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# PATRIOTIC IAS

**THE HINDU NEWSPAPER**  
**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
**17 MARCH 2025**

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17\_03\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Fire rips through nightclub in North Macedonia killing 59  
उत्तर मैसेडोनिया के नाइटक्लब में भीषण आग, 59 लोगों की मौत

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# Fire rips through nightclub in North Macedonia killing 59

**GS Paper I: Mapping**

**Agence France-Presse**

SKOPJE

A fire tore through a nightclub in North Macedonia early on Sunday, killing 59 people, apparently after on-stage fireworks set the venue ablaze, authorities said, announcing arrest warrants for four persons.

They said 155 injured people had been taken to hospitals across the country, 18 of them in critical condition. Some of the more serious cases were to be taken to hospitals in other European countries.

The blaze started in the Club Pulse in the eastern town of Kocani as the place was packed with more than 1,000 mostly young fans attending a concert by a popular hip-hop duo called DNK.



**Charred remains:** The nightclub in the town of Kocani in North Macedonia that caught fire early on Sunday. AP

The fire was probably caused by pyrotechnic devices “used for light effects,” said Interior Minister Pance Toskovski, who visited the scene with Prime Minister Hristijan Mickoski. “Sparks caught the ceiling, which was made of easily flammable material, after which the fire rapidly

spread across the whole discotheque, creating thick smoke,” Mr. Toskovski said.

The head of the Kocani hospital said that “most of the dead suffered injuries from the stampede”. “Seventy of the patients have burns and carbon monoxide poisoning,” she said.

**Fire rips through nightclub in North Macedonia killing 59**

**उत्तर मैसेडोनिया के नाइटक्लब में भीषण आग, 59 लोगों की मौत**



A fire broke out in a nightclub in North Macedonia early on Sunday, killing 59 people.

रविवार तड़के उत्तर मैसेडोनिया के एक नाइटक्लब में आग लग गई, जिससे 59 लोगों की मौत हो गई।

- Authorities suspect the fire was caused by on-stage fireworks, which set the venue ablaze.  
अधिकारियों को संदेह है कि मंच पर चलाए गए आतिशबाज़ी उपकरणों के कारण पूरी जगह में आग फैल गई।
- Arrest warrants have been issued for four people in connection with the incident.  
इस घटना के संबंध में चार लोगों के खिलाफ गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी किए गए हैं।

## Casualties and medical response

### हताहत और चिकित्सा प्रतिक्रिया

- 155 injured people have been taken to hospitals across the country, with 18 in critical condition.  
155 घायलों को देशभर के अस्पतालों में भर्ती कराया गया है, जिनमें 18 की हालत गंभीर बताई जा रही है।
- Some of the seriously injured patients will be transported to hospitals in other European countries for treatment.  
कुछ गंभीर रूप से घायल मरीजों को अन्य यूरोपीय देशों के अस्पतालों में भेजा जाएगा इलाज के लिए।

## Cause of the fire

### आग लगने का कारण

- The fire started at Club Pulse in the eastern town of Kocani, where over 1,000 young fans had gathered for a concert by hip-hop duo DNK.  
आग पूर्वी शहर कोचानी के क्लब पल्स में लगी, जहां 1,000 से अधिक युवा प्रशंसक हिप-हॉप जोड़ी DNK के एक संगीत कार्यक्रम में शामिल हुए थे।
- Interior Minister Pance Toskovski stated that the fire was likely caused by pyrotechnic devices used for light effects.  
गृह मंत्री पांसे टॉस्कोवस्की ने कहा कि आग संभवतः प्रकाश प्रभाव के लिए उपयोग किए गए आतिशबाज़ी उपकरणों के कारण लगी।



- Sparks from the fireworks ignited the ceiling, which was made of highly flammable material, causing the fire to spread rapidly across the nightclub.  
आतिशबाज़ी से निकली चिंगारियों ने छत को आग पकड़वा दी, जो कि अत्यधिक ज्वलनशील सामग्री से बनी थी, जिससे आग तेजी से पूरे नाइटक्लब में फैल गई।

## Casualties from stampede and smoke inhalation

### भगदड़ और धुएँ से हुई क्षति

- The head of Kocani hospital reported that most of the deceased died due to the stampede.  
कोचानी अस्पताल प्रमुख ने बताया कि अधिकांश मृतकों की मौत भगदड़ के कारण हुई।
- Seventy injured patients suffered from burns and carbon monoxide poisoning due to the fire. 70 घायल मरीजों को झुलसने और कार्बन मोनोऑक्साइड विषाक्तता का सामना करना पड़ा।

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

1. 31 killed in U.S. strikes on Yemen; Houthis hit back  
अमेरिकी हमले में यमन में 31 मारे गए; हौती ने पलटवार किया
2. Every noble attempt for peace with Pakistan met with hostility, betrayal: PM  
पाकिस्तान के साथ शांति की हर नेक पहल को दुश्मनी और विश्वासघात मिला: प्रधानमंत्री
3. Terror on the train  
ट्रेन में आतंक
4. The challenges of public health education in India  
भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा की चुनौतियाँ
5. Rare success  
दुर्लभ सफलता
6. Tackling the problem of nutrition  
पोषण की समस्या से निपटना



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**7. Should cancer be a notifiable disease?**

क्या कैंसर को एक अधिसूचित रोग बनाया जाना चाहिए?

**8. Is Syria heading toward peace or more chaos?**

क्या सीरिया शांति की ओर बढ़ रहा है या और अधिक अराजकता की ओर?

**9. Global intelligence chiefs converge in Delhi meet**

नई दिल्ली में वैश्विक खुफिया प्रमुखों की बैठक आयोजित

**10. New Bill proposes jail term up to 7 years for using forged passport**

नया विधेयक जाली पासपोर्ट के उपयोग पर 7 साल तक की सजा का प्रस्ताव करता है

**11. In a 2014 judgment, Supreme Court had favoured 'linguistic secularism'**

2014 के एक फैसले में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 'भाषाई धर्मनिरपेक्षता' का समर्थन किया

**12. India, New Zealand resume trade deal talks after decade**

भारत और न्यूजीलैंड ने एक दशक बाद व्यापार समझौता वार्ता फिर से शुरू की



# 31 killed in U.S. strikes on Yemen; Houthis hit back

The rebels say their armed forces launched an attack on a U.S. carrier in the Red Sea; 'hell will rain down upon' the militant group and Iran, its main backer, Trump warns; Tehran slams America

**GS Paper II: IR**

**Agence France-Presse**

**Associated Press**

SANAA

**T**he first U.S. strikes against Yemen's Houthis since Donald Trump took office killed 31 people on Saturday evening, the rebels said, with the United States President warning "hell will rain down upon" the Iran-backed group if it did not stop attacking shipping.

The Houthis said they launched an attack on a U.S. carrier in the Red Sea on Sunday, hours after the deadly strikes.

Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi condemned the deaths, and said Washington had "no authority" to dictate Tehran's foreign policy.

The Houthis, who have



**Deadly hit:** Smoke rises from a location reportedly hit by U.S. air strikes in Sanaa, Yemen, on Saturday. AP

attacked Israel and Red Sea shipping throughout the Gaza war, said children were among those killed.

Attacks on Sanaa, as well as on areas in Saada, Al-Bayda and Radaa, killed at least 31 people and wounded 101, "most of

whom were children and women", Houthi Health Ministry spokesperson Anis Al-Asbahi said.

The Houthis had said earlier that the strikes "will not pass without response". "In response to this (U.S.) aggression, the

armed forces conducted a military operation... targeting the US aircraft carrier USS Harry Truman and its accompanying warships," the group said in a statement, adding it had launched 18 missiles and a drone.

Mr. Trump, in a post on social media, vowed to "use overwhelming lethal force" to end the Houthi attacks, which the rebels say are in solidarity with Palestinians amid the Gaza war.

Mr. Trump also issued a stern warning to the group's main backer. "To Iran: Support for the Houthi terrorists must end IMMEDIATELY!" he said, adding it would be held "fully accountable" for any continued threats.

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**31 killed in U.S. strikes on Yemen; Houthis hit back**

**अमेरिकी हमले में यमन में 31 मारे गए; हौती ने पलटवार किया**

The first U.S. strikes against **Yemen's Houthis** since Donald Trump took office killed 31 people on Saturday evening, according to the



rebels. डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के पदभार संभालने के बाद यमन के हौती विद्रोहियों पर पहला अमेरिकी हमला शनिवार शाम को हुआ, जिसमें 31 लोग मारे गए, विद्रोहियों के अनुसार।

- U.S. President Donald Trump warned that "hell will rain down upon" the Iran-backed group if it did not stop attacking shipping. अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने चेतावनी दी कि यदि ईरान समर्थित समूह ने जलपोतों पर हमले बंद नहीं किए, तो "नरक बरस पड़ेगा"।

#### Houthis respond with an attack

हौती ने पलटवार किया

- The Houthis launched an attack on a U.S. aircraft carrier in the Red Sea on Sunday, just hours after the deadly U.S. strikes. हौती विद्रोहियों ने रविवार को लाल सागर में एक अमेरिकी विमान वाहक पोत पर हमला किया, जो अमेरिकी हमलों के कुछ घंटों बाद हुआ।
- The group claimed to have launched 18 missiles and a drone targeting USS Harry Truman and its warships. \*\*समूह ने दावा किया कि उसने USS हैरी ट्रूमैन और उसके युद्धपोतों को निशाना बनाकर 18 मिसाइलें और एक ड्रोन दागे।

#### Reactions from Iran and global condemnation

ईरान की प्रतिक्रिया और वैश्विक निंदा

- Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abbas Araghchi, condemned the attack and said Washington had "no authority" over Tehran's foreign policy. ईरान के विदेश मंत्री अब्बास अरागची ने इस हमले की निंदा करते हुए कहा कि वॉशिंगटन को तेहरान की विदेश नीति पर कोई अधिकार नहीं है।
- The Houthis claimed that among those killed were women and children, with 101 people wounded. हौती विद्रोहियों ने दावा किया कि मारे गए लोगों में महिलाएं और बच्चे शामिल थे, और 101 लोग घायल हुए।
- The attacks targeted Sanaa, Saada, Al-Bayda, and Radaa, killing at least 31 people. हमलों में सना, सादा, अल-बैदा और रदा को निशाना बनाया गया, जिसमें कम से कम 31 लोग मारे गए।

#### Trump's warning to Iran

ट्रंप की ईरान को चेतावनी

- Trump vowed to use "overwhelming lethal force" to end the Houthi attacks, which the rebels claim are in solidarity with Palestinians amid the Gaza war. ट्रंप ने "भारी घातक बल" का उपयोग करने की धमकी दी ताकि हौती हमलों को रोका जा सके, जिसे विद्रोही गाजा युद्ध में फिलिस्तीनियों के समर्थन में बता रहे हैं।



- Trump also issued a stern warning to Iran, stating: "Support for the Houthi terrorists must end IMMEDIATELY!" ट्रंप ने ईरान को कड़ी चेतावनी देते हुए कहा: "हौथी आतंकवादियों का समर्थन तुरंत बंद होना चाहिए!"
- He added that Iran would be held "fully accountable" for any further threats. उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि ईरान को किसी भी और खतरे के लिए "पूरी तरह जिम्मेदार" ठहराया जाएगा।

## Houthis (Ansar Allah)

### हौथी (अंसार अल्लाह)

- Origin and Background  
उत्पत्ति और पृष्ठभूमि

The Houthis, officially known as **Ansar Allah**, originated from the **Zaydi Shia community** in northern Yemen. Their movement began in the **1990s**, initially focusing on **cultural and religious revivalism**. Over time, they transformed into a formidable **political and military force**.

हौथी, जिन्हें आधिकारिक रूप से अंसार अल्लाह कहा जाता है, ज़ैदी शिया समुदाय से उत्पन्न हुए थे और इनका केंद्र उत्तरी यमन में था। इनका आंदोलन 1990 के दशक में शुरू हुआ, जो प्रारंभ में सांस्कृतिक और धार्मिक पुनर्जागरण पर केंद्रित था। समय के साथ, वे एक शक्तिशाली राजनीतिक और सैन्य शक्ति बन गए।

- Rise to Prominence  
प्रमुखता की ओर उभरना

In 2014, the Houthis seized the Yemeni capital, **Sana'a**, leading to the **ousting of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi**. This action escalated into a broader **conflict involving regional powers**.

2014 में, हौथियों ने यमनी राजधानी सना पर कब्जा कर लिया, जिससे राष्ट्रपति अब्दरबुह मंसूर हादी को सत्ता से हटना पड़ा। इस घटना ने क्षेत्रीय शक्तियों को शामिल करते हुए संघर्ष को और गहरा कर दिया।

- International Involvement  
अंतरराष्ट्रीय हस्तक्षेप

A **Saudi-led coalition** intervened in 2015 to **restore Hadi's government**, resulting in a **protracted conflict**. The Houthis have received **support from Iran**, including **military aid**, further complicating the situation.



2015 में, सऊदी के नेतृत्व वाले गठबंधन ने हादी सरकार की बहाली के लिए हस्तक्षेप किया, जिससे लंबे समय तक चलने वाला संघर्ष शुरू हो गया। हौथियों को ईरान से समर्थन मिला, जिसमें सैन्य सहायता भी शामिल थी, जिससे स्थिति और जटिल हो गई।

- **Designation as a Terrorist Organization**  
आतंकवादी संगठन के रूप में नामांकन

On January 22, 2025, the United States designated Ansar Allah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. This decision was based on their attacks on civilian infrastructure, including airports in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and assaults on commercial vessels in the Red Sea.

22 जनवरी 2025 को, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने अंसार अल्लाह को एक विदेशी आतंकवादी संगठन घोषित किया। यह निर्णय उनके नागरिक बुनियादी ढांचे पर हमलों, सऊदी अरब और UAE के हवाई अड्डों पर हमलों, और रेड सी में वाणिज्यिक जहाजों पर हमलों के कारण लिया गया।



# Every noble attempt for peace with Pakistan met with hostility, betrayal: PM

**GS Paper II: India's Foreign Policy**

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

Noting that all of India's attempts to foster peace with Pakistan have been met with hostility and betrayal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed hope that wisdom will prevail on the leadership in Islamabad to improve bilateral relations.

In a three-hour conversation with American scientist and podcaster Lex Fridman, who released the episode on Sunday, Mr. Modi emphasised his similarities to U.S. President Donald Trump, noting that Mr. Trump seems to have a clearer road map for his second term. With regard to China, he cited the return to normalcy on the border as evidence of the power of dialogue over discord and called for the neighbours to cooperate in



Since the 21st century is Asia's century, we want India and China to compete in a healthy and natural way. Competition is not a bad thing, but it should never turn into conflict

**NARENDRA MODI**  
Prime Minister



the interest of global stability and prosperity.

Recalling his own swearing-in ceremony in 2014, Mr. Modi said he had specially invited his Pakistan counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, with the hope that the two countries could turn over a new leaf.

"This sent a clear message to the world about India's commitment to peace and harmony, but we didn't get the desired outcome... Yet, every noble attempt at fostering peace was met with hostility and

betrayal. We sincerely hope that wisdom prevails upon them and they choose the path of peace."

Despite past tensions with China, Mr. Modi said he favours dialogue over discord. "Differences are natural. When two neighbouring countries exist, occasional disagreements are bound to happen... but our effort is to ensure that these differences don't turn into disputes."

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**Every noble attempt for peace with Pakistan met with hostility, betrayal: PM**

**पाकिस्तान के साथ शांति की हर नेक पहल को दुश्मनी और विश्वासघात मिला: प्रधानमंत्री**

**Noting that all of India's attempts to foster peace with Pakistan have been met with hostility and betrayal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed hope that wisdom will prevail on Islamabad's leadership to improve bilateral relations. प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि भारत द्वारा पाकिस्तान के साथ शांति स्थापित करने के सभी प्रयासों**

**को दुश्मनी और विश्वासघात का सामना करना पड़ा, लेकिन उन्होंने उम्मीद जताई कि इस्लामाबाद की नेतृत्व क्षमता में समझदारी आएगी और द्विपक्षीय संबंध बेहतर होंगे।**

- In a three-hour conversation with **American scientist and podcaster Lex Fridman**, who released the episode on **Sunday**, **Mr. Modi** emphasised his similarities with **U.S. President Donald Trump**, noting that **Mr. Trump** seems to have a clearer road map for his second term. अमेरिकी वैज्ञानिक और पॉडकास्टर **लेक्स फ्रिडमैन** के साथ तीन घंटे की बातचीत में, जिसका एपिसोड रविवार को जारी किया गया, मोदी ने अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के साथ अपनी समानताओं पर जोर दिया और कहा कि ट्रंप के दूसरे कार्यकाल के लिए स्पष्ट रोडमैप है।



### India-Pakistan relations and past efforts

#### भारत-पाकिस्तान संबंध और पिछले प्रयास

- Recalling his own **swearing-in ceremony in 2014**, Mr. Modi said he had specially invited his Pakistan counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, with the hope that **the two countries could turn over a new leaf**. मोदी ने 2014 में अपनी शपथ ग्रहण समारोह को याद करते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने विशेष रूप से अपने पाकिस्तानी समकक्ष नवाज शरीफ को आमंत्रित किया ताकि दोनों देश एक नया अध्याय शुरू कर सकें।
- "This sent a **clear message to the world** about India's commitment to peace and harmony, but we didn't get the desired outcome... Yet, **every noble attempt at fostering peace was met with hostility and betrayal**. We sincerely hope that wisdom prevails upon them and they choose the path of peace." "इसने दुनिया को एक स्पष्ट संदेश दिया कि भारत शांति और सद्भाव के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, लेकिन हमें मनचाहा परिणाम नहीं मिला... फिर भी, हर नेक शांति प्रयास को दुश्मनी और विश्वासघात के साथ मिला। हम ईमानदारी से आशा करते हैं कि उन पर समझदारी हावी होगी और वे शांति का मार्ग चुनेंगे।

### India-China relations and the power of dialogue

#### भारत-चीन संबंध और संवाद की शक्ति

- Despite **past tensions with China**, Mr. Modi said he **favours dialogue over discord**. चीन के साथ पिछले तनावों के बावजूद, मोदी ने कहा कि वे मतभेद के बजाय संवाद को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- "Differences are natural. When **two neighbouring countries exist**, **occasional disagreements are bound to happen...** but our effort is to ensure that these differences don't turn into disputes." "मतभेद स्वाभाविक हैं। जब दो पड़ोसी देश मौजूद होते हैं, तो कभी-कभार असहमति होना तय है... लेकिन हमारा प्रयास यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि ये मतभेद विवाद में न बदलें।
- Regarding **China**, he cited the **return to normalcy on the border** as evidence of the **power of dialogue over discord** and called for the **neighbours to cooperate in the interest of global stability and prosperity**. चीन के संदर्भ में, उन्होंने सीमा पर सामान्य स्थिति की बहाली को मतभेद पर संवाद की शक्ति के प्रमाण के रूप में बताया और वैश्विक स्थिरता और समृद्धि के हित में सहयोग करने का आह्वान किया।



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GS Paper II: Pakistan

## Terror on the train

Pakistan must solve Balochistan's problems, not blame outsiders

The attack on the Jaffar Express, on March 11, in a mountainous region of Balochistan, is one of the most daring attacks by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in recent times. The BLA's move, demanding the release of Baloch militants from jails, was met with a swift military response from Pakistan. According to the Pakistani authorities, 354 passengers were rescued after a 36-hour long stand-off in which 26 security personnel and passengers and 33 rebel fighters were killed. Pakistan has accused its "eastern neighbour" (India) and "Afghan handlers" of helping the Baloch separatists. But beneath such allegations lie Pakistan's growing internal security vulnerabilities. The BLA, now the most powerful separatist group from the restive Balochistan province, has been carrying out a host of attacks. In November 2024, it claimed a suicide bombing at a train station in Quetta, the provincial capital, that killed at least two dozen people. It has also targeted Chinese workers in repeated attacks in the province. And with each attack, the Pakistani military has responded with heavy force. But it seems clueless on how to deter the attacks and bring stability to the region.

While visiting Quetta after the Jaffar Express attack, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made a rare acknowledgement that the lack of development in Balochistan was an obstacle in eliminating terrorism. Baloch separatists have long argued that the Pakistani state, dominated by Punjabis and Sindhis, has historically ignored the Balochis. The BLA and other Baloch nationalist groups accuse the federal government of plundering Balochistan's resources, and blame security agencies for the forced disappearances, torture and extra-judicial killings of Baloch civilians and rebels. Pakistan's reliance on military campaigns in Balochistan has only reinforced the narrative of the separatists – of the province being treated differently by Islamabad-Rawalpindi. Pakistan has blamed India and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (before the 2021 Taliban takeover) for helping Baloch rebels. It also welcomed the return of the Taliban to Kabul as a moment of Afghanistan "breaking the shackles of slavery". But it was a bonhomie that did not last. Today, Pakistan says Baloch separatists and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) are operating from safe havens in Taliban-run Afghanistan. Together, the TTP and Baloch rebels pose grave security challenges to Pakistan at a time when it is battling economic uncertainty and political instability. But Balochistan is a clear example that a military response alone does not bring peace and stability. If Pakistan wants to calm its restive regions, it should address the political and economic problems that fuel instability and insurgency.

## Terror on the train

### ट्रेन में आतंक

The attack on the **Jaffar Express** on March 11 in a mountainous region of Balochistan is one of the most daring attacks by the **Baloch Liberation Army (BLA)** in recent times. 11 मार्च को बलूचिस्तान के पहाड़ी क्षेत्र में **जैफ़र एक्सप्रेस** पर हमला हाल के समय में बलूच लिबरेशन आर्मी (BLA) द्वारा किए गए सबसे दुस्साहसी हमलों में से एक है।

• The **BLA demanded the release of Baloch militants from jails, but this was met with a swift military response from Pakistan.**

BLA ने बलूच उग्रवादियों की जेल से रिहाई की मांग की, लेकिन पाकिस्तान की ओर से तेज़ सैन्य प्रतिक्रिया मिली।

• According to Pakistani authorities, 354 passengers were rescued after a 36-hour-long standoff, in which 26 security personnel and passengers and 33 rebel fighters were killed.

पाकिस्तानी अधिकारियों के अनुसार, 36 घंटे तक चले संघर्ष के बाद 354 यात्रियों को बचाया गया, जिसमें 26 सुरक्षा कर्मी और यात्री तथा 33 विद्रोही लड़ाके मारे गए।

### Pakistan's allegations and internal security issues

पाकिस्तान के आरोप और आंतरिक सुरक्षा समस्याएं

• Pakistan has accused its "eastern neighbour" (India) and "Afghan handlers" of helping the Baloch separatists, but its growing internal security vulnerabilities are at the core of the problem. \*\*पाकिस्तान ने अपने "पूर्वी पड़ोसी" (भारत) और "अफगान

संचालकों" पर बलूच अलगाववादियों की मदद करने का आरोप लगाया, लेकिन इसकी बढ़ती आंतरिक सुरक्षा कमजोरियां ही असली समस्या हैं।

• The BLA, the most powerful separatist group in Balochistan, has carried out multiple attacks, including a suicide bombing at a train station in **Quetta** in November 2024 that killed at least two dozen people. BLA, जो बलूचिस्तान का सबसे शक्तिशाली अलगाववादी समूह है, ने कई हमले किए हैं, जिनमें नवंबर 2024 में **क्वेटा** के ट्रेन स्टेशन पर आत्मघाती बम हमला शामिल है, जिसमें कम से कम दो दर्जन लोग मारे गए।

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- The group has also repeatedly targeted Chinese workers in the province, leading to heavy military retaliation from Pakistan. इस समूह ने बार-बार बलूचिस्तान में चीनी श्रमिकों को निशाना बनाया है, जिसके कारण पाकिस्तान की ओर से भारी सैन्य प्रतिक्रिया दी गई।  
Pakistan's military response and governance failure  
पाकिस्तान की सैन्य प्रतिक्रिया और प्रशासनिक विफलता
- During his visit to Quetta after the Jaffar Express attack, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif acknowledged that the lack of development in Balochistan is an obstacle to eliminating terrorism. जैफ़र एक्सप्रेस हमले के बाद क्वेटा की यात्रा के दौरान, पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ ने स्वीकार किया कि बलूचिस्तान में विकास की कमी आतंकवाद खत्म करने में एक बाधा है।
- Baloch separatists argue that the Pakistani state, dominated by Punjabis and Sindhis, has historically ignored the Balochis. बलूच अलगाववादियों का तर्क है कि पंजाबियों और सिंधियों के प्रभुत्व वाली पाकिस्तानी सरकार ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से बलूच लोगों की उपेक्षा की है।
- BLA and other nationalist groups accuse the federal government of exploiting Balochistan's resources and blame security agencies for forced disappearances, torture, and extra-judicial killings of Baloch civilians. BLA और अन्य राष्ट्रवादी समूह संघीय सरकार पर बलूचिस्तान के संसाधनों के दोहन का आरोप लगाते हैं और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों पर बलूच नागरिकों के अपहरण, यातना और गैर-न्यायिक हत्याओं के लिए दोषी ठहराते हैं।  
Pakistan's external blame game and Taliban ties  
पाकिस्तान की बाहरी दोषारोपण नीति और तालिबान से संबंध
- Pakistan has blamed India and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (before the 2021 Taliban takeover) for aiding Baloch rebels. पाकिस्तान ने भारत और 2021 से पहले के अफगानिस्तान पर बलूच विद्रोहियों की मदद करने का आरोप लगाया है।
- It welcomed the Taliban's return to Kabul in 2021, calling it a moment of breaking the shackles of slavery, but the relations between Pakistan and the Taliban have since deteriorated. 2021 में काबुल में तालिबान की वापसी पर पाकिस्तान ने इसे गुलामी की बेड़ियों को तोड़ने का क्षण कहा था, लेकिन तब से दोनों के संबंध बिगड़ गए हैं।
- Pakistan now claims that Baloch separatists and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) are operating from safe havens in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. अब पाकिस्तान का दावा है कि बलूच अलगाववादी और तहरीक-ए-तालिबान पाकिस्तान (TTP) तालिबान-नियंत्रित अफगानिस्तान में सुरक्षित ठिकानों से संचालित हो रहे हैं।
- Together, TTP and Baloch rebels pose serious security challenges to Pakistan, especially during a time of economic crisis and political instability. TTP और बलूच विद्रोही मिलकर पाकिस्तान के लिए गंभीर सुरक्षा चुनौतियां पेश कर रहे हैं, खासकर आर्थिक संकट और राजनीतिक अस्थिरता के समय।



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The need for a political and economic solution

राजनीतिक और आर्थिक समाधान की आवश्यकता

- Balochistan proves that a military response alone cannot bring peace and stability. बलूचिस्तान यह साबित करता है कि केवल सैन्य प्रतिक्रिया से शांति और स्थिरता नहीं लाई जा सकती।
- If Pakistan wants to bring stability to its restive regions, it must address the **political and economic problems** fueling **insurgency and unrest**. यदि पाकिस्तान अपने अशांत क्षेत्रों में स्थिरता लाना चाहता है, तो उसे राजनीतिक और आर्थिक समस्याओं का समाधान करना होगा, जो विद्रोह और अशांति को बढ़ावा दे रही हैं।

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# The challenges of public health education in India

GS Paper II: Health Sector

**T**he decision by the United States to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO) and drastically reduce the scale of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is one that has sent shock waves through the aid and public health world. This move has disrupted essential health-care services in many low- and middle-income countries. However, India has been largely unaffected, as international aid accounts for just 1% of its total health expenditure. Nevertheless, the cessation of such funding threatens to further shrink an already constrained public health development sector, which relies heavily on international support. More importantly, this development directly impacts the public health job market, reducing opportunities for thousands who are pursuing their Master of Public Health (MPH) and similar postgraduate courses.

Public health plays a critical role in shaping a nation's well-being and health-care delivery. The Constitution of India, through Article 47, underlines the state's responsibility to improve public health care. Public health is a specialised field that requires specific knowledge and skills to effectively address people's health needs. There is an urgent need for a dedicated workforce in India trained in public health, a fact that was very starkly realised during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond government systems, such a workforce is essential for civil society organisations, academic institutions, and research organisations engaged in public health.

## The evolution of training and jobs in India

Though the surge in public health education in India is relatively recent, its history dates to the colonial era. In the early days, public health was largely embedded within medical teaching. This narrow approach persisted despite the establishment of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata in 1932 and the subsequent inclusion of preventive and social medicine – later known as community medicine – as an essential part of medical education. Specialists in community medicine, well-trained in public health provided public health services and met human resource needs in this field. However, their numbers were limited, and they were often engaged in medical teaching. Many students pursued MPH courses abroad in countries such as Australia, the European Union, the United Kingdom and the U.S. Yet, the supply of public health professionals remained constrained. Recognising the growing need and demand, MPH institutions and teaching expanded in India.

The number of institutions offering MPH and related courses in India has grown rapidly. Currently, over 100 institutions offer master's



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The key issue is the mismatch between supply and demand, with shrinking job opportunities and the dominance of the private sector

level courses in public health, whereas in 2000, there was only one. This expansion coincided with the launch of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005, which opened public health system roles to non-medical public health specialists. A wide range of institutions, from social science faculties to community medicine departments within medical institutions, have begun offering MPH courses. However, after an initial surge in demand, government recruitment for public health specialists plateaued, while the number of schools, programmes, and graduates continued to rise. As a result, securing jobs has become increasingly difficult for graduates.

Compounding this issue are challenges such as the lack of standardised training, insufficient practical learning opportunities, faculty shortages, and varied curricula that inadequately prepare students for real-world public health challenges. In addition, institutions offering public health courses are unevenly distributed, with large and populous States such as Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand, and many smaller and hilly States, having none or only a limited number of seats.

## Hurdles graduates face, issues in education

The foremost challenge is the mismatch between supply and demand, with limited and shrinking job opportunities for graduates. Today, entry-level positions in public health, such as research or programme assistants, attract a very high number of applications, with a significant proportion of candidates being eligible. The success rate remains exceptionally low, with only a few positions available. Moreover, the shrinking of public health roles and institutions within the public system has further limited job prospects. Efforts to establish public health management cadres in States have been hindered by multiple factors.

In recent times, the changing landscape of health care, marked by the growing dominance of the private sector in public health, further restricts employment opportunities. The private sector prioritises hospital and business management professionals over public health specialists. With limited opportunities in both the public and private sectors, the research and development sectors remain the primary employers for graduates. However, these sectors rely largely on foreign grants, and India is no longer one of the priority countries for such international funders. Similarly, the development sector is constrained by limited funding, which is expected to worsen further due to recent decisions in the U.S. The national research and health development funding remains in its early

development and is significantly underfunded. Thus, the job scarcity for public health professionals continues and can exacerbate further.

Beyond job scarcity, there are concerns about the quality of MPH education. The rapid spread of public health schools has led to intense competition to attract students, often at the expense of compromising admission standards.

Many students enrol in these courses without a clear understanding of the field or passion needed to thrive in this field. Further, public health faculty often lack adequate training and real-world experience. The absence of a standardised curriculum and clear outcome measures, despite the Health Ministry's model course framework further exacerbates

concerns. In India, MPH courses are currently not mandatorily regulated by any regulatory body. Neither the National Medical Commission (NMC) nor umbrella organisations such as the University Grants Commission (UGC) oversee MPH training. In the absence of these quality measures, the overall quality of graduates is also impacted.

## Approaches to consider

To address these challenges, a multi-pronged approach is required. The most urgent priority is to create public health jobs at all levels, from primary care to State and national health systems. In most developed countries with established public health education systems, governments are the largest employers of public health professionals. Similarly, establishing a dedicated public health cadre within State governments would be a significant step. This would not only create employment but also strengthen public health systems.

Next, a robust regulatory mechanism must be introduced by constituting a dedicated regulatory body or a specialised public health education division within existing regulatory agencies such as the NMC or UGC. This department, led by public health experts, should be responsible for setting curriculum standards and minimum training requirements while allowing room for institutional innovation, given that public health is a dynamic and evolving discipline. Moreover, public health training in all institutions must be closely integrated with practical learning opportunities within public health systems. There is a need to foster the growth of public health institutions in States where there are none or only a limited number. The emerging global situation calls for more national action and the building of local ecosystems for sustainable development in health.

*The views expressed are personal*

## The challenges of public health education in India

### भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा की चुनौतियाँ

The decision by the United States to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO) and reduce the scale of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has disrupted essential health-care services in many low- and middle-income countries. संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका का निर्णय विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) से बाहर निकलने और संयुक्त राज्य



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अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी (USAID) के दायरे को कम करने का कई निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों में आवश्यक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को बाधित कर दिया है।

- However, **India has been largely unaffected, as international aid accounts for just 1% of its total health expenditure.** हालांकि, भारत पर इसका ज्यादा असर नहीं पड़ा, क्योंकि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहायता उसके कुल स्वास्थ्य व्यय का केवल 1% है।
- The **cessation of such funding** threatens to further shrink the already constrained public health development sector, which relies heavily on international support. इस तरह की फंडिंग का रुकना पहले से ही सीमित सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विकास क्षेत्र को और छोटा करने की धमकी देता है, जो अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहायता पर बहुत अधिक निर्भर करता है।
- This **directly impacts the public health job market, reducing opportunities for thousands pursuing Master of Public Health (MPH) and similar postgraduate courses.** यह सीधे सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य नौकरी बाजार को प्रभावित करता है, जिससे हजारों लोगों के लिए अवसर कम हो जाते हैं जो मास्टर ऑफ पब्लिक हेल्थ (MPH) और इसी तरह के स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम कर रहे हैं।

The role of public health in India

भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य की भूमिका

- Public health plays a critical role in shaping a nation's well-being and health-care delivery. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य किसी भी देश की भलाई और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणाली को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।
- The Constitution of India, through **Article 47**, underlines the **state's responsibility to improve public health care.** भारत का संविधान अनुच्छेद 47 के माध्यम से राज्य की यह जिम्मेदारी निर्धारित करता है कि वह सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल में सुधार करे।
- There is an urgent need for a dedicated workforce trained in public health, a fact starkly realized during the COVID-19 pandemic. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य में प्रशिक्षित समर्पित कार्यबल की तत्काल आवश्यकता है, जिसे COVID-19 महामारी के दौरान गंभीर रूप से महसूस किया गया।

The evolution of public health training in India

भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रशिक्षण का विकास

- Though public health education in India has seen a recent surge, its history dates back to the colonial era. हालांकि भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा में हाल ही में वृद्धि देखी गई है, इसकी इतिहास औपनिवेशिक युग तक जाती है।
- Initially, public health was embedded within medical teaching, a narrow approach that persisted even after the establishment of the **All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata in 1932.** शुरुआत में, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सा शिक्षा का ही एक

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हिस्सा था, जो एक संकीर्ण दृष्टिकोण था और यह 1932 में कोलकाता में अखिल भारतीय स्वच्छता और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थान की स्थापना के बाद भी बना रहा।

- The number of institutions offering MPH and related courses has grown rapidly, from just one in 2000 to over 100 today. MPH और संबंधित पाठ्यक्रमों की पेशकश करने वाले संस्थानों की संख्या तेजी से बढ़ी है, 2000 में केवल एक संस्थान से बढ़कर आज 100 से अधिक हो गए हैं।
- The expansion coincided with the launch of the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005**, which opened public health roles to non-medical specialists. यह विस्तार 2005 में राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NRHM) की शुरुआत के साथ हुआ, जिसने गैर-चिकित्सा विशेषज्ञों के लिए सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य भूमिकाओं को खोल दिया।  
**Challenges in public health education and job market**  
**सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा और नौकरी बाजार में चुनौतियाँ**
- After an initial surge in demand, government recruitment for public health specialists plateaued, while the number of schools, programmes, and graduates continued to rise. शुरुआती मांग में वृद्धि के बाद, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों की सरकारी भर्ती स्थिर हो गई, जबकि संस्थानों, कार्यक्रमों और स्नातकों की संख्या बढ़ती रही।
- Securing jobs has become increasingly difficult for graduates due to lack of standardized training, insufficient practical learning opportunities, faculty shortages, and varied curricula. स्नातकों के लिए नौकरी पाना मुश्किल होता जा रहा है क्योंकि प्रशिक्षण का मानकीकरण नहीं है, व्यावहारिक शिक्षा के अवसर कम हैं, संकाय की कमी है और पाठ्यक्रम में असमानता है।
- Public health institutions are unevenly distributed, with large states like Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand having limited or no seats. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थान असमान रूप से फैले हुए हैं, बड़े राज्यों जैसे असम, बिहार और झारखंड में सीटें बहुत कम या न के बराबर हैं।

## Hurdles graduates face, issues in education

### स्नातकों के सामने चुनौतियाँ और शिक्षा में समस्याएँ

- The mismatch between supply and demand is the biggest challenge, as job opportunities for graduates are limited and shrinking. सप्लाई और डिमांड के बीच असंतुलन सबसे बड़ी चुनौती है, क्योंकि स्नातकों के लिए नौकरी के अवसर सीमित और घटते जा रहे हैं।
- Entry-level positions in public health, such as research or programme assistants, attract a very high number of applications, making the success rate extremely low. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य में प्रवेश स्तर की नौकरियों, जैसे अनुसंधान या कार्यक्रम सहायक, के लिए बहुत अधिक आवेदन आते हैं, जिससे सफलता दर बेहद कम हो जाती है।



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- The shrinking of public health roles and institutions within the public system has further limited job prospects. सार्वजनिक प्रणाली में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य भूमिकाओं और संस्थानों की कमी ने नौकरी के अवसरों को और सीमित कर दिया है।
- Efforts to establish public health management cadres in States have been hindered by multiple factors. राज्यों में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रबंधन केंद्र स्थापित करने के प्रयास कई कारकों से बाधित हुए हैं।  
Impact of private sector dominance  
निजी क्षेत्र के वर्चस्व का प्रभाव
- The growing dominance of the private sector in public health has further restricted employment opportunities. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य में निजी क्षेत्र के बढ़ते प्रभुत्व ने नौकरी के अवसरों को और सीमित कर दिया है।
- The private sector prioritizes hospital and business management professionals over public health specialists. निजी क्षेत्र सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों की तुलना में अस्पताल और व्यवसाय प्रबंधन पेशेवरों को अधिक प्राथमिकता देता है।
- With limited opportunities in both public and private sectors, the research and development sector remains the primary employer. सार्वजनिक और निजी दोनों क्षेत्रों में सीमित अवसरों के कारण, अनुसंधान और विकास क्षेत्र प्रमुख नियोजक बने हुए हैं।
- However, these sectors rely largely on foreign grants, and India is no longer a priority country for international funders. हालांकि, ये क्षेत्र मुख्य रूप से विदेशी अनुदानों पर निर्भर हैं, और भारत अब अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फंडिंग एजेंसियों की प्राथमिकता में नहीं है।
- The national research and health development funding remains in its early stages and is significantly underfunded. राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान और स्वास्थ्य विकास निधि शुरुआती चरण में है और गंभीर रूप से कम वित्त पोषित है।  
Concerns about the quality of MPH education  
MPH शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता को लेकर चिंताएँ
- The rapid expansion of public health schools has led to intense competition to attract students, often at the cost of compromising admission standards. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य स्कूलों के तेजी से विस्तार ने छात्रों को आकर्षित करने के लिए तीव्र प्रतिस्पर्धा को जन्म दिया है, जिससे प्रवेश मानकों से समझौता किया जा रहा है।
- Many students enroll in MPH courses without a clear understanding of the field, leading to a lack of passion and preparedness. कई छात्र सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र को पूरी तरह समझे बिना MPH पाठ्यक्रमों में दाखिला लेते हैं, जिससे इस क्षेत्र में रुचि और तैयारी की कमी होती है।
- Public health faculty often lack adequate training and real-world experience, affecting the overall quality of graduates. सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संकाय के पास अक्सर उचित प्रशिक्षण और व्यावहारिक अनुभव की कमी होती है, जिससे स्नातकों की समग्र गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होती है।

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- There is no mandatory regulatory body overseeing MPH courses, as neither the National Medical Commission (NMC) nor the University Grants Commission (UGC) regulates public health education. MPH पाठ्यक्रमों की निगरानी के लिए कोई अनिवार्य नियामक निकाय नहीं है, क्योंकि न तो नेशनल मेडिकल कमीशन (NMC) और न ही यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन (UGC) सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा को नियंत्रित करता है।

#### Approaches to consider

#### समाधान के संभावित उपाय

- The most urgent priority is to create public health jobs at all levels, from primary care to State and national health systems. सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्राथमिकता सभी स्तरों पर सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य नौकरियाँ पैदा करना है, प्राथमिक देखभाल से लेकर राज्य और राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली तक।
- In developed countries, the government is the largest employer of public health professionals, a model India should adopt. विकसित देशों में, सरकार सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों की सबसे बड़ी नियोक्ता होती है, जिसे भारत को अपनाना चाहिए।
- A dedicated public health cadre within State governments would not only create employment but also strengthen public health systems. राज्य सरकारों के भीतर एक समर्पित सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य कैंडर न केवल रोजगार सृजित करेगा, बल्कि सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को भी मजबूत करेगा।
- A robust regulatory mechanism must be introduced, led by public health experts, to standardize curriculum and training requirements. एक ठोस नियामक तंत्र लागू किया जाना चाहिए, जिसे सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों द्वारा संचालित किया जाए, ताकि पाठ्यक्रम और प्रशिक्षण आवश्यकताओं को मानकीकृत किया जा सके।
- Public health training in all institutions must be closely integrated with practical learning opportunities within public health systems. सभी संस्थानों में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रशिक्षण को सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के व्यावहारिक शिक्षण अवसरों के साथ निकटता से जोड़ा जाना चाहिए।
- There is a need to expand public health institutions in States where they are currently absent or limited. उन राज्यों में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों का विस्तार करने की आवश्यकता है, जहाँ वे वर्तमान में अनुपस्थित हैं या सीमित हैं।
- The emerging global situation calls for more national action and the building of local ecosystems for sustainable health development. उभरती वैश्विक स्थिति अधिक राष्ट्रीय कार्रवाई की मांग करती है, और स्थायी स्वास्थ्य विकास के लिए स्थानीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के निर्माण की आवश्यकता है।



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GS Paper II: International Organization

## Rare success

ICC is still dependent on political interests to pursue its work

The arrest of former President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte on a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) marks a rare success in the ICC's attempts to make senior political figures, especially those who have held or still hold public office, accountable for their crimes. However, it has to be acknowledged that only a set of favourable circumstances led to Mr. Duterte's arrest, and his being flown to The Hague: the warrant was executed by the government headed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., and the decision may have been the fallout of his differences with Vice-President Sara Duterte, Mr. Duterte's daughter who is embroiled in impeachment proceedings. ICC warrants invariably remain unexecuted, unless national governments cooperate with the ICC, a feature that often delays and stymies most ICC prosecutions. Mr. Duterte has been accused of "the crime against humanity of murder". The reference is to his 'war on drugs', a campaign of state-backed killing when he was Mayor of Davao City, and later President. The ICC is investigating the situation between 2011 and 2019, as he formally pulled his country out of ICC membership. However, the Pre-Trial Chamber has determined that despite the country not being a state-party now, it has jurisdiction to try crimes committed by individuals during the time the Philippines was a party.

The ICC was created by the Rome Statute in response to a need to have a permanent court, instead of ad hoc tribunals, for war crimes and crimes against humanity. It has no power of enforcement and is dependent on the national interests of big powers. It has often been accused of focusing on Africa, moving mainly against warlords and leaders in conflict zones. Warrants against leaders such as Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu are seldom executed. In addition, some member-states have also expressed an inability to execute arrest warrants when those individuals visit their countries, while some leaders avoid visiting countries of state-parties. Added to this is the open hostility of the United States that frequently threatens the ICC with punitive measures if it moves against its nationals or allies. Fortunately, the ICC still exists as an international judicial institution mainly because it tries only individuals and not states. It has also rendered some significant verdicts on its own jurisdiction, the most important being the ruling in respect of Palestine that it can order investigations into crimes committed by nationals of both state-parties and non-state-parties on the territory of a state-party. Thus, a mere refusal by a country to ratify the Rome Statute or not being a party to it may not be relevant to any decision by the ICC to investigate and prosecute any individual.

## Rare success

### दुर्लभ सफलता

The arrest of former President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, on a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) marks a rare success in holding senior political figures accountable. फिलीपींस के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रोड्रिगो दुतेर्ते की गिरफ्तारी, जो अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC) द्वारा जारी वारंट के तहत हुई, वरिष्ठ राजनीतिक नेताओं को जवाबदेह ठहराने में एक दुर्लभ सफलता को दर्शाती है।

- However, his arrest was made possible due to specific favorable circumstances, including the execution of the warrant by the government of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and political tensions involving Duterte's daughter, Vice-President Sara Duterte. हालांकि, उनकी गिरफ्तारी कुछ अनुकूल परिस्थितियों के कारण संभव हुई, जैसे कि राष्ट्रपति फर्डिनेंड मार्कोस जूनियर की सरकार द्वारा वारंट का निष्पादन और उप राष्ट्रपति सारा दुतेर्ते (दुतेर्ते की बेटी) के साथ राजनीतिक मतभेद।
- ICC warrants usually remain unexecuted unless national governments cooperate, which often delays or obstructs ICC prosecutions. ICC के वारंट आमतौर पर तब तक निष्पादित नहीं होते जब तक कि राष्ट्रीय सरकारें सहयोग न करें, जिससे अक्सर ICC अभियोजन कार्यवाही में देरी या रुकावट आती है।

### Charges against Duterte and ICC's jurisdiction

दुतेर्ते पर आरोप और ICC का क्षेत्राधिकार

- Duterte has been accused of "the crime against humanity of murder" for his state-backed killings during the 'war on drugs' campaign while serving as Mayor of Davao City and later as President. दुतेर्ते पर "मानवता के खिलाफ हत्या का अपराध" का आरोप लगाया गया है, जो ड्रग्स के खिलाफ युद्ध अभियान के दौरान राज्य समर्थित हत्याओं से जुड़ा है, जब वह दावाओ सिटी के मेयर और बाद में राष्ट्रपति थे।
- The ICC is investigating crimes committed between 2011 and 2019, a period when the Philippines was a member of the ICC, despite Duterte formally pulling the country out of ICC

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membership later. ICC 2011 से 2019 के बीच किए गए अपराधों की जांच कर रहा है, जो वह अवधि है जब फिलीपींस ICC का सदस्य था, हालांकि बाद में दुर्तेने ने औपचारिक रूप से देश की सदस्यता समाप्त कर दी।

- The Pre-Trial Chamber of ICC ruled that it still has jurisdiction to try crimes committed during the period when the Philippines was a party to the Rome Statute. ICC के प्री-ट्रयाल चेंबर ने निर्णय दिया कि उसके पास अभी भी क्षेत्राधिकार है, क्योंकि ये अपराध उस अवधि में हुए जब फिलीपींस रोम संविधि का सदस्य था।

Challenges in ICC's enforcement power

ICC की प्रवर्तन शक्ति में चुनौतियाँ

- The ICC was created by the Rome Statute as a permanent court to prosecute war crimes and crimes against humanity, replacing ad hoc tribunals. ICC की स्थापना रोम संविधि द्वारा एक स्थायी न्यायालय के रूप में की गई थी, जिसका उद्देश्य युद्ध अपराधों और मानवता के खिलाफ अपराधों पर मुकदमा चलाना था, ताकि अस्थायी न्यायाधिकरणों की आवश्यकता समाप्त हो सके।
- However, the ICC lacks enforcement power and depends on national governments' cooperation, which delays and weakens many cases. हालांकि, ICC के पास कोई प्रवर्तन शक्ति नहीं है और यह राष्ट्रीय सरकारों के सहयोग पर निर्भर करता है, जिससे कई मामलों में देरी और कमजोरी आ जाती है।
- The ICC has often been accused of disproportionately targeting African leaders, while arrest warrants for figures like Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu remain unexecuted. ICC पर अक्सर अफ्रीकी नेताओं को disproportionately निशाना बनाने का आरोप लगाया गया है, जबकि व्लादिमीर पुतिन और बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू जैसे नेताओं के खिलाफ जारी वारंट निष्पादित नहीं किए जाते।
- Some member states refuse to execute ICC arrest warrants, while certain leaders avoid traveling to ICC member countries to evade arrest. कुछ सदस्य देश ICC के गिरफ्तारी वारंट निष्पादित करने से इनकार करते हैं, जबकि कुछ नेता गिरफ्तारी से बचने के लिए ICC सदस्य देशों की यात्रा करने से बचते हैं।
- The United States remains openly hostile to the ICC, often threatening punitive measures if it investigates U.S. nationals or its allies. संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ICC के प्रति खुला विरोधी बना हुआ है, और अक्सर ICC द्वारा अमेरिकी नागरिकों या उसके सहयोगियों की जांच करने पर दंडात्मक कार्रवाई की धमकी देता है।

Significance of ICC's legal authority

ICC के कानूनी अधिकार का महत्व

- Despite challenges, the ICC continues to function as an international judicial institution because it prosecutes individuals rather than states. चुनौतियों के बावजूद,



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ICC एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायिक संस्था के रूप में कार्य करता रहता है, क्योंकि यह राष्ट्रों के बजाय व्यक्तियों पर मुकदमा चलाता है।

- The ICC has made significant rulings, including its landmark decision on Palestine, which allows investigation of crimes committed by nationals of both state-parties and non-state-parties on the territory of a state-party. ICC ने कई महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय दिए हैं, जिनमें फिलिस्तीन पर ऐतिहासिक निर्णय शामिल है, जो राज्य-पक्षों और गैर-राज्य-पक्षों के नागरिकों द्वारा राज्य-पक्ष की सीमा के भीतर किए गए अपराधों की जांच की अनुमति देता है।
- A country's refusal to ratify the Rome Statute or remain outside the ICC does not necessarily prevent an investigation or prosecution. किसी देश द्वारा रोम संविधि की पुष्टि से इनकार करना या ICC का सदस्य न होना, जांच या अभियोजन को जरूरी रूप से नहीं रोकता।

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# Tackling the problem of nutrition

## GS Paper II: Government Scheme

**W**hile health was not a priority for Budget 2025, it seems that nutrition is. In the coming financial year, two Union government schemes will receive higher allocations – **Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0**. But will this fix India's nutrition challenge?

**Nutrition in India is not just about food insecurity, but also about dietary habits shaped by culture, caste, and gender relations.** Only one aspect of the nutrition challenge receives most of the policy focus – malnutrition among women and children. Women outside of the reproductive age, men, and senior citizens rarely figure in national nutrition policy discussions. More importantly, we ignore diabetes, hypertension, and other lifestyle-induced non-communicable diseases which are really another manifestation of under nutrition. One type of nutrition deficiency is because some people just don't have enough to eat and the other type is because people are not eating sufficient nutritionally rich food. The outcomes are damning in unique ways.

India has among the world's highest share of malnourished children and anaemic women. According to the National Family Health Survey-5, 36% of children under five are stunted and a meagre 11% who are breastfed between the ages of 6 months and 23 months receive an adequate diet. Fifty-seven percent of women in the 15-49 age group are anaemic. There is a rise in the share of those with diabetes, hypertension, and other such lifestyle-diet induced non-communicable diseases (NCDs). 24% of women and 23% men in India are overweight or obese and 14% take medicines for diabetes.

**A comprehensive agenda** Poshan 2.0 and Saksham Anganwadi offer more of the same solutions – take-home rations, supplementary foods, tracking of



**Priyadarshini Singh**

Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress. Views are personal

**A comprehensive nutrition agenda, not targeted intervention, will address malnutrition**

severe and acute malnutrition cases, iron and folic acid tablets etc. With Poshan 2.0, there is additional focus on aspirational districts and the north-eastern region. But these schemes reinforce the idea that malnutrition is a problem only in certain parts of India and only in certain segments of the population. Instead, what we need is a comprehensive nutrition agenda in which nutrition is identified as a public health problem that impacts people across the social strata.

A comprehensive agenda would recognise the nutrition needs of different segments of the society. It must consist of: first, a clear identification of nutrition needs beyond reproductive and child health; second, a broad set of solutions, particularly rooted in the local food systems; and third, a clear identification of locally embedded facilities to deliver nutrition services. We need most work in identifying local institutional linkage for the agenda. Who will implement this in our neighbourhoods every day? The clear answer is: the health and wellness centres (HWCs).

At present, we provide supplementary nutrition for pregnant and lactating mothers and young children through take-home rations, iron and folic acid tablets for adolescent girls at Anganwadi centres (AWCs); and mid-day meals for children in schools. We need to systematically expand the nutrition-focused activities to other segments of the population and involve HCWs and ACWs. The mix of nutrients which goes in the take-home ration for poor women is relevant for pregnant women from all strata of society. Food items which use locally available low-cost, nutrient-dense produce need to be emphasised for the middle classes too, which consume sugar-laden, fibre-poor packaged goods.

For HWCs to implement this agenda, they need to be in

sufficient numbers to cover the entire population. Each of them has to have a detailed set of nutrition services covering the entire catchment population. At present, the spread of HWCs is lopsided. Rural areas seem to have

them in excess when compared to urban ones. And within rural areas, some areas have a higher concentration of HWCs.

Nutrition services in HWCs are limited. HWCs are supposed

to provide nutrition advice to pregnant women and lactating women, adolescents and children, the elderly population, and those recuperating from disease, disaster and trauma. But these are not implemented consistently or systematically.

We also need dedicated staff to provide nutrition services at the HWCs. In the existing design, nutrition is a tiny part of the responsibilities of the multi-purpose worker.

### Factors for success

The success of the nutrition agenda will depend on two factors: engaging with local elites; and linking nutrition practices with local cuisines. Professor Prerna Singh at Brown University demonstrates in her research on small pox vaccination that there was significant variation in the uptake of vaccination during the 1950s among equally placed countries such as India and China. Some got their population vaccinated earlier and faster than others. Those that did were countries where the vaccination interventions were publicly owned by local elites and connected with local health practices and ideas.

India is a rapidly transforming society. We have to push further with the HWC approach of imagining health as wellbeing and not just an absence of illness. A locally owned, comprehensive nutrition agenda for all strata of society delivered by the primary health system is a first step in this direction.



## Tackling the problem of nutrition

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## पोषण की समस्या से निपटना

While health was not a priority in Budget 2025, nutrition received significant focus, with increased allocations for **Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0**. जहाँ बजट 2025 में स्वास्थ्य प्राथमिकता नहीं थी, वहीं पोषण को अधिक महत्व दिया गया, जिसमें सक्षम आंगनवाड़ी और पोषण 2.0 के लिए अधिक आवंटन किया गया।

- However, the **real challenge of nutrition in India goes beyond food insecurity and is shaped by cultural, caste, and gender factors**. हालांकि, भारत में पोषण की वास्तविक चुनौती केवल भोजन की कमी तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह संस्कृति, जाति और लिंग संबंधों से भी प्रभावित होती है।
- **Most policy focus is on malnutrition among women and children, while men, senior citizens, and lifestyle-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and hypertension receive less attention**. अधिकांश नीतियाँ महिलाओं और बच्चों में कुपोषण पर केंद्रित हैं, जबकि पुरुषों, वरिष्ठ नागरिकों और जीवनशैली से जुड़ी गैर-संचारी रोगों (NCDs) जैसे मधुमेह और उच्च रक्तचाप पर कम ध्यान दिया जाता है।

### Current nutrition statistics in India

#### भारत में वर्तमान पोषण संबंधी आंकड़े

- **India has one of the highest rates of malnourished children and anaemic women**. भारत में कुपोषित बच्चों और रक्ताल्पता से पीड़ित महिलाओं की दर सबसे अधिक है।
- According to the **National Family Health Survey-5, 36% of children under five are stunted, and only 11% of breastfed children (6-23 months) receive an adequate diet**. राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण-5 के अनुसार, 5 वर्ष से कम उम्र के 36% बच्चे अविकसित हैं, और सिर्फ 11% स्तनपान कराने वाले बच्चों (6-23 महीने) को पर्याप्त आहार मिलता है।
- **57% of women aged 15-49 are anaemic, while 24% of women and 23% of men are overweight or obese**. 15-49 वर्ष की 57% महिलाएँ रक्ताल्पता (एनीमिया) से पीड़ित हैं, जबकि 24% महिलाएँ और 23% पुरुष अधिक वजन या मोटापे के शिकार हैं।
- **14% of the population takes medication for diabetes, highlighting the rising burden of lifestyle diseases**. देश में 14% लोग मधुमेह की दवा लेते हैं, जो जीवनशैली से जुड़ी बीमारियों के बढ़ते बोझ को दर्शाता है।

### Limitations of Poshan 2.0 and Saksham Anganwadi

#### पोषण 2.0 और सक्षम आंगनवाड़ी की सीमाएँ

- These schemes focus primarily on providing **take-home rations, supplementary foods, and iron-folic acid tablets, which do not address nutrition comprehensively**.



ये योजनाएँ मुख्य रूप से घर ले जाने वाले राशन, पूरक भोजन और आयरन-फोलिक एसिड की गोलियाँ प्रदान करने पर केंद्रित हैं, जो पोषण की समस्या को पूरी तरह हल नहीं करती हैं।

- **Additional focus on aspirational districts and the north-eastern region** suggests that malnutrition is seen as a problem of specific areas, rather than a nationwide issue. महत्वाकांक्षी जिलों और उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र पर विशेष ध्यान देने का मतलब यह है कि कुपोषण को पूरे देश की बजाय केवल कुछ क्षेत्रों की समस्या माना जाता है।  
**Need for a comprehensive nutrition agenda**  
व्यापक पोषण एजेंडा की आवश्यकता
- A comprehensive nutrition agenda should recognize the diverse nutrition needs of different population segments, not just women and children. एक व्यापक पोषण एजेंडा को केवल महिलाओं और बच्चों की नहीं, बल्कि समाज के विभिन्न वर्गों की पोषण संबंधी जरूरतों को पहचानना चाहिए।
- It must include:
  - Identifying nutrition needs beyond reproductive and child health. प्रजनन और बाल स्वास्थ्य से आगे की पोषण आवश्यकताओं की पहचान।
  - Solutions rooted in local food systems. स्थानीय खाद्य प्रणालियों पर आधारित समाधान।
  - Utilizing existing health and wellness centres (HWCs) to deliver nutrition services. स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण केंद्रों (HWCs) का उपयोग पोषण सेवाओं को प्रदान करने के लिए।
- **HWCs currently provide nutrition services for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children, but their reach and effectiveness remain inconsistent.** HWCs वर्तमान में गर्भवती महिलाओं, स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं और बच्चों के लिए पोषण सेवाएँ प्रदान करते हैं, लेकिन उनकी पहुंच और प्रभावशीलता असंगत बनी हुई है।  
**Strengthening health and wellness centres (HWCs)**  
स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण केंद्रों (HWCs) को मजबूत बनाना
- HWCs must be expanded to cover the entire population, with a balanced distribution between urban and rural areas. HWCs का विस्तार पूरी आबादी को कवर करने के लिए किया जाना चाहिए, और शहरी व ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के बीच संतुलित वितरण होना चाहिए।
- Nutrition services in HWCs are currently limited and should be systematically integrated into regular health programs. HWCs में पोषण सेवाएँ वर्तमान में सीमित हैं, और इन्हें नियमित स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रमों के साथ व्यवस्थित रूप से जोड़ा जाना चाहिए।
- Dedicated staff should be assigned to provide nutrition services, as it is currently only a small part of multi-purpose workers' responsibilities. पोषण सेवाएँ प्रदान करने के लिए समर्पित कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त किया जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह वर्तमान में बहुउद्देशीय कार्यकर्ताओं की जिम्मेदारियों का एक छोटा हिस्सा है।



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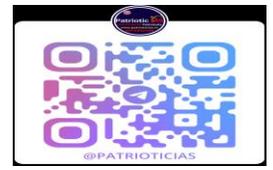
### Key factors for success

सफलता के प्रमुख कारक

- The success of nutrition programs depends on engaging local elites and linking nutrition practices with local cuisines. पोषण कार्यक्रमों की सफलता स्थानीय प्रभावशाली व्यक्तियों को शामिल करने और पारंपरिक खानपान को पोषण से जोड़ने पर निर्भर करती है।
- Research by Professor Perna Singh at Brown University shows that countries where local leaders took ownership of public health initiatives achieved faster results. ब्राउन विश्वविद्यालय की प्रोफेसर प्रेरणा सिंह के शोध से पता चलता है कि जिन देशों में स्थानीय नेताओं ने सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य पहलों की जिम्मेदारी ली, वहाँ तेजी से सफलता मिली।
- India needs to redefine health as overall well-being, beyond just the absence of illness, and implement a locally driven nutrition agenda through primary health systems. भारत को केवल बीमारी की अनुपस्थिति तक सीमित न रखते हुए, स्वास्थ्य को समग्र कल्याण के रूप में पुनर्परिभाषित करने की आवश्यकता है, और प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के माध्यम से स्थानीय रूप से संचालित पोषण एजेंडा लागू करना चाहिए।

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## Should cancer be a notifiable disease?

An effective approach would be to expand the **National Cancer Registry Programme**

### GS Paper II: Government Scheme

C. Aravinda

Time and again, there have been calls to designate cancer as a notifiable disease in India. While some argue that this would enhance surveillance and treatment, the Union government has resisted the move, saying the practice is to notify only infectious diseases and that cancer is non-communicable and not infectious.

Recent shifts in disease notification policies raise questions about whether this reasoning still holds. In 2024, the government asked all the States to make snakebites a notifiable disease. This trend is not unique to India. In 1995, the U.S. became the first country to list lead poisoning as a notifiable disease, establishing a precedent for the surveillance of non-communicable diseases. This evolution in public health policy forces a critical examination of whether cancers warrant notification for surveillance in India.

The primary purpose of disease notification is to ensure that contagious diseases are kept under check. Notification of infectious diseases is a legal mandate and compels physicians to report designated diseases to public health authorities, failing which they could face legal consequences. Unlike infectious diseases, cancer does not pose an immediate threat to public health through direct transmission and sudden deaths. It is a diverse group of diseases rather than a single condition, and its detection often requires complex diagnostic procedures. Proponents of making cancer notifiable argue that mandatory reporting could enhance early detection and resource allocation.

However, there are fundamental issues with this approach. First, cancer is not a single-point diagnosis. Argua-

bly, cancers as a disease are more diverse ranging from benign to malignant. Notifiability triggers rapid containment measures, whereas cancer requires long-term management rather than emergency interventions. Legal obligations on physicians could impose a burden that does not translate into improved patient care.

India's National Cancer Registry Programme (since 1982) functions as a data collection mechanism, compiling crucial information on the demographics of cancer patients, cancer identification including type, stage, and morphology, the timing of diagnosis and staging at the time of detection, treatment details such as chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery, and follow-up and survival outcomes. The NCRP includes hospital-based registries, which collect data from cancer-treating hospitals, and population-based registries, which capture cancer incidence in a defined geographic area.

There are 269 hospital-based and 38 population-based registries as of 2022, which is insufficient. Hospital-based registries should be expanded to every cancer-treating hospital, including all district headquarters hospitals. Similarly, population-based registries should be established in every district, ensuring at least one unit per district for comprehensive nationwide cancer surveillance. Rather than legally mandating notification, strengthening existing cancer registries is a more thorough and effective alternative.

Second, making cancer a notifiable disease also raises privacy concerns. Notifiability generally does not account for

privacy because disease notification is meant to preserve public health over individual confidentiality. There is still stigma attached to cancer.

Many State public health acts still contain provisions that give sweeping powers to local authorities during a health emergency. While much of this has been rendered toothless over time, the legal precedent remains. Introducing cancer into such a framework could further deepen the reluctance among patients to come forward for diagnosis and treatment, making it counterproductive and potentially deterring patients from seeking timely treatment due to stigma and discrimination. The World Health Organization advocates mainly cancer registries, which mention notification as an option at the individual level alone.

An effective approach would be to expand the NCRP to ensure comprehensive data collection at all tertiary and district hospitals. Improving cancer screening initiatives would ensure early detection. Strengthening reporting mechanisms without legal mandates would allow oncologists and healthcare providers to contribute accurate data voluntarily rather than reporting under duress. Mandatory notification remains an apt approach suited for single-point, outbreak-prone diseases. For cancer, a well-structured registry system, bolstered by wider hospital participation, including private hospitals and robust follow-up mechanisms, offers a far superior solution to improving cancer surveillance in India.

*Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. Views are personal*



## Should cancer be a notifiable disease?

क्या कैंसर को एक अधिसूचित रोग बनाया जाना चाहिए?

There have been repeated calls to **designate cancer as a notifiable disease in India**, but the Union government has resisted the move, arguing that only infectious diseases are notified. भारत में कैंसर को अधिसूचित रोग घोषित करने की लगातार माँग उठी है, लेकिन केंद्र सरकार ने इस कदम का विरोध किया है, यह तर्क देते हुए कि केवल संक्रामक रोगों को अधिसूचित किया जाता है।

- Recent changes in disease notification policies raise doubts about this reasoning. In 2024, snakebites were made notifiable, showing that non-communicable conditions can also be notified. हाल ही में रोग अधिसूचना नीतियों में हुए बदलावों ने इस तर्क पर सवाल उठाए हैं। 2024 में साँप के काटने को अधिसूचित किया गया, जिससे स्पष्ट होता है कि गैर-संक्रामक स्थितियाँ भी अधिसूचित की जा सकती हैं।
- The U.S. made lead poisoning a notifiable disease in 1995, setting a precedent for non-communicable disease surveillance. अमेरिका ने 1995 में

सीसा विषाक्तता को अधिसूचित रोग घोषित किया, जिससे गैर-संक्रामक रोगों की निगरानी का उदाहरण



स्थापित हुआ।

Arguments against making cancer a notifiable disease

कैंसर को अधिसूचित रोग बनाने के विरोध में तर्क

- The **main purpose of disease notification is to control contagious diseases that spread rapidly and cause sudden deaths.** रोग अधिसूचना का मुख्य उद्देश्य संक्रामक बीमारियों को नियंत्रित करना है, जो तेजी से फैलती हैं और अचानक मृत्यु का कारण बनती हैं।
- **Unlike infectious diseases, cancer is not transmitted between individuals and requires long-term management instead of emergency containment.** संक्रामक रोगों के विपरीत, कैंसर एक व्यक्ति से दूसरे व्यक्ति में नहीं फैलता और इसके लिए आपातकालीन रोकथाम के बजाय दीर्घकालिक प्रबंधन की आवश्यकता होती है।
- **Physicians may face legal obligations if cancer is made notifiable, adding unnecessary burdens without significantly improving patient care.** यदि कैंसर को अधिसूचित किया जाता है, तो चिकित्सकों को कानूनी बाध्यताओं का सामना करना पड़ सकता है, जिससे उन पर अनावश्यक बोझ बढ़ेगा और रोगी देखभाल में विशेष सुधार नहीं होगा।

Role of the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP)

राष्ट्रीय कैंसर पंजीकरण कार्यक्रम (NCRP) की भूमिका

- The **National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP)** has been **collecting cancer data since 1982, including patient demographics, cancer type, stage, treatment details, and survival outcomes.** राष्ट्रीय कैंसर पंजीकरण कार्यक्रम (NCRP) 1982 से कैंसर डेटा एकत्र कर रहा है, जिसमें रोगी की जानकारी, कैंसर का प्रकार, चरण, उपचार विवरण और जीवित रहने की दर शामिल हैं।
- There are currently 269 hospital-based and 38 population-based registries, which are insufficient. वर्तमान में 269 अस्पताल-आधारित और 38 जनसंख्या-आधारित पंजीकरण केंद्र हैं, जो अपर्याप्त हैं।
- Every cancer-treating hospital, including district hospitals, should have hospital-based registries, and at least one population-based registry should be set up in every district. प्रत्येक कैंसर उपचार करने वाले अस्पताल, जिसमें जिला अस्पताल भी शामिल हैं, में अस्पताल-आधारित पंजीकरण केंद्र होने चाहिए, और प्रत्येक जिले में कम से कम एक जनसंख्या-आधारित पंजीकरण केंद्र स्थापित किया जाना चाहिए।
- **Strengthening the NCRP is a better approach than legally mandating notification.** NCRP को मजबूत बनाना कानूनी रूप से अधिसूचना को अनिवार्य करने से बेहतर विकल्प है।  
Privacy concerns with cancer notification  
कैंसर अधिसूचना से जुड़े गोपनीयता संबंधी मुद्दे



- **Disease notification prioritizes public health over individual privacy, but cancer still carries a social stigma.** रोग अधिसूचना सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य को व्यक्तिगत गोपनीयता से अधिक प्राथमिकता देती है, लेकिन कैंसर अब भी सामाजिक कलंक से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- **Some state public health laws grant broad powers to local authorities, which could discourage patients from seeking timely diagnosis and treatment.** कुछ राज्य सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य कानून स्थानीय अधिकारियों को व्यापक अधिकार देते हैं, जिससे रोगियों को समय पर निदान और उपचार लेने से हतोत्साहित किया जा सकता है।
- **The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends cancer registries over mandatory notification, allowing individual-level reporting without legal obligations.** विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) कैंसर के लिए अनिवार्य अधिसूचना के बजाय कैंसर पंजीकरण की सिफारिश करता है, जिससे व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर रिपोर्टिंग संभव हो, लेकिन कानूनी बाध्यता न हो।

#### A better alternative: Expanding the NCRP and cancer screening

बेहतर विकल्प: NCRP और कैंसर जांच का विस्तार

- **The NCRP should be expanded to cover all tertiary and district hospitals, ensuring comprehensive cancer data collection.** NCRP को सभी तृतीयक और जिला अस्पतालों तक विस्तारित किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि व्यापक कैंसर डेटा संग्रह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।
- **Improving cancer screening programs would help in early detection, reducing delayed diagnosis and advanced-stage cases.** कैंसर जांच कार्यक्रमों में सुधार से प्रारंभिक निदान संभव होगा, जिससे देर से निदान और उन्नत चरण के मामलों में कमी आएगी।
- **Encouraging voluntary reporting by oncologists and healthcare providers, rather than imposing legal mandates, would ensure better data accuracy.** ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं द्वारा स्वैच्छिक रिपोर्टिंग को बढ़ावा देना, कानूनी अनिवार्यता थोपने की बजाय, बेहतर डेटा सटीकता सुनिश्चित करेगा।
- **A structured cancer registry system, wider hospital participation, and robust follow-up mechanisms offer a more effective solution for cancer surveillance in India.** एक सुव्यवस्थित कैंसर पंजीकरण प्रणाली, व्यापक अस्पताल भागीदारी और मजबूत अनुवर्ती तंत्र भारत में कैंसर निगरानी के लिए अधिक प्रभावी समाधान प्रदान कर सकते हैं।



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# Is Syria heading toward peace or more chaos?

Can the interim government rebuild Syria's economy?

GS Paper II: West Asia

Franciszek Snarski

The story so far:

Since the overthrow of Mr. Assad's regime, power has transitioned to an interim government led by Mr. al-Sharaa, leader of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

Who leads the Syrian government?

Since the overthrow of Mr. Assad's regime, power has transitioned to an interim government led by Mr. al-Sharaa, leader of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

Despite its militant origins, HTS has rebranded itself as a governing authority, pledging to respect minority rights. However, the new administration lacks full territorial control. Mr. Assad's loyalists continue to operate in the coastal region of Latakia, while the SDF operate in the northeastern semi-independent Rojava region.

What is the current state of conflict?

Although the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) largely disintegrated after Mr. Assad's departure, loyalist cells continue resisting, particularly in Latakia, an Alawite stronghold. The situation is complicated by ongoing hostilities in the northeast, where the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) continues shelling SDF positions as part of Ankara's broader strategy to curb Kurdish influence. Israel has intensified military operations, launching over 400 airstrikes in December 2024, targeting military facilities, airports, warships and infrastructure. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) subsequently advanced beyond the

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) buffer zone in the Golan Heights. The invasion of the UNDOF zone has been condemned by the UN as a violation of international law. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu justified the operation as a preventive measure against "terrorist threats" and demanded that the new Syrian government demilitarise the region south of Damascus.

What about reports of Alawite massacres?

Sectarian violence has escalated in Latakia since December, with reports of massacres against the Alawite community. The U.K.-based Syrian Human Rights Observatory reported that 1,383 civilians have been killed by government-allied groups and Mr. Assad's loyalists.

The international community has raised concerns over potential revenge killings, given HTS's historically Sunni Islamist ideology. Critics argue that many government security officers remain HTS loyalists, fuelling suspicions of targeted reprisals. However, Mr. al-Sharaa has

denied any state involvement, attributing the start to the unrest to misinformation campaigns allegedly linked to Russia and Iran.

Why is Syria at risk of further violence?

Syria remains one of the poorest states in the world, with over 90% of the population living under the poverty line. Combined with the factor of hundreds of thousands of combatants, whose previous political-military structures have disintegrated, wandering around the country without employment or security, the region remains ripe for new waves of violence. These issues could be alleviated, if Assad-era international sanctions on Syria's economy were lifted, nevertheless, they remain in place, as foreign leaders remain cautious of the new government. Mr. al-Sharaa has called for the reconsideration of sanction regime, with the first steps being taken by the U.K. and Canada, easing the trade restrictions on key petroleum companies and Syrian Central Bank.

Ultimately, Syria's future hinges on the drafting and enforcement of a new constitution that guarantees minority rights and national sovereignty. Whether the interim government can consolidate power, gain international recognition, rebuild the economy and prevent further fragmentation remains uncertain, but the coming months will be critical in determining Syria's path forward.

Franciszek Snarski is currently *interning for The Hindu*

THE GIST

After Assad's fall in December 2024, interim leader Ahmed al-Sharaa struggles to consolidate control, with loyalist resistance, Kurdish integration, and ongoing regional conflicts shaping Syria's fragile stability.

Fighting continues in key areas like Latakia, while Israeli military actions and Turkish-backed offensives add to instability; meanwhile, international sanctions and economic collapse hinder Syria's reconstruction efforts.

## Is Syria heading toward peace or more chaos?

### क्या सीरिया शांति की ओर बढ़ रहा है या और अधिक अराजकता की ओर?

Syria has entered a three-month period of political and military uncertainty after **Bashar al-Assad's regime fell in December 2024**.

दिसंबर 2024 में बशर अल-असद के शासन के पतन के बाद सीरिया तीन महीने की राजनीतिक और सैन्य अनिश्चितता के दौर में प्रवेश कर चुका है।

- Interim **President Ahmed al-Sharaa** is seeking international legitimacy while dealing with internal instability. अंतरिम राष्ट्रपति अहमद अल-शारा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वैधता प्राप्त करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं, जबकि आंतरिक अस्थिरता से निपट रहे हैं।
- His government has reached an agreement with the **U.S.-backed Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)** to integrate them into the Syrian state. उनकी सरकार ने अमेरिकी समर्थित कुर्द सीरियाई डेमोक्रेटिक फोर्सस (SDF) को सीरियाई राज्य में एकीकृत करने के लिए एक समझौता किया है।
- However, **conflict continues, with Israel expanding control in the Golan Heights under counterterrorism claims**. हालांकि, संघर्ष जारी है, क्योंकि इज़राइल आतंकवाद विरोधी दावों के तहत गोलान हाइट्स में अपना नियंत्रण बढ़ा रहा है।
- Syria's economy remains crippled by Assad-era sanctions, slowing reconstruction efforts. सीरिया की अर्थव्यवस्था असद शासन के प्रतिबंधों के कारण चरमरा गई है, जिससे पुनर्निर्माण कार्यों में बाधा आ रही है।

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Who leads the Syrian government?

सीरियाई सरकार का नेतृत्व कौन कर रहा है?

- Since Assad's fall, an interim government led by **Ahmed al-Sharaa, leader of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**, has taken power. असद के पतन के बाद, हयात तहरीर अल-शाम (HTS) के नेता **अहमद अल-शारा** के नेतृत्व में एक अंतरिम सरकार सत्ता में आई है।
- Despite its militant origins, HTS has rebranded itself as a governing authority, pledging to respect minority rights. अपने उग्रवादी मूल के बावजूद, HTS ने खुद को एक शासन प्राधिकरण के रूप में पुनः स्थापित किया है और अल्पसंख्यकों के अधिकारों का सम्मान करने का वादा किया है।
- However, the **new government lacks full territorial control. Assad loyalists still operate in Latakia, and the SDF controls northeastern Rojava.** हालांकि, नई सरकार के पास पूर्ण क्षेत्रीय नियंत्रण नहीं है। असद समर्थक अब भी लताकिया में सक्रिय हैं, और SDF पूर्वोत्तर रोजावा क्षेत्र को नियंत्रित करता है।

What is the current state of conflict?

वर्तमान संघर्ष की स्थिति क्या है?

- The Syrian Arab Army (SAA) largely disintegrated after Assad's departure, but loyalist cells continue resisting, especially in Latakia. बशर अल-असद के जाने के बाद सीरियाई अरब सेना (SAA) काफी हद तक बिखर गई, लेकिन समर्थक गुट विशेष रूप से लताकिया में अब भी विरोध कर रहे हैं।
- In the northeast, **Turkish-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) continues shelling SDF positions, aiming to reduce Kurdish influence.** पूर्वोत्तर में, तुर्की समर्थित सीरियाई राष्ट्रीय सेना (SNA) SDF के ठिकानों पर लगातार हमले कर रही है, जिसका उद्देश्य कुर्द प्रभाव को कम करना है।
- Israel has intensified military operations, launching over 400 airstrikes in December 2024, targeting military bases, airports, and infrastructure. इज़राइल ने सैन्य अभियानों को तेज कर दिया है और दिसंबर 2024 में 400 से अधिक हवाई हमले किए हैं, जिसमें सैन्य ठिकानों, हवाई अड्डों और बुनियादी ढांचे को निशाना बनाया गया है।
- **Israel's advance beyond the UNDOF buffer zone in the Golan Heights has been condemned by the UN as a violation of international law.** गोलान हाइट्स में UNDOF बफर ज़ोन से आगे इज़राइल की कार्रवाई को संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून का उल्लंघन बताया है।

What about reports of Alawite massacres?

अलवी नरसंहार की रिपोर्ट्स के बारे में क्या कहा जा रहा है?



- Sectarian violence has escalated in Latakia since December, with reports of massacres against the Alawite community. दिसंबर से लताकिया में सांप्रदायिक हिंसा बढ़ गई है, और अलवी समुदाय के खिलाफ नरसंहार की रिपोर्टें सामने आई हैं।
- The Syrian Human Rights Observatory reports 1,383 civilian deaths caused by government-allied groups and Assad loyalists. सीरियाई मानवाधिकार वेधशाला के अनुसार, सरकार समर्थक समूहों और असद समर्थकों द्वारा 1,383 नागरिकों की हत्या की गई है।
- Critics fear **HTS's Sunni Islamist roots may lead to targeted reprisals** despite government denials. आलोचकों को डर है कि HTS की सुन्नी इस्लामी जड़ें लक्षित प्रतिशोध को जन्म दे सकती हैं, भले ही सरकार इन आरोपों से इनकार कर रही हो।  
Why is Syria at risk of further violence?  
सीरिया आगे और अधिक हिंसा के खतरे में क्यों है?
- **Over 90% of Syrians live under the poverty line, making economic instability a key driver of violence.** सीरिया की 90% से अधिक आबादी गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहती है, जिससे आर्थिक अस्थिरता हिंसा का एक प्रमुख कारण बन रही है।
- Thousands of combatants from collapsed military factions remain unemployed, increasing the risk of renewed conflict. विघटित सैन्य गुटों के हजारों लड़ाके बेरोजगार हैं, जिससे नए सिरे से संघर्ष का खतरा बढ़ रहा है।
- Economic sanctions from the Assad era remain in place, despite calls from the interim government for their removal. अंतरिम सरकार द्वारा प्रतिबंध हटाने की मांग के बावजूद, असद शासनकाल के आर्थिक प्रतिबंध अब भी लागू हैं।
- The **U.K. and Canada have eased trade restrictions on petroleum companies and Syria's central bank, signaling a potential shift.** यू.के. और कनाडा ने पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों और सीरिया के केंद्रीय बैंक पर व्यापार प्रतिबंधों में ढील दी है, जिससे संभावित बदलाव के संकेत मिलते हैं।

## Can Syria stabilize its future?

### क्या सीरिया अपने भविष्य को स्थिर कर सकता है?

- Syria's future depends on drafting and enforcing a new constitution that ensures minority rights and national sovereignty. सीरिया का भविष्य एक नए संविधान के निर्माण और कार्यान्वयन पर निर्भर करेगा, जो अल्पसंख्यकों के अधिकारों और राष्ट्रीय संप्रभुता की गारंटी दे।
- The interim government must consolidate power, gain international recognition, and rebuild the economy to prevent further fragmentation. अंतरिम सरकार को सत्ता मजबूत करनी होगी, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मान्यता प्राप्त करनी होगी और अर्थव्यवस्था को पुनर्निर्माण करना होगा ताकि आगे विघटन को रोका जा सके।



- The coming months will be crucial in determining Syria's path forward. आने वाले महीने सीरिया के भविष्य के मार्ग को निर्धारित करने में महत्वपूर्ण होंगे।

# Global intelligence chiefs converge in Delhi meet

Counterterrorism and intelligence-sharing systems among issues discussed at the conference, which is held a day before Raisina Dialogue; Tulsi Gabbard, Five Eyes chiefs among attendees

**GS Paper II: Multilateral Relations**

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

**G**lobal challenges and intelligence-sharing mechanisms, as well as immigration and extradition, were among a host of issues discussed at the fourth conference of global intelligence and security chiefs hosted by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Sunday. The meeting had over 28 attendees, according to official sources.

The conference is usually held a day before the annual three-day Raisina Dialogue, which is scheduled this year from March 17 to 19. This year's conference and the Dialogue are being held amid the global uncertainties caused by U.S. President Donald Trump's policies and the resultant ripple effects in major issues across the globe.

"The top points on the agenda were counterterrorism, Indo-Pacific cooperation, global challenges, global security and intel-sharing mechanisms,



**Building ties:** U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard met PM Modi last month during his visit to Washington DC. AFP

immigration and extradition, and transnational crimes, narcotics and terror funding," an official source in the know said. Intelligence sharing on transnational crimes and counterterrorism were the key issues for India, another official said.

Around 20 countries were represented at the conference, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Russia, it was learnt. U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard attended the meeting and reportedly also held talks

with Mr. Doval. She was also scheduled to speak at the Raisina Dialogue.

"I am Wheels Up on a multi-nation trip to the Indo-Pacific, a region I know very well having grown up as a child of the Pacific. I'll be going to Japan, Thailand, and India, with a brief stop in France en route back to DC. Building strong relationships, understanding, and open lines of communication are vital to achieving President Trump's objectives of peace, freedom and prosperity..." Ms. Gabbard

posted on X on March 11 before beginning her trip.

The chiefs of the Five Eyes countries, comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the U.S., were all present, though it was not clear if a separate meeting of the Five Eyes chiefs with Mr. Doval was in the offing.

The visit of Canadian spy chief Daniel Rogers has come as India looks to reset its with Ottawa after a deep freeze in bilateral relationship over Hardeep Singh Nijjar murder case.

The conference is organised by the country's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) that reports to Mr. Doval.

The meet was held for the first time in April 2022 a day before the start of the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation.

**Global intelligence chiefs converge in Delhi meet**  
**नई दिल्ली में वैश्विक खुफिया प्रमुखों की बैठक आयोजित**



**Counterterrorism and intelligence-sharing systems among issues discussed at the conference, which is held a day before Raisina Dialogue; Tulsi Gabbard, Five Eyes chiefs among attendees.**

सम्मेलन में आतंकवाद विरोधी और खुफिया-साझाकरण प्रणालियों सहित मुद्दों पर चर्चा की गई, जो राइसीना डायलॉग से एक दिन पहले आयोजित हुआ; तुलसी गैबार्ड, फाइव आईज़ प्रमुख उपस्थित रहे।

- Global challenges and intelligence-sharing mechanisms, as well as immigration and extradition, were among a host of issues discussed at the fourth conference of global intelligence and security chiefs hosted by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Sunday.  
वैश्विक चुनौतियाँ और खुफिया-साझाकरण तंत्र, साथ ही आप्रवासन और प्रत्यर्पण, रविवार को राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोवाल द्वारा आयोजित वैश्विक खुफिया और सुरक्षा प्रमुखों की चौथी बैठक में चर्चा किए गए।
- The meeting had over 28 attendees, according to official sources.  
आधिकारिक सूत्रों के अनुसार, बैठक में 28 से अधिक प्रतिभागी थे।
- The conference is usually held a day before the annual three-day Raisina Dialogue, which is scheduled this year from March 17 to 19.  
यह सम्मेलन सामान्यतः वार्षिक तीन दिवसीय राइसीना डायलॉग से एक दिन पहले आयोजित किया जाता है, जो इस वर्ष 17 से 19 मार्च तक निर्धारित है।
- This year's conference and the Dialogue are being held amid the global uncertainties caused by U.S. President Donald Trump's policies and the resultant ripple effects in major issues across the globe.  
इस वर्ष का सम्मेलन और डायलॉग अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प की नीतियों और उसके परिणामस्वरूप वैश्विक मुद्दों में पैदा होने वाली अनिश्चितताओं के बीच आयोजित किए जा रहे हैं।
- "The top points on the agenda were counterterrorism, Indo-Pacific cooperation, global challenges, global security and intel-sharing mechanisms, immigration and extradition, and transnational crimes, narcotics and terror funding," an official source in the know said.  
"एजेंडे पर शीर्ष बिंदु आतंकवाद विरोधी, इंडो-पैसिफिक सहयोग, वैश्विक चुनौतियाँ, वैश्विक सुरक्षा और खुफिया-साझाकरण तंत्र, आप्रवासन और प्रत्यर्पण, और ट्रांसनेशनल अपराध, नशीली दवाएं और आतंकवादी वित्तपोषण थे," एक ज्ञात आधिकारिक स्रोत ने कहा।



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- Intelligence sharing on transnational crimes and counterterrorism were the key issues for India, another official said.  
ट्रांसनेशनल अपराधों और आतंकवाद विरोधी खुफिया-साझाकरण भारत के लिए प्रमुख मुद्दे थे, एक अन्य आधिकारिक सूत्र ने कहा।
- Around 20 countries were represented at the conference, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Russia, it was learnt.  
सम्मेलन में लगभग 20 देशों का प्रतिनिधित्व था, जिसमें संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, कनाडा, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और रूस शामिल थे, यह जानकारी प्राप्त हुई।
- U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard attended the meeting and reportedly also held talks with Mr. Doval. She was also scheduled to speak at the Raisina Dialogue.  
अमेरिकी राष्ट्रीय खुफिया निदेशक तुलसी गैबबार्ड बैठक में उपस्थित हुईं और बताया गया कि उन्होंने श्री डोवाल से भी बातचीत की। वह राइसीना डायलॉग में बोलने के लिए भी निर्धारित थीं।
- "I am Wheels Up on a multi-nation trip to the Indo-Pacific, a region I know very well having grown up as a child of the Pacific. I'll be going to Japan, Thailand, and India, with a brief stop in France en route back to DC. Building strong relationships, understanding, and open lines of communication are vital to achieving President Trump's objectives of peace, freedom and prosperity..." Ms. Gabbard posted on X on March 11 before beginning her trip.  
"मैं इंडो-पैसिफिक के लिए एक बहु-राष्ट्र यात्रा पर जा रही हूँ, जो एक क्षेत्र है जिसे मैं बहुत अच्छी तरह जानती हूँ क्योंकि मैं पैसिफिक के एक बच्चे के रूप में बड़ी हुई हूँ। मैं जापान, थाईलैंड, और भारत जा रही हूँ, और डीसी लौटते समय फ्रांस में एक संक्षिप्त ठहराव होगा। मजबूत संबंधों, समझ और खुले संवाद की रेखाएँ स्थापित करना राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प के शांति, स्वतंत्रता और समृद्धि के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं..." श्रीमती गैबबार्ड ने 11 मार्च को अपनी यात्रा शुरू करने से पहले X पर पोस्ट किया।
- The chiefs of the Five Eyes countries, comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the U.S., were all present, though it was not clear if a separate meeting of the Five Eyes chiefs with Mr. Doval was in the offing.  
फाइव आईज़ देशों के प्रमुख, जिनमें ऑस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा, न्यूजीलैंड, यूनाइटेड किंगडम और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका शामिल हैं, सभी उपस्थित थे, हालांकि यह स्पष्ट नहीं था कि श्री डोवाल के साथ फाइव आईज़ प्रमुखों की एक अलग बैठक प्रस्तावित थी या नहीं।
- The visit of Canadian spy chief Daniel Rogers has come as India looks to reset its relationship with Ottawa after a deep freeze in bilateral relationship over Hardeep Singh Nijjar murder case.  
कनाडाई जासूसी प्रमुख डैनियल रोजर्स का दौरा इस समय हुआ है जब भारत hardeep सिंह निज्जर हत्या मामले को लेकर ओटावा के साथ अपने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को फिर से स्थापित करने की कोशिश कर रहा है।



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- The conference is organised by the country's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) that reports to Mr. Doval.  
यह सम्मेलन देश की बाहरी खुफिया एजेंसी, रिसर्च एंड एनालिसिस विंग (RAW) और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद सचिवालय (NSCS) द्वारा आयोजित किया जाता है, जो श्री डोवाल को रिपोर्ट करता है।
- The meet was held for the first time in April 2022 a day before the start of the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation.  
यह बैठक पहली बार अप्रैल 2022 में राइसीना डायलॉग की शुरुआत से एक दिन पहले आयोजित की गई थी, जो भारत का प्रमुख सम्मेलन है जो भू-राजनीति और भू-रणनीति पर केंद्रित है, और इसे विदेश मंत्रालय ने ऑब्जरवर रिसर्च फाउंडेशन के सहयोग से आयोजित किया है।

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# New Bill proposes jail term up to 7 years for using forged passport

GS Paper II: Governance

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Anyone found using a forged passport or visa for entering, exiting or staying in India will be punished with a jail term of up to seven years and a fine to the extent of ₹10 lakh if the new immigration Bill is approved by Parliament.

The Bill also provides for mandatory reporting of information about foreigners by hotels, universities, other educational institutions, hospitals and nursing homes to enable tracking of overstaying foreigners.

International airlines and ships must submit passenger and crew manifests at Indian ports.

The Bill states that using forged documents for entering, exiting or staying in India can lead to imprisonment of two years to seven years and a penalty of ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh. Foreigners entering without valid documents may face up to five years in jail and fines up to ₹5 lakh.

The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, is comprehensive legislation to regulate all matters relat-

ing to foreigners and immigration.

Matters relating to foreigners and immigration are presently administered through four Acts - the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. All these laws are now proposed to be repealed.

This legislation is in line with the government's policy of simplification of laws, ease of doing business and minimising compliance burden. It seeks to balance the requirements of national security and related issues of immigration of foreigners with the need to promote economic growth and tourism.

According to existing laws, all foreigners on long-term - more than 180 days - student, medical, research, employment, missionary and project visas are required to register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) or the Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) concerned, having jurisdiction over the place, within 14 days of arrival.

**New Bill proposes jail term up to 7 years for using forged passport**

**नया विधेयक जाली पासपोर्ट के उपयोग पर 7 साल तक की सजा का प्रस्ताव करता है**

**Anyone found using a forged passport or visa for entering, exiting, or staying in India will be punished with a jail term of up to seven years and a fine up to ₹10 lakh if the new immigration Bill is approved by Parliament.**

**भारत में प्रवेश, निकास या रहने के लिए जाली पासपोर्ट या वीजा का उपयोग करने वाले किसी भी व्यक्ति को, यदि नया आप्रवासन विधेयक संसद द्वारा पारित होता है, तो 7 साल तक की जेल और ₹10 लाख तक का जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा।**

• The Bill also provides for mandatory reporting of information about foreigners by hotels, universities, other educational institutions, hospitals, and nursing homes to enable tracking of overstaying foreigners.

यह विधेयक विदेशी नागरिकों की जानकारी को होटलों, विश्वविद्यालयों, अन्य शैक्षणिक संस्थानों, अस्पतालों और नर्सिंग होम्स द्वारा अनिवार्य रूप से रिपोर्ट करने का प्रावधान करता है, ताकि ज्यादा समय तक ठहरने वाले विदेशी नागरिकों पर नज़र रखी जा सके।

• International airlines and ships must submit passenger and crew manifests at Indian ports.

अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरलाइंस और जहाजों को भारतीय बंदरगाहों पर यात्री

और चालक दल की सूची जमा करनी होगी।

- The Bill states that using forged documents for entering, exiting, or staying in India can lead to imprisonment of two years to seven years and a penalty of ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

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विधेयक के अनुसार, भारत में प्रवेश, निकास या निवास के लिए जाली दस्तावेजों के उपयोग पर 2 साल से 7 साल तक की जेल और ₹1 लाख से ₹10 लाख तक का जुर्माना लगाया जा सकता है।

- **Foreigners entering without valid documents may face up to five years in jail and fines up to ₹5 lakh.**  
वैध दस्तावेजों के बिना प्रवेश करने वाले विदेशी नागरिकों को 5 साल तक की जेल और ₹5 लाख तक का जुर्माना हो सकता है।
- **The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, is comprehensive legislation to regulate all matters relating to foreigners and immigration.**  
आप्रवासन और विदेशी नागरिक विधेयक, 2025 विदेशी नागरिकों और आप्रवासन से संबंधित सभी मामलों को विनियमित करने के लिए व्यापक कानून है।
- **Matters relating to foreigners and immigration are presently administered through four Acts –**  
विदेशी नागरिकों और आप्रवासन से जुड़े मामलों को वर्तमान में चार कानूनों के तहत संचालित किया जाता है –
  - **The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920**  
पासपोर्ट (भारत में प्रवेश) अधिनियम, 1920
  - **The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939**  
विदेशी नागरिकों का पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1939
  - **The Foreigners Act, 1946**  
विदेशी नागरिक अधिनियम, 1946
  - **The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000**  
आप्रवासन (वाहक उत्तरदायित्व) अधिनियम, 2000
- **All these laws are now proposed to be repealed.**  
इन सभी कानूनों को अब निरस्त करने का प्रस्ताव है।
- **This legislation is in line with the government's policy of simplification of laws, ease of doing business, and minimizing compliance burden.**  
यह विधेयक सरकार की कानूनों को सरल बनाने, व्यापार करने में आसानी बढ़ाने और अनुपालन बोझ को कम करने की नीति के अनुरूप है।
- **It seeks to balance national security with economic growth and tourism promotion.**  
यह राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और आर्थिक वृद्धि व पर्यटन संवर्धन के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करने का प्रयास करता है।
- **According to existing laws, all foreigners on long-term visas (more than 180 days) for student, medical, research, employment, missionary, and project purposes must**



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register with the **Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO)** or the **Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO)** within 14 days of arrival.

वर्तमान कानूनों के अनुसार, 180 दिनों से अधिक समय के लिए छात्र, चिकित्सा, शोध, रोजगार, मिशनरी और परियोजना वीजा पर भारत आने वाले सभी विदेशी नागरिकों को आगमन के 14 दिनों के भीतर विदेशी क्षेत्रीय पंजीकरण अधिकारी (FRRO) या विदेशी पंजीकरण अधिकारी (FRO) के साथ पंजीकरण करना आवश्यक है।

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# In a 2014 judgment, Supreme Court had favoured 'linguistic secularism'

**GS Paper II: Polity**

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

The debate over the language formula in the National Education Policy rages, though the Supreme Court had favoured "linguistic secularism", or the acceptance of the legitimate aspirations of the speakers of different languages in India, in a 2014 judgment.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has accused the Centre of imposing Hindi through the National Education Policy at the cost of "totally destroying Tamil Nadu's progress in education".

The court in *U.P. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan vs State of U.P.* in September 2014 had observed that the mode of development or evolution of both law and language in the country was "organic". Indian language laws, the court said, were "not rigid but accommodative – the object being to secure linguistic secularism".

The judgment referred to Constitutional expert



The court said Indian language laws were not rigid but accommodative. FILE PHOTO

H.M. Seervai's commentary on the conflict which arose in the Constituent Assembly in 1949 over the question of Hindi as a "national language". A compromise proposed in the Munshi-Ayyangar formula led to the inclusion of Article 343 in the Constitution declaring Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.

### 'Official language'

"Though Hindi was selected as the official language, it could not be described as the national language, for, it was not the language generally spoken in all parts of India, and though spoken by the largest sin-

gle group of people, that group did not constitute the majority of people in India. Besides, there were regional languages such as Bengali in Bengal, Tamil in Madras, and Marathi and Gujarati in the erstwhile State of Bombay which were spoken by large populations and it was claimed for those languages that they were more developed than Hindi. Hindi was therefore described as the official language," the judgment quoted from Mr. Seervai's commentary.

Article 351 however imposes a "duty" on the Union government to promote the spread of the Hindi language. However, the Allahabad High Court, in its 1982 judgment in *Sunil K.R. Sahastrabudhey vs Director, IIT Kanpur*, observed that "although Hindi is the national language of India and Article 351 lays down a duty on the Union to promote the spread of Hindi language to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India, there is no right conferred on any citizen to compel an institution to impart

education in that particular language".

Besides, Article 29(1) of the Constitution recognised that "every section of the society which has a distinct language script or culture of its own" has the fundamental right to conserve the same.

"This is a right which is conferred on both majority and minority," the top court had underscored.

The Supreme court, while responding to whether a student or a parent or a citizen has a right to choose the medium of instruction at primary school level in *State of Karnataka vs Associated Management of Primary & Secondary Schools*, said the fundamental right to speech and expression under Article 19 included the freedom of a primary class student to choose the language of instruction. The court said the state cannot impose control over such a choice.

In this, the court had taken a leaf from the U.S. Supreme Court's conclusion in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters of Holy Names* in 1924 that "a child is not a mere creature of the State".

**In a 2014 judgment, Supreme Court had favoured 'linguistic secularism'**

**2014 के एक फैसले में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 'भाषाई धर्मनिरपेक्षता' का समर्थन किया**



The debate over the language formula in the National Education Policy continues, though the Supreme Court had favoured “linguistic secularism” in a 2014 judgment.

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति में भाषा सूत्र पर बहस जारी है, हालांकि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 2014 के फैसले में "भाषाई धर्मनिरपेक्षता" का समर्थन किया था।

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has accused the Centre of imposing Hindi through the National Education Policy, claiming it is destroying Tamil Nadu's progress in education.

तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने केंद्र सरकार पर राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति के माध्यम से हिंदी थोपने का आरोप लगाया और कहा कि इससे तमिलनाडु की शिक्षा में प्रगति बाधित हो रही है।

- The court, in **U.P. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan vs State of U.P. (September 2014)**, observed that the development of law and language in the country was “organic”.  
सितंबर 2014 में यूपी हिंदी साहित्य सम्मेलन बनाम उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि देश में कानून और भाषा का विकास "संगठित रूप से विकसित" हुआ है।
- The court stated that **Indian language laws** were “not rigid but accommodative” with the aim of securing **linguistic secularism**.  
अदालत ने कहा कि भारतीय भाषा कानून "कठोर नहीं बल्कि समायोज्य" हैं, जिनका उद्देश्य भाषाई धर्मनिरपेक्षता को सुनिश्चित करना है।
- The judgment referred to **Constitutional expert H.M. Seervai's** commentary on the **1949 Constituent Assembly debate over Hindi as a national language**.  
इस फैसले में संविधान विशेषज्ञ एच.एम. सीरवाई की 1949 में संविधान सभा की बहस पर टिप्पणी का उल्लेख किया गया, जिसमें हिंदी को राष्ट्रीय भाषा बनाने को लेकर विवाद था।
- A **compromise** in the **Munshi-Ayyangar formula** led to the inclusion of **Article 343** in the Constitution, declaring **Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union**.  
मुंशी-अय्यंगार फॉर्मूले में हुए समझौते के कारण संविधान में अनुच्छेद 343 जोड़ा गया, जिसमें देवनागरी लिपि में हिंदी को संघ की आधिकारिक भाषा घोषित किया गया।
- **Official language, not national language**: The court stated that **Hindi was selected as the official language but not as the national language**.  
आधिकारिक भाषा, राष्ट्रीय भाषा नहीं: अदालत ने कहा कि हिंदी को आधिकारिक भाषा चुना गया, लेकिन राष्ट्रीय भाषा नहीं बनाया गया।



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- **Article 351** imposes a **duty** on the **Union government** to promote the spread of **Hindi**.  
अनुच्छेद 351 केंद्र सरकार पर हिंदी के प्रचार-प्रसार की जिम्मेदारी डालता है।
- The **Allahabad High Court (1982)** ruled in **Sunil K.R. Sahastrabudhey vs Director, IIT Kanpur** that there is **no right to compel an institution to impart education in Hindi**.  
इलाहाबाद हाई कोर्ट (1982) ने सुनील के.आर. सहस्त्रबुधे बनाम निदेशक, आईआईटी कानपुर मामले में कहा कि किसी भी संस्था को हिंदी में शिक्षा देने के लिए बाध्य नहीं किया जा सकता।
- **Article 29(1) of the Constitution** states that **every section of society with a distinct language, script, or culture has the fundamental right to conserve it**.  
संविधान के अनुच्छेद 29(1) के अनुसार, किसी भी समाज के विशिष्ट भाषा, लिपि या संस्कृति को संरक्षित करने का मौलिक अधिकार है।
- The **Supreme Court** highlighted that **this right applies to both majority and minority groups**.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि यह अधिकार बहुसंख्यक और अल्पसंख्यक दोनों पर लागू होता है।
- In **State of Karnataka vs Associated Management of Primary & Secondary Schools**, the **Supreme Court** ruled that the **fundamental right to speech and expression (Article 19)** includes a **student's freedom to choose the medium of instruction**.  
कर्नाटक राज्य बनाम एसोसिएटेड मैनेजमेंट ऑफ प्राइमरी एंड सेकेंडरी स्कूल्स मामले में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि अनुच्छेद 19 के तहत भाषण और अभिव्यक्ति का मौलिक अधिकार में छात्र की शिक्षा की भाषा चुनने की स्वतंत्रता शामिल है।
- The **state cannot impose control** over a student's **language choice for education**.  
राज्य सरकार शिक्षा के लिए छात्र की भाषा की पसंद पर नियंत्रण नहीं लगा सकती।
- The court referred to the **U.S. Supreme Court's 1924 ruling in Pierce v. Society of Sisters**, which stated that "**a child is not a mere creature of the State**".  
अदालत ने यू.एस. सुप्रीम कोर्ट के 1924 के फैसले (पीयर्स बनाम सोसाइटी ऑफ सिस्टर्स) का हवाला दिया, जिसमें कहा गया था कि "एक बच्चा केवल राज्य का अधीनस्थ प्राणी नहीं है"।



# India, New Zealand resume trade deal talks after decade

The FTA negotiations aim to achieve balanced outcomes that enhance supply chain integration and improve market access, says Commerce Ministry after a meeting between Goyal and McClay

**GS Paper II: India-  
New Zealand**  
NEW DELHI

After a gap of about 10 years, India and New Zealand on Sunday announced resumption of negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) to boost economic ties.

India and New Zealand began negotiating the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in April 2010 to boost trade in goods, services, and investment. However, after 10 rounds of discussions, the talks stalled in February 2015.

"The two nations are pleased to announce the launch of negotiations for a comprehensive and mutually beneficial India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations," the Commerce Ministry said.

The announcement was made after a meeting of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Todd McClay, New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment.

Prime Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon is here on a four-day vi-



**Deep dive:** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

sit from Sunday.

"The India-New Zealand FTA negotiations aim to achieve balanced outcomes that enhance supply chain integration and improve market access," it said. "With bilateral trade continuing to grow steadily, surpassing USD 1 billion during April-January 2025, the FTA negotiations aim to unlock new avenues for businesses and consumers, fostering mutual growth and prosperity of our nations," Mr. Goyal said in a post on X.

According to think tank

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), a major challenge in the renewed talks will be the disparity in tariff structures.

#### Common ground

New Zealand's average import tariff is only 2.3%, with over half of its tariff lines already duty-free, meaning Indian goods already have substantial access to its market.

In contrast, India's average tariff stands at 17.8%, meaning it would have to make significant reductions, making a traditional

FTA less attractive for India. "As talks resume, both countries will need to find common ground on these issues to move forward successfully," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He said earlier New Zealand was demanding greater access to India's dairy market, which India resisted to protect its domestic dairy industry that supports millions of farmers.

Currently, India's dairy imports from New Zealand are minimal (around \$0.57 million), and while India may consider limited imports of value-added dairy products, it remains firm against allowing raw dairy imports, he said. India was also reluctant to lower tariffs on New Zealand's dairy, meat, and wine exports, while New Zealand pushed for more favourable trade terms.

"Pressure from the U.S. to open India's dairy and agriculture sectors may also influence negotiations," Mr. Srivastava said, adding that another key issue was India's demand for easier movement of its skilled professionals and better access for its IT and services sector.

**India, New Zealand resume trade deal talks after decade**

**भारत और न्यूजीलैंड**

**ने एक दशक बाद**

**व्यापार समझौता**

**वार्ता फिर से शुरू की**

**After a gap of about 10 years, India and New Zealand announced the resumption of negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) on Sunday to boost economic ties.**

**लगभग 10 साल के**

**अंतराल के बाद, भारत**

**और न्यूजीलैंड ने रविवार**

**को मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) के लिए बातचीत फिर से शुरू करने की घोषणा की ताकि आर्थिक संबंधों को मजबूत किया जा सके।**

- India and New Zealand began negotiating the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in April 2010** to boost trade in goods, services, and investment. However, after **10 rounds** of discussions, the talks stalled in **February 2015**.



भारत और न्यूजीलैंड ने अप्रैल 2010 में व्यापक आर्थिक सहयोग समझौता (CECA) पर बातचीत शुरू की थी ताकि वस्तुओं, सेवाओं और निवेश में व्यापार को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। हालांकि, 10 दौर की चर्चाओं के बाद, वार्ता फरवरी 2015 में रुक गई थी।

- “The two nations are pleased to announce the launch of negotiations for a **comprehensive and mutually beneficial India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**,” the **Commerce Ministry** said.  
वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने कहा, "दोनों देश भारत-न्यूजीलैंड मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) के लिए व्यापक और पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी वार्ता शुरू करने की घोषणा करते हैं।"
- The announcement was made after a **meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Todd McClay**, New Zealand's **Minister for Trade and Investment**.  
यह घोषणा वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल और न्यूजीलैंड के व्यापार एवं निवेश मंत्री टॉड मैकले के बीच बैठक के बाद की गई।
- **New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon** is on a **four-day visit to India** starting from **Sunday**.  
न्यूजीलैंड के प्रधानमंत्री क्रिस्टोफर लक्सन रविवार से चार दिवसीय भारत यात्रा पर हैं।
- “The **India-New Zealand FTA negotiations** aim to achieve **balanced outcomes that enhance supply chain integration and improve market access**,” the ministry said.  
भारत-न्यूजीलैंड मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) वार्ता का उद्देश्य आपूर्ति श्रृंखला के एकीकरण को बढ़ाना और बाजार पहुंच में सुधार करना है," मंत्रालय ने कहा।
- **Bilateral trade between India and New Zealand** surpassed **USD 1 billion** during **April-January 2025**, and the FTA aims to **unlock new business opportunities**.  
भारत और न्यूजीलैंड के बीच द्विपक्षीय व्यापार अप्रैल-जनवरी 2025 के दौरान 1 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर से अधिक हो गया, और FTA का उद्देश्य नई व्यापारिक संभावनाओं को खोलना है।
- **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)** highlighted **tariff disparities** as a major challenge in the renewed talks.  
ग्लोबल ट्रेड रिसर्च इनिशिएटिव (GTRI) ने शुल्क असमानताओं को नवीनीकृत वार्ता में एक प्रमुख चुनौती के रूप में पहचाना।

## Common Ground

### साझा सहमति

- **New Zealand's average import tariff is only 2.3%**, with over **half of its tariff lines already duty-free**, meaning **Indian goods already have substantial access to its market**.



न्यूजीलैंड का औसत आयात शुल्क मात्र 2.3% है, और इसके आधे से अधिक उत्पाद शुल्क-मुक्त हैं, जिससे भारतीय वस्तुओं को पहले से ही इसके बाजार में पर्याप्त पहुंच प्राप्त है।

- India's average tariff stands at 17.8%, meaning it would have to make significant reductions, making a traditional FTA less attractive for India.  
भारत का औसत शुल्क 17.8% है, जिससे शुल्क में महत्वपूर्ण कटौती करनी होगी, जिससे पारंपरिक मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) भारत के लिए कम आकर्षक हो सकता है।
- Earlier, New Zealand demanded greater access to India's dairy market, which India resisted to protect its domestic dairy industry that supports millions of farmers.  
पहले, न्यूजीलैंड ने भारत के डेयरी बाजार में अधिक पहुंच की मांग की थी, जिसे भारत ने अस्वीकार कर दिया, क्योंकि इसका घरेलू डेयरी उद्योग लाखों किसानों को समर्थन प्रदान करता है।
- India's dairy imports from New Zealand are minimal, around \$0.57 million. While India may allow limited imports of value-added dairy products, it remains firm against raw dairy imports.  
न्यूजीलैंड से भारत का डेयरी आयात बहुत कम है, लगभग \$0.57 मिलियन। हालांकि, भारत मूल्य संवर्धित डेयरी उत्पादों के सीमित आयात की अनुमति दे सकता है, लेकिन कच्चे डेयरी उत्पादों के आयात के खिलाफ दृढ़ है।
- India was also reluctant to lower tariffs on New Zealand's dairy, meat, and wine exports, while New Zealand pushed for more favorable trade terms.  
भारत न्यूजीलैंड के डेयरी, मांस और शराब निर्यात पर शुल्क कम करने के लिए अनिच्छुक था, जबकि न्यूजीलैंड ने अधिक अनुकूल व्यापार शर्तों के लिए दबाव डाला।
- U.S. pressure to open India's dairy and agriculture sectors may also influence negotiations.  
भारत के डेयरी और कृषि क्षेत्रों को खोलने के लिए अमेरिका का दबाव भी वार्ता को प्रभावित कर सकता है।
- Another key issue is India's demand for easier movement of skilled professionals and better access for its IT and services sector.  
एक और महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा भारत की कुशल पेशेवरों की आवाजाही को आसान बनाने की मांग और आईटी एवं सेवा क्षेत्र के लिए बेहतर पहुंच है।



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

- 1. Bodo Peace Accord proved Cong. wrong: Shah in Assam**  
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- 2. What is Elon Musk's Starlink all about?**  
एलन मस्क का स्टारलिनक क्या है?
- 3. Wanted LeT terrorist Abu Qatal killed by gunmen in Pakistan**  
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- 5. SpaceX Crew docks with ISS to reach astronauts stuck in space for 9 months**  
स्पेसएक्स क्रू आईएसएस से जुड़ा, 9 महीने से फंसे अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों तक पहुंचा
- 6. Air pollution will lower India's solar generation capacity: study**  
वायु प्रदूषण भारत की सौर उत्पादन क्षमता को कम करेगा: अध्ययन
- 7. Birefringence: different in different directions**  
द्विवर्तनी (बाइरिफ्रिजेंस): अलग-अलग दिशाओं में अलग प्रभाव



# Bodo Peace Accord proved Cong. wrong: Shah in Assam

Pact brought peace, development in region, says Union Home Minister at annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union; adds Modi freed Northeast from terrorism, bandhs, and blockades

**GS Paper III: Internal Security**

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Assam on Sunday said the Congress had mocked him after he signed the third Bodo Peace Accord, but it had sustained, proving the party wrong.

Mr. Shah took a swipe at the Congress while addressing the 57th annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) at Dotma near Kokrajhar, headquarters of the 8,970-sq.-km. Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), where tribal council elections are due in December.

The BTR is ruled by the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) in alliance with the BJP. The Congress is likely to be the only mainstream party to challenge them in the elections.

"The Congress made fun of me when the BTR peace agreement was signed. They said there will be no peace in Bodoland and this agreement will turn out to be a joke. Today, the accord has



Amit Shah plays a traditional drum at the 57th annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union in Kokrajhar, Assam, on Sunday. ANI

brought peace and development in a region where discussions once revolved around conflict and bloodshed," he said.

#### Lauds ABSU's role

The Minister lauded the ABSU for its big role in the prevailing peace and development in the BTR, which comprises five districts. "There would have been no peace in Bodoland without the union's involvement," he said, adding that the government had provided ₹1,500 crore for the development of the BTR administered by the

autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).

#### Focus on rehabilitation

Mr. Shah said the Centre had spent the bulk of ₹287 crore in the past three years on the rehabilitation of 4,881 extremists who signed the 2020 peace accord along with the ABSU.

Altogether nine peace accords had been signed in Assam, and more than 10,000 youth were brought to the mainstream under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Minister said. "Modiji freed the entire

Northeast from terrorism, bandhs, and blockades."

Lauding Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for employing 400 of such Bodo youth in a commando battalion, he commended BTC chief Pramod Boro for several initiatives to strengthen peace and development in the region.

The Home Minister announced that the Centre would name a major road in Delhi after Bodofa (Guardian of the Bodos) Upendranath Brahma, who was born at Dotma. "Bodofa's bust will be unveiled there in April in the presence of all your leaders and the Assam Chief Minister," he said.

#### Anti-drugs drive

Referring to the seizure of methamphetamine tablets worth ₹88 crore, and the arrest of four members of an international drug cartel in Imphal and Guwahati recently, Mr. Shah said the Modi government's crackdown on drugs would continue. "No mercy for drug cartels," he said on X.

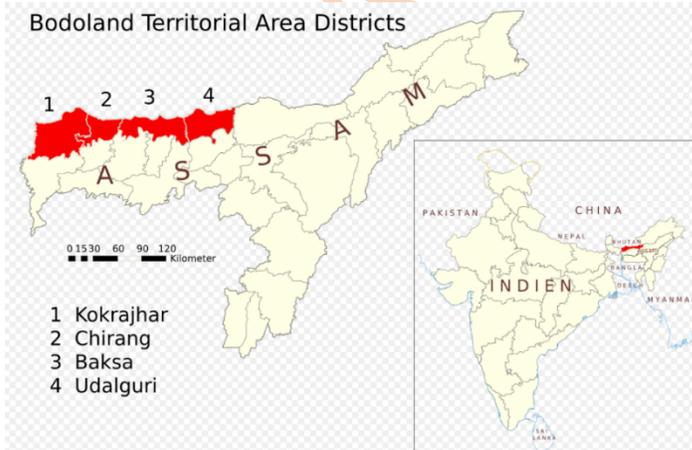
**Bodo Peace Accord proved Cong. wrong: Shah in Assam**

**बोडो शांति समझौते ने कांग्रेस को गलत साबित किया: असम में शाह**

**Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Assam on Sunday said the Congress had mocked him after he signed the third Bodo Peace Accord, but it had sustained, proving the party wrong. केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने रविवार को असम में कहा कि तीसरा बोडो शांति**

**समझौता करने के बाद कांग्रेस ने उनका मजाक उड़ाया था, लेकिन यह समझौता स्थिर रहा और कांग्रेस को गलत साबित किया।**

• **Mr. Shah took a swipe at Congress while addressing the 57th annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) at Dotma near Kokrajhar, the headquarters of the 8,970-sq.-km.**





**Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).** शाह ने कांग्रेस पर तंज कसते हुए कोकराझार के पास डोटमा में आयोजित ऑल बोडो स्टूडेंट्स यूनियन (ABSU) के 57वें वार्षिक सम्मेलन को संबोधित किया। यह क्षेत्र 8,970 वर्ग किमी के बोडोलैंड टेरिटोरियल रीजन (BTR) का मुख्यालय है।

**Congress doubted the peace agreement**

कांग्रेस ने शांति समझौते पर संदेह जताया

- "The Congress made fun of me when the BTR peace agreement was signed. They said there will be no peace in Bodoland and this agreement will turn out to be a joke. Today, the accord has brought peace and development in a region where discussions once revolved around conflict and bloodshed." "जब बीटीआर शांति समझौता हुआ, तब कांग्रेस ने मेरा मजाक उड़ाया। उन्होंने कहा कि बोडोलैंड में शांति नहीं आएगी और यह समझौता मजाक साबित होगा। आज, यह समझौता एक ऐसे क्षेत्र में शांति और विकास लेकर आया है, जहां पहले संघर्ष और रक्तपात की ही चर्चा होती थी।

**ABSU's role in maintaining peace**

ABSU की शांति बनाए रखने में भूमिका

- The Minister lauded the ABSU for its big role in the prevailing peace and development in the BTR, which comprises five districts. गृह मंत्री ने ABSU की सराहना की, जिसने BTR में शांति और विकास बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जो पांच जिलों में फैला हुआ है।
- He added that the government had provided ₹1,500 crore for the development of BTR, administered by the autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने स्वायत्त बोडोलैंड टेरिटोरियल काउंसिल (BTC) द्वारा प्रशासित BTR के विकास के लिए ₹1,500 करोड़ प्रदान किए।

**Rehabilitation of extremists and youth empowerment**

उग्रवादियों का पुनर्वास और युवाओं को मुख्यधारा में लाना

- Mr. Shah said the Centre had spent ₹287 crore in the past three years on the rehabilitation of 4,881 extremists who signed the 2020 peace accord along with ABSU. शाह ने कहा कि केंद्र ने पिछले तीन वर्षों में 4,881 उग्रवादियों के पुनर्वास पर ₹287 करोड़ खर्च किए, जिन्होंने 2020 शांति समझौते पर ABSU के साथ हस्ताक्षर किए थे।
- A total of nine peace accords had been signed in Assam, and more than 10,000 youth were brought to the mainstream under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. असम में कुल नौ शांति समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर हुए हैं और प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में 10,000 से अधिक युवाओं को मुख्यधारा में लाया गया है।
- "Modiji freed the entire Northeast from terrorism, bandhs, and blockades." "मोदीजी ने पूरे उत्तर-पूर्व को आतंकवाद, बंद और नाकेबंदी से मुक्त किया।"
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma employed 400 Bodo youth in a commando battalion, while BTC chief Pramod Boro took several initiatives to strengthen peace and development in the region. असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने



400 बोडो युवाओं को कमांडो बटालियन में नियुक्त किया, जबकि BTC प्रमुख प्रमोद बरो ने क्षेत्र में शांति और विकास को मजबूत करने के लिए कई पहल की।

Honoring Bodo leader Upendranath Brahma

बोडो नेता उपेंद्रनाथ ब्रह्मा को सम्मान

- Mr. Shah announced that the Centre would name a major road in Delhi after Bodofa (Guardian of the Bodos) Upendranath Brahma. शाह ने घोषणा की कि केंद्र दिल्ली में एक प्रमुख सड़क का नाम बोडोफा (बोडो समुदाय के संरक्षक) उपेंद्रनाथ ब्रह्मा के नाम पर रखेगा।
- "Bodofa's bust will be unveiled in April in the presence of Assam Chief Minister and Bodo leaders." "बोडोफा की प्रतिमा अप्रैल में असम के मुख्यमंत्री और बोडो नेताओं की उपस्थिति में अनावरण की जाएगी।"  
Anti-drugs drive and crackdown on cartels  
नशीली दवाओं के खिलाफ अभियान और माफियाओं पर कार्रवाई
- Referring to the seizure of methamphetamine tablets worth ₹88 crore, and the arrest of four members of an international drug cartel in Imphal and Guwahati, Mr. Shah said the Modi government's crackdown on drugs would continue. ₹88 करोड़ मूल्य की मेथामफेटामाइन टैबलेट की जब्ती और इंपाल व गुवाहाटी में एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय ड्रग कार्टेल के चार सदस्यों की गिरफ्तारी का जिक्र करते हुए, शाह ने कहा कि मोदी सरकार का नशीली दवाओं के खिलाफ अभियान जारी रहेगा।
- "No mercy for drug cartels," he said on X. "ड्रग माफियाओं के लिए कोई रहम नहीं होगा," उन्होंने X (ट्विटर) पर कहा।



# What is Elon Musk's Starlink all about?

What is Starlink, and how does it work? Why does it face regulatory hurdles in India? Why hasn't India auctioned satellite spectrum? What impact could U.S. trade pressure have on Starlink's approval? What government approvals does Starlink need?

GS Paper III: S&T

## EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

### The story so far:

**B**harti Airtel and Reliance Jio have signed distribution pacts with SpaceX Corp.'s Starlink service to bring satellite internet access to India. The distribution pacts are a reversal from the telecom industry's reluctance to quickly make the Starlink service available in India without auctions for the satellite airwaves.

### What is Starlink?

Starlink is a low-earth orbit constellation of over 7,000 satellites that provide internet access to users with ground terminals, which the Elon Musk-owned SpaceX is already selling in around 40 countries. The satellites constantly orbit the earth, blanketing practically its entire habitable surface with coverage, as long as a given terminal on the ground has visibility to the sky.

The service offers speeds of around 100 megabits per second, comparable with many home broadband connections. However, the "latency," or the time it takes for a given data packet to travel between a user and terrestrial internet networks, is higher than wired broadband connections in offices and homes.

Satellites work in conjunction with ground stations on earth, which are physically connected to the internet like any other network and beam up connections wirelessly to satellites above them at any given point.

In India, Starlink may not be that useful in cities and towns with good 5G connectivity or wired broadband coverage, as local speeds and reliability will far exceed what a satellite link currently offers, even with technological advancements. However, in rural and remote areas where "terrestrial" networks have not penetrated deeply,



Entry delayed: In India, Starlink has faced several regulatory hurdles. REUTERS

Starlink can offer decent connectivity almost instantly.

### How much does Starlink cost?

There are two costs associated with Starlink: the user terminal – essentially a router – required to access the satellite network and the monthly access fee to stay connected. At present, a residential kit in parts of the U.S. costs \$149, while a portable "roaming" kit costs \$349. Import duty, GST and social welfare surcharges applicable on satellite equipment may push up the hardware price by around 30%.

Without any introductory pricing on the hardware, the equipment may cost anywhere between ₹17,000 and ₹40,000, not including shipping costs from the U.S., where it is developed and manufactured.

Besides this, unlimited residential and roaming plans range from \$120-\$165 in the U.S. It is not a given that this price will be any lower in India, as the cost to provide Starlink service is, by nature of the technology, the same everywhere on earth. Notably, in Bhutan, where Starlink launched this year, it is priced at 4,200 to 8,400 ngultrum, which may be an

indication of the Indian price as well. The Bhutanese currency is pegged to the rupee at parity.

A higher-priced plan for users on the move, called "mobile priority" is available at 21,000 ngultrum (or therefore rupees) per month and offers priority access in case of network congestion.

### When will Starlink be available in India?

Starlink has faced several regulatory hurdles, the sharpest among them being the Indian government's heavy scrutiny of internet services in general and a technology that could provide access anywhere in the country in particular.

SpaceX needs to obtain a Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. While this authorisation existed in a different form under the Telegraph Act, 1885, the updated rules under the new Act have yet to be published, and it is unclear if the government will issue such an authorisation under the previous law's subordinate legislation, even though it remains technically in force.

As a part of this authorisation, SpaceX

had to convince the Indian government to accept its contentions on revealing corporate ownership data, something it resisted on investor privacy grounds abroad. While reports suggest that this particular hurdle has been passed, the company still needs to obtain a security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs. It remains unclear if such a clearance has been obtained.

It is also uncertain whether the company's ground stations in India – where the Telecom Act requires tapping equipment installed onsite to give law enforcement authorities access to the network, a requirement that exists for other internet networks as well – are currently operational.

Finally, Starlink also needs to be allotted wireless spectrum through which it can offer its services. The government has indicated that like other countries, it will not auction this spectrum, as these are narrow beams that can be shared with other providers, unlike the signals emitted by telecom towers on the ground. Telcos have – before tying up with Starlink this year – demanded that this spectrum be auctioned, something that would be a global first. Reliance Jio has commissioned legal opinions that state that auction is the only way to allot satellite spectrum, due to the Supreme Court's 2012 judgment in the 2G scam case, where the top court held that all scarce natural resources must be allocated by auction.

It is unclear if these hurdles will be cleared on time. However, Mr. Musk's ascendancy in the U.S. government, along with trade pressure from President Donald Trump's administration, has boosted speculation that the government may facilitate Starlink's entry in short order.

Aside from Airtel and Jio's commercial distribution agreements, there have not been any official announcements on forward movement from a regulatory point of view.

## THE GIST

Starlink needs GMPCS authorisation, security clearance, and spectrum allocation, but government scrutiny and legal challenges have delayed its approval in India.

It is more useful in rural areas than in cities with strong 5G and broadband.

Airtel and Jio have signed distribution agreements with Starlink, despite earlier demands for a spectrum auction. Government decisions on spectrum allocation and U.S. trade pressure may influence Starlink's entry.

## What is Elon Musk's Starlink all about?

### एलन मस्क का स्टारलिनक क्या है?

**Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio have signed distribution agreements with SpaceX Corp.'s Starlink to bring satellite internet to India.**

**भारती एयरटेल और रिलायंस जियो ने स्पेसएक्स कॉर्प के स्टारलिनक के साथ भारत में सैटेलाइट इंटरनेट लाने के लिए वितरण समझौते किए हैं।**

- This is a reversal from the telecom industry's earlier reluctance to bring Starlink to India without auctioning satellite airwaves.

यह पहले की टेलीकॉम इंडस्ट्री की अनिच्छा से विपरीत है, जो बिना उपग्रह स्पेक्ट्रम की नीलामी के स्टारलिनक को भारत में लाने के पक्ष में नहीं थी।



## What is Starlink and how does it work?

### स्टारलिनक क्या है और यह कैसे काम करता है?

- **Starlink is a low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation with over 7,000 satellites that provide internet access to users via ground terminals.**  
स्टारलिनक एक निम्न-पृथ्वी कक्षा (LEO) उपग्रह समूह है, जिसमें 7,000 से अधिक उपग्रह शामिल हैं, जो ग्राउंड टर्मिनल्स के माध्यम से इंटरनेट एक्सेस प्रदान करते हैं।
- **The satellites constantly orbit the Earth, covering almost the entire habitable surface as long as a user's terminal has sky visibility.**  
उपग्रह लगातार पृथ्वी की परिक्रमा करते हैं, जिससे लगभग पूरी रहने योग्य सतह कवर हो जाती है, बशर्ते कि उपयोगकर्ता का टर्मिनल खुले आकाश के संपर्क में हो।
- **Internet speed is around 100 Mbps, comparable to home broadband, but latency is higher than wired broadband connections.**  
इंटरनेट गति लगभग 100 Mbps होती है, जो घरेलू ब्रॉडबैंड के समान है, लेकिन लेटेंसी (डेटा ट्रांसफर का समय) वायर्ड ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्शनों की तुलना में अधिक होती है।
- **Satellites communicate with ground stations that are physically connected to the internet, beaming wireless connections to satellites in orbit.**  
उपग्रह पृथ्वी पर स्थित ग्राउंड स्टेशनों के साथ संचार करते हैं, जो भौतिक रूप से इंटरनेट से जुड़े होते हैं, और वायरलेस सिग्नल कक्षा में स्थित उपग्रहों को भेजते हैं।
- **Starlink may not be useful in cities and towns with good 5G or wired broadband connectivity, but it is beneficial in rural and remote areas.**  
स्टारलिनक शहरों और कस्बों में ज्यादा उपयोगी नहीं हो सकता, जहां अच्छी 5G या वायर्ड ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्टिविटी है, लेकिन ग्रामीण और दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों में फायदेमंद हो सकता है।

## How much does Starlink cost?

### स्टारलिनक की कीमत कितनी है?

- **Two types of costs:**  
दो प्रकार की लागतें:
  1. **User terminal (router) – Required to access the satellite network.**  
उपयोगकर्ता टर्मिनल (रूटर) – सैटेलाइट नेटवर्क एक्सेस करने के लिए आवश्यक।
  2. **Monthly subscription fee – Required to stay connected.**  
मासिक सदस्यता शुल्क – जुड़े रहने के लिए आवश्यक।



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- In the U.S., a residential kit costs \$149, and a portable roaming kit costs \$349. अमेरिका में, एक आवासीय किट की कीमत \$149 और पोर्टेबल रोमिंग किट की कीमत \$349 है।
- Import duty, GST, and social welfare surcharges may increase the hardware price in India by 30%. आयात शुल्क, जीएसटी और सामाजिक कल्याण अधिभार भारत में हार्डवेयर की कीमत को 30% तक बढ़ा सकते हैं।
- Without introductory discounts, the hardware price in India could range from ₹17,000 to ₹40,000, excluding shipping costs. बिना प्रारंभिक छूट के, भारत में हार्डवेयर की कीमत ₹17,000 से ₹40,000 के बीच हो सकती है, जिसमें शिपिंग लागत शामिल नहीं है।
- Subscription plans in the U.S. range from \$120 to \$165 per month, and a higher-tier plan called "Mobile Priority" costs 21,000 ngultrum (or rupees) per month. अमेरिका में सदस्यता योजनाएं \$120 से \$165 प्रति माह के बीच हैं, और एक उच्च स्तरीय योजना "मोबाइल प्रायोरिटी" 21,000 न्गुलट्रुम (या रुपये) प्रति माह की है।
- In Bhutan, Starlink is priced between 4,200 to 8,400 ngultrum, which may indicate potential pricing for India, as Bhutan's currency is pegged to the rupee. भूटान में, स्टारलिंग की कीमत 4,200 से 8,400 न्गुलट्रुम के बीच है, जो भारत में संभावित मूल्य निर्धारण का संकेत दे सकता है, क्योंकि भूटानी मुद्रा रुपये से जुड़ी हुई है।

## When will Starlink be available in India?

### स्टारलिंग भारत में कब उपलब्ध होगा?

- Starlink has faced multiple regulatory hurdles, especially due to the Indian government's strict scrutiny of internet services and technologies that provide nationwide access. स्टारलिंग को कई नियामक बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ा है, विशेष रूप से भारतीय सरकार द्वारा इंटरनेट सेवाओं और राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पहुंच प्रदान करने वाली तकनीकों की कड़ी जांच के कारण।
- SpaceX must obtain a Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. स्पेसएक्स को दूरसंचार अधिनियम, 2023 के तहत वैश्विक मोबाइल व्यक्तिगत संचार उपग्रह (GMPCS) प्राधिकरण प्राप्त करना होगा।
- While this authorisation existed under the Telegraph Act, 1885, the new rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 have not been published yet. यह प्राधिकरण पहले टेलीग्राफ अधिनियम, 1885 के तहत मौजूद था, लेकिन दूरसंचार अधिनियम,

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2023 के तहत नए नियम अभी तक प्रकाशित नहीं किए गए हैं।

- It is uncertain whether the government will issue this authorisation under the previous law's subordinate legislation, even though it is technically still in force.  
यह अनिश्चित है कि सरकार इस प्राधिकरण को पिछले कानून के अधीनस्थ कानून के तहत जारी करेगी या नहीं, भले ही यह तकनीकी रूप से अभी भी प्रभावी है।

## Regulatory Challenges

### नियामक चुनौतियाँ

- SpaceX had to convince the Indian government to accept its position on corporate ownership data disclosure, which it had resisted internationally on investor privacy grounds.  
स्पेसएक्स को भारतीय सरकार को अपने कॉर्पोरेट स्वामित्व डेटा के खुलासे पर सहमत कराना पड़ा, जिसका उसने निवेशक गोपनीयता के आधार पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर विरोध किया था।
- Reports suggest this hurdle has been passed, but Starlink still needs security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs.  
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, यह बाधा पार कर ली गई है, लेकिन स्टारलिनक को अभी भी गृह मंत्रालय से सुरक्षा मंजूरी प्राप्त करनी होगी।
- It is unclear whether Starlink's ground stations in India are operational, as Indian telecom laws require law enforcement access to networks.  
यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि भारत में स्टारलिनक के ग्राउंड स्टेशन चालू हैं या नहीं, क्योंकि भारतीय दूरसंचार कानूनों के तहत सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को नेटवर्क तक पहुंच आवश्यक है।

## Spectrum Allocation Issues

### स्पेक्ट्रम आवंटन से जुड़ी समस्याएं

- Starlink needs wireless spectrum allocation to operate in India.  
स्टारलिनक को भारत में काम करने के लिए वायरलेस स्पेक्ट्रम आवंटन की आवश्यकता है।
- The Indian government has indicated it will not auction satellite spectrum, similar to other countries, as narrow beams can be shared with multiple providers.  
भारतीय सरकार ने संकेत दिया है कि वह अन्य देशों की तरह उपग्रह स्पेक्ट्रम की नीलामी नहीं करेगी, क्योंकि संकीर्ण सिग्नल कई प्रदाताओं द्वारा साझा किए जा सकते हैं।
- However, telecom companies like Reliance Jio had previously demanded an auction, arguing that the Supreme Court's 2012 ruling on scarce natural resources (from the 2G scam case) requires spectrum allocation through auction.  
हालांकि, रिलायंस जियो जैसी टेलीकॉम कंपनियों ने पहले स्पेक्ट्रम की नीलामी की मांग की थी, यह तर्क देते हुए कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के 2012 के फैसले (2G घोटाले का मामला) के अनुसार सभी दुर्लभ प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का आवंटन नीलामी के माध्यम से किया जाना चाहिए।



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## Possible U.S. Influence

### संभावित अमेरिकी प्रभाव

- **Elon Musk's rising influence in the U.S. government**, along with **trade pressure from President Donald Trump's administration**, may help **fast-track Starlink's approval** in India.  
एलन मस्क का अमेरिकी सरकार में बढ़ता प्रभाव, साथ ही राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के प्रशासन से व्यापारिक दबाव, भारत में स्टारलिंग की मंजूरी प्रक्रिया को तेज कर सकता है।
- **Despite Airtel and Jio's distribution agreements**, there have been **no official regulatory approvals announced** for Starlink's launch in India yet.  
एयरटेल और जियो के वितरण समझौतों के बावजूद, भारत में स्टारलिंग के लॉन्च के लिए कोई आधिकारिक नियामक मंजूरी की घोषणा नहीं की गई है।



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# Wanted LeT terrorist Abu Qatal killed by gunmen in Pakistan

**GS Paper III: internal Security**

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, wanted by Indian security agencies for several deadly terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, was eliminated by gunmen in an attack in Pakistan, officials said on Sunday.

Zia-ur-Rehman, alias Nadeem, alias Abu Qatal, alias Qatal Sindhi, was killed in the Jhelum area of Punjab on Saturday evening. His security guard was also killed, the officials said, quoting information received from Pakistan.

Considered the most trusted handler of LeT founder and 26/11 Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, they said 43-year-old Rehman was the main handler of the terror outfit involved in the planning of various attacks in the Poonch-Rajouri region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The officials said Reh-

**He was considered the most trusted handler of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack mastermind Saeed**

man had infiltrated the Jammu region in early 2000 and exfiltrated in 2005. He had a wide network of Over Ground Workers in Poonch and Rajouri through his old contacts, they said.

He was chargesheeted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the UAPA and other sections for an attack on Hindu minorities in Dhangri Village of Rajouri District in 2023, they added.

The officials said Rehman is also the mastermind of the Reasi bus attack.

He was the main link between the LeT cadres and its operators in PoK and Sindh Province of Pakistan, the officials said.

- He was considered the most trusted handler of LeT founder and 26/11 Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed.

वह लश्कर-ए-तैयबा के संस्थापक और 26/11 मुंबई हमले के मास्टरमाइंड हाफिज सईद का सबसे भरोसेमंद हैंडलर माना जाता था।

- Rehman (43 years old) was the main handler of LeT's terror activities in Poonch-Rajouri region of Jammu and Kashmir.

43 वर्षीय रहमान जम्मू-कश्मीर के पूंछ-राजौरी क्षेत्र में लश्कर-ए-तैयबा की आतंकवादी गतिविधियों का

**Wanted LeT terrorist Abu Qatal killed by gunmen in Pakistan**

**वांछित लश्कर-ए-तैयबा आतंकवादी अबू कताल पाकिस्तान में बंदूकधारियों द्वारा मारा गया**

**A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, wanted by Indian security agencies for multiple terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, was killed by gunmen in Pakistan, officials said on Sunday.**

**भारतीय सुरक्षा एजेंसियों द्वारा वांछित एक शीर्ष लश्कर-ए-तैयबा (LeT) कमांडर, जो जम्मू-कश्मीर में कई आतंकवादी हमलों में शामिल था, को रविवार को पाकिस्तान में बंदूकधारियों द्वारा मार दिया गया, अधिकारियों ने कहा।**

- Zia-ur-Rehman, alias Nadeem, Abu Qatal, Qatal Sindhi, was killed in the Jhelum area of Punjab, Pakistan, on Saturday evening.

जिया-उर-रहमान, उर्फ नदीम, अबू कताल, कताल सिंधी, को शनिवार शाम पंजाब, पाकिस्तान के झेलम क्षेत्र में मार दिया गया।

- His security guard was also killed in the attack. उनके सुरक्षा गार्ड की भी इस हमले में मौत हो गई।

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मुख्य संचालक था।

- He had infiltrated Jammu in early 2000 and later exfiltrated in 2005.  
उसने 2000 के प्रारंभ में जम्मू में घुसपैठ की थी और बाद में 2005 में वापस चला गया।
- Rehman had a wide network of Over Ground Workers (OGWs) in Poonch and Rajouri through old contacts.  
रहमान के पास पूंछ और राजौरी में ओवर ग्राउंड वर्कर्स (OGWs) का बड़ा नेटवर्क था, जो पुराने संपर्कों के माध्यम से सक्रिय था।
- He was chargesheeted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the UAPA and other sections for the 2023 attack on Hindu minorities in Dhangri Village, Rajouri District.  
उसे राष्ट्रीय जांच एजेंसी (NIA) द्वारा UAPA और अन्य धाराओं के तहत चार्जशीट किया गया था, 2023 में राजौरी जिले के ढांगरी गांव में हिंदू अल्पसंख्यकों पर हमले के लिए।
- Rehman was also the mastermind of the Reasi bus attack.  
रहमान रियासी बस हमले का भी मास्टरमाइंड था।
- He was the key link between LeT cadres and its operators in PoK and Sindh Province of Pakistan.  
वह लश्कर-ए-तैयबा के आतंकवादियों और पाकिस्तान अधिकृत कश्मीर (PoK) व सिंध प्रांत के संचालकों के बीच मुख्य संपर्क सूत्र था।



## Centre has approved Chandrayaan-5 mission: ISRO

GS Paper III: S&T

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI

The Centre has recently accorded approval for the ambitious Chandrayaan-5 mission to study the moon, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said on Sunday.

At an event to felicitate him for taking over as the Chairman of the Bengaluru-headquartered Indian Space Research Organisation, Mr. Narayanan said that unlike the Chandrayaan-3 mission which carried the 25-kilogram rover 'Prayagyaan', the Chandrayaan-5 mission would carry a 250-kg rover to study the moon's surface.

The Chandrayaan-4 Mission, expected to be launched in 2027, aims to bring samples collected from the moon.

## Centre has approved Chandrayaan-5 mission: ISRO

केंद्र सरकार ने चंद्रयान-5 मिशन को मंजूरी दी: इसरो

The Centre has recently approved the Chandrayaan-5 mission, aimed at studying the moon, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said on Sunday.

केंद्र सरकार ने हाल ही में चंद्रयान-5 मिशन को मंजूरी दी, जिसका उद्देश्य चंद्रमा का अध्ययन करना है, इसरो अध्यक्ष वी. नारायणन ने रविवार को कहा।

• At an event honoring him as the **Chairman of ISRO**, Mr. Narayanan stated that **Chandrayaan-5** will carry a **250-kg rover** to study the **moon's surface**.

इसरो अध्यक्ष के रूप में सम्मानित किए गए एक कार्यक्रम में, श्री नारायणन ने कहा कि चंद्रयान-5 मिशन में 250 किलोग्राम का रोवर होगा, जो चंद्रमा की सतह का अध्ययन करेगा।

• This is in contrast to **Chandrayaan-3**, which carried a **25-kg rover** 'Prayagyaan'.

यह चंद्रयान-3 से अलग होगा, जिसमें 25 किलोग्राम का रोवर 'प्रयाग्यान' था।

• The **Chandrayaan-4 mission**, expected to **launch in 2027**, aims to **bring lunar samples back to Earth**.

चंद्रयान-4 मिशन, जिसे 2027 में लॉन्च किया जाने की उम्मीद है, का उद्देश्य चंद्रमा से नमूने एकत्र कर पृथ्वी पर लाना है।



# SpaceX Crew docks with ISS to reach astronauts stuck in space for 9 months

**GS Paper III: S&T**

**Agence France-Presse**  
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

A pair of astronauts stranded for more than nine months on the International Space Station were a step closer to returning home on Sunday after a replacement crew docked with the orbital outpost.

The astronauts were shown on live TV embracing and hugging their counterparts in zero gravity on the space station shortly after their SpaceX Crew Dragon arrived at 0545 GMT (1115 IST).

Butch Wilmore and Sunitha Williams have been stuck aboard the ISS since June after the Boeing Star-



**Sigh of relief:** The SpaceX Dragon Crew-10 members clap after entering the International Space Station on Sunday. AFP

liner spacecraft they were testing on its maiden crewed voyage suffered propulsion issues and was deemed unfit to fly them back to Earth.

Ms. Williams said it was a “wonderful day” and “great to see our friends arrive,” speaking shortly after her colleagues emerged onto the orbital lab.

The NASA duo’s *Starliner* had returned to Earth empty, without experiencing further major issues – leaving them stuck for nine months after what was meant to have been a days-long roundtrip. Their prolonged stay was significantly longer than the standard ISS rotation for astronauts of roughly six months.

Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams will now begin preparing for departure and their ocean splash-down off the Florida coast, no sooner than March 19.

The replacement Crew-10 team had blasted off on Friday from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

## SpaceX Crew docks with ISS to reach astronauts stuck in space for 9 months

स्पेसएक्स क्रू आईएसएस से जुड़ा, 9 महीने से फंसे अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों तक पहुंचा

A pair of astronauts stranded for over nine months on the International Space Station (ISS) are now a step closer to returning home, after a replacement crew docked with the orbital station.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (ISS) पर नौ महीने से अधिक समय से फंसे दो अंतरिक्ष यात्री अब घर लौटने के करीब हैं, क्योंकि एक प्रतिस्थापन क्रू आईएसएस से जुड़ा।

- The astronauts were seen embracing and hugging their colleagues in zero gravity after the SpaceX Crew Dragon arrived at 0545 GMT (1115 IST).

स्पेसएक्स क्रू ड्रैगन के 0545 GMT (1115 IST) पर पहुंचने के बाद अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को शून्य गुरुत्वाकर्षण में अपने साथियों को गले लगाते और मिलते हुए देखा गया।



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- **Butch Wilmore and Sunitha Williams** were stuck on the **ISS since June**, after the **Boeing Starliner spacecraft** suffered **propulsion issues** on its **maiden crewed voyage**.  
बच विलमोर और सुनीता विलियम्स जून से आईएसएस पर फंसे हुए थे, जब बोइंग स्टारलाइनर अंतरिक्ष यान ने अपनी पहली मानवयुक्त उड़ान में प्रणोदन समस्याओं का सामना किया।
- The **Starliner returned to Earth empty**, without further major issues, leaving them **stranded for nine months** instead of a **short round-trip**.  
स्टारलाइनर बिना किसी बड़ी समस्या के खाली पृथ्वी पर लौट आया, जिससे उन्हें एक छोटे दौर के बजाय नौ महीने तक फंसे रहना पड़ा।
- Their stay exceeded the standard ISS astronaut rotation of approximately **six months**.  
उनकी रहने की अवधि आईएसएस के सामान्य छह महीने के अंतरिक्ष यात्री चक्र से अधिक हो गई।
- **Ms. Williams** said it was a **"wonderful day"**, expressing happiness to see her **friends arrive at the station**.  
सुनीता विलियम्स ने कहा कि यह एक "शानदार दिन" था और अपने साथियों को अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर पहुंचते देखना खुशी की बात थी।
- **Wilmore and Williams will now prepare for departure** and their **ocean splashdown off the Florida coast**, expected **no sooner than March 19**.  
विलमोर और विलियम्स अब प्रस्थान की तैयारी करेंगे, और उनका फ्लोरिडा तट के पास महासागर में उतरने का कार्यक्रम 19 मार्च से पहले नहीं होगा।
- The **replacement Crew-10 team** launched on **Friday** from the **Kennedy Space Center, Florida**.  
प्रतिस्थापन क्रू-10 टीम ने शुक्रवार को फ्लोरिडा के कैनेडी स्पेस सेंटर से प्रक्षेपण किया।



# Air pollution will lower India's solar generation capacity: study

Solar cells perform best under bright sunlight. They also need lower ambient temperature and airflow over them for cooling. Any imbalance in these factors lowers solar cell performance. Researchers have found that solar radiation was the main factor affecting solar-cell efficiency, followed by temperature

**GS Paper III: Environment**

**Unnati Ashar**

**A** study by researchers at IIT Delhi has found that air pollution and climate change will impair solar panel performance in India. It was published in *Environmental Research Letters* in November 2024.

According to the paper, India is the fifth-largest solar power producer worldwide. The country has set a target to produce 50% of its electric power from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and plans to install 500 GW of renewable energy capacity to this end by then. One-fifth of this capacity is expected to be in the form of solar power.

India also has plans to develop more solar parks and promote rooftop solar generation.

## Solar power and climate

Like other forms of renewable energy sources, solar photovoltaic energy is at the mercy of weather and climate.

"Accurately assessing future renewable energy resources, particularly solar energy in India, where solar deployment is expanding rapidly, is crucial for ensuring a sustainable and resilient energy future," Sushovan Ghosh, lead author of the new study, then at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences at IIT Delhi and now a researcher in the Earth Sciences Department of the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, said.

The study is the first to examine how climate change will affect solar cell efficiency in India.

"Studies of this kind give impetus to the innovations towards mitigating greenhouse gases through the exploration of viable energy alternatives and, more importantly, improvements in photovoltaic cell design," TV. Ramachandra, a faculty member at the Centre for Ecological Sciences of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, said. India has 300 sunny days a year but their quality is declining due to air pollution. "Solar radiation at the earth's surface is not stable over time but undergoes significant long-term variations, referred to as global dimming and brightening," Ghosh said.

"This variation depends on atmospheric variables such as clouds, aerosols or particulate matter, water vapour, and radiatively active gas molecules such as ozone. Clouds reflect and aerosols either scatter or absorb incoming solar radiation reaching the surface. Therefore, on a cloudy or hazy day, due to particulate matter pollution, less solar radiation will impinge on the solar panel and reduce solar generation."



Workers install solar panels at the Adani Group-owned Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Khavda, Gujarat. AFP

## Data from CERES

The team's study used data from 1985 to 2014 to predict changes from 2041 to 2050, the middle of the current century. "Given that photovoltaic power plants generally have a lifespan of 20 to 25 years, analysing the 2040s aligns well with the operational lifetime of existing and planned installations," according to Ghosh. "Beyond this period, the analysis may lose practical relevance."

The team used global climate models, testing them against observations from NASA's Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) project and the India Meteorological Department. CERES uses instruments in space to measure radiation coming from the earth and thus understand the role of cloud cover in climate change.

The team studied two scenarios. The first included a moderate level of efforts to control air quality and mitigate climate change. The second had weak climate change efforts but strong air pollution control measures.

Air pollution blocks solar radiation from reaching solar panels, resulting in less power produced. Rising temperatures due to climate change also lower the efficiency of solar cells.

## Temperature to blame

The models found that by mid-century, the efficiency of solar panels in India will drop by 2.3% in the second scenario but by a greater amount in the first scenario. Based on current solar power generation levels, this amounts to a loss of at least 840 gigawatt-hours of electricity every year. Losses from temperature were



Studies of this kind give impetus to innovations that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through the exploration of viable energy alternatives and, more importantly, improvements in photovoltaic cell design

higher in the second scenario, which was expected because of weaker climate action.

"This study, based on radiation data from global climate models, provides vital insights into the likely impact of escalating air pollution on photovoltaic efficiency," Ramachandra, who wasn't involved in the study, said.

Solar cells perform best under bright sunlight. They also need lower ambient temperature and airflow over them for cooling. Any imbalance in these factors lowers solar cell performance.

The study found that solar radiation was the main factor affecting solar cell efficiency. Temperature came next, followed by ambient wind speed, although it was much less impactful.

## Cut emissions either way

The study also reported that the temperature of solar cells is expected to rise by 2 degrees C by the mid-century due to higher ambient temperatures. "It is important to distinguish between ambient air temperature and cell temperature, as solar cells can heat up significantly beyond the surrounding air

temperature due to solar exposure," Ghosh said.

The researchers also revealed that some parts of India's northeast as well as Kerala will develop higher solar power potential in time. "This is really interesting. ... This is because the cloud fractions are expected to decrease over these regions," Ghosh said.

According to the paper, the models can help the government and industry players better pick sites for future solar power projects and allocate resources accordingly.

According to Ghosh, the study underscores the need to curb climate change and improve air quality. He advocated cutting greenhouse gas emissions in particular, which would mitigate climate change as well as remove particulate matter in the way of sunlight headed for solar panels: "This will help us fully utilise the future solar energy potential and create a path toward building climate-resilient nations."

"At the individual level, public participation is crucial, through the adoption of electric vehicles and the use of public transport to reduce fossil fuel consumption. Tree planting and climate awareness efforts to enhance environmental sustainability are needed," Ghosh added.

"While India has introduced commendable policies, the key challenge lies in accelerating their effective implementation from the ground level to top governance structures."

(Unnati Ashar is a freelance science journalist. [unnati\\_a@gmail.com](mailto:unnati_a@gmail.com))

## THE GIST

India has 300 sunny days a year, but their quality is declining due to air pollution. 'Solar radiation at the earth's surface is not stable over time but undergoes significant long-term variations, referred to as global dimming and brightening'

Air quality variations depend on clouds, aerosols, particulate matter, water vapour and radiatively active gas molecules such as ozone. On a cloudy or hazy day, due to particulate matter, less solar radiation will impinge on the panel and affect generation

The study used data from 1985 to 2014 to predict changes from 2041 to 2050. 'Given that photovoltaic power plants generally have a lifespan of 20 to 25 years, analysing the 2040s aligns well with the operational lifetime of installations'

The research concluded that by mid-century, the efficiency of solar panels will drop by 2.3% owing to pollution. Based on current solar generation levels, this amounts to a loss of at least 840 gigawatt-hours of electricity every year

**Air pollution will lower India's solar generation capacity: study**

**वायु प्रदूषण भारत की सौर उत्पादन क्षमता को कम करेगा: अध्ययन**

**Solar cells perform best under bright sunlight but require low ambient temperature and airflow for cooling.**



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सौर सेल सबसे अच्छा प्रदर्शन करते हैं जब तेज धूप होती है, लेकिन इन्हें कम परिवेशीय तापमान और हवा के प्रवाह की आवश्यकता होती है।

- Any imbalance in these factors reduces solar cell performance.  
इन कारकों में कोई भी असंतुलन सौर सेल के प्रदर्शन को कम कर सकता है।
- Researchers found that solar radiation is the most crucial factor affecting solar-cell efficiency, followed by temperature.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि सौर विकिरण सौर सेल की दक्षता को प्रभावित करने वाला सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कारक है, इसके बाद तापमान आता है।

## IIT Delhi study on solar power and pollution

### आईआईटी दिल्ली का सौर ऊर्जा और प्रदूषण पर अध्ययन

- A study by IIT Delhi researchers, published in *Environmental Research Letters* in November 2024, found that air pollution and climate change will impair solar panel performance in India.  
आईआईटी दिल्ली के शोधकर्ताओं के एक अध्ययन, जिसे नवंबर 2024 में एनवायरनमेंटल रिसर्च लेटर्स में प्रकाशित किया गया, में पाया गया कि वायु प्रदूषण और जलवायु परिवर्तन भारत में सौर पैनलों के प्रदर्शन को प्रभावित करेंगे।
- India is the fifth-largest solar power producer and aims to generate 50% of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.  
भारत विश्व में पांचवां सबसे बड़ा सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादक है और इसका लक्ष्य 2030 तक अपनी कुल बिजली का 50% गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोतों से उत्पन्न करना है।
- The country plans to install 500 GW of renewable energy capacity, with one-fifth of it coming from solar power.  
भारत की योजना 500 गीगावाट अक्षय ऊर्जा क्षमता स्थापित करने की है, जिसमें से एक-पांचवां हिस्सा सौर ऊर्जा से आएगा।
- India is also developing more solar parks and promoting rooftop solar generation.  
भारत अधिक सौर पार्क विकसित कर रहा है और रूफटॉप सौर उत्पादन को बढ़ावा दे रहा है।

## Impact of climate change on solar power

### जलवायु परिवर्तन का सौर ऊर्जा पर प्रभाव

- Like other renewable energy sources, solar photovoltaic energy is affected by weather and climate conditions.  
अन्य नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा स्रोतों की तरह, सौर फोटोवोल्टिक ऊर्जा मौसम और जलवायु परिस्थितियों से



प्रभावित होती है।

- **Sushovan Ghosh**, lead author of the study, stated that **accurately assessing future solar energy potential is critical for a sustainable energy future.**  
शोध के प्रमुख लेखक सुषोवन घोष ने कहा कि भविष्य में सौर ऊर्जा की क्षमता का सटीक मूल्यांकन एक स्थायी ऊर्जा भविष्य के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- India has **300 sunny days a year**, but their **quality is declining due to air pollution.**  
भारत में साल में 300 धूप वाले दिन होते हैं, लेकिन वायु प्रदूषण के कारण उनकी गुणवत्ता घट रही है।

## Global dimming and brightening effects

### वैश्विक मंदी और उज्ज्वलता प्रभाव

- **Solar radiation at Earth's surface is unstable over time**, experiencing **long-term variations** called **global dimming and brightening.**  
पृथ्वी की सतह पर सौर विकिरण समय के साथ अस्थिर रहता है, जो वैश्विक मंदी और उज्ज्वलता जैसे दीर्घकालिक परिवर्तनों से प्रभावित होता है।
- **Clouds, aerosols, particulate matter, and ozone** influence how much solar radiation reaches the surface.  
बादल, एरोसोल, कण पदार्थ और ओजोन प्रभावित करते हैं कि कितना सौर विकिरण सतह तक पहुंचता है।
- **Clouds reflect, while aerosols scatter or absorb sunlight**, reducing the amount of solar energy available for panels.  
बादल विकिरण को परावर्तित करते हैं, जबकि एरोसोल इसे बिखेरते या अवशोषित करते हैं, जिससे सौर पैनलों को मिलने वाली ऊर्जा कम हो जाती है।

## Data from NASA's CERES project

### नासा के CERES प्रोजेक्ट से प्राप्त डेटा

- Researchers analyzed **data from 1985 to 2014** to **predict changes from 2041 to 2050.**  
शोधकर्ताओं ने 1985 से 2014 तक के डेटा का विश्लेषण किया, ताकि 2041 से 2050 के बीच के परिवर्तन का पूर्वानुमान लगाया जा सके।
- The study aligns with the **20-25 year operational lifespan of photovoltaic power plants.**  
यह अध्ययन सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्रों के 20-25 साल के संचालन जीवनकाल से मेल खाता है।



- Researchers used **global climate models** and validated them using **NASA's CERES project** and **India Meteorological Department (IMD) data**.  
शोधकर्ताओं ने वैश्विक जलवायु मॉडल का उपयोग किया और नासा के CERES प्रोजेक्ट व भारतीय मौसम विभाग (IMD) के डेटा से उनकी पुष्टि की।

## Scenarios studied

### अध्ययन किए गए परिदृश्य

- Scenario 1: **Moderate climate change mitigation efforts, with air pollution control measures.**  
परिदृश्य 1: मध्यम स्तर के जलवायु परिवर्तन नियंत्रण प्रयास, साथ ही वायु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपाय।
- Scenario 2: **Weak climate change mitigation efforts, but strong air pollution control.**  
परिदृश्य 2: कमजोर जलवायु परिवर्तन नियंत्रण प्रयास, लेकिन मजबूत वायु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण।

## Findings on solar power efficiency

### सौर ऊर्जा दक्षता पर निष्कर्ष

- **Air pollution blocks solar radiation**, reducing the **power output of solar panels**.  
वायु प्रदूषण सौर विकिरण को अवरुद्ध करता है, जिससे सौर पैनलों की बिजली उत्पादन क्षमता कम हो जाती है।
- **Rising temperatures due to climate change further lower solar cell efficiency.**  
जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण बढ़ता तापमान सौर सेल की दक्षता को और कम कर देता है।

## Temperature to blame

### तापमान है मुख्य कारण

- **By mid-century, solar panel efficiency in India will drop by 2.3% in the second scenario**, and even more in the first scenario.  
मध्य सदी तक, भारत में सौर पैनलों की दक्षता दूसरे परिदृश्य में 2.3% घट जाएगी, जबकि पहले परिदृश्य में यह और अधिक गिरावट दर्ज करेगी।
- Based on **current solar power generation levels**, this would mean a loss of **at least 840 gigawatt-hours of electricity per year**.  
वर्तमान सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन स्तर के आधार पर, इससे हर साल कम से कम 840 गीगावाट-घंटे बिजली का नुकसान होगा।
- **Higher temperature losses were observed in the second scenario**, which was expected due to **weaker climate action**.  
दूसरे परिदृश्य में तापमान से होने वाला नुकसान अधिक था, जो कि कमजोर जलवायु कार्रवाई के कारण अपेक्षित था।



- The study provides insights into the impact of rising air pollution on photovoltaic efficiency using radiation data from global climate models.  
अध्ययन ग्लोबल क्लाइमेट मॉडल के विकिरण डेटा का उपयोग करके फोटोवोल्टिक दक्षता पर बढ़ते वायु प्रदूषण के प्रभाव में अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान करता है।

## Solar performance factors

### सौर ऊर्जा प्रदर्शन के कारक

- Solar cells perform best under bright sunlight but need lower ambient temperature and airflow for cooling.  
सौर सेल तेज धूप में सबसे अच्छा प्रदर्शन करते हैं, लेकिन शीतलन के लिए कम परिवेशीय तापमान और वायु प्रवाह की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Any imbalance in these factors lowers solar cell performance.  
इन कारकों में कोई भी असंतुलन सौर सेल की कार्यक्षमता को कम कर सकता है।
- The study found that solar radiation is the most crucial factor affecting solar cell efficiency, followed by temperature and ambient wind speed.  
अध्ययन में पाया गया कि सौर विकिरण सौर सेल की दक्षता को प्रभावित करने वाला सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कारक है, इसके बाद तापमान और परिवेशीय वायु गति आती है।

## Cut emissions either way

### उत्सर्जन में कटौती आवश्यक

- The study predicts that solar cell temperature will rise by 2°C by mid-century due to higher ambient temperatures.  
अध्ययन के अनुसार, मध्य सदी तक सौर सेल का तापमान परिवेशीय तापमान में वृद्धि के कारण 2°C बढ़ जाएगा।
- It is crucial to differentiate between ambient air temperature and cell temperature, as solar cells heat up beyond surrounding air temperature due to solar exposure.  
परिवेशीय वायु तापमान और सेल तापमान के बीच अंतर करना महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि सौर विकिरण के संपर्क में आने से सौर सेल परिवेशीय तापमान से अधिक गर्म हो सकते हैं।
- Some parts of Northeast India and Kerala will have higher solar power potential in the future due to reduced cloud cover.  
भारत के पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र और केरल के कुछ हिस्सों में भविष्य में सौर ऊर्जा की क्षमता अधिक होगी, क्योंकि



इन क्षेत्रों में बादलों का आवरण कम होने की संभावना है।

- These findings can help governments and industries select better locations for solar projects and allocate resources efficiently.  
ये निष्कर्ष सरकार और उद्योगों को बेहतर सौर परियोजना स्थलों के चयन और संसाधनों के कुशल आवंटन में मदद कर सकते हैं।

## Call for action on climate and pollution

### जलवायु और प्रदूषण पर कार्रवाई की आवश्यकता

- Curbing climate change and improving air quality are essential to maximize solar energy potential.  
जलवायु परिवर्तन को रोकना और वायु गुणवत्ता में सुधार करना सौर ऊर्जा क्षमता को अधिकतम करने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will not only mitigate climate change but also reduce particulate matter pollution affecting solar panels.  
ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन में कटौती न केवल जलवायु परिवर्तन को कम करेगी, बल्कि सौर पैनलों तक पहुंचने वाली सौर ऊर्जा में बाधा डालने वाले कण प्रदूषण को भी घटाएगी।
- Public participation is crucial in adopting electric vehicles, using public transport, and engaging in tree planting and climate awareness efforts.  
इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों को अपनाने, सार्वजनिक परिवहन के उपयोग, और वृक्षारोपण व जलवायु जागरूकता प्रयासों में सार्वजनिक भागीदारी महत्वपूर्ण है।
- India has introduced strong climate policies, but the challenge lies in their effective implementation from local levels to national governance.  
भारत ने मजबूत जलवायु नीतियां अपनाई हैं, लेकिन इनका प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन जमीनी स्तर से लेकर राष्ट्रीय शासन तक एक चुनौती बना हुआ है।



# Birefringence: different in different directions

## GS Paper III: S&T

### Vasudevan Mukunth

When light passes through a glass prism from air, its path bends due to a property of the glass called refraction. The amount of bending depends on the material's refractive index. It is calculated as the ratio of the speed of light in vacuum to the speed of light in the material.

For example, the refractive index of vacuum is 1, of air is 1.0003, of glass is roughly 1.5, and of diamond is 2.4.

Some materials have more than one refractive index; that is, they slow the passage of light to a different degree in two different directions. Such materials are said to be birefringent. They occur naturally as well as can be engineered in the lab. Examples of naturally birefringent materials include mica and quartz; those of synthetic ones include barium borate and lithium niobate.

Certain materials' birefringence can also be induced or modified by physically stressing them or exposing them to electric or magnetic fields. Birefringence arises because the material has different crystal structures in different



A calcite crystal placed on a single, blue grid creates images of two grids due to birefringence. APN MJM (CC BY-SA)

directions, i.e. are anisotropic. Which ray of light is bent in which direction depends on the direction in which it is moving and how it is polarised. Light consists of an electric field oscillating perpendicular to a magnetic field, and both of them perpendicular to the light's direction of motion. Polarisation refers to the direction of the electric field.

Birefringent materials are used in LCD screens, medical microscopes, optical switches, waveplates, frequency converters, and high-power lasers. ([mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in](mailto:mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in))

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## Birefringence: different in different directions



## द्विवर्तनी (बाइरिफ्रिजेंस): अलग-अलग दिशाओं में अलग प्रभाव

When light passes through a glass prism from air, its path bends due to a property called refraction.

जब प्रकाश एक कांच के प्रिज्म से हवा में प्रवेश करता है, तो उसका पथ मुड़ जाता है, जो अपवर्तन (रेफ्रैक्शन) नामक गुण के कारण होता है।

- The amount of bending depends on the refractive index of the material, which is the ratio of the speed of light in vacuum to the speed of light in the material.

मुड़ने की मात्रा पदार्थ के अपवर्तनांक (रिफ्रैक्टिव इंडेक्स) पर निर्भर करती है, जो निर्वात में प्रकाश की गति और उस पदार्थ में प्रकाश की गति के अनुपात से गणना की जाती है।

- Refractive indices of some materials:

कुछ पदार्थों के अपवर्तनांक:

- Vacuum (निर्वात) = 1
- Air (हवा) = 1.0003
- Glass (कांच)  $\approx$  1.5
- Diamond (हीरा) = 2.4

What is birefringence?

द्विवर्तनी (बाइरिफ्रिजेंस) क्या है?

- Some materials have more than one refractive index, meaning they slow down light differently in different directions.

कुछ पदार्थों के पास एक से अधिक अपवर्तनांक होते हैं, यानी वे प्रकाश को अलग-अलग दिशाओं में अलग-अलग गति से धीमा करते हैं।

- Such materials are called birefringent and exist both naturally and synthetically. ऐसे पदार्थों को द्विवर्तनी (बाइरिफ्रिजेंट) कहा जाता है, और ये प्राकृतिक रूप से भी पाए जाते हैं और प्रयोगशाला में बनाए भी जा सकते हैं।

- Examples of naturally birefringent materials:

प्राकृतिक द्विवर्तनी पदार्थों के उदाहरण:

- Mica (अभ्रक)
- Quartz (स्फटिक/क्वार्ट्ज)



- Examples of synthetic birefringent materials:  
कृत्रिम द्विवर्तनी पदार्थों के उदाहरण:
  - Barium borate (बैरेट बोराट)
  - Lithium niobate (लिथियम नियोबेट)

## How birefringence occurs

### द्विवर्तनी कैसे होती है?

- Birefringence arises due to different crystal structures in different directions, making the material anisotropic.  
द्विवर्तनी तब होती है जब किसी पदार्थ के क्रिस्टल संरचनाएं अलग-अलग दिशाओं में अलग होती हैं, जिससे वह पदार्थ द्विअक्षीय (एनिसोट्रॉपिक) बन जाता है।
- External factors can modify birefringence, such as:  
बाहरी कारक द्विवर्तनी को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं, जैसे:
  - Physical stress (भौतिक तनाव)
  - Electric fields (विद्युत क्षेत्र)
  - Magnetic fields (चुंबकीय क्षेत्र)

## Effect of birefringence on light

### प्रकाश पर द्विवर्तनी का प्रभाव

- The bending direction of light depends on:  
प्रकाश किस दिशा में मुड़ेगा, यह इन कारकों पर निर्भर करता है:
  - The direction in which it is moving (प्रकाश की गति की दिशा)
  - The way it is polarised (उसकी ध्रुवण स्थिति)
- Light consists of an electric field oscillating perpendicular to a magnetic field, and both are perpendicular to the light's motion direction.  
प्रकाश में एक विद्युत क्षेत्र होता है, जो एक चुंबकीय क्षेत्र के लंबवत दोलन करता है, और ये दोनों प्रकाश की गति की दिशा के लंबवत होते हैं।
- Polarisation refers to the direction of the electric field in the light wave.  
ध्रुवण (पोलराइजेशन) का अर्थ है प्रकाश तरंग में विद्युत क्षेत्र की दिशा।



## TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

### 1. The Three Ambedkars: Force, Energy, and Pragmatism in Action

तीन अंबेडकर: शक्ति, ऊर्जा और व्यवहारिकता की क्रियाशीलता

### 2. False narrative created over Gujarat riots, courts found us innocent: PM

गुजरात दंगों पर झूठी कहानी बनाई गई, अदालतों ने हमें निर्दोष पाया:  
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# The Three Ambedkars: force, energy, and pragmatism in action

Ambedkar's philosophy was influenced by John Dewey's pragmatism, emphasising individual moral agency and the fight against caste oppression; through reflexive morality, reconstructive rhetoric, navayana Buddhism, he redefined social justice, using strategic discourse and pragmatic thought

[GS Paper IV: Thinkers](#)

Nikhil Sanjay-Rekha Adsule

Last December, on the serene campus of Columbia University, one friend asked me to describe Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in two words. I immediately responded – force and energy. These two secular terms summate the principled and organic idea of Ambedkar. Looking at it as a verb removes the zeal to barricade him into a sectarian idea. My thinking-doing Ambedkar is derived from these two enlightened ideas. This is what Dr. Ambedkar, as a noun, expected from his followers. So, it becomes essential to dissect these – force and energy.

For two years now, I have been reading Professor John Dewey's texts as a scholar interested in understanding the shades of pragmatism, its critique(s) and its impact on the constitution of the verb – Ambedkar. In light of this, I believe Prof. Scott R. Stroud's recent work *'The Evolution of Pragmatism in India: Ambedkar, Dewey, and the Rhetoric of Reconstruction'* is essential for understanding the dialectics of the philosophy of pragmatism and Ambedkar. It is a necessary addition to the scholarship on Ambedkar, an attempt to infuse fresh thinking into understanding his philosophy and politics.

## Tiratna of pragmatism

It is a fact that Prof. Dewey was one of the teachers of young Bhimrao at Columbia University. Also, there are various copies of Professor Dewey's works and their updated editions in Dr. Ambedkar's collection. Dr. Ambedkar also marked these copies, showing his protracted engagement with Prof. Dewey's ideas and those of other thinkers of his time. So, it becomes crucial to understand the intellectual interplay between Dr. Ambedkar and Prof. Dewey's ideas of pragmatism.

My reading in delineating the

hermeneutics of force and energy shall foreground the concept of the Three Ambedkars to understand these complex engagements in a simple framework. These Three Ambedkars embody the principles of pragmatic philosophy that Dr. Ambedkar often used as part of his strategic approach.

## Reflexive moral

Dr. Ambedkar owned a copy of Prof. John Dewey's classic, *A Theory of Ethics*, doing multiple readings. His underlining of the text with different coloured pencils shows his constant engagement with it. The text says that moral laws are the principles on which actions are based. Any moral judgement is made by duly weighing the consequences of the actions a person or an individual could take. This underscores an individual's self-agency in exercising their choices.

In his classic treatise, *Annihilation of Caste*, Dr. Ambedkar, inspired by Deweyan pragmatism, highlights the *modus operandi* of the caste system. He stresses that it is the individual agency that caste inhibits, ultimately denying a person their freedom. This divinely sanctioned, dogmatic, and systemic caste takes away individuality in thought and action. Reflexive morality, which gives the discretion of choice, the edifice on which the idea of freedom is based, is denied to a person. The person is crushed under the burden of hegemonic customary laws that are motivated by parochial dogmas, energised by the motivation – maintaining a stagnant, graded, unequal caste system. A holy system wherein birth decides the worth by the caste into which they are born.

## Reconstructive rhetorical

In communication studies, the term rhetoric means persuasive communication using the instruments of text, speech, images, and other mediums. Dr. Ambedkar uses this technique

inspired by Deweyan pragmatism to reconstruct a gender-biased and casteist society. Knowing the limitations, he employs them selectively in his writings, speeches, and actions. The two examples illustrate this: the battle of Bhima Koregaon, and his brilliant lecture 'Ranade, Gandhi and Jinnah', delivered in 1943 at the Gokhale Memorial Hall.

Dr. Ambedkar transformed the 1818 Battle of Bhima Koregaon – which marked the decline of Brahminical Peshwa rule – into a symbol of poetic justice. He visited the memorial in 1927. The untouchables on whom the Peshwas vigorously imposed the unjust caste system were defeated by the untouchables. Dr. Ambedkar initiated a new discourse for the untouchables, which imbibed them with the martial spirit of self-worth and strength. He was a persuasive rhetor and mentioned this battle again at the Round Table Conference in London in 1930. Many scholars may accuse it of fallibilism, but it is one of the crucial techniques that reconstructive rhetorics employ to achieve their pragmatic end.

In the second case, delivering his address in Pune, he employs the Buddhist technique of democratic deliberation, foregrounding a unique dialectical play of truth and opinion. The many references and citations, especially those of Jyotirao Phule and Thomas Carlyle, show his repertoire of pragmatism – psychological and intellectual rigour and its effective deployment to meet the desired end.

## Navayana pragmatist Ambedkar

One of Dr. Ambedkar's most critical applications of pragmatism was his reconstruction of Buddha. There are many claims, and they have been accepted too, that Dr. Ambedkar was introduced to Buddhism by Keluskar Guruji very early. But, Keluskar's writings presented Buddha as a theological and divine figure. However, Dr. Ambedkar's

quest for conversion and search for a religion that balances the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity started after his famous Yeola speech of 1936, where he announced that he would quit the Hindu religion.

A key example of his pragmatic approach to reconstructing Buddha is found in his posthumously published work, *'The Buddha and His Dhamma'*. Siddhartha Gautama leaves his princely abode to avert the *vitikkamma* (state of war) between Shakyas and Koliyas due to a dispute arising from the sharing of waters of river Rohini and not for the search of enlightenment as presented in theological versions. Many such pragmatism-inspired instances twist the banal theological discourses. Thus, Dr. Ambedkar employs various tools of pragmatism to foreground his principled, organic navayana Buddhism to annihilate the gender, caste, religion and class structural inequalities.

In the above discussion, I am not proposing the singularity of pragmatism or Prof. Dewey to analyse Dr. Ambedkar. This force-energy is a constitution of multi-varied entities, chiefly from the reservoir of Buddha, Kabir, and Phule. However, one cannot neglect other influences on him – the theories, scholars, his contemporaries and spatialities, while mainly grappling with the issues of politics and economics in the contemporary realm of gender and caste, succinctly put by the late Prof. Sharmila Rege, ideas on class and left delineated by late Prof. Gail Omvedt, V. Geetha and others. It would be better to read Dr. Ambedkar and the influence of Prof. Dewey's Pragmatism on him as an intellectual exercise that helped him craft his response to the pressing issues of humanity to reclaim the lost ideals of *Manuski*, which assume more importance today.

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## The Three Ambedkars: Force, Energy, and Pragmatism in Action

### तीन अंबेडकर: शक्ति, ऊर्जा और व्यवहारिकता की क्रियाशीलता

Ambedkar's philosophy was influenced by John Dewey's pragmatism, emphasizing individual moral agency and the fight against caste oppression.

अंबेडकर के दर्शन पर जॉन डेवी के व्यवहारवाद का प्रभाव था, जिसमें व्यक्तिगत नैतिक स्वतंत्रता और जाति उत्पीड़न के खिलाफ संघर्ष पर जोर दिया गया था।

- Through reflexive morality, reconstructive rhetoric, and Navayana Buddhism, he redefined social justice using strategic discourse and pragmatic thought.  
प्रतिबिंबात्मक नैतिकता, पुनर्निर्माणवादी भाषण और नवयान बौद्ध धर्म के माध्यम से उन्होंने सामाजिक न्याय को पुनर्परिभाषित किया और रणनीतिक संवाद व व्यवहारिक विचार को अपनाया।

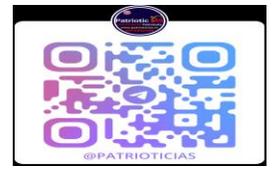
## Force and Energy: Understanding Ambedkar's Thought

### शक्ति और ऊर्जा: अंबेडकर के विचार को समझना

- In December 2023, on Columbia University's campus, a scholar described Ambedkar using two words— force and energy.  
दिसंबर 2023 में, कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय के परिसर में एक विद्वान ने अंबेडकर को दो शब्दों में परिभाषित किया— शक्ति और ऊर्जा।
- Ambedkar's ideology should be seen as a verb, signifying action and transformation, rather than being confined to a sectarian idea.  
अंबेडकर की विचारधारा को एक क्रिया के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए, जो क्रिया और परिवर्तन को दर्शाती है, न कि सांप्रदायिक विचारधारा तक सीमित करने के रूप में।
- John Dewey's pragmatism played a crucial role in shaping Ambedkar's philosophy, as seen in Scott R. Stroud's book, *The Evolution of Pragmatism in India*.  
जॉन डेवी के व्यवहारवाद ने अंबेडकर के दर्शन को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जैसा कि स्कॉट आर. स्ट्रॉड की पुस्तक, *द इवोल्यूशन ऑफ प्रैग्मैटिज्म इन इंडिया* में देखा जा सकता है।

## Triratna of Pragmatism: The Three Ambedkars

### व्यवहारवाद के त्रिरत्न: तीन अंबेडकर



- Dr. Ambedkar was deeply influenced by John Dewey's teachings during his time at Columbia University.  
डॉ. अंबेडकर को कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़ाई के दौरान जॉन डेवी के शिक्षण से गहरा प्रभाव मिला।
- His book collection contained several works of Dewey, which he marked and annotated, indicating his engagement with pragmatism.  
उनकी पुस्तक संग्रह में डेवी की कई रचनाएँ थीं, जिनमें उन्होंने महत्वपूर्ण चिन्ह और टिप्पणियाँ जोड़ी थीं, जिससे उनके व्यवहारवाद में गहन रुचि का पता चलता है।
- The Three Ambedkars framework explains how he strategically applied pragmatic philosophy to his activism and social reforms.  
तीन अंबेडकर रूपरेखा बताती है कि उन्होंने व्यावहारिक दर्शन को रणनीतिक रूप से अपने सामाजिक सुधारों और आंदोलन में कैसे लागू किया।

## Reflexive Morality: The Foundation of Individual Agency

### प्रतिबिंबात्मक नैतिकता: व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता की नींव

- Ambedkar owned a copy of John Dewey's book, *A Theory of Ethics*, and underlined key passages in different colors.  
अंबेडकर के पास जॉन डेवी की पुस्तक *ए थ्योरी ऑफ एथिक्स* की एक प्रति थी, जिसमें उन्होंने महत्वपूर्ण अंशों को अलग-अलग रंगों में चिन्हित किया था।
- Dewey's ethics emphasized that moral laws are principles based on evaluating the consequences of actions.  
डेवी की नैतिकता यह दर्शाती है कि नैतिक कानून वे सिद्धांत हैं, जो किसी क्रिया के परिणामों के मूल्यांकन पर आधारित होते हैं।
- In *Annihilation of Caste*, Ambedkar argued that caste oppresses individual agency and freedom, making it a divinely sanctioned system of social control.  
जाति का विनाश (*Annihilation of Caste*) में अंबेडकर ने कहा कि जाति व्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता को बाधित करती है, जिससे यह ईश्वरीय स्वीकृत सामाजिक नियंत्रण प्रणाली बन जाती है।
- Reflexive morality, which grants individuals the discretion of choice, is denied under caste hierarchy.  
प्रतिबिंबात्मक नैतिकता, जो व्यक्ति को स्वतंत्र निर्णय लेने की क्षमता देती है, जाति व्यवस्था के तहत छीन ली जाती है।

## Reconstructive Rhetoric: Transforming Society

### पुनर्निर्माणवादी भाषण: समाज का पुनर्रचना

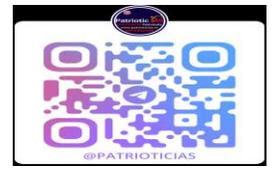


- **Reconstructive rhetoric** involves **persuasive communication** through **texts, speeches, and symbols** to bring about **social change**.  
पुनर्निर्माणवादी भाषण में ग्रंथों, भाषणों और प्रतीकों के माध्यम से प्रभावी संचार किया जाता है, जिससे सामाजिक परिवर्तन लाया जा सके।
- **Ambedkar strategically used rhetoric** in his speeches and writings, inspired by **Deweyan pragmatism**.  
अंबेडकर ने अपने भाषणों और लेखन में रणनीतिक रूप से भाषणकला का उपयोग किया, जो डेवी के व्यवहारवाद से प्रेरित था।
- **Examples of Ambedkar's reconstructive rhetoric:**  
अंबेडकर की पुनर्निर्माणवादी भाषणकला के उदाहरण:
  1. **Bhima Koregaon battle (1818)** – Ambedkar reinterpreted it as **a symbol of resistance against Brahminical oppression**.  
भीमा कोरेगांव युद्ध (1818) – अंबेडकर ने इसे ब्राह्मणवादी उत्पीड़न के खिलाफ प्रतिरोध के प्रतीक के रूप में पुनः प्रस्तुत किया।
  2. **Lecture: "Ranade, Gandhi, and Jinnah" (1943)** – He used **Buddhist democratic deliberation** to engage in **intellectual debate on social reform**.  
व्याख्यान: "रानाडे, गांधी और जिन्ना" (1943) – उन्होंने बौद्ध लोकतांत्रिक विचार-विमर्श का उपयोग कर सामाजिक सुधार पर बौद्धिक बहस की।
- **At the Round Table Conference (1930)**, Ambedkar **highlighted the oppression of untouchables**, framing it within a **historical and rhetorical context**.  
गोलमेज सम्मेलन (1930) में अंबेडकर ने अस्पृश्यों के उत्पीड़न को ऐतिहासिक और भाषणकला के संदर्भ में प्रस्तुत किया।

## Conclusion: Ambedkar's Pragmatism in Action

### निष्कर्ष: अंबेडकर का व्यवहारवाद और क्रियान्वयन

- **Ambedkar's strategic use of force, energy, and pragmatism** helped him **challenge caste hierarchies and redefine social justice**.  
अंबेडकर की शक्ति, ऊर्जा और व्यवहारवाद का रणनीतिक उपयोग उन्हें जाति पदानुक्रम को चुनौती देने और सामाजिक न्याय को पुनर्परिभाषित करने में सहायक बना।
- His **engagement with Dewey's pragmatism** shaped his **intellectual and political approach to freedom and equality**.  
डेवी के व्यवहारवाद के साथ अंबेडकर की गहरी संलग्नता ने स्वतंत्रता और समानता के प्रति उनके बौद्धिक और राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण को आकार दिया।
- His philosophy continues to **inspire movements for justice**, proving that **pragmatism, when applied strategically, can drive revolutionary change**.  
उनका दर्शन आज भी न्याय के आंदोलनों को प्रेरित करता है, यह दर्शाता है कि व्यवहारवाद, जब रणनीतिक रूप से लागू किया जाता है, तो क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन ला सकता है।



## Navayana Pragmatist Ambedkar

### नवयान व्यवहारवादी अंबेडकर

- One of Dr. Ambedkar's most critical applications of pragmatism was his reconstruction of Buddha.  
डॉ. अंबेडकर के व्यवहारवाद के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण अनुप्रयोगों में से एक था बुद्ध का पुनर्निर्माण।
- Ambedkar was introduced to Buddhism at an early age by Keluskar Guruji, but Keluskar's writings depicted Buddha as a theological and divine figure.  
अंबेडकर को प्रारंभिक आयु में केलुस्कर गुरुजी ने बौद्ध धर्म से परिचित कराया, लेकिन केलुस्कर की रचनाएँ बुद्ध को एक धार्मिक और दैवीय व्यक्तित्व के रूप में प्रस्तुत करती थीं।
- Ambedkar's quest for conversion began after his Yeola speech (1936), where he declared that he would leave Hinduism.  
अंबेडकर की धर्म परिवर्तन की खोज उनके 1936 के येवला भाषण के बाद शुरू हुई, जहाँ उन्होंने हिंदू धर्म छोड़ने की घोषणा की।

## Reconstructing Buddha through Pragmatism

### व्यवहारवाद के माध्यम से बुद्ध का पुनर्निर्माण

- In his posthumously published book, *The Buddha and His Dhamma*, Ambedkar presented a pragmatic interpretation of Buddha's life.  
अपनी मरणोपरांत प्रकाशित पुस्तक, *द बुद्धा एंड हिज़ धम्मा* में अंबेडकर ने बुद्ध के जीवन की एक व्यवहारिक व्याख्या प्रस्तुत की।
- Instead of the traditional belief that Siddhartha Gautama left his princely life in search of enlightenment, Ambedkar proposed that he did so to prevent war between Shakyas and Koliyas over river Rohini's water dispute.  
पारंपरिक धारणा के विपरीत कि सिद्धार्थ गौतम ने ज्ञान प्राप्ति के लिए राजमहल छोड़ा, अंबेडकर ने कहा कि उन्होंने शाक्यों और कोलियों के बीच रोहिणी नदी के जल विवाद के कारण युद्ध रोकने के लिए ऐसा किया।
- Ambedkar's Navayana Buddhism aimed to eliminate caste, gender, religious, and class inequalities, rather than focusing on theological narratives.  
अंबेडकर के नवयान बौद्ध धर्म का उद्देश्य जाति, लिंग, धर्म और वर्ग असमानताओं को समाप्त करना था, न कि धार्मिक कथाओं पर जोर देना।

## Ambedkar's Pragmatism Beyond Dewey

### डेवी से परे अंबेडकर का व्यवहारवाद

- Although John Dewey's pragmatism influenced Ambedkar, his philosophy was shaped by multiple thinkers like Buddha, Kabir, and Jyotirao Phule.



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हालांकि जॉन डेवी के व्यवहारवाद का अंबेडकर पर प्रभाव था, लेकिन उनकी विचारधारा बुद्ध, कबीर और ज्योतिराव फुले जैसे कई विचारकों से प्रेरित थी।

- Other scholars such as **Sharmila Rege, Gail Omvedt, and V. Geetha** have explored **Ambedkar's engagement with class, caste, and gender politics**.  
अन्य विद्वानों जैसे शर्मिला रेगे, गेल ओमवेद और वी. गीता ने अंबेडकर की वर्ग, जाति और लैंगिक राजनीति में संलग्नता का अध्ययन किया है।
- **Ambedkar's application of pragmatism** was not just an academic exercise but a **practical tool to address social inequalities and reclaim human dignity (Manuski)**.  
अंबेडकर का व्यवहारवाद केवल एक बौद्धिक अध्ययन नहीं था, बल्कि सामाजिक असमानताओं को समाप्त करने और मानव गरिमा (मनुस्की) को पुनः स्थापित करने का एक व्यावहारिक साधन था।

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# False narrative created over Gujarat riots, courts found us innocent: PM

## Essay

### Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the discourse around the 2002 post-Godhra riots in Gujarat was an attempt to create a false narrative and his political opponents in power at the Centre wanted him to be punished but the courts cleared his name.

In a podcast with Lex Fridman, Mr. Modi said the perception that the 2002 riots were the biggest riots ever in Gujarat was an attempt to push misinformation. "If you review the data from before 2002, you will see that Gujarat faced frequent riots. Curfews were constantly being imposed somewhere. Communal violence would erupt over trivial issues such as kite flying contests or even bicycle collisions," he said during the podcast released on Sunday.

The Prime Minister said the riots in Gujarat in 1969



**Lively discussion:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a podcast with Lex Fridman. PTI

lasted for more than six months and that was an era when he was nowhere on the political horizon.

He said the Godhra train burning incident took place barely three days after he was elected a legislator of the Gujarat Assembly.

"It was a tragedy of unimaginable magnitude, people were burned alive. You can imagine, against the backdrop of incidents like the Kandahar hijacking, the attack on parlia-

ment, or even 9/11, and then to have so many people killed and burned alive, you can imagine how tense and volatile the situation was," he said.

"Nothing should happen, we also wish so. Everyone would wish there should be peace," the Prime Minister said

Mr. Modi, who was the Gujarat Chief Minister at that time, said the big incident at Godhra was the sparking point and violence took place. He said

that a fake narrative was spread regarding the Godhra case. "But, the courts investigated the matter thoroughly and found us completely innocent. Those who were truly responsible have faced justice from the courts," he said.

He said his political opponents were in power at the Centre when the violence took place and they were keen to see him punished over the allegations.

"At that time, our political opponents were in power, and naturally they wanted all allegations against us to stick. They wanted to see us punished. Despite their relentless efforts, the judiciary analysed the situation meticulously twice and ultimately found us completely innocent," he said.

He said Gujarat has not seen riots since 2002. "Over the past 22 years, there hasn't been a single major riot in Gujarat... Gujarat remains completely peaceful," Mr. Modi said.

## False narrative created over Gujarat riots, courts found us innocent: PM

गुजरात दंगों पर झूठी कहानी बनाई गई, अदालतों ने हमें निर्दोष पाया:  
प्रधानमंत्री

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the 2002 Gujarat riots discourse was an attempt to create a false narrative.



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प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि 2002 गुजरात दंगों पर की गई चर्चा एक झूठी कहानी गढ़ने का प्रयास थी।

- Political opponents in power at the Centre wanted to see him punished, but courts cleared his name.  
केंद्र में सत्ता में रहे राजनीतिक विरोधी उन्हें दंडित करना चाहते थे, लेकिन अदालतों ने उन्हें निर्दोष पाया।

## Frequent riots before 2002

### 2002 से पहले लगातार हुए दंगे

- Modi said that the perception of the 2002 riots being the biggest in Gujarat's history was misinformation.  
मोदी ने कहा कि 2002 के दंगों को गुजरात के सबसे बड़े दंगे बताने की धारणा गलत सूचना थी।
- Before 2002, Gujarat frequently experienced riots, and curfews were common due to small communal tensions.  
2002 से पहले, गुजरात में बार-बार दंगे होते थे, और छोटे सांप्रदायिक तनावों के कारण कर्फ्यू आम बात थी।
- Gujarat witnessed major riots in 1969, lasting for more than six months, long before Modi entered politics.  
गुजरात में 1969 में बड़े दंगे हुए थे, जो छह महीने से अधिक चले, जब मोदी राजनीति में नहीं थे।

## Godhra train burning incident

### गोधरा ट्रेन जलाने की घटना

- The Godhra train burning happened just three days after Modi was elected as a Gujarat legislator.  
गोधरा ट्रेन जलाने की घटना मोदी के गुजरात विधायक बनने के मात्र तीन दिन बाद हुई।
- He called it a tragedy of unimaginable magnitude, comparing it to incidents like the Kandahar hijacking, Parliament attack, and 9/11.  
उन्होंने इसे अकल्पनीय स्तर की त्रासदी कहा और इसे कंधार अपहरण, संसद पर हमला और 9/11 जैसी घटनाओं से जोड़ा।
- The violence erupted after the Godhra incident, and a false narrative was spread regarding the riots.  
गोधरा घटना के बाद हिंसा भड़की, और इसके बारे में झूठी कहानियाँ फैलाई गईं।



## Judicial investigation and Modi's innocence

### न्यायिक जांच और मोदी की निर्दोषता

- Modi stated that **courts investigated the case thoroughly** and found him **completely innocent**.  
मोदी ने कहा कि अदालतों ने इस मामले की पूरी जांच की और उन्हें पूरी तरह निर्दोष पाया।
- **Those truly responsible for the riots have faced justice in court**, according to him.  
उनके अनुसार, जो लोग वास्तव में दंगों के लिए जिम्मेदार थे, उन्हें अदालत ने दंडित किया।
- **Political opponents in power at the time tried to hold him accountable**, but despite their efforts, **judiciary cleared him twice**.  
उस समय सत्ता में रहे राजनीतिक विरोधियों ने उन्हें दोषी ठहराने का प्रयास किया, लेकिन उनकी कोशिशों के बावजूद, अदालतों ने दो बार उन्हें निर्दोष पाया।

## Gujarat's peace since 2002

### 2002 के बाद गुजरात में शांति

- Modi emphasized that **Gujarat has not seen any major riots in the past 22 years**.  
मोदी ने जोर देकर कहा कि गुजरात में पिछले 22 वर्षों में कोई बड़ा दंगा नहीं हुआ।
- **Since 2002, Gujarat has remained completely peaceful**, he said.  
2002 के बाद से, गुजरात पूरी तरह शांत रहा है, उन्होंने कहा।