundings**, and **lack of self-expression avenues** are often **ignored**.
बच्चों की भावनात्मक स्थिति, तनावपूर्ण वातावरण, और स्वयं को व्यक्त करने के साधनों की कमी को अक्सर नजरअंदाज किया जाता है।

Parental influence on child aggression

बच्चों की आक्रामकता पर माता-पिता का प्रभाव



- Prof. Amruth G. Kumar attributes child aggression to violent parenting, unresolved sibling rivalry, and family disputes.
प्रो. अमृत जी. कुमार के अनुसार, बच्चों की आक्रामकता का कारण हिंसक पालन-पोषण, भाई-बहनों की प्रतिद्वंद्विता, और पारिवारिक झगड़े हैं।
- Children adopt violence as a tool for dominance if their environment normalizes it.
यदि बच्चों का वातावरण हिंसा को सामान्य मानता है, तो वे इसे प्रभाव जमाने के तरीके के रूप में अपनाते हैं।

Impact of cinema

सिनेमा का प्रभाव

- Filmmaker Blessy says some Malayalam films with excessive violence have normalized killings.
फिल्म निर्माता ब्लेसी का कहना है कि कुछ मलयालम फिल्मों, जिनमें अत्यधिक हिंसा है, ने हत्या को सामान्य बना दिया है।
- Scriptwriter Muhsin Parari argues that no scientific study proves an increase in youth violence, and blaming Gen Z is unfair.
स्क्रिप्ट राइटर मुहसिन परारी का मानना है कि कोई वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन यह साबित नहीं करता कि युवाओं में हिंसा बढ़ी है, और जनरेशन Z को दोष देना अनुचित है।
- Parari claims that social media algorithms manipulate public opinion more than cinema.
परारी का दावा है कि सोशल मीडिया के एल्गोरिदम जनता की राय को सिनेमा से अधिक प्रभावित करते हैं।
- Filmmakers fear this debate may lead to hidden censorship on movies.
फिल्म निर्माता चिंतित हैं कि यह बहस फिल्मों पर गुप्त सेंसरशिप की ओर ले जा सकती है।

Law enforcement perspective

कानूनी दृष्टिकोण

- P. Vijayan, ADGP (Intelligence), warns that blaming a few factors leads to incomplete conclusions.
पी. विजयन, एडीजीपी (इंटेलिजेंस) का मानना है कि कुछ गिने-चुने कारणों को दोष देना अधूरी निष्कर्षों की ओर ले जाता है।
- Deteriorating mental health, pleasure-seeking behavior, and loss of values influence youth violence.
गिरता मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, सुखवादी प्रवृत्ति, और मूल्यों की कमी युवाओं की हिंसा को प्रभावित करती है।



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- **Films and drugs may be triggers, but scientific studies on youth behavior are necessary.**

फिल्में और नशीली दवाएं प्रेरक हो सकती हैं, लेकिन युवाओं के व्यवहार पर वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन आवश्यक हैं।

A collaborative approach is needed

सामूहिक प्रयास की आवश्यकता

- **Prof. Kumar suggests eliminating undemocratic spaces in households to reduce youth violence.**
प्रो. कुमार सुझाव देते हैं कि घरों में तानाशाही माहौल को समाप्त करना युवा हिंसा को कम करने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- **Families, schools, and communities must work together to provide emotional security for children.**
परिवार, स्कूल, और समुदाय को मिलकर बच्चों के लिए भावनात्मक सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए।
- **Teachers should act as psychologists to understand student fears and concerns.**
शिक्षकों को मनोवैज्ञानिक की तरह कार्य करना चाहिए ताकि वे छात्रों की समस्याओं और चिंताओं को समझ सकें।

Authoritative parenting over authoritarian parenting

तानाशाही पालन-पोषण के बजाय अनुशासित और स्नेही पालन-पोषण

- **Dr. Nair suggests authoritative parenting, which balances discipline and affection instead of strict authoritarian parenting.**
डॉ. नायर अनुशासित और स्नेही पालन-पोषण (authoritative parenting) की सलाह देते हैं, जो कठोर अनुशासनात्मक पालन-पोषण (authoritarian parenting) से बेहतर है।
- **Adolescents feel unheard, while parents feel their children are disobedient.**
किशोरों को लगता है कि उनकी बातें नहीं सुनी जातीं, जबकि माता-पिता को लगता है कि उनके बच्चे आज्ञाकारी नहीं हैं।
- **Modern children grow up in a rights-based world, so parents must acknowledge their personal space.**
आज के बच्चे एक अधिकार-आधारित दुनिया में बड़े हो रहे हैं, इसलिए माता-पिता को उनके व्यक्तिगत स्थान को स्वीकार करना चाहिए।
- **Excessive gadget use and violent online games could aggravate aggression in digitally exposed youth.**
अत्यधिक गैजेट उपयोग और हिंसक ऑनलाइन गेम डिजिटल दुनिया से प्रभावित युवाओं में आक्रामकता बढ़ा सकते हैं।



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Lingering worries about youth violence

युवा हिंसा को लेकर बढ़ती चिंताएं

- Anilkumar remains worried about the aggressive behavior of his student.
अनिलकुमार अभी भी अपने छात्र के आक्रामक व्यवहार को लेकर चिंतित हैं।
- Parents and teachers fear losing more youth to street violence.
माता-पिता और शिक्षक चिंतित हैं कि और युवा सड़क हिंसा के शिकार हो सकते हैं।

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Syria's new constitution gives sweeping powers, offers no protection for minorities

सीरिया का नया संविधान व्यापक अधिकार देता है, अल्पसंख्यकों को कोई सुरक्षा नहीं देता



Syria's new constitution gives sweeping powers, offers no protection for minority

PCS

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Syria's new temporary constitution concentrates power in hands of interim President Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, also known as Ahmed al-Sharaa, and fails to include enough protections for minorities, experts warn. The declaration, signed into law on Thursday, establishes a five-year transitional period and follows the toppling of Bashar al-Assad's repressive government by Islamist-led rebels after nearly 14 years of civil war.

"The constitutional declaration grants absolute powers to the interim President," said Sam Dallah, a constitutional law profes-



Abu Mohammad al-Jolani

sor and former spokesperson for the drafting committee of the 2012 constitution, who left Syria after the outbreak of the civil war.

He said it establishes "a presidential-type regime", where executive power rests with the interim President and the Ministers he appoints, and does not in-

clude a post of Prime Minister.

Under the new framework, elections based on a new constitution will take place only after the transitional period.

According to the temporary constitution, Mr. Jolani "appoints one-third" of the members of the future assembly and forms a committee to select the members of the electoral college that will elect the remaining parliamentarians.

Although the document describes the judiciary as "independent", it gives the interim President the power to appoint members of the Supreme Constitutional Court, the country's highest judicial authority.

"The concentration of powers in the hands of a single person will inevitably lead to the monopolisation of decision-making," the expert warned.

While the constitutional declaration draws heavily from previous constitutions, it no longer includes mention of democracy.

One key change from the previous constitution is that Islamic jurisprudence is now described as "the principal source" of legislation, rather than just "a principal source".

Islam remains the religion of the head of state, Arabic the sole official language and the constitutional declaration offers no guarantees or protections for Syria's minorities.

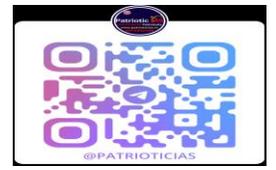
Syria's new constitution gives sweeping powers, offers no protection for minorities

सीरिया का नया संविधान व्यापक अधिकार देता है, अल्पसंख्यकों को कोई सुरक्षा नहीं देता

Syria's new temporary constitution concentrates power in the hands of interim President Abu Mohammad al-Jolani (also known as Ahmed al-Sharaa).

सीरिया का नया अस्थायी संविधान अंतरिम राष्ट्रपति अबू मोहम्मद अल-जोलेनी (जिन्हें अहमद अल-शारा के नाम से भी जाना जाता है) के हाथों में शक्ति केंद्रित करता है।

- Experts warn that the constitution fails to include enough protections for minorities. विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी है कि संविधान में अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए पर्याप्त सुरक्षा उपाय शामिल नहीं हैं।



Transitional period and governance structure

संक्रमणकालीन अवधि और शासन संरचना

- The **constitutional declaration**, signed into law on **Thursday**, establishes a **five-year transitional period**.
गुरुवार को कानून के रूप में हस्ताक्षरित यह संवैधानिक घोषणा, पांच साल की संक्रमणकालीन अवधि निर्धारित करती है।
- The new system follows the **toppling of Bashar al-Assad's government by Islamist-led rebels after 14 years of civil war**.
यह नया शासन 14 वर्षों के गृहयुद्ध के बाद इस्लामी विद्रोहियों द्वारा बशर अल-असद की सरकार को गिराने के बाद लागू हुआ।
- The constitution **grants absolute powers** to the **interim President**, who controls **executive authority** and appoints **Ministers**.
संविधान अंतरिम राष्ट्रपति को पूर्ण अधिकार देता है, जो कार्यकारी शक्ति को नियंत्रित करते हैं और मंत्रियों की नियुक्ति करते हैं।
- The system does not include a **Prime Minister**, making it a **presidential-type regime**.
इस प्रणाली में प्रधानमंत्री का कोई पद नहीं है, जिससे यह राष्ट्रपति-शासित शासन प्रणाली बन जाती है।

Election framework and judiciary control

चुनाव प्रणाली और न्यायपालिका पर नियंत्रण

- Elections will be held **only after the five-year transitional period** under a new permanent constitution.
नई स्थायी संविधान के तहत चुनाव केवल पांच साल की संक्रमणकालीन अवधि के बाद होंगे।
- The interim President **appoints one-third of the future assembly members** and controls the selection of the **electoral college** for electing the rest.
अंतरिम राष्ट्रपति भविष्य की विधानसभा के एक-तिहाई सदस्यों की नियुक्ति करते हैं और निर्वाचन मंडल के गठन को नियंत्रित करते हैं।
- Though the document describes the **judiciary as independent**, it gives the **interim President the power to appoint members of the Supreme Constitutional Court**.
दस्तावेज़ में न्यायपालिका को स्वतंत्र बताया गया है, लेकिन यह अंतरिम राष्ट्रपति को सर्वोच्च संवैधानिक न्यायालय के सदस्यों की नियुक्ति का अधिकार देता है।
- Experts warn that this **concentration of power** will lead to **monopolization of decision-making**.
विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि शक्ति का यह केंद्रीकरण निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रिया के एकाधिकार की ओर ले जाएगा।



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Key constitutional changes

संविधान में प्रमुख बदलाव

- Unlike previous constitutions, the new declaration **no longer mentions democracy**.
पिछले संविधानों के विपरीत, नई घोषणा में लोकतंत्र का कोई उल्लेख नहीं है।
- **Islamic jurisprudence** is now described as “**the principal source**” of legislation, instead of “**a principal source**”.
इस्लामी न्यायशास्त्र को अब कानून का “मुख्य स्रोत” बताया गया है, जबकि पहले यह “एक प्रमुख स्रोत” था।
- **Islam remains the official religion of the head of state**, and **Arabic remains the sole official language**.
इस्लाम राज्य प्रमुख का आधिकारिक धर्म बना रहेगा, और अरबी एकमात्र आधिकारिक भाषा बनी रहेगी।
- The new constitution **offers no guarantees or protections for Syria’s minorities**.
नया संविधान सीरिया के अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए कोई सुरक्षा या गारंटी प्रदान नहीं करता।

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