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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

27 MARCH 2025

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27_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Rajput outfit storms SP MP's house in Agra over his remarks on Rana Sanga

राजपूत संगठन ने राणा सांगा पर टिप्पणी को लेकर आगरा में सपा सांसद के घर पर हमला किया

2. Kerala Chief Secretary sparks a social debate on 'entrenched colourism'

केरल मुख्य सचिव ने 'गहरे रंगभेद' पर सामाजिक बहस को जन्म दिया

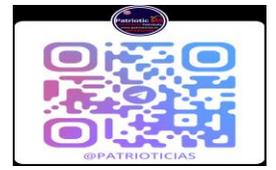
3. Nehru: 'His mistakes are magnified, his achievements belittled'

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नेहरू: 'उनकी गलतियों को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर दिखाया गया, उनकी उपलब्धियों को छोटा किया गया'

Rajput outfit storms SP MP's house in Agra over his remarks on Rana Sanga

GS Paper I: History

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The residence of Ramji Lal Suman, a Rajya Sabha member and prominent Dalit face of the Samajwadi Party (SP), was attacked by members of the Karni Sena on Wednesday over his comments last week in Parliament about 16th-century Rajput king Rana Sanga.

Condemning the attack, SP chief and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav demanded prompt action against the assailants. "Otherwise, it will be assumed that all this happened with his [U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath's] permission."

A purported video of the parliamentarian's house in Agra being vandalised by the attackers, some of whom reached the spot on a bulldozer, went viral on social media.

Mr. Suman's son said that despite informing the police about the threats



Will act against the guilty, said a senior officer, adding that more personnel have been deployed in the area to ensure peace. PTI

the family had received over the past few days, no action was taken.

"Instead, the police have been patronising the outfit. The attackers came armed with sticks, rods, and swords," Ranjit Suman told mediapersons.

"We are in the process of registering an FIR. Strict action will be taken against the guilty. Additional police force has been deployed in the area to ensure peace," said Additional Superintendent

of Police (Agra) Mahadik Akshay Sanjay.

No arrests

No arrests had been made at the time of going to press.

The officer added that the situation was brought under control after they used "light force" to disperse the attackers at Hari-parvat Chauraha, and some police personnel and suspects had received minor injuries. The assailants could be seen in the pur-

ported video damaging the cars parked outside Mr. Suman's house, shattering chairs and windows of his residence while hurling abuses at him.

The Rajya Sabha member is in Delhi to attend the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament. None from his family was injured in the attack.

Akhilesh hits out at CM
Hitting out at the BJP government, Mr. Yadav said in his X post in Hindi, "The violent incident of vandalism at the house of a PDA (Pichda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) MP could not be stopped even in the presence of the Chief Minister in Agra."

Earlier, the Opposition leader had said that through his remarks in Rajya Sabha on March 21, his party MP had tried to give an example of "one-sided" history, and his aim was not to insult the Rajput community.

Rajput outfit storms SP MP's house in Agra over his remarks on Rana Sanga

राजपूत संगठन ने राणा सांगा पर टिप्पणी को लेकर आगरा में सपा सांसद के घर पर हमला किया

The residence of Ramji Lal Suman, a Rajya Sabha member and prominent Dalit

face of the Samajwadi Party (SP), was attacked by members of the Karni Sena on Wednesday over his comments last week in Parliament about 16th-century Rajput king Rana Sanga.

राज्यसभा सदस्य और समाजवादी पार्टी (सपा) के प्रमुख दलित चेहरा रामजी लाल सुमन के घर पर बुधवार को करणी सेना के सदस्यों ने हमला किया। यह हमला 16वीं शताब्दी के राजपूत राजा राणा सांगा पर पिछले सप्ताह संसद में की गई उनकी टिप्पणी को लेकर हुआ।



- **Condemning the attack, SP chief and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav demanded prompt action against the assailants.**
हमले की निंदा करते हुए, सपा प्रमुख और उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश यादव ने हमलावरों के खिलाफ तत्काल कार्रवाई की मांग की।
- He said, "Otherwise, it will be assumed that all this happened with his [U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath's] permission."
उन्होंने कहा, "अन्यथा, यह माना जाएगा कि यह सब उनकी [उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ की] अनुमति से हुआ।"
- A purported video of the parliamentarian's house in Agra being vandalized by the attackers, some of whom reached the spot on a bulldozer, went viral on social media.
सांसद के आगरा स्थित घर पर हमले का कथित वीडियो, जिसमें कुछ हमलावर बुलडोजर पर सवार होकर पहुंचे, सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल हो गया।
- Mr. Suman's son said that despite informing the police about the threats the family had received over the past few days, no action was taken.
श्री सुमन के बेटे ने बताया कि बीते कुछ दिनों से मिल रही धमकियों की सूचना पुलिस को देने के बावजूद कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई।
- He accused the police of patronizing the outfit, saying, "The attackers came armed with sticks, rods, and swords."
उन्होंने पुलिस पर संगठन को संरक्षण देने का आरोप लगाते हुए कहा, "हमलावर डंडे, लोहे की रॉड और तलवारों से लैस होकर आए थे।"
- Additional Superintendent of Police (Agra) Mahadik Akshay Sanjay said, "We are in the process of registering an FIR. Strict action will be taken against the guilty. Additional police force has been deployed in the area to ensure peace."
अतिरिक्त पुलिस अधीक्षक (आगरा) महादिक अक्षय संजय ने कहा, "हम एफआईआर दर्ज करने की प्रक्रिया में हैं। दोषियों के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई की जाएगी। क्षेत्र में शांति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अतिरिक्त पुलिस बल तैनात किया गया है।"
- No arrests had been made at the time of going to press.
समाचार प्रकाशित होने तक कोई गिरफ्तारी नहीं हुई थी।
- The officer added that the situation was brought under control after they used "light force" to disperse the attackers at Hariparvat Chauraha.
अधिकारी ने बताया कि हरिपर्वत चौराहे पर हमलावरों को तितर-बितर करने के लिए "हल्का बल प्रयोग" किया गया, जिसके बाद स्थिति नियंत्रण में आ गई।
- Some police personnel and suspects received minor injuries.
कुछ पुलिसकर्मियों और संदिग्धों को मामूली चोटें आईं।
- The assailants could be seen in the purported video damaging cars parked outside Mr. Suman's house, shattering chairs and windows while hurling abuses at him.
कथित वीडियो में हमलावरों को श्री सुमन के घर के बाहर खड़ी कारों को नुकसान पहुंचाते, कुर्सियां और खिड़कियां तोड़ते, तथा गाली-गलौज करते हुए देखा गया।



- The Rajya Sabha member is in Delhi to attend the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament.

राज्यसभा सदस्य इस समय दिल्ली में हैं और संसद के चल रहे बजट सत्र में भाग ले रहे हैं।

- None from his family was injured in the attack.
इस हमले में उनके परिवार का कोई सदस्य घायल नहीं हुआ।

Akhilesh hits out at CM

अखिलेश ने मुख्यमंत्री पर निशाना साधा

- Hitting out at the BJP government, Mr. Yadav said in his X post in Hindi, "The violent incident of vandalism at the house of a PDA (Pichda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) MP could not be stopped even in the presence of the Chief Minister in Agra."
बीजेपी सरकार पर निशाना साधते हुए, श्री यादव ने अपने एक्स (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पोस्ट में हिंदी में लिखा, "पीडीए (पिछड़ा, दलित, अल्पसंख्यक) सांसद के घर पर हिंसा और तोड़फोड़ की घटना को आगरा में मुख्यमंत्री की मौजूदगी के बावजूद नहीं रोका जा सका।"
- Earlier, the Opposition leader had said that through his remarks in Rajya Sabha on March 21, his party MP had tried to give an example of "one-sided" history, and his aim was not to insult the Rajput community.
इससे पहले, विपक्षी नेता ने कहा था कि 21 मार्च को राज्यसभा में अपनी टिप्पणी के जरिए उनके सांसद ने "एकतरफा" इतिहास का उदाहरण देने की कोशिश की थी, और उनका उद्देश्य राजपूत समुदाय का अपमान करना नहीं था।

Babur

बाबर

• Babur hailed from the Chagatai clan, a lineage that blended Mongol and Turkic elements. The Chagatai were originally Mongols who had settled in Central Asia and adopted Turkic language and customs over time. This fusion resulted in a unique cultural and ethnic identity.

• बाबर चगताई वंश से संबंधित था, जो मंगोल और तुर्की तत्वों का मिश्रण था। चगताई मूल रूप से मंगोल थे, जिन्होंने मध्य एशिया में बसकर तुर्की भाषा और परंपराओं को अपनाया। इस मिश्रण ने एक अनूठी सांस्कृतिक और जातीय पहचान बनाई।



• **Paternal Lineage:** His father, Umar Sheikh Mirza, was the ruler of Fergana Valley (located in present-day Uzbekistan) and was a **direct descendant of Timur (Tamerlane)**, the famed conqueror who established a vast empire across **Persia and Central Asia**. This connection positioned Babur within a legacy of formidable leadership and conquest.

• **पैतृक वंशावली:** उनके पिता, उमर शेख मिर्जा, फरगाना घाटी (वर्तमान उज़्बेकिस्तान में स्थित) के शासक थे और वे तैमूर (तैमूरलंग) के प्रत्यक्ष वंशज थे, जिन्होंने फारस और मध्य एशिया में एक विशाल साम्राज्य स्थापित किया। इस संबंध ने बाबर को एक शक्तिशाली नेतृत्व और विजय की परंपरा से जोड़ा।

• **Maternal Lineage:** Babur's mother, **Qutlugh Nigar Khanum**, was linked to **Genghis Khan**, the founder of the **Mongol Empire**. This dual heritage endowed Babur with a **prestigious lineage**, intertwining the legacies of two of history's most renowned conquerors.

• **मातृ वंशावली:** बाबर की माता, कुतलुग निगार खानम, मंगोल साम्राज्य के संस्थापक चंगेज़ खान से संबंधित थीं। इस द्वैत विरासत ने बाबर को एक महान वंश परंपरा प्रदान की, जिसमें इतिहास के दो महानतम विजेताओं की विरासत सम्मिलित थी।

Early Life and Ambitions

प्रारंभिक जीवन और महत्वाकांक्षाएँ

• **Ruler of Fergana:** At the tender age of **12**, following his **father's untimely death in 1494**, Babur ascended to the throne of **Fergana**, a region in **Central Asia**. Despite his youth, he exhibited **remarkable leadership qualities**, navigating the complexities of **governance and regional politics**.

• **फरगाना का शासक:** मात्र 12 वर्ष की आयु में, 1494 में अपने पिता की असामयिक मृत्यु के बाद, बाबर ने मध्य एशिया के फरगाना क्षेत्र के सिंहासन पर अधिकार कर लिया। अपनी कम उम्र के बावजूद, उन्होंने उल्लेखनीय नेतृत्व क्षमता दिखाई और शासन व क्षेत्रीय राजनीति की जटिलताओं को कुशलता से संभाला।

• **Aspiration to Conquer Samarkand:** A significant ambition of Babur's early life was to capture **Samarkand**, the illustrious capital of his ancestor **Timur**. He made multiple attempts to seize the city, **briefly occupying it in 1497 and again in 1501**. However, he faced **formidable opposition from the Uzbek leader Muhammad Shaybani Khan**, leading to his eventual retreat. These experiences were instrumental in shaping his **strategic acumen**.

• **समरकंद जीतने की महत्वाकांक्षा:** बाबर के प्रारंभिक जीवन की एक महत्वपूर्ण महत्वाकांक्षा समरकंद पर कब्जा करना था, जो उनके पूर्वज तैमूर की प्रतिष्ठित राजधानी थी। उन्होंने इसे जीतने के कई प्रयास किए और 1497 में कुछ समय के लिए तथा 1501 में पुनः इस पर



अधिकार किया। हालांकि, उन्हें उज़्बेक नेता मुहम्मद शायबानी खान से कड़ा विरोध मिला, जिसके कारण उन्हें अंततः पीछे हटना पड़ा। इन अनुभवों ने उनके रणनीतिक कौशल को विकसित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

Conquests in India

भारत में विजय अभियान

• **First Battle of Panipat (1526):** On April 21, 1526, Babur fought the **First Battle of Panipat** against Ibrahim Lodi, the Sultan of Delhi. Although Lodi's army was larger, Babur used **Tulugma** (encircling movements) and **artillery** to secure a decisive victory. This battle marked the **beginning of Mughal rule in India**.

• **पानीपत का पहला युद्ध (1526):** 21 अप्रैल 1526 को बाबर ने दिल्ली के सुल्तान इब्राहिम लोदी के खिलाफ पानीपत का पहला युद्ध लड़ा। लोदी की सेना संख्या में बड़ी थी, लेकिन बाबर ने तुलुगमा (घेराबंदी की रणनीति) और तोपखाने का उपयोग करके निर्णायक जीत हासिल की। यह युद्ध भारत में मुगल शासन की शुरुआत का संकेत था।

• **Battle of Khanwa (1527):** After the victory at Panipat, Babur faced **Rana Sanga of Mewar** at Khanwa on March 16, 1527. Despite the powerful **Rajput alliance**, Babur's use of **gunpowder firearms** and **disciplined cavalry** ensured another major victory, strengthening Mughal dominance in **northern India**.

• **खानवा का युद्ध (1527):** पानीपत की जीत के बाद, बाबर ने 16 मार्च 1527 को मेवाड़ के राणा सांगा के खिलाफ खानवा का युद्ध लड़ा। शक्तिशाली राजपूत गठबंधन के बावजूद, बाबर की तोपों और अनुशासित घुड़सवार सेना ने एक और महत्वपूर्ण जीत सुनिश्चित की, जिससे उत्तरी भारत में मुगलों का वर्चस्व मजबूत हुआ।

• **Battle of Chanderi (1528):** In January 1528, Babur attacked **Medini Rai**, a Rajput leader and ally of Rana Sanga, at Chanderi (present-day Madhya Pradesh). When Medini Rai refused Babur's terms, the Mughal army **captured the fortress**. Facing defeat, **Medini Rai and his followers committed jauhar** (mass self-immolation) to avoid capture.

• **चंदेरी का युद्ध (1528):** जनवरी 1528 में, बाबर ने राणा सांगा के सहयोगी मेदिनी राय पर चंदेरी (वर्तमान मध्य प्रदेश) में आक्रमण किया। जब मेदिनी राय ने बाबर के शर्तों को अस्वीकार कर दिया, तो मुगल सेना ने किला जीत लिया। पराजय का सामना करते हुए, मेदिनी राय और उनके अनुयायियों ने जौहर (सामूहिक आत्मदाह) किया।

• **Battle of Ghagra (1529):** In May 1529, Babur fought the **Battle of Ghagra** against Afghan chiefs and Sultan Nusrat Shah of Bengal. This battle secured Babur's control over eastern



India, further expanding Mughal influence.

• घाघरा का युद्ध (1529): मई 1529 में, बाबर ने अफगान सरदारों और बंगाल के सुल्तान नुसरत शाह के खिलाफ घाघरा का युद्ध लड़ा। इस युद्ध ने बाबर को पूर्वी भारत पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने में मदद की और मुगल प्रभाव को बढ़ाया।

Cultural Contributions and Legacy

सांस्कृतिक योगदान और विरासत

• **Gardens in Agra:** Babur introduced **Persian-style gardens** in India, including **Nur Afshan** and **Aram Bagh** in Agra. These gardens followed the **Charbagh design (quadrilateral layout)**, symbolizing the **Islamic vision of paradise**. This style influenced later Mughal gardens, including those of the **Taj Mahal complex**.

• आगरा में बाग-बगीचे: बाबर ने भारत में फारसी शैली के बाग-बगीचे शुरू किए, जिनमें नूर अफशान और आराम बाग (आगरा) प्रमुख थे। ये बाग चारबाग डिजाइन (चतुर्भुज लेआउट) पर आधारित थे, जो इस्लामी स्वर्ग की अवधारणा को दर्शाते थे। इस शैली ने बाद के मुगल बागों, जैसे ताजमहल परिसर, को प्रभावित किया।

• **Scholarship and Baburnama:** Babur wrote **Baburnama**, an **autobiographical account** in **Chagatai Turkic**. It details his **life, conquests, and contemporary society**. Later, **Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana** translated it into **Persian**, and **Annette Susannah Beveridge** translated it into **English**, making it widely accessible.

• विद्वता और बाबरनामा: बाबर ने चगताई तुर्की भाषा में बाबरनामा लिखा, जो उनके जीवन, विजय अभियान और समकालीन समाज का वर्णन करता है। बाद में, अब्दुल रहीम खान-ए-खाना ने इसे फारसी में और एनेट सुसैना बेवरिज ने इसे अंग्रेजी में अनुवादित किया।

• **Final Resting Place:** Babur died on **December 26, 1530, in Agra**. As per his wish, his remains were **later moved to Kabul, Afghanistan**, where he was buried in **Bagh-e-Babur (Babur's Gardens)**, a site of historical significance.

• अंतिम विश्राम स्थल: बाबर की मृत्यु 26 दिसंबर 1530 को आगरा में हुई। उनकी इच्छा के अनुसार, उनके अवशेषों को काबुल, अफगानिस्तान ले जाया गया और बाग-ए-बाबर (बाबर का बाग) में दफनाया गया, जो ऐतिहासिक महत्व का स्थान है।



Kerala Chief Secretary sparks a social debate on 'entrenched colourism'

GS Paper I: Society

G. Anand

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan has sparked a social debate on "entrenched colourism" in society.

In a powerful and poignant Facebook post on Wednesday, Ms. Muraleedharan highlighted the jarring inequity of skin tone bias against women in workplaces, hiring practices, professional evaluations, and the social arena.

Ms. Muraleedharan noted she was a victim of the entrenched prejudice against women of dark complexion and implied that being at the apex of the administration was no insulation against the bigotry. "I heard an interesting comment yesterday on my

stewardship as the Chief Secretary - that it is as black as my husband's (former Chief Secretary V. Venu) was white. Hmmm. I need to own my blackness," she wrote.

Shades of misogyny

Ms. Muraleedharan also discerned shades of misogyny in the questionable attempt to draw a judgemental comparison between the respective public service careers of the IAS couple. "It was about being labelled black with that quiet subtext of being a woman as if that was something to be desperately ashamed of," she noted.

At a stroke, Ms. Muraleedharan tapped into a wellspring of support in her public crusade against entrenched colourism. For



Sarada Muraleedharan

one, the Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said Ms. Muraleedharan had torn the veil over established colourism in Kerala society. "I am the child of a dark-skinned mother," he noted.

Historian, social critic, and Professor at the Centre for Development Studies J. Devika said the prevalence of discrimination against dark-skinned per-

sons was a historical burden bequeathed to society by the country's colonial past. "Not skin tone, but Ms. Muraleedharan's life, character, and career defined her," she said.

Actor Cuckoo Parameswaran stated, "Perceived blackness resides in the prejudiced eye of the beholder." She said early hiring practices based on skin tone in the entertainment industry were on the wane.

Kerala State Youth Commission chairperson Chintha Jerome said Ms. Muraleedharan had spotlighted the pockets of revanchism, colourism, and misogyny that festered unnoticed in Kerala society. "The younger demographic is increasingly progressive," she said.

Kerala Chief Secretary sparks a social debate on 'entrenched colourism'

केरल मुख्य सचिव ने 'गहरे रंगभेद' पर सामाजिक बहस को जन्म दिया

Kerala Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan has sparked a social debate on "entrenched colourism" in society.



केरल की मुख्य सचिव शारदा मुरलीधरन ने समाज में "गहरे रंगभेद" पर सामाजिक बहस को जन्म दिया है।

- In a powerful and poignant Facebook post on Wednesday, Ms. Muraleedharan highlighted the jarring inequity of skin tone bias against women in workplaces, hiring practices, professional evaluations, and the social arena.
बुधवार को फेसबुक पर किए गए एक प्रभावशाली और मार्मिक पोस्ट में, श्रीमती मुरलीधरन ने कामकाज की जगहों, भर्ती प्रक्रियाओं, पेशेवर आकलनों और सामाजिक क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के खिलाफ त्वचा के रंग को लेकर मौजूद भेदभाव पर ध्यान आकर्षित किया।
- Ms. Muraleedharan noted she was a victim of the entrenched prejudice against women of dark complexion and implied that being at the apex of administration was no insulation against bigotry.
श्रीमती मुरलीधरन ने उल्लेख किया कि वह गहरे रंग की महिलाओं के प्रति मौजूद गहरे पूर्वाग्रह की शिकार रही हैं और संकेत दिया कि प्रशासन के शीर्ष पर होना भी भेदभाव से बचाव की गारंटी नहीं है।
- "I heard an interesting comment yesterday on my stewardship as the Chief Secretary – that it is as black as my husband's (former Chief Secretary V. Venu) was white. Hmmm. I need to own my blackness," she wrote.
उन्होंने लिखा, "कल मैंने अपने मुख्य सचिव पद पर कार्यभार संभालने को लेकर एक रोचक टिप्पणी सुनी – कि यह उतना ही काला है जितना मेरे पति (पूर्व मुख्य सचिव वी. वेणु) का कार्यकाल सफेद था। हम्म... मुझे अपने कालेपन को अपनाना होगा।"

Shades of misogyny

स्त्रीविरोध का तत्व

- Ms. Muraleedharan also discerned shades of misogyny in the questionable attempt to compare the public service careers of the IAS couple.
श्रीमती मुरलीधरन ने IAS दंपति के सार्वजनिक सेवा करियर की तुलना करने की संदेहास्पद कोशिश में स्त्रीविरोध के तत्व भी देखे।
- "It was about being labelled black with that quiet subtext of being a woman as if that was something to be desperately ashamed of," she noted.
"यह मुझे काला कहने के साथ उस छिपे हुए संकेत के बारे में था कि मैं एक महिला हूँ, जैसे कि यह कोई बेहद शर्म की बात हो," उन्होंने कहा।
- At a stroke, Ms. Muraleedharan tapped into a wellspring of support in her public crusade against entrenched colourism.
श्रीमती मुरलीधरन ने गहरे रंगभेद के खिलाफ अपने सार्वजनिक संघर्ष में जबरदस्त समर्थन जुटा लिया।
- Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said Ms. Muraleedharan had torn the veil over established colourism in Kerala society.



विपक्ष के नेता वी.डी. सतीशन ने कहा कि श्रीमती मुरलीधरन ने केरल समाज में गहराई से जमे रंगभेद का पर्दाफाश कर दिया है।

- "I am the child of a dark-skinned mother," he noted.
"मैं एक गहरे रंग की मां का बेटा हूँ," उन्होंने कहा।
- Historian, social critic, and Professor at the Centre for Development Studies J. Devika said the discrimination against dark-skinned persons was a historical burden inherited from India's colonial past.
इतिहासकार, सामाजिक आलोचक और सेंटर फॉर डेवलपमेंट स्टडीज की प्रोफेसर जे. देविका ने कहा कि गहरे रंग के लोगों के खिलाफ भेदभाव भारत के औपनिवेशिक अतीत की विरासत है।
- "Not skin tone, but Ms. Muraleedharan's life, character, and career defined her," she said.
"श्रीमती मुरलीधरन की पहचान उनका त्वचा का रंग नहीं, बल्कि उनका जीवन, चरित्र और करियर है," उन्होंने कहा।
- Actor Cuckoo Parameswaran stated, "Perceived blackness resides in the prejudiced eye of the beholder."
अभिनेत्री कुकू परमेश्वरन ने कहा, "कालेपन की धारणा देखने वाले की पूर्वाग्रही नजर में होती है।"
- She said early hiring practices based on skin tone in the entertainment industry were on the wane.
उन्होंने कहा कि मनोरंजन उद्योग में त्वचा के रंग के आधार पर की जाने वाली प्रारंभिक भर्ती प्रथाएं अब घट रही हैं।
- Kerala State Youth Commission chairperson Chintha Jerome said Ms. Muraleedharan had spotlighted the pockets of revanchism, colourism, and misogyny that festered unnoticed in Kerala society.
केरल राज्य युवा आयोग की अध्यक्ष चिन्था जेरोम ने कहा कि श्रीमती मुरलीधरन ने केरल समाज में छिपे प्रतिशोध, रंगभेद और स्त्रीविरोध के पहलुओं को उजागर किया है।
- "The younger demographic is increasingly progressive," she said.
"नया युवा वर्ग तेजी से प्रगतिशील होता जा रहा है," उन्होंने कहा।



Nehru: 'His mistakes are magnified, his achievements belittled'

Writers continue to reappraise India's first Prime Minister and find that India has moved away from much of his legacy, which includes a pan-Indian secularism, socialist economics, and democratic institution-building. But historians urge academics to keep writing about Nehru

GS Paper I: History

Ziva Us Salam

For the past decade or so, Jawaharlal Nehru has been the favourite punching bag of the ruling dispensation. In 2014, seasoned civil servant Madhav Godbole wrote a not-too-flattering account of the first Prime Minister in the aptly titled, *The God Who Failed: An Assessment of Jawaharlal Nehru's Leadership* (Rupa). Comparing Nehru and Sardar Patel, Godbole questioned Nehru's ideas of secularism and socialism. Calling for "more balanced secularism", Godbole believed some of Nehru's policies "tended to appease Muslims."

There have been several other books which held Nehru responsible for practically all that is wrong with India today.

Sifting through myths

One of the recent books on Nehru is by academic Aditya Mukherjee. *Nehru's India (The Most Definitive Book on Jawaharlal Nehru): Past, Present and Future*, published by Vintage Books, aims to sift through myths and allegations to present the first Prime Minister in the light of circumstances prevalent then. Independence brought in its trail large-scale sectarian violence, displacing millions; over five lakh were killed. Mukherjee writes that Nehru in his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi, a day after Independence, on August 16, 1947, made it clear that communal strife would not be tolerated and that India would be a secular state. It

would not be the mirror image of Pakistan, an Islamic state, and become a Hindu state. He declared, "It is wrong to suggest that in this country there would be rule of a particular religion or sect. All who owe allegiance to the flag will enjoy equal rights of citizenship, irrespective of caste or creed."

It largely remained that way until the religion-based Citizenship Amendment Act was passed in December 2019. As the Shaheen Bagh protests started against the amendments, and the incumbent Prime Minister remained tight-lipped, Nehru was sorely missed; he who had held at bay Hindu communal outfits in the first general elections soon after the communal frenzy of the Partition.

Scientific temper

Secular as he was, there was more to Nehru than that. He was, for instance, blessed with a scientific temper, something Mukherjee does well to bring into focus in the book. Writing about Nehru's "scientific temper" and the spirit of reason and exploration, Mukherjee contrasts it with recent attempts by political leaders to pass off mythology as science. Quoting *The Guardian*, Mukherjee draws a neat contrast between the two approaches. Beginning by recalling Narendra Modi's claim of Karna not having been born from his mother's womb, and a plastic surgeon who began the practice of plastic surgery by putting the elephant's head on a human body, Mukherjee writes with characteristic candour, "No wonder that the corona virus was being fought with 'gobar' (cow

dung), 'gomutra' (cow urine), 'thali' (metal plate) banging...and unverified medicines made by a much-favoured yogi! It is as if the political leaders have reversed their roles. From pulling up society to...pushing society back by appealing to sectarian identities."

Mukherjee's book, an enlarged version of the author's address at the Indian History Congress in December 2023, is a robust attempt to give the first Prime Minister his due.

From the time the author reminds us that Nehru regarded the phenomenon of communalism as 'the Indian version of fascism', the author expresses dismay at relentless attempts to belittle Nehru, ranging from school textbooks ignoring Nehru's contribution to the freedom struggle to the Indian Council for Historical Research omitting his picture from a poster celebrating 75 years of India's Independence.

'Every problem traced to Nehru'

Mukherjee's pen is where his heart is.

He makes no attempt to mollify the powers that be, writing, "All kinds of lies and abuse are spread about him using the massive propaganda machinery that the communal forces command today. Nehru is blamed for all of India's problems, from the Partition of the country, the Pakistan problem, the China problem, the crisis in Indian agriculture, the Kashmir issue, the crisis in the educational system, the persistence of poverty, the growing religious polarisation in recent years, amending the Constitution to curb democracy, to

almost any problem the country is facing today. Truth be told, he is blamed for every pothole in his country."

This, however, is not a new phenomenon.

Back in 2003, when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government was in power, Shashi Tharoor observed in *Nehru: The Invention of India* (Penguin), "Nehruvianism seems to have lost both power and allure. Nehru is criticised, even derided, by votaries of an alternative version of Indian nationalism, one that claims to be more deeply rooted in the land (and therefore in its religious traditions and customary prejudices). His mistakes are magnified, his achievements belittled."

Amidst all attempts to draw a veil over all that was good about him, Mukherjee projects him as a votary of freedom of expression, recalling what Nehru said in 1940, "The freedom of the press does not consist in our permitting such things as we like to appear. Even a tyrant is agreeable to this kind of freedom."

Despite dozens of books of all shades having been written about Nehru over the past many decades, Mukherjee's book is pertinent to our times.

As Irfan Habib sums up in the foreword, "Petty jealousies of petty men might now remove his name from institutions and buildings, but so long as truth and reason still find an audience among his people, Nehru and his work can never be forgotten. It is also incumbent on academics to keep providing to our people truth about Nehru, his thought and his times."

Nehru: 'His mistakes are magnified, his achievements belittled'

नेहरू: 'उनकी गलतियों को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर दिखाया गया, उनकी उपलब्धियों को छोटा किया गया'

Reappraising Nehru's Legacy

नेहरू की विरासत का पुनर्मूल्यांकन

- Writers continue to analyze Nehru's role in shaping India's secularism, socialist economics, and democratic institutions.



लेखक नेहरू की भूमिका का विश्लेषण करते हैं, जिसमें भारत की धर्मनिरपेक्षता, समाजवादी अर्थव्यवस्था और लोकतांत्रिक संस्थानों के निर्माण की चर्चा शामिल है।

- Historians urge that **Nehru's contributions should be studied objectively** rather than politically motivated critiques.

इतिहासकारों का मानना है कि नेहरू के योगदानों का अध्ययन निष्पक्ष रूप से किया जाना चाहिए, न कि राजनीतिक आलोचनाओं के आधार पर।

Criticism and Political Narratives

आलोचना और राजनीतिक कथाएँ

- **Madhav Godbole's book "The God Who Failed" (2014)** questioned Nehru's secularism and socialism, arguing that some policies "appeased Muslims."
माधव गोडबोले की पुस्तक "द गॉड हू फेल्ड" (2014) ने नेहरू की धर्मनिरपेक्षता और समाजवाद पर सवाल उठाए और तर्क दिया कि कुछ नीतियाँ "मुसलमानों को खुश करने वाली" थीं।
- Several other books have **blamed Nehru for India's current problems** without considering historical contexts.
कई अन्य पुस्तकों ने ऐतिहासिक संदर्भों को नजरअंदाज करते हुए नेहरू को भारत की वर्तमान समस्याओं के लिए दोषी ठहराया है।

Nehru's Secular Vision

नेहरू की धर्मनिरपेक्ष दृष्टि

- In his **August 16, 1947 speech**, Nehru stated that **India would be a secular state, not a Hindu mirror of Pakistan.**
16 अगस्त 1947 के अपने भाषण में, नेहरू ने कहा कि भारत एक धर्मनिरपेक्ष राज्य होगा, न कि पाकिस्तान का हिंदू संस्करण।
- He declared, "**All citizens will have equal rights regardless of caste or creed.**"
उन्होंने घोषणा की, "सभी नागरिकों को जाति या धर्म के भेदभाव के बिना समान अधिकार मिलेंगे।"
- This **remained largely true until the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) of 2019**, which altered the secular framework.
यह स्थिति 2019 के नागरिकता संशोधन अधिनियम (CAA) तक बनी रही, जिसने धर्मनिरपेक्ष ढांचे को प्रभावित किया।

Scientific Temper and Rationalism

वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण और तर्कवाद

- Nehru promoted **scientific temper and rationalism**, contrasting it with the **modern political trend of presenting mythology as science.**



नेहरू ने वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण और तर्कवाद को बढ़ावा दिया, जो आज की राजनीति में विज्ञान के स्थान पर पौराणिक कथाओं को प्रस्तुत करने की प्रवृत्ति के विपरीत है।

- Mukherjee's book contrasts Nehru's approach with recent political narratives, such as claims about ancient plastic surgery.

मुखर्जी की पुस्तक नेहरू के दृष्टिकोण की तुलना हाल की राजनीतिक धारणाओं से करती है, जैसे कि प्राचीन प्लास्टिक सर्जरी के दावों से।

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, pseudoscientific remedies like cow dung and urine were promoted, which Mukherjee criticizes.

कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान, गाय के गोबर और मूत्र जैसी छद्म वैज्ञानिक उपचारों को बढ़ावा दिया गया, जिसकी मुखर्जी आलोचना करते हैं।

Efforts to Erase Nehru's Contributions

नेहरू के योगदान को मिटाने के प्रयास

- The Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) removed Nehru's image from posters commemorating 75 years of Independence. भारतीय ऐतिहासिक अनुसंधान परिषद (ICHR) ने स्वतंत्रता के 75 वर्ष पूरे होने के अवसर पर जारी पोस्टरों से नेहरू की तस्वीर हटा दी।
- Textbooks are being revised to downplay Nehru's role in the freedom movement. पाठ्यपुस्तकों में संशोधन कर नेहरू की स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में भूमिका को कम आंका जा रहा है।
- Mukherjee criticizes how Nehru is blamed for nearly every problem in India, from Partition to Kashmir, China, and even potholes. मुखर्जी ने आलोचना की है कि नेहरू को भारत की लगभग हर समस्या के लिए दोषी ठहराया जाता है, चाहे वह विभाजन हो, कश्मीर हो, चीन हो, या यहाँ तक कि सड़क के गड्ढे भी।

Shashi Tharoor and Historical Perspectives

शशि थरूर और ऐतिहासिक दृष्टिकोण

- In 2003, Shashi Tharoor wrote in "Nehru: The Invention of India" that Nehru's mistakes were magnified while his achievements were dismissed. 2003 में, शशि थरूर ने "नेहरू: द इन्वेंशन ऑफ इंडिया" में लिखा कि नेहरू की गलतियों को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर दिखाया गया, जबकि उनकी उपलब्धियों को नजरअंदाज किया गया।
- Alternative nationalist narratives portray Nehru as disconnected from India's religious traditions, undermining his secularism. वैकल्पिक राष्ट्रवादी दृष्टिकोण नेहरू को भारत की धार्मिक परंपराओं से कटा हुआ बताते हैं, जिससे उनकी धर्मनिरपेक्षता को कमजोर किया जाता है।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



Freedom of Expression and Nehru's Legacy

अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और नेहरू की विरासत

- Nehru upheld press freedom, even when it criticized his government.
नेहरू ने प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता का समर्थन किया, भले ही वह उनकी सरकार की आलोचना करता था।
- In 1940, Nehru stated, "Freedom of the press does not mean allowing only what we like to be published."
1940 में नेहरू ने कहा, "प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता का मतलब यह नहीं है कि केवल वही प्रकाशित हो जो हमें पसंद हो।"
- Mukherjee argues that despite political attempts to erase Nehru's contributions, his impact on India's democratic and secular fabric remains indelible.
मुखर्जी का मानना है कि नेहरू के योगदान को मिटाने के राजनीतिक प्रयासों के बावजूद, भारत के लोकतांत्रिक और धर्मनिरपेक्ष ढांचे पर उनका प्रभाव अमिट बना रहेगा।

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

1. BJP MLC moves privilege motion against Kamra and Sena (UBT) spokesperson

बीजेपी एमएलसी ने कामरा और सेना (यूबीटी) प्रवक्ता के खिलाफ विशेषाधिकार हनन प्रस्ताव रखा

2. 20 Chinese scholars to visit Visva-Bharati to mark 75 years of India-China diplomatic ties

भारत-चीन कूटनीतिक संबंधों के 75 वर्ष पूरे होने पर 20 चीनी विद्वान विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय का दौरा करेंगे

3. Centre slams 'biased' report by U.S. commission on religious freedom

केंद्र ने धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता पर अमेरिकी आयोग की 'पक्षपाती' रिपोर्ट की आलोचना की

4. Scheme for pregnant women is severely underfunded: Sonia



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**गर्भवती महिलाओं की योजना को गंभीर रूप से कम वित्त पोषण मिला:
सोनिया**

**5. Betting and gambling are State subjects: Union Minister
in LS**

सट्टेबाजी और जुआ राज्य सूची के विषय हैं: लोकसभा में केंद्रीय मंत्री

**6. Pay Samagra Shiksha dues to States, committee tells
Education Ministry**

**समग्र शिक्षा के बकाया फंड राज्यों को दें, समिति ने शिक्षा मंत्रालय से
कहा**

**7. Over half of ₹1-lakh crore collected for the welfare of
mining districts not spent'**

**खनन जिलों के कल्याण के लिए जुटाए गए ₹1 लाख करोड़ में से आधे
से अधिक खर्च नहीं हुए**

**8. The CBSE's 'two-exam scheme' overcomplicates things
CBSE की 'दो परीक्षा योजना' चीजों को अधिक जटिल बनाती है**

**9. Whittling down sources of U.S. soft power
अमेरिका की सॉफ्ट पावर के स्रोतों में गिरावट**



BJP MLC moves privilege motion against Kamra and Sena (UBT) spokesperson

Darekar accuses stand-up comedian of performing song with 'insulting remarks' against Shinde; He claims Sushma Andhare endorsed the act; PUCL slams police action and seeks HC intervention

GS Paper II

Abhinav Deshpande
Purnima Sah
MUMBAI



Shiv Sena workers vandalising the venue of stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra's show in Mumbai. FILE PHOTO

BJP MLC Pravin Darekar on Wednesday moved a breach of privilege motion notice against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra and Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sushma Andhare in the Maharashtra Legislative Council, alleging disrespect towards Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the legislature.

Mr. Darekar, Leader of the House in the Council, accused Mr. Kamra of performing a song with "personal and insulting remarks" against Mr. Shinde, while claiming Ms. Andhare endorsed the act and used objectionable language. "Their comments undermine the dignity of legislative institutions," he said.

Mr. Darekar's notice must be approved by Council Chairman Ram Shinde before being presented to the privilege committee. If the committee grants ap-

proval, the motion will be discussed in the House.

In the Assembly, Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Bornare submitted a breach of privilege notice against Ms. Andhare, accusing her of mocking Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Minister of State for Finance Ashish Jaiswal backed Mr. Bornare's notice.

BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar sought the prompt appointment of privilege committee members. Presiding officer Sanjay Kelkar said Speaker Rahul Narwekar would decide on the notice.

Meanwhile, the Mumbai

Police refused to confirm or deny reports of a second summons being sent to the stand-up comedian. The police said the matter was under investigation.

Mr. Kamra incurred the wrath of Shiv Sainiks last week with a song targeting the party president. On Sunday night, Sena activists vandalised the Habitat Comedy Club in suburban Khar where his show had taken place, and the hotel where the club is located. In a late night statement on Monday, the comedian refused to apologise and said, "I will not apologise or hide under the bed waiting for

the controversy to die down."

The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) condemned the vandalism and the State action, saying political satire was a constitutional right. It appealed to the Bombay High Court to take suo motu action against Mumbai Police and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai for vandalism, illegal demolition, dereliction of duty to enforce the "rule of law".

'No incitement'

Kavita Srivastava, PUCL national president, said the YouTube video of the comedian's show was up for all to see that no such statement targeting a group or inciting hatred against any community was made.

Shiraz Prabhu, president, Maharashtra PUCL, said instead of condemning the illegal acts, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis took to the floor of the Assembly and went on to call Mr. Kamra an "urban Naxal" and a "traitor".

BJP MLC moves privilege motion against Kamra and Sena (UBT) spokesperson

बीजेपी एमएलसी ने कामरा और सेना

(यूबीटी) प्रवक्ता के खिलाफ विशेषाधिकार

हनन प्रस्ताव रखा

BJP MLC Pravin Darekar on Wednesday moved a breach of privilege motion notice against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra and Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sushma Andhare in the Maharashtra Legislative Council,

alleging disrespect towards Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the legislature.

बीजेपी एमएलसी प्रवीण दरेकर ने बुधवार को महाराष्ट्र विधान परिषद में स्टैंड-अप कॉमेडियन कुणाल कामरा और शिवसेना (यूबीटी) प्रवक्ता सुषमा अंधारे के खिलाफ विशेषाधिकार हनन प्रस्ताव का नोटिस दिया, जिसमें उन्होंने उपमुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे और विधानसभा के प्रति अपमानजनक व्यवहार का आरोप लगाया।



- Mr. Darekar, **Leader of the House in the Council**, accused Mr. Kamra of performing a song with "**personal and insulting remarks**" against Mr. Shinde, while claiming Ms. Andhare **endorsed the act** and used "**objectionable language**".
परिषद में सदन के नेता श्री दरेकर ने आरोप लगाया कि श्री कामरा ने **एकनाथ शिंदे के खिलाफ "व्यक्तिगत और अपमानजनक टिप्पणियों"** वाला गाना पेश किया, जबकि उन्होंने दावा किया कि **सुषमा अंधारे ने इस कृत्य का समर्थन किया और "आपत्तिजनक भाषा"** का प्रयोग किया।
- "**Their comments undermine the dignity of legislative institutions,**" he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "**उनकी टिप्पणियां विधायी संस्थानों की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंचाती हैं।**"
- Mr. Darekar's notice **must be approved by Council Chairman Ram Shinde** before being presented to the **privilege committee**. If the committee grants approval, the motion will be discussed in the House.
श्री दरेकर के नोटिस को **परिषद अध्यक्ष राम शिंदे की मंजूरी लेनी होगी**, इसके बाद इसे **विशेषाधिकार समिति** के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा। यदि समिति इसे स्वीकृति देती है, तो इसे सदन में चर्चा के लिए रखा जाएगा।
- In the **Assembly, Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Bornare** submitted a **breach of privilege notice** against Ms. Andhare, accusing her of **mocking Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis**.
विधानसभा में, **शिवसेना विधायक रमेश बोरनारे ने सुषमा अंधारे के खिलाफ विशेषाधिकार हनन का नोटिस दिया**, जिसमें उन्होंने उन पर **मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस का मजाक उड़ाने का आरोप लगाया**।
- **Minister of State for Finance Ashish Jaiswal** backed Mr. Bornare's notice.
वित्त राज्य मंत्री **आशिष जायसवाल ने श्री बोरनारे के नोटिस का समर्थन किया**।
- **BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar** sought the **prompt appointment of privilege committee members**.
बीजेपी नेता **सुधीर मुनगंटीवार ने विशेषाधिकार समिति के सदस्यों की शीघ्र नियुक्ति की मांग की**।
- **Presiding officer Sanjay Kelkar** said **Speaker Rahul Narwekar** would decide on the notice.
अध्यक्षता कर रहे संजय केलकर ने कहा कि अध्यक्ष राहुल नार्वेकर इस नोटिस पर निर्णय लेंगे।
- Meanwhile, the **Mumbai Police refused to confirm or deny reports of a second summons** being sent to the stand-up comedian. The police said **the matter was under investigation**.
इसी बीच, **मुंबई पुलिस ने स्टैंड-अप कॉमेडियन को दूसरा समन भेजे जाने की खबर की पुष्टि या खंडन करने से इनकार कर दिया**। पुलिस ने कहा कि मामले की जांच जारी है।
- Mr. Kamra incurred the **wrath of Shiv Sainiks** last week with a song targeting the **party president**.
श्री कामरा ने पिछले हफ्ते **शिवसैनिकों के आक्रोश का सामना किया**, जब उन्होंने **पार्टी अध्यक्ष को निशाना बनाते हुए एक गाना प्रस्तुत किया**।
- On **Sunday night, Sena activists vandalized the Habitat Comedy Club** in suburban Khar, where his show had taken place, and the **hotel where the club is located**.
रविवार रात, **शिवसैनिकों ने उपनगर खार में स्थित हैबिटेड कॉमेडी क्लब में तोड़फोड़ की**, जहां कामरा का शो हुआ था, और उस होटल को भी निशाना बनाया, जहां क्लब स्थित है।



- In a late-night statement on Monday, the comedian refused to apologize and said, "I will not apologize or hide under the bed waiting for the controversy to die down."
सोमवार देर रात एक बयान में, कामरा ने माफी मांगने से इनकार कर दिया और कहा, "में माफी नहीं मांगूंगा और न ही बिस्तर के नीचे छिपूंगा, यह इंतजार करते हुए कि विवाद खत्म हो जाए।"
- The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) condemned the vandalism and State action, saying political satire is a constitutional right.
पीपुल्स यूनियन फॉर सिविल लिबर्टीज (PUCL) ने तोड़फोड़ और राज्य सरकार की कार्रवाई की निंदा की, यह कहते हुए कि राजनीतिक व्यंग्य एक संवैधानिक अधिकार है।
- It appealed to the Bombay High Court to take suo motu action against Mumbai Police and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai for vandalism, illegal demolition, and dereliction of duty to enforce the "rule of law".
इसने बॉम्बे हाईकोर्ट से अपील की कि वह मुंबई पुलिस और बृहन्मुंबई नगर निगम के खिलाफ तोड़फोड़, अवैध विध्वंस और "कानून के शासन" को लागू करने में कर्तव्य की लापरवाही के लिए स्वतः संज्ञान (suo motu) ले।
- 'No incitement'
'कोई उकसावे की बात नहीं'
- Kavita Srivastava, PUCL national president, said the YouTube video of the comedian's show was up for all to see that no statement targeting a group or inciting hatred against any community was made.
पीयूसीएल की राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष कविता श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि कॉमेडियन के शो का यूट्यूब वीडियो सबके लिए उपलब्ध है, जिसमें किसी समूह को निशाना बनाने या किसी समुदाय के खिलाफ घृणा भड़काने वाला कोई बयान नहीं दिया गया।
- Shiraz Prabhu, president, Maharashtra PUCL, said instead of condemning the illegal acts, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis took to the floor of the Assembly and went on to call Mr. Kamra an "urban Naxal" and a "traitor".
महाराष्ट्र पीयूसीएल के अध्यक्ष शिराज प्रभु ने कहा कि अवैध कृत्यों की निंदा करने के बजाय, मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस ने विधानसभा के पटल पर कामरा को "अर्बन नक्सल" और "गद्दार" कहा।

Rule of Law

कानून का शासन

- The Rule of Law is a foundational principle in democratic societies, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of status, are subject to the law.
कानून का शासन लोकतांत्रिक समाजों का मौलिक सिद्धांत है, जो यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि सभी व्यक्ति, स्थिति की परवाह किए बिना, कानून के अधीन हों।



- This concept was extensively articulated by **A.V. Dicey**, a British jurist, in his seminal work, *"Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution"* (1885).
इस अवधारणा को ब्रिटिश न्यायविद **ए.वी. डाइसी** ने अपनी प्रसिद्ध कृति *"इंट्रोडक्शन टू द स्टडी ऑफ द लॉ ऑफ द कॉन्स्टिट्यूशन"* (1885) में व्यापक रूप से प्रस्तुत किया।

Dicey's Three Core Principles of Rule of Law

डाइसी के कानून के शासन के तीन मुख्य सिद्धांत

- **Supremacy of Law:** No individual should be punished or suffer legally except for a **breach of law established in the ordinary legal manner** before the ordinary courts. This principle emphasizes the **absence of arbitrary power**, ensuring that individuals are only subjected to punishment as per the law.

कानून की सर्वोच्चता: किसी भी व्यक्ति को तब तक दंडित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए या कानूनी रूप से क्षति नहीं उठानी चाहिए जब तक कि वह **सामान्य कानूनी प्रक्रिया** द्वारा स्थापित कानून का उल्लंघन न करे। यह सिद्धांत **मनमानी शक्ति के अभाव** पर जोर देता है, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित होता है कि व्यक्तियों को केवल कानून के अनुसार ही दंडित किया जाए।

- **Equality Before the Law:** Every individual, **irrespective of rank or status**, is subject to the **ordinary laws of the land** administered by **ordinary courts**. This underscores that **no person is above the law**, and everyone is treated equally under it.

कानून के समक्ष समानता: प्रत्येक व्यक्ति, पद या स्थिति की परवाह किए बिना, **सामान्य कानूनों** के अधीन होता है, जिन्हें **सामान्य न्यायालयों** द्वारा प्रशासित किया जाता है। यह सिद्धांत दर्शाता है कि **कोई भी व्यक्ति कानून से ऊपर नहीं है**, और सभी को समान रूप से कानून के अधीन माना जाता है।

- **Predominance of Legal Spirit:** Rights of individuals are secured **not merely by written constitutional guarantees** but by the **enforcement of these rights through judicial decisions**. Dicey believed that the **general principles of the constitution** are the result of **judicial decisions** determining the rights of private persons.

कानूनी भावना की प्रधानता: व्यक्तियों के अधिकार केवल **लिखित संवैधानिक गारंटियों** से ही सुरक्षित नहीं होते, बल्कि **न्यायिक निर्णयों के माध्यम से इन अधिकारों के प्रवर्तन** से भी सुरक्षित होते हैं। डाइसी का मानना था कि **संविधान के सामान्य सिद्धांत न्यायिक निर्णयों के परिणामस्वरूप विकसित होते हैं**, जो निजी व्यक्तियों के अधिकारों को निर्धारित करते हैं।

Rule of Law in the Indian Context

भारतीय संदर्भ में कानून का शासन

- In India, the first two principles—**Supremacy of Law** and **Equality Before the Law**—are integral to the legal system. However, the third principle differs, as in India, the **Constitution** is the **source of individual rights**.



भारत में, पहले दो सिद्धांत—कानून की सर्वोच्चता और कानून के समक्ष समानता—कानूनी प्रणाली का अभिन्न अंग हैं। हालांकि, तीसरा सिद्धांत भिन्न है, क्योंकि भारत में संविधान ही व्यक्तिगत अधिकारों का स्रोत है।

- The **Supreme Court of India** has upheld that the **Rule of Law** is embodied in **Article 14** of the Constitution, which guarantees **equality before the law** and is considered a **basic feature** of the Constitution.

भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने माना है कि कानून का शासन संविधान के अनुच्छेद 14 में निहित है, जो कानून के समक्ष समानता की गारंटी देता है और इसे संविधान की मूल संरचना का हिस्सा माना जाता है।

20 Chinese scholars to visit Visva-Bharati to mark 75 years of India-China diplomatic ties

GS Paper II

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

About 20 scholars and experts from China will visit Visva-Bharati University to participate in an international seminar on Rabin-dranath Tagore on April 1 to mark the 75th anniversary of India-China diplomatic ties, said Chinese Consul General in Kolkata Xu Wei.

Mr. Xu said that Rabin-dranath Tagore, who visited China in 1924, is the symbol of China-India friendship, and the international seminar at Cheena Bhavana at Visva-Bharati will also mark the completion of 100 years of the Nobel laureate's visit to his country.

"We will hold an international seminar with



An open-air class inside the Visva-Bharati University campus at Santiniketan in West Bengal's Birbhum district. FILE PHOTO

Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Tagore's visit to China and the 75th anniversary of our relationship. About 20 Chinese experts, scholars, and artists will be invited to India to attend the seminar," the

Consul General said, emphasising that it will be the biggest delegation of Chinese scholars visiting Visva-Bharati in Santiniketan.

Speaking to mediapersons in Kolkata, Mr. Xu said that in 2024, a group of scholars and artists from India visited 'China

to Retrace the Footsteps of Tagore', and the Consulate in 2024 organised a photo exhibition at Visva-Bharati to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Tagore's visit to China.

People-to-people ties

Cheena Bhavana (Department of Chinese Language and Culture) at Visva-Bharati is the oldest Department of Chinese studies in the sub-continent, established by Tagore and Professor Tan Yun-Shan in April 1937 with the great ideas of strengthening the age-old cultural ties and interfaces between India and China.

The Consul General spoke about the need to increase people-to-people ties and said the spring of India-China ties is arriving.



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

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

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20 Chinese scholars to visit Visva-Bharati to mark 75 years of India-China diplomatic ties

भारत-चीन कूटनीतिक संबंधों के 75 वर्ष पूरे होने पर 20 चीनी विद्वान विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय का दौरा करेंगे

About 20 scholars and experts from China will visit Visva-Bharati University to participate in an international seminar on Rabindranath Tagore on April 1, marking the 75th anniversary of India-China diplomatic ties, said Chinese Consul General in Kolkata Xu Wei.

लगभग 20 चीनी विद्वान और विशेषज्ञ 1 अप्रैल को विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय में रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी में भाग लेने के लिए आएंगे। यह कार्यक्रम भारत-चीन कूटनीतिक संबंधों की 75वीं वर्षगांठ को चिह्नित करेगा, चीनी वाणिज्य दूतावास के प्रमुख कोलकाता में शू वेई ने यह जानकारी दी।

- Mr. Xu said that **Rabindranath Tagore, who visited China in 1924, is the symbol of China-India friendship**, and the international seminar at Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati will also mark the completion of 100 years of Tagore's visit to China.
श्री शू ने कहा कि रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर, जिन्होंने 1924 में चीन का दौरा किया था, भारत-चीन मित्रता के प्रतीक हैं, और विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय के चीना भवन में आयोजित अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी में टैगोर की चीन यात्रा के 100 वर्ष पूरे होने का भी जश्न मनाया जाएगा।
- "We will hold an international seminar with Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Tagore's visit to China and the 75th anniversary of our relationship," said Consul General Xu Wei.
"हम विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय के चीना भवन के साथ मिलकर एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी आयोजित करेंगे, जो टैगोर की चीन यात्रा की 100वीं वर्षगांठ और भारत-चीन संबंधों की 75वीं वर्षगांठ को चिह्नित करेगी," श्री शू वेई ने कहा।
- About 20 Chinese experts, scholars, and artists will be invited to India to attend the seminar, making it the biggest delegation of Chinese scholars visiting Visva-Bharati in Santiniketan.
लगभग 20 चीनी विशेषज्ञ, विद्वान और कलाकार इस संगोष्ठी में भाग लेने के लिए भारत आमंत्रित किए जाएंगे, जिससे यह शांतिनिकेतन स्थित विश्व भारती में आने वाला सबसे बड़ा चीनी विद्वानों का दल होगा।

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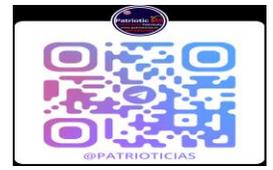


- **Speaking to mediapersons in Kolkata, Mr. Xu said that in 2024, a group of scholars and artists from India visited China to Retrace the Footsteps of Tagore.**
कोलकाता में मीडियाकर्मियों से बात करते हुए, श्री शू ने बताया कि 2024 में, भारतीय विद्वानों और कलाकारों का एक समूह चीन गया था ताकि टैगोर के पदचिहनों का अनुसरण कर सके।
- **In 2024, the Chinese Consulate also organized a photo exhibition at Visva-Bharati to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Tagore's visit to China.**
2024 में, चीनी वाणिज्य दूतावास ने विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय में एक फोटो प्रदर्शनी भी आयोजित की, जो टैगोर की चीन यात्रा की 100वीं वर्षगांठ को समर्पित थी।

People-to-people ties

जन से जन संबंध

- **Cheena Bhavana (Department of Chinese Language and Culture) at Visva-Bharati is the oldest Department of Chinese studies in the sub-continent, established by Tagore and Professor Tan Yun-Shan in April 1937.**
विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय में स्थित चीना भवन (चीनी भाषा और संस्कृति विभाग) उपमहाद्वीप का सबसे पुराना चीनी अध्ययन विभाग है, जिसे टैगोर और प्रोफेसर टैन युन-शान ने अप्रैल 1937 में स्थापित किया था।
- **The department was founded with the great idea of strengthening the age-old cultural ties and interfaces between India and China.**
इस विभाग की स्थापना का उद्देश्य भारत और चीन के बीच प्राचीन सांस्कृतिक संबंधों और संवाद को मजबूत करना था।
- **The Consul General emphasized the need to increase people-to-people ties and said, "The spring of India-China ties is arriving."**
चीनी वाणिज्य दूतावास प्रमुख ने जन से जन संपर्क बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हुए कहा, "भारत-चीन संबंधों का बसंत आ रहा है।"



Centre slams 'biased' report by U.S. commission on religious freedom

GS Paper II

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday lashed out at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for its latest report that expresses concerns about “attacks and discrimination” against religious minorities in India and calls for sanctions against India’s intelligence agency.

The 2025 Annual Report of the USCIRF has recommended again that the U.S. government designate India, along with 15 other countries, a “Country of Particular Concern” (CPC).

‘Misuse of laws’

In its sharpest criticism thus far, the USCIRF, a congressional body that does not represent the U.S. government but is mandated to make recommendations to it, accused the Indian government of misusing



Randhir Jaiswal

laws such as the UAPA, FCRA, and CAA to “crack down” on religious minorities and civil society organisations, and even accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of “hateful rhetoric and disinformation against Muslims and other religious minorities to gather political support”.

For the first time, the USCIRF called for sanctions against the Research and Analysis Wing and Vikas Yadav, named in the Pannun assassination plot case. It also sought the ap-

plication of the Transnational Repression Act on India and a review of the sale of MQ-9B Predator drones for their potential use in “religious freedom violations” by Indian authorities.

‘Politically motivated’

“The USCIRF’s persistent attempts to misrepresent isolated incidents and cast aspersions on India’s vibrant multicultural society reflect a deliberate agenda rather than a genuine concern for religious freedom,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in response to questions, calling the latest report a part of the “pattern of issuing biased and politically motivated assessments”.

“Such efforts to undermine India’s standing as a beacon of democracy and tolerance will not succeed. In fact, it is the USCIRF that should be designated as an

entity of concern,” the spokesperson added, referring to the USCIRF’s demands on designations and targeted sanctions.

This is the sixth time the USCIRF has recommended India’s designation as a CPC along with countries such as China, Myanmar, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, and Saudi Arabia. However, on each occasion, the U.S. State Department has declined to add India to the CPC list.

Nevertheless, the government has reacted sharply to the USCIRF’s annual reports, and except for once, in 2016, has not allowed its members to visit India.

The USCIRF is currently chaired by academic Stephen Schneck who was appointed in 2022 by the previous Biden administration, and who refers to himself as a “Catholic advocate in public life for social justice”.

Centre slams 'biased' report by U.S. commission on religious freedom

केंद्र ने धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता पर अमेरिकी आयोग की 'पक्षपाती' रिपोर्ट की आलोचना की

The Union government on Wednesday lashed out at the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** for its latest report expressing concerns about “attacks and discrimination” against religious minorities in India and calling for sanctions against India’s intelligence agency.



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केंद्र सरकार ने बुधवार को अमेरिकी अंतरराष्ट्रीय धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता आयोग (USCIRF) की ताजा रिपोर्ट की कड़ी आलोचना की, जिसमें भारत में धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों पर "हमलों और भेदभाव" को लेकर चिंता जताई गई और भारतीय खुफिया एजेंसी पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की मांग की गई।

- The 2025 Annual Report of the USCIRF recommended that the U.S. government designate India, along with 15 other countries, as a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC).

USCIRF की 2025 की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में अमेरिकी सरकार से भारत सहित 15 अन्य देशों को "विशेष चिंता वाले देश" (CPC) के रूप में नामित करने की सिफारिश की गई।

'Misuse of laws'

'कानूनों का दुरुपयोग'

- The USCIRF accused the Indian government of misusing laws such as the UAPA, FCRA, and CAA to "crack down" on religious minorities and civil society organizations.

USCIRF ने भारतीय सरकार पर UAPA, FCRA और CAA जैसे कानूनों का दुरुपयोग करके धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों और नागरिक समाज संगठनों पर कार्रवाई करने का आरोप लगाया।

- It also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "hateful rhetoric and disinformation against Muslims and other religious minorities to gather political support".

इसने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी पर "मुसलमानों और अन्य धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों के खिलाफ घृणास्पद बयानबाजी और गलत सूचना फैलाने" का आरोप लगाया ताकि राजनीतिक समर्थन प्राप्त किया जा सके।

- For the first time, the USCIRF called for sanctions against the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Vikas Yadav, who was named in the Pannun assassination plot case.

पहली बार, USCIRF ने रिसर्च एंड एनालिसिस विंग (RAW) और विकास यादव पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की मांग की, जिनका नाम पनुन हत्याकांड साजिश मामले में सामने आया था।

- The USCIRF also sought the application of the Transnational Repression Act on India and a review of the sale of MQ-9B Predator drones, citing concerns about their potential use in religious freedom violations.

USCIRF ने भारत पर ट्रांसनेशनल रेप्रेसन एक्ट लागू करने और MQ-9B प्रीडेटर ड्रोन की बिक्री की समीक्षा करने की मांग की, यह कहते हुए कि इनका इस्तेमाल धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता के उल्लंघन में हो सकता है।

'Politically motivated'

'राजनीतिक उद्देश्य से प्रेरित'



- External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal dismissed the report as a “biased and politically motivated assessment”.
विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रणधीर जैसवाल ने इस रिपोर्ट को "पक्षपाती और राजनीतिक उद्देश्य से प्रेरित आकलन" करार दिया।
- “USCIRF’s persistent attempts to misrepresent isolated incidents and cast aspersions on India’s multicultural society reflect a deliberate agenda rather than a genuine concern for religious freedom,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "USCIRF द्वारा अलग-अलग घटनाओं को गलत तरीके से प्रस्तुत करने और भारत के बहुसांस्कृतिक समाज पर संदेह उत्पन्न करने के प्रयास, धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता की वास्तविक चिंता के बजाय एक सोची-समझी साजिश को दर्शाते हैं।"
- “Such efforts to undermine India’s standing as a beacon of democracy and tolerance will not succeed. In fact, the USCIRF itself should be designated as an entity of concern,” he added.
उन्होंने कहा, "लोकतंत्र और सहिष्णुता के प्रतीक के रूप में भारत की स्थिति को कमजोर करने के ये प्रयास सफल नहीं होंगे। वास्तव में, USCIRF को ही एक चिंता के विषय के रूप में नामित किया जाना चाहिए।"
- This is the sixth time the USCIRF has recommended India’s designation as a CPC, along with countries such as China, Myanmar, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.
यह छठवीं बार है जब USCIRF ने भारत को CPC के रूप में नामित करने की सिफारिश की है, चीन, म्यांमार, पाकिस्तान, ईरान, रूस और सऊदी अरब जैसे देशों के साथ।
- However, the U.S. State Department has declined to add India to the CPC list each time.
हालांकि, अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग ने हर बार भारत को CPC सूची में जोड़ने से इनकार कर दिया है।
- The Indian government has reacted sharply to the USCIRF’s annual reports, and except for once in 2016, it has not allowed its members to visit India.
भारतीय सरकार ने USCIRF की वार्षिक रिपोर्टों पर कड़ी प्रतिक्रिया दी है, और 2016 को छोड़कर उसने USCIRF के सदस्यों को भारत आने की अनुमति नहीं दी।
- The USCIRF is currently chaired by academic Stephen Schneck, who was appointed in 2022 by the Biden administration and describes himself as a “Catholic advocate in public life for social justice”.
USCIRF के वर्तमान अध्यक्ष शिक्षाविद स्टीफन शनेक हैं, जिन्हें 2022 में बाइडेन प्रशासन द्वारा नियुक्त किया गया था, और जो खुद को "सामाजिक न्याय के लिए सार्वजनिक जीवन में एक कैथोलिक अधिवक्ता" बताते हैं।



Scheme for pregnant women is severely underfunded: Sonia

GS Paper II:
Government Scheme

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi said during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that maternity entitlements under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) were not being fulfilled, and added that the budgetary allocation for the programme was severely low.

The NFSA was passed by Parliament in September 2013 during the Manmohan Singh government. Ms. Gandhi said the programme had been the foundation for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. The Act includes maternity entitlement of ₹6,000 a child for pregnant women in the informal sector.

She said the Modi government had committed several lapses in imple-

menting this provision. In 2017, it launched the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) to fulfil this entitlement. But it provides only ₹5,000 for the first child, and that is extended to the second child also if it is a girl, Ms. Gandhi said.

A recent analysis revealed that in the year 2022-23, about 68% pregnant women received at least one instalment of the PMMVY, but in the very next year, this proportion fell drastically to about 12%. "I would like to ask the Union government why this was allowed to happen," Ms. Gandhi said.

The scheme, she said, was also "severely underfunded", adding that the full implementation of the maternity benefit provision of the National Food Security Act required an annual budget of ₹12,000 crore.

foundation for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

श्रीमती गांधी ने कहा कि यह कार्यक्रम प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण योजना की नींव रहा है।

- The Act includes maternity entitlement of ₹6,000 per child for pregnant women in the informal sector.

इस अधिनियम में असंगठित क्षेत्र की गर्भवती महिलाओं के लिए प्रति बच्चे ₹6,000 का मातृत्व लाभ शामिल है।

Scheme for pregnant women is severely underfunded: Sonia

गर्भवती महिलाओं की योजना को गंभीर रूप से कम वित्त पोषण मिला: सोनिया

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi said during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that maternity entitlements under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) were not being fulfilled and that the budgetary allocation for the programme was severely low.

कांग्रेस संसदीय दल की अध्यक्ष सोनिया गांधी ने बुधवार को राज्यसभा में शून्यकाल के दौरान कहा कि राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NFSA) के तहत मातृत्व लाभ पूरे नहीं किए जा रहे हैं और इस कार्यक्रम के लिए बजटीय आवंटन अत्यधिक कम है।

- The NFSA was passed by Parliament in September 2013 during the Manmohan Singh government.

NFSA को सितंबर 2013 में संसद द्वारा पारित किया गया था, जब मनमोहन सिंह सरकार सत्ता में थी।

- Ms. Gandhi said the programme had been the

Implementation issues under Modi government

मोदी सरकार के तहत कार्यान्वयन की समस्याएं



- Ms. Gandhi accused the Modi government of lapses in implementing this provision.
श्रीमती गांधी ने मोदी सरकार पर इस प्रावधान के कार्यान्वयन में चूक करने का आरोप लगाया।
- In 2017, the government launched the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) to fulfill this entitlement.
2017 में, सरकार ने प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना (PMMVY) शुरू की ताकि इस अधिकार को पूरा किया जा सके।
- However, PMMVY provides only ₹5,000 for the first child, and extends benefits to the second child only if it is a girl.
हालांकि, PMMVY पहले बच्चे के लिए केवल ₹5,000 देती है और दूसरे बच्चे के लिए यह लाभ तभी मिलता है जब वह लड़की हो।

Decline in scheme coverage

योजना के तहत लाभ प्राप्त करने वालों में गिरावट

- A recent analysis revealed that in 2022-23, about 68% of pregnant women received at least one installment of PMMVY.
हाल ही में हुए एक विश्लेषण से पता चला कि 2022-23 में लगभग 68% गर्भवती महिलाओं को PMMVY की कम से कम एक किस्त मिली।
- However, in the very next year, this proportion fell drastically to about 12%.
लेकिन अगले ही वर्ष, यह अनुपात भारी गिरावट के साथ केवल 12% रह गया।
- "I would like to ask the Union government why this was allowed to happen," Ms. Gandhi said.
"मैं केंद्र सरकार से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि ऐसा क्यों होने दिया गया," श्रीमती गांधी ने कहा।

Severe underfunding of the scheme

योजना के लिए अपर्याप्त वित्तीय आवंटन

- Ms. Gandhi stated that the scheme was severely underfunded.
श्रीमती गांधी ने कहा कि यह योजना गंभीर रूप से कम वित्त पोषित है।
- She added that full implementation of the maternity benefit provision of the NFSA required an annual budget of ₹12,000 crore.
उन्होंने कहा कि NFSA के मातृत्व लाभ प्रावधान को पूरी तरह लागू करने के लिए ₹12,000 करोड़ का वार्षिक बजट आवश्यक है।



Betting and gambling are State subjects: Union Minister in LS

GS Paper II: Center State Relation

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said that betting and gambling are State subjects, while responding to a question from Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Dayanidhi Maran in the Lok Sabha on the issue of banning gaming sites.

Asking a supplementary during Question Hour, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP had asked said: "...are you shying away from your moral responsibility? The State government of Tamil Nadu has banned online gaming. How long is it going to take MeitY [Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology] to ban all the online sites? Instead of banning the online sites, your government is only increasing the GST for on-line gaming. Are you being

morally right?"

In response, the Union Minister said: "...the honourable Member has no right to question the moral authority of the Central government. This country functions on the federal structure defined by the Constitution of India. The Constitution of India places the moral authority, the legal authority as per the three Lists. The list under which any law can be created is the responsibility of the State government." In List 2, Entry 34, please study the federal structure. I request the honourable Member to respect the federal structure of the country and save the Constitution..."

Blocked sites

In reply to another query, the Union Minister said 1,410 sites had been blocked following various complaints.

why MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) had not yet banned all online sites.

उन्होंने बताया कि तमिलनाडु सरकार पहले ही ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंध लगा चुकी है और سوال किया कि इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) अब तक सभी ऑनलाइन साइटों पर प्रतिबंध क्यों नहीं लगा सका।

Betting and gambling are State subjects: Union Minister in LS

सट्टेबाजी और जुआ राज्य सूची के विषय हैं: लोकसभा में केंद्रीय मंत्री

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said that betting and gambling are State subjects, while responding to a question from Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP Dayanidhi Maran in the Lok Sabha regarding the banning of gaming sites.

बुधवार को केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने लोकसभा में द्रविड़ मुनेत्र कड़गम (DMK)

सांसद दयानिधि मारन के प्रश्न के उत्तर में

कहा कि सट्टेबाजी और जुआ राज्य सूची के विषय हैं, जो गेमिंग साइटों पर प्रतिबंध

लगाने से संबंधित था।

• During Question Hour, Mr. Maran asked whether the Centre was "shying away from its moral responsibility" in banning online gaming.

प्रश्नकाल के दौरान, श्री मारन ने पूछा कि क्या केंद्र "अपनी नैतिक जिम्मेदारी से बच रहा है" और ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंध लगाने में असफल रहा है।

• He pointed out that Tamil Nadu had already banned online gaming and questioned



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Mr. Maran also criticized the government for **increasing GST on online gaming instead of banning it**, asking if the government was **acting morally right**.
श्री मारन ने यह भी आलोचना की कि सरकार ने ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के बजाय इसका GST बढ़ा दिया, और पूछा कि क्या यह नैतिक रूप से सही है।

Union Minister's Response

केंद्रीय मंत्री का जवाब

- Mr. Vaishnav stated that the honourable Member has no right to question the moral authority of the Central government.
श्री वैष्णव ने कहा कि माननीय सदस्य को केंद्र सरकार की नैतिकता पर सवाल उठाने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है।
- He emphasized that India functions on a federal structure as defined by the Constitution, and that legislative authority is divided into three Lists.
उन्होंने जोर दिया कि भारत संविधान द्वारा परिभाषित एक संघीय ढांचे पर कार्य करता है, जहां विधायी अधिकारों को तीन सूचियों में विभाजित किया गया है।
- **Betting and gambling fall under Entry 34 of List 2 (State List), making it the responsibility of the State government.**
सट्टेबाजी और जुआ सूची-2 (राज्य सूची) के प्रविष्टि 34 के अंतर्गत आते हैं, जिससे यह राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी बनती है।
- He urged the MP to respect the federal structure of the country and uphold the Constitution.
उन्होंने सांसद से अनुरोध किया कि वह देश के संघीय ढांचे का सम्मान करें और संविधान की रक्षा करें।

Blocked Sites

प्रतिबंधित साइटें

- In reply to another question, Mr. Vaishnav stated that **1,410 sites had been blocked** following various complaints.
एक अन्य प्रश्न के उत्तर में, श्री वैष्णव ने कहा कि 1,410 साइटों को विभिन्न शिकायतों के आधार पर प्रतिबंधित किया गया है।



Pay Samagra Shiksha dues to States, committee tells Education Ministry

**GS Paper II:
Government Scheme**

NEW DELHI

A parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended that the Education Ministry amicably resolve the differences with West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and settle their dues of over ₹4,000 crore under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) on a priority basis.

The committee tabled its report in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

The observations come at a time when the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government are at loggerheads over the stoppage of SSA funds after the State refused to implement the three-language formula under the National Education Policy (NEP) and sign a memorandum of understanding on PM-SHRI schools.

"The committee has ta-



The Committee says it is not acceptable to stop Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan grants to States that did not sign PM SHRI MoU. FILE PHOTO

ken serious note of the non-release of SSA funds to certain States that have not signed MoUs for implementation of the PM Shri scheme. The total funds pending under this scheme to the States are considerable, with over ₹1,000 crore to West Bengal, ₹859.63 crore to Kerala, and ₹2,152 crore to Tamil Nadu," said the report by the Standing Committee

on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.

Not justified: report

The Education Department informed the committee that PM SHRI is a model school scheme developed under the NEP, and that the SSA is the programme to achieve the NEP goals.

"This appears to be the

reasoning behind the decision to halt SSA grants to States not signing the PM SHRI MoU. However, this reasoning is not justified," the committee noted.

'Salaries hit'

The committee said the SSA predates PM SHRI and is intended to help States achieve the targets of the Right to Education (RTE) Act. "The RTE is a law duly passed by Parliament and confers education as a fundamental right on every child. The SSA, as a scheme that enforces the fundamental right-based RTE, cannot be bypassed by the NEP, which was an executive policy statement," the report noted.

"The withholding of funds is severely impacting teachers' salaries, RTE reimbursements, and transportation for students in remote areas," the report noted.

Pay Samagra Shiksha dues to States, committee tells Education Ministry

समग्र शिक्षा के बकाया

फंड राज्यों को दें,

समिति ने शिक्षा

मंत्रालय से कहा

A Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended that the Education Ministry amicably resolve differences with West Bengal,

Kerala, and Tamil Nadu and settle their dues of over ₹4,000 crore under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) on a priority basis.

संसदीय स्थायी समिति ने शिक्षा मंत्रालय को सुझाव दिया है कि वह पश्चिम बंगाल,

केरल और तमिलनाडु के साथ मतभेदों को सौहार्दपूर्वक सुलझाए और समग्र शिक्षा

अभियान (SSA) के तहत ₹4,000 करोड़ से अधिक का बकाया फंड प्राथमिकता के आधार

पर जारी करे।

- The committee tabled its report in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. समिति ने बुधवार को राज्यसभा में अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश की।
- The observations come at a time when the Centre and Tamil Nadu government are at odds over the stoppage of SSA funds due to Tamil Nadu's **refusal to implement the three-language formula under the National Education Policy (NEP) and sign the PM-SHRI MoU.**

यह रिपोर्ट ऐसे समय में आई है जब केंद्र और तमिलनाडु सरकार के बीच SSA फंड रोकने को लेकर



विवाद चल रहा है, क्योंकि तमिलनाडु ने राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) के तहत तीन-भाषा फार्मूले को लागू करने और पीएम-श्री एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर करने से इनकार कर दिया।

States' pending dues under SSA

SSA के तहत राज्यों के बकाया फंड

- The committee took serious note of the non-release of SSA funds to certain States for not signing the MoU for PM-SHRI scheme.
समिति ने PM-श्री योजना के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर न करने के कारण कुछ राज्यों को SSA फंड जारी न करने पर गंभीर चिंता जताई।
- The total pending SSA funds include:
SSA के तहत बकाया फंड इस प्रकार हैं:
 - ₹1,000 crore for West Bengal
पश्चिम बंगाल के लिए ₹1,000 करोड़
 - ₹859.63 crore for Kerala
केरल के लिए ₹859.63 करोड़
 - ₹2,152 crore for Tamil Nadu
तमिलनाडु के लिए ₹2,152 करोड़

Not justified: Report

अनुचित है: रिपोर्ट

- The Education Department informed the committee that **PM-SHRI is a model school scheme under NEP, while SSA is meant to achieve NEP goals.**
शिक्षा विभाग ने समिति को बताया कि PM-श्री राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) के तहत एक मॉडल स्कूल योजना है, जबकि SSA का उद्देश्य NEP के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करना है।
- The committee, however, **disagreed with the justification of halting SSA grants for States that did not sign the PM-SHRI MoU.**
हालांकि, समिति ने उन राज्यों के लिए SSA फंड रोकने के औचित्य को अस्वीकार कर दिया, जिन्होंने PM-श्री एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं किए।

'Salaries hit'

'वेतन प्रभावित हो रहे हैं'

- The committee pointed out that SSA predates PM-SHRI and was designed to help States achieve the targets of the Right to Education (RTE) Act.
समिति ने बताया कि SSA, PM-श्री से पहले लागू किया गया था और इसका उद्देश्य राज्यों को शिक्षा के अधिकार (RTE) अधिनियम के लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में मदद करना है।



- It noted that RTE is a law passed by Parliament, whereas NEP is only an executive policy statement.
समिति ने यह भी कहा कि RTE संसद द्वारा पारित एक कानून है, जबकि NEP केवल एक कार्यकारी नीति वक्तव्य है।
- The withholding of SSA funds is severely impacting teachers' salaries, RTE reimbursements, and transportation for students in remote areas.
SSA फंड को रोकने से शिक्षकों के वेतन, RTE प्रतिपूर्ति, और दूरदराज के क्षेत्रों में छात्रों के परिवहन पर गंभीर प्रभाव पड़ रहा है।

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

समग्र शिक्षा अभियान (SSA)

- Launched in 2018, the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is an integrated scheme for school education, covering from pre-school to class XII.
2018 में शुरू किया गया, समग्र शिक्षा अभियान (SSA) एकीकृत योजना है, जो पूर्व-विद्यालय से कक्षा XII तक की स्कूली शिक्षा को कवर करता है।
- It aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels.
इसका उद्देश्य समावेशी और समान गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा सुनिश्चित करना है।
- The scheme subsumes three previous programs:
इस योजना में तीन पूर्ववर्ती कार्यक्रम समाहित किए गए हैं:
 - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
सर्व शिक्षा अभियान (SSA)
 - Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
राष्ट्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा अभियान (RMSA)
 - Teacher Education (TE)
शिक्षक शिक्षा (TE)

Objectives

उद्देश्य

- Provide quality education and enhance learning outcomes.
गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा प्रदान करना और सीखने के परिणामों में सुधार करना।
- Bridge social and gender gaps in school education.
विद्यालयी शिक्षा में सामाजिक और लैंगिक अंतर को कम करना।
- Ensure equity and inclusion at all educational levels.
सभी शैक्षिक स्तरों पर समानता और समावेशिता सुनिश्चित करना।



- Promote **vocationalization of education**.
शिक्षा का व्यावसायिकरण बढ़ावा देना।
- Support states in implementing the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009**.
राज्यों को मुफ्त और अनिवार्य शिक्षा का अधिकार (RTE) अधिनियम, 2009 लागू करने में सहयोग देना।
- Strengthen and upgrade **State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)** and **District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs)** as nodal agencies for teacher training.
राज्य शैक्षिक अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण परिषदों (SCERTs) और जिला शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों (DIETs) को शिक्षक प्रशिक्षण के प्रमुख संस्थान के रूप में मजबूत और उन्नत करना।

Implementation

कार्यान्वयन

- Implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, with the following **fund-sharing patterns**:
इसे केंद्र प्रायोजित योजना के रूप में लागू किया गया है, जिसमें फंड साझा करने का पैटर्न इस प्रकार है:
 - **90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States**
पूर्वोत्तर और हिमालयी राज्यों के लिए 90:10
 - **60:40 for other States and Union Territories with Legislature**
अन्य राज्यों और विधायिका वाले केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के लिए 60:40
 - **100% central funding for Union Territories without Legislature**
विधायिका रहित केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के लिए 100% केंद्रीय वित्त पोषण

Key Features

मुख्य विशेषताएँ

- **Focus on improving quality of education** by emphasizing **Teachers and Technology**.
शिक्षकों और प्रौद्योगिकी पर जोर देकर शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता सुधारने पर ध्यान।
- **Flexibility** for states and UTs to **plan and prioritize interventions** within the scheme norms.
राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों को योजना के मानकों के भीतर अपनी प्राथमिकताएँ तय करने की स्वतंत्रता।
- **Preference given to:**
निम्न को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है:



- Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs)
शैक्षिक रूप से पिछड़े ब्लॉक (EBBs)
- Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts
वामपंथी उग्रवाद (LWE) प्रभावित जिले
- Special Focus Districts (SFDs)
विशेष फोकस जिले (SFDs)
- Border areas and Aspirational districts
सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र और आकांक्षी जिले

PM-SHRI Scheme

पीएम-श्री योजना

- Launched in 2022, the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme aims to develop over 14,500 schools across India by upgrading existing schools to exemplify the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
2022 में शुरू की गई, प्रधानमंत्री स्कूल्स फॉर राइजिंग इंडिया (PM-SHRI) योजना का लक्ष्य 14,500 से अधिक स्कूलों को राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 के आदर्श स्कूलों में बदलना है।

Objectives

उद्देश्य

- Create an inclusive and nurturing environment promoting the well-being and safety of every student.
प्रत्येक छात्र की भलाई और सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए समावेशी और पोषणकारी वातावरण बनाना।
- Offer diverse learning experiences with access to quality infrastructure and resources.
गुणवत्तापूर्ण बुनियादी ढाँचे और संसाधनों तक पहुँच के साथ विविध शिक्षण अनुभव प्रदान करना।

Funding Pattern

वित्तीय पैटर्न

- 60:40 between the Centre and State Governments and UTs with Legislature (except J&K).
केंद्र और राज्यों तथा विधायिका वाले केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों (जम्मू-कश्मीर को छोड़कर) के बीच 60:40।
- 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States and UT of J&K.
पूर्वोत्तर और हिमालयी राज्यों तथा जम्मू-कश्मीर केंद्रशासित प्रदेश के लिए 90:10।



- 100% central funding for Union Territories without Legislature.
विधायिका रहित केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के लिए 100% केंद्रीय वित्त पोषण।

Duration

अवधि

- The scheme is scheduled from 2022-23 to 2026-27, after which states/UTs are responsible for maintaining the achieved benchmarks.
यह योजना 2022-23 से 2026-27 तक लागू रहेगी, जिसके बाद राज्य/केंद्रशासित प्रदेश प्राप्त मानकों को बनाए रखने के लिए जिम्मेदार होंगे।

Key Features of PM-SHRI Schools

PM-SHRI स्कूलों की मुख्य विशेषताएँ

- Focus on holistic student development, including skills like communication, collaboration, and critical thinking.
छात्रों के समग्र विकास पर ध्यान, जिसमें संचार, सहयोग और आलोचनात्मक सोच जैसी कौशल शामिल हैं।
- Modern facilities such as smart classrooms, computer labs, integrated science labs, vocational/skill labs, and Atal Tinkering Labs.
स्मार्ट कक्षाएँ, कंप्यूटर लैब, एकीकृत विज्ञान प्रयोगशालाएँ, व्यावसायिक/कौशल लैब और अटल टिंकरिंग लैब जैसी आधुनिक सुविधाएँ।
- Emphasis on "green" initiatives like water conservation and waste recycling.
जल संरक्षण और कचरा पुनर्चक्रण जैसी "हरित" पहलों पर जोर।
- Competency-based assessments prioritizing learning outcomes and real-life application of knowledge.
सीखने के परिणामों और ज्ञान के वास्तविक जीवन में अनुप्रयोग को प्राथमिकता देने वाले क्षमता-आधारित मूल्यांकन।

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020

- The third major revamp of India's education framework after 1968 and 1986 policies.
1968 और 1986 की नीतियों के बाद शिक्षा ढाँचे का तीसरा बड़ा सुधार।
- Introduces a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure aligned with age groups 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18.
3-8, 8-11, 11-14 और 14-18 वर्ष के आयु समूहों के अनुसार 5+3+3+4 पाठ्यचर्या संरचना।



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‘Over half of ₹1-lakh crore collected for the welfare of mining districts not spent’

GS Paper II: DMF

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

A first-of-its-kind analysis of the District Mineral Foundations (DMF) shows that despite collecting about ₹1-lakh crore in the past decade, more than half the funds is unspent.

Moreover, the funds are often diverted to activities that are not directly linked to the welfare of mining districts – a contravention of the Centre’s guidelines. The DMFs are non-profit trusts set up in mining districts and tasked with ensuring that a portion of the revenues generated from mining is spent on the development of the districts. They have been established in 645 districts across 23 States.

The funds are often diverted to activities that are not directly linked to the welfare of mining districts, says report

The report was prepared by iForest, an independent research group.

In 2015, the Centre launched the **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana** to drive change in mining-affected areas through investments in various developmental projects. The PMKKKY is implemented through funds accrued to the DMFs.

Odisha accounts for the highest share of DMF funds, about 29% (₹30,126 crore) of the country’s to-

tal, followed by Chhattisgarh (₹14,564 crore) and Jharkhand (₹13,791 crore).

“The prime focus of DMF and PMKKKY is to alleviate poverty and deprivation, which requires a balanced investment in human resources and infrastructure. However, this balance has not been achieved in any district. Consider the example of Dhanbad. Out of 1,164 projects sanctioned in Dhanbad till 2024, only ₹1.86 crore have been allocated for skill development and livelihood generation. Similarly, in Kendujhar, project details evaluated until 2022 show that only about 3.2% of the total allocations are for livelihood and skill development projects,” the authors noted.

Over half of ₹1-lakh crore collected for the welfare of mining districts not spent’

खनन जिलों के कल्याण के लिए जुटाए गए ₹1 लाख करोड़ में से आधे से अधिक खर्च नहीं हुए

A first-of-its-kind analysis of the District Mineral Foundations (DMF) shows that despite collecting about ₹1-lakh crore in the

past decade, more than half of the funds remain unspent.

जिलास्तरीय खनिज फाउंडेशन (DMF) के पहले व्यापक विश्लेषण से पता चला है कि

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पिछले दस वर्षों में लगभग ₹1 लाख करोड़ जुटाए जाने के बावजूद, आधे से अधिक धनराशि खर्च नहीं हुई।

- Moreover, the funds are often diverted to activities that are not directly linked to the welfare of mining districts, violating Centre's guidelines.
इसके अलावा, धनराशि को अक्सर ऐसी गतिविधियों में लगा दिया जाता है, जिनका खनन जिलों के कल्याण से कोई प्रत्यक्ष संबंध नहीं होता, जो कि केंद्र सरकार के दिशानिर्देशों का उल्लंघन है।

About District Mineral Foundations (DMFs)

जिलास्तरीय खनिज फाउंडेशन (DMF) के बारे में

- **DMFs are non-profit trusts established in mining districts to ensure that a portion of mining revenues is spent on the development of affected districts.**
DMF एक गैर-लाभकारी ट्रस्ट है, जिसे खनन जिलों में स्थापित किया गया है, ताकि खनन से प्राप्त राजस्व का एक हिस्सा प्रभावित जिलों के विकास में लगाया जाए।
- **DMFs have been set up in 645 districts across 23 States.**
DMF को 23 राज्यों के 645 जिलों में स्थापित किया गया है।
- The report was prepared by iForest, an independent research group.
यह रिपोर्ट iForest नामक स्वतंत्र शोध समूह द्वारा तैयार की गई है।

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

प्रधानमंत्री खनिज क्षेत्र कल्याण योजना (PMKKKY)

- **In 2015, the Centre launched PMKKKY to drive development in mining-affected areas through investments in various projects.**
2015 में, केंद्र सरकार ने PMKKKY योजना शुरू की, जिसका उद्देश्य खनन प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में विभिन्न विकास परियोजनाओं में निवेश के माध्यम से सुधार लाना है।
- PMKKKY is implemented through funds accrued to the DMFs.
PMKKKY योजना का कार्यान्वयन DMF में एकत्रित धनराशि के माध्यम से किया जाता है।

State-wise share of DMF funds

राज्यों में DMF फंड का वितरण

- Odisha accounts for the highest share of DMF funds with ₹30,126 crore (29% of the total funds).
ओडिशा के पास सबसे अधिक DMF फंड है, जो ₹30,126 करोड़ (कुल धनराशि का 29%) है।
- Chhattisgarh has ₹14,564 crore and Jharkhand has ₹13,791 crore in DMF funds.
छत्तीसगढ़ के पास ₹14,564 करोड़ और झारखंड के पास ₹13,791 करोड़ की DMF धनराशि है।



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Issues with fund allocation

फंड आवंटन में समस्याएं

- The primary focus of DMF and PMKKKY is to alleviate poverty and deprivation, which requires a balanced investment in human resources and infrastructure.
DMF और PMKKKY का मुख्य उद्देश्य गरीबी और अभाव को कम करना है, जिसके लिए मानव संसाधन और बुनियादी ढांचे में संतुलित निवेश आवश्यक है।
- However, this balance has not been achieved in any district.
हालांकि, यह संतुलन किसी भी जिले में हासिल नहीं किया गया है।
- Example: Dhanbad
 - Out of 1,164 projects sanctioned in Dhanbad till 2024, only ₹1.86 crore was allocated for skill development and livelihood generation.
2024 तक धनबाद में स्वीकृत 1,164 परियोजनाओं में से केवल ₹1.86 करोड़ कौशल विकास और आजीविका सृजन के लिए आवंटित किया गया।
- Example: Kendujhar
 - As of 2022, only about 3.2% of the total DMF allocations were spent on livelihood and skill development projects.
2022 तक के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, कुल DMF आवंटन का केवल 3.2% ही आजीविका और कौशल विकास परियोजनाओं पर खर्च किया गया।



The CBSE's 'two-exam scheme' overcomplicates things

GS Paper II: Education Sector

The draft scheme by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to allow, from 2026, students of Class 10 to take their board examinations twice in an academic session (tentatively scheduled for February/March and in May) has been positioned as a student-friendly reform aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The proposed shift, titled "Draft Scheme for Two Examinations, Class X from 2026", is meant to reduce the immense pressure on students, offer them an additional opportunity to improve their scores, and move towards a more holistic assessment model. On paper, this seems to be a progressive step, but a closer look at the draft policy reveals several operational, financial, and pedagogical concerns that could ultimately make the system more cumbersome rather than more effective.

Logistical issues, more stress

While the NEP 2020 calls for a shift towards conceptual learning and competency-based assessment, the CBSE's draft policy focuses primarily on scheduling and logistics. The draft states that board exams will test 'core capacities/competencies rather than months of coaching and memorization', but it remains unclear how question papers will be redesigned to reflect this shift. Without further clarity there is a risk that the emphasis on multiple examinations may still lead to 'coaching-driven preparation' rather than genuine conceptual learning. Instead of reducing student anxiety, this reform might result in students preparing intensively for two rounds of examinations rather than one, exacerbating rather than alleviating the burden.

The logistical demands of implementing this scheme are daunting. The CBSE's own data projects that 26.6 lakh students will appear for the Class 10 examinations in 2026. With two examination cycles, the number of answer scripts for evaluation will exceed 1.72 crore. Managing this scale effectively requires a vast pool of evaluators and a system that ensures uniform grading standards.

The overlap with the Class 12 examinations ('about 20 lakh students in 2026') adds another layer of administrative complexity, stretching



Jehosh Paul

is a lawyer and research consultant

The CBSE's draft scheme for Class 10 students seems progressive but a closer look raises operational, financial and pedagogical concerns

school resources and placing an additional burden on the teachers responsible for evaluation. Schools will have to conduct multiple examinations for the same subjects at different times, secure and manage question papers across multiple test windows, and ensure fairness in the allocation of examination dates. All of this could become a significant logistical challenge.

The policy also raises questions on whether the proposed time gap between the two examinations would be sufficient for meaningful remediation. For example, students who do not perform well in February will have only about two months to prepare for the second attempt in May. This short window makes it difficult for students to make a genuine effort to improve their conceptual understanding. Without structured remedial support from schools, many may just attempt to re-memorise material rather than addressing fundamental gaps in their learning. This contradicts the NEP's stated vision of reducing dependence on rote learning and fostering deeper understanding.

The issue of examination fees and equity

The financial implications of this scheme could also disproportionately affect economically weaker students. The policy mandates an enhanced (and non-refundable) examination fee to be collected at the time of registration, covering both examination attempts. This means that students who are confident about appearing only once will still have to pay for two examinations, imposing an unnecessary financial burden. For students from marginalised backgrounds, this cost increase could be a significant barrier, contradicting the NEP's broader goal of equitable education. If private coaching centres begin capitalising on the two-examination format by offering specialised coaching for the second attempt, the policy might further entrench inequalities in educational access.

The impact of this scheme on school calendars and the transition to Class 11 also requires further scrutiny. If results for the second examination are only declared by June-end, this compresses the admission cycle for higher secondary education. Schools typically begin their academic session in April or May, which means that students awaiting

the second examination results might face delays in securing admission or finalising subject streams. This could create confusion for both students and school administrators, particularly in States where Class 11 admissions are already a competitive and tightly scheduled process.

What should be done

If the CBSE genuinely wants to align itself with the NEP's vision, it must go beyond logistical restructuring and ensure that competency-based assessments are effectively implemented. A structured remedial programme should be integrated between the two examinations so that students who perform poorly in the first attempt have a real chance at improvement rather than just getting another opportunity to attempt the same test. The examination fee structure should be revised to ensure that students who opt for only one attempt are not penalised financially.

While there are reports that a pilot is under way in 30 schools in the science and social science subjects, where students are being assessed internally at two levels based on their choice, the ultimate design of the policy must still undergo a thorough review of these pilot outcomes. Any broader implementation should be in phases, beginning with additional pilot programmes in different regions. A trial phase in varied contexts would allow policymakers to assess practical challenges, refine logistics and gather feedback from schools, teachers and students before expanding it to the national level. Without such a phased approach, the scale of this change could lead to serious administrative challenges that disrupt rather than improve the board examination system.

The intention behind the reform is commendable, but intent alone is not enough. A scheme of this magnitude requires careful planning, clear communication, and a genuine commitment to shifting India's assessment culture towards holistic and meaningful learning. As it stands, the CBSE's two-examination policy risks becoming another bureaucratic overhaul that increases complexity without addressing the core issues that plague India's school examination system.

The views expressed are personal

The CBSE's 'two-exam scheme' overcomplicates things

CBSE की 'दो परीक्षा योजना' चीजों को अधिक जटिल बनाती है

The CBSE has proposed a new exam scheme from 2026, allowing Class 10 students to take board exams twice a year (tentatively in February/March and May).

CBSE ने 2026 से एक नई परीक्षा योजना प्रस्तावित की है, जिसके तहत कक्षा 10 के छात्र साल में दो बार बोर्ड परीक्षा दे सकते हैं (संभावित रूप से फरवरी/मार्च और मई में)।



- This is positioned as a **student-friendly reform aligned with NEP 2020**, aiming to **reduce student pressure and offer an additional opportunity to improve scores**.
इसे छात्रों के लिए अनुकूल सुधार के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जो राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020 के अनुरूप है और छात्रों के तनाव को कम करने व अंकों में सुधार का एक अतिरिक्त अवसर देने का उद्देश्य रखता है।
- However, the **policy presents several operational, financial, and pedagogical challenges**, making the system **more cumbersome rather than effective**.
हालांकि, इस नीति में कई संचालन, वित्तीय और शैक्षणिक चुनौतियां हैं, जो प्रणाली को अधिक प्रभावी बनने के बजाय जटिल बना सकती हैं।

Logistical issues and increased stress

लॉजिस्टिक चुनौतियां और बढ़ता तनाव

- The **policy aims to shift towards conceptual learning and competency-based assessment**, but it **lacks clarity on how question papers will be redesigned**.
यह नीति अवधारणात्मक (conceptual) सीखने और दक्षता-आधारित मूल्यांकन की ओर स्थानांतरित होने का लक्ष्य रखती है, लेकिन इसमें यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि प्रश्न पत्रों को कैसे पुनः डिज़ाइन किया जाएगा।
- Without a clear change in question patterns, **students may still rely on coaching and rote learning**, defeating the purpose of the reform.
प्रश्न पैटर्न में स्पष्ट बदलाव के बिना, छात्र अभी भी कोचिंग और रटने पर निर्भर रह सकते हैं, जिससे इस सुधार का उद्देश्य विफल हो सकता है।
- Instead of reducing stress, **students may feel pressured to prepare for two sets of exams instead of one**, leading to **increased exam anxiety**.
तनाव को कम करने के बजाय, छात्रों को एक के बजाय दो परीक्षाओं की तैयारी करने का दबाव महसूस हो सकता है, जिससे परीक्षा की चिंता बढ़ सकती है।

Challenges in implementation

कार्यान्वयन में चुनौतियां

- The **CBSE estimates that 26.6 lakh students will appear for Class 10 exams in 2026**.
CBSE का अनुमान है कि 2026 में कक्षा 10 की परीक्षा में 26.6 लाख छात्र शामिल होंगे।
- With **two exam cycles**, the number of answer scripts will **exceed 1.72 crore**, requiring a **massive workforce for evaluation**.
दो परीक्षा चक्रों के कारण, उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं की संख्या 1.72 करोड़ से अधिक हो जाएगी, जिससे मूल्यांकन के लिए बड़ी संख्या में परीक्षकों की आवश्यकता होगी।



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- The overlap with Class 12 exams (with 20 lakh students in 2026) adds administrative complexity and burdens teachers responsible for evaluation.
कक्षा 12 की परीक्षाओं (2026 में 20 लाख छात्र) के साथ परीक्षा का टकराव, प्रशासनिक जटिलताओं को बढ़ा सकता है और मूल्यांकन के लिए जिम्मेदार शिक्षकों पर अतिरिक्त दबाव डाल सकता है।
- Schools will need to conduct multiple exams for the same subjects, manage question papers securely, and ensure fair allocation of exam dates.
स्कूलों को एक ही विषय की कई परीक्षाएं आयोजित करनी होंगी, प्रश्न पत्रों को सुरक्षित रूप से प्रबंधित करना होगा, और परीक्षा तिथियों का निष्पक्ष आवंटन सुनिश्चित करना होगा।

Limited time for meaningful improvement

अंकों में सुधार के लिए सीमित समय

- Students who do not perform well in the February exams will have only two months to prepare for the May attempt.
जो छात्र फरवरी की परीक्षा में अच्छा प्रदर्शन नहीं कर पाते, उनके पास मई प्रयास की तैयारी के लिए केवल दो महीने होंगे।
- This short window may not allow for genuine conceptual improvement, and students may resort to rote learning again.
यह अवधारणात्मक सुधार (conceptual improvement) के लिए पर्याप्त समय नहीं देगा, और छात्र फिर से रटने (rote learning) पर निर्भर हो सकते हैं।
- Without structured remedial support from schools, the policy contradicts NEP 2020's vision of reducing rote learning.
स्कूलों से संरचित सुधारात्मक सहायता (remedial support) के बिना, यह नीति NEP 2020 के रटने की प्रवृत्ति को कम करने के लक्ष्य का विरोध करती है।

The issue of examination fees and equity

परीक्षा शुल्क और समानता का मुद्दा

- The financial burden of the two-exam scheme could disproportionately affect economically weaker students.
दो-परीक्षा योजना का वित्तीय बोझ आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर छात्रों को असमान रूप से प्रभावित कर सकता है।
- Students must pay an enhanced (non-refundable) exam fee at the time of registration, covering both attempts, even if they wish to appear only once.
छात्रों को पंजीकरण के समय एक बढ़ा हुआ (गैर-वापसी योग्य) परीक्षा शुल्क देना होगा, जो दोनों प्रयासों को कवर करेगा, भले ही वे केवल एक बार परीक्षा देना चाहें।
- This imposes an unnecessary financial burden, especially on students from marginalized backgrounds, contradicting the NEP's goal of equitable education.



यह एक अनावश्यक वित्तीय बोझ डालता है, विशेष रूप से वंचित पृष्ठभूमि के छात्रों पर, जो NEP के समान शिक्षा के लक्ष्य का विरोध करता है।

- Private coaching centers may exploit the two-exam format, offering specialized coaching for the second attempt, further increasing educational inequality.
निजी कोचिंग सेंटर दो-परीक्षा प्रारूप का लाभ उठा सकते हैं, दूसरे प्रयास के लिए विशेष कोचिंग प्रदान कर, जिससे शिक्षा में असमानता और बढ़ सकती है।

Impact on school calendars and Class 11 admissions

स्कूल कैलेंडर और कक्षा 11 प्रवेश पर प्रभाव

- If results for the second exam are declared by June-end, it compresses the admission cycle for Class 11, leading to delays in securing admissions and selecting subject streams.
यदि दूसरी परीक्षा के परिणाम जून के अंत तक घोषित किए जाते हैं, तो यह कक्षा 11 के प्रवेश चक्र को संकुचित कर सकता है, जिससे प्रवेश पाने और विषय चयन में देरी हो सकती है।
- Schools typically start the academic session in April or May, meaning students waiting for second exam results might face uncertainty.
स्कूलों में आमतौर पर अप्रैल या मई में नया सत्र शुरू हो जाता है, जिससे दूसरी परीक्षा के परिणाम का इंतजार कर रहे छात्रों को अनिश्चितता का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- This could create confusion among students and administrators, particularly in States where Class 11 admissions are already highly competitive.
यह छात्रों और स्कूल प्रशासन के लिए भ्रम पैदा कर सकता है, विशेष रूप से उन राज्यों में जहां कक्षा 11 में प्रवेश पहले से ही अत्यधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी है।

What should be done?

क्या किया जाना चाहिए?

- The CBSE should focus on competency-based assessments rather than just logistical restructuring.
CBSE को केवल लॉजिस्टिक बदलाव करने के बजाय, दक्षता-आधारित मूल्यांकन (competency-based assessments) पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- A structured remedial program should be introduced between the two exams, so students genuinely improve their understanding instead of just repeating the test.
दो परीक्षाओं के बीच एक संरचित सुधारात्मक कार्यक्रम (remedial program) लागू किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि छात्र सिर्फ परीक्षा दोहराने के बजाय अपनी समझ को वास्तविक रूप से सुधार सकें।
- The examination fee should be revised, ensuring that students who opt for only one attempt are not financially penalized.



परीक्षा शुल्क को संशोधित किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि जो छात्र केवल एक प्रयास चुनते हैं, उन्हें आर्थिक रूप से दंडित न किया जाए।

- Pilot programs are currently being conducted in 30 schools, assessing students at two levels in science and social science subjects.

वर्तमान में 30 स्कूलों में पायलट कार्यक्रम चल रहे हैं, जहां विज्ञान और सामाजिक विज्ञान विषयों में दो स्तरों पर छात्रों का मूल्यांकन किया जा रहा है।

- The final policy must be thoroughly reviewed based on pilot outcomes before full-scale implementation.

अंतिम नीति को पूर्ण कार्यान्वयन से पहले पायलट परिणामों के आधार पर पूरी तरह से समीक्षा की जानी चाहिए।

- A phased implementation is necessary, starting with additional pilot programs in different regions to refine logistics and gather feedback from schools, teachers, and students.

चरणबद्ध कार्यान्वयन (phased implementation) आवश्यक है, जिसे अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त पायलट कार्यक्रमों के साथ शुरू किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि लॉजिस्टिक्स को बेहतर बनाया जा सके और स्कूलों, शिक्षकों और छात्रों से प्रतिक्रिया प्राप्त की जा सके।

Final Thoughts

निष्कर्ष

- While the intention behind the reform is commendable, its execution requires better planning, clear communication, and a genuine shift towards holistic learning.

इस सुधार के पीछे का इरादा सराहनीय है, लेकिन इसे प्रभावी ढंग से लागू करने के लिए बेहतर योजना, स्पष्ट संचार, और समग्र (holistic) शिक्षा की ओर एक वास्तविक बदलाव की आवश्यकता है।

- As it stands, the two-exam policy risks becoming a bureaucratic burden, adding complexity without solving core issues in India's examination system.

वर्तमान स्थिति में, दो-परीक्षा नीति एक प्रशासनिक बोझ बन सकती है, जो भारत की परीक्षा प्रणाली की मूल समस्याओं को हल किए बिना जटिलता बढ़ा सकती है।



Whittling down sources of U.S. soft power

Soft power is defined as the use of positive attraction and persuasion to achieve foreign policy objectives. The U.S., which had increased its soft power through alliances, trade, education, immigration and foreign aid, is now looking at a decline of its global influence.

GS Paper II: US

WORLD INSIGHT

Suhasini Haider

Since assuming office for the second time in January 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump's directives, especially on foreign policy, have been projected as power moves as part of the plan to put "America First" and to "Make America Great Again". However, these actions are also cutting at the roots of U.S.'s influence in the world that make up its 'soft power'.

Soft power is defined as "the use of positive attraction and persuasion to achieve foreign policy objectives" – an economic, cultural and values-based measure as opposed to the military or coercive nature of 'hard power'.

A look at five major sources of the U.S. influence on the world or its 'soft power', and how they are impacted by the Trump administration's recent moves:

Alliances: Since the Second World War, the formation of the "Five Eyes Alliance" for intelligence sharing in 1946, and the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949, the U.S.'s hard power but also its soft power has multiplied. Yet, a number of Mr. Trump's statements appear to be weakening the U.S.'s image amongst its allies. From his territorial claims on Greenland, a semi-autonomous region that is part of Denmark, or his case for annexing Canada, to his unilateral actions in the Russia-Ukraine war – all have been at odds with the policies of the U.S.'s European allies, where U.S. soft power is the highest.

Additionally, Mr. Trump has criticised the U.S.'s alliance treaty with Japan as "unequal", and his praise for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, with whom he shares a "great relationship", has led to misgivings in Tokyo and Seoul. Adverse comments by a Trump nominee on the AUKUS agreement (a trilateral security pact between Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.) have also raised questions in Australia. While all of these are just statements at present and not hard action, they are still straining ties between the U.S. and its closest friends, while empowering those U.S. had declared its "strategic rivals". These moves bring into question just how committed the U.S. will be to groupings which aren't even alliances, like the Quad, which India will host this year. Meanwhile, the Trump administration's full-fledged backing to the Israeli bombardment of Gaza, as well as plans to redevelop it, is causing the U.S. to lose support in countries of the Global South.

USAID: The attack by the Trump-appointed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, on America's assistance programme – the United States Agency for International Development or USAID – has axed another source of U.S. influence in the world. In a matter of weeks, decade-old programmes of the USAID have been slashed down, with only about 17% of programmes being spared. With \$35 billion in appropriations, of which about \$3 billion was allocated to sub-Saharan Africa, USAID distributed more than \$24 billion to humanitarian, health, agriculture and education programmes, with the rest being used for governance and administration. While many dependent on USAID funds have decried the loss, others, including in countries like India, have hailed the curtailment of USAID programmes, as they were seen as political instruments to further U.S.



Open defiance: Protesters rally outside the Rhode Island State House in support of deported Brown University professor Dr. Rasha Alawieh, on March 17. AP

interests.

Both would be in agreement, however, that USAID furthered American influence, and the Trump administration's actions against it won't just reduce that influence – it also means that all such U.S. programmes in the future would be eyed with suspicion in recipient countries.

In addition, moves to gut iconic U.S. agencies, including think tanks like the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the Wilson Center, as well as federally funded media like Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) and Radio Free Asia (RFA) will constrain Washington's global messaging as well.

Trade: Mr. Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" planned for April 2 as part of his "war on tariffs" are a blow to the U.S.'s reputation as a champion of free trade and globalisation ever since 1945. At the time, the U.S. had come through a severe regime of protectionism and high taxes known as the Smoot-Hawley tariffs of 1930, which had hit the U.S. economy in the Great Depression years. Post-1945, U.S. grew its economic power by spreading U.S. goods around the world.

While it continued to push for lower tariffs worldwide, Washington supported the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which incorporated the concerns of the developing world, through the Uruguay Rounds, by building a level-playing field through tariffs. In 2005, in the Doha round, the U.S. proposed a "tariff free world by 2015". However, it has been growing more protectionist in the past decade. Mr. Trump's plan for reciprocal tariffs now would not only cause untold damage to trade levels with many countries, say experts, it will also test U.S.'s credibility as a trade partner.

As the U.S. pushes for a bilateral trade agreement with India, negotiators must watch closely how it treats pre-existing Free Trade Agreement partners like Canada, Mexico, and Australia.

Immigration: Given that native Americans make up less than 3% of the U.S.'s total population, the US is a nation of immigrants. It has served as a beacon for those from other countries seeking a better life for the last few centuries, symbolised by the inscription on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free".

U.S. immigrants are in every part of its corporate and government echelons, adding to America's reputation as a "melting pot" that welcomes diversity. The Trump administration's rejection of Diversity Equity Inclusion (DED) policies in recent weeks will have repercussions on that image abroad, as will visuals of soldiers deporting thousands of illegal migrants, shackled and aboard military planes; new curbs on legal migration; heightened scrutiny at airports for H-1B and Green Card holders; as well as Mr. Trump's executive order on banning citizenship by birth, which is currently being heard by the Supreme Court.

Education: Finally, there is the most potent source of U.S. soft power – the American university, a place for a comprehensive education and a bastion of free thinking and speech that has attracted youth from around the world for decades. Admission into U.S. universities is an aspirational goal for most societies, including their influential and powerful elites. The U.S. ranks at the top of the Higher Education Policy Institute's "Soft Power Index", that looks at how many current leaders (defined as Monarchs, Presidents, Prime Ministers) have been educated in countries other than their own.

The Trump administration's crackdown on student protestors, arrests and forced deportations of foreign students believed to be involved in protests, and withdrawal of funding to universities unless they comply to a government-approved SOP for student

activism, will impact foreign student footfalls. In Mr. Trump's first tenure, the U.S. had dropped in its rankings year-on-year in the Soft Power 30 ranking report and saw fewer foreign students arrive.

The decline in influence

In his book *Bound to Lead*, Joseph Nye, the political scientist credited with the term "soft power", wrote that the events of preceding years, including the fall of the Soviet Union, the reunification of Germany, and the first Gulf war proved that the "United States remained the only country with significant hard power and soft power resources," theorising that these would ensure the U.S.'s place as the world's most influential power. In a more recent article in the *Financial Times* last week, however, Mr. Nye is pessimistic about the future of U.S. influence as a consequence of Mr. Trump's "truncated view of power, limited to coercion and transactions", concluding that U.S. soft power will suffer in the next few years. Some have drawn parallels to China's deployment of "wolf warrior" diplomacy in the 2010s, coupled with aggressions against neighbours, and the unilateral implementation of its Belt and Road Initiative, that eventually lost it more friends than it gained.

Mr. Nye concedes that Mr. Trump is not solely responsible for this turn in U.S. policies, which are widely popular at present, and warns that the administration will face "checks and balances" in the form of the judiciary, public opinion turning, and the Senate races of 2026.

New Delhi may be better advised to pace its negotiations with the U.S., rather than to give Washington concessions and make compromises now that may not be required if the Trump administration is tempered by those checks, and the fall in U.S. soft power.

THE GIST

Since the Second World War, the formation of the "Five Eyes Alliance" for intelligence sharing in 1946, and the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949, the U.S.'s hard power but also its soft power has multiplied.

In his book *Bound to Lead*, Joseph Nye, the political scientist credited with the term "soft power", wrote that the events of preceding years, including the fall of the Soviet Union, the reunification of Germany, and the first Gulf war proved that the "United States remained the only country with significant hard power and soft power resources," theorising that these would ensure the U.S.'s place as the world's most influential power.

USAID furthered American influence, and the Trump administration's actions against it won't just reduce that influence – it also means that all such U.S. programmes in the future would be eyed with suspicion in recipient countries.

Whittling down sources of U.S. soft power

अमेरिका की सॉफ्ट पावर के स्रोतों में गिरावट



Soft power is defined as the use of positive attraction and persuasion to achieve foreign policy objectives, rather than military or coercive force.

सॉफ्ट पावर को सकारात्मक आकर्षण और प्रेरणा के माध्यम से विदेशी नीति के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के रूप में परिभाषित किया जाता है, जो सैन्य या बलपूर्वक दबाव के विपरीत है।

- The **U.S. traditionally expanded its soft power through alliances, trade, education, immigration, and foreign aid**, but recent policies under President Donald Trump are leading to its decline.

अमेरिका ने पारंपरिक रूप से गठबंधनों, व्यापार, शिक्षा, प्रवासन और विदेशी सहायता के माध्यम से अपनी सॉफ्ट पावर का विस्तार किया, लेकिन राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की हालिया नीतियों के कारण इसमें गिरावट आ रही है।

Alliances

गठबंधन

- The **U.S. strengthened its global influence after World War II through alliances like "Five Eyes" (1946) and NATO (1949)**.
द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद, अमेरिका ने "फाइव आइज़" (1946) और NATO (1949) जैसे गठबंधनों के माध्यम से अपना वैश्विक प्रभाव बढ़ाया।
- Trump's recent statements have strained relations with key allies:
ट्रंप के हालिया बयानों ने प्रमुख सहयोगियों के साथ संबंधों को कमजोर किया:
 - **Territorial claims on Greenland and Canada** have caused friction with European allies.
ग्रीनलैंड और कनाडा पर क्षेत्रीय दावे यूरोपीय सहयोगियों के साथ तनाव पैदा कर रहे हैं।
 - **Criticism of the U.S.-Japan alliance as "unequal"** has raised concerns in Tokyo.
अमेरिका-जापान गठबंधन को "असमान" कहकर ट्रंप ने टोक्यो में चिंता बढ़ा दी है।
 - **Praise for North Korea's Kim Jong Un** has unsettled South Korea.
उत्तर कोरिया के किम जोंग उन की प्रशंसा ने दक्षिण कोरिया को असहज कर दिया है।
 - **Comments on the AUKUS agreement** have caused unease in Australia.
AUKUS समझौते पर टिप्पणियां ऑस्ट्रेलिया में असंतोष पैदा कर रही हैं।
- The Trump administration's full backing of Israel's actions in Gaza has cost the U.S. support in the Global South.
गाजा में इजरायल की कार्रवाइयों के लिए ट्रंप प्रशासन के पूर्ण समर्थन से अमेरिका को ग्लोबल साउथ में समर्थन गंवाना पड़ा है।



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USAID (United States Agency for International Development)

अमेरिकी अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी (USAID)

- The **Trump administration, led by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has significantly reduced USAID's global influence.**
ट्रंप प्रशासन ने सरकार दक्षता विभाग (DOGE) के नेतृत्व में USAID के वैश्विक प्रभाव को काफी कम कर दिया है।
- **Only 17% of USAID programs remain, cutting essential humanitarian aid:**
USAID के केवल 17% कार्यक्रम बचे हैं, जिससे महत्वपूर्ण मानवीय सहायता प्रभावित हो रही है:
 - **\$35 billion in appropriations, with one-third allocated to sub-Saharan Africa.**
\$35 बिलियन का बजट, जिसमें एक-तिहाई उप-सहारा अफ्रीका के लिए था।
 - **\$24 billion was directed toward health, agriculture, and education programs.**
\$24 बिलियन स्वास्थ्य, कृषि और शिक्षा कार्यक्रमों के लिए आवंटित था।
- **Countries like India had mixed reactions, as some saw USAID as a tool to push U.S. interests.**
भारत जैसे देशों में मिली-जुली प्रतिक्रिया थी, क्योंकि कुछ ने USAID को अमेरिकी प्रभाव बढ़ाने के उपकरण के रूप में देखा।
- **Eliminating USAID programs weakens U.S. influence and makes future aid efforts more suspect.**
USAID कार्यक्रमों को समाप्त करने से अमेरिका का प्रभाव कमजोर होता है और भविष्य में उसकी सहायता को संदेह की नजर से देखा जाएगा।
- **The Trump administration is also cutting funding to U.S. think tanks like the Wilson Center and federally funded media like Voice of America and Radio Free Europe.**
ट्रंप प्रशासन अमेरिकी थिंक टैंकों (जैसे विल्सन सेंटर) और संघीय वित्त पोषित मीडिया (जैसे वॉयस ऑफ अमेरिका और रेडियो फ्री यूरोप) की फंडिंग भी समाप्त कर रहा है।

Trade Policies and Global Standing

व्यापार नीतियां और वैश्विक प्रतिष्ठा

- **The U.S. has historically promoted free trade and globalization, but Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" policy threatens this reputation.**
अमेरिका ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से मुक्त व्यापार और वैश्वीकरण को बढ़ावा दिया है, लेकिन ट्रंप की "पारस्परिक शुल्क" नीति इस प्रतिष्ठा को खतरे में डाल रही है।
- **April 2 marks the start of Trump's "war on tariffs", which could harm U.S. credibility as a trade partner.**
2 अप्रैल को ट्रंप की "टैरिफ युद्ध" नीति शुरू होगी, जिससे अमेरिका की व्यापार भागीदार के रूप में

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विश्वसनीयता प्रभावित हो सकती है।

- The U.S. once championed global free trade:
अमेरिका कभी वैश्विक मुक्त व्यापार का समर्थक था:
 - Post-1945: Advocated for lower tariffs worldwide.
1945 के बाद: दुनिया भर में कम टैरिफ के लिए समर्थन किया।
 - Founded the World Trade Organization (WTO) and led the Uruguay Rounds.
विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) की स्थापना की और उरुग्वे दौर का नेतृत्व किया।
 - Proposed a "tariff-free world by 2015" in the Doha Round (2005).
2005 में दोहा दौर के दौरान "2015 तक टैरिफ मुक्त विश्व" प्रस्तावित किया।
- Recent protectionist policies could damage global trade levels and trust in U.S. partnerships.
हाल की संरक्षणवादी नीतियां वैश्विक व्यापार स्तर और अमेरिकी साझेदारी में विश्वास को नुकसान पहुंचा सकती हैं।

Conclusion: The Decline of U.S. Soft Power

निष्कर्ष: अमेरिकी सॉफ्ट पावर में गिरावट

- The Trump administration's foreign policy choices are eroding U.S. soft power.
ट्रंप प्रशासन की विदेशी नीतियां अमेरिकी सॉफ्ट पावर को कमजोर कर रही हैं।
- Weakened alliances, reduced foreign aid, and protectionist trade policies are reversing decades of diplomatic progress.
कमजोर होते गठबंधन, घटती विदेशी सहायता और संरक्षणवादी व्यापार नीतियां दशकों की कूटनीतिक प्रगति को उलट रही हैं।
- The U.S. risks losing its credibility as a global leader, creating opportunities for strategic rivals like China and Russia.
अमेरिका वैश्विक नेता के रूप में अपनी विश्वसनीयता खोने के जोखिम में है, जिससे चीन और रूस जैसे रणनीतिक प्रतिद्वंद्वियों को अवसर मिल सकता है।

Bilateral Trade Agreement with India

भारत के साथ द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौता

- The U.S. is pushing for a bilateral trade agreement with India.
अमेरिका भारत के साथ एक द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते की दिशा में बढ़ रहा है।
- Negotiators must closely monitor how the U.S. treats its pre-existing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners like Canada, Mexico, and Australia.



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वार्ताकारों को ध्यानपूर्वक देखना चाहिए कि अमेरिका अपने मौजूदा मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) भागीदारों, जैसे कि कनाडा, मैक्सिको और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के साथ कैसा व्यवहार कर रहा है।

Immigration and U.S. Identity

प्रवासन और अमेरिका की पहचान

- **Less than 3% of the U.S. population consists of Native Americans, making the U.S. a nation of immigrants.**
अमेरिका की कुल जनसंख्या में मूल अमेरिकी (Native Americans) की संख्या 3% से भी कम है, जिससे यह एक प्रवासियों का राष्ट्र बनता है।
- **The Statue of Liberty symbolizes the U.S. as a haven for immigrants seeking a better life.**
स्टैच्यू ऑफ लिबर्टी अमेरिका को प्रवासियों के लिए एक आश्रय स्थल के रूप में दर्शाती है, जो बेहतर जीवन की तलाश में आते हैं।
- **The Trump administration's rejection of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies is harming this image.**
ट्रंप प्रशासन द्वारा विविधता, समानता और समावेशन (DEI) नीतियों को अस्वीकार करना इस छवि को नुकसान पहुंचा रहा है।
- **Deportations of illegal migrants in shackles on military planes, new curbs on legal migration, and strict scrutiny at airports for H-1B and Green Card holders worsen this perception.**
गैर-कानूनी प्रवासियों को बेड़ियों में जकड़कर सैन्य विमानों से निर्वासित करना, कानूनी प्रवासन पर नए प्रतिबंध, और हवाई अड्डों पर H-1B और ग्रीन कार्ड धारकों की सख्त जांच इस छवि को और खराब कर रहे हैं।
- **Trump's executive order banning birthright citizenship (under Supreme Court review) could further diminish the U.S.'s appeal as an immigration-friendly nation.**
ट्रंप का जन्मसिद्ध नागरिकता पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला कार्यकारी आदेश (जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट में विचाराधीन है) अमेरिका की प्रवासन-हितैषी छवि को और कमजोर कर सकता है।

Education as a Source of Soft Power

शिक्षा: अमेरिका की सॉफ्ट पावर का स्रोत

- **American universities have been a major source of U.S. soft power, attracting global talent and leaders.**
अमेरिकी विश्वविद्यालय अमेरिका की सॉफ्ट पावर का एक प्रमुख स्रोत रहे हैं, जो वैश्विक प्रतिभाओं और नेताओं को आकर्षित करते हैं।
- **The U.S. ranks highest in the Higher Education Policy Institute's "Soft Power Index" due to the presence of many world leaders educated in the U.S.**

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उच्च शिक्षा नीति संस्थान (Higher Education Policy Institute) के "सॉफ्ट पावर इंडेक्स" में अमेरिका शीर्ष स्थान पर है, क्योंकि कई विश्व नेता अमेरिका में शिक्षित हुए हैं।

- The Trump administration's crackdown on student protestors and forced deportations of foreign students will likely impact international student enrollment. ट्रंप प्रशासन द्वारा छात्र प्रदर्शनकारियों पर कार्रवाई और विदेशी छात्रों के जबरन निर्वासन से अंतरराष्ट्रीय छात्रों का नामांकन प्रभावित हो सकता है।
- U.S. universities saw a decline in foreign students during Trump's first tenure, leading to a drop in the Soft Power 30 ranking. ट्रंप के पहले कार्यकाल में अमेरिकी विश्वविद्यालयों में विदेशी छात्रों की संख्या में गिरावट आई थी, जिससे "सॉफ्ट पावर 30 रैंकिंग" में अमेरिका का स्थान नीचे चला गया था।

The Decline of U.S. Influence

अमेरिका के प्रभाव में गिरावट

- Joseph Nye, who coined the term "soft power," previously argued that the U.S. would remain the most influential power due to its combination of hard and soft power. जोसेफ नाए, जिन्होंने "सॉफ्ट पावर" शब्द को गढ़ा, पहले तर्क देते थे कि कठोर और सॉफ्ट पावर के संयोजन के कारण अमेरिका सबसे प्रभावशाली शक्ति बना रहेगा।
- In a recent Financial Times article, Nye warns that Trump's transactional and coercive view of power is weakening U.S. soft power. हाल ही में फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स में जोसेफ नाए ने चेतावनी दी कि ट्रंप का लेन-देन आधारित और जबरदस्ती वाला दृष्टिकोण अमेरिका की सॉफ्ट पावर को कमजोर कर रहा है।
- The comparison with China's "Wolf Warrior" diplomacy suggests that aggressive unilateral actions can alienate allies rather than strengthen influence. चीन की "वुल्फ वॉरियर" कूटनीति की तुलना दर्शाती है कि आक्रामक एकतरफा कार्रवाइयां सहयोगियों को अलग कर सकती हैं, बजाय प्रभाव बढ़ाने के।
- Trump's policies are currently popular in the U.S., but checks and balances from the judiciary, public opinion, and 2026 Senate races may temper their impact. अमेरिका में ट्रंप की नीतियां फिलहाल लोकप्रिय हैं, लेकिन न्यायपालिका, जनमत और 2026 के सीनेट चुनावों से संतुलन बनने की संभावना है।

India's Strategy in U.S. Relations

अमेरिका के साथ भारत की रणनीति

- India should adopt a cautious approach in trade negotiations with the U.S., given the uncertain trajectory of U.S. soft power.



अमेरिका की सॉफ्ट पावर की अनिश्चित स्थिति को देखते हुए, भारत को व्यापार वार्ता में सतर्क दृष्टिकोण अपनाना चाहिए।

- Rather than making premature compromises, India should wait for potential policy shifts influenced by institutional checks and balances.

जल्दबाजी में समझौते करने के बजाय, भारत को संस्थागत नियंत्रण और संतुलन से प्रभावित संभावित नीतिगत बदलावों का इंतजार करना चाहिए।

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

1. Panel seeks comprehensive review of GST framework

पैनल ने जीएसटी ढांचे की व्यापक समीक्षा की मांग की

2. Non-performing assets of banks at multi-year low due to govt. measures, says Sitharaman

सरकारी उपायों के कारण बैंकों की गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्तियां (NPA) कई वर्षों के निचले स्तर पर: सीतारमण

3. New data keeps the search for rare subatomic mystery going

नई जानकारीयां दुर्लभ उप-परमाणु रहस्य की खोज को जारी रखती हैं

4. Going electric

इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन अपनाने की दिशा में कदम

5. The Issue of Quality in India's Scientific Publications

भारत में वैज्ञानिक प्रकाशनों की गुणवत्ता का मुद्दा

6. The Role of Communities in Conserving Water

जल संरक्षण में समुदायों की भूमिका

7. Malhotra advises caution in battling money laundering

मल्होत्रा ने मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग से लड़ने में सतर्कता बरतने की सलाह दी



Panel seeks comprehensive review of GST framework

PAC urges Finance Ministry to simplify GST regime by eliminating unnecessary procedures; it calls for a transparent refund mechanism, fairer penalty structures, use of AI for revenue projections

GS Paper III: Taxation Reform

Lalal
MUMBAI

Battling for a simplified goods and services tax (GST) regime, Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has recommended that the Finance Ministry undertake a comprehensive review of the GST framework to identify and eliminate unnecessary procedures and requirements that complicate compliance.

This includes streamlining the return filing process by consolidating forms and reducing the frequency of filing where possible, the PAC said, in its 19th report that was presented to Parliament on Wednesday. It also pushed for a tiered compliance approach, where smaller businesses face fewer requirements and simplified processes compared to larger entities, thereby reducing the burden on smaller taxpayers.

The Ministry has been asked to improve the user friendliness of the GST por-

A smaller pie

The PAC has recommended the Finance Ministry to undertake a comprehensive review of the GST Framework to simplify compliance



- The Ministry has been asked to improve the user friendliness of the GST portal

- The committee has called for a revamped GST 2.0 after consultation with stakeholders

- PAC has recommended that the Ministry implement a more efficient and transparent refund processing system

that includes clear timelines and regular updates to taxpayers

- The PAC has asked the Finance Ministry to use data analytics and AI tools to get an accurate projection of the indirect tax revenue. The share of indirect taxes in total revenue receipts has declined from 38.76% in FY18 to 36.92% in FY20

tal and ensure that it provides guidance and support to taxpayers at every step in the filing process.

The committee has called for a revamped GST 2.0 after consultation with stakeholders to address their concerns and to ensure the timely collection of taxes so that the declared objective of the GST regime is established.

The PAC has also highlighted the significant challenges faced by taxpayers, especially the punishment meted out for compliance

failures, with some honest taxpayers facing criminal penalties even in cases of unintentional errors.

Regarding the registration process, the committee argued that when the initial steps taken towards biometric-based Aadhaar authentication are "riddled with so many issues, the vision of GST leading to a simplified and unified taxation system, i.e., 'One Nation One Tax' may remain evasive".

Noting that the share of indirect taxes in total revenue

receipts fell from 38.76% in 2017-18 to 36.92% in 2019-20, the PAC asked the Finance Ministry to undertake an accurate projection of the revenue to be collected with the help of data analytics and artificial intelligence tools.

The PAC has also recommended that the Ministry implement a more transparent refund processing system that includes clear timelines for processing claims and regular updates to taxpayers on the status of their refunds. "Establishing a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism for refund-related issues would also be beneficial..." it said.

The PAC has recommended that the Ministry implement a simplified GST compliance framework, especially designed for MSMEs, to fast-track and automate return filing and refund processing. This should include a reduction in the frequency of return filings and allow for a more straightforward online reporting process.

Panel seeks comprehensive review of GST framework

पैनल ने जीएसटी ढांचे की व्यापक समीक्षा की मांग की

Parliament's **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** has recommended that the Finance Ministry undertake a comprehensive review of the



GST framework to identify and eliminate unnecessary procedures that complicate compliance.

संसद की लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) ने वित्त मंत्रालय को जीएसटी ढांचे की व्यापक समीक्षा करने की सिफारिश की है ताकि अनावश्यक प्रक्रियाओं को पहचाना और हटाया जा सके, जो अनुपालन को जटिल बनाती हैं।

- The PAC, in its 19th report presented to Parliament on Wednesday, suggested streamlining the return filing process by consolidating forms and reducing the frequency of filings where possible.
बुधवार को संसद में पेश की गई अपनी 19वीं रिपोर्ट में PAC ने रिटर्न दाखिल करने की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाने, फॉर्म को समेकित करने और जहां संभव हो, फाइलिंग की आवृत्ति कम करने की सिफारिश की।
- It also pushed for a **tiered compliance approach**, where **smaller businesses face fewer requirements and simplified processes** compared to larger entities, **reducing the burden on smaller taxpayers**.
इसने स्तरीय अनुपालन दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की वकालत की, जिसमें छोटे व्यवसायों को बड़े संस्थानों की तुलना में कम आवश्यकताओं और सरल प्रक्रियाओं का सामना करना पड़े, जिससे छोटे करदाताओं पर बोझ कम हो।
- The **Ministry has been asked to improve the user-friendliness of the GST portal** and ensure that it **provides guidance and support** to taxpayers at every step in the filing process.
मंत्रालय से जीएसटी पोर्टल को अधिक उपयोगकर्ता-अनुकूल बनाने और यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कहा गया है कि यह करदाताओं को फाइलिंग प्रक्रिया के हर चरण में मार्गदर्शन और सहायता प्रदान करे।
- The **committee has called for a revamped GST 2.0 after consultation with stakeholders** to address their concerns and ensure the **timely collection of taxes**.
समिति ने हितधारकों से परामर्श के बाद जीएसटी 2.0 के पुनर्गठन की मांग की है ताकि उनकी चिंताओं का समाधान किया जा सके और करों की समय पर वसूली सुनिश्चित हो।

Concerns over penalties and compliance

दंड और अनुपालन को लेकर चिंताएं

- The PAC highlighted significant challenges faced by taxpayers, particularly **criminal penalties imposed on honest taxpayers for unintentional errors**.
PAC ने करदाताओं द्वारा झेली जा रही महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों को उजागर किया, खासतौर पर ईमानदार करदाताओं को अनजाने में हुई गलतियों पर दंडित किए जाने की चिंता व्यक्त की।
- Regarding **registration**, the committee argued that **biometric-based Aadhaar authentication issues** could hinder the vision of **'One Nation, One Tax'**.
पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया को लेकर, समिति ने कहा कि बायोमेट्रिक-आधारित आधार प्रमाणीकरण में आने वाली समस्याएं 'वन नेशन, वन टैक्स' के दृष्टिकोण को बाधित कर सकती हैं।



- The share of indirect taxes in total revenue receipts fell from 38.76% in 2017-18 to 36.92% in 2019-20. The PAC urged the Finance Ministry to use AI and data analytics for more accurate revenue projections.

कुल राजस्व प्राप्तियों में अप्रत्यक्ष करों की हिस्सेदारी 2017-18 में 38.76% से घटकर 2019-20 में 36.92% हो गई। PAC ने वित्त मंत्रालय से सटीक राजस्व अनुमान लगाने के लिए एआई और डेटा एनालिटिक्स का उपयोग करने का आग्रह किया।

Need for a transparent refund mechanism

पारदर्शी रिफंड प्रणाली की आवश्यकता

- The PAC recommended implementing a transparent refund system, including clear timelines for processing claims and regular updates to taxpayers.
PAC ने एक पारदर्शी रिफंड प्रणाली लागू करने की सिफारिश की, जिसमें दावों के निपटान के लिए स्पष्ट समय सीमा और करदाताओं को नियमित अपडेट प्रदान करने का प्रावधान हो।
- It suggested establishing a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism for refund-related issues.
इसने रिफंड से संबंधित समस्याओं के लिए एक समर्पित शिकायत निवारण तंत्र स्थापित करने का सुझाव दिया।
- The PAC also recommended a simplified GST compliance framework, especially designed for MSMEs, to fast-track and automate return filing and refund processing.
PAC ने विशेष रूप से MSME के लिए एक सरल जीएसटी अनुपालन ढांचे की सिफारिश की, जिससे रिटर्न फाइलिंग और रिफंड प्रक्रिया को तेज और स्वचालित किया जा सके।
- This should include reducing the frequency of return filings and allowing for a more straightforward online reporting process.
इसमें रिटर्न फाइलिंग की आवृत्ति कम करने और एक आसान ऑनलाइन रिपोर्टिंग प्रक्रिया लागू करने की सिफारिश की गई है।



Non-performing assets of banks at multi-year low due to govt. measures, says Sitharaman

GS Paper III: NPA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Banking Regulation Bill that amends several provisions of some five Acts in the sector.

Terming the Bill unique, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her reply that 19 Sections of these Acts would be impacted by the amendments. She said this was part of the measures taken by the NDA government since 2014 to address the crisis in the country's banking sector.

Ms. Sitharaman said in the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill that the new legislation would improve governance standards, provide consistency in reporting by banks to the Reserve Bank of India, ensure better protection for depositors and investors, improve audit quality



Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session of the Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

in public sector banks, bring customer convenience in respect of nominations and provide for increase in the tenure of the directors in cooperative banks. The legislation allows bank account holders to have up to four nominees.

"The gross non-performing assets of the scheduled commercial banks were at a multi-year low of 2.5% in September 2024 as

a result of these efforts," Ms. Sitharaman said, adding that public sector banks had recorded the highest ever net profit of ₹1.41 lakh crore in the previous financial year. "The government is committed to taking stringent actions against wilful defaulters," she said, replying to the criticism by the Opposition that the Centre allowed such defaulters to escape to foreign countries. She

said the Enforcement Directorate was doing the work of recovering the legitimate money belonging to the banks and the people from the defaulters.

Debt waiver

On the demand for debt waiver, she said the Narendra Modi government did not believe in deceiving farmers, and the Kisan Samman Nidhi helped the farmers and alleged that the Congress's announcements of debt waivers had not helped any farmer, as they remained announcements. She said 68 lakh street vendors had been supported by the PM Svanidhi loan scheme.

About 50 crore loans had been sanctioned under the PM Mudra scheme under the policy of securing the unsecured and funding the unfunded. Ms. Sitharaman said 98% of the 6,01,328 villages in the country had a bank or a

post office with banking facilities. She said in the 10 years, 3.9 lakh posts in public sector banks were filled.

Earlier, during the debate, the Opposition members criticised the Centre's approach towards wilful defaulters. Senior Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil alleged that the Centre had written off ₹87,000 crore by 50 wilful defaulters till 2024. "People, including Mehul Choksi and Rishi Agarwal are in the list of those wilful defaulters. The government has written off loans to those people who looted this country and fled abroad. But when poor, small traders and farmers default on loans the government auctions their assets," he said.

Trinamool Congress's Saket Gokhale said the country's banks were being crushed under the burden of non-performing assets.

Non-performing assets of banks at multi-year low due to govt. measures, says Sitharaman

सरकारी उपायों के कारण बैंकों की गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्तियां (NPA) कई वर्षों के निचले स्तर पर: सीतारमण

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the **Banking Regulation Bill**, which amends several provisions of five Acts in the banking sector.

राज्यसभा ने बुधवार को बैंकिंग विनियमन विधेयक पारित किया, जो बैंकिंग क्षेत्र के पांच अधिनियमों के कई प्रावधानों में संशोधन करता है।



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman termed the Bill **unique**, stating that **19 sections of these Acts would be impacted** by the amendments.
केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने इस विधेयक को अद्वितीय बताया और कहा कि संशोधनों के कारण इन अधिनियमों के 19 प्रावधान प्रभावित होंगे।
- She said that this was **part of the measures taken by the NDA government since 2014 to address the crisis in the banking sector**.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह 2014 से एनडीए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए उन कदमों का हिस्सा है, जो बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में संकट को दूर करने के लिए उठाए गए हैं।

Key Features of the Bill

विधेयक की मुख्य विशेषताएं

- The Bill aims to **improve governance standards, provide consistency in reporting by banks to the RBI, and enhance depositor and investor protection**.
इस विधेयक का उद्देश्य शासन मानकों में सुधार करना, बैंकों द्वारा RBI को रिपोर्टिंग की प्रक्रिया को एकरूप बनाना, और जमाकर्ताओं व निवेशकों की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है।
- It also seeks to **improve audit quality in public sector banks and bring convenience in respect of nominations** for account holders, allowing them to have **up to four nominees**.
यह विधेयक सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों में ऑडिट की गुणवत्ता सुधारने और नामांकन प्रक्रिया को सुविधाजनक बनाने का भी प्रावधान करता है, जिससे खाता धारक चार नामांकित व्यक्तियों को जोड़ सकते हैं।
- **Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of scheduled commercial banks were at a multi-year low of 2.5% in September 2024, due to government measures**.
अनुसूचित वाणिज्यिक बैंकों की सकल गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्तियां (NPA) सितंबर 2024 में 2.5% के कई वर्षों के निचले स्तर पर पहुंच गई हैं, जो सरकार के उपायों के कारण संभव हुआ है।
- **Public sector banks recorded the highest-ever net profit of ₹1.41 lakh crore in the previous financial year**.
सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों ने पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष में ₹1.41 लाख करोड़ का अब तक का सबसे अधिक शुद्ध लाभ दर्ज किया।

Government's Stand on Wilful Defaulters

जानबूझकर ऋण न चुकाने वालों पर सरकार का रुख

- Ms. Sitharaman stated that the **government is committed to taking stringent actions against wilful defaulters**.
श्रीमती सीतारमण ने कहा कि सरकार जानबूझकर ऋण न चुकाने वालों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।



- She dismissed the **Opposition's** claims that the Centre allowed defaulters to flee **abroad**, stating that the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** is actively recovering money from defaulters.
उन्होंने विपक्ष के इस आरोप को खारिज किया कि केंद्र सरकार ने जानबूझकर ऋण न चुकाने वालों को विदेश भागने दिया, और कहा कि प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ED) सक्रिय रूप से बैंकों और जनता का पैसा वापस ला रहा है।

Debt Waiver and Welfare Schemes

कर्ज माफी और कल्याणकारी योजनाएं

- On the demand for **debt waiver**, Ms. Sitharaman said that the **Narendra Modi government does not believe in deceiving farmers**, and highlighted the **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi** scheme.
कर्ज माफी की मांग पर, श्रीमती सीतारमण ने कहा कि नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार किसानों को धोखा देने में विश्वास नहीं रखती, और पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि योजना को इसका उदाहरण बताया।
- She alleged that **Congress's debt waiver announcements had not benefited farmers**, as they remained **mere announcements**.
उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि कांग्रेस द्वारा की गई कर्ज माफी की घोषणाएं केवल घोषणाएं बनकर रह गईं और किसानों को कोई लाभ नहीं मिला।
- **68 lakh street vendors** have been supported under the **PM SVANidhi** loan scheme.
पीएम स्वनिधि ऋण योजना के तहत 68 लाख स्ट्रीट वेंडर्स (फेरीवालों) को समर्थन दिया गया है।
- **50 crore loans** have been sanctioned under the **PM Mudra Yojana** to fund the **unfunded and secure the unsecured**.
पीएम मुद्रा योजना के तहत 50 करोड़ ऋण स्वीकृत किए गए हैं ताकि असुरक्षित क्षेत्रों को वित्तीय सहायता दी जा सके।
- **98% of the 6,01,328 villages in India** now have a bank or a post office with banking facilities.
भारत के 6,01,328 गांवों में से 98% गांवों में अब बैंक या डाकघर की बैंकिंग सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं।
- In the last 10 years, **3.9 lakh posts in public sector banks** have been filled.
पिछले 10 वर्षों में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों में 3.9 लाख पदों को भरा गया है।

Opposition Criticism

विपक्ष की आलोचना

- Senior Congress MP **Shaktisinh Gohil** alleged that the Centre had written off **₹87,000 crore of 50 wilful defaulters till 2024**.



कांग्रेस के वरिष्ठ सांसद शक्ति सिंह गोहिल ने आरोप लगाया कि केंद्र सरकार ने 2024 तक 50

जानबूझकर ऋण न चुकाने वालों का ₹87,000 करोड़ का कर्ज माफ कर दिया।

- He named **Mehul Choksi and Rishi Agarwal** as part of the list of defaulters whose loans were written off.

उन्होंने **मेहुल चोकसी और ऋषि अग्रवाल** को उन जानबूझकर ऋण न चुकाने वालों की सूची में शामिल बताया, जिनके ऋण माफ किए गए।

- He claimed that the **government writes off loans of big defaulters** but **auctions the assets of poor farmers and small traders** when they fail to repay loans.

उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि **सरकार बड़े डिफॉल्टरों के ऋण माफ कर देती है**, लेकिन जब **गरीब किसानों और छोटे व्यापारियों के ऋण डिफॉल्ट होते हैं**, तो उनकी संपत्तियों की नीलामी कर दी जाती है।

- **Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale** claimed that **the country's banks were being crushed under the burden of NPAs**.

तृणमूल कांग्रेस के सांसद **साकेत गोखले** ने कहा कि देश के **बैंक एनपीए (गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्तियों) के बोझ तले दबे जा रहे हैं**।

NON-PERFORMING ASSETS

- It refers to those loans where the interest and principal payments have not been paid for more than 90 days.
- Before 90 days it is classified as a stressed asset.
- Assets with banks may be classified into normal assets and stressed assets.
- Stressed assets can be classified into three categories:
 - (a) Special Mention Account-0 (1-30 days)
 - (b) Special Mention Account-1 (30-60 days)
 - (c) Special Mention Account-2 (60-90 days)
- If the interest and principal obligation is not fulfilled for more than 90 days then it is classified as Non-Performing Asset.
- NPA can be classified into three categories:
 - (a) Sub-Standard Assets- A substandard asset is an asset classified as an NPA for less than 12 months.
 - (b) Doubtful Assets- A doubtful asset is an asset classified as an NPA for between 1 year and 3 years
 - (c) Loss Assets- A Loss asset is an asset classified as an NPA for more than 3 years.
- The banks have to keep aside certain provision that is enough liquid assets to cover the non-payment of dues.
- The purpose of provisioning is to convince the depositors about the safety of their deposits with the banks.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- It is 15% for the sub-standard asset and for a doubtful asset, it is 25% in the first year and 40% in the second year. After the third year, it is 100%.

Leverage ratio and Provision ratio

- Leverage ratio= Debt/ Equity. More the leverage ratio, the more serious condition. It means that own money is less and the money taken from outside is more.
- Provision ratio= Provision/ GNPA- More provision ratio means banks are in good condition to pay the money and can avoid a bank run.

PATRIOTIC IAS



New data keeps the search for rare subatomic mystery going

A major open question in physics is whether neutrinos are their own anti-particles. The best way to confirm this is by observing a very rare form of radioactive decay called neutrinoless double beta decay. The AMoRE experiment in South Korea is looking for it in molybdenum-100 atoms

GS Paper III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

Last month, Microsoft announced a new quantum computing chip called Majorana 1 that it expected would “realise quantum computers capable of solving meaningful, industrial-scale problems in years, not decades.” Independent scientists soon raised doubts about this claim – grandiose as it is – but also acknowledged Microsoft had taken on a great challenge to build such a chip and that its efforts in this direction could not or should not be written off altogether.

Microsoft named the chip “Majorana 1” because it consists of Majorana particles, which is a particular type of subatomic particle with unusual properties. One is that a Majorana particle is its own anti-particle. The particles that make up matter, called fermions, have anti-particles with distinct identities. For example, the electron’s anti-particle is a positron, not another electron. The proton’s anti-particle is the anti-proton, not another proton. But uniquely among fermions, a Majorana particle’s anti-particle is yet another Majorana particle. If two of them meet, they will annihilate each other in a flash of energy.

One of the major open questions in contemporary physics is whether neutrinos are Majorana particles.

Neutrinos, neutrinos everywhere

Neutrinos are the second-most abundant subatomic particle in the universe, after photons, the particles of light. They were produced in copious amounts during the Big Bang event. They are produced in radioactive decay, when massive stars explode, and when cosmic rays strike the earth’s atmosphere.

They are also made during nuclear fusion: the sun alone is responsible for flooding every square centimetre on the earth with 60 billion neutrinos each second. These particles are also extraordinarily hard to catch because they interact very weakly and very rarely with matter.

Yet it is crucial physicists study them: neutrinos may just be the key to answering many of the open questions about our universe. Their tremendous numbers are a sign that they’re involved in many, many subatomic processes. Thus a clear view of their properties will also afford physicists a clear view of these processes, and the as-yet unresolved questions they can answer.

We do not know many things about neutrinos. Perhaps the biggest unknown is how much a neutrino weighs. We know neutrinos come in three flavours, or varieties, and we know the differences between the squares of their masses, but not the individual masses themselves. If neutrinos are found to be Majorana particles, the process that reveals them to be can be easily used to reveal their masses as well. This process is called neutrinoless double beta decay, or $0\nu\beta\beta$ for short.

Chilling with beta decay

Every atom has some energy, which it bears in its particles and the forces acting between them. Sometimes an atom’s nucleus may have too much energy, rendering it unstable and looking for opportunities to shed the excess. This



This photo shows the access tunnel at the Yemilab underground research facility in South Korea, where the AMoRE collaboration is taking shape. ARXIV:2402.13708V1

notion of stability comes from the fact that for every set of protons and neutrons in the nucleus, there is a number that allows the particles to arrange themselves in a way that leaves the nucleus with the bare minimum of energy.

For example, the nucleus of the actinium-227 atom contains 89 protons and 138 neutrons, forcing the nucleus to exist in a highly unstable configuration. To shed the “excess energy”, it undergoes a process called beta decay: it emits an electron and an anti-neutrino and changes to the thorium-227 nucleus. Th-227 also isn’t stable and decays further, but since the beta decay process releases energy, the nucleus is better off than it was before.

In nature, beta decay is a common way for an unstable nucleus to decay. It can happen in one of two forms depending on whether a nucleus has too many neutrons or too many protons. In the first case, a neutron is converted to a proton and releases an electron and an anti-neutrino. In the second, a proton is converted to a neutron and releases a positron and a neutrino.

A third form exists where two beta decays happen simultaneously, i.e. two neutrons are simultaneously converted to two protons, emitting two electrons and two anti-neutrinos.

The conversion ability stems from the weak interaction, which is one of the four ways in which subatomic particles can interact with each other. (The others are the strong, electromagnetic, and gravitational interactions.) The weak interaction is characterised by the appearance of particles called W or Z

Researchers estimate the mass of a neutrino would have to be lower than 0.22-0.65 billionths of a proton. This is low, but it’s not zero mass. The distinction is crucial. The current theory of all subatomic particles, called the Standard Model, says neutrinos should be massless. The presence of even a small amount of mass thus vexes the theory

bosons. For example, during the Ac-227 beta decay, a neutron emits a W⁻ boson and turns into a proton, and the W⁻ boson decays to an electron and an anti-neutrino.

A sign of the difference

As common as beta decay is, scientists are currently on the hunt for an extremely rare variant: $0\nu\beta\beta$. It may not even exist, but just in case it does, it would prove neutrinos are Majorana particles.

In $0\nu\beta\beta$, a nucleus emits two electrons instead of an electron and an anti-neutrino. This can happen only when the neutrino emitted by one neutron is absorbed as an anti-neutrino by the other neutron, which in turn can only happen if neutrinos and anti-neutrinos are the same thing. Each of the emitted electrons also has more energy because it “includes” the energy of the missing anti-neutrino. Experiments looking for evidence of $0\nu\beta\beta$ can thus use this energy difference to tell whether a nucleus has undergone beta decay or $0\nu\beta\beta$.

This is precisely what the AMoRE experiment in South Korea has been doing, with sensitive particle detectors pointed at a crystal containing 3 kg of molybdenum-100 nuclei, cooled to fractions above absolute zero. Mo-100 nuclei are known to undergo double beta decay.

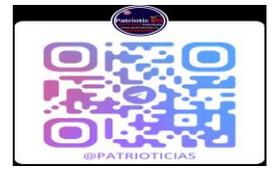
The search continues

In a paper published in *Physical Review Letters* on February 27, the AMoRE team reported it hadn’t observed evidence of $0\nu\beta\beta$. Because the process is already hypothesised to be rare, not observing it could just as easily mean we did not look long enough. This is why the team reported in the paper that a population of Mo-100 nuclei would decay to half their number through $0\nu\beta\beta$ in no less than 10^{24} years. It could also mean $0\nu\beta\beta$ might show itself in a larger sample. In a future iteration of AMoRE, the physicists plan to look for it in 100 kg of Mo-100.

Meanwhile, they have also estimated the mass of each neutrino would have to be lower than 0.22-0.65 billionths of a proton. This is an extremely low mass ceiling, but it’s not the same as saying the neutrinos have zero mass. The distinction is crucial. The current theory of all subatomic particles, called the Standard Model of particle physics, says neutrinos should be massless. The presence of even a small amount of mass thus vexes the theory and indicates it has a gap somewhere. The trouble is physicists do not yet know where. So AMoRE looks forward to its upgraded form and the search continues.

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New data keeps the search for rare subatomic mystery going



नई जानकारियां दुर्लभ उप-परमाणु रहस्य की खोज को जारी रखती हैं

A major open question in physics is whether neutrinos are their own anti-particles.

भौतिकी में एक महत्वपूर्ण अनसुलझा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या न्यूट्रिनो अपने ही प्रतिकण हैं।

- The best way to confirm this is by observing a very rare form of radioactive decay called neutrinoless double beta decay.
इसे पुष्टि करने का सबसे अच्छा तरीका एक अत्यंत दुर्लभ रेडियोधर्मी क्षय को देखना है, जिसे न्यूट्रिनो-रहित डबल बीटा क्षय (neutrinoless double beta decay) कहा जाता है।
- The AMoRE experiment in South Korea is searching for this decay in molybdenum-100 atoms.
दक्षिण कोरिया में AMoRE प्रयोग इस क्षय की तलाश मोलिब्डेनम-100 परमाणुओं में कर रहा है।

Microsoft's Majorana 1 Quantum Chip

माइक्रोसॉफ्ट का मेजराना 1 क्वांटम चिप

- Last month, **Microsoft announced a new quantum computing chip called "Majorana 1"**, claiming it would help build **industrial-scale quantum computers within years**.
पिछले महीने, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने "मेजराना 1" नामक एक नया क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग चिप पेश किया, और दावा किया कि यह कुछ वर्षों में औद्योगिक-स्तर के क्वांटम कंप्यूटर बनाने में मदद करेगा।
- Independent **scientists raised doubts about this claim**, but acknowledged that **Microsoft had taken on a significant challenge**.
स्वतंत्र वैज्ञानिकों ने इस दावे पर संदेह जताया, लेकिन यह भी स्वीकार किया कि माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने एक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौती को अपनाया है।
- The **chip is named after Majorana particles, which have the unique property of being their own anti-particles**.
इस चिप का नाम मेजराना कणों के नाम पर रखा गया है, जिनकी खासियत यह है कि वे अपने ही प्रतिकण होते हैं।
- Unlike electrons and protons, which have **distinct anti-particles (positrons and anti-protons)**, a **Majorana particle's anti-particle is itself**.
इलेक्ट्रॉनों और प्रोटॉनों के विपरीत, जिनके अलग-अलग प्रतिकण (पॉज़िट्रॉन और एंटी-प्रोटॉन) होते हैं, मेजराना कण का प्रतिकण वही होता है।



Neutrinos: The Key to Understanding the Universe

न्यूट्रिनो: ब्रह्मांड को समझने की कुंजी

- **Neutrinos are the second-most abundant subatomic particle in the universe, after photons (light particles).**
न्यूट्रिनो ब्रह्मांड में फोटॉनों (प्रकाश कणों) के बाद दूसरा सबसे अधिक पाया जाने वाला उप-परमाणु कण है।
- They were produced in **large amounts during the Big Bang**, and continue to be **generated in supernovae, nuclear reactions, and cosmic ray interactions.**
वे बिग बैंग के दौरान बड़ी मात्रा में उत्पन्न हुए थे, और सुपरनोवा, परमाणु प्रतिक्रियाओं और ब्रह्मांडीय किरणों के प्रभाव से निरंतर बनते रहते हैं।
- The **Sun alone floods every square centimetre of Earth with 60 billion neutrinos per second.**
सिर्फ सूर्य ही प्रत्येक वर्ग सेंटीमीटर पृथ्वी पर प्रति सेकंड 60 अरब न्यूट्रिनो भेजता है।
- **Despite their abundance, neutrinos rarely interact with matter, making them extremely difficult to study.**
इनकी भारी संख्या के बावजूद, न्यूट्रिनो पदार्थ के साथ बहुत कम प्रतिक्रिया करते हैं, जिससे इनका अध्ययन करना बेहद कठिन हो जाता है।

Why Studying Neutrinos is Important?

न्यूट्रिनो का अध्ययन क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

- Neutrinos are involved in **many subatomic processes**, and understanding them can help **answer fundamental questions about the universe.**
न्यूट्रिनो कई उप-परमाणु प्रक्रियाओं में शामिल होते हैं, और इन्हें समझने से ब्रह्मांड के बुनियादी सवालों के जवाब मिल सकते हैं।
- One of the **biggest unknowns is their mass**. Scientists know the **differences between their squared masses, but not their exact masses.**
इनका सबसे बड़ा रहस्य इनका द्रव्यमान (mass) है। वैज्ञानिक इनके वर्ग द्रव्यमान के अंतर को जानते हैं, लेकिन इनके सटीक द्रव्यमान की जानकारी नहीं है।
- If neutrinos are **Majorana particles**, then their mass could be determined through **neutrinoless double beta decay ($0\nu\beta\beta$).**
यदि न्यूट्रिनो मेजराना कण हैं, तो उनका द्रव्यमान न्यूट्रिनो-रहित डबल बीटा क्षय ($0\nu\beta\beta$) के माध्यम से मापा जा सकता है।

Beta Decay and Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

बीटा क्षय और न्यूट्रिनो-रहित डबल बीटा क्षय



- Every atom has **stored energy in its nucleus**. If a nucleus has **excess energy**, it **seeks to shed it** to become stable.
हर परमाणु के नाभिक में ऊर्जा संग्रहीत होती है। यदि किसी नाभिक में अधिक ऊर्जा होती है, तो वह इसे छोड़ने की कोशिश करता है ताकि वह स्थिर हो सके।
- **Beta decay is a common process where an unstable nucleus releases an electron and an anti-neutrino to stabilize itself.**
**बीटा क्षय एक सामान्य प्रक्रिया है जिसमें अस्थिर नाभिक एक इलेक्ट्रॉन और एक एंटी-न्यूट्रिनो को छोड़कर स्वयं को स्थिर करता है।
- **A special type of beta decay, called double beta decay, occurs when two neutrons simultaneously convert into two protons, emitting two electrons and two anti-neutrinos.**
**एक विशेष प्रकार का बीटा क्षय, जिसे डबल बीटा क्षय कहा जाता है, तब होता है जब दो न्यूट्रॉन एक साथ दो प्रोटॉन में परिवर्तित होते हैं और दो इलेक्ट्रॉन व दो एंटी-न्यूट्रिनो उत्सर्जित करते हैं।
- **Neutrinoless double beta decay ($0\nu\beta\beta$) is a hypothetical process where no anti-neutrinos are emitted.**
**न्यूट्रिनो-रहित डबल बीटा क्षय ($0\nu\beta\beta$) एक सैद्धांतिक प्रक्रिया है जिसमें कोई एंटी-न्यूट्रिनो उत्सर्जित नहीं होता।
- **If $0\nu\beta\beta$ is detected, it would confirm that neutrinos are Majorana particles and provide insight into their mass.**
**यदि $0\nu\beta\beta$ देखा जाता है, तो यह पुष्टि करेगा कि न्यूट्रिनो मेजराना कण हैं और उनके द्रव्यमान के बारे में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी देगा।

Weak Interaction and Particle Transformations

कमजोर अंतःक्रिया और कण रूपांतरण

- The **weak interaction** is one of the **four fundamental forces of nature** (along with **strong interaction, electromagnetism, and gravity**).
कमजोर अंतःक्रिया प्रकृति की चार मौलिक शक्तियों में से एक है (मजबूत अंतःक्रिया, विद्युत चुंबकत्व और गुरुत्वाकर्षण के साथ)।
- It is responsible for **particle transformations**, where **neutrons turn into protons (or vice versa)**, accompanied by the emission of **W or Z bosons**.
यह कण रूपांतरण के लिए जिम्मेदार है, जहां न्यूट्रॉन प्रोटॉन में बदलते हैं (या इसके विपरीत), और इसके साथ **W या Z बोसॉन** उत्सर्जित होते हैं।
- For example, during **actinium-227 beta decay**, a **neutron emits a W^- boson, turning into a proton**. The **W^- boson then decays into an electron and an anti-neutrino**.
**उदाहरण के लिए, एक्टिनियम-227 के बीटा क्षय में, एक न्यूट्रॉन W^- बोसॉन छोड़ता है और प्रोटॉन में बदल जाता है। इसके बाद, W^- बोसॉन एक इलेक्ट्रॉन और एक एंटी-न्यूट्रिनो में क्षय हो जाता है।



The search for rare subatomic mystery continues

दुर्लभ उप-परमाणु रहस्य की खोज जारी है

- Beta decay is common, but scientists are currently searching for an extremely rare variant: neutrinoless double beta decay ($0\nu\beta\beta$).
बीटा क्षय सामान्य है, लेकिन वैज्ञानिक वर्तमान में एक अत्यंत दुर्लभ प्रकार की खोज कर रहे हैं:
न्यूट्रिनो-रहित डबल बीटा क्षय ($0\nu\beta\beta$)।
- If $0\nu\beta\beta$ exists, it would prove that neutrinos are Majorana particles, meaning they are their own anti-particles.
यदि $0\nu\beta\beta$ मौजूद है, तो यह साबित करेगा कि न्यूट्रिनो मेजराना कण हैं, अर्थात वे अपने ही प्रतिकण होते हैं।
- In $0\nu\beta\beta$, a nucleus emits two electrons instead of an electron and an anti-neutrino.
 $0\nu\beta\beta$ में, एक नाभिक एक इलेक्ट्रॉन और एक एंटी-न्यूट्रिनो के बजाय दो इलेक्ट्रॉन उत्सर्जित करता है।
- This is only possible if the neutrino emitted by one neutron is absorbed as an anti-neutrino by another neutron, proving that neutrinos and anti-neutrinos are the same.
यह तभी संभव है जब एक न्यूट्रॉन द्वारा उत्सर्जित न्यूट्रिनो दूसरे न्यूट्रॉन द्वारा एंटी-न्यूट्रिनो के रूप में अवशोषित हो, जिससे यह साबित होता है कि न्यूट्रिनो और एंटी-न्यूट्रिनो एक ही चीज हैं।
- Each of the emitted electrons in $0\nu\beta\beta$ carries more energy since it includes the energy of the missing anti-neutrino.
 $0\nu\beta\beta$ में उत्सर्जित प्रत्येक इलेक्ट्रॉन अधिक ऊर्जा रखता है, क्योंकि इसमें गायब एंटी-न्यूट्रिनो की ऊर्जा शामिल होती है।

The AMoRE Experiment in South Korea

दक्षिण कोरिया में AMoRE प्रयोग

- The AMoRE experiment in South Korea is searching for $0\nu\beta\beta$ using particle detectors on molybdenum-100 (Mo-100) nuclei.
दक्षिण कोरिया में AMoRE प्रयोग $0\nu\beta\beta$ की खोज कर रहा है, जहां संवेदनशील कण डिटेक्टर मोलिब्डेनम-100 (Mo-100) नाभिक पर केंद्रित हैं।
- 3 kg of Mo-100 is cooled to near absolute zero to detect any possible decay events.
 $0\nu\beta\beta$ की खोज के लिए 3 किलोग्राम Mo-100 को लगभग शून्य तापमान तक ठंडा किया जाता है।

Findings from the AMoRE Experiment

AMoRE प्रयोग के निष्कर्ष

- In a paper published in Physical Review Letters on February 27, the AMoRE team reported no evidence of $0\nu\beta\beta$ so far.



27 फरवरी को "Physical Review Letters" में प्रकाशित एक शोध पत्र में, AMoRE टीम ने अब तक $0\nu\beta\beta$ के कोई प्रमाण नहीं पाए।

- Since $0\nu\beta\beta$ is already expected to be extremely rare, not observing it may simply mean we haven't looked long enough.

क्योंकि $0\nu\beta\beta$ पहले से ही अत्यंत दुर्लभ मानी जाती है, इसका न पाया जाना इसका मतलब यह हो सकता है कि हमने इसे पर्याप्त समय तक नहीं खोजा।

- Based on observations, the team estimated that a population of Mo-100 nuclei would take at least 10^{24} years to decay through $0\nu\beta\beta$.

AMoRE टीम ने अनुमान लगाया कि Mo-100 नाभिक की एक बड़ी संख्या को $0\nu\beta\beta$ से क्षय होने में कम से कम 10^{24} वर्ष लगेंगे।

- The team now plans to expand the experiment using 100 kg of Mo-100 in the future. भविष्य में, टीम 100 किलोग्राम Mo-100 का उपयोग करके प्रयोग को विस्तारित करने की योजना बना रही है।

Implications for Neutrino Mass and the Standard Model

न्यूट्रिनो के द्रव्यमान और स्टैंडर्ड मॉडल पर प्रभाव

- The experiment estimated that each neutrino must have a mass lower than 0.22-0.65 billionths of a proton.

इस प्रयोग ने अनुमान लगाया कि प्रत्येक न्यूट्रिनो का द्रव्यमान 0.22-0.65 अरबवें भाग से अधिक नहीं हो सकता।

- This is an extremely small mass, but it is not zero, which is crucial.

यह एक अत्यंत छोटा द्रव्यमान है, लेकिन यह शून्य नहीं है, जो एक महत्वपूर्ण खोज है।

- The Standard Model of particle physics predicts neutrinos should be massless, but experiments suggest they do have mass.

कण भौतिकी का स्टैंडर्ड मॉडल भविष्यवाणी करता है कि न्यूट्रिनो का कोई द्रव्यमान नहीं होना चाहिए, लेकिन प्रयोगों से संकेत मिलता है कि उनका कुछ द्रव्यमान है।

- This indicates a gap in the Standard Model, but scientists are still unsure where.

यह स्टैंडर्ड मॉडल में एक कमी को दर्शाता है, लेकिन वैज्ञानिक अभी तक यह नहीं जानते कि यह कमी कहां है।

- The AMoRE team plans to continue its search, hoping to uncover more clues about neutrinos and their role in the universe.

AMoRE टीम अपनी खोज जारी रखने की योजना बना रही है, ताकि न्यूट्रिनो और उनके ब्रह्मांड में भूमिका के बारे में अधिक जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सके।



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GS Paper III: External Sector

Going electric

India must be a reliable trade partner to compete in the EV space

India's decision to exempt import duties on 35 capital goods used in the manufacture of electric vehicle (EV) batteries and 28 items used in the making of mobile phone batteries is a welcome step toward boosting domestic manufacturing and clean technology adoption. Proposed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2025-26 and formalised through the Finance Bill 2025 passed in Parliament on Tuesday, this signals a strategic policy shift. Earlier in March, Chinese EV giant BYD unveiled its "Super E-platform", capable of giving a vehicle a 500-kilometre range with just five minutes of charging – a major leap toward alleviating range anxiety, which is a key barrier to EV adoption. This innovation directly challenges the convenience of conventional vehicles and could accelerate the global EV transition if scaled and deployed with the same ubiquity as traditional fuel stations. Batteries remain the most expensive component in an EV, comprising roughly 40% of the vehicle's cost. This cost burden has slowed EV adoption in lower-income countries, despite the long-term advantage of reducing oil import dependence, which is especially relevant for India. Another critical barrier is the lack of indigenous technological capability in battery manufacturing. China currently dominates this sector, producing over 70% of all EV batteries globally, according to the International Energy Agency. The lithium-iron-phosphate (LFP) battery has emerged as the industry standard over the past five years due to its lower cost, higher energy density, and better thermal management.

While EVs made up 45% of all car registrations in China in 2024, they accounted for just 2% of India's passenger car market. However, electric two-wheelers (e2w) have seen notable momentum in India, with 1.14 million units sold in 2024, making up about 60% of total EV sales. Though India's duty exemptions are partially aimed at strengthening bilateral trade ties with the United States and avoiding reciprocal tariffs, the broader strategic objective should be to decarbonise its transport sector. To achieve this, India must integrate into both the upstream (mining and refining) and downstream (manufacturing and assembly) segments of the global EV battery value chain. This would not only help lower battery costs through technology transfer but also position India as a reliable alternative to China in the eyes of developed nations seeking supply chain diversification. India's long-term success in the EV space will depend on its ability to leverage favourable trade policies, invest in research and development, and secure a strong foothold in the global battery ecosystem.

बन जाती हैं।

Going electric

इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन अपनाने की दिशा में कदम

India's Policy Shift Towards EVs

भारत की ईवी नीति में बदलाव

- India has exempted import duties on 35 capital goods for EV battery manufacturing and 28 items for mobile phone batteries.

भारत ने ईवी बैटरी निर्माण के लिए 35 पूंजीगत वस्तुओं और मोबाइल फोन बैटरियों के लिए 28 वस्तुओं पर आयात शुल्क समाप्त कर दिया है।

- This move was proposed in the Union Budget 2025-26 and formalized through the Finance Bill 2025 passed in Parliament.

यह कदम केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 में प्रस्तावित किया गया था और संसद में पारित वित्त विधेयक 2025 के माध्यम से औपचारिक रूप दिया गया।

China's Technological Advancements in EVs

ईवी में चीन की तकनीकी प्रगति

- In March 2025, Chinese EV giant BYD unveiled its "Super E-platform", enabling a 500-km range with just five minutes of charging.

मार्च 2025 में, चीनी ईवी दिग्गज बीवाईडी ने "सुपर ई-प्लेटफॉर्म" पेश किया, जो केवल पांच मिनट की चार्जिंग में 500 किमी की रेंज प्रदान करता है।

- This breakthrough could eliminate range anxiety and accelerate the global EV transition.

यह नवाचार रेंज की चिंता को दूर कर सकता है और वैश्विक ईवी परिवर्तन को गति दे सकता है।

Challenges in EV Adoption

ईवी अपनाने में चुनौतियाँ

- Batteries account for 40% of an EV's cost, making them the most expensive component.

बैटरियां एक ईवी की कुल लागत का 40% होती हैं, जिससे वे सबसे महंगी घटक

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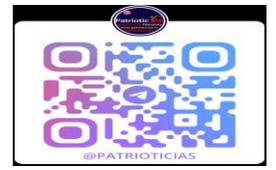
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- China currently **dominates global EV battery production**, producing **over 70% of all EV batteries**, according to the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IEA) के अनुसार, चीन वर्तमान में वैश्विक ईवी बैटरी उत्पादन में 70% से अधिक का योगदान करता है।
- **Lithium-iron-phosphate (LFP) batteries** have become the industry standard due to **low cost, high energy density, and better thermal management**.
लिथियम-आयरन-फॉस्फेट (LFP) बैटरियां कम लागत, उच्च ऊर्जा घनत्व और बेहतर तापीय प्रबंधन के कारण उद्योग मानक बन गई हैं।

EV Market Growth in India

भारत में ईवी बाजार की वृद्धि

- EVs comprised only **2% of India's passenger car market in 2024**, while in China, **45% of new car registrations were EVs**.
2024 में भारत के यात्री कार बाजार में ईवी की हिस्सेदारी केवल 2% थी, जबकि चीन में 45% नई कार पंजीकरण ईवी थे।
- **Electric two-wheelers (e2w) have gained traction**, with **1.14 million units sold in 2024**, making up **60% of total EV sales in India**.
इलेक्ट्रिक दोपहिया वाहनों (e2w) की मांग बढ़ी है, 2024 में 11.4 लाख इकाइयां बिकीं, जो भारत में कुल ईवी बिक्री का 60% थी।

India's Strategic Position in Global Trade

वैश्विक व्यापार में भारत की रणनीतिक स्थिति

- The duty exemptions also aim to **strengthen U.S.-India trade ties** and prevent **reciprocal tariffs**.
शुल्क छूट का उद्देश्य अमेरिका-भारत व्यापार संबंधों को मजबूत करना और पारस्परिक टैरिफ से बचाव करना भी है।
- The broader goal remains **decarbonizing India's transport sector** and **integrating into the global EV battery value chain**.
व्यापक उद्देश्य भारत के परिवहन क्षेत्र को डीकार्बोनाइज़ करना और वैश्विक ईवी बैटरी मूल्य श्रृंखला में एकीकृत होना है।
- India must focus on **both upstream (mining and refining) and downstream (manufacturing and assembly) segments** to reduce reliance on imports.
भारत को आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए अपस्ट्रीम (खनन और परिष्करण) और डाउनस्ट्रीम (निर्माण और असेंबली) क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।



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Future Roadmap for India's EV Industry

भारत के ईवी उद्योग के लिए भविष्य की योजना

- **Investing in R&D and technology transfer** will be crucial to reducing battery costs and enhancing manufacturing capabilities.
आरएंडडी और प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण में निवेश बैटरी लागत को कम करने और विनिर्माण क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होगा।
- **Developing a robust EV battery supply chain** will help India become a **reliable alternative to China**.
एक मजबूत ईवी बैटरी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला विकसित करने से भारत चीन के लिए एक विश्वसनीय विकल्प बन सकता है।
- India's **long-term success in the EV sector** will depend on **favorable trade policies, strategic investments, and partnerships with global stakeholders**.
भारत की ईवी क्षेत्र में दीर्घकालिक सफलता अनुकूल व्यापार नीतियों, रणनीतिक निवेशों और वैश्विक भागीदारों के सहयोग पर निर्भर करेगी।



The issue is about the 'quality' of India's publications

GS Paper III: S&T

At a public function, in February 2025, to commemorate **National Science Day**, the Union Minister for Science and Technology said that "India will overtake the U.S. in the number of scientific publications by 2029". He went on to say that China with 8,98,949 publications is in the lead followed by the United States with 4,57,335 publications, followed by India with 2,07,390 papers. The Chinese research output has both quantity and quality. China's figures are in parallel with the very heavy investments made in the spheres of education and science and technology, and are described in their impressive medium-to-long term plan (MLP) for the development of science and technology launched in several phases since 2006. Investments of a similar high order will be required in India for a significant breakthrough and difference.

An international comparison

The comparison between scientifically advanced countries and India in the matter of **money spent on civilian research** as a percentage of GDP is shocking. Here are the data for six countries: **Israel 6.30%; South Korea 4.9%; Japan, 3.3%; the U.S., 3.46%; Germany 3.13%; China 2.4%, and India 0.67%.** Can we even talk about Viksit Bharat 2047 with data like this? Releasing documents such as "India Rankings 2024" by the Department of Higher Education or "Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities" by NITI Aayog are just that – documents that are all sound and fury and signifying nothing.

The scholarly output of India's total publications in all disciplines including science and engineering for 2024 (Clarivate), on February 25, 2025, stands at 1,91,703; the corresponding number for the U.S. is 6,48,905. These numbers are slightly different from those given by the Minister, but the conclusion is the same. The fact is that India cannot overtake the U.S. by 2029. Clarivate further depicts the CNCI value (quality indicator of publications) and places India at just 0.879 as opposed to 1.12 and 1.25 for China and the U.S., respectively. Out of 30 ranked countries, India stands at a glorious 28.

The Minister's sense of delusory self-comfort in having 5,351 Indian scientists figure in the list of the top 2% of scientists across the world in 2023 is downright bizarre. Rankings of India's 5,351 scientists range from 163 (highest) to 68,55,948 (lowest). In contrast, in Japan, 5,608 scientists figure in the top 2%, with their ranks ranging from 79 to 26,24,763.

Similarly, Germany has 10,420 scientists in the list of top 2%, ranging in ranks from 6 to



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Science officials need to figure out why India's publications are so bad in terms of 'quality' rather than exhibit delusory self-comfort about 'quantity'

10,80,081. The numbers speak for themselves.

The real benchmarks

Quantity is not quality. What is the quality of Indian publications when they are held up against harsh international benchmarks such as the Hirsch Index (H-Index) of our scientists and the Impact Factor (IF) of the journals where we publish? What is important is whether a paper is read widely, is useful to others, and, in the ultimate test, whether it is cited by one's peers. When judged by these benchmarks, the Minister's remarks smack of smug narcissism, nothing more.

There are journals and journals. Bradford's empirical law of concentration of journal articles in scientific periodicals (1934) is applicable to the research productivity of ranked Higher Education Institutions (HEI). It states that articles in a given subject concentrate heavily in a relatively small number of highly productive journals.

One of us has been a research chemist for 50 years and a representative analysis using the ISI Thomson Web of Science, of papers published in the three top chemistry journals between 2017 and 2024 (both years inclusive) is revealing. The figures for the U.S., China and India (in that order) are: *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* (IF 16.60; numbers of papers: 4554, 10305, 501), *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, JACS, (16.38; 8503, 5521, 305), and *Chemical Communications* (6.22; 2553, 9820, 1347). The relative Indian contribution goes up as the impact factor (IF) of the journal goes down. In any event, India compares poorly with China and the U.S.

A more detailed look at these statistics shows that the Indian position is fundamentally flawed. Considering only papers in JACS, it is seen that the Chinese Academy of Sciences, CAS, (444) has nearly 15 times the number of papers as all the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories in India put together (29). The great breadth of the Chinese output in these CAS papers is also noteworthy.

Continuing with JACS papers between 2017 and 2024 (both years inclusive), not only do the prestigious CAS and Peking University (359) have high outputs but also the next tier of universities such as Tsinghua (289), Fudan (214), Nanjing (284), Nankai (258), Jilin (145), Xiamen (241) and Sun Yat-sen (145). All the Indian Institutes of Technology taken together have only 68 papers in this journal in the above-mentioned time period. All the IITs put together are five times less than just one second-tier Chinese university. Nothing in India measures up to the Chinese yardstick. There will be a real pay-off only if India invests in

training young people in the universities well. This is where China has correctly placed its money, and where India is off track.

Even as the scope and spread of the malaise in Indian science is justified through quantifiable metrics, a sense of false security has crept in, entrenched by self-deluding statements such as this one from one of the highest officials in Indian Science and Technology, the Principal Scientific Adviser, that "India is rapidly becoming a global research powerhouse". Such statements deliberately mislead and obfuscate.

Questionable ethics and practices in India

The perverse incentives which characterise Indian science and technology have resulted in the cancerous growth of downright fraud and unethical practices. The scale of the problem has become all-pervasive, and has brought international ignominy to India. By 2020, the science and technology complex of India had degraded so rapidly that a wave of retractions, paid publications, publications in fake journals, and downright piracy began to inundate India's science and technology output. The existence of so many fraudulent papers is only possible when the entire system is clientelist and based on trading favours.

In 2019, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a District Court decision against the Hyderabad-based Omics group arising from a suit instituted by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC clinched a \$50 million fine against the group for, *inter alia*, misrepresenting its peer review practices, its editorial board members, its journals' impact factors, and deceptive indexing claims. All in all, around 69,000 articles were published by the Omics group with little or no peer review, polluting the global scientific corpus for years to come.

India has perfected the art of spurious, low quality, and potentially outright fabricated scientific output being accommodated in questionable journals, mostly as a means for scientists to justify their mandated minimum number of published research pieces. A study in 2018 estimated that 62% of all standalone fake journals in the world are published in India, and around 10% of the entire country's total research output may be fake to begin with.

It is better if the Minister asks the science departments to figure out why the quality of India's publications is so bad instead of dwelling on the quantity. As Einstein said, "Not everything that can be counted counts. Not everything that counts can be counted."

The views expressed are personal

The Issue of Quality in India's Scientific Publications

भारत में वैज्ञानिक प्रकाशनों की गुणवत्ता का मुद्दा

India's Projection on Scientific Publications

भारत का वैज्ञानिक प्रकाशनों पर अनुमान



- In February 2025, the Union Minister for Science and Technology claimed that India will surpass the U.S. in scientific publications by 2029.
फरवरी 2025 में, केंद्रीय विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री ने दावा किया कि 2029 तक भारत वैज्ञानिक प्रकाशनों में अमेरिका को पछाड़ देगा।
- China leads with 8,98,949 publications, followed by the U.S. (4,57,335) and India (2,07,390).
चीन 8,98,949 प्रकाशनों के साथ आगे है, उसके बाद अमेरिका (4,57,335) और भारत (2,07,390) का स्थान है।
- However, China's research output has both quantity and quality, backed by heavy investments in education, science, and technology.
हालांकि, चीन का शोध आउटपुट मात्रात्मक और गुणात्मक दोनों रूपों में मजबूत है, जिसे शिक्षा, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी में भारी निवेश का समर्थन प्राप्त है।

Global Comparison of Research Investments

वैश्विक स्तर पर अनुसंधान निवेश की तुलना

- India spends only 0.67% of its GDP on civilian research, whereas:
भारत अपने जीडीपी का केवल 0.67% नागरिक अनुसंधान पर खर्च करता है, जबकि:
 - Israel: 6.30%
इज़राइल: 6.30%
 - South Korea: 4.9%
दक्षिण कोरिया: 4.9%
 - Japan: 3.3%
जापान: 3.3%
 - U.S.: 3.46%
अमेरिका: 3.46%
 - Germany: 3.13%
जर्मनी: 3.13%
 - China: 2.4%
चीन: 2.4%
- These numbers indicate India's significant lag in research investment, raising concerns over the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.
ये आंकड़े अनुसंधान निवेश में भारत की भारी कमी को दर्शाते हैं, जो 'विकसित भारत 2047' के लक्ष्य पर सवाल उठाते हैं।

Quality Metrics and Global Standing

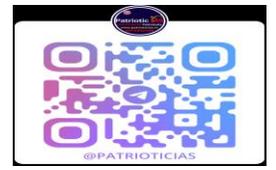
गुणवत्ता मापदंड और वैश्विक स्थिति



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- According to Clarivate data (February 2025), India had 1,91,703 scientific publications, compared to 6,48,905 from the U.S.
क्लैरिवेट डेटा (फरवरी 2025) के अनुसार, भारत के 1,91,703 वैज्ञानिक प्रकाशन थे, जबकि अमेरिका के 6,48,905 थे।
- India ranks 28th out of 30 countries in research quality, based on CNCI (Category Normalized Citation Impact) values.
सीएनसीआई (श्रेणी सामान्यीकृत उद्धरण प्रभाव) मान के आधार पर भारत 30 में से 28वें स्थान पर है।
 - India: 0.879
भारत: 0.879
 - China: 1.12
चीन: 1.12
 - U.S.: 1.25
अमेरिका: 1.25

Indian Scientists in Global Rankings

वैश्विक रैंकिंग में भारतीय वैज्ञानिक

- In 2023, 5,351 Indian scientists were in the top 2% globally, but their rankings ranged from 163rd to 68,55,948th.
2023 में, 5,351 भारतीय वैज्ञानिक शीर्ष 2% वैश्विक सूची में थे, लेकिन उनकी रैंकिंग 163वें से 68,55,948वें स्थान तक थी।
- Japan had 5,608 scientists ranked between 79 and 26,24,763, while Germany had 10,420 scientists ranked between 6 and 10,80,081.
जापान के 5,608 वैज्ञानिक 79 से 26,24,763 के बीच रैंक किए गए, जबकि जर्मनी के 10,420 वैज्ञानिक 6 से 10,80,081 के बीच रैंक किए गए।

Challenges of Quantity vs. Quality

मात्रा बनाम गुणवत्ता की चुनौती

- Having a high number of publications does not guarantee quality.
अधिक प्रकाशनों की संख्या गुणवत्ता की गारंटी नहीं देती।
- Key quality indicators include:
प्रमुख गुणवत्ता मापदंडों में शामिल हैं:
 - Hirsch Index (H-Index), which measures a scientist's impact.
हिर्श इंडेक्स (H-Index), जो किसी वैज्ञानिक के प्रभाव को मापता है।
 - Impact Factor (IF), which evaluates journal credibility.
इम्पैक्ट फैक्टर (IF), जो पत्रिका की विश्वसनीयता को मापता है।



- Citation count, determining how often research is referenced by peers. उद्धरण गणना, यह दर्शाती है कि किसी शोध को अन्य वैज्ञानिक कितनी बार संदर्भित कर रहे हैं।

Conclusion: The Need for Real Progress

निष्कर्ष: वास्तविक प्रगति की आवश्यकता

- Scientific progress requires quality investment, not just numbers. वैज्ञानिक प्रगति के लिए मात्र संख्याओं की नहीं, बल्कि गुणवत्ता निवेश की आवश्यकता है।
- India must increase research funding, improve journal quality, and ensure real impact to be globally competitive. वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा के लिए भारत को अनुसंधान फंडिंग बढ़ानी होगी, पत्रिका की गुणवत्ता में सुधार करना होगा, और वास्तविक प्रभाव सुनिश्चित करना होगा।

Bradford's Law and Journal Concentration

ब्रैडफोर्ड का नियम और जर्नल एकाग्रता

- Bradford's empirical law (1934) states that scientific research concentrates in a few highly productive journals. ब्रैडफोर्ड का अनुभवजन्य नियम (1934) बताता है कि वैज्ञानिक शोध कुछ उच्च उत्पादक जर्नलों में केंद्रित होता है।
- India's research output is significantly lower in high-impact journals compared to China and the U.S. भारत का शोध आउटपुट उच्च प्रभाव वाले जर्नलों में चीन और अमेरिका की तुलना में काफी कम है।

Comparison of Chemistry Publications (2017-2024)

रसायन विज्ञान प्रकाशनों की तुलना (2017-2024)

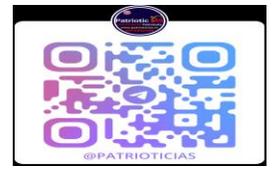
- Top three chemistry journals analyzed: शीर्ष तीन रसायन विज्ञान जर्नल:
 - Angewandte Chemie International Edition (IF 16.60): U.S. (4554), China (10305), India (501)
 - अंगेवांडे कैमि इंटरनेशनल एडिशन (IF 16.60): अमेरिका (4554), चीन (10305), भारत (501)
 - Journal of the American Chemical Society (IF 16.38): U.S. (8503), China (5521), India (305)
 - जर्नल ऑफ द अमेरिकन केमिकल सोसाइटी (IF 16.38): अमेरिका (8503), चीन (5521), भारत (305)



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- Chemical Communications (IF 6.22): U.S. (2553), China (9820), India (1347)
केमिकल कम्युनिकेशन्स (IF 6.22): अमेरिका (2553), चीन (9820), भारत (1347)
- India's contribution increases as the journal impact factor decreases.
जैसे-जैसे जर्नल का प्रभाव कारक (IF) घटता है, भारत का योगदान बढ़ता है।

Institutional Research Output in JACS (2017-2024)

जेएसीएस में संस्थागत शोध आउटपुट (2017-2024)

- Chinese Academy of Sciences (444 papers) vs. all CSIR labs in India (29 papers).
चीनी विज्ञान अकादमी (444 शोध पत्र) बनाम सभी भारतीय सीएसआईआर प्रयोगशालाएं (29 शोध पत्र)।
- Top Chinese universities surpass all IITs combined:
शीर्ष चीनी विश्वविद्यालय सभी IITs से अधिक:
 - Peking University (359), Tsinghua (289), Fudan (214), Nanjing (284), Nankai (258), Jilin (145), Xiamen (241), Sun Yat-sen (145).
बीजिंग विश्वविद्यालय (359), त्सिंगहुआ (289), फुदान (214), नानजिंग (284), नानकाई (258), जिलिन (145), जियामेन (241), सन यात-सेन (145)।
 - All IITs combined have only 68 papers in JACS.
सभी IITs मिलकर केवल 68 शोध पत्र प्रकाशित कर पाए।
- India lags behind in university-level research investments.
भारत विश्वविद्यालय स्तर के शोध निवेश में पिछड़ रहा है।

Ethical Issues in Indian Scientific Research

भारतीय वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान में नैतिक मुद्दे

- Growing concerns over fraudulent practices, fake journals, and predatory publications.
धोखाधड़ी, नकली जर्नल, और अनुचित प्रकाशनों पर बढ़ती चिंताएं।
- 2019: U.S. court fined Hyderabad-based Omics group \$50 million for unethical practices.
2019: अमेरिकी अदालत ने हैदराबाद स्थित ओमिक्स ग्रुप पर अनैतिक प्रथाओं के लिए 50 मिलियन डॉलर का जुर्माना लगाया।
- 2018 study: 62% of standalone fake journals globally were published in India.
2018 अध्ययन: वैश्विक स्तर पर 62% स्वतंत्र नकली जर्नल भारत में प्रकाशित हुए।
- Estimated 10% of India's research output may be fraudulent.
अनुमानित 10% भारतीय शोध उत्पादन धोखाधड़ी हो सकता है।

Key Takeaways and Recommendations

मुख्य निष्कर्ष और सिफारिशें

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- India must prioritize quality over quantity in research publications.
भारत को शोध प्रकाशनों में मात्रा के बजाय गुणवत्ता को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।
- Increase investments in university education and research infrastructure.
विश्वविद्यालय शिक्षा और अनुसंधान अवसंरचना में निवेश बढ़ाना चाहिए।
- Implement strict peer review and ethical publishing standards.
सख्त सहकर्मी समीक्षा और नैतिक प्रकाशन मानकों को लागू करना आवश्यक है।
- As Einstein said, 'Not everything that can be counted counts. Not everything that counts can be counted.'
जैसा कि आइंस्टीन ने कहा, 'हर वह चीज़ जो गिनी जा सकती है, महत्वपूर्ण नहीं होती। हर महत्वपूर्ण चीज़ को गिना नहीं जा सकता।'

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The role of communities in conserving water

GS Paper III: Environment

On March 22, World Water Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the need to conserve water for present and future generations through collective action. On the same day, the Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2025, emphasising the importance of community participation in water conservation.

Issues for consideration

In the context of this occasion, it is important to take a panoramic view of India's water policies, with a focus on rural areas. New environmental challenges and renewed understandings of ecosystems underscore the need to recalibrate rural water policies. The following issues must be considered by policymakers.

First, policies should ensure effective participation from communities and mainstream their ecological practices. Indigenous and local communities carry rich knowledge of their immediate ecosystems. Existing policies provide for their participation, but it is limited to the management of water sources; decision-making powers remain with state authorities. Further, policies have overlooked the need to identify and empower communities' own ecological practices on water management. Rather, they have formalised water governance by introducing uniform practices. This is counter-intuitive to the objective of encouraging effective participation from communities.

Take, for example, Water User Associations (WUAs), which are statutory bodies set up in different States since the 1990s to further participatory irrigation management. Water users (or farmers) are members of these bodies. While the responsibility to manage irrigation sources has been transferred to them, they have little say in decision-making.

Second, water policies should consider the disproportionate



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vulnerability of certain groups to environmental crises. Subaltern social groups and economically marginalised individuals are more vulnerable to such crises than others. Within these groups, those located at the intersection of social and economic marginalisation are the most vulnerable. Therefore, it is crucial for policies to consider the interests of vulnerable groups. Concomitantly, policies must recognise their agency in managing water and ensure their participation in decision-making.

Third, policies must address the issue of fragmentation of water management. Here, fragmented management means that different parts of the ecosystem, such as forests, water, land, and biodiversity, are regulated by different policies and authorities. Such an approach fails to consider the interdependence of these constituents. While there have been some efforts towards taking an integrated approach, they are limited and ineffective. Since policies adopt a fragmented approach, they do not always achieve the desired goals, and in fact, adversely affect each other's potential to do so.

A good example of an integrated approach comes from the ecological practices of rural communities in western India. For example, the practice of establishing orans. Orans are sacred forests which hold deep religious and cultural significance to local communities. Some communities have been establishing orans to serve an additional purpose – water conservation. By augmenting tree and grass cover, orans trap surface runoff and support in-situ rainwater harvesting. Such an appreciation about the interdependence of water with other constituents of the ecosystem is key to effective water management and conservation.

Fourth, globally, there has been a thrust on adopting a more-than-human perspective in environmental governance. This means considering the interests of

the non-human environment in laws and policies that regulate the environment. This approach is based on the idea that the non-human environment has an intrinsic value, and so its interests must be considered in environmental policies. The judiciary has often subscribed to this approach and developed compelling jurisprudence recognising the rights of nature. However, water policies have overlooked this aspect. Their sole focus has been on human needs for water. Contrastingly, water management practices of some of the local communities in western India take a more holistic perspective to water governance. For example, the amount of water available for irrigation is partly dependent on its sufficient availability for animals.

A final issue is the impact of climate change on water. A recent report published in the journal Nature concluded that as global temperatures rise, the water gap in India will widen. Both climate and water policies must address the impact of climate change on water. Water policies must focus on creating climate-resilient water systems and increasing the climate resilience of existing systems; climate policies, particularly adaptation policies, should focus on building the resilience of ecosystems to water gaps.

Beyond the rhetoric

A common theme across these suggestions is that local and indigenous communities and their practices can support effective water management. Therefore, rural water policies should facilitate active engagement with communities. This means moving beyond the existing rhetoric of engagement, and centering communities' voices in the decision-making process. While doing so, we must be mindful that communities' practices may come with their own limitations which should be addressed through sensitisation and capacity building where required.

Water policies should centre communities' voices in the decision-making process

The Role of Communities in Conserving Water

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जल संरक्षण में समुदायों की भूमिका

On March 22, World Water Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the need for collective action to conserve water for present and future generations.

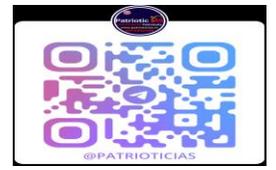
22 मार्च, विश्व जल दिवस पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने वर्तमान और भविष्य की पीढ़ियों के लिए सामूहिक कार्रवाई के माध्यम से जल संरक्षण की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2025, highlighting community participation in water conservation.
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय ने जल शक्ति अभियान: कैच द रेन 2025 की शुरुआत की, जिसमें समुदाय की भागीदारी पर जोर दिया गया।

Issues for Consideration

विचार करने योग्य मुद्दे

- Policies should ensure effective community participation and integrate their ecological knowledge in water management.
नीतियों को प्रभावी सामुदायिक भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए और जल प्रबंधन में उनकी पारिस्थितिकीय समझ को शामिल करना चाहिए।
 - Indigenous and local communities have rich ecological knowledge, but decision-making is still dominated by state authorities.
स्वदेशी और स्थानीय समुदायों के पास समृद्ध पारिस्थितिक ज्ञान है, लेकिन निर्णय लेने की शक्ति अभी भी राज्य प्राधिकरणों के पास है।
 - Water User Associations (WUAs) were formed in the 1990s for participatory irrigation management, but they lack decision-making authority.
जल उपभोक्ता संघ (WUAs) को 1990 के दशक में भागीदारी सिंचाई प्रबंधन के लिए स्थापित किया गया था, लेकिन उनके पास निर्णय लेने की शक्ति नहीं है।
- Water policies should address the vulnerability of marginalized groups to environmental crises.
जल नीतियों को हाशिए पर पड़े समूहों की पर्यावरणीय संकटों के प्रति संवेदनशीलता को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए।
 - Socially and economically marginalized groups face greater risks from water scarcity and climate change.
सामाजिक और आर्थिक रूप से हाशिए पर पड़े समूह जल संकट और जलवायु परिवर्तन से अधिक जोखिम झेलते हैं।
 - Policies must recognize their role in water management and ensure their participation in decision-making.



नीतियों को जल प्रबंधन में उनकी भूमिका को स्वीकार करना चाहिए और निर्णय लेने में उनकी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए।

- **Fragmentation in water management must be addressed** to ensure an integrated approach.

जल प्रबंधन में बिखराव को दूर किया जाना चाहिए ताकि एकीकृत दृष्टिकोण अपनाया जा सके।

- **Forests, water bodies, land, and biodiversity** are governed by **separate policies**, ignoring their interdependence.

वन, जल स्रोत, भूमि और जैव विविधता को अलग-अलग नीतियों द्वारा संचालित किया जाता है, जिससे उनकी परस्पर निर्भरता की अनदेखी होती है।

- **Existing efforts for integrated water management are limited** and need **stronger implementation**.

एकीकृत जल प्रबंधन के लिए मौजूदा प्रयास सीमित हैं और उन्हें मजबूत कार्यान्वयन की आवश्यकता है।

The Role of Communities in Conserving Water पानी संरक्षण में समुदायों की भूमिका

- **A good example of an integrated approach** comes from the ecological practices of rural communities in western India.

एकीकृत दृष्टिकोण का एक अच्छा उदाहरण पश्चिमी भारत के ग्रामीण समुदायों की पारिस्थितिकीय प्रथाओं से आता है।

- **Orans are sacred forests** that hold deep religious and cultural significance to local communities.

ओरण पवित्र वन हैं, जो स्थानीय समुदायों के लिए गहरी धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक महत्ता रखते हैं।

- **Some communities establish orans** for additional purposes like water conservation.

कुछ समुदाय ओरण स्थापित करते हैं जल संरक्षण जैसे अतिरिक्त उद्देश्यों के लिए।

- **By augmenting tree and grass cover, orans trap surface runoff** and support in-situ rainwater harvesting.

वृक्ष और घास के आवरण को बढ़ाकर, ओरण सतही जल बहाव को रोकते हैं और स्थल पर वर्षा जल संचयन का समर्थन करते हैं।

- **Such appreciation of water interdependence is key** to effective water management and conservation.

जल की परस्पर निर्भरता को समझना प्रभावी जल प्रबंधन और संरक्षण के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

- **Fourth, globally, there has been a thrust** on adopting a more-than-human perspective in environmental governance.

चौथा, वैश्विक स्तर पर, पर्यावरणीय शासन में मानव से परे दृष्टिकोण अपनाने पर जोर दिया गया है।

- **This means considering the interests of the non-human environment** in laws and policies.

इसका अर्थ है गैर-मानवीय पर्यावरण के हितों पर विचार करना कानूनों और नीतियों में।



- The judiciary has often recognized the rights of nature in its compelling jurisprudence.
न्यायपालिका ने अक्सर प्रकृति के अधिकारों को मान्यता दी है अपनी प्रभावी विधिशास्त्र में।
- However, water policies have focused only on human needs and ignored nature's requirements.
हालांकि, जल नीतियाँ केवल मानव आवश्यकताओं पर केंद्रित रही हैं और प्रकृति की आवश्यकताओं की अनदेखी की गई है।
- In contrast, some local communities in western India take a holistic approach to water governance.
इसके विपरीत, पश्चिमी भारत के कुछ स्थानीय समुदाय जल शासन में समग्र दृष्टिकोण अपनाते हैं।
- For example, water availability for irrigation is managed considering its sufficient availability for animals.
उदाहरण के लिए, सिंचाई के लिए जल की उपलब्धता को प्रबंधित किया जाता है ताकि यह जानवरों के लिए भी पर्याप्त रहे।
- A final issue is the impact of climate change on water.
अंतिम मुद्दा जल पर जलवायु परिवर्तन का प्रभाव है।
- A recent report in Nature concluded that as temperatures rise, India's water gap will widen.
'नेचर' पत्रिका की एक हालिया रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, तापमान बढ़ने से भारत में जल अंतराल बढ़ेगा।
- Both climate and water policies must address climate change's impact on water.
जल और जलवायु नीतियों को जलवायु परिवर्तन के जल पर प्रभाव को संबोधित करना चाहिए।
- Water policies should focus on creating climate-resilient water systems.
जल नीतियों को जलवायु-लचीला जल प्रणाली बनाने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- Climate policies should focus on building ecosystem resilience to water gaps.
जलवायु नीतियों को जल अंतराल के लिए पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की स्थिरता पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- Beyond the rhetoric, local and indigenous communities can support effective water management.
सिर्फ बयानबाजी से आगे बढ़कर, स्थानीय और आदिवासी समुदाय प्रभावी जल प्रबंधन में सहायता कर सकते हैं।
- Rural water policies should facilitate active community engagement.
ग्रामीण जल नीतियों को समुदायों की सक्रिय भागीदारी को सक्षम बनाना चाहिए।
- This means moving beyond rhetoric and centering community voices in decision-making.
इसका अर्थ है केवल बातों से आगे बढ़कर, निर्णय लेने में समुदायों की आवाज़ को केंद्र में रखना।
- We must recognize that community practices may have limitations and address them through capacity building.
हमें यह स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि सामुदायिक प्रथाओं में सीमाएँ हो सकती हैं और उन्हें क्षमता निर्माण के माध्यम से हल करना चाहिए।



Malhotra advises caution in battling money laundering

RBI Governor urges policymakers to ensure that their measures to safeguard the financial system against terror financing and money laundering do not end up hurting legitimate investments

GS Paper III: Internal Security

MUMBAI

While efforts should be made to make financial systems secure against money laundering and terror financing, policymakers should be mindful that their measures do not stifle legitimate investments and activities, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Wednesday.

He was speaking at the Private Sector Collaborative Forum (PSCF) 2025 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which is being held for the first time in the country. "You would

Double-edged sword

Multiple laws cast high level of compliance burden on regulated financial service providers, says Malhotra



■ Must have laws with surgical precision that target only the 'illegitimate and illicit'

■ Authorities must keep in mind its impact on persons and businesses

■ Such measures must be considered only as a step toward reducing the compliance burden

appreciate that multiple laws and rules, each with their own level of granularity, cast a high level of burden of compliance on the regulated financial service providers. This is relevant in the context of anti-mo-

ney laundering (AML) - countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) too," he told the gathering.

"Therefore, we need to have laws and regulations which, with surgical precision, target only the illegiti-

mate and illicit, rather than use them as blunt tools which unintentionally hurt even the honest," he said.

Mr. Malhotra said while implementing the regulations, authorities needed to keep in mind the impact on persons and businesses. "Risk-based approach is recommended in this regard. But let us keep in mind that this is only a step forward in reducing compliance burden," he said. "Let us appreciate that it is not the ultimate solution, as any risk-based approach is not perfect; we need to continuously refine and improve our risk assessment models to make them robust," he added.

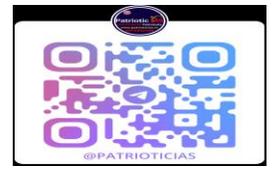
Malhotra advises caution in battling money laundering

मलहोत्रा ने मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग से लड़ने में सतर्कता बरतने की सलाह दी

RBI Governor urges policymakers to ensure that their measures to safeguard the financial system against terror financing and money laundering do not end up hurting legitimate investments.

आरबीआई गवर्नर ने नीति-निर्माताओं से आग्रह किया कि वे आतंक वित्तपोषण और मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग के खिलाफ वित्तीय प्रणाली की सुरक्षा के लिए उठाए गए कदमों से वैध निवेश को नुकसान न पहुंचने दें।

- While efforts should be made to make financial systems **secure** against money laundering and **terror financing**, policymakers should ensure that their measures do not stifle **legitimate investments** and activities, said **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**



Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday.

बुधवार को भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) के गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा ने कहा कि मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग और आतंक वित्तपोषण के खिलाफ वित्तीय प्रणाली को सुरक्षित बनाने के प्रयास किए जाने चाहिए, लेकिन नीति-निर्माताओं को यह भी सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि उनके उपाय वैध निवेश और गतिविधियों को बाधित न करें।

- He was speaking at the **Private Sector Collaborative Forum (PSCF) 2025** of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, which is being held for the **first time in the country**.

वह फाइनेंशियल एक्शन टास्क फोर्स (FATF) के प्राइवेट सेक्टर कोलेबोरेटिव फोरम (PSCF) 2025 में बोल रहे थे, जो देश में पहली बार आयोजित किया जा रहा है।

- "You would appreciate that **multiple laws and rules**, each with their own level of **granularity**, cast a **high level of compliance burden** on **regulated financial service providers**. This is relevant in the context of **anti-money laundering (AML)** and **countering the financing of terrorism (CFT)** too," he told the gathering.

उन्होंने कहा, "आप यह समझेंगे कि कई कानून और नियम, जो अपनी विशिष्टताओं के साथ लागू होते हैं, विनियमित वित्तीय सेवा प्रदाताओं पर उच्च अनुपालन भार डालते हैं। यह संदर्भ मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग विरोधी (AML) और आतंक वित्तपोषण विरोधी (CFT) के लिए भी प्रासंगिक है।"***

- "Therefore, we need to have **laws and regulations** which, with **surgical precision**, target only the **illegitimate and illicit**, rather than using them as **blunt tools** which unintentionally hurt even the **honest**," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "इसलिए, हमें ऐसे कानून और विनियम चाहिए जो सटीकता के साथ केवल अवैध और अनधिकृत गतिविधियों को लक्षित करें, न कि उन्हें कठोर उपकरण की तरह इस्तेमाल किया जाए जिससे ईमानदार लोगों को भी नुकसान पहुंचे।"

- Mr. Malhotra said while implementing the **regulations, authorities** needed to keep in mind the **impact on persons and businesses**.

मल्होत्रा ने कहा कि नियमों को लागू करते समय, अधिकारियों को व्यक्तियों और व्यवसायों पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए।

- "**Risk-based approach** is recommended in this regard. But let us keep in mind that this is only a **step forward in reducing compliance burden**," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "जोखिम-आधारित दृष्टिकोण (Risk-based approach) इस संदर्भ में अनुशंसित है। लेकिन हमें यह समझना चाहिए कि यह केवल अनुपालन भार को कम करने की दिशा में एक कदम है।"

"Let us appreciate that it is not the **ultimate solution**, as any **risk-based approach** is **not perfect**; we need to **continuously refine and improve** our **risk assessment models** to make them **robust**," he added.

उन्होंने आगे कहा, "हमें यह स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि यह कोई अंतिम समाधान नहीं है, क्योंकि कोई भी जोखिम-आधारित दृष्टिकोण पूर्णतः सटीक नहीं होता; हमें अपने जोखिम मूल्यांकन मॉडल को लगातार सुधारना और मजबूत बनाना होगा।"



TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Panel seeks comprehensive review of GST framework

पैनल ने जीएसटी ढांचे की व्यापक समीक्षा की मांग की

2. Santosh, U.K.'s official Oscar entry, blocked by CBFC in India

संतोष, यू.के. की आधिकारिक ऑस्कर प्रविष्टि, भारत में CBFC द्वारा प्रतिबंधित

Past and present



PCS

A Coast Guard vessel passes through Pamban channel as Railway authorities lifted the vertical span of the New Pamban Rail Bridge during a dry run on Wednesday. The Bridge, seen alongside the old one, is likely to be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on April 6. L. BALACHANDAR



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



LS passes law to set up Tribhuvan University

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, to establish the country's first national cooperative university at the Institute of Rural Management Anand in Gujarat. It aims to revolutionise education, research, and training in the cooperative sector.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said the university is proposed to be set up in Gujarat because the State government allotted land for it, adding that the university's jurisdiction will be nationwide.

"The cooperative training institutes in all States will be registered as schools or colleges under the university. It will work on a hub-and-spoke model. It will have degree, diploma, and PhD courses. Around 8 lakh people are expected to get certification from the university per year," Mr. Shah said.

It is named after Tribhuvan Kashibhai Patel, the founder of cooperative dairy giant Amul, he added.

Panel seeks comprehensive review of GST framework

पैनल ने जीएसटी ढांचे की व्यापक समीक्षा की मांग की

• Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has recommended that the Finance Ministry undertake a comprehensive review of the GST framework to identify and eliminate unnecessary procedures that complicate compliance.

संसद की लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) ने वित्त मंत्रालय को जीएसटी ढांचे की व्यापक समीक्षा करने की सिफारिश की है ताकि अनावश्यक प्रक्रियाओं को पहचाना और हटाया जा सके, जो अनुपालन को जटिल बनाती हैं।

• The PAC, in its 19th report presented to Parliament on Wednesday, suggested streamlining the return filing process by consolidating forms and reducing the frequency of filings where possible.

बुधवार को संसद में पेश की गई अपनी 19वीं रिपोर्ट में PAC ने रिटर्न दाखिल करने की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाने, फॉर्म को समेकित करने और जहां संभव हो, फाइलिंग की आवृत्ति कम करने की सिफारिश की।

• It also pushed for a tiered compliance approach, where smaller businesses face fewer requirements and simplified processes compared to larger entities, reducing the burden on smaller taxpayers.

इसने स्तरीय अनुपालन दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की वकालत की, जिसमें छोटे व्यवसायों को बड़े संस्थानों की तुलना में कम आवश्यकताओं और सरल प्रक्रियाओं का सामना करना पड़े, जिससे छोटे करदाताओं पर बोझ कम हो।

• The Ministry has been asked to improve the user-friendliness of the GST portal and ensure that it provides guidance and support to taxpayers at every step in the filing process.

मंत्रालय से जीएसटी पोर्टल को अधिक उपयोगकर्ता-अनुकूल बनाने और यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कहा गया है कि यह करदाताओं को फाइलिंग प्रक्रिया के हर चरण में मार्गदर्शन और सहायता प्रदान करे।

• The committee has called for a revamped GST 2.0 after consultation with stakeholders to address their concerns and ensure the timely collection of taxes.

समिति ने हितधारकों से परामर्श के बाद जीएसटी 2.0 के पुनर्गठन की मांग की है

ताकि उनकी चिंताओं का समाधान किया जा सके और करों की समय पर वसूली सुनिश्चित हो।



Concerns over penalties and compliance

दंड और अनुपालन को लेकर चिंताएं

- The PAC highlighted significant challenges faced by taxpayers, particularly criminal penalties imposed on honest taxpayers for unintentional errors.
PAC ने करदाताओं द्वारा झेली जा रही महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों को उजागर किया, खासतौर पर ईमानदार करदाताओं को अनजाने में हुई गलतियों पर दंडित किए जाने की चिंता व्यक्त की।
- Regarding registration, the committee argued that biometric-based Aadhaar authentication issues could hinder the vision of 'One Nation, One Tax'.
पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया को लेकर, समिति ने कहा कि बायोमेट्रिक-आधारित आधार प्रमाणीकरण में आने वाली समस्याएं 'वन नेशन, वन टैक्स' के दृष्टिकोण को बाधित कर सकती हैं।
- The share of indirect taxes in total revenue receipts fell from 38.76% in 2017-18 to 36.92% in 2019-20. The PAC urged the Finance Ministry to use AI and data analytics for more accurate revenue projections.
कुल राजस्व प्राप्तियों में अप्रत्यक्ष करों की हिस्सेदारी 2017-18 में 38.76% से घटकर 2019-20 में 36.92% हो गई। PAC ने वित्त मंत्रालय से सटीक राजस्व अनुमान लगाने के लिए एआई और डेटा एनालिटिक्स का उपयोग करने का आग्रह किया।

Need for a transparent refund mechanism

पारदर्शी रिफंड प्रणाली की आवश्यकता

- The PAC recommended implementing a transparent refund system, including clear timelines for processing claims and regular updates to taxpayers.
PAC ने एक पारदर्शी रिफंड प्रणाली लागू करने की सिफारिश की, जिसमें दावों के निपटान के लिए स्पष्ट समय सीमा और करदाताओं को नियमित अपडेट प्रदान करने का प्रावधान हो।
- It suggested establishing a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism for refund-related issues.
इसने रिफंड से संबंधित समस्याओं के लिए एक समर्पित शिकायत निवारण तंत्र स्थापित करने का सुझाव दिया।
- The PAC also recommended a simplified GST compliance framework, especially designed for MSMEs, to fast-track and automate return filing and refund processing.
PAC ने विशेष रूप से MSME के लिए एक सरल जीएसटी अनुपालन ढांचे की सिफारिश की, जिससे रिटर्न फाइलिंग और रिफंड प्रक्रिया को तेज और स्वचालित किया जा सके।
- This should include reducing the frequency of return filings and allowing for a more straightforward online reporting process.
इसमें रिटर्न फाइलिंग की आवृत्ति कम करने और एक आसान ऑनलाइन रिपोर्टिंग प्रक्रिया लागू करने की सिफारिश की गई है।



Santosh, U.K.'s official Oscar entry, blocked by CBFC in India

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The internationally acclaimed *Santosh* has been denied certification for theatrical release in India after the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) objected to its portrayal of police brutality, caste discrimination, and misogyny, according to reports from *The Guardian*.

Written and directed by British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri, *Santosh* follows the journey of a young widow who joins the police force and investigates the murder of a Dalit girl.

The film, which tackles themes of misogyny, caste-based violence, and institutional Islamophobia, has received widespread critical praise.

It was the U.K.'s official entry for the Oscars international feature category, and earned a BAFTA nomination for best debut feature. Lead actor Shahana Goswami won the best actress title at the Asian Film Awards.

Despite its success abroad, the CBFC refused to approve *Santosh* for theatrical release.

'Heartbreaking'

Reacting to the CBFC's decision, Ms. Suri expressed disappointment, calling



Sandhya Suri

the move "heartbreaking", in an interview with *The Guardian*. She noted that while films tackling police violence are not new to Indian cinema, *Santosh* may have unsettled censors due to its realistic and morally complex portrayal of law enforcement.

"It was surprising for all of us because I didn't feel that these issues were particularly new to Indian cinema or hadn't been raised before by other films," she said.

Suri also revealed that the CBFC's demands for cuts were so extensive that implementing them would have made it "impossible" to retain the integrity of the film.

Though she is legally restricted from disclosing specifics, she described the list of requested edits as spanning several pages and touching on core themes of the story.

Santosh, U.K.'s official Oscar entry, blocked by CBFC in India

संतोष, यू.के. की आधिकारिक ऑस्कर

प्रविष्टि, भारत में CBFC द्वारा प्रतिबंधित

The internationally acclaimed film *Santosh* has been denied certification for theatrical release in India after the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) objected to its portrayal of police brutality, caste discrimination, and misogyny, according to reports from *The Guardian*.

अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रशंसित फिल्म संतोष को भारत में सिनेमाई रिलीज़ के लिए प्रमाणन देने से इनकार कर दिया गया, क्योंकि केंद्रीय फिल्म प्रमाणन बोर्ड (CBFC) ने इसमें दिखाए गए पुलिस की बर्बरता, जातिगत भेदभाव और स्त्री-विरोधी विचारधारा पर आपत्ति जताई, द गार्जियन की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार।

The film is written and directed by British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri and follows the journey of a young widow who joins the police force and investigates the murder of a Dalit girl.

यह फिल्म ब्रिटिश-भारतीय फिल्म निर्माता संध्या सूरी द्वारा लिखित और निर्देशित है और एक युवा विधवा की कहानी को दर्शाती है, जो पुलिस बल में शामिल होती है और एक दलित लड़की की हत्या की जांच करती है।

Santosh tackles themes of misogyny, caste-based violence, and institutional Islamophobia, receiving widespread critical acclaim.

संतोष फिल्म स्त्री-विरोध, जातिगत हिंसा और संस्थागत इस्लामोफोबिया जैसे विषयों को उठाती है और विस्तृत

आलोचनात्मक प्रशंसा प्राप्त कर चुकी है।

It was the U.K.'s official entry for the Oscars in the International Feature category and earned a BAFTA nomination for Best Debut Feature.

यह फिल्म यू.के. की आधिकारिक ऑस्कर प्रविष्टि थी अंतरराष्ट्रीय

फीचर श्रेणी में और इसे सर्वश्रेष्ठ डेब्यू फीचर के लिए BAFTA नामांकन भी मिला।



- Lead actor **Shahana Goswami** won the **Best Actress** title at the **Asian Film Awards**.
प्रमुख अभिनेत्री शहाना गोस्वामी ने एशियन फिल्म अवार्ड्स में सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेत्री का खिताब जीता।
- Despite its success abroad, the **CBFC** refused to approve **Santosh** for theatrical release in India.
विदेशों में सफलता के बावजूद, **CBFC** ने संतोष को भारत में सिनेमाई रिलीज़ की मंजूरी देने से इनकार कर दिया।

‘Heartbreaking’ decision, says director

‘दिल तोड़ने वाला निर्णय’ – निर्देशक

- Reacting to the **CBFC’s** decision, **Ms. Suri** expressed **disappointment**, calling the move “**heartbreaking**”, in an interview with **The Guardian**.
CBFC के निर्णय पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए, सुश्री सूरी ने निराशा व्यक्त की, और इस कदम को "दिल तोड़ने वाला" कहा, द गार्जियन को दिए एक साक्षात्कार में।
- She noted that **films tackling police violence are not new to Indian cinema**, but **Santosh** may have unsettled **censors due to its realistic and morally complex portrayal of law enforcement**.
उन्होंने कहा कि पुलिस हिंसा पर आधारित फिल्में भारतीय सिनेमा के लिए नई नहीं हैं, लेकिन संतोष की यथार्थवादी और नैतिक रूप से जटिल कानून प्रवर्तन की प्रस्तुति से सेंसर बोर्ड असहज हो सकता है।
- “**It was surprising for all of us because I didn’t feel that these issues were particularly new to Indian cinema or hadn’t been raised before by other films,**” she said.
"यह हम सभी के लिए चौंकाने वाला था क्योंकि मुझे नहीं लगा कि ये मुद्दे भारतीय सिनेमा के लिए नए हैं या इससे पहले अन्य फिल्मों में नहीं उठाए गए," उन्होंने कहा।
- **Ms. Suri** also revealed that **CBFC’s** demands for cuts were so extensive that implementing them would have made it “**impossible**” to retain the integrity of the film.
सुश्री सूरी ने यह भी खुलासा किया कि **CBFC** की कटौती की मांगें इतनी व्यापक थीं कि उन्हें लागू करने से फिल्म की मूल भावना को बनाए रखना "असंभव" हो जाता।
- Though she is **legally restricted from disclosing specifics**, she described the **list of requested edits** as spanning several pages and touching on **core themes of the story**.
हालांकि वह कानूनी रूप से विशिष्ट विवरण साझा करने में असमर्थ हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने सेंसर बोर्ड द्वारा सुझाए गए संपादन की सूची को कई पृष्ठों में फैला हुआ बताया, जो कहानी के मुख्य विषयों को प्रभावित करता था।