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PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
(21 MARCH 2025)

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21_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. How do habitual offender laws discriminate?

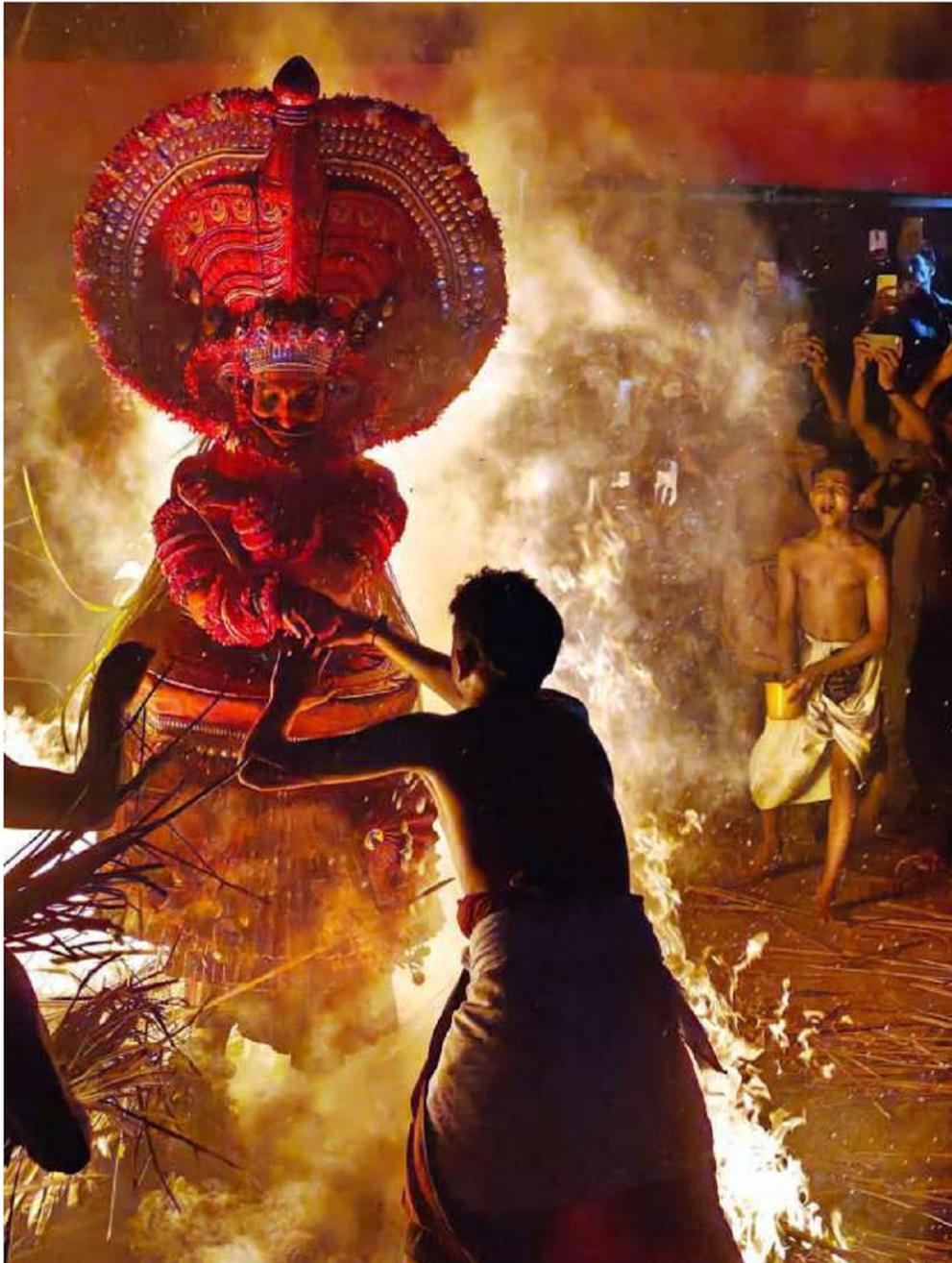
आदतन अपराधी कानून कैसे भेदभाव करते हैं?

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Rising from the ashes



GS Paper I: A&C

This Theyyam performance at the Kaliyattam festival at Ettikkulam in Kannur, Kerala, tells the story of a warrior who was reborn from his ashes. According to the legend, Kandamar Kelan, an archer-farmer, was burning vegetation to prepare land for farming when he got engulfed in flames. To escape, he tried to clamber up a tree and was bitten by two snakes. Another theyyam, Vayanattu Kulavan, resurrected him. THULASI KAKKAT



How do habitual offender laws discriminate?

आदतन अपराधी कानून कैसे भेदभाव करते हैं?

How do habitual offender laws discriminate?

How are habitual offenders deemed so? What is the history behind denotified and nomadic tribes being seen as 'criminal tribes'? Why are States such as Gujarat not keen to repeal the habitual offender laws?

GS Paper I: Society

EXPLAINER

Abhinav Lakshman

The story so far:

Months after the Supreme Court of India questioned the need for decade-old laws that have classified a section of criminals as "habitual offenders" across India, the Government of India has revealed in Parliament that such laws continue to operate in as many as 14 States and Union Territories.

What has the SC said about the matter in the past?

In October last year, while deciding a matter on caste discrimination within Indian jails, the Supreme Court of India had called into question the very basis of the "habitual offender" classification, noting it was "constitutionally suspect" and used to "target members of denotified tribes".

The recent information revealed in the Lok Sabha on March 11 by the Union Social Justice Ministry showed that some States like Gujarat have argued for the continuation of the law given that the "intent" of its use is not suspect, while others are in the process of discontinuing its application, like Punjab. States like Haryana have already repealed it. The government has said that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs communicates with States on these laws and the status of their repealing from time to time.

What is the origin of the 'habitual offender' classification?

According to the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes headed by Bhiku Ramji Idate, which submitted its report in 2017, the beginning of "criminalising" communities in India began with Regulation XXII of 1793, which gave magistrates "summary powers" to put to work or imprison certain communities or tribes based on suspicion alone. The Indian Penal Code of 1860 and the Criminal Procedure Code of 1861 further set up the mechanism to maintain a register of "dacoits and thugs", before culminating it in the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) of 1871. It was through this Act, the Idate Commission notes, that "the phrase 'criminal tribe' was first concocted, and the system of registration began". The law provided for "a gang, a tribe, or a class of people" to be declared criminal, and was strengthened throughout the next few decades. In 1924, the law was applied to all of colonial India which increased the number of communities declared "criminal" exponentially, according to the Idate report.

Just as the Constitution of India was being adopted, the government's Criminal Tribes Act Enquiry Committee Report (1949-50) was published, which recommended the repealing of the CTA, and encouraged "central legislation applicable to all habitual offenders without any distinction based on caste, creed, or birth". In 1952, based on this report, the Government of India repealed all criminal tribes laws across the country, leaving the communities notified under these laws to be classified as "denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic" (DNT, NT, SNT) tribes.

By this time, States had already started enacting "habitual offender" laws across the country, such as the Madras Restriction of Habitual Offenders Act, 1948, which was extended to Delhi in 1951. Rajasthan passed a similar law in 1953, and over the next two decades more



Criminal by 'habit': Members of various denotified tribes take an oath during the first conference of Itinerant People's Rights Organisation in 2012. FILE PHOTO

States – Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, etc. – adopted laws on "habitual offenders". All of them moved away from the premise of classifying communities as "prone to crime", by defining a "habitual offender" in terms of the convictions they have had.

However, even though the CTA Enquiry Report had led to the reframing of habitual offender laws, by centering individuals over communities, more than a decade later, when the Lokur Committee in 1965 was looking at denotified tribes, it saw them as communities with an "anti-social heritage". Some specific communities were even described as having an "affinity for crime".

What were some of the crimes which made one a 'habitual offender'?

Habitual offender laws have a schedule of crimes for which the classification could be invoked. Across States, this included crimes like "being a thug", "belonging to a gang of dacoits", "living on the earnings of prostitution", and half-a-dozen entries on "lurking".

Registers were maintained, and rules and regulations were formulated by States on how 'habitual offenders' were to be treated within prisons, leading to jail manuals across the country adopting the language of "habitual offenders", with some of them explicitly allowing for erstwhile "criminal tribe" community members to be designated as "habitual offenders" (for example in Rajasthan). But in 1998, the custodial death of Budhan Sabar, a member of a denotified community in West Bengal, led to national outrage over the concept of "habitual offenders" and how it was being used by the police.

When did change start?

From the outrage over Mr. Sabar's death, an advocacy group was formed known as the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes Rights Action Group (DNT-RAG) by writers Mahasweta Devi and G.N. Devy, who also spearheaded the launching of a magazine named after Budhan, which wrote on issues faced by these communities. The

DNT-RAG studied the conditions of denotified tribes and prepared a report.

In 1998, the DNT-RAG wrote to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India and the United Nations Secretary General, noting that even though the CTA had been repealed, "the police as well as the general public continue to treat most of these unfortunate communities as 'born criminals' and 'habitual criminals'", citing the habitual offender law in Bombay. "Every day brings in instances of mob-lynching, arson, and police atrocities enacted upon the innocent and helpless DNTs," the letter said.

Reacting to this letter, the NHRC formed an Advisory Group which in 2000, concluded that these "habitual offender" laws can be repealed. Since then, every National Commission that has dealt with the issue of DNT, NT, SNT communities has mentioned the adverse effect of "habitual offender" laws on these communities.

In March 2007, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted the way "habitual offender" laws were being applied and called for its repeal. In 2008, the National Commission on DNT, SNT, NT headed by B.S. Renke noted the negative effect of the laws on the lives of these communities.

In 2014, the High-Level Committee of the Tribal Affairs Ministry, headed by Professor Virginus Xaxa noted, "The tag of criminality attached to DNTs and to the nomadic way of life of nomadic tribes persists to the present day. The explanation lies, in good measure, in the Criminal Tribes Act being replaced in many States by the Habitual Offenders Act." In 2020, journalist Sukanya Santha reported on widespread caste-discrimination within Indian prison systems, including the treatment meted out to those who have been classified as "habitual offenders", based on which she filed a petition in the Supreme Court.

How have States reacted?

Deciding this case in October 2024, a Bench headed by then Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had noted that while "habitual offender" laws were not the

subject of the matter specifically, it felt compelled to make some observations.

It said, "The 'habitual offender' legislations were enacted to replace the Criminal Tribes Act. However, in States such as Rajasthan, they were used to refer to members belonging to criminal tribes/denotified tribes. Applying that logic, several Prison Manuals/Rules have also referred to 'habitual offender' to mean members of Denotified Tribes or wandering tribes...This cannot be accepted. A whole community ought not to have either been declared a criminal tribe in the past or a habitual offender in the present. It would not be wrong to say that the classification of 'habitual offender' has been used to target members of Denotified Tribes."

Further down in the judgment, the Supreme Court went on to "urge" the State governments to review whether there remained any need for such "habitual offender" laws in the country.

According to the latest information provided by the States and UTs to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Punjab has said that it has not implemented the law for over five years and neither had any register been maintained in this time. Similarly, the Odisha government has said that no case had been registered under the law in the last five years and Andhra Pradesh has said that no one in their jails currently was imprisoned under the law.

Some States like Goa have argued that since there are no DNTs in their State, there is no scope of the law being misused to target them and have indicated that they may be allowed to continue using them. Gujarat has opined against repealing it saying it "does not intend" to harass. Telangana has called the law preventative, whereas Uttar Pradesh has said that since all "habitual offender" provisions had been covered under their Goondas Act, it does not matter if it is repealed.

According to the latest available records of the National Crime Records Bureau (for 2022), about 1.9% of India's 1.29 lakh convict population have been classified as "habitual offenders", with the highest proportion seen in Delhi, where 21.5% of convicts are classified as such.

THE GIST

▼ In October last year, while deciding a matter on caste discrimination within Indian jails, the Supreme Court of India had called into question the very basis of the "habitual offender" classification, noting it was "constitutionally suspect" and used to "target members of denotified tribes"

▼ Habitual offender laws have a schedule of crimes for which the classification could be invoked. Across States, this included crimes like "being a thug", "belonging to a gang of dacoits", "living on the earnings of prostitution", and half-a-dozen entries on "lurking".

▼ In March 2007, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted the way "habitual offender" laws were being applied and called for its repeal.



What has the Supreme Court said about habitual offender laws?

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आदतन अपराधी कानूनों के बारे में क्या कहा है?

- In October 2023, the Supreme Court of India questioned the **constitutional validity** of the habitual offender classification, calling it “**constitutionally suspect**” and **discriminatory against denotified tribes**.

अक्टूबर 2023 में, भारतीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आदतन अपराधी वर्गीकरण की संवैधानिक वैधता पर सवाल उठाया, इसे “संविधानally संदिग्ध” और अधिसूचित जनजातियों के खिलाफ भेदभावपूर्ण बताया।

- On **March 11, 2024**, the **Union Social Justice Ministry** revealed in **Lok Sabha** that **14 States and Union Territories** still enforce habitual offender laws.

11 मार्च 2024 को, केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय ने लोकसभा में खुलासा किया कि 14 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में अभी भी ये कानून लागू हैं।

- While **Punjab** is in the process of **repealing the law**, **Gujarat** has argued for its **continuation**, citing its intent is not suspect.

जहाँ पंजाब इस कानून को हटाने की प्रक्रिया में है, गुजरात ने इसके जारी रहने की वकालत की है, यह तर्क देते हुए कि इसका उद्देश्य संदिग्ध नहीं है।

What is the origin of the ‘habitual offender’ classification?

‘आदतन अपराधी’ वर्गीकरण की उत्पत्ति क्या है?

- The **criminalization of communities** in India began with **Regulation XXII of 1793**, which allowed **magistrates to imprison certain tribes based on suspicion alone**.

भारत में समुदायों का अपराधीकरण 1793 के रेगुलेशन XXII से शुरू हुआ, जिसने न्यायाधीशों को केवल संदेह के आधार पर कुछ जनजातियों को कैद करने का अधिकार दिया।

- The **Indian Penal Code (1860)** and **Criminal Procedure Code (1861)** mandated **registers for “dacoits and thugs”**, leading to the **Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) of 1871**.

भारतीय दंड संहिता (1860) और आपराधिक प्रक्रिया संहिता (1861) ने “डाकू और ठगों” के लिए रजिस्टर बनाए, जिससे 1871 का आपराधिक जनजाति अधिनियम (CTA) लागू हुआ।

- The **CTA allowed entire communities to be declared as “criminal tribes”**, leading to **increased police surveillance and discrimination**.

CTA ने संपूर्ण समुदायों को “अपराधी जनजाति” घोषित करने की अनुमति दी, जिससे पुलिस निगरानी और भेदभाव बढ़ गया।

- In **1952**, the **Government of India** repealed the CTA, classifying affected communities as **Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT, NT, SNT)**.

1952 में, भारत सरकार ने CTA को रद्द कर दिया, और प्रभावित समुदायों को अधिसूचित, घुमंतू, और अर्ध-घुमंतू जनजातियों (DNT, NT, SNT) के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया।

- Despite this, States enacted **habitual offender laws**, such as the **Madras Restriction of Habitual Offenders Act (1948)** and similar laws in **Rajasthan (1953)**, **Andhra Pradesh**, **West Bengal**, and **Uttar Pradesh**.



इसके बावजूद, राज्यों ने आदतन अपराधी कानून बनाए, जैसे मद्रास आदतन अपराधी प्रतिबंध अधिनियम (1948) और इसी तरह के कानून राजस्थान (1953), आंध्र प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल और उत्तर प्रदेश में लागू किए गए।

What were some of the crimes that led to habitual offender classification?

कौन-कौन से अपराध आदतन अपराधी वर्गीकरण का कारण बने?

- The **habitual offender laws** listed crimes such as “being a thug,” “belonging to a gang of dacoits,” and “living on the earnings of prostitution.” आदतन अपराधी कानूनों में अपराध सूचीबद्ध थे जैसे “ठग होना,” “डकैतों के गिरोह से जुड़ना,” और “वेश्यावृत्ति से कमाई पर जीवन यापन करना।”
- Some laws allowed for the **police to maintain registers of habitual offenders, disproportionately targeting denotified tribes.** कुछ कानूनों ने पुलिस को आदतन अपराधियों का रजिस्टर बनाए रखने की अनुमति दी, जिससे अधिसूचित जनजातियों को असंगत रूप से निशाना बनाया गया।
- In 1998, the **custodial death of Budhan Sabar, a denotified tribal man in West Bengal, sparked national outrage against the misuse of habitual offender laws.** 1998 में, बुधन साबर की हिरासत में मौत, जो पश्चिम बंगाल के एक अधिसूचित जनजातीय व्यक्ति थे, ने आदतन अपराधी कानूनों के दुरुपयोग के खिलाफ राष्ट्रीय आक्रोश को जन्म दिया।

When did change start?

परिवर्तन कब शुरू हुआ?

- The **custodial death of Budhan Sabar (1998)** led to national outrage, prompting the formation of the **Denotified and Nomadic Tribes Rights Action Group (DNT-RAG)** by **Mahasweta Devi and G.N. Devy.** बुधन साबर की हिरासत में मृत्यु (1998) के कारण राष्ट्रीय आक्रोश फैला, जिससे महाश्वेता देवी और जी.एन. देवय द्वारा अधिसूचित और घुमंतू जनजाति अधिकार कार्य समूह (DNT-RAG) का गठन किया गया।
- **DNT-RAG launched ‘Budhan’ magazine** to highlight the issues faced by these communities. DNT-RAG ने ‘बुधन’ पत्रिका शुरू की, ताकि इन समुदायों की समस्याओं को उजागर किया जा सके।
- In 1998, DNT-RAG wrote to the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** and the **United Nations**, stating that **police and society still treated DNTs as ‘born criminals’.** 1998 में, DNT-RAG ने राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) और संयुक्त राष्ट्र को पत्र लिखा, जिसमें कहा गया कि पुलिस और समाज अभी भी DNTs को ‘जन्मजात अपराधी’ मानते हैं।
- In 2000, NHRC’s Advisory Group concluded that **habitual offender laws should be repealed.**



2000 में, NHRC की सलाहकार समिति ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि आदतन अपराधी कानूनों को निरस्त किया जाना चाहिए।

- The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2007) called for the repeal of habitual offender laws.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र जातीय भेदभाव उन्मूलन समिति (2007) ने आदतन अपराधी कानूनों को समाप्त करने की मांग की।
- In 2008, the B.S. Renke Commission highlighted the negative impact of habitual offender laws on DNT communities.
2008 में, बी.एस. रेंके आयोग ने DNT समुदायों पर आदतन अपराधी कानूनों के नकारात्मक प्रभाव को उजागर किया।
- In 2014, the Virginius Xaxa Committee stated that the stigma of criminality against DNTs persisted due to habitual offender laws.
2014 में, वर्जिनियस ज़ाक्सा समिति ने कहा कि DNTs के खिलाफ अपराधीकरण की छवि आदतन अपराधी कानूनों के कारण बनी हुई है।
- In 2020, journalist Sukanya Santha reported on caste discrimination in Indian prisons and filed a petition in the Supreme Court against habitual offender laws.
2020 में, पत्रकार सुकन्या सांथा ने भारतीय जेलों में जातिगत भेदभाव पर रिपोर्ट की और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में याचिका दायर की।

How have States reacted?

राज्यों की प्रतिक्रिया कैसी रही?

- In October 2024, a Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud stated that habitual offender laws disproportionately target Denotified Tribes.
अक्टूबर 2024 में, मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़ की अध्यक्षता में सुप्रीम कोर्ट पीठ ने कहा कि आदतन अपराधी कानून अधिसूचित जनजातों को असंगत रूप से निशाना बनाते हैं।
- The court urged States to review the necessity of habitual offender laws.
अदालत ने राज्यों से आदतन अपराधी कानूनों की आवश्यकता की समीक्षा करने का आग्रह किया।
- Punjab stated that it has not used the law for five years, and no habitual offender registers exist.
पंजाब ने कहा कि उसने इस कानून का पिछले पांच वर्षों से उपयोग नहीं किया है, और कोई आदतन अपराधी रजिस्टर नहीं रखा गया है।
- Odisha reported no cases under this law in the past five years, and Andhra Pradesh stated no prisoners were currently jailed under it.
ओडिशा ने बताया कि पिछले पांच वर्षों में इस कानून के तहत कोई मामला दर्ज नहीं हुआ, और आंध्र प्रदेश ने कहा कि वर्तमान में इस कानून के तहत कोई कैदी जेल में नहीं है।
- Goa argued that since there are no DNTs in the state, the law is not misused and should be retained.



गोवा ने तर्क दिया कि चूंकि राज्य में कोई DNT नहीं है, इसलिए इस कानून का दुरुपयोग नहीं होता और इसे बनाए रखा जाना चाहिए।

- Gujarat opposed repealing the law, claiming it does not intend to harass.
गुजरात ने इस कानून को निरस्त करने का विरोध किया, यह कहते हुए कि इसका उद्देश्य उत्पीड़न करना नहीं है।
- Telangana called the law 'preventative', while Uttar Pradesh stated that its provisions were covered under the Goondas Act.
तेलंगाना ने इस कानून को 'रोकथाम के उपाय' के रूप में बताया, जबकि उत्तर प्रदेश ने कहा कि इसके प्रावधान पहले से ही गुंडा अधिनियम में शामिल हैं।
- According to NCRB records (2022), 1.9% of India's 1.29 lakh convict population were classified as habitual offenders, with Delhi having the highest proportion (21.5%).
राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (NCRB) के 2022 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत के 1.29 लाख दोषी आबादी में से 1.9% को आदतन अपराधी के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया, जिसमें दिल्ली में सबसे अधिक 21.5% दोषी थे।

† *Heralding spring*



Floral fiesta: Members of the **Druid Order** take part in a celebration of the **spring equinox** at Tower Hill in London on Thursday. The astronomical spring season begins with the equinox and will last until the **summer solstice** on June 21. AP **GS Paper I: Geography**



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

1. X Corp. challenges content blocking orders, opposes Centre's 'censorship portal

X Corp. ने कंटेंट ब्लॉकिंग आदेशों को चुनौती दी, केंद्र के 'सेंसरशिप पोर्टल' का विरोध किया

2. Amid militarisation concerns, India remains a stabilising factor in the Arctic: Russian envoy

सैन्यीकरण की चिंताओं के बीच, आर्कटिक में स्थिरता लाने वाला कारक बना भारत: रूसी राजदूत

3. Sweden pension fund may exclude BEL over 'arms sale'
स्वीडन पेंशन फंड BEL को 'हथियार बिक्री' के कारण बाहर कर सकता है

4. Panel flags 'shoddy implementation' of Centre's flagship tourism scheme

पैनल ने केंद्र की प्रमुख पर्यटन योजना के 'खराब कार्यान्वयन' को उजागर किया

5. The challenge of policing digital giants

डिजिटल दिग्गजों की निगरानी की चुनौती

6. The assault on multilateralism and international law

बहुपक्षवाद और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून पर हमला

7. Should immigrants have the same right to protest as citizens?

क्या प्रवासियों को नागरिकों के समान विरोध करने का अधिकार होना चाहिए?



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

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X Corp. challenges content blocking orders, opposes Centre's 'censorship portal'

GS Paper II: FRs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

X Corp, formerly known as Twitter Inc, has moved the Karnataka High Court, challenging the way the Union and State governments are issuing orders to block content on its platform. The company is opposing the Centre's new Sahyog portal, terming it a "censorship portal", which allows all government agencies – from Union Ministries down to local police stations – to issue blocking orders, using a Union government-issued template.

The court will hear the petition on March 27.

X Corp has asked the court to direct the government that orders to block content can only be issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and not by invoking Section 79(3)(b) of the Act.

A Union government official told *The Hindu* that orders issued under Section 79 were not "direct blocking orders", but they simply notified the platform that it was liable for illegal content.

Section 69A empowers the Union government to direct the blocking of public access to information if deemed necessary for sovereignty, security, public order, or to prevent incitement, among other reasons. It has multiple procedural safeguards to ensure it is not misused, which have been laid down by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India* case in 2015.

Conditional protection

Section 79 of the Act, on the other hand, "merely exempts intermediaries [such as service providers, social media platforms, or apps] from liability for third-party content [such as posts]; it does not empower the government to issue information blocking orders in violation of Section 69A and the apex court's verdict in *Shreya*

X's legal challenge	Why issue blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and not under Section 69A	Section 69A empowers the government to block access to online content, under specific circumstances
Here are the contentions of Elon Musk's company in the Karnataka High Court:	Section 79(3)(b) outlines the conditions under which an intermediary loses its 'safe harbour' protection	Union Home Ministry's Sahyog portal is a 'censorship portal'

Singhal's case," according to the X petition. However, clause 3(b) of Section 79 does say that the exemption will not be valid if the intermediary fails to expeditiously remove or disable access to material used to commit an unlawful act when notified by the government.

The company also questioned a communication against the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued on October 31, 2023, informing all Union Ministries, State governments, and State police chiefs that they are authorised to issue blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b) of the Act. A year later, the Union Home Ministry created the Sahyog portal, which X has called a "censorship portal" to facilitate such orders to be issued. The Sahyog portal website says it was developed "to automate the process of sending notices to intermediaries... ensuring immediate action" and will "help achieve a clean cyber space".

These actions by the Centre are in violation of the law as laid down by the top court in the *Shreya Singhal* case, the petition said. "MeitY is trying to do indirectly through other agencies what it cannot do directly under Section 69A... MeitY's actions are also colourable exercises of power because it has attempted to delegate power to Central and State agencies, and countless local police officers, that MeitY itself does not have under the IT Act," the petition added.

A senior Union government official disputed X's description of the Sahyog portal as a parallel censorship system. Orders sent under Section 79 "are not blocking orders", the official said. "These orders inform social media intermediaries about illegal content, and if they do not remove them, they share the liability faced by the users... It is not the same as a blocking order under Section 69A, which is directly blocking on a few narrow grounds."

"We will let the court decide the constitutionality of the portal," the official added.

Prasanth Sugathan, legal director at the Software Freedom Law Centre, India (SFLC), said that it was "problematic" that Sahyog was designed for such a large number of complaints "without any procedural safeguards".

Informing the court that the MHA had written to X Corp in October 2024 asking it to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate with the Sahyog Portal, the company sought interim protection, expressing apprehension that if it fails to appoint a nodal officer or to comply with blocking orders issued under Section 79(3)(b), it may attract coercive action against the company and its representatives.

When the petition came up for hearing on March 17 before Justice M. Nagaprasanna, the Additional Solicitor-General of India told the court that "there is nothing done that would justify grant of an interim order, as on date."

X Corp. challenges content blocking orders, opposes Centre's 'censorship portal'

X Corp. ने कंटेंट ब्लॉकिंग आदेशों को चुनौती दी, केंद्र के 'सेंसरशिप पोर्टल' का विरोध किया

X Corp, formerly known as Twitter Inc, has moved the Karnataka High Court, challenging the way the Union and State governments are issuing orders to block content on its platform.

X Corp, जिसे पहले Twitter Inc के नाम से जाना जाता था, ने कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय का रुख किया है, जिसमें केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों द्वारा कंटेंट ब्लॉक करने के आदेश जारी करने के तरीके को चुनौती दी गई है।

• The company is opposing the Centre's new Sahyog portal, terming it a "censorship portal", which allows all government agencies — from Union Ministries down to local police stations — to issue blocking orders using a Union government-issued template.

कंपनी केंद्र के नए Sahyog पोर्टल का विरोध कर रही है, जिसे उसने "सेंसरशिप पोर्टल" करार दिया है, जो केंद्रीय मंत्रालयों से लेकर स्थानीय पुलिस स्टेशनों तक सभी सरकारी एजेंसियों को केंद्र सरकार द्वारा जारी टेम्पलेट का उपयोग करके ब्लॉकिंग आदेश जारी करने की अनुमति देता है।

• The court will hear the petition on March 27. न्यायालय इस याचिका की सुनवाई 27 मार्च को करेगा।

• X Corp has asked the court to direct the government that orders to block content can only be issued under Section 69A of the Information



Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and not by invoking **Section 79(3)(b)** of the Act.

X Corp ने अदालत से अनुरोध किया है कि सरकार को निर्देश दिया जाए कि कंटेंट ब्लॉक करने के आदेश केवल सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (IT) अधिनियम, 2000 की धारा 69A के तहत ही जारी किए जाएं, न कि धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत।

- A Union government official told *The Hindu* that orders issued under **Section 79** were not “**direct blocking orders**”, but they simply notified the platform that it was liable for illegal content.

एक केंद्रीय सरकारी अधिकारी ने द हिंदू को बताया कि धारा 79 के तहत जारी आदेश "सीधे ब्लॉकिंग आदेश" नहीं हैं, बल्कि केवल प्लेटफॉर्म को सूचित करते हैं कि वह अवैध सामग्री के लिए जिम्मेदार है।

- **Section 69A** empowers the **Union government** to direct the blocking of public access to information if deemed necessary for **sovereignty, security, public order**, or to prevent **incitement**, among other reasons.

धारा 69A केंद्र सरकार को यह शक्ति देती है कि वह संप्रभुता, सुरक्षा, सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था या उत्तेजना रोकने जैसी अन्य आवश्यकताओं के लिए सार्वजनिक पहुंच को अवरुद्ध करने का आदेश दे सके।

- It has multiple **procedural safeguards** to ensure it is not misused, which have been laid down by the **Supreme Court** in the **Shreya Singhal vs Union of India case (2015)**. इसमें प्रक्रियात्मक सुरक्षा उपाय हैं ताकि इसका दुरुपयोग न हो, जिसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने श्रेया सिंघल बनाम भारत संघ मामले (2015) में निर्धारित किया था।

- **Section 79** of the Act, on the other hand, “merely exempts intermediaries” (such as service providers, social media platforms, or apps) from **liability for third-party content**; it does not empower the government to issue **blocking orders**.

धारा 79 केवल मध्यस्थों (जैसे सेवा प्रदाता, सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म, या ऐप्स) को तृतीय-पक्ष सामग्री के लिए उत्तरदायित्व से छूट देती है; यह सरकार को ब्लॉकिंग आदेश जारी करने की शक्ति नहीं देता।

- However, **clause 3(b) of Section 79** says that the exemption will not be valid if the intermediary **fails to expeditiously remove or disable access** to material used to commit an unlawful act when notified by the government.

हालांकि, धारा 79 के उपखंड 3(b) के अनुसार, यदि कोई मध्यस्थ अवैध कार्यों के लिए उपयोग की जाने वाली सामग्री को जल्द से जल्द हटाने या उसकी पहुंच अक्षम करने में विफल रहता है, तो उसे दी गई छूट वैध नहीं होगी।

- The company also questioned a **communication issued by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on October 31, 2023**, authorizing all **Union Ministries, State governments, and State police chiefs** to issue blocking orders under **Section 79(3)(b)** of the Act.

कंपनी ने 31 अक्टूबर 2023 को केंद्रीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) द्वारा जारी संचार पर भी सवाल उठाया, जिसमें सभी केंद्रीय मंत्रालयों, राज्य सरकारों और राज्य पुलिस प्रमुखों को धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत ब्लॉकिंग आदेश जारी करने का अधिकार दिया गया।

- A year later, the **Union Home Ministry** created the **Sahyog portal**, which X Corp has called a “ **censorship portal**” to facilitate such orders.



एक साल बाद, केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने सहयोग पोर्टल बनाया, जिसे X Corp ने "संसंरशिप पोर्टल" करार दिया।

- The **Sahyog portal website** says it was developed “to automate the process of sending notices to intermediaries... ensuring immediate action” and will “help achieve a clean cyber space”.

सहयोग पोर्टल वेबसाइट कहती है कि इसे "मध्यस्थों को नोटिस भेजने की प्रक्रिया को स्वचालित करने... और तत्काल कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित करने" और "साफ-सुथरी साइबर स्पेस प्राप्त करने" के लिए विकसित किया गया है।

- A senior **Union government official** disputed X Corp’s description of the **Sahyog portal** as a **parallel censorship system**.

एक वरिष्ठ केंद्रीय सरकारी अधिकारी ने X Corp द्वारा सहयोग पोर्टल को "समानांतर संसंरशिप प्रणाली" कहे जाने पर आपत्ति जताई।

- **Orders sent under Section 79** “are not blocking orders”, the official said. “These orders inform social media intermediaries about illegal content, and if they do not remove them, they share the **liability faced by the users**... It is not the same as a blocking order under Section 69A.”

धारा 79 के तहत भेजे गए आदेश "ब्लॉकिंग आदेश नहीं हैं," अधिकारी ने कहा। "ये आदेश सोशल मीडिया मध्यस्थों को अवैध सामग्री के बारे में सूचित करते हैं, और यदि वे इसे नहीं हटाते हैं, तो वे उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा झेली जाने वाली जिम्मेदारी साझा करते हैं... यह धारा 69A के तहत जारी किए गए ब्लॉकिंग आदेशों के समान नहीं है।"

- **The court will decide the constitutionality of the portal**, the official added. अधिकारी ने कहा, "अदालत इस पोर्टल की संवैधानिकता पर निर्णय लेगी।"

'Sahyog' Portal by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) का 'सहयोग' पोर्टल

- **Objective: To foster collaboration between government agencies and social media intermediaries, ensuring a secure cyberspace.**

उद्देश्य: सरकारी एजेंसियों और सोशल मीडिया मध्यस्थों के बीच सहयोग को बढ़ावा देना, जिससे सुरक्षित साइबरस्पेस सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।

Features:

विशेषताएँ:

- **Authorized Agency Interaction: Central, state, and union territory authorized agencies** can interact with **social media platforms** to address **unlawful content**.

अधिकृत एजेंसी इंटरैक्शन: केंद्र, राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों की अधिकृत एजेंसियां अवैध सामग्री को हटाने के लिए सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफार्मों के साथ बातचीत कर सकती हैं।



- **Phased Implementation:**

चरणबद्ध कार्यान्वयन:

- **First Phase:** Focuses on the **removal of illegal content**.
पहला चरण: अवैध सामग्री को हटाने पर केंद्रित है।
- **Subsequent Phases:** Aims to incorporate **functionalities like legal data requests**.
आगामी चरण: कानूनी डेटा अनुरोध जैसी सुविधाओं को शामिल करने का लक्ष्य।

Recent Development: In **December 2024**, the MHA informed the **Delhi High Court** about the portal's development, highlighting its role in creating a **safer digital environment**.

हालिया विकास: दिसंबर 2024 में गृह मंत्रालय ने दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय को इस पोर्टल के विकास के बारे में सूचित किया, जिससे सुरक्षित डिजिटल माहौल बनाने में इसकी भूमिका स्पष्ट हुई।

Importance of the 'Sahyog' Portal:

'सहयोग' पोर्टल का महत्व:

- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Facilitates seamless communication between **law enforcement agencies** and **social media platforms**.
बेहतर सहयोग: कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों और सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफार्मों के बीच सरल संचार को सक्षम बनाता है।
- **Efficient Content Management:** Streamlines the process of identifying and removing **unlawful content**.
प्रभावी सामग्री प्रबंधन: अवैध सामग्री की पहचान और उसे हटाने की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाता है।
- **Legal Compliance:** Assists in managing **legal data requests**, ensuring adherence to **legal protocols**.
कानूनी अनुपालन: कानूनी डेटा अनुरोधों को प्रबंधित करने में मदद करता है और कानूनी प्रोटोकॉल का पालन सुनिश्चित करता है।



Amid militarisation concerns, India remains a stabilising factor in the Arctic: Russian envoy

GS Paper II: Arctic

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Russia sees India's interest in increasing its presence in the Arctic as a "stabilising factor", Russian Ambassador to India, Denis Alipov, said on Thursday.

Speaking at an India-Russia Arctic conference on "Uniting North and South: for Sustainable Development in the Arctic" organised by Vivekananda International Foundation and The Northern Forum of Russia, the diplomat expressed concern over the growing militarisation of the Arctic and the tensions generated by the members of the NATO military alliance.

He cited the enhanced tempo of their military activity in the Arctic and attempts by European NATO members to impose their own rules of the game as



Russian Ambassador to India, Denis Alipov, said 'tensions' had been generated by members of the NATO alliance. FILE PHOTO

inimical to sustaining security and stability in the region.

"We view India as a strategic partner in the joint development of the Arctic area and coordinated scientific, environmental, and commercial efforts," Mr. Alipov said. The rise of tensions caused by NATO countries has negatively impacted the role of the Arctic Council, whose ac-

tivities have been suspended since 2022," the Envoy said.

"In contrast to their hostile approach, we value India's constructive approach in the Arctic Council since its accession as an observer in 2013," added Mr. Alipov. "At various multilateral fora, Russia and India stand together to preserve the Arctic as a territory of peace and stabili-

ty and to unlock opportunities for its development as an engine of growth and cooperation."

According to Mr. Alipov, Russia is in favour of collaborating with India on research on climate change, atmospheric studies, geosciences, glaciology and polar biology. He highlighted that Indian scientists are studying the hypothesis that the Arctic influences of the dynamics of the monsoon with a focus on South Asia.

The Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in Saint Petersburg and the Northern (Arctic) Federal University in Arkhangelsk cooperate with the Indian National Centre for Polar and Oceanic Research, as well as the International Centre for Polar Studies at the Mahatma Gandhi University and Cochin University of Science and Tech-

nology. In 2024, the two countries signed a memorandum of cooperation in the field of scientific research in the Arctic.

Both countries have expressed mutual interest in exploring projects for the extraction of Arctic mineral riches, including energy resources and rare earth elements. Mr. Alipov noted that currently under consideration are opportunities for Indian companies to join projects promoted by NOVATEK and Gazprom Neft, two major Russian fossil fuel exploitation firms, in the Dolginskoye oil field and ventures in the Vostok oil cluster by partnering with Rosneft. There are also promising opportunities for Indian companies in the development of Yamal liquefied natural gas (LNG) and Arctic LNG-2 projects, added the diplomat.

Amid militarisation concerns, India remains a stabilising factor in the Arctic: Russian envoy

सैन्यीकरण की चिंताओं के बीच, आर्कटिक में स्थिरता लाने वाला कारक बना

भारत: रूसी राजदूत

Russia sees India's interest in increasing its presence in the Arctic as a "stabilising factor", said Russian Ambassador to India, Denis Alipov, on Thursday.

रूस ने आर्कटिक में भारत की बढ़ती रुचि को "स्थिरता लाने वाला कारक" बताया, रूसी राजदूत डेनिस अलीपोव ने गुरुवार को कहा।

- Speaking at an India-Russia Arctic conference on "Uniting North and South: for Sustainable Development in the Arctic", Mr. Alipov expressed concern over the **growing militarisation of the Arctic** and tensions created by **NATO military alliance members**.



“उत्तर और दक्षिण को एकजुट करना: आर्कटिक में सतत विकास” विषय पर आयोजित भारत-रूस आर्कटिक सम्मेलन में, श्री अलीपोव ने आर्कटिक के सैन्यीकरण और नाटो सैन्य गठबंधन के सदस्यों द्वारा उत्पन्न तनाव पर चिंता व्यक्त की।

- He cited the **enhanced military activity** in the Arctic by European NATO members as a **threat to security and stability** in the region.
उन्होंने यूरोपीय नाटो सदस्यों द्वारा आर्कटिक में बढ़ी सैन्य गतिविधियों को क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा और स्थिरता के लिए खतरा बताया।
- “We view India as a strategic partner in the joint development of the Arctic area,” Mr. Alipov said.
“हम आर्कटिक क्षेत्र के संयुक्त विकास में भारत को एक रणनीतिक साझेदार के रूप में देखते हैं,” श्री अलीपोव ने कहा।
- He criticised **NATO countries** for **disrupting the Arctic Council’s** role, which has been **suspended since 2022** due to rising tensions.
उन्होंने नाटो देशों की आलोचना की कि वे आर्कटिक परिषद की भूमिका को बाधित कर रहे हैं, जो कि 2022 से निलंबित है।
- “In contrast to NATO’s approach, we value India’s constructive approach in the Arctic Council since its accession as an observer in 2013,” he added.
“नाटो के दृष्टिकोण के विपरीत, हम आर्कटिक परिषद में भारत के रचनात्मक दृष्टिकोण को महत्व देते हैं, जो 2013 में पर्यवेक्षक के रूप में शामिल हुआ था,” उन्होंने कहा।
- **Russia** supports collaboration with **India** on **climate change research, atmospheric studies, geosciences, glaciology, and polar biology**.
रूस भारत के साथ जलवायु परिवर्तन अनुसंधान, वायुमंडलीय अध्ययन, भूविज्ञान, हिमनदी विज्ञान और ध्रुवीय जीव विज्ञान पर सहयोग का समर्थन करता है।
- **Indian scientists** are studying the **impact of Arctic conditions on South Asian monsoon dynamics**.
भारतीय वैज्ञानिक आर्कटिक परिस्थितियों का दक्षिण एशियाई मानसून की गतिशीलता पर प्रभाव का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं।
- **Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (Saint Petersburg)** and **Northern (Arctic) Federal University (Arkhangelsk)** cooperate with **Indian National Centre for Polar and Oceanic Research** and **Mahatma Gandhi University’s International Centre for Polar Studies**.
आर्कटिक और अंटार्कटिक अनुसंधान संस्थान (सेंट पीटर्सबर्ग) और नॉर्डन (आर्कटिक) फेडरल यूनिवर्सिटी (आर्खंगेल्स्क) भारतीय राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय और महासागरीय अनुसंधान केंद्र और महात्मा गांधी विश्वविद्यालय के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय अध्ययन केंद्र के साथ सहयोग करते हैं।
- **In 2024, India and Russia signed a memorandum of cooperation in scientific research in the Arctic**.
2024 में, भारत और रूस ने आर्कटिक में वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान के क्षेत्र में सहयोग समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।



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- Both countries are exploring projects for the extraction of Arctic mineral resources, including energy resources and rare earth elements.

दोनों देश आर्कटिक में खनिज संसाधनों के दोहन के लिए परियोजनाओं का पता लगा रहे हैं, जिसमें ऊर्जा संसाधन और दुर्लभ पृथ्वी तत्व शामिल हैं।

- Indian companies are being considered for projects by NOVATEK and Gazprom Neft in the Dolginskoye oil field and Vostok oil cluster, in partnership with Rosneft. भारतीय कंपनियों को NOVATEK और Gazprom Neft द्वारा Dolginskoye तेल क्षेत्र और Vostok तेल क्लस्टर की परियोजनाओं में Rosneft के साथ साझेदारी के तहत शामिल करने पर विचार किया जा रहा है।
- Promising opportunities exist for Indian firms in the Yamal liquefied natural gas (LNG) and Arctic LNG-2 projects, the diplomat added. भारतीय कंपनियों के लिए Yamal तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (LNG) और Arctic LNG-2 परियोजनाओं में भागीदारी के व्यापक अवसर हैं, राजनयिक ने कहा।

Arctic Council आर्कटिक परिषद

Overview सिंहावलोकन

- The Arctic Council serves as the primary intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination, and interaction among Arctic States, Indigenous communities, and other inhabitants on common Arctic issues, focusing on sustainable development and environmental protection.
- आर्कटिक परिषद आर्कटिक राज्यों, स्वदेशी समुदायों और अन्य निवासियों के बीच सहयोग, समन्वय और बातचीत को बढ़ावा देने वाला प्रमुख अंतर-सरकारी मंच है, जो सतत विकास और पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर केंद्रित है।

Establishment स्थापना

- Established by the Ottawa Declaration on September 19, 1996, the Arctic Council comprises eight Arctic States: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States.



- 19 सितंबर 1996 को ओटावा घोषणा द्वारा स्थापित, आर्कटिक परिषद में आठ आर्कटिक राज्य शामिल हैं: कनाडा, डेनमार्क का साम्राज्य (जिसमें ग्रीनलैंड और फ़ैरो आइलैंड्स शामिल हैं), फिनलैंड, आइसलैंड, नॉर्वे, रूसी संघ, स्वीडन और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका।

Structure संरचना

- **Permanent Participants:** Six organizations representing Arctic Indigenous peoples have been granted Permanent Participant status, ensuring their active involvement in decision-making.
- **स्थायी प्रतिभागी:** आर्कटिक स्वदेशी लोगों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले छह संगठनों को स्थायी प्रतिभागी का दर्जा दिया गया है, जिससे निर्णय लेने में उनकी सक्रिय भागीदारी सुनिश्चित होती है।
- **Observers:** Non-Arctic states, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations can obtain observer status, allowing them to contribute to the Council's work at the working group level.
- **पर्यवेक्षक:** गैर-आर्कटिक राज्य, अंतर-सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी संगठन पर्यवेक्षक का दर्जा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं, जिससे वे कार्य समूह स्तर पर परिषद के कार्य में योगदान दे सकते हैं।

Working Groups कार्य समूह

- The Council's work is primarily carried out through six working groups:
 - **Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP):** Addresses pollution prevention and remediation.
 - **आर्कटिक प्रदूषक कार्य योजना (ACAP):** प्रदूषण की रोकथाम और सुधार पर ध्यान केंद्रित करती है।
 - **Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP):** Monitors and assesses environmental and climate issues.
 - **आर्कटिक निगरानी और मूल्यांकन कार्यक्रम (AMAP):** पर्यावरण और जलवायु मुद्दों की निगरानी और मूल्यांकन करता है।
 - **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF):** Focuses on biodiversity conservation.
 - **आर्कटिक वनस्पति और जीव संरक्षण (CAFF):** जैव विविधता संरक्षण पर केंद्रित है।
 - **Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (EPPR):** Deals with environmental emergencies.
 - **आपातकालीन रोकथाम, तैयारी, और प्रतिक्रिया (EPPR):** पर्यावरणीय आपात स्थितियों से निपटता है।
 - **Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME):** Addresses marine policy and pollution prevention.



- आर्कटिक समुद्री पर्यावरण संरक्षण (PAME): समुद्री नीति और प्रदूषण रोकथाम से संबंधित है।
- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG): Focuses on improving the living conditions of Arctic residents.
 - सतत विकास कार्य समूह (SDWG): आर्कटिक निवासियों की जीवन स्थितियों में सुधार पर केंद्रित है।

Achievements उपलब्धियां

- The Arctic Council has facilitated three legally binding agreements among Arctic States:
 - 2011: Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic.
 - 2011: आर्कटिक में एरोनॉटिकल और समुद्री खोज और बचाव पर सहयोग समझौता।
 - 2013: Agreement on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response.

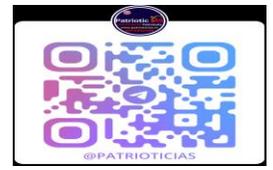
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Sweden pension fund may exclude BEL over 'arms sale'

GS Paper II: India-Sweden

NEW DELHI

The Ethics Council of Sweden's AP Pension Fund has recommended that Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a leading public sector aerospace and defence company, should be 'excluded' as it has sold weapons systems to the Myanmar junta that will help it oppress protesters in the conflict-torn country.

In its annual report for 2024, the Pension Fund's Ethics Council pointed out that the Myanmar military purchased "radar systems, air defence stations, radio systems, and equipment for military ships" both before and after the military coup in February 2021.

"The company's arms exports to the Myanmar military are believed to contribute to the latter's ability to commit violence against the country's civilian population, in violation of international humanitarian law. Despite repeated attempts to contact the company, it has not been willing to engage in a dialogue with the Ethics Council," the Ethics Council said in the annual report.

Justice for Myanmar, an international advocacy group that champions democracy in Myanmar, has welcomed the move by the

Ethics council flags 'transfer of weapons to Myanmar junta' by Bharat Electronics Limited

AP Pension Fund saying, "AP2's July 2024 foreign equities disclosure showed that the fund held over 359 million Swedish kroner (US\$33.8 million) in BEL, and has since divested."

UN guidelines

Justice for Myanmar further said that the public sector undertaking from India was aware that the weapons system that it sold to the Myanmar military junta would be used against unarmed civilians and reminded that under the international norms, BEL was expected to adhere to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

"Justice For Myanmar also notes that BEL is expected to respect the standards of international humanitarian law when dealing with conflict-affected countries like Myanmar and that, where the company fails to do so, both individual personnel and the company itself expose themselves to the risk of criminal and civil liability," Justice for Myanmar said in a statement.

Sweden pension fund may exclude BEL over 'arms sale'

स्वीडन पेंशन फंड BEL को 'हथियार बिक्री' के कारण बाहर कर सकता है

The Ethics Council of Sweden's AP Pension Fund has recommended that Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) be excluded as it has sold weapons systems to the Myanmar junta, which could be used to oppress protesters in the conflict-torn country.

स्वीडन के एपी पेंशन फंड की आचार संहिता परिषद ने सिफारिश की है कि भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (BEL) को बाहर किया जाए, क्योंकि इसने म्यांमार की सेना को हथियार प्रणालियाँ बेची हैं, जो विरोध प्रदर्शन को दबाने के लिए उपयोग की जा सकती हैं।

- In its annual report for 2024, the Ethics Council stated that the Myanmar military purchased radar systems, air defence stations, radio systems, and equipment for military ships both before and after the February 2021 military coup.

2024 की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में, आचार संहिता परिषद ने बताया कि म्यांमार की सेना ने रडार सिस्टम, वायु रक्षा स्टेशन, रेडियो सिस्टम और सैन्य जहाजों के लिए उपकरण खरीदे, जो फरवरी 2021 के सैन्य तख्तापलट से पहले और बाद में खरीदे गए थे।

- The report stated that arms exports to Myanmar's military contributed to its ability to commit violence against civilians, violating international humanitarian law.

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि म्यांमार की सेना को किए गए हथियार निर्यात ने उसे नागरिकों पर हिंसा करने की क्षमता दी, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार कानूनों का उल्लंघन है।



- Despite **repeated attempts** to contact BEL, the **Ethics Council** stated that the company **refused to engage in a dialogue**.
BEL से संपर्क करने के बार-बार किए गए प्रयासों के बावजूद, आचार संहिता परिषद ने कहा कि कंपनी संवाद में शामिल होने से इनकार कर रही है।
- **Justice for Myanmar**, an **international advocacy group**, welcomed the move by the **AP Pension Fund**, stating that in **July 2024**, the fund held **359 million Swedish kroner (US\$33.8 million) in BEL** but later divested.
जस्टिस फॉर म्यांमार, एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय अधिकार समूह, ने एपी पेंशन फंड के इस कदम का स्वागत किया और बताया कि जुलाई 2024 में, फंड के पास BEL में 359 मिलियन स्वीडिश क्रोनर (US\$33.8 मिलियन) थे, लेकिन बाद में इसे हटा दिया।
- **Justice for Myanmar** reminded that **BEL** was aware that its **weapons systems** would be used **against unarmed civilians** and urged it to follow the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**.
जस्टिस फॉर म्यांमार ने बताया कि BEL को यह पता था कि उसके हथियार प्रणालियाँ निहत्थे नागरिकों के खिलाफ इस्तेमाल की जाएंगी, और इसे संयुक्त राष्ट्र के व्यवसाय और मानवाधिकारों पर मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांतों का पालन करने को कहा।
- The group further stated that **BEL** must **respect international humanitarian law** when dealing with **conflict-affected countries like Myanmar**.
समूह ने आगे कहा कि BEL को म्यांमार जैसे संघर्ष प्रभावित देशों के साथ व्यापार करते समय अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवतावादी कानूनों का सम्मान करना चाहिए।
- Failure to do so could **expose BEL and its personnel to criminal and civil liability**, according to **Justice for Myanmar**.
जस्टिस फॉर म्यांमार के अनुसार, ऐसा न करने पर BEL और उसके कर्मियों को आपराधिक और दीवानी दायित्वों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।



Panel flags 'shoddy implementation' of Centre's flagship tourism scheme

**GS Paper II:
Government Scheme**

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, slammed the Union Tourism Ministry for shoddy implementation of its flagship scheme **Swadesh Darshan**, launched in 2014-15.

Under the scheme, during the period of 2014-15 to 2018-19, a total of 76 projects were sanctioned under identified thematic circuits in 31 States and Union Territories for ₹5,292.57 crore, with the aim of developing theme-based tourist routes.

Serious lapses

The panel was reviewing a report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the scheme. The audit report had highlighted serious



K.C. Venugopal

lapses in the formulation and execution of the scheme. It had pointed out the government had not carried out feasibility studies before launching the scheme; the government had exceeded the sanctioned amount due to poor planning; approvals were given without Detailed Project Reports (DPRs); and there had been no formal mechanism for evaluation and approval. The audit re-

port also criticised the government for its failure to complete projects within the stipulated time frame.

At the meeting, according to sources, the Tourism Ministry claimed that 75 of the 76 sanctioned projects were completed. The meeting was attended by V. Vidyavathi, Secretary, Tourism Ministry; Suman Billa, Additional Secretary; and Yadubir Singh Rawat, Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India.

Incomplete projects

The committee members strongly refuted this claim and noted that many projects remained incomplete or were non-functional, including the Kanwaria route in Bihar, tribal circuit in Telangana, and Sree Narayana Guru Ashram in Kerala.

The committee, it is learnt through reliable

sources, expressed serious dissatisfaction with the Ministry's responses. "The Ministry was making desperate attempts to mislead the committee to cover up the deficiencies rather than addressing them. We have taken a serious note of this," one of the members said.

Field inspection

The committee directed the Ministry to conduct a field inspection of all projects and submit a comprehensive reply within three weeks, covering the details on the actual status of the projects, current maintenance and operational status, and status of coordination and implementation.

It also asked the Ministry to provide details on employment generation impact of the scheme and the tourist footfall.

Panel flags 'shoddy implementation' of Centre's flagship tourism scheme

पैनल ने केंद्र की प्रमुख पर्यटन योजना के 'खराब कार्यान्वयन' को उजागर किया

The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**, headed by Congress leader **K.C. Venugopal**, criticised the Union Tourism Ministry for poor implementation of its **flagship scheme Swadesh Darshan**, launched in **2014-15**.

लोक लेखा समिति (PAC), जिसकी अध्यक्षता कांग्रेस नेता के.सी. वेणुगोपाल कर रहे हैं,



ने केंद्रीय पर्यटन मंत्रालय की स्वदेश दर्शन योजना के खराब कार्यान्वयन की आलोचना की, जिसे 2014-15 में शुरू किया गया था।

- From 2014-15 to 2018-19, a total of **76 projects** were sanctioned under **thematic circuits** in **31 States and Union Territories**, with a total budget of **₹5,292.57 crore** to develop **theme-based tourist routes**.
2014-15 से 2018-19 तक, कुल 76 परियोजनाओं को 31 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में ₹5,292.57 करोड़ के बजट के साथ थीम-आधारित पर्यटन मार्गों के विकास के लिए मंजूरी दी गई।
- The **committee reviewed a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report**, which highlighted **serious lapses** in the **formulation and execution** of the scheme.
समिति ने नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की रिपोर्ट की समीक्षा की, जिसमें योजना के निर्माण और कार्यान्वयन में गंभीर खामियों को उजागर किया गया।
- **Key findings of the audit report:**
 - **No feasibility studies** were conducted before launching the scheme.
 - योजना शुरू करने से पहले कोई व्यवहार्यता अध्ययन (फिजिबिलिटी स्टडी) नहीं किया गया।
 - **Sanctioned amount was exceeded due to poor planning.**
 - खराब योजना के कारण मंजूर राशि से अधिक खर्च किया गया।
 - **Approvals were given without Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).**
 - विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट (DPR) के बिना अनुमोदन दिए गए।
 - **No formal mechanism for evaluation and approval** was in place.
 - मूल्यांकन और अनुमोदन के लिए कोई औपचारिक तंत्र नहीं था।
 - **Projects were not completed within the stipulated timeframe.**
 - परियोजनाओं को निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर पूरा नहीं किया गया।
- The **Tourism Ministry claimed that 75 out of 76 sanctioned projects were completed**, during a meeting attended by **Tourism Secretary V. Vidyavathi, Additional Secretary Suman Billa, and ASI Director-General Yadubir Singh Rawat**. पर्यटन मंत्रालय ने बैठक में दावा किया कि 76 में से 75 स्वीकृत परियोजनाएँ पूरी हो चुकी हैं। इस बैठक में पर्यटन सचिव वी. विद्यावती, अतिरिक्त सचिव सुमन बिल्ला और एसआई के महानिदेशक यदुबीर सिंह रावत उपस्थित थे।
- **The committee refuted this claim**, stating that several projects were **incomplete or non-functional**, including:
समिति ने इस दावे को खारिज कर दिया, यह बताते हुए कि कई परियोजनाएँ अधूरी या गैर-कार्यात्मक हैं, जिनमें शामिल हैं:
 - **Kanwaria route in Bihar**
 - बिहार में कांवड़िया मार्ग
 - **Tribal circuit in Telangana**
 - तेलंगाना में जनजातीय सर्किट



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- **Sree Narayana Guru Ashram in Kerala**
 - केरल में श्री नारायण गुरु आश्रम
- The committee expressed serious dissatisfaction with the Ministry's responses, stating that the Ministry was trying to mislead rather than address the issues.
समिति ने मंत्रालय की प्रतिक्रियाओं पर गंभीर असंतोष व्यक्त किया, यह कहते हुए कि मंत्रालय समस्याओं को हल करने के बजाय गुमराह करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।
- The committee directed the Ministry to conduct a field inspection of all projects and submit a comprehensive reply within three weeks, detailing:
समिति ने मंत्रालय को निर्देश दिया कि वह सभी परियोजनाओं का स्थल निरीक्षण करे और तीन सप्ताह के भीतर एक विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करे, जिसमें शामिल हो:
 - Actual status of projects
 - परियोजनाओं की वास्तविक स्थिति
 - Current maintenance and operational status
 - वर्तमान रखरखाव और संचालन की स्थिति
 - Coordination and implementation status
 - समन्वय और कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति
- The Ministry was also asked to provide details on employment generation impact and tourist footfall under the scheme.
मंत्रालय को यह भी निर्देश दिया गया कि वह इस योजना के तहत रोजगार सृजन पर प्रभाव और पर्यटकों की संख्या का विवरण प्रस्तुत करे।

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of India

भारत की लोक लेखा समिति (PAC)

- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a crucial parliamentary committee responsible for ensuring transparency and accountability in government expenditure.
लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) एक महत्वपूर्ण संसदीय समिति है जो सरकारी व्यय में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उत्तरदायी है।
- Established in 1921, it functions as a key financial oversight body within the legislative framework.
1921 में स्थापित, यह विधायी ढांचे के भीतर एक महत्वपूर्ण वित्तीय निगरानी निकाय के रूप में कार्य करती है।

Composition of the PAC

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PAC की संरचना

- **Total Members:** The PAC consists of **22 members**—15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha.

कुल सदस्य: लोक लेखा समिति में कुल 22 सदस्य होते हैं—15 लोकसभा से और 7 राज्यसभा से।

- **Election Process:** Members are elected annually by their respective Houses through **proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote**, ensuring fair political representation.

चुनाव प्रक्रिया: सदस्यों का चुनाव उनकी संबंधित सदनों द्वारा एकल हस्तांतरणीय मत प्रणाली के माध्यम से आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व के आधार पर प्रतिवर्ष किया जाता है, जिससे निष्पक्ष राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित होता है।

- **Eligibility: Ministers are not eligible** for membership to maintain the committee's independence.

पात्रता: मंत्री इस समिति के सदस्य बनने के पात्र नहीं होते, ताकि समिति की स्वतंत्रता बनी रहे।

- **Chairperson:** The **Speaker of the Lok Sabha appoints the Chairperson**, traditionally from the **opposition party since 1967**, ensuring impartial scrutiny.

अध्यक्ष: लोकसभा अध्यक्ष द्वारा अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया जाता है, जो परंपरागत रूप से 1967 से विपक्षी दल से चुना जाता है, जिससे निष्पक्ष जांच सुनिश्चित होती है।

Functions and Responsibilities

कार्य और जिम्मेदारियाँ

- The PAC primarily examines **government expenditures** to ensure they align with the **intent of Parliament**.



लोक लेखा समिति मुख्य रूप से सरकारी व्यय की जांच करती है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि वे संसद की मंशा के अनुरूप हैं।

1. Examination of Government Accounts

1. सरकारी लेखों की जांच

- Scrutinizing **Appropriation Accounts** to verify whether funds have been utilized as sanctioned by Parliament.

अनुपूरक लेखों की जांच करना ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि धनराशि का उपयोग संसद द्वारा स्वीकृत उद्देश्य के अनुसार हुआ है।

- Reviewing **Finance Accounts** to ensure transparency in government receipts and disbursements.

वित्तीय लेखों की समीक्षा करना ताकि सरकारी राजस्व और व्यय में पारदर्शिता बनी रहे।

2. Audit Reports

2. लेखा परीक्षा रिपोर्ट

- Examining reports from the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)**, which highlight financial irregularities and inefficiencies.

नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की रिपोर्टों की जांच करना, जो वित्तीय अनियमितताओं और अक्षमताओं को उजागर करती हैं।

3. Public Sector Oversight

3. सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की निगरानी

- Reviewing the accounts of public corporations and autonomous bodies audited by the CAG.

निगमित सार्वजनिक संस्थानों और स्वायत्त निकायों के खातों की समीक्षा करना, जिनका CAG द्वारा ऑडिट किया जाता है।

- Evaluating **excess expenditures**, ensuring all additional allocations are justified.



अतिरिक्त व्यय की समीक्षा करना और यह सुनिश्चित करना कि सभी अतिरिक्त आवंटन उचित हैं।

4. Accountability Mechanism

4. जवाबदेही तंत्र

- Investigating **cases of financial mismanagement** and recommending corrective measures.

वित्तीय कुप्रबंधन के मामलों की जांच करना और सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझाना।

- Ensuring that **public funds** are used **efficiently** for their intended purpose.

यह सुनिश्चित करना कि सार्वजनिक धनराशि को उनके निर्धारित उद्देश्यों के लिए प्रभावी रूप से उपयोग किया जाए।

Limitations of the PAC

लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) की सीमाएँ

- **Cannot Review Policy Decisions:** The PAC does not question **government policies** but only examines the way **funds are spent**.

नीतिगत निर्णयों की समीक्षा नहीं कर सकती: लोक लेखा समिति सरकारी नीतियों पर प्रश्न नहीं उठाती, बल्कि केवल यह जांचती है कि धनराशि का उपयोग कैसे किया गया।

- **Post-Facto Examination:** Reviews are conducted **after expenditures have been made**, limiting its ability to **prevent irregularities in advance**.

पश्चात समीक्षा: समीक्षा व्यय किए जाने के बाद की जाती है, जिससे यह पहले से अनियमितताओं को रोकने में असमर्थ रहती है।

- **Non-Binding Recommendations:** The PAC's recommendations are **advisory in nature** and depend on **executive action** for implementation.

अनिवार्य न होने वाली सिफारिशें: लोक लेखा समिति की सिफारिशें



परामर्शात्मक होती हैं और इनके क्रियान्वयन के लिए कार्यपालिका की कार्रवाई पर निर्भर करती हैं।

- **No Direct Executive Power:** It lacks enforcement authority and functions as a **monitoring body** rather than a **decision-making entity**.

कोई प्रत्यक्ष कार्यकारी शक्ति नहीं: इसे प्रवर्तन अधिकार नहीं होता और यह निगरानी निकाय के रूप में कार्य करती है, न कि निर्णय लेने वाली संस्था के रूप में।

Significance of the PAC

लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) का महत्त्व

- **Ensures Financial Discipline:** By examining **government spending**, the PAC prevents **misuse of public funds**.
वित्तीय अनुशासन सुनिश्चित करती है: सरकारी व्यय की जांच करके, लोक लेखा समिति सार्वजनिक धन के दुरुपयोग को रोकती है।
- **Strengthens Parliamentary Control:** It upholds **democratic accountability** by reviewing **executive financial decisions**.
संसदीय नियंत्रण को मजबूत करती है: यह कार्यपालिका के वित्तीय निर्णयों की समीक्षा करके लोकतांत्रिक जवाबदेही को सुनिश्चित करती है।
- **Enhances Transparency:** By auditing **expenditure**, it reinforces the **credibility of the budgetary process**.
पारदर्शिता बढ़ाती है: व्यय का ऑडिट करके, यह बजट प्रक्रिया की विश्वसनीयता को मजबूत करती है।

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

स्वदेश दर्शन योजना



- Launched in 2014-15, the Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a flagship initiative by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, aimed at developing theme-based tourist circuits to harness the vast potential of tourism in India.
2014-15 में शुरू की गई, स्वदेश दर्शन योजना भारत सरकार के पर्यटन मंत्रालय की एक प्रमुख पहल है, जिसका उद्देश्य विषय-आधारित पर्यटक सर्किट विकसित करके भारत में पर्यटन की व्यापक संभावनाओं का दोहन करना है।
- The scheme seeks to promote, develop, and harness the potential of tourism in India by developing **theme-based tourist circuits**.
इस योजना का उद्देश्य पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देना, विकसित करना और उपयोग करना है, जो विषय-आधारित पर्यटक सर्किट विकसित करने के माध्यम से किया जाएगा।

Objectives

उद्देश्य

- **Economic Growth and Employment:** Position tourism as a major engine for economic growth and job creation.
आर्थिक वृद्धि और रोजगार: पर्यटन को आर्थिक वृद्धि और रोजगार सृजन के प्रमुख इंजन के रूप में स्थापित करना।
- **Integrated Development:** Develop tourist circuits in a planned and prioritized manner, promoting cultural and heritage value to generate livelihoods.
समग्र विकास: योजनाबद्ध और प्राथमिकता के आधार पर पर्यटन सर्किट विकसित करना, जिससे सांस्कृतिक और विरासत मूल्य को बढ़ावा देकर रोजगार के अवसर उत्पन्न किए जा सकें।
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Enhance tourist attractiveness by developing world-class infrastructure in the circuit destinations.
सतत अवसंरचना: पर्यटन आकर्षण बढ़ाने के लिए विश्व-स्तरीय अवसंरचना का विकास करना।
- **Community Participation:** Follow a community-based development approach, creating awareness among local communities about tourism's benefits, leading to improved living standards and overall area development.
सामुदायिक भागीदारी: सामुदायिक-आधारित विकास दृष्टिकोण अपनाना, जिससे स्थानीय समुदायों में पर्यटन के लाभों के बारे में जागरूकता फैलाई जा सके, जिससे जीवन स्तर में सुधार और क्षेत्र का समग्र विकास हो।



Definition of Tourist Circuit

पर्यटक सर्किट की परिभाषा

- A Tourist Circuit is defined as a route having at least three major tourist destinations, which are distinct and apart.
पर्यटक सर्किट को कम से कम तीन प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों को जोड़ने वाले मार्ग के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है, जो अलग और विशिष्ट हों।
- These circuits should have well-defined entry and exit points, ensuring that tourists get motivated to visit most of the places identified in the circuit.
इन सर्किटों में स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित प्रवेश और निकास बिंदु होने चाहिए, ताकि पर्यटकों को सर्किट के अधिकांश स्थलों का दौरा करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जा सके।
- A circuit could be confined to a state or could be a regional circuit covering more than one state/union territory.
एक सर्किट किसी एक राज्य तक सीमित हो सकता है या एक से अधिक राज्यों/केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों को कवर करने वाला क्षेत्रीय सर्किट हो सकता है।
- These circuits may have one dominant theme and other sub-themes.
इन सर्किटों का एक प्रमुख विषय और कुछ उप-विषय हो सकते हैं।

Key Features

मुख्य विशेषताएँ

- **Central Funding:** The scheme is 100% centrally funded, ensuring uniform development across various states and regions.
केंद्रीय वित्तपोषण: यह योजना 100% केंद्र द्वारा वित्तपोषित है, जिससे विभिन्न राज्यों और क्षेत्रों में समान विकास सुनिश्चित किया जाता है।
- **Thematic Circuits:** Development of circuits based on specific themes such as **Eco-tourism, Wildlife, Buddhist, Desert, Spiritual, Ramayana, Krishna, Coastal, Northeast, Rural, Himalayan, Tribal, and Heritage.**
विषयगत सर्किट: विशेष विषयों के आधार पर सर्किटों का विकास, जैसे पर्यावरण पर्यटन, वन्यजीव, बौद्ध, मरुस्थल, आध्यात्मिक, रामायण, कृष्ण, तटीय, पूर्वोत्तर, ग्रामीण, हिमालयी, जनजातीय, और विरासत।
- **Convergence with Other Schemes:** Synergizes with other Government of India schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, and Make in India, to position the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation and economic growth.



अन्य योजनाओं के साथ समन्वय: स्वच्छ भारत अभियान, स्किल इंडिया और मेक इन इंडिया जैसी भारत सरकार की अन्य योजनाओं के साथ समन्वय, जिससे पर्यटन क्षेत्र को रोजगार सृजन और आर्थिक वृद्धि के प्रमुख इंजन के रूप में स्थापित किया जा सके।

Implementation Strategy

कार्यान्वयन रणनीति

- **Expert Engagement:** Experts/consultants may be engaged by executing agencies for detailed planning and designing/preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of the works/projects under the scheme.
विशेषज्ञों की भागीदारी: निष्पादन एजेंसियों द्वारा विशेषज्ञों/सलाहकारों को योजना के तहत विस्तृत योजना और डिज़ाइन/विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट (DPR) तैयार करने के लिए शामिल किया जा सकता है।
- **Monitoring:** The implementing/executing agency shall be responsible for timely implementation of the project/work with quality assurance of assets created.
निगरानी: कार्यान्वयन/निष्पादन एजेंसी परियोजना/कार्य के समय पर कार्यान्वयन और बनाई गई परिसंपत्तियों की गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उत्तरदायी होगी।
- **Transparency:** The implementing agency shall follow all codal formalities while awarding contracts for works/material/equipment procurement, ensuring complete transparency in its transactions.
पारदर्शिता: निष्पादन एजेंसी को कार्य/सामग्री/उपकरण खरीद के अनुबंध देते समय सभी संहिता औपचारिकताओं का पालन करना होगा, जिससे पूर्ण पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित हो सके।

Funding Pattern

वित्त पोषण पैटर्न

- The scheme is 100% centrally funded, with efforts made to achieve convergence with other central and state government schemes.
यह योजना 100% केंद्र सरकार द्वारा वित्तपोषित है, और इसे अन्य केंद्र और राज्य सरकार की योजनाओं के साथ समन्वय में लाने का प्रयास किया जाता है।



- Additionally, it aims to leverage voluntary funding available for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and the corporate sector.
इसके अतिरिक्त, यह केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों (CPSUs) और कॉर्पोरेट क्षेत्र की कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (CSR) पहलों के लिए उपलब्ध स्वैच्छिक वित्तपोषण का उपयोग करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are encouraged to improve the sustainability of projects. In certain cases, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) may be created to oversee the project's implementation.
सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (PPP) को परियोजनाओं की स्थिरता में सुधार लाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है। कुछ मामलों में, परियोजना के कार्यान्वयन की निगरानी के लिए विशेष प्रयोजन वाहन (SPV) बनाया जा सकता है।

Sree Narayana Guru Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Movement

- The SNDP movement was initiated by Sree Narayana Guru Swamy (1856-1928) to challenge the caste hierarchy and promote social equality among the Ezhavas of Kerala.

केरल के पिछड़े वर्ग एझावा समुदाय के बीच जातिगत असमानता को चुनौती देने और सामाजिक समानता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए श्री नारायण गुरु स्वामी (1856-1928) द्वारा एसएनडीपी आंदोलन की शुरुआत की गई थी।

- The Ezhavas were traditionally engaged in **toddy-tapping** and were considered untouchables. They faced severe discrimination, including denial of education and temple entry.

एझावा समुदाय पारंपरिक रूप से ताड़ी निकालने का काम करता था और उन्हें अछूत माना जाता था। उन्हें शिक्षा और मंदिर प्रवेश से वंचित किया गया था।

- The Ezhavas constituted 26% of Kerala's population, making them the largest caste group in the state.



एझावा समुदाय केरल की जनसंख्या का 26% था, जो राज्य का सबसे बड़ा जाति समूह था।

Aruvippuram Movement (1888)

- In 1888, Sree Narayana Guru consecrated a Sivalinga at Aruvippuram on Shivaratri, taking a stone from the Neyyar River.

1888 में श्री नारायण गुरु ने अरुविप्पुरम में शिवरात्रि के दिन नेय्यार नदी से एक पत्थर लेकर शिवलिंग की स्थापना की।

- This act was a revolutionary step to demonstrate that idol consecration was not the monopoly of upper castes.

यह कदम यह दिखाने के लिए एक क्रांतिकारी कदम था कि मूर्ति स्थापना केवल ऊँची जातियों का विशेष अधिकार नहीं है।

- The movement attracted Kumaran Asan, a renowned poet, who became a disciple of Sree Narayana Guru.

इस आंदोलन ने प्रसिद्ध कवि कुमारन आसन को आकर्षित किया, जो श्री नारायण गुरु के शिष्य बन गए।

Formation of SNDP Yogam (1903)

- In 1903, the Aruvippuram Sree Narayana Guru Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) was registered under the Indian Companies Act.

1903 में अरुविप्पुरम श्री नारायण गुरु धर्म परिपालन योगम (एसएनडीपी) को भारतीय कंपनी अधिनियम के तहत पंजीकृत किया गया।

- Sree Narayana Guru was made the permanent chairman, and Kumaran Asan was appointed as the general secretary.

श्री नारायण गुरु को स्थायी अध्यक्ष और कुमारन आसन को महासचिव नियुक्त किया गया।

Role of Dr. Palpu



- Dr. Palpu, an Ezhava doctor, played a crucial role in the formation of the SNDP. He led the Ezhava Memorial (1896) and Malayali Memorial (1891), demanding social and educational rights for Ezhavas.

डॉ. पालपू, जो एक एझावा डॉक्टर थे, ने एसएनडीपी के गठन में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। उन्होंने एझावा मेमोरियल (1896) और मलयाली मेमोरियल (1891) का नेतृत्व किया।

Area of Reform of Sree Narayana Guru

- Sree Narayana Guru held the belief that all religions are the same and advocated for equality and social harmony.
- श्री नारायण गुरु ने माना कि सभी धर्म समान हैं और सामाजिक सौहार्द के लिए प्रचार किया।
- He condemned animal sacrifice and spoke against divisiveness based on caste, race, or creed.

उन्होंने पशु बलि की निंदा की और जाति, नस्ल या धर्म के आधार पर विभाजन का विरोध किया।

- On the wall of the Aruvippuram Temple, he inscribed the words: "Devoid of dividing walls of caste or race, or hatred of rival faith, we all live here in brotherhood."

अरुविप्पुरम मंदिर की दीवार पर उन्होंने ये शब्द अंकित कराए: "जाति या नस्ल के विभाजन की दीवारों के बिना, प्रतिद्वंद्वी धर्मों से घृणा किए बिना, हम यहाँ भाईचारे में रहते हैं।"

- He urged the Ezhava community to leave the toddy-tapping profession and abstain from liquor consumption.

उन्होंने एझावा समुदाय से आग्रह किया कि वे ताड़ी निकालने का व्यवसाय छोड़ दें और शराब के सेवन से बचें।



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The challenge of policing digital giants

GS Paper II: Governance

In November 18, 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) issued a landmark order imposing a fine of ₹213.14 crore and forcing several behavioural remedies on Meta. This included a five year ban on sharing user data collected on WhatsApp with other Meta companies such as Facebook and Instagram, for advertising purposes. In turn, Meta approached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in an appeal against CCI's order. The NCLAT, on January 23, 2025, granted a stay on the five-year ban from sharing user data and the penalty, subject to Meta depositing 50% of the total penalty.

The CCI's order found that the privacy policy update introduced by Meta's subsidiary, WhatsApp, in 2021 was an abuse of dominant position in the "Over-The-Top (OTT) messaging services for smartphones" and "Online Display advertising" markets in India. This update required users to mandatorily consent to expanded data-sharing, allowing Meta to provide access to such data to all of its other platforms; forcing users to accept a data-sharing agreement on a "take-it-or-leave-it" basis, combined with the competitive advantage this data provides in online digital display advertising, constitutes an abuse of dominant position. The updated policy was viewed as a strategy to strengthen the market power of WhatsApp, potentially harming competition and hindering other messaging platforms from competing on equal terms.

The era of data

In the 21st century, the economy has become digital and data is the new oil, but unlike oil, the utility of data is virtually limitless. It can be collected, analysed, and reused indefinitely. In digital markets, data plays a foundational role in creating and sustaining dominance due to its unique characteristics and the competitive advantages it provides. Data is both the source and the enabler of dominance in digital markets. Platforms such as Meta leverage vast data pools collected from billions of users to refine algorithms, offer hyper-targeted advertising, and create personalised experiences, thereby locking consumers into their ecosystems. This dominance is further amplified by data-driven network effects, where more users generate more data, enhancing the platform's value and deterring competitors.

Meta is not the only tech giant to face scrutiny from the CCI. In 2022, Google was fined ₹1,337.76 crore for abusing its dominant position across several markets, including licensable operating systems for smart mobile devices, app stores for Android devices, non-OS-specific mobile web browsers, online video hosting platforms, and general web search services in India. Google was found to have abused its dominant position by

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mandating the pre-installation of its apps on Android devices. This penalty was later upheld by NCLAT in 2023.

Global actions

The challenges posed by Meta's market dominance are not confined to India and have been a global regulatory concern. The Majority Staff Report on "Competition in Digital Markets" (by the U.S. Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law of the Committee on the Judiciary) highlighted the urgent need to reform antitrust laws to address the unprecedented market power of tech giants. Meta faces antitrust litigation in the U.S. over its acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp, accused of creating barriers to entry for competitors, while Google has been sued for monopolistic practices. In 2024, the US District Court for the District of Columbia found Google in violation of the Sherman Act due to exclusive agreements in search and advertising markets.

Australia has also taken steps to address the dominance of digital platforms. In Europe, the Facebook-Germany case stands out, where the Bundeskartellamt (Federal Cartel Office) found Meta had abused its dominant position by combining user data from various sources without explicit consent, violating both European Union (EU) competition law and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This decision accentuates how data misuse can erode consumer privacy and hinder competition by creating entry barriers.

In addition, Meta is under scrutiny in the EU for its ad-supported subscription service, while Google has already been fined over €8 billion across three major antitrust cases, including those targeting its anti-competitive practices in the mobile operating systems and app markets.

The parallels between the regulatory actions against Meta and Google emphasise the importance of addressing data exploitation, vertical integration, and anti-competitive practices through a multidisciplinary approach. Together, these approaches illustrate the challenge of harmonising regulatory philosophies to effectively tackle the monopolistic practices of global tech giants.

Google and Meta are not even the first tech giants to face policing for dominating markets in the U.S. In the past, a ruling in an antitrust lawsuit required AT&T to divest 22 operating companies, dismantling its monopoly. Similarly, anti-trust proceedings against Microsoft resulted in oversight, ensuring API access for third-party developers and greater flexibility for PC manufacturers.

The CCI orders against Google and Meta represent just a small chapter in the broader, well-documented concerns about the overwhelming dominance of "tech monopolies"

in key markets such as advertising, e-commerce and smartphone services. While the orders are a great beginning, a cycle of disputes across jurisdictions indicates that they may be stop-gap measures in regulating the free market in this context.

On India's laws

India's competition law, namely, the Competition Act, 2002, currently lacks explicit provisions to address data-centric monopolies. While traditional frameworks focus on price-based dominance, digital markets often witness dominance arising from data aggregation. To address this gap, amendments to the Act should introduce "data monopolization" as a parameter for assessing market dominance by redefining key concepts such as "market power" and "dominant position" to reflect the realities of data-driven dynamics. The Act should also incorporate global best practices for addressing the concerns, such as mandating interoperability and data-sharing agreements or separation of integrated services. These measures could serve as effective solutions for entrenched monopolies and help level the playing field for smaller competitors while maintaining innovation incentives.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 provides an opportunity to complement competition law by regulating data collection, consent, and usage. However, the absence of explicit coordination mechanisms between the CCI and the Data Protection Board of India limits the effectiveness of addressing overlapping concerns. India could draw inspiration from the EU's integration of competition law with the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and GDPR to create frameworks that tackle data exploitation and anti-competitive practices comprehensively.

Addressing these challenges is crucial for India to fully harness the potential of its digital transformation, ensuring inclusive growth and equitable access to digital resources across the nation. The Economic Survey 2024-25, recently tabled in Parliament, underlines India's rapid digital transformation, and emphasises the critical role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping the nation's economic landscape. These developments underscore the imperative for India to adapt its regulatory frameworks, including competition law. As the digital economy continues to evolve, regulatory frameworks must not only catch up but also anticipate emerging challenges posed by rapidly advancing technologies and the ever-expanding influence of tech giants.

While the Meta case serves as a pivotal moment in India's efforts to regulate digital markets and address the complexities of data-driven monopolies, it also highlights the need for a more comprehensive and forward-looking approach to competition law.

There are lessons from the Meta case, which highlight the need for a more forward-looking approach to competition law

The challenge of policing digital giants

डिजिटल दिग्गजों की निगरानी की चुनौती

On November 18, 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a ₹213.14 crore fine on Meta and introduced several behavioral remedies.

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18 नवंबर 2024 को, भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) ने मेटा पर ₹213.14 करोड़ का जुर्माना लगाया और कई व्यवहारिक उपाय लागू किए।

- CCI's order included a **five-year ban** on sharing WhatsApp user data with Facebook and Instagram for advertising purposes.
CCI के आदेश में विज्ञापन उद्देश्यों के लिए WhatsApp उपयोगकर्ता डेटा को Facebook और Instagram के साथ साझा करने पर पांच साल का प्रतिबंध शामिल था।
- Meta appealed against the order in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
मेटा ने इस आदेश के खिलाफ राष्ट्रीय कंपनी विधि अपील न्यायाधिकरण (NCLAT) में अपील दायर की।
- On January 23, 2025, NCLAT granted a stay on the five-year ban and penalty, subject to Meta depositing 50% of the penalty amount.
23 जनवरी 2025 को, NCLAT ने पांच साल के प्रतिबंध और जुर्माने पर रोक लगा दी, लेकिन शर्त रखी कि मेटा को कुल जुर्माने का 50% जमा करना होगा।

The era of data

डेटा का युग

- In the 21st century, data has become the new oil, but unlike oil, it can be indefinitely collected, analyzed, and reused.
21वीं सदी में, डेटा नया तेल बन गया है, लेकिन तेल के विपरीत, इसे अनिश्चितकाल तक एकत्र, विश्लेषण और पुनः उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- Meta and other platforms use vast amounts of user data to enhance algorithms, offer hyper-targeted advertising, and personalize experiences.
मेटा और अन्य प्लेटफॉर्म उपयोगकर्ता डेटा का बड़े पैमाने पर उपयोग करते हैं ताकि एल्गोरिदम को सुधार सकें, लक्षित विज्ञापन प्रदान कर सकें और व्यक्तिगत अनुभव बना सकें।
- Data-driven network effects enhance market dominance, as more users generate more data, strengthening the platform's control.
डेटा-चालित नेटवर्क प्रभाव बाजार प्रभुत्व को बढ़ाते हैं, क्योंकि अधिक उपयोगकर्ता अधिक डेटा उत्पन्न करते हैं, जिससे प्लेटफॉर्म का नियंत्रण मजबूत होता है।

Global actions

वैश्विक कार्रवाई

- Meta is facing antitrust scrutiny worldwide, with major cases in the U.S., Europe, and Australia.



मेटा को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धा विरोधी मामलों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, विशेष रूप से अमेरिका, यूरोप और ऑस्ट्रेलिया में।

- In 2024, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia found Google guilty of violating the Sherman Act through exclusive agreements in search and advertising markets.

2024 में, अमेरिकी जिला न्यायालय (District of Columbia) ने गूगल को शेरमैन अधिनियम के उल्लंघन का दोषी पाया, क्योंकि उसने खोज और विज्ञापन बाजारों में अनन्य समझौते किए थे।

- Bundeskartellamt (Federal Cartel Office) of Germany ruled that Meta abused its dominant position by combining user data from multiple platforms without consent, violating EU competition law and GDPR.

जर्मनी के संघीय प्रतिस्पर्धा कार्यालय (Bundeskartellamt) ने निर्णय दिया कि मेटा ने बिना सहमति के विभिन्न प्लेटफार्मों से उपयोगकर्ता डेटा एकत्र करके अपनी प्रमुख स्थिति का दुरुपयोग किया, जिससे यूरोपीय संघ की प्रतिस्पर्धा नीति और GDPR का उल्लंघन हुआ।

- Meta is under scrutiny in the EU for its ad-supported subscription service, while Google has been fined over €8 billion across three major antitrust cases.

मेटा को ईयू में उसके विज्ञापन-समर्थित सदस्यता सेवा के लिए जांच का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जबकि गूगल को तीन प्रमुख प्रतिस्पर्धा विरोधी मामलों में €8 अरब से अधिक का जुर्माना लगाया गया है।

- Regulatory actions against Meta and Google highlight the need to address data exploitation, vertical integration, and anti-competitive practices.

मेटा और गूगल के खिलाफ नियामक कार्रवाई यह दर्शाती है कि डेटा के दुरुपयोग, ऊर्ध्वाधर एकीकरण और प्रतिस्पर्धा विरोधी प्रथाओं को संबोधित करना आवश्यक है।

- Tech giants like AT&T and Microsoft have also faced antitrust actions in the past, leading to market restructuring.

AT&T और Microsoft जैसे टेक दिग्गजों को भी अतीत में प्रतिस्पर्धा विरोधी कार्रवाई का सामना करना पड़ा, जिससे बाजार संरचना में बदलाव आया।

- The CCI orders against Google and Meta reflect broader concerns over tech monopolies in advertising, e-commerce, and smartphone services.

गूगल और मेटा के खिलाफ CCI के आदेश विज्ञापन, ई-कॉमर्स और स्मार्टफोन सेवाओं में टेक एकाधिकार को लेकर व्यापक चिंताओं को दर्शाते हैं।

On India's laws

भारत के कानूनों पर

- India's Competition Act, 2002 lacks explicit provisions to address data-centric monopolies, as it primarily focuses on price-based dominance.

भारत का प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम, 2002 में डेटा-केंद्रित एकाधिकारों को संबोधित करने के लिए स्पष्ट प्रावधानों की कमी है, क्योंकि यह मुख्य रूप से मूल्य-आधारित प्रभुत्व पर केंद्रित है।

- Amendments should introduce "data monopolization" as a key parameter for assessing market dominance.



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संशोधनों में “डेटा एकाधिकार” को बाजार प्रभुत्व के आकलन के लिए एक प्रमुख मानदंड के रूप में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।

- **Interoperability, data-sharing agreements, and separation of integrated services can help prevent market abuse.**

अंतरसंचालनीयता, डेटा-साझाकरण समझौते और एकीकृत सेवाओं का पृथक्करण बाजार के दुरुपयोग को रोकने में मदद कर सकते हैं।

- The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** provides a framework for **data regulation**, but lacks coordination with the **CCI**.

डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 डेटा विनियमन के लिए एक रूपरेखा प्रदान करता है, लेकिन यह **CCI** के साथ समन्वय की कमी रखता है।

- **India can learn from the EU's Digital Markets Act (DMA) and GDPR**, which integrate competition law with data protection regulations.

भारत यूरोपीय संघ के डिजिटल मार्केट्स एक्ट (DMA) और GDPR से सीख सकता है, जो प्रतिस्पर्धा कानून को डेटा संरक्षण नियमों के साथ एकीकृत करता है।

- The **Economic Survey 2024-25** highlights India's rapid digital transformation and the role of AI in economic growth, emphasizing the need for updated regulatory frameworks.

आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण 2024-25 में भारत के तेजी से डिजिटल परिवर्तन और आर्थिक विकास में एआई की भूमिका पर जोर दिया गया है, जिससे अपडेटेड नियामक ढांचे की आवश्यकता स्पष्ट होती है।

- The **Meta case** serves as a pivotal moment in India's efforts to regulate digital markets and data-driven monopolies, reinforcing the urgency for comprehensive competition law reforms.

मेटा का मामला भारत के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण है, क्योंकि यह डिजिटल बाजारों और डेटा-आधारित एकाधिकारों को विनियमित करने के प्रयासों को दर्शाता है और व्यापक प्रतिस्पर्धा कानून सुधारों की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है।



The assault on multilateralism and international law

GS Paper II: International Organization

The mantra of 'America First' is shaping U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, marking a significant turning point for multilateralism and international law. Since the beginning of his second term, a series of measures have signalled the U.S.'s withdrawal from the very multilateral institutions and agreements it once helped establish. These include calls for withdrawal from key entities such as the World Health Organization, the UNHRC, and the Paris Climate Agreement and sanctions against the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its officials. The most recent addition in this series is the introduction of the Disengaging Entirely from the United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act by Republican Senator Mike Lee from Utah, which would allow the U.S. to withdraw from the United Nations. The new American approach has serious consequences for an international order based on multilateral cooperation and respect for international law.

Back to political and economic isolationism

First, the proposed DEFUND Act poses a threat to the legitimacy of the UN, which, despite its shortcomings, remains one of the most remarkable examples of international cooperation in the post-Second World War era. Should the DEFUND Act pass, it could sever the U.S.'s relationship with the UN by repealing critical legislation such as the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 and the United Nations Headquarters Agreement of 1947. This would halt all financial contributions to the UN and prohibit U.S. participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

Additionally, it would revoke the functional immunity of UN officials from other countries working in the U.S., making it difficult for the UN to effectively carry out important functions such as peacekeeping and the protection of human rights. These possible measures against the UN represent an attack on multilateral political cooperation, which is the bedrock of a rules-based international order.



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The U.S.'s unilateral actions are a turning point and could invite global retaliation, but this is also a chance for non-western nations to take up leadership roles

Second, a February 6 Executive Order imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, which serves as the first permanent court punishing individuals for crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Following the Second World War, the U.S. was instrumental in establishing the Nuremberg Tribunal to hold individuals accountable for such atrocities. The U.S. Chief Prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, Robert H. Jackson, famously stated that "the willingness to submit enemies to the rule of law marked a triumph of reason over power".

The legacy of Nuremberg is echoed in the mission of the ICC, notwithstanding the fact that the U.S. is not a member of the ICC and has not ratified the Rome Statute. The executive order accuses the ICC of engaging in "illegitimate and baseless actions targeting America" and its close ally, Israel. Such accusations undermine the court's purpose and function to ensure accountability and prevent impunity for perpetrators of grave crimes violating human rights.

Trade troubles

Third, the reinvigorated economic nationalism in the Trump administration has led to the implementation of aggressive tariffs in the name of American safety and national security. A historical parallel can be drawn to the era of the 1930s when trade protectionism, triggered by the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act enacted by the U.S., had dire economic consequences and saw the world spiralling into the chaos of the Second World War. It was this recognition of the economic and political vulnerabilities of countries due to isolationism that led to the adoption of a rules-based multilateral trading order in the form of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) of 1947, which later evolved into the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Today, the WTO is also facing an existential crisis due to the U.S. blockade on appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO Dispute

Settlement, and a looming threat of U.S. withdrawal.

Action and reaction

Overall, the growing anti-internationalist sentiment in the U.S. and the unilateral actions taken by the Trump administration are bound to jeopardise multilateral political and economic cooperation among states. This, in turn, would lead to the devaluation of international institutions that govern and facilitate global cooperation. These institutions, founded on the principle of shared sovereignty, play a crucial role in creating and interpreting international law while maintaining a rules-based international order. Withdrawal from, and restricting the functioning of international institutions and agreements would have significant repercussions for the pressing issues of our time, such as climate change, environmental degradation, public health, respect and accountability for human rights, and economic stability and growth.

Furthermore, the U.S. risks facing retaliation from other states and may find that initiatives such as MAGA, or 'Make America Great Again', cannot thrive without the support of multilateral cooperation. Consequently, resistance from the international community is essential, as mutual enrichment among nations can only be achieved through cooperation rather than coercion. On the positive side, this scenario offers non-western nations such as India, the chance to assume leadership roles.

India has consistently emphasised the importance of multilateralism and adherence to international law. Apty, during the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (February 2025), in Johannesburg, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reiterated the need for an inclusive and multilateral approach to global challenges and called for prioritising international law and peaceful resolutions. Additionally, this also serves as an opportune moment to reform the UNSC, as India has been consistently demanding.

The assault on multilateralism and international law

बहुपक्षवाद और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून पर हमला

The 'America First' policy under U.S. President Donald Trump has led to a shift away from multilateral institutions and agreements.

अमेरिका फर्स्ट नीति के तहत अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने बहुपक्षीय संस्थानों और समझौतों से दूर होने की नीति अपनाई।

- The U.S. has **withdrawn from key global institutions like the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and Paris Climate Agreement.**

अमेरिका ने विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO), संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार परिषद (UNHRC) और पेरिस जलवायु समझौते जैसे महत्वपूर्ण वैश्विक संस्थानों से हटने का निर्णय लिया।



- The Disengaging Entirely from the United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act, introduced by Republican Senator Mike Lee, aims to withdraw the U.S. from the UN. रिपब्लिकन सीनेटर माइक ली द्वारा प्रस्तुत DISENGAGING ENTIRELY FROM THE UNITED NATIONS DEBACLE (DEFUND) अधिनियम का उद्देश्य संयुक्त राष्ट्र से अमेरिका को हटाना है।

Back to political and economic isolationism

राजनीतिक और आर्थिक अलगाववाद की ओर वापसी

- The DEFUND Act threatens the legitimacy of the UN, which has been a pillar of international cooperation since World War II. DEFUND अधिनियम संयुक्त राष्ट्र की वैधता के लिए खतरा पैदा करता है, जो द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद से अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग का एक महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ रहा है।
- If passed, the Act would repeal key U.S. legislation, including the United Nations Participation Act (1945) and UN Headquarters Agreement (1947). यदि यह अधिनियम पारित हो जाता है, तो यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र भागीदारी अधिनियम (1945) और संयुक्त राष्ट्र मुख्यालय समझौता (1947) जैसे महत्वपूर्ण अमेरिकी कानूनों को रद्द कर देगा।
- This would end U.S. financial contributions to the UN, halt peacekeeping operations, and remove UN officials' immunity in the U.S. इससे संयुक्त राष्ट्र को अमेरिकी वित्तीय योगदान समाप्त हो जाएगा, शांतिरक्षक अभियानों पर रोक लगेगी, और संयुक्त राष्ट्र अधिकारियों की अमेरिकी क्षेत्र में कानूनी सुरक्षा हटा दी जाएगी।
- These measures represent an attack on multilateral political cooperation, which is the foundation of a rules-based international order. ये उपाय बहुपक्षीय राजनीतिक सहयोग पर हमला करते हैं, जो नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था का मूलभूत आधार है।

Sanctions on the ICC

अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC) पर प्रतिबंध

- On February 6, 2025, the U.S. imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC), which investigates genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. 6 फरवरी 2025 को, अमेरिका ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय (ICC) पर प्रतिबंध लगाए, जो नरसंहार, मानवता के खिलाफ अपराध और युद्ध अपराधों की जांच करता है।
- Despite the U.S. playing a role in establishing the Nuremberg Tribunal post-World War II, it has not ratified the Rome Statute, which created the ICC. द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद अमेरिका ने नूर्नबर्ग ट्रिब्यूनल स्थापित करने में भूमिका निभाई, फिर भी उसने रोम संविधि (Rome Statute) की पुष्टि नहीं की, जो ICC की स्थापना का आधार था।
- The executive order accuses the ICC of acting illegitimately against America and Israel, undermining its role in ensuring accountability for human rights violations.



कार्यकारी आदेश ने ICC पर अमेरिका और इजराइल के खिलाफ अवैध रूप से कार्य करने का आरोप लगाया, जिससे मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन के लिए जवाबदेही तय करने की इसकी भूमिका कमजोर होती है।

Trade troubles

व्यापार संबंधी समस्याएँ

- The Trump administration's **economic nationalism** has led to the implementation of **aggressive tariffs**, citing **American safety and national security**.
ट्रंप प्रशासन के आर्थिक राष्ट्रवाद ने अमेरिकी सुरक्षा और राष्ट्रीय रक्षा के नाम पर कड़े टैरिफ लागू किए हैं।
- A historical parallel can be drawn to the **Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act (1930)**, which **worsened the Great Depression** and contributed to **World War II**.
स्मूट-हॉले टैरिफ अधिनियम (1930) के समान, इस नीति ने महामंदी (ग्रेट डिप्रेशन) को और खराब किया और द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध में योगदान दिया।
- The recognition of these **economic vulnerabilities** led to the establishment of **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947**, which later evolved into the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
इन आर्थिक कमजोरियों को पहचानते हुए 1947 में सामान्य शुल्क और व्यापार समझौता (GATT) स्थापित किया गया, जो बाद में विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) में बदल गया।
- The **WTO is facing an existential crisis** due to the **U.S. blockade on appointments to its Appellate Body** and the **looming threat of U.S. withdrawal**.
WTO अपने अस्तित्व के संकट का सामना कर रहा है, क्योंकि अमेरिका ने अपील निकाय में नियुक्तियों को अवरुद्ध कर दिया है और इसके संगठन से बाहर निकलने की संभावना जताई है।

Action and reaction

कार्रवाई और प्रतिक्रिया

- The **growing anti-internationalist sentiment in the U.S.** and **unilateral actions by the Trump administration** are **jeopardizing multilateral political and economic cooperation**.
अमेरिका में बढ़ती बहुपक्षीय विरोधी भावना और ट्रंप प्रशासन की एकतरफा कार्रवाइयाँ बहुपक्षीय राजनीतिक और आर्थिक सहयोग को खतरे में डाल रही हैं।
- This would lead to the **devaluation of international institutions**, which are based on **shared sovereignty and a rules-based international order**.
इससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थानों का अवमूल्यन होगा, जो साझा संप्रभुता और नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था पर आधारित हैं।
- **Key global issues** such as **climate change, public health, and economic stability** require **strong multilateral institutions**, but **U.S. actions threaten their effectiveness**.



जलवायु परिवर्तन, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य और आर्थिक स्थिरता जैसे प्रमुख वैश्विक मुद्दों के समाधान के लिए मजबूत बहुपक्षीय संस्थानों की आवश्यकता है, लेकिन अमेरिकी नीतियाँ उनकी प्रभावशीलता को खतरे में डाल रही हैं।

- The U.S. risks retaliation from other nations, and policies like 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) may struggle without multilateral cooperation. अमेरिका को अन्य देशों से प्रतिशोध का सामना करना पड़ सकता है, और 'मेक अमेरिका ग्रेट अगेन' (MAGA) जैसी नीतियाँ बहुपक्षीय सहयोग के बिना सफल नहीं हो सकतीं।

- The international community must resist these unilateral moves, as cooperation, not coercion, ensures global progress.

अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय को इन एकतरफा नीतियों का विरोध करना चाहिए, क्योंकि वैश्विक प्रगति केवल सहयोग से संभव है, न कि दबाव से।

- India has emphasized multilateralism, and during the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (February 2025) in Johannesburg, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reiterated the need for an inclusive and law-based global order.

भारत ने बहुपक्षवाद पर जोर दिया है, और फरवरी 2025 में जोहान्सबर्ग में G-20 विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक के दौरान, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने समावेशी और कानून-आधारित वैश्विक व्यवस्था की आवश्यकता को दोहराया।

- This also presents an opportunity to reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which India has been advocating for years.

यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में सुधार करने का एक अवसर भी प्रस्तुत करता है, जिसके लिए भारत लंबे समय से मांग कर रहा है।



Should immigrants have the same right to protest as citizens?



Happymon Jacob
Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University and founder-director of the Council for Strategic and Defense Research



Prabhash Ranjan
Professor at Jindal Global Law School

GS Paper II: Immigration

PARLEY

Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian doctoral student at Columbia University, left the U.S. on March 11, 2025, following the revocation of her student visa by the U.S. State Department. Her departure followed a raid on her campus residence by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, who have accused her of being a "pro-Hamas sympathiser". Earlier, on March 8, immigration authorities arrested Mahmoud Khalil, a Palestinian student activist and green card holder, for allegedly violating his terms of residency by supporting a U.S.-designated terrorist organisation. Should immigrants have the same right to protest as citizens? Prabhash Ranjan and Happymon Jacob discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Aaratrika Bhaumik. Edited excerpts:

Do immigrants have the same right to protest as citizens under international human rights law?

Prabhash Ranjan: Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) enshrines freedom of expression as a fundamental human right, extending to both citizens and immigrants. Article 19(2) specifically guarantees the right to seek, receive, and disseminate information across borders through various media. However, Article 19(3) qualifies this right by imposing special duties and permitting states to impose restrictions when necessary to safeguard national security or public order. Additionally, other provisions of the ICCPR explicitly prohibit war propaganda and the advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that incites violence.

While international law affords immigrants the same right to protest as citizens, the extent of this right depends on the host country's domestic legal framework. Some states enforce stricter regulations, whereas liberal democracies may adopt a more permissive stance.

To what extent do foreign policy and national security considerations constrain immigrants' right to peaceful protest?

Happymon Jacob: The application of international human rights law is deeply influenced by domestic politics. The critical question is what happens when international legal norms and expectations collide with national political realities. For instance, in the U.S., a long-standing tradition of free speech has created a global expectation that Americans will consistently uphold this right. However, instances where American actions diverge from these expectations expose a disconnect between historical tradition and contemporary reality. This phenomenon is not unique to the U.S.—across Africa, Asia, and parts of Europe, non-citizens often do not enjoy the same degree of free speech as citizens. Moreover, the ability to exercise free speech or participate in peaceful



Protesters march near Arizona State University against the ICE's detention of Palestinian student activist Mahmoud Khalil. REUTERS

protests frequently depends on an individual's legal status—whether they are a natural-born citizen, a permanent resident, or an undocumented immigrant. The social contract that binds a government to its citizens does not necessarily extend to non-citizens in the same way, further entangling the legal and political framework governing these rights.

Does the crackdown on protesting foreign students in the U.S. violate First Amendment rights?

PR: The Immigration and Nationality Act, 1952 authorises the denial of entry and deportation of non-citizens who endorse or support terrorist activities or organisations. President Trump's executive order, issued in January directing federal agencies to combat antisemitism on campuses, is rooted in this law. Thus, its issuance does not exceed constitutional authority. However, the critical question is whether the order itself is constitutional.

U.S. law extends First Amendment protections to non-citizens, regardless of their immigration status, particularly in matters concerning criminal penalties and law enforcement investigations. However, it remains uncertain whether non-citizens enjoy the same level of First Amendment protection as citizens when facing deportation proceedings. This is where Happymon's argument becomes of relevance—each case must be evaluated based on the individual's legal status. For instance, a green card holder would have stronger legal protections than someone on a student visa. Historically, during the Cold War, legal aliens in the U.S. were deported for their affiliation with the Communist Party. While the U.S. legal system has since become more robust, past precedents highlight the enduring legal complexities surrounding such deportations.

The Trump administration has revoked nearly \$400 million in grants for Columbia University. Do you think this could deter foreign students from studying in the U.S.?

HJ: I don't believe measures such as these will significantly influence the decisions of international students, including those from



The U.S. has long been perceived as a nation that upholds the rule of law and champions the freedom of speech and expression. If it begins weaponising laws to target individuals it disfavors, it risks legitimising similar actions by governments worldwide.

PRABHASH RANJAN

India, to study in the U.S. Only a small fraction of Indian students are likely to engage in such protests, making it an unlikely deterrent. However, a more pressing concern is whether reductions in university funding could ultimately discourage international talent from enrolling in American institutions. If that happens, it could pose a serious challenge for a nation that relies on immigration-driven innovation and expertise.

U.S. immigration judges operate within the Department of Justice, where the Attorney General has the authority to remove them. Could executive influence compromise the fairness of deportation proceedings?

PR: Yes, executive control over immigration judges is deeply problematic. Law and politics are not as divorced as we might wish to believe. While judges are ideally expected to operate in depoliticised courtrooms, the reality is that legal interpretations often unfold within a broader political context. That said, my confidence lies less in individual immigration judges and more in the U.S. judicial system as a whole. At the appellate level, independent review and judicial scrutiny of executive actions can help ensure fairer outcomes. However, for immigrants caught in this system, the process itself can feel like a punishment—perhaps by design.

The Trump administration has reportedly invoked Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the 1952 Act to justify the arrest of Mr. Khalil. It empowers the Secretary of State to deport a foreign national if their "presence or activities in the United States would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences". Is this provision susceptible to a constitutional challenge on grounds of vagueness?

PR: Yes, it does. The application of a rarely invoked statute to a Palestinian political activist raises serious due process concerns, potentially amounting to arbitrary enforcement. In *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project* (2010), the U.S. Supreme Court held that independent advocacy or mere membership in a government-designated terrorist organisation is protected speech under the First Amendment. Criminal liability arises only from providing material support, not from association alone. Thus, for the U.S. government to justify prosecution under this statute, it must present substantial evidence of actual criminal conduct.

In Mr. Khalil's case, the legitimacy of the government's actions depends on the evidence it has and whether it can demonstrate genuine wrongdoing. If he is merely expressing a viewpoint aligned with a particular group, that remains constitutionally protected speech.

Can this provision be weaponised against those the administration disagrees with?

HJ: As Prabhash pointed out, this provision grants the government significant authority, with no clear definition of what constitutes "adverse foreign policy consequences" for the U.S. Its vague language allows almost anything to fall within its scope, making it highly susceptible to misuse. That said, most countries maintain such sweeping laws, ostensibly reserved for exceptional circumstances. If an administration chooses to exploit them, judicial intervention remains the only real safeguard. Moreover, the invocation of such rarely used provisions is inherently political—how the executive frames an issue dictates the response. Protests perceived as part of routine political discourse will elicit a different reaction than those framed as law-and-order threats or national security risks. Parsing the nuances of such provisions has limited utility, as these laws inherently permit extreme measures in extraordinary situations. However, what qualifies as an "extreme case" is a matter of political interpretation.

Will such incidents erode U.S. soft power and weaken its stature in the global order?

HJ: If the U.S. continues on this path, it risks losing the moral authority to advise other nations on their domestic affairs. American soft power will decline, along with its international standing. Such actions could also contribute to the erosion of democratic and liberal values worldwide. Additionally, they will weaken the U.S.'s ability to build coalitions based on shared democratic values.

PR: The U.S. has long been perceived—rightly or wrongly—as a nation that upholds the rule of law and champions the freedom of speech and expression. This commitment has played a crucial role in fostering a global culture of liberal values and open discourse. However, if the U.S. begins weaponising laws to target individuals it disfavors, it risks legitimising similar actions by governments worldwide. This would contribute to a more repressive global environment, where political expression becomes increasingly precarious. That said, I still have faith in the U.S. legal system—it remains robust. Whether a single administration can uphold it entirely remains to be seen. The unfolding deportation proceedings will be telling.



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Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

Should immigrants have the same right to protest as citizens?

क्या प्रवासियों को नागरिकों के समान विरोध करने का अधिकार होना चाहिए?

Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian doctoral student at Columbia University, left the U.S. on March 11, 2025, after her student visa was revoked by the U.S. State Department.

रंजनी श्रीनिवासन, कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय की भारतीय डॉक्टरेट छात्रा, ने 11 मार्च

2025 को अमेरिका छोड़ दिया, जब अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग ने उनका छात्र वीजा रद्द कर दिया।



- The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents raided her campus residence, accusing her of being a “pro-Hamas sympathiser”.
अमेरिकी आइजिन और सीमा शुल्क प्रवर्तन (ICE) एजेंटों ने उनके कैंपस निवास पर छापा मारा, उन पर "हमास समर्थक" होने का आरोप लगाया।
- On March 8, 2025, Mahmoud Khalil, a Palestinian student activist and green card holder, was arrested for allegedly supporting a U.S.-designated terrorist organization.
8 मार्च 2025 को, महमूद खलील, एक फिलिस्तीनी छात्र कार्यकर्ता और ग्रीन कार्ड धारक, को एक अमेरिकी नामित आतंकवादी संगठन का समर्थन करने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया गया।

Do immigrants have the same right to protest as citizens under international human rights law?

क्या अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार कानून के तहत प्रवासियों को नागरिकों के समान विरोध करने का अधिकार है?

- **Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) guarantees freedom of expression for both citizens and immigrants.**
नागरिक और राजनीतिक अधिकारों पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय वाचा (ICCPR) का अनुच्छेद 19 नागरिकों और प्रवासियों दोनों के लिए अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता की गारंटी देता है।
- However, Article 19(3) permits restrictions if necessary for national security or public order.
हालांकि, अनुच्छेद 19(3) राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा या सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था के लिए आवश्यक होने पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की अनुमति देता है।
- The extent of this right varies based on the host country's domestic laws, with some states enforcing stricter regulations than others.
इस अधिकार की सीमा मेजबान देश के घरेलू कानूनों पर निर्भर करती है, कुछ देश कड़े नियम लागू करते हैं।

To what extent do foreign policy and national security considerations constrain immigrants' right to peaceful protest?

विदेश नीति और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा विचार प्रवासियों के शांतिपूर्ण विरोध के अधिकार को किस हद तक सीमित करते हैं?

- **Domestic politics influence the application of international human rights laws.**
घरेलू राजनीति अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार कानूनों के अनुप्रयोग को प्रभावित करती है।
- In the U.S., the tradition of free speech often collides with national security concerns, leading to selective restrictions on non-citizens.
अमेरिका में, मुक्त भाषण की परंपरा अक्सर राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा चिंताओं से टकराती है, जिससे गैर-नागरिकों पर चयनात्मक प्रतिबंध लगते हैं।
- **Across Africa, Asia, and Europe, non-citizens often lack the same free speech rights as citizens.**



अफ्रीका, एशिया और यूरोप में, गैर-नागरिकों को अक्सर नागरिकों के समान मुक्त भाषण अधिकार नहीं मिलते।

Does the crackdown on protesting foreign students in the U.S. violate First Amendment rights?

क्या अमेरिका में विरोध कर रहे विदेशी छात्रों पर कार्रवाई प्रथम संशोधन अधिकारों का उल्लंघन है?

- The Immigration and Nationality Act (1952) allows denial of entry and deportation of non-citizens who support terrorist activities.
आप्रवासन और राष्ट्रियता अधिनियम (1952) गैर-नागरिकों की प्रविष्टि को अस्वीकार करने और निर्वासन की अनुमति देता है, यदि वे आतंकवादी गतिविधियों का समर्थन करते हैं।
- President Trump's executive order (January 2025) directed federal agencies to combat antisemitism on campuses, based on this law.
राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप के कार्यकारी आदेश (जनवरी 2025) ने विश्वविद्यालय परिसरों में यहूदी-विरोधी गतिविधियों से निपटने के लिए संघीय एजेंसियों को निर्देश दिया, जो इसी कानून पर आधारित है।
- U.S. law grants First Amendment protections to non-citizens, but uncertainty remains about the extent of these protections in deportation cases.
अमेरिकी कानून गैर-नागरिकों को प्रथम संशोधन सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है, लेकिन निर्वासन मामलों में इन सुरक्षा की सीमा पर अनिश्चितता बनी रहती है।
- Historically, legal aliens were deported for Communist affiliations during the Cold War, reflecting ongoing legal complexities.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, शीत युद्ध के दौरान कानूनी विदेशी नागरिकों को साम्यवादी संबंधों के लिए निर्वासित किया गया, जिससे निरंतर कानूनी जटिलताओं का पता चलता है।

The impact of U.S. policies on immigration and global influence

अमेरिकी नीतियों का आप्रवासन और वैश्विक प्रभाव पर प्रभाव

Will revoking grants deter foreign students from studying in the U.S.?

क्या अनुदान रद्द करने से विदेशी छात्र अमेरिका में पढ़ाई से हतोत्साहित होंगे?

- The Trump administration revoked \$400 million in grants for Columbia University, raising concerns about its impact on foreign students.
ट्रंप प्रशासन ने कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय के लिए \$400 मिलियन के अनुदान रद्द कर दिए, जिससे विदेशी छात्रों पर प्रभाव को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ गईं।
- Happymon Jacob (HJ) believes that such measures won't significantly deter international students, as only a small fraction of students participate in protests.
हैप्पीमॉन जैकब (HJ) का मानना है कि इस तरह के कदम अंतरराष्ट्रीय छात्रों को बहुत अधिक हतोत्साहित नहीं करेंगे, क्योंकि केवल कम संख्या में छात्र विरोध प्रदर्शनों में भाग लेते हैं।



- However, **cuts in university funding** may discourage **global talent** from enrolling in U.S. institutions, which could harm **immigration-driven innovation**.

हालांकि, विश्वविद्यालयों के फंड में कटौती से वैश्विक प्रतिभाओं को अमेरिकी संस्थानों में प्रवेश लेने से हतोत्साहित किया जा सकता है, जिससे आप्रवासन आधारित नवाचार को नुकसान हो सकता है।

Can executive influence compromise the fairness of deportation proceedings?

क्या कार्यकारी नियंत्रण निर्वासन प्रक्रिया की निष्पक्षता को प्रभावित कर सकता है?

- U.S. immigration judges operate under the Department of Justice, where the Attorney General has the power to remove them, raising concerns about **executive interference**.
अमेरिकी आप्रवासन न्यायाधीश न्याय विभाग के अंतर्गत कार्य करते हैं, जहाँ अटॉर्नी जनरल को उन्हें हटाने की शक्ति प्राप्त है, जिससे कार्यकारी हस्तक्षेप को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ जाती हैं।
- Prabhash Ranjan (PR) argues that **law and politics are intertwined**, making **judicial independence a challenge** in politically sensitive cases.
प्रभाष रंजन (PR) का तर्क है कि कानून और राजनीति आपस में जुड़ी हुई हैं, जिससे राजनीतिक रूप से संवेदनशील मामलों में न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता एक चुनौती बन जाती है।
- However, **higher courts and appellate review provide checks on executive overreach**, ensuring fairer outcomes.
हालांकि, उच्च न्यायालय और अपीलिय समीक्षा कार्यकारी सत्ता के दुरुपयोग पर अंकुश लगाते हैं, जिससे निष्पक्ष परिणाम सुनिश्चित होते हैं।

Can Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the 1952 Act be challenged on constitutional grounds?

क्या 1952 अधिनियम की धारा 212(a)(3)(C) संवैधानिक आधार पर चुनौती दी जा सकती है?

- The Trump administration invoked Section 212(a)(3)(C) to justify the arrest of Mahmoud Khalil, arguing that his presence could **adversely impact U.S. foreign policy**.
ट्रंप प्रशासन ने महमूद खलील की गिरफ्तारी को उचित ठहराने के लिए धारा 212(a)(3)(C) लागू की, यह तर्क देते हुए कि उनकी उपस्थिति अमेरिकी विदेश नीति पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डाल सकती है।
- PR believes this provision is **vague and prone to arbitrary enforcement**, making it susceptible to **constitutional challenges**.
PR का मानना है कि यह प्रावधान अस्पष्ट और मनमानी कार्रवाई के लिए प्रवृत्त है, जिससे यह संवैधानिक चुनौतियों के प्रति संवेदनशील बन जाता है।
- In **Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project (2010)**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that membership in a designated terrorist group is **protected speech** unless material



support is provided.

होल्डर बनाम ह्यूमैनिटेरियन लॉ प्रोजेक्ट (2010) में, अमेरिकी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फैसला सुनाया कि किसी नामित आतंकवादी संगठन की सदस्यता को तब तक अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता माना जाएगा जब तक कि प्रत्यक्ष सामग्री सहायता न दी जाए।

- The government must provide substantial evidence of criminal intent to justify deportation under this provision.
इस प्रावधान के तहत निर्वासन को सही ठहराने के लिए सरकार को ठोस आपराधिक साक्ष्य प्रस्तुत करने की आवश्यकता होगी।

Will such laws be used to target political dissenters?

क्या इन कानूनों का उपयोग राजनीतिक असहमति को दबाने के लिए किया जाएगा?

- HJ warns that this provision gives the government broad authority to define what constitutes "adverse foreign policy consequences", increasing the risk of misuse. HJ चेतावनी देते हैं कि यह प्रावधान सरकार को "विदेश नीति पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव" की परिभाषा निर्धारित करने का व्यापक अधिकार देता है, जिससे दुरुपयोग की संभावना बढ़ जाती है।
- Many countries have similar laws for extreme circumstances, but judicial intervention remains the only safeguard against misuse.
कई देशों में चरम परिस्थितियों के लिए इसी तरह के कानून हैं, लेकिन न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप ही दुरुपयोग के खिलाफ एकमात्र सुरक्षा उपाय है।

Will such incidents erode U.S. soft power?

क्या ऐसे घटनाक्रम अमेरिका की सॉफ्ट पावर को कमजोर करेंगे?

- HJ argues that continued actions against political dissent will damage America's moral authority and reduce its global influence.
HJ का तर्क है कि राजनीतिक असहमति के खिलाफ लगातार उठाए जा रहे कदम अमेरिका की नैतिक साख को नुकसान पहुंचाएंगे और इसके वैश्विक प्रभाव को कम करेंगे।
- PR believes that the U.S. has been perceived as a champion of free speech and human rights, but if it starts using laws to suppress opposition, it could set a dangerous precedent globally.
PR का मानना है कि अमेरिका को अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और मानवाधिकारों का रक्षक माना गया है, लेकिन यदि वह विरोध को दबाने के लिए कानूनों का उपयोग करने लगे, तो यह वैश्विक स्तर पर एक खतरनाक मिसाल कायम कर सकता है।
- Despite these concerns, PR expresses faith in the U.S. judicial system, noting that it remains strong enough to resist authoritarian overreach.
इन चिंताओं के बावजूद, PR को अमेरिकी न्यायिक प्रणाली पर भरोसा है, यह बताते हुए कि यह सत्तावादी दुरुपयोग का विरोध करने के लिए अभी भी पर्याप्त मजबूत है।



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

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

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

1. 30 'Maoists' Shot Dead in Twin Bastar Encounters

दोहरी बस्तर मुठभेड़ों में 30 'माओवादी' मारे गए

2. Registration for safflower procurement to begin soon

केसरिया फूल (सैफलावर) की खरीद के लिए पंजीकरण जल्द शुरू होगा

3. Army seeks inclusion of additional areas in Manipur under AFSPA

मणिपुर में एएफएसपीए के तहत अतिरिक्त क्षेत्रों को शामिल करने की सेना की मांग

4. India, Brazil could play key role in climate talks: Lago

जलवायु वार्ताओं में भारत और ब्राज़ील अहम भूमिका निभा सकते हैं: लागो

5. The TB crisis and women: why gender issues matter more than ever

टीबी संकट और महिलाएँ: लिंग संबंधी मुद्दे पहले से ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण क्यों हैं



30 'Maoists' shot dead in twin Bastar encounters

26 gunned down along Bijapur-Dantewada boundary and four on Kanker-Narayanpur boundary; Bijapur District Reserve Guard loses a jawan in the operation; arms and ammunition recovered

GS Paper III: Internal Security

RAIPUR

At least 30 alleged Maoists were killed in two operations in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on Thursday.

Twenty-six of them were gunned down along the Bijapur-Dantewada boundary in south Bastar, a senior police officer said. A jawan of the Bijapur District Reserve Guard, a locally raised force to combat Naxalism, lost his life.

The police said a joint team of security personnel had gone out on a combing operation in the Gangaloor police station area. The exchange of fire started around 7 a.m. and continued till the afternoon. In a search, the 26 bodies, along with a large quantity of arms and ammunition, were recovered.

In the other encounter along the Kanker-Narayanpur boundary of north Bas-



The way back: Jawans returning from an encounter with Maoists in Bijapur in Chhattisgarh on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tar, a joint party of the DRG and Border Security Force exchanged fire with Maoists, the police said. In a bulletin, they said the bodies of four Maoists had been recovered.

The combined figure of the two encounters pushed the overall number of Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh this year beyond 100, signalling a further intensification of the anti-Maoist campaign.

Union Home Minister

Amit Shah and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai called the encounters a major success.

'Ruthless approach'

"Today our soldiers have achieved another big success in the direction of 'Naxal Mukta Bharat Abhiyan'. 22 Naxalites [the figure was subsequently updated] were killed in 2 separate operations of our security forces in Bijapur and Kanker of Chhattis-

garh. The Modi government is moving forward with a ruthless approach against Naxalites and is adopting a zero tolerance policy against those Naxalites who are not surrendering despite all the facilities from surrender to inclusion. The country is going to be Naxal-free before 31 March next year," Mr. Shah wrote on X.

Mr. Sai called the encounters a victory and expressed condolence over the death of the jawan. "The State government remains fully committed to eradicating Naxalism, and security operations will continue until Chhattisgarh is free from this menace," he said.

The combined figure of the two encounters pushed the overall number of Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh this year beyond 100, signalling a further intensification of the anti-Naxal campaign.

30 'Maoists' Shot Dead in Twin Bastar Encounters

दोहरी बस्तर मुठभेड़ों में 30 'माओवादी' मारे गए

26 Maoists were killed along the Bijapur-Dantewada boundary in South Bastar.

दक्षिण बस्तर में बीजापुर-दंतेवाड़ा सीमा पर 26 माओवादी मारे गए।



- A jawan of the Bijapur District Reserve Guard (DRG) lost his life in the operation. इस अभियान में बीजापुर जिला रिजर्व गार्ड (DRG) का एक जवान शहीद हो गया।
- Four Maoists were killed in another encounter along the Kanker-Narayanpur boundary in North Bastar. उत्तर बस्तर में कांकेर-नारायणपुर सीमा पर चार माओवादी मारे गए।
- A joint team of security forces conducted a **combing operation** in the Gangaloor police station area. The gunfight started around 7 a.m. and continued till afternoon. गंगालूर थाना क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा बलों की संयुक्त टीम ने सर्च ऑपरेशन किया। गोलीबारी सुबह 7 बजे शुरू हुई और दोपहर तक जारी रही।
- 26 bodies, along with a large quantity of arms and ammunition, were recovered from the site. घटनास्थल से 26 शव और बड़ी मात्रा में हथियार एवं गोला-बारूद बरामद किए गए।

Increasing Anti-Maoist Campaign

बढ़ता नक्सल विरोधी अभियान

- The total number of Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh this year has now crossed 100. इस साल छत्तीसगढ़ में मारे गए नक्सलियों की कुल संख्या 100 से अधिक हो गई है।
- This indicates a further intensification of the anti-Maoist campaign in the state. यह राज्य में नक्सल विरोधी अभियान के और तेज होने का संकेत देता है।

Government's Reaction

सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah called the encounters a **major success** in the 'Naxal Mukta Bharat Abhiyan'.
केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने इन मुठभेड़ों को 'नक्सल मुक्त भारत अभियान' की बड़ी सफलता बताया।
- Initially, 22 Naxalites were reported killed, but the number was later updated to 30. शुरूआत में 22 नक्सलियों के मारे जाने की खबर थी, लेकिन बाद में यह संख्या 30 कर दी गई।
- He emphasized the **Modi government's ruthless approach** and **zero tolerance policy** against Naxalites who refuse to surrender.
उन्होंने मोदी सरकार के सख्त रुख और आत्मसमर्पण न करने वाले नक्सलियों के खिलाफ शून्य सहिष्णुता नीति पर जोर दिया।
- Shah claimed that **India will be Naxal-free by March 31 next year**.
शाह ने दावा किया कि अगले साल 31 मार्च तक भारत नक्सल मुक्त हो जाएगा।
- Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai termed the encounters a **victory** and expressed **condolences** for the martyred jawan.



छत्तीसगढ़ के मुख्यमंत्री विष्णु देव साय ने इन मुठभेड़ों को जीत बताया और शहीद जवान को श्रद्धांजलि दी।

- He reiterated that the **state government is fully committed to eradicating Naxalism** and that **operations will continue** until Chhattisgarh is completely free from Maoists. उन्होंने दोहराया कि राज्य सरकार नक्सलवाद के उन्मूलन के लिए पूरी तरह प्रतिबद्ध है और अभियान तब तक जारी रहेगा जब तक छत्तीसगढ़ पूरी तरह नक्सल मुक्त नहीं हो जाता।

Registration for safflower procurement to begin soon

GS Paper III:
Agriculture

BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government will soon start registering farmers for procuring safflower through the system of market intervention to arrest fall in price.

The Department of Agriculture Marketing has fixed the procurement price at ₹5,940 per quintal.

Procurement centres will be put up in safflower-growing districts.

Minister Shivanand Patil said in a release that a maximum of 20 quintals will be purchased from a farmer, at the average of five quintals per acre per farmer.

The purchase price will be deposited to the bank account of the farmer, the Minister said.

Registration for safflower procurement to begin soon

केसरिया फूल (सैफलावर) की खरीद के लिए पंजीकरण जल्द शुरू होगा

The Karnataka government will soon start registering farmers for procuring safflower through the system of market intervention to arrest the fall in price.

कर्नाटक सरकार जल्द ही किसानों का पंजीकरण शुरू करेगी ताकि बाजार हस्तक्षेप प्रणाली के माध्यम से केसरिया फूल (सैफलावर) की खरीद की जा सके और कीमतों में गिरावट को रोका जा सके।

- The Department of Agriculture Marketing has fixed the procurement price at ₹5,940 per quintal.

कृषि विपणन विभाग ने ₹5,940 प्रति क्विंटल की खरीद कीमत तय की है।

- Procurement centres will be set up in safflower-growing districts.

सैफलावर उगाने वाले जिलों में खरीद केंद्र स्थापित किए जाएंगे।

- Minister Shivanand Patil said in a release that a maximum of 20 quintals will be purchased from a farmer, at an average of 5 quintals per acre per farmer.

मंत्री शिवानंद पाटिल ने एक बयान में कहा कि प्रति किसान अधिकतम 20 क्विंटल की खरीद की जाएगी, जिसमें प्रति एकड़ औसतन 5 क्विंटल प्रति किसान तय किया गया है।

- The purchase price will be deposited to the bank account of the farmer, the Minister said.

मंत्री ने कहा कि खरीद मूल्य सीधे किसान के बैंक खाते में जमा किया जाएगा।



Army seeks inclusion of additional areas in Manipur under AFSPA

GS Paper III: AFSPA

/ijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

At a review meeting chaired by the Union Home Ministry on Wednesday, the Army sought the inclusion of additional police station limits in Manipur valley districts within the ambit of the Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act (AFSPA), a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

On November 14, 2024, out of 19 police stations in seven districts of Manipur, the AFSPA was reimposed in the jurisdiction of six in five districts of Manipur, mostly in the valley, in the wake of ethnic violence in the State that erupted on May 3, 2023.

“The Army proposed that 12 police station limits in valley districts be



Strong measures: The AFSPA was reimposed in the jurisdiction of six police stations in five districts of Manipur last November. ANI

brought under the AFSPA for operational efficiency. The suggestion was to reimpose the AFSPA in phases; however, a final decision will be taken by the Ministry,” said the official.

At a review meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New

Delhi on March 1, the possibility of bringing additional areas under the AFSPA, if required, was deliberated.

The AFSPA was withdrawn from the limits of all valley police stations between April 1, 2022 and April 1, 2023 amid an improved security situation. The “disturbed area” noti-

fication for the hill districts in Manipur has been periodically extended, with the last one issued on September 26, 2024.

The Ministry reviewed the scope of the AFSPA in Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur at a multi-agency meeting on Wednesday.

“It is likely that one of the four districts in Assam may be de-notified under the AFSPA,” said the official.

The 1958 law gives powers to the Army and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in “disturbed areas” to kill anyone acting in contravention of law, arrest and search any premises without a warrant, and grants protection from prosecution and legal suits without the Union government’s sanction.

Army seeks inclusion of additional areas in Manipur under AFSPA

मणिपुर में एफएसपीए के तहत अतिरिक्त क्षेत्रों को शामिल करने की सेना की मांग

At a review meeting chaired by the Union Home Ministry on Wednesday, the Army sought the inclusion of additional police station limits in Manipur valley districts under the Armed Forces



(Special) Powers Act (AFSPA), a senior government official told The Hindu.

बुधवार को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित समीक्षा बैठक में, सेना ने मणिपुर घाटी जिलों में अतिरिक्त पुलिस थानों की सीमाओं को एफएसपीए के तहत शामिल करने की मांग की, एक वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी ने द हिंदू को बताया।

- On November 14, 2024, out of 19 police stations in seven districts of Manipur, the AFSPA was reimposed in the jurisdiction of six police stations in five districts, mostly in the valley, following ethnic violence in the State that erupted on May 3, 2023. 14 नवंबर 2024 को, मणिपुर के सात जिलों में 19 पुलिस थानों में से, पांच जिलों के छह पुलिस थानों में, जो मुख्य रूप से घाटी क्षेत्र में हैं, एफएसपीए फिर से लागू किया गया, क्योंकि 3 मई 2023 को राज्य में जातीय हिंसा भड़क उठी थी।
- The Army proposed that 12 police station limits in valley districts be brought under AFSPA for operational efficiency. सेना ने प्रस्ताव रखा कि घाटी जिलों के 12 पुलिस थानों को एफएसपीए के तहत लाया जाए ताकि संचालन क्षमता (ऑपरेशनल एफिशिएंसी) बढ़ाई जा सके।
- The suggestion was to reimpose AFSPA in phases; however, a final decision will be taken by the Ministry. सुझाव यह था कि एफएसपीए को चरणबद्ध तरीके से फिर से लागू किया जाए; हालांकि, अंतिम निर्णय मंत्रालय द्वारा लिया जाएगा।
- At a review meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on March 1, the possibility of bringing additional areas under AFSPA, if required, was deliberated. 1 मार्च को नई दिल्ली में केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह की अध्यक्षता में हुई समीक्षा बैठक में, यदि आवश्यक हो तो अतिरिक्त क्षेत्रों को एफएसपीए के तहत लाने की संभावना पर चर्चा की गई।
- The AFSPA was withdrawn from the limits of all valley police stations between April 1, 2022, and April 1, 2023, amid an improved security situation. 1 अप्रैल 2022 से 1 अप्रैल 2023 के बीच, सुरक्षा स्थिति में सुधार के कारण, घाटी के सभी पुलिस थानों की सीमाओं से एफएसपीए हटा दिया गया था।
- The "disturbed area" notification for the hill districts in Manipur has been periodically extended, with the last one issued on September 26, 2024. मणिपुर के पहाड़ी जिलों के लिए "अशांत क्षेत्र" अधिसूचना को समय-समय पर बढ़ाया गया है, जिसमें अंतिम अधिसूचना 26 सितंबर 2024 को जारी की गई थी।
- The Ministry reviewed the scope of AFSPA in Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur at a multi-agency meeting on Wednesday. बुधवार को एक बहु-एजेंसी बैठक में, मंत्रालय ने असम, नागालैंड, अरुणाचल प्रदेश और मणिपुर में एफएसपीए के दायरे की समीक्षा की।



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- "It is likely that one of the four districts in Assam may be de-notified under the AFSPA," said the official.
"संभावना है कि असम के चार जिलों में से एक को एफएएसपीए से मुक्त किया जा सकता है," अधिकारी ने कहा।
- The 1958 law gives powers to the Army and Central Armed Police Forces deployed in "disturbed areas" to kill anyone acting in contravention of law, arrest and search any premises without a warrant, and grants protection from prosecution and legal suits without the Union government's sanction.
1958 का कानून अशांत क्षेत्रों में तैनात सेना और केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों को किसी भी व्यक्ति को मारने, गिरफ्तार करने और बिना वारंट किसी भी परिसर की तलाशी लेने की शक्ति देता है, साथ ही उन्हें संघ सरकार की अनुमति के बिना अभियोजन और कानूनी मामलों से सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है।

India, Brazil could play key role in climate talks: Lago

GS Paper III: Environment

NEW DELHI

President-Designate of the upcoming climate talks in Brazil Andre Lago said this was a time when developing countries, including India and Brazil, could play a greater role in shaping the conversation around climate change.

"The challenge always has been that it is more difficult to get money for adaptation than mitigation because it was seen to benefit the developing countries, India and Brazil, for example, as well as the donor country. In adaption, the benefit for the donor country wasn't so clear. However, now adaptation is being framed as a way that can influence migration. Mitigation looks hazy. So adaption and mitigation are moving closer to one another and the closer they are, the more resources can flow for both," Mr. Lago said at a press conference here on Thursday.

India, Brazil could play key role in climate talks: Lago

जलवायु वार्ताओं में भारत और ब्राज़ील अहम भूमिका निभा सकते हैं: लागो

President-Designate of the upcoming climate talks in Brazil, Andre Lago, said this was a time when developing countries, including India and Brazil, could play a greater role in shaping the conversation around climate change.

ब्राज़ील में होने वाली आगामी जलवायु वार्ताओं के नामित अध्यक्ष, आंद्रे लागो, ने कहा कि यह ऐसा समय है जब भारत और ब्राज़ील जैसे विकासशील देश जलवायु परिवर्तन पर चर्चा को आकार देने में अहम भूमिका निभा सकते हैं।

- The challenge has always been that it is more difficult to get money for adaptation than mitigation, because it was seen to benefit developing countries like India and Brazil, as well as the donor country.

समस्या हमेशा यह रही है कि अनुकूलन (एडाप्टेशन) के लिए धन प्राप्त करना शमन (मिटिगेशन) की तुलना में अधिक कठिन होता है, क्योंकि इसे भारत और ब्राज़ील जैसे विकासशील देशों और दाता देश के लिए लाभदायक माना जाता था।

- In adaptation, the benefit for the donor country wasn't as clear. However, now adaptation is being framed as a way to influence migration. अनुकूलन (एडाप्टेशन) में, दाता देश को मिलने वाला लाभ स्पष्ट नहीं था। हालांकि, अब इसे प्रवासन (माइग्रेशन) को प्रभावित करने के तरीके के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

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- Mitigation looks hazy, and adaptation and mitigation are moving closer to each other. The closer they are, the more resources can flow for both, Mr. Lago said at a press conference on Thursday.

शमन (मिटिगेशन) की स्थिति अस्पष्ट लग रही है, और अनुकूलन और शमन अब एक-दूसरे के करीब आ रहे हैं। जितना अधिक वे करीब होंगे, उतने ही अधिक संसाधन दोनों के लिए उपलब्ध हो सकते हैं, श्री लागो ने गुरुवार को एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा।

The TB crisis and women: why gender issues matters more than ever

Gender differences and inequalities play a critical role in how people access and receive TB-related services in the public and private sectors, in India. Women find themselves squeezed between their roles at home and at work. It takes time, prolonged care and money to treat TB and many women have neither

GS Paper III: S&T

WORLD TB DAY

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

I was 24 when I was diagnosed with MDR-TB. The two-years spent in recovery, from 2021 to 2023, was a time when COVID-19 made even the smallest task a logistics nightmare. However, with help from my parents and medical staff, sustained treatment and care was possible," says Akshata Acharya, an MDR-TB survivor from Maharashtra. "But it wasn't logistics or access to treatment and good nutrition that was a challenge; for me, hurdles came in the form of my skin discoloration and becoming physically weak, which made going out an impossible task – it was the mental toll that eclipsed my life. Negative comments about my changed physical appearance, and advice from a grassroots healthcare worker to keep the disease 'hidden' opened my eyes to the discrimination and disparities that the disease brings along."

Ms. Acharya adds, "As an actor, writer, and director, TB took away two years of my life. But then, I was more fortunate than some other TB patients. I remember a woman who, after being diagnosed with TB, was sacked from her job (she worked as a house help); also, her family abandoned her. TB. I learnt it can be very isolating and more so if you are a woman."

Under-diagnosis, finances

Sadly, Ms. Acharya's is not an isolated or stray case. Gender differences and inequalities play a critical role in how people access and receive TB-related services in the public and private sectors in India. The Union Health Ministry's India TB Report 2023 indicates that men are more affected by TB compared to women. "This higher risk of men developing TB could be attributed to risk factors including smoking and the use of intravenous drugs. Also, men are more likely to be in occupations that expose them to TB, such as mining, quarrying, metals, and construction industries. However, in India, women face challenges such as underdiagnosis and financial barriers to accessing treatment."

A recently published paper titled "Women and tuberculosis care in India: a scoping review" notes that while the variables that impacted women in the past, particularly gender roles and norms, seem to be waning over time, they cannot be ignored in the present. The focus that the government of India is placing on gender equity serves as a reminder that

GS Paper I: Society



In India, women face challenges such as under-diagnosis and financial barriers while accessing treatment. File photograph used for representational purposes only THE HINDU

these problems are still relevant for TB elimination efforts among women.

The author of the paper, Janmejaya Samal, explained that studies spanning 20 years (2004 to 2024) were reviewed to understand the changes, if any, around women and TB care in India. "The draft national strategic plan of India for TB 2017-2025 has estimated that about 3 million women would be affected by TB every year, and TB is one of the top 5 leading causes of death among adult women globally," he said. He added that women in India deal with multiple hurdles, including stigma, lack of health-seeking behaviour and poverty, when it comes to accessing diagnosis, treatment, and care for TB. "Normalisation of symptoms, less prioritisation, and the role of caregiver in the family put women in a compromised state and need focused attention. This situation remains unchanged after COVID," added Mr. Samal.

Public health specialist Chapal Mehra notes that at the grassroots level, women have multi-layered problems when it comes to accessing medical care. "Across India there are multiple cases of women being abandoned when diagnosed with TB; there are cases of symptoms not being attended to and the condition being allowed to worsen; women also are prone to stopping treatment mid-way when they feel that symptoms have waned," he said.

Speaking about the plight of women who do manage to access diagnosis and treatment, Mr. Mehra said that if society and family do not accept and support women diagnosed with TB, they are unlikely to disclose the condition. "Many suffer, knowing that disclosing the disease

An estimated 331,000 deaths occurred due to TB in 2022, representing 23 deaths per 100,000 population. India accounts for a significant portion of the world's TB cases, with 27% of the global incidence. Also, 2.5% of new cases and 13% of previously treated cases are estimated to be drug-resistant and 2% of patients are estimated to be HIV positive

would result in a loss of income. The pressure of housework and little social support are the two major hurdles that we often witness. We have also seen that when women lose their partners to TB, families often abandon them, and they are also plagued by the fear of passing on the disease to their children," he added. NGOs working in this field say that Centre and states must ensure that benefit schemes are implemented in a robust manner with essential medicines and nutritional support reaching the poorest.

India's targets

India has set itself a target of eliminating TB by 2025. An estimated 331,000 deaths occurred due to TB in 2022, representing 23 deaths per 100,000 population. India accounts for a significant portion of the world's TB cases, with 27% of the global incidence. Also, 2.5% of new cases and 13% of previously treated cases are estimated to be drug-resistant TB (DR-TB), and approximately 2% of TB patients are

estimated to be HIV positive.

In 2020, the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) was renamed the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) to emphasise the resolve of the government of India to eliminate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global targets of 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets regarding TB (baseline 2015) include an 80% reduction in incidence. The NTEP focuses on early detection, effective treatment, and prevention. The Union Health Ministry runs targeted programmes for elimination, including Nikshay Poshan Yojana, under which it provides a direct benefit transfer of ₹1,000 each month to TB patients for the entire duration of their treatment, and the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide additional nutritional support to those on TB treatment, through contributions from the community, including individuals and organisations. Meanwhile, the India TB Report 2023 notes that for the government, prevention is one of the four critical pillars of India's fight against TB.

"India is running several initiatives, including identifying technical and administrative challenges faced by states/UT and providing course correction, introducing direct benefit transfer to beneficiary accounts, partnerships for private sector engagement and advocacy, communication and social mobilisation, including community engagement to tackle TB," said a senior Health Ministry official.

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THE GIST

Post treatment women face the challenge of skin discoloration and weakness, which makes a return to a routine very difficult. "It was the mental toll that eclipsed my life. Negative comments about my appearance exposed me to the discrimination that the disease brings with it"

Women in India deal with multiple hurdles, including stigma, lack of health-seeking behaviour and poverty. "Normalisation of symptoms, less prioritisation, and the role of caregiver in the family put women in a compromised state"

'Across India there are multiple cases of women being abandoned when diagnosed with TB; there are cases of symptoms not being attended to and the condition being allowed to worsen; women also are prone to stopping treatment mid-way when they feel that symptoms have waned'



The TB crisis and women: why gender issues matter more than ever

टीबी संकट और महिलाएँ: लिंग संबंधी मुद्दे पहले से ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण क्यों हैं

Gender differences and inequalities play a critical role in how people access and receive TB-related services in India's public and private sectors.

लिंग भेद और असमानताएँ इस बात में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं कि लोग भारत के सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों में टीबी से संबंधित सेवाओं तक कैसे पहुँचते हैं।

- **Women struggle** between their roles at home and work, making TB treatment **challenging**, as it requires **time, prolonged care, and money**—resources many women lack.
महिलाएँ अपने घर और काम की जिम्मेदारियों के बीच संघर्ष करती हैं, जिससे टीबी का इलाज मुश्किल हो जाता है क्योंकि इसमें समय, निरंतर देखभाल और धन की आवश्यकता होती है, जो कई महिलाओं के पास नहीं होता।
- **Akshata Acharya**, an MDR-TB survivor from Maharashtra, described her **two-year recovery (2021-2023) during COVID-19** as extremely difficult.
अक्षता आचार्य, महाराष्ट्र की एक एमडीआर-टीबी सर्वाइवर, ने बताया कि कोविड-19 के दौरान (2021-2023) दो साल का इलाज उनके लिए बेहद कठिन था।
- While she had **medical and parental support**, she struggled with **skin discoloration, weakness, and mental distress** due to societal discrimination.
हालांकि उन्हें चिकित्सीय और पारिवारिक समर्थन मिला, लेकिन उन्होंने त्वचा के रंग में बदलाव, कमजोरी और मानसिक तनाव का सामना किया, जो समाजिक भेदभाव के कारण हुआ।
- Another TB patient **lost her job as a house help**, and her **family abandoned her**, showing the **social stigma and isolation** associated with the disease.
एक अन्य टीबी रोगी को घरेलू सहायक की नौकरी से निकाल दिया गया, और परिवार ने भी उसे छोड़ दिया, जिससे रोग से जुड़े सामाजिक कलंक और अलगाव का पता चलता है।
- **India TB Report 2023** indicates that men are more affected by TB than women, mainly due to **smoking, drug use, and occupational exposure** in mining, quarrying, and construction industries.
भारत टीबी रिपोर्ट 2023 के अनुसार, महिलाओं की तुलना में पुरुष अधिक प्रभावित होते हैं, जिसका कारण धूमपान, नशीली दवाओं का उपयोग और खनन, खदान और निर्माण क्षेत्रों में कार्य करना है।
- Despite this, **women face greater challenges** in diagnosis and financial access to treatment due to societal norms.



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इसके बावजूद, महिलाओं को टीबी की पहचान और वित्तीय सहायता में अधिक कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि सामाजिक परंपराएँ उन्हें प्रभावित करती हैं।

India's targets

भारत के लक्ष्य

- **India aims to eliminate TB by 2025.**
भारत का लक्ष्य 2025 तक टीबी को समाप्त करना है।
- **An estimated 331,000 deaths occurred due to TB in 2022, representing 23 deaths per 100,000 population.**
2022 में टीबी से अनुमानित 3,31,000 मौतें हुईं, जो प्रति 1 लाख जनसंख्या पर 23 मौतों के बराबर हैं।
- **India accounts for 27% of global TB cases, making it a significant contributor to the world's TB burden.**
भारत वैश्विक टीबी मामलों का 27% हिस्सा रखता है, जिससे यह दुनिया में टीबी का एक प्रमुख योगदानकर्ता बन जाता है।
- **2.5% of new cases and 13% of previously treated cases are estimated to be drug-resistant TB (DR-TB).**
2.5% नए मामले और 13% पहले से इलाज किए गए मामले ड्रग-रेसिस्टेंट टीबी (DR-TB) होने का अनुमान है।
- **Approximately 2% of TB patients are HIV positive.**
लगभग 2% टीबी मरीज एचआईवी पॉजिटिव हैं।
- **In 2020, the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) was renamed as the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) to emphasize India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030.**
2020 में, संशोधित राष्ट्रीय क्षय रोग नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम (RNTCP) का नाम बदलकर राष्ट्रीय टीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम (NTEP) रखा गया, ताकि भारत सरकार की 2025 तक टीबी उन्मूलन की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाया जा सके, जो वैश्विक लक्ष्य 2030 से पाँच साल पहले है।
- **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target for TB includes an 80% reduction in incidence (baseline 2015).**
टीबी के लिए सतत विकास लक्ष्य (SDG) का लक्ष्य 2015 के आधार वर्ष से 80% मामलों में कमी करना है।
- **NTEP focuses on:**
NTEP निम्नलिखित पर केंद्रित है:
 - **Early detection of TB cases.**
 - टीबी मामलों की जल्द पहचान।
 - **Effective treatment to ensure complete recovery.**
 - संपूर्ण स्वस्थ होने के लिए प्रभावी उपचार।
 - **Prevention through better awareness and control measures.**
 - बेहतर जागरूकता और नियंत्रण उपायों के माध्यम से रोकथाम।

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• **Key Government Initiatives:**

प्रमुख सरकारी पहल:

- **Nikshay Poshan Yojana:** Provides ₹1,000 per month to TB patients for the entire duration of their treatment through direct benefit transfer (DBT).
 - **निक्षय पोषण योजना:** टीबी मरीजों को इलाज की पूरी अवधि के लिए ₹1,000 प्रति माह की सहायता डायरेक्ट बेनिफिट ट्रांसफर (DBT) के माध्यम से प्रदान की जाती है।
- **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan:** A first-of-its-kind initiative to provide additional nutritional support to TB patients through community contributions from individuals and organizations.
 - **प्रधानमंत्री टीबी मुक्त भारत अभियान:** समुदाय, व्यक्तियों और संगठनों के योगदान के माध्यम से टीबी रोगियों को अतिरिक्त पोषण सहायता प्रदान करने की पहली अनूठी पहल।
- According to the **India TB Report 2023**, prevention is one of the **four critical pillars** of India's fight against TB.
भारत टीबी रिपोर्ट 2023 के अनुसार, रोकथाम भारत की टीबी से लड़ाई के चार महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभों में से एक है।
- A senior Health Ministry official stated that India is implementing several key initiatives, including:
एक वरिष्ठ स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय अधिकारी ने बताया कि भारत कई महत्वपूर्ण पहल कर रहा है, जिसमें शामिल हैं:
 - **Identifying technical and administrative challenges faced by states/UTs and providing solutions.**
 - **राज्यों/केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली तकनीकी और प्रशासनिक चुनौतियों की पहचान करना और समाधान प्रदान करना।**
 - **Introducing direct benefit transfer (DBT) to beneficiary accounts for financial aid.**
 - **लाभार्थी खातों में वित्तीय सहायता के लिए प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) शुरू करना।**
 - **Partnerships for private sector engagement in TB elimination efforts.**
 - **टीबी उन्मूलन प्रयासों में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी के लिए साझेदारी।**
 - **Advocacy, communication, and social mobilization through community engagement.**
 - **समुदाय की भागीदारी के माध्यम से प्रचार, संचार, और सामाजिक गतिशीलता।**



TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Miss World 2025 in Telangana to cost ₹54 crore; to be split between State, Miss World Limited

तेलंगाना में मिस वर्ल्ड 2025 की लागत ₹54 करोड़; राज्य और मिस वर्ल्ड लिमिटेड के बीच होगी साझा

2. AI Appu to Tutor Children in India

भारत में बच्चों को ट्यूटर करेगा एआई अप्पू

Miss World 2025 in Telangana to cost ₹54 crore; to be split between State, Miss World Limited

PCS

Siddharth Kumar Singh

HYDERABAD

Telangana is set to become the global stage for beauty and culture as the State prepares to host the 72nd edition of the Miss World pageant between May 7 and 31. The event will see contestants from 140 countries competing for the prestigious title, marking a significant moment for the State, which aims to showcase its rich cultural heritage and global ambitions.

The total expenditure for the event is estimated at ₹54 crore, with costs being equally shared bet-



The 72nd Miss World pageant will be held in Telangana between May 7 and 31. NAGARA GOPAL

ween the Telangana Tourism Department and Miss World Limited. Telangana's ₹27 crore contribution will primarily come from sponsorships, Tourism Mi-

nister Jupally Krishna Rao said at a press conference at Tourism Plaza Hotel in Hyderabad on Thursday.

He hailed the occasion as a milestone for the State.

Miss World 2025 in Telangana to cost ₹54 crore; to be split between State, Miss World Limited

तेलंगाना में मिस वर्ल्ड 2025 की लागत ₹54 करोड़; राज्य और मिस वर्ल्ड लिमिटेड के बीच होगी साझा

Telangana is set to become the global stage for beauty and culture as the State prepares to host the

72nd edition of the Miss World pageant between May 7 and 31.

तेलंगाना सौंदर्य और संस्कृति का वैश्विक मंच बनने के लिए तैयार है, क्योंकि राज्य मिस वर्ल्ड प्रतियोगिता के 72वें संस्करण की मेजबानी 7 से 31 मई के बीच करने जा रहा है।



- The event will see contestants from **140 countries** competing for the **prestigious title**, marking a **significant moment** for the State, which aims to showcase its **rich cultural heritage and global ambitions**.
इस कार्यक्रम में **140 देशों** की प्रतियोगी प्रतिष्ठित **खिताब** के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा करेगी, जो राज्य के लिए एक **महत्वपूर्ण क्षण** होगा, जहां वह अपनी **समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत और वैश्विक महत्वाकांक्षाओं** को प्रदर्शित करना चाहता है।
- The **total expenditure** for the event is estimated at **₹54 crore**, with costs being **equally shared** between the **Telangana Tourism Department** and **Miss World Limited**.
इस आयोजन की **कुल लागत ₹54 करोड़** आंकी गई है, जिसमें खर्च **तेलंगाना पर्यटन विभाग और मिस वर्ल्ड लिमिटेड** के बीच **समान रूप से विभाजित** होगा।
- **Telangana's ₹27 crore contribution** will primarily come from **sponsorships**, **Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao** said at a press conference at **Tourism Plaza Hotel in Hyderabad on Thursday**.
तेलंगाना का **₹27 करोड़ का योगदान** मुख्य रूप से **प्रायोजन (स्पॉन्सरशिप)** से आएगा, **पर्यटन मंत्री जुप्पल्ली कृष्णा राव** ने **गुरुवार को हैदराबाद के टूरिज्म प्लाजा होटल** में आयोजित एक **प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस** में कहा।
- He hailed the occasion as a **milestone for the State**.
उन्होंने इस अवसर को **राज्य के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि** बताया।

AI Appu to tutor children in India

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rocket Learning, a Bengaluru-based ed-tech non-profit organisation, with support from Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, has introduced Appu, an AI tutor for personalised learning for children in the age group of 3 to 6 years in India.

According to Rocket Learning, Appu, which was built with a \$1.5 million grant from Google.org, is being piloted by thousands of children and is expected to reach 50 million families by 2030, including government-run Anganwadi centres and pre-schools nationwide.

Vishal Sunil, Co-Foun-



Vishal Sunil at the launch of Appu on Wednesday.

der and CTO, Rocket Learning, said, "Appu is the future of learning. With 85% of brain development happening by age six, early childhood education is the next frontier in human capital. Appu is designed to elevate India's IQ, maximise its demographic dividend, and bridge the AI divide."

AI Appu to Tutor Children in India

भारत में बच्चों को ट्यूटर करेगा एआई अप्पू

Rocket Learning, a Bengaluru-based ed-tech non-profit organization, has launched Appu, an AI tutor for personalized learning for children aged 3 to 6 years.

बेंगलुरु स्थित एड-टेक गैर-लाभकारी संगठन रॉकेट लर्निंग ने एआई ट्यूटर अप्पू लॉन्च किया, जो 3 से 6 वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों के लिए व्यक्तिगत शिक्षा प्रदान करेगा।

• **Google.org**, the **philanthropic arm of Google**, has provided a **\$1.5 million grant** for the development of **Appu**.

Google.org, जो **Google की परोपकारी शाखा** है, ने **\$1.5 मिलियन का अनुदान** देकर **अप्पू के विकास में सहायता** की है।



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

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

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- Appu is currently being piloted by thousands of children and aims to reach 50 million families by 2030, including government-run Anganwadi centres and pre-schools.

अप्पू वर्तमान में हजारों बच्चों द्वारा परीक्षण के रूप में उपयोग किया जा रहा है और 2030 तक 5 करोड़ परिवारों तक पहुंचने का लक्ष्य रखता है, जिसमें सरकारी आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र और प्री-स्कूल भी शामिल हैं।

- Vishal Sunil, Co-Founder and CTO of Rocket Learning, said that 85% of brain development happens by age six, making early childhood education crucial.

रॉकेट लर्निंग के सह-संस्थापक और सीटीओ विशाल सुनील ने कहा कि 6 वर्ष की आयु तक 85% मस्तिष्क का विकास हो जाता है, जिससे शिशु शिक्षा अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण बन जाती है।

- He added that Appu is designed to enhance India's IQ, maximize its demographic dividend, and bridge the AI divide.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि अप्पू भारत की बौद्धिक क्षमता को बढ़ाने, जनसांख्यिकीय लाभ को अधिकतम करने और एआई विभाजन को कम करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।

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