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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

29 MARCH 2025

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29_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Massive quake kills at least 144 in Myanmar and 8 in Thailand; junta seeks foreign help

भारी भूकंप से म्यांमार में कम से कम 144 और थाईलैंड में 8 की मौत;
जुंटा ने विदेशी मदद मांगी

2. Self-styled preacher convicted in rape case; sentencing on April 1

स्वयंभू उपदेशक बलात्कार मामले में दोषी करार; सजा का ऐलान 1
अप्रैल को

3. The preacher pulling crowds with promises of healing and miracles

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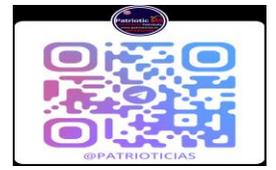
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चमत्कार और चंगाई के वादों से भीड़ जुटाने वाला उपदेशक

4. Coffee Output Likely to Be Higher in 2026 Than Last Two Years'

'2026 में कॉफी उत्पादन पिछले दो वर्षों से अधिक होने की संभावना'

5. V-P 'Under House Arrest', Says South Sudan Govt

दक्षिण सूडान सरकार का बयान: उपराष्ट्रपति 'गृह गिरफ्तारी' में

6. Bangladesh Welcomes China to Participate in Teesta Project

बांग्लादेश ने तीस्ता परियोजना में चीन की भागीदारी का स्वागत किया

7. Myanmar's Rebels Disrupt China Rare Earth Trade, Sparking Regional Scramble

म्यांमार के विद्रोहियों ने चीन के दुर्लभ खनिज व्यापार को बाधित किया, क्षेत्रीय हलचल बढ़ी



Massive quake kills at least 144 in Myanmar and 8 in Thailand; junta seeks foreign help



Shell-shocked: Rescue workers near an under-construction building that collapsed after the tremor hit Bangkok, Thailand, on Friday. AP

GS Paper I: Geographical Phenomenon

Agence France-Presse
NAYPYIDAW

A huge earthquake hit Myanmar and Thailand on Friday, killing more than 150 people and injuring hundreds, with dozens trapped in collapsed buildings and the death toll expected to rise.

The shallow 7.7-magnitude tremor hit northwest of the city of Sagaing in central Myanmar in the early afternoon, and was followed minutes later by a 6.4-magnitude aftershock.

The quake flattened buildings, downed bridges, and cracked roads across swathes of Myanmar, and even demolished a 30-storey skyscraper under construction hundreds of kilometres away in Bangkok.

While the full extent of the catastrophe is yet to emerge, the leader of isolated Myanmar, in the grip of a civil war, issued a rare plea for international aid.

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing said 144 people had been killed, with 732 confirmed injured, but warned the toll was "likely to rise". Eight deaths have been confirmed so far in Thailand, with more expected.

He urged massive relief efforts in the wake of the disaster and said he had "opened all ways for foreign aid".

Four years of civil war sparked by the military seizing power have ravaged Myanmar's infrastructure and healthcare system, leaving it ill-equipped to respond to

such a disaster.

The country declared a state of emergency across the six worst-affected regions after the quake, which the World Health Organization described as a "very, very big threat to life and health".

'Mass casualty area'

Hundreds of casualties arrived at a major hospital in Naypyidaw, where the emergency department entrance had collapsed on a car.

An official at the hospital, the same one visited by the junta chief, described it as a "mass casualty area" with medics treating the wounded outside.

"I haven't seen [something] like this before. We are trying to handle the situation," a doctor said.

Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, appeared to have been badly hit.

A resident reached by phone said the city was badly lacking in rescue personnel.

Across the border in Thailand, a 30-storey skyscraper under construction collapsed to a tangled heap of rubble and dust in a matter of seconds.

Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said eight dead bodies have been recovered and, with between 90 and 110 people unaccounted for, the toll is expected to rise.

"We see several dead bodies under the rubble. We will take time to bring the bodies out to avoid any further collapses," he told presspersons.

As night fell, around 100 rescue workers assembled at the scene to search for survivors, illuminated by specially erected floodlights.

Visiting the site, Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra said "every building" in Bangkok would need to be inspected for safety, though it was not immediately clear how that would be carried out.

An emergency zone was declared in Bangkok, where metro and light rail services were suspended.

Strong quakes are extremely rare in Thailand.

India, France and the European Union all offered to provide assistance, while the WHO said it was mobilising its logistics hub in Dubai to prepare trauma injury supplies.



Massive quake kills at least 144 in Myanmar and 8 in Thailand; junta seeks foreign help

भारी भूकंप से म्यांमार में कम से कम 144 और थाईलैंड में 8 की मौत; जुंटा ने विदेशी मदद मांगी

A huge earthquake hit Myanmar and Thailand on Friday, killing more than 150 people and injuring hundreds, with dozens trapped in collapsed buildings and the death toll expected to rise.

शुक्रवार को म्यांमार और थाईलैंड में भारी भूकंप आया, जिसमें 150 से अधिक लोगों की मौत हो गई और सैकड़ों घायल हो गए, जबकि कई लोग गिरी हुई इमारतों में फंस गए और मृतकों की संख्या बढ़ने की आशंका है।



- The shallow 7.7-magnitude tremor hit northwest of **Sagaing** in central Myanmar in the early afternoon, followed by a 6.4-magnitude aftershock within minutes.

7.7 तीव्रता का उथला भूकंप दोपहर के शुरुआती घंटों में म्यांमार के केंद्रीय सगाइंग क्षेत्र के उत्तर-पश्चिम में आया, जिसके कुछ मिनट बाद 6.4 तीव्रता का आफ्टरशॉक महसूस किया गया।

- The quake flattened buildings, downed bridges, cracked roads, and even demolished a 30-storey skyscraper under construction in Bangkok, hundreds of kilometers away. भूकंप ने इमारतों को गिरा दिया, पुलों को तोड़ दिया, सड़कों में दरारें डाल दीं, और यहां तक कि बैंकॉक में निर्माणाधीन 30-मंजिला गगनचुंबी इमारत को भी गिरा दिया, जो सैकड़ों किलोमीटर दूर थी।

- The full extent of the catastrophe is yet to emerge, but Myanmar's junta leader Min Aung Hlaing confirmed 144 deaths and 732 injuries, warning the toll may rise.



विनाश की पूरी तस्वीर अभी सामने नहीं आई है, लेकिन म्यांमार के जुंटा नेता मिन आंग हलाइंग ने 144 मौतों और 732 घायलों की पुष्टि की, यह चेतावनी देते हुए कि मृतकों की संख्या बढ़ सकती है।

- **Eight deaths** were confirmed in Thailand, with more expected.
थाईलैंड में 8 मौतों की पुष्टि हुई है और संख्या बढ़ने की आशंका है।
- The junta chief urged massive relief efforts and announced that he had "opened all ways for foreign aid".
जुंटा प्रमुख ने बड़े पैमाने पर राहत प्रयासों का आग्रह किया और घोषणा की कि उन्होंने "विदेशी सहायता के सभी मार्ग खोल दिए हैं"।
- Four years of civil war have damaged Myanmar's infrastructure and healthcare system, making it ill-equipped to handle such disasters.
चार साल के गृहयुद्ध ने म्यांमार की बुनियादी संरचना और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणाली को क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया, जिससे वह ऐसे आपदाओं से निपटने में असमर्थ हो गया है।
- State of emergency was declared in the six worst-affected regions, and the World Health Organization (WHO) called it a "very, very big threat to life and health".
छह सबसे अधिक प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में आपातकाल घोषित किया गया, और विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने इसे "जीवन और स्वास्थ्य के लिए बहुत बड़ा खतरा" बताया।

‘Mass casualty area’

‘भीषण हताहत क्षेत्र’

- Hundreds of casualties arrived at a major hospital in Naypyidaw, where the emergency department entrance had collapsed on a car.
सैकड़ों घायल लोग नायपीडॉ के एक बड़े अस्पताल में पहुंचे, जहां आपातकालीन विभाग का प्रवेश द्वार एक कार पर गिर गया था।
- A hospital official described it as a "mass casualty area", with medics treating the wounded outside.
एक अस्पताल अधिकारी ने इसे "भीषण हताहत क्षेत्र" बताया, जहां डॉक्टर बाहर घायलों का इलाज कर रहे थे।
- A doctor said, "I haven't seen anything like this before. We are trying to handle the situation."
एक डॉक्टर ने कहा, "मैंने इससे पहले ऐसा कुछ नहीं देखा। हम स्थिति को संभालने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।"
- Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, was also badly hit.
मांडले, जो म्यांमार का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा शहर है, वह भी भारी रूप से प्रभावित हुआ।
- A resident reported that the city lacked enough rescue personnel.
एक स्थानीय निवासी ने बताया कि शहर में बचाव कर्मियों की भारी कमी है।



Destruction in Thailand

थाईलैंड में तबाही

- In Thailand, a 30-storey skyscraper under construction collapsed within seconds, turning into a heap of rubble and dust.
थाईलैंड में, निर्माणाधीन 30-मंजिला गगनचुंबी इमारत कुछ ही सेकंड में मलबे और धूल के ढेर में बदल गई।
- Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul confirmed eight dead bodies recovered, with 90 to 110 people unaccounted for.
गृहमंत्री अनुतिन चार्नवीराकुल ने पुष्टि की कि 8 शव बरामद हुए, जबकि 90 से 110 लोग लापता हैं।
- Rescue workers reported seeing several dead bodies under the rubble, and careful extraction was necessary to avoid further collapses.
बचाव कर्मियों ने बताया कि मलबे के नीचे कई शव दिखाई दिए, और अधिक गिरावट रोकने के लिए सावधानीपूर्वक निकालना जरूरी था।
- Around 100 rescue workers were at the scene, working under floodlights to search for survivors.
लगभग 100 बचावकर्मी घटनास्थल पर बाढ़ रोशनी में बचे लोगों को खोजने में लगे थे।
- Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra announced that "every building in Bangkok" would need a safety inspection, though no immediate plan was mentioned.
प्रधानमंत्री पैतोंगटर्न शिनावत्रा ने घोषणा की कि "बैंकॉक की हर इमारत" की सुरक्षा जांच की जाएगी, हालांकि इसका तत्काल कोई योजना नहीं बताई गई।
- Bangkok declared an emergency zone, suspending metro and light rail services.
बैंकॉक में आपातकालीन क्षेत्र घोषित किया गया, और मेट्रो व हल्की रेल सेवाएं निलंबित कर दी गईं।
- Strong quakes are rare in Thailand, making this disaster highly unusual.
थाईलैंड में बड़े भूकंप दुर्लभ होते हैं, जिससे यह आपदा अत्यधिक असामान्य बन गई।

International Aid Efforts

अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहायता प्रयास

- India, France, and the European Union offered assistance, while the WHO mobilized its Dubai hub to prepare trauma injury supplies.
भारत, फ्रांस और यूरोपीय संघ ने सहायता की पेशकश की, जबकि WHO ने अपने दुबई केंद्र को सक्रिय किया ताकि चोटों के इलाज के लिए आपूर्ति तैयार की जा सके।



EARTHQUAKE

भूकंप

- An earthquake is a sudden shaking or vibration of the Earth's surface caused by the release of energy stored in rocks due to stress and strain within the Earth's crust.
- भूकंप पृथ्वी की सतह का अचानक कंपन या झटका है, जो पृथ्वी की परत में तनाव और विकृति के कारण चट्टानों में संग्रहीत ऊर्जा के मुक्त होने से होता है।

Causes of Earthquakes

भूकंप के कारण

- The Earth's crust is made up of tectonic plates, which are constantly moving.
- पृथ्वी की परत टेक्टोनिक प्लेटों से बनी होती है, जो लगातार गति में रहती हैं।
- When these plates collide, slide, or move apart, stress builds up in the rocks.
- जब ये प्लेटें टकराती, खिसकती, या अलग होती हैं, तो चट्टानों में तनाव बढ़ जाता है।
- When the stress becomes too high, the rocks break or slip suddenly, releasing strain energy in the form of seismic waves.
- जब तनाव बहुत अधिक हो जाता है, तो चट्टानें अचानक टूट जाती हैं या खिसक जाती हैं, जिससे भूकंपीय तरंगों के रूप में ऊर्जा मुक्त होती है।

Seismic Waves

भूकंपीय तरंगें

- When an earthquake occurs, energy spreads in all directions, just like ripples in a pond when a stone is thrown.
- जब भूकंप आता है, तो ऊर्जा सभी दिशाओं में फैलती है, ठीक वैसे ही जैसे पानी में पत्थर गिराने पर लहरें बनती हैं।
- These energy waves are called seismic waves, and they travel through the Earth's crust, causing the ground to shake.
- इन ऊर्जा तरंगों को भूकंपीय तरंगें कहा जाता है, जो पृथ्वी की परत में गति करती हैं और धरती को हिलाती हैं।



Key Terms in Earthquake Science

भूकंप विज्ञान से जुड़े मुख्य शब्दावली

- Focus (Hypocenter)
- फोकस (हाइपोसेन्टर)
- The exact point **inside the Earth** where an earthquake originates due to **rock breaking or slipping**.
 - पृथ्वी के अंदर का सटीक बिंदु, जहां चट्टानों के टूटने या खिसकने के कारण भूकंप उत्पन्न होता है।
- The **depth of the focus** determines the **type of earthquake** (shallow, intermediate, deep).
 - फोकस की गहराई भूकंप के प्रकार को निर्धारित करती है (उथला, मध्यवर्ती, गहरा)।
- **Example** In the 2015 Nepal Earthquake 7.8-magnitude, the focus was at 15 km depth, making it **highly destructive**.
 - उदाहरण 2015 नेपाल भूकंप 7.8-तीव्रता, जिसमें फोकस 15 किमी गहराई पर था, जिससे यह बहुत विनाशकारी बना।
- Epicenter
- एपिसेंटर
- The point on the **Earth's surface** that is **directly above the focus**.
 - पृथ्वी की सतह पर वह बिंदु, जो फोकस के ठीक ऊपर स्थित होता है।
- It is the **location where the earthquake is felt strongest** and causes the **most destruction**.
 - यह वह स्थान होता है, जहां भूकंप की सबसे अधिक तीव्रता महसूस होती है और सबसे अधिक विनाश होता है।
- **Example** In the 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, **Bhuj** was the **epicenter**, experiencing the **most severe damage**.
 - उदाहरण 2001 गुजरात भूकंप, जिसमें भुज एपिसेंटर था और सबसे अधिक नुकसान हुआ।
- Destruction at the Epicenter
- एपिसेंटर पर विनाश
- The **intensity of shaking and damage** is **highest near the epicenter** because it is **closest to the source of energy release**.



• कंपन और क्षति की तीव्रता एपिसेंटर के पास सबसे अधिक होती है, क्योंकि यह ऊर्जा मुक्त होने के स्रोत के सबसे करीब होता है।

- The destruction decreases as we move away from the epicenter.
- जैसे-जैसे हम एपिसेंटर से दूर जाते हैं, विनाश की तीव्रता घटती जाती है।

TYPES OF SEISMIC WAVES

BODY WAVES (गर्भ तरंगों)

- Body waves are seismic waves that travel through the interior of the Earth.
- गर्भ तरंगों वे भूकंपीय तरंगों हैं, जो पृथ्वी के आंतरिक भाग से होकर गुजरती हैं।

Types of Body Waves (गर्भ तरंगों के प्रकार)

1. Primary Waves (P-Waves) प्राथमिक तरंगों (पी-तरंगों)

- Fastest seismic waves, traveling at an average velocity of 7 km/sec.
- सबसे तेज़ भूकंपीय तरंगों, जो औसतन 7 किमी/सेकंड की गति से चलती हैं।
- These waves are similar to **longitudinal waves (Sound wave)**, meaning their **direction of vibration is parallel** to their direction of propagation.
- ये तरंगों अनुदैर्घ्य तरंगों के समान होती हैं, यानी इनकी कंपन दिशा और प्रसार दिशा समानांतर होती हैं।
- Can travel through all media—**solids, liquids, and gases**, but their speed varies.
- यह सभी माध्यमों (ठोस, द्रव, और गैस) में यात्रा कर सकती हैं, लेकिन उनकी गति भिन्न होती है।
- Higher the density of the medium, higher the velocity of P-waves.
- माध्यम की घनत्व जितनी अधिक होगी, पी-तरंगों की गति उतनी ही अधिक होगी।

Example:

During the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake, P-waves were the first waves detected by seismometers worldwide.

2004 हिंद महासागर भूकंप के दौरान, पी-तरंगों दुनिया भर के सिस्मोग्राफ द्वारा सबसे पहले दर्ज की गई थीं।

2. Secondary Waves (S-Waves)

2. द्वितीयक तरंगों (एस-तरंगों)

- Originate from the same point (Focus) as P-waves but travel slower, at an average velocity of 3.5 km/sec.



• पी-तरंगों के समान फोकस से उत्पन्न होती हैं, लेकिन धीमी गति (औसतन 3.5 किमी/सेकंड) से यात्रा करती हैं।

• These waves are similar to **transverse waves (Light wave)**, meaning their **vibration direction is perpendicular** to their direction of propagation.

• ये तरंगें अनुप्रस्थ तरंगों के समान होती हैं, यानी कंपन दिशा और प्रसार दिशा परस्पर लंबवत होती हैं।

• Can travel **only through solids** and **cannot pass through liquids or gases**.

• केवल ठोस पदार्थों से होकर यात्रा कर सकती हैं, और द्रव व गैसों से नहीं गुजर सकती।

Example:

During the 2015 Nepal earthquake, S-waves arrived **seconds after P-waves**, causing major surface damage.

2015 नेपाल भूकंप में, एस-तरंगों पी-तरंगों के कुछ सेकंड बाद पहुंची, जिससे सतही विनाश हुआ।

Surface Waves

(सतही तरंगें)

- **Most destructive seismic waves**, causing major damage to buildings and infrastructure.
- **Originate from body waves** when they reach the Earth's surface and interact with surface rocks.

Types of Surface Waves

(सतही तरंगों के प्रकार)

- **Rayleigh Waves (R-Waves)**
- **रेले तरंगें**
 - **Move in an elliptical motion**, similar to ocean waves.
 - **Direction of propagation is perpendicular to the wave motion.**
 - **Slower than Love waves**, making them less destructive.
 - **Example** Rayleigh waves cause the ground to move up and down, shaking buildings.
- **Love Waves (L-Waves)**
- **लव तरंगें**
 - **Most destructive surface waves**, moving the ground side to side.
 - **Motion is horizontal and perpendicular** to the direction of wave propagation.
 - **Faster than Rayleigh waves** but cause severe damage to infrastructure.
 - **Example** Love waves are responsible for the collapse of roads and bridges in earthquakes.



Measuring Earthquake Strength (भूकंप की तीव्रता मापना)

- Magnitude of the Earthquake
- भूकंप की परिमाण
 - Magnitude refers to the total energy released at the earthquake's focus.
 - Measured using the Richter Scale, developed by Charles F. Richter in 1935.
 - Richter Scale is logarithmic, each unit increase represents **10 times the amplitude and ~32 times the energy**.
 - Range 0 to 10 (most earthquakes fall between 3 to 9).
 - Example
 - 6.0 magnitude earthquake releases **32 times more energy** than a 5.0 magnitude earthquake.
 - 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake had a magnitude of **9.1**, causing massive tsunamis.
- Intensity of the Earthquake (भूकंप की तीव्रता)
 - Measures the actual damage and shaking felt on the surface.
 - Measured using the **Mercalli Scale**, developed by Giuseppe Mercalli in 1902.
 - In India, the Modified Mercalli Scale (MMI) is used, ranging from **I (not felt) to XII (total destruction)**.
 - Example
 - 1993 Latur Earthquake (Magnitude 6.2) had an MMI intensity of **IX (severe destruction)** in Maharashtra.
 - 2015 Nepal Earthquake (Magnitude 7.8) had an MMI intensity of **X (widespread destruction)**.

Types of Earthquakes (भूकंप के प्रकार)

Based on Depth of Focus (केंद्र की गहराई के आधार पर भूकंप के प्रकार)

- Shallow Earthquake (उथला भूकंप)
 - Focus is located at a depth of less than 40 km from the Earth's surface.
**केंद्र की गहराई पृथ्वी की सतह से 40 किमी से कम होती है।
 - Most destructive as seismic energy does not dissipate much before reaching the surface.
सबसे विनाशकारी, क्योंकि भूकंपीय ऊर्जा सतह तक पहुंचने से पहले ज्यादा नष्ट नहीं होती।
 - Accounts for nearly 75-80% of all earthquakes worldwide.
दुनियाभर के लगभग 75-80% भूकंप इसी श्रेणी में आते हैं।



- **Example:**
 - **2015 Nepal Earthquake (Magnitude 7.8, Depth 15 km)** caused severe destruction in Kathmandu.
2015 नेपाल भूकंप (तीव्रता 7.8, गहराई 15 किमी) ने काठमांडू में भारी तबाही मचाई।
 - **2001 Gujarat Earthquake (Magnitude 7.7, Depth 16 km)** devastated Bhuj city.
2001 गुजरात भूकंप (तीव्रता 7.7, गहराई 16 किमी) ने भुज शहर को तबाह कर दिया।
- **Intermediate Earthquake (मध्यम गहराई वाला भूकंप)**
 - **Focus is located between 40 km to 300 km depth.**
**केंद्र की गहराई 40 किमी से 300 किमी के बीच होती है।
 - **Less destructive than shallow earthquakes** but can still cause strong shaking over a wider area.
उथले भूकंपों की तुलना में कम विनाशकारी, लेकिन बड़े क्षेत्र में तेज़ झटके महसूस कराए सकते हैं।
 - **Example:**
 - **1985 Mexico Earthquake (Magnitude 8.0, Depth 80 km)** caused widespread damage in Mexico City.
1985 मेक्सिको भूकंप (तीव्रता 8.0, गहराई 80 किमी) ने मेक्सिको सिटी में व्यापक तबाही मचाई।
- **Deep Earthquake (गहरा भूकंप)**
 - **Focus is located beyond 300 km depth.**
**केंद्र की गहराई 300 किमी से अधिक होती है।
 - **Least destructive** as seismic energy dissipates before reaching the surface.
सबसे कम विनाशकारी, क्योंकि भूकंपीय ऊर्जा सतह तक पहुंचने से पहले बिखर जाती है।
 - **Occurs mostly in subduction zones** where one tectonic plate sinks beneath another.
मुख्य रूप से उपसतही क्षेत्रों (Subduction Zones) में होते हैं, जहां एक टेक्टोनिक प्लेट दूसरी के नीचे धंसती है।
 - **Example:**
 - **2013 Okhotsk Earthquake, Russia (Magnitude 8.3, Depth 609 km)** was felt over a vast area but caused minimal damage.



2013 ओखोत्स्क भूकंप, रूस (तीव्रता 8.3, गहराई 609 किमी) बड़े क्षेत्र में महसूस किया गया लेकिन कम नुकसान हुआ।

Based on Genesis (उत्पत्ति के आधार पर भूकंप के प्रकार)

- **Mining/Collapse Earthquakes (खनन/गुहा ध्वंस भूकंप)**
 - Caused by the collapse of underground mine roofs or caverns.
भूमिगत खदानों की छत या गुफाओं के गिरने से उत्पन्न होते हैं।
 - Localized and of low magnitude.
स्थानीय प्रभाव वाले और कम तीव्रता के होते हैं।
 - Example:
 - Coal Mine Collapse in Jharia, India led to frequent micro-earthquakes.
झरिया, भारत में कोयला खदान ध्वंस के कारण बार-बार सूक्ष्म भूकंप आते रहते हैं।
- **Human-Induced Earthquakes (मानव-जनित भूकंप)**
 - Triggered by human activities such as nuclear explosions, reservoir-induced seismicity (RIS), and deep underground fluid injection.
नाभिकीय विस्फोट, जलाशयों के कारण उत्पन्न भूकंपीय हलचल (RIS) और भूमिगत तरल इंजेक्शन जैसी मानव गतिविधियों से उत्पन्न होते हैं।
 - Example:
 - Koyna Dam Earthquake, 1967 (Magnitude 6.3, Maharashtra, India) caused by water storage in Koyna Reservoir.
कोयना बांध भूकंप, 1967 (तीव्रता 6.3, महाराष्ट्र, भारत) कोयना जलाशय में पानी के भंडारण के कारण आया।
 - North Korea Nuclear Tests triggered small earthquakes due to underground nuclear explosions.
उत्तर कोरिया के नाभिकीय परीक्षणों से भूमिगत विस्फोटों के कारण छोटे भूकंप आए।
- **Tectonic Earthquakes (टेक्टोनिक भूकंप)**
 - Caused by movement along tectonic plate boundaries, including subduction, collision, and transform faults.
टेक्टोनिक प्लेट सीमाओं की हलचल के कारण उत्पन्न होते हैं, जिनमें उपसतही (Subduction), टकराव (Collision), और रूपांतरण भंश (Transform Faults) शामिल हैं।



- **Most common and destructive type of earthquakes.**
सबसे आम और विनाशकारी प्रकार के भूकंप होते हैं।
- **Example:**
 - **2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake (Magnitude 9.1)** caused a massive tsunami, affecting multiple countries.
2004 हिंद महासागर भूकंप (तीव्रता 9.1) ने एक विशाल सूनामी उत्पन्न की, जिसने कई देशों को प्रभावित किया।
 - **2011 Japan Earthquake (Magnitude 9.0)** triggered a devastating tsunami and the Fukushima nuclear disaster.
2011 जापान भूकंप (तीव्रता 9.0) ने एक विनाशकारी सूनामी और फुकुशिमा परमाणु आपदा को जन्म दिया।

ANALYSIS OF EARTH'S INTERIOR

Behavior of Seismic waves:

Graphical representation of P and S waves:

- The velocities of P and S waves increased in the region (0-100 km) and hence found to be solid.
- P-waves and S-waves are not moving with a uniform velocity in the earth's interior.
- The region (100-400 km depth) where the velocity of P and S waves dropped is Asthenosphere (Semi-fluid state).
- The velocities of P and S waves beyond the Asthenosphere increased and hence the region (400km-2700 km depth) is found to be solid.
- S-waves do not travel beyond 2700 km depth and the velocity of the P-wave reduces and hence this region (2700 km-4900 km) believed to be liquid.
- The velocity of P waves increased beyond 2700 km to the center of the earth (6400 km) and hence believed to be solid.

Discontinuity Interpretation:

- Conrad Discontinuity: between SIAL and SIMA.
- **Moho Discontinuity:** Found when the wave move moves from Crust to Mantle.
- **Repetti Discontinuity:** between Outer Mantle and Inner Mantle.
- **Guttenberg Discontinuity:** between Mantle and the Core.
- **Lehman Discontinuity:** between Outer Core and Inner Core.

Shadow Zone Analysis:

- A zone on the earth where neither the body wave nor the surface will not reach is the shadow zone.
- Shadow zones of P and S-waves have been explained with the relevant diagrams.
- 105-145 degrees on both sides with respect to focus are the shadow zones of P-waves.



105 of East-105 degrees of West on both sides with respect to focus are the shadow zones of S-waves.

Self-styled preacher convicted in rape case; sentencing on April 1

GS Paper I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Self-styled Christian preacher Bajinder Singh was on Friday convicted in a 2018 rape case by a local court in Punjab's Mohali district.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Vikrant Kumar held Singh guilty of sexual misconduct and rape in the case but acquitted five other co-accused in the case. The court will pronounce the quantum of sentence on April 1.

He was taken into custody by the police soon after the judgment was delivered.

Singh, 42, a self-proclaimed pastor, runs the Glory and Wisdom Church in Tajpur (Jalandhar) and Majri (Mohali district) in Punjab as a part of his ministries, and claims to cure ailments and other pro-



Bajinder Singh

blems by offering miracle services that have often come under criticism from several quarters.

Booked in another case
On February 28, Singh was booked by the Punjab Police in Kapurthala on charges of sexual harassment, stalking, and criminal intimidation, following a complaint by a 21-year-old woman, who was once a volunteer at the preacher's ministry, where she spent around six years.

Self-styled preacher convicted in rape case; sentencing on April 1

स्वयंभू उपदेशक बलात्कार मामले में दोषी करार; सजा का ऐलान 1 अप्रैल को

Self-styled Christian preacher Bajinder Singh was on Friday convicted in a 2018 rape case by a local court in Punjab's Mohali district.

स्वयंभू ईसाई उपदेशक बजिंदर सिंह को शुक्रवार को 2018 के बलात्कार मामले में पंजाब के मोहाली जिले की एक स्थानीय अदालत ने दोषी ठहराया।

- The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Vikrant Kumar found Singh guilty of sexual misconduct and rape, but acquitted five other co-accused.

अतिरिक्त जिला और सत्र न्यायाधीश विक्रान्त कुमार की अदालत ने सिंह को यौन दुराचार और बलात्कार का दोषी पाया, लेकिन अन्य पांच सह-आरोपियों को बरी कर दिया।

- The court will announce the quantum of sentence on April 1.

अदालत 1 अप्रैल को सजा की अवधि की घोषणा करेगी।

- Singh was taken into custody by the police soon after the judgment was delivered.

फैसला सुनाए जाने के तुरंत बाद सिंह को पुलिस हिरासत में ले लिया गया।



- Singh, 42, a self-proclaimed pastor, runs the Glory and Wisdom Church in Tajpur (Jalandhar) and Majri (Mohali district), Punjab.
42 वर्षीय सिंह, जो स्वयंभू पादरी हैं, ग्लोरी एंड विजडम चर्च का संचालन ताजपुर (जालंधर) और मजरी (मोहाली जिला), पंजाब में करते हैं।
- He claims to cure ailments and other problems through miracle services, which have often faced criticism.
वह दावा करते हैं कि चमत्कारी सेवाओं के माध्यम से बीमारियों और अन्य समस्याओं का इलाज कर सकते हैं, जो अक्सर आलोचना का सामना करती रही हैं।

Booked in another case

एक अन्य मामले में भी दर्ज हुआ केस

- On February 28, Singh was booked by Punjab Police in Kapurthala on charges of sexual harassment, stalking, and criminal intimidation.
28 फरवरी को सिंह के खिलाफ पंजाब पुलिस ने कपूरथला में यौन उत्पीड़न, पीछा करने और आपराधिक धमकी के आरोप में केस दर्ज किया।

The complaint was filed by a 21-year-old woman, who was once a volunteer at Singh's ministry and had spent around six years there.
शिकायत एक 21 वर्षीय महिला ने दर्ज कराई, जो कभी सिंह के मंत्रालय में स्वयंसेवक थी और वहां लगभग छह साल बिता चुकी थी।



Posters of Bajinder Singh being sold outside the Glory and Wisdom Church at Tajpur village in Jalandhar district, Punjab. **KV MOORTHY**

The preacher pulling crowds with promises of healing and miracles

Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bajinder Singh, who calls himself a prophet, have not dented the faith of his followers in his Christian mission. They through his sessions held in a field in Punjab, even as his 3.75-million subscriber base grows on YouTube, finds **Vikas Vasudeva**

GS Paper I: Society

In the afternoon of March 9, groups of people in mini buses, cabs, autorickshaws, and some on foot, rush towards the Glory and Wisdom Church in Tajpur village, Jalandhar district, Punjab. They are headed to a field spread across five acres, where Bajinder Singh, who calls himself a prophet, will be speaking at a prayer meeting. Some are here seeking cures for their ailments and others to find a solution to their financial woes. All believe in the "healing crusades" and "miracle services" that the preacher promises. The man, who claims to be 42, runs a ministry based on the Bible. He has built his profile as a man of God over the past decade and has 3.75 million followers on YouTube, with over a million each on Instagram and Facebook.

This Sunday though, villagers in Tajpur say the crowd, usually 6,000-7,000 strong, has dipped marginally. Manjinder Singh, former office-member of Tajpur panchayat, says, "Most of the crowd comes from outside the village."

On February 28, an FIR was registered against Bajinder at the Kapurthala police station on charges of sexual harassment, stalking, and criminal intimidation based on the complaint of a 25-year-old woman. She was once a volunteer, serving a few years at the preacher's ministry. His followers, from across north India, say this is just God testing him. Geeta, 30, who is originally from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, but now lives in Amritsar, says nothing in the world can weaken her faith in "Tapa Bajinder". "My husband struggled with alcoholism for about 15 years. But after Prophet Bajinder's prayers, he has started living a normal life. I shifted to Amritsar 13 years ago and since 2017, I have been regularly visiting this church," says Geeta, whose husband sells fruits for a living. As she makes her way forward, she adds, "I am with him. All his followers are."

The prayer meeting
 As his followers make their way through the pastoral landscape, with green wheat stalks glistening in the spring sunshine, the scene breaks into a mini market. Here on sale are crucifixes, keyrings with the cross, Christian art, copies of the Bible in Hindi, as well as posters of Bajinder with messages from him. Most people rush past as a "healing crusade" is about to begin, where Bajinder claims he will cure people of ailments.

Behind the big metal gate at the entrance to the premises, which has a few buildings and tents spread across an open field, the believers, as they like to be called, are listening. Each service goes on for five hours, and people come and go. Bajin-

der wears a white shirt, black blazer, and jeans. He is reciting verses from the Bible in a mix of Hindi, English, and Punjabi. There's a music group that is playing a background score. The message is often about God testing people with difficult circumstances.

Bajinder has been on the wrong side of the law a few times. On March 25 this year, he was booked in another case by the Punjab police, allegedly for assaulting a 35-year-old woman pastor. The case was registered days after a video circulated on social media purportedly showing him slapping and arguing with the complainant. The FIR was registered under Sections 74 (outraging a woman's modesty by assault), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), and 126 (wrongful restraint) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. According to the complainant, the incident occurred on February 4 at Bajinder's church in Majri sub-tehsil, S.A.S. Nagar district. Bajinder's associates, however, have dismissed the allegations.

He recently appeared before a judge in a Mohali court that was hearing a 2018 sexual harassment case against him. In 2022, Delhi-based family accused him of fraud after he allegedly took money from them to "cure" their daughter of an illness, but she could not be saved. He also spent a year and a half in jail of his own admission. This is when he claims he became a Christian.

Scared and sick
 Over 30 km away is the survivor's home in Kapurthala. At her mohalla (neighbourhood), residents are reluctant to speak. At the end of a lane, the woman, physically sick from worry, lives in a

three-storey house with her parents. She is here for a few months with her husband after giving birth. "It was the safety of my baby girl that made me master the courage to file a complaint against him [Bajinder]," she says, adding that years of harassment and threats have taken their toll. "I started to visit the Glory and Wisdom Church at Tajpur village in 2017 with my parents. I was 13 years old then. After a year or so, their functionalities started pressuring my parents to make me join as a volunteer in the service of the pastor," she says.

Reluctantly, in 2020, she did. In a few months, she says she began receiving sexually explicit messages and phone calls on her mobile phone from Bajinder. Soon, he began touching her inappropriately, she says. "He once smashed my foot so badly that the scar is still there. I wasn't able to tell my parents as the pastor and his associates kept threatening to kill me and them if I did. I was so scared that I started getting panic attacks. I left my studies in college midway," she says. She got married in 2024 and began to live in Jalandhar, Madhya Pradesh.

When she came for delivery to her parents' place, she and her husband faced intimidation from Bajinder and his group, she says. "They even threatened to cause harm to my newborn. It was then that my husband and I decided to approach the police." She wants the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 to be enforced as she was a minor then.

The Punjab police has set up a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the charges against the pastor. The Punjab State Wo-



Bajinder Singh (right) with his followers during a prayer at Tajpur village in Jalandhar; the survivor at her home in Kapurthala. **KV MOORTHY**

ee
 We have visited the church [in Tajpur] and examined the witnesses. As and when needed we will personally examine him [Bajinder] as well

RUPINDER KAUR BHATTI
 Superintendent of Police (Punjab), who is heading the SIT

men Commission and the National Commission for Women have also taken cognizance of the case and sought swift action from the police. There is criticism that Bajinder has not been questioned till date.

Superintendent of Police (Punjab) Rupinder Kaur Bhatti, who is heading the SIT, says, "We are examining both sides. The complainant has given us some mobile phones and pen drives, which we have sent for forensic examination. The report is awaited. We have visited the church [in Tajpur] and examined the witnesses. As and when needed, we will personally examine him [Bajinder] as well."

Blind belief

Rearing to the allegations, Bajinder, at a press conference, said, "The allegations levelled against me are baseless. Fake chats and messages are easy to create these days. The girl was suffering from fits as evil spirits had haunted her. She is like our daughter and our task is to pray."

At what is touted as a healing session, a woman in her 30s longing to have a child walks towards the pastor. He says, "Are you a believer? Do you believe? If yes, you shall be cured today. Place your grip for her." He touches her forehead with oil, and she rolls violently on the ground. The crowd erupts, shouting, "Hallelujah!"

The woman stands up as Bajinder declares she has been cured of a cyst and "blesses" her, saying she will have a baby soon. In the background, the orchestra reaches a crescendo; the crowd sways with raised arms.

Seema, 35, a follower from Sultanpur Lodhi town in Kapurthala, says she has been associated with the ministry for the past seven to eight years and her faith in the church has only grown. "I was suffering from an ovarian disorder and despite taking medication, the problem persisted. But when I came here and the prophet started praying for me, I was cured. I am free now," she says, adding that she has not taken any medicine ever since joined the church.

On his website, Bajinder claims his ministry is the "World no. 1", and that his father was a farmer who held a government job. He says "some evil forces harassed me" when he was a teenager and that he got "into the wrong company", which landed him in jail.

After his release from jail — his office does not confirm any dates — he started preaching at gatherings in S.A.S. Nagar district, but when villagers objected, he moved near Barauti village in Majri sub-tehsil.

Manmohan Singh, former sarpanch of Barauti, says, "Everyone has the right to practise their religion, but many villagers objected to the loud music that continued late into the night. I had held meetings with them to reduce the noise level during my tenure, but it was of no use."

On his website, the locations of his churches are listed: Tripura, the easternmost in India; Pune, the southernmost; and 12 locations abroad, including Hong Kong and Fiji.

Bajinder is not available to meet or speak. Avtar Singh, president of Bajinder's ministry, says, "There's no truth in the allegations. We do not indulge in anything that creates trouble for others. The allegations are a conspiracy against us."

Power and money

Punjab is seeing the sprouting of *dera* (camp) churches, unaffiliated to organised Christian sects such as the Church of North India, which is administered hierarchically with elected office-bearers. Most *dera* churches have branches across all districts of the State, with many like Bajinder claiming to have branches outside the State and country.

Enamul Nahar, professor at Panjab University's political science department, says there are about 20 to 25 dominant *dera* churches in the State, many opened by non-Christians. "About 10,000 to 25,000 people attend Sunday services. Dattis from Punjab, who constitute 32% of the State's population (as per the 2011 Census), are followers since these *deras* offer social equality," he says.

Many of these non-traditional churches offer miraculous healing and supernatural intervention in personal and health problems, he adds. Testimonies of people claiming to be cured of illnesses or life's troubles make them a big draw.

During campaigning for the 2024 Lok Sabha and the 2022 Punjab Assembly polls, candidates of all key political parties visited these churches. Harpreet Deol, who runs the Open Door Church in Khajwala village, Kapurthala, launched the United Punjab Party in April 2023. In February that year, his church was raided by the Income Tax Department along with that of Bajinder.

Around 5 km from Bajinder's church, spread across approximately 75 acres, stands the Church of Signs and Wonders at Khambra village in Jalandhar, which was established by Ankar Narnia, 29, who calls himself an apostle. His premises too were raided by the IT Department in 2023.

His meeting attracts 25,000-30,000 people every Sunday and his YouTube channel has 2.68 million followers. As he delivers his sermon, Narnia asserts that "spreading the word of God and changing hearts is at the core of his discourse".

Hamed Kasbi, working president of the political wing of the ministry, says, "In mainstream Christian denominations, such as Roman Catholics and Protestants, one has to undergo extensive training to become a priest. Also, if a person wants to accept Christianity, it's a long process before being baptised. Here, we focus on change of heart and not on conversion," he says. vikas.vasudeva@thehindu.co.in

The preacher pulling crowds with promises of healing and miracles

चमत्कार और चंगाई के वादों से भीड़

जुटाने वाला उपदेशक

Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bajinder Singh, who calls himself a prophet, have not affected the faith of his followers in his Christian mission.

बजिंदर सिंह (जो खुद को भविष्यवक्ता कहते हैं) पर लगे यौन दुराचार के आरोप उनके अनुयायियों की आस्था को प्रभावित नहीं कर पाए हैं।

- On March 9, groups of people arrived in mini buses, cabs, autorickshaws, and on foot at the Glory and Wisdom Church in

Tajpur village, Jalandhar district, Punjab, where Bajinder Singh was to speak at a prayer meeting.

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9 मार्च को मिनी बसों, टैक्सियों, ऑटोरिक्शा और पैदल चलकर लोगों के समूह ग्लोरी एंड विजडम चर्च, ताजपुर गांव, जालंधर जिला, पंजाब पहुंचे, जहां बजिंदर सिंह एक प्रार्थना सभा को संबोधित करने वाले थे।

- The field where the event took place spreads across five acres.
यह कार्यक्रम पांच एकड़ में फैले एक मैदान में हुआ।
- Some attendees came for healing, while others sought solutions to financial problems.
कुछ लोग चंगाई के लिए आए थे, तो कुछ आर्थिक समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए।
- Bajinder Singh has 3.75 million YouTube followers, with over a million followers on Instagram and Facebook.
बजिंदर सिंह के 3.75 मिलियन फॉलोअर्स YouTube पर हैं और इंस्टाग्राम व फेसबुक पर एक मिलियन से अधिक फॉलोअर्स हैं।
- On February 28, an FIR was registered against him at the Kapurthala police station for sexual harassment, stalking, and criminal intimidation, based on a complaint by a 21-year-old woman who was once a volunteer in his ministry.
28 फरवरी को उनके खिलाफ कपूरथला पुलिस स्टेशन में यौन उत्पीड़न, पीछा करने और आपराधिक धमकी के आरोप में FIR दर्ज की गई, जो कि 21 वर्षीय महिला द्वारा दर्ज कराई गई थी, जो पहले उनकी मंत्रालय में स्वयंसेवक थी।
- His followers believe this is just God testing him.
उनके अनुयायियों का मानना है कि यह सिर्फ ईश्वर की परीक्षा है।
- Geeta (30), originally from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, now living in Amritsar, supports Bajinder, as she believes his prayers helped her husband overcome 15 years of alcoholism.
गीता (30), जो मूल रूप से गोरखपुर, उत्तर प्रदेश की रहने वाली हैं और अब अमृतसर में रहती हैं, बजिंदर का समर्थन करती हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें विश्वास है कि उनकी प्रार्थनाओं ने उनके पति को 15 साल की शराब की लत से छुटकारा दिलाया।

The prayer meeting

प्रार्थना सभा

- The prayer site turned into a mini-market, selling crucifixes, keyrings with the cross, Christian art, Bibles in Hindi, and posters of Bajinder Singh.
प्रार्थना स्थल एक छोटे बाजार में बदल गया, जहां क्रॉस वाले की-रिंग, ईसाई कला, हिंदी में बाइबिल और बजिंदर सिंह के पोस्टर बेचे जा रहे थे।
- The "healing crusade" was about to begin, where Bajinder claimed to cure people.
"हीलिंग क्रूसेड" शुरू होने वाला था, जहां बजिंदर लोगों को ठीक करने का दावा कर रहे थे।
- The venue included a few buildings and tents in an open field.
यह स्थल कुछ इमारतों और खुले मैदान में फैले टेंट्स से घिरा हुआ था।
- Each service lasted for five hours, with people coming and going.
प्रत्येक सेवा पांच घंटे तक चली, जहां लोग आते-जाते रहे।



- Bajinder wore a white shirt, black blazer, and jeans, and recited Bible verses in Hindi, English, and Punjabi, with a music group playing in the background.
बजिंदर ने सफेद शर्ट, काला ब्लेजर और जींस पहनी थी और वे हिंदी, अंग्रेजी और पंजाबी में बाइबिल की आयतें पढ़ रहे थे, जबकि संगीत समूह पृष्ठभूमि में संगीत बजा रहा था।
- The message focused on God testing people with difficult circumstances.
उनका संदेश ईश्वर द्वारा लोगों की परीक्षा कठिन परिस्थितियों के माध्यम से लेना था।

Legal troubles

कानूनी परेशानियां

- On March 25, Punjab police booked Bajinder in another case, allegedly for assaulting a 35-year-old woman pastor.
25 मार्च को पंजाब पुलिस ने बजिंदर पर एक और मामला दर्ज किया, जिसमें उन पर 35 वर्षीय महिला पादरी पर हमला करने का आरोप है।
- The case was filed after a viral video showed him slapping and arguing with the complainant.
यह मामला एक वायरल वीडियो के बाद दर्ज किया गया, जिसमें वह शिकायतकर्ता को थप्पड़ मारते और बहस करते दिख रहे थे।
- The FIR was registered under Sections 74 (outraging a woman's modesty), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), and 126 (wrongful restraint) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.
FIR भारतीय न्याय संहिता की धारा 74 (महिला की मर्यादा का अपमान), 115 (स्वेच्छा से चोट पहुंचाना), और 126 (गलत तरीके से रोकना) के तहत दर्ज की गई।
- The complainant alleged that the incident took place on February 14 at Bajinder's church in Majri sub-tehsil, S.A.S. Nagar district.
शिकायतकर्ता ने आरोप लगाया कि यह घटना 14 फरवरी को बजिंदर के चर्च में, माजरी उप-तहसील, एस.ए.एस. नगर जिले में हुई थी।
- Bajinder's associates dismissed the allegations.
बजिंदर के सहयोगियों ने इन आरोपों को खारिज कर दिया।
- Recently, Bajinder appeared before a Mohali court in connection with a 2018 sexual harassment case.
हाल ही में, बजिंदर 2018 के यौन उत्पीड़न मामले में मोहाली कोर्ट में पेश हुए।
- In 2022, a Delhi-based family accused him of fraud, alleging that he took money to "cure" their daughter, but she could not be saved.
2022 में, दिल्ली की एक परिवार ने उन पर धोखाधड़ी का आरोप लगाया, यह दावा करते हुए कि उन्होंने "उनकी बेटी को ठीक करने" के लिए पैसे लिए, लेकिन वह बच नहीं सकी।
- Bajinder spent one and a half years in jail, according to his own admission.
बजिंदर ने खुद स्वीकार किया कि उन्होंने डेढ़ साल जेल में बिताए।



- During his jail time, he claims to have **converted to Christianity**.
जेल के दौरान, उन्होंने दावा किया कि उन्होंने ईसाई धर्म अपना लिया।

Scared and Sick

डरे हुए और बीमार

- Over **30 km away**, the survivor's home is in **Kapurthala**.
30 किमी दूर, पीड़िता का घर **कपूरथला** में है।
- In her **mohalla (neighbourhood)**, residents are reluctant to speak.
उनके **मोहल्ले (पड़ोस)** में लोग बोलने से हिचक रहे हैं।
- At the end of a lane, the woman, **physically sick from worry**, lives in a **three-storey house** with her parents.
गली के अंत में, महिला **चिंता के कारण शारीरिक रूप से बीमार** अपने माता-पिता के साथ **तीन मंजिला घर** में रहती है।
- She is here for a few months with her **husband** after **giving birth**.
वह **प्रसव के बाद** अपने **पति** के साथ कुछ महीनों के लिए यहां आई हैं।
- "It was the **safety of my baby girl** that made me muster the courage to **file a complaint against Bajinder**," she says.
"मेरी **बेटी की सुरक्षा** ने मुझे **बजिंदर के खिलाफ शिकायत दर्ज कराने** का साहस दिया," वह कहती हैं।
- "I started visiting the **Glory and Wisdom Church at Tadjpur village** in **2017** with my parents. I was **13 years old** then."
"मैंने **2017** में अपने माता-पिता के साथ **ताजपुर गांव के ग्लोरी एंड विजडम चर्च** जाना शुरू किया। तब मैं **13 साल की थी**।"
- After **a year or so**, their functionaries started pressuring her parents to make her **join as a volunteer** in the service of the pastor.
एक साल बाद, चर्च के पदाधिकारियों ने उसके माता-पिता पर **पादरी की सेवा में स्वयंसेवक बनने** का दबाव बनाना शुरू कर दिया।
- **Reluctantly, in 2020**, she joined.
2020 में अनिच्छा से, वह चर्च से जुड़ गई।
- In a few months, she began receiving **sexually explicit messages and phone calls** from **Bajinder**.
कुछ महीनों में, उसे **बजिंदर से यौन उत्पीड़न से जुड़े संदेश और फोन कॉल** मिलने लगे।
- "He once **smashed my foot** so badly that the **scar is still there**."
"उसने एक बार मेरा **पैर इतनी जोर से कुचल दिया** कि **निशान आज भी मौजूद है**।"
- She was **so scared** that she started getting **panic attacks** and left her **college studies midway**.
वह **इतनी डर गई** कि उसे **घबराहट के दौर** पड़ने लगे और उसने **कॉलेज की पढ़ाई बीच में ही छोड़ दी**।



- She got married in 2024 and moved to Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
उसने 2024 में शादी कर ली और जबलपुर, मध्य प्रदेश चली गई।
- When she came for delivery to her parents' place, Bajinder and his group intimidated her and her husband.
जब वह प्रसव के लिए अपने माता-पिता के घर आई, तो बजिंदर और उसके समूह ने उसे और उसके पति को डराया-धमकाया।
- "They even threatened to harm my newborn."
"उन्होंने यहां तक धमकी दी कि मेरे नवजात को नुकसान पहुंचाएंगे।"
- She wants the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 to be invoked as she was a minor then.
वह चाहती है कि यौन अपराधों से बच्चों का संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2012 लागू किया जाए क्योंकि वह तब नाबालिग थीं।

Investigation and Legal Action

जांच और कानूनी कार्रवाई

- Punjab Police has set up a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the charges against the pastor.
पंजाब पुलिस ने पादरी के खिलाफ आरोपों की जांच के लिए तीन सदस्यीय विशेष जांच दल (SIT) गठित किया है।
- The Punjab State Women Commission and the National Commission for Women have sought swift action.
पंजाब राज्य महिला आयोग और राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग ने त्वरित कार्रवाई की मांग की है।
- Criticism: Bajinder has not been questioned till date.
आलोचना: बजिंदर से अब तक पूछताछ नहीं की गई है।
- Superintendent of Police (Phagwara) Rupinder Kaur Bhatti, heading the SIT, said, "हम दोनों पक्षों की जांच कर रहे हैं।"
"We are examining both sides."
- The complainant has provided mobile phones and pen drives for forensic examination.
शिकायतकर्ता ने मोबाइल फोन और पेन ड्राइव फॉरेंसिक जांच के लिए सौंपे हैं।
- SIT has visited the church in Tajpur and examined witnesses.
SIT ने ताजपुर के चर्च का दौरा किया और गवाहों से पूछताछ की।
- "As and when needed, we will personally examine Bajinder as well."
"जब भी आवश्यक होगा, हम बजिंदर से व्यक्तिगत रूप से पूछताछ करेंगे।"

Blind Belief

अंधविश्वास



- **Bajinder**, at a press conference, denied the allegations.
बजिंदर ने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में आरोपों से इनकार किया।
- "Fake chats and messages are easy to create these days."
"आजकल फर्जी चैट और संदेश बनाना बहुत आसान है।"
- He claimed the girl suffered from fits due to evil spirits.
उसने दावा किया कि लड़की को बुरी आत्माओं के कारण दौरे पड़ते थे।
- At a **healing service**, a woman longing for a child was called forward.
एक चंगाई सभा में, एक महिला, जो संतान चाहती थी, को आगे बुलाया गया।
- Bajinder anointed her forehead with **oil**, and she **rolled violently on the ground**.
बजिंदर ने उसके माथे पर तेल लगाया, और वह जमीन पर जोर-जोर से लोटने लगी।
- The crowd shouted "**Hallelujah**", and Bajinder declared her **healed**.
भीड़ ने "हल्लेलूयाह" चिल्लाया, और बजिंदर ने घोषणा की कि वह ठीक हो गई।
- **Seema (35) from Sultanpur Lodhi** says her faith in the church has grown.
सुल्तानपुर लोधी की सीमा (35) कहती हैं कि उनका चर्च पर विश्वास और बढ़ गया है।
- "I had an **ovarian disorder**, but after the prophet's prayer, I was **cured**."
"मुझे अंडाशय की बीमारी थी, लेकिन भविष्यवक्ता की प्रार्थना के बाद, मैं ठीक हो गई।"
- She claims she has **stopped taking medicines** ever since.
वह कहती हैं कि तब से उन्होंने दवाएं लेना बंद कर दिया है।

Bajinder's Background

बजिंदर की पृष्ठभूमि

- Bajinder claims his ministry is the "**World No. 1**".
बजिंदर का दावा है कि उसकी मंत्रालय "दुनिया में नंबर 1" है।
- He states that "**evil forces harassed him**" as a teenager, leading him into **bad company**.
उनका कहना है कि किशोरावस्था में "बुरी शक्तियों ने उन्हें परेशान किया", जिससे वह गलत संगति में चले गए।
- He was **jailed** but later started **preaching in S.A.S Nagar district**.
उन्हें जेल हुई, लेकिन बाद में उन्होंने S.A.S नगर जिले में प्रचार करना शुरू किया।
- When villagers objected, he moved near **Baraudi village in Majri sub-tehsil**.
जब ग्रामीणों ने विरोध किया, तो वह माजरी उप-तहसील के बड़ौदी गांव के पास चले गए।
- **Manmohan Singh, former sarpanch of Baraudi**, says, "Villagers objected to **loud music late at night**."
बड़ौदी के पूर्व सरपंच मनमोहन सिंह कहते हैं, "गांव वालों ने रात में तेज़ संगीत पर आपत्ति जताई थी।"
- Bajinder's churches are in **Tripura, Pune, and 12 international locations** including Hong Kong and Fiji.
बजिंदर के चर्च त्रिपुरा, पुणे, और 12 अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थानों जैसे हांगकांग और फिजी में हैं।



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

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

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- Avtaar Singh, president of Bajinder's ministry, calls the allegations a conspiracy.
बजिंदर के मंत्रालय के अध्यक्ष अवतार सिंह ने आरोपों को साजिश बताया।

Power and Money

सत्ता और धन

- Punjab is witnessing the rise of **dera (camp) churches** that are **unaffiliated to organised Christian sects** like the Church of North India.
पंजाब में डेरे (कैंप) चर्च बढ़ रहे हैं, जो संगठित ईसाई संप्रदायों जैसे चर्च ऑफ नॉर्थ इंडिया से जुड़े नहीं हैं।
- The Church of North India is administered **hierarchically with elected office-bearers**, whereas most **dera churches** have **branches across all districts of the State**.
चर्च ऑफ नॉर्थ इंडिया का प्रशासन क्रमबद्ध रूप से निर्वाचित पदाधिकारियों द्वारा किया जाता है, जबकि अधिकांश डेरे चर्चों की राज्य के सभी जिलों में शाखाएं हैं।
- Many **dera churches**, like **Bajinder's**, claim to have **branches outside the State and country**.
कई डेरे चर्च, जैसे बजिंदर का चर्च, यह दावा करते हैं कि उनकी राज्य और देश के बाहर भी शाखाएं हैं।

Dera Churches and Their Followers

डेरे चर्च और उनके अनुयायी

- **Emanuel Nahar**, a professor at **Panjab University's Political Science department**, states that there are **20 to 25 dominant dera churches** in Punjab.
पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय के राजनीतिक विज्ञान विभाग के प्रोफेसर इमानुएल नाहर के अनुसार, पंजाब में 20 से 25 प्रमुख डेरे चर्च हैं।
- Many of these **dera churches** have been opened by **non-Christians**.
इन डेरे चर्चों में से कई गैर-ईसाइयों द्वारा खोले गए हैं।
- "**About 10,000 to 25,000 people attend Sunday services.**"
"हर रविवार लगभग 10,000 से 25,000 लोग प्रार्थना सभा में शामिल होते हैं।"
- **Dalits from Punjab**, who form **32% of the State's population** (as per the 2011 Census), are major followers of these **dera churches**.
पंजाब के दलित, जो राज्य की 32% जनसंख्या हैं (2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार), इन डेरे चर्चों के प्रमुख अनुयायी हैं।
- Many **dera churches** promise **miraculous healing and supernatural interventions** for personal and health problems.
कई डेरे चर्च चमत्कारी इलाज और अलौकिक हस्तक्षेप का दावा करते हैं।
- Testimonies of people claiming to be **cured of illnesses or life's troubles** make these churches highly popular.
ऐसे चर्चों की लोकप्रियता उन लोगों की गवाही से बढ़ती है, जो दावा करते हैं कि उनकी बीमारियां या जीवन की परेशानियां ठीक हो गईं।



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

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Political Influence of Dera Churches

डेरे चर्चों का राजनीतिक प्रभाव

- During the **2024 Lok Sabha elections** and the **2022 Punjab Assembly elections**, candidates from **all key political parties** visited these churches.
2024 के लोकसभा चुनाव और 2022 के पंजाब विधानसभा चुनाव के दौरान, सभी प्रमुख राजनीतिक दलों के उम्मीदवारों ने इन चर्चों का दौरा किया।
- **Harpreet Deol**, who runs the **Open Door Church in Khojewala village, Kapurthala**, launched the **United Punjab Party** in **April 2023**.
हरप्रीत देओल, जो खोजेवाला गांव, कपूरथला में ओपन डोर चर्च चलाते हैं, ने अप्रैल 2023 में यूनाइटेड पंजाब पार्टी शुरू की।
- In **February 2023**, the **Income Tax Department** raided his church, along with **Bajinder's church**.
फरवरी 2023 में, आयकर विभाग ने उनके चर्च पर बजिंदर के चर्च के साथ छापा मारा।

Other Prominent Dera Churches

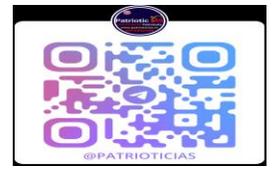
अन्य प्रमुख डेरे चर्च

- Around **5 km from Bajinder's church**, the **Church of Signs and Wonders** in **Khambra village, Jalandhar**, was established by **Ankur Narula (39)**, who calls himself an **apostle**.
बजिंदर के चर्च से लगभग 5 किमी दूर, खम्बरा गांव, जालंधर में चर्च ऑफ साइन्स एंड वंडर्स की स्थापना अंकुर नरूला (39) ने की, जो खुद को प्रेरित (अपोस्टल) कहते हैं।
- His premises were **raided by the IT Department in 2023**.
उनके परिसर पर 2023 में आयकर विभाग ने छापा मारा था।
- His **Sunday meetings** attract **25,000 to 30,000 people**, and his **YouTube channel** has **2.65 million followers**.
उनकी रविवार की सभाओं में 25,000 से 30,000 लोग आते हैं, और उनके यूट्यूब चैनल के 2.65 मिलियन अनुयायी हैं।
- **Narula asserts** that "**spreading the word of God and changing hearts**" is at the core of his mission.
नरूला का कहना है कि "ईश्वर का संदेश फैलाना और लोगों के दिल बदलना" उनके मिशन का मुख्य उद्देश्य है।

Difference Between Mainstream Christianity and Dera Churches

मुख्यधारा के ईसाई धर्म और डेरे चर्चों में अंतर

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- **Hamid Masih**, working president of the **political wing** of the ministry, explains key differences.
हमिद मसीह, जो मंत्रालय के राजनीतिक विंग के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष हैं, इन चर्चों के मुख्य अंतर बताते हैं।
- In **mainstream Christian denominations** (like Roman Catholics and Protestants), extensive **training** is required to become a **priest**.
मुख्यधारा के ईसाई संप्रदायों (जैसे रोमन कैथोलिक और प्रोटेस्टेंट) में, पादरी बनने के लिए गहन प्रशिक्षण आवश्यक होता है।
- Also, **conversion to Christianity** is a **long process** before **baptism**.
इसके अलावा, ईसाई धर्म स्वीकार करने की प्रक्रिया लंबी होती है और बपतिस्मा (दीक्षा संस्कार) से पहले कई चरण होते हैं।
- However, in **dera churches**, the focus is on **changing hearts, not conversion**.
लेकिन डेरे चर्चों में ध्यान धर्म परिवर्तन पर नहीं, बल्कि दिल बदलने पर दिया जाता है।

‘Coffee output likely to be higher in 2026 than last two years’

**GS Paper I:
Agriculture**

Min
BENGALURU

India’s coffee production for the crop year ending March is likely to be 3.52 lakh metric tonnes, while the yield for next year is expected to be much higher than the last two years as most plantations have already received adequate blossom showers helping a healthy berry setting, said Coffee Board CEO and Secretary K. G. Jagadeesha

However, he said, **nature plays a critical role in coffee farming and if plantations get 6-7 months without a dry spell, next year’s yield would be sub-**



Global coffee prices are likely to stay high for one more year, says the CEO. FILE PHOTO

stantially higher than the last two years. Quoting International Coffee Organisation, the CEO said global coffee prices were likely to stay high for one more year as **most major producing nations experienced climate change.**

Coffee Output Likely to Be Higher in 2026 Than Last Two Years’

‘2026 में कॉफी उत्पादन पिछले दो वर्षों से अधिक होने की संभावना’

India’s coffee production for the crop year ending March is estimated to be 3.52 lakh metric tonnes.

मार्च में समाप्त हो रहे फसल वर्ष के लिए भारत का कॉफी उत्पादन 3.52 लाख मीट्रिक टन रहने का अनुमान है।

• **Next year’s yield** is expected to be **much higher than the last two years** due to **adequate blossom showers**, which help in **healthy berry setting**.

अगले वर्ष का उत्पादन पिछले दो वर्षों की तुलना में अधिक होने की उम्मीद है, क्योंकि पर्याप्त ब्लॉसम शावर (फूल आने वाली बारिश) से बेहतर बेरी बनने में सहायता मिली है।



- Coffee Board CEO and Secretary K. G. Jagadeesha provided this information.
यह जानकारी कॉफी बोर्ड के सीईओ और सचिव के. जी. जगदीशा ने दी।

Impact of Weather on Coffee Farming

मौसम का कॉफी खेती पर प्रभाव

- Nature plays a critical role in coffee farming.
प्राकृतिक कारक कॉफी खेती में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- If plantations receive 6-7 months without a dry spell, next year's yield could be substantially higher than the last two years.
यदि बागानों को 6-7 महीने तक शुष्क मौसम नहीं मिलता है, तो अगले साल का उत्पादन पिछले दो वर्षों की तुलना में काफी अधिक हो सकता है।

Global Coffee Prices and Climate Change

वैश्विक कॉफी कीमतें और जलवायु परिवर्तन

- International Coffee Organisation (ICO) predicts that global coffee prices will remain high for one more year.
अंतरराष्ट्रीय कॉफी संगठन (ICO) के अनुसार, वैश्विक कॉफी की कीमतें एक और वर्ष तक ऊंची बनी रहेंगी
- Most major coffee-producing nations are experiencing the impact of climate change.
अधिकांश प्रमुख कॉफी उत्पादक देश जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभाव का सामना कर रहे हैं।

Israel strikes Beirut for the first time since Nov. 2024 ceasefire



GS Paper I: Mapping

AP

Israel on Friday launched its first strike on Beirut since the November 2024 ceasefire, targeting a Hezbollah drone depot in the Dahiyeh suburb. The attack followed rocket fire into northern Israel, which Hezbollah denied responsibility for. Residents evacuated as tensions escalated. AP

Israel Strikes Beirut for the First Time Since Nov. 2024 Ceasefire

इज़राइल ने नवंबर 2024 के संघर्षविराम के बाद पहली बार बेरुत पर हमला किया

Israel launched its first strike on Beirut since the November 2024 ceasefire.

इज़राइल ने नवंबर 2024 के संघर्षविराम के बाद पहली बार बेरुत पर हमला किया।

- The strike targeted a Hezbollah drone depot in the Dahiyeh suburb.



यह हमला दहीयेह उपनगर में स्थित हिज़बुल्लाह ड्रोन डिपो को निशाना बनाकर किया गया।

- The attack came after rocket fire into northern Israel, which Hezbollah denied responsibility for.

यह हमला उत्तरी इज़राइल पर रॉकेट हमले के बाद किया गया, जिसके लिए हिज़बुल्लाह ने जिम्मेदारी लेने से इनकार किया।

- Residents evacuated as tensions escalated.
तनाव बढ़ने पर स्थानीय निवासियों को निकाला गया।

ISTANBUL

Türkiye detains more journalists in dawn searches after protests



REUTERS

GS Paper I: Mapping

Two journalists, Elif Bayburt and Nisa Suda Demirel, were detained in Istanbul during dawn searches on Friday amid Türkiye's crackdown on protests following Opposition Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu's arrest. Over 1,900 people have been detained, with police accused of suppressing dissent and targeting media. AP

Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu.

ये गिरफ्तारियां विपक्षी मेयर एकरेम इमामोग्लू की गिरफ्तारी के बाद तुर्किये में विरोध प्रदर्शनों पर की जा रही कार्रवाई का हिस्सा हैं।

- Over 1,900 people have been detained, with police accused of suppressing dissent and targeting media.

Türkiye Detains More Journalists in Dawn Searches After Protests

प्रदर्शनों के बाद तुर्किये में तड़के की छापेमारी में और पत्रकार गिरफ्तार

Two journalists, Elif Bayburt and Nisa Suda Demirel, were detained in Istanbul during dawn searches on Friday.

दो पत्रकार, एलिफ बेबुर्ट और निसा सुदा देमिरल, को शुक्रवार तड़के इस्तांबुल में छापेमारी के दौरान गिरफ्तार किया गया।

- The arrests are part of Türkiye's crackdown on protests after the arrest of Opposition



अब तक 1,900 से अधिक लोगों को हिरासत में लिया गया है, और पुलिस पर विरोध दबाने और मीडिया को निशाना बनाने का आरोप लगाया जा रहा है।

V-P 'under house arrest', says South Sudan govt.

GS Paper I: Mapping

Agence France-Presse

JUBA

The South Sudan government said on Friday that First Vice-President Riek Machar was "under house arrest", two days after he was detained, as a former Kenyan premier arrived in Juba to mediate the crisis threatening to end the fragile peace deal between rival factions.

Mr. Machar's arrest by forces loyal to President Salva Kiir prompted UN Chief Antonio Guterres on Friday to call on warring parties to "put down the weapons" and "put all the people of South Sudan first," as the conflict risks plunging the world's youngest nation back into civil war.

Mr. Kiir "directed the placement of Dr Riek Machar under house arrest,"



Riek Machar

Information Minister and government spokesperson Michael Makuei Lueth said in a statement, in the first official comments since Mr. Machar's detention.

Mr. Makuei blamed Mr. Machar for clashes in recent weeks in Nasir County, accusing him of "agitating" his forces "to rebel against the government with the aim of disrupting peace so that elections are not held and South Sudan goes back to war".

He called on the public "to be calm and maintain peace," adding that Mr. Machar and his allies "will be investigated and brought to book".

The unravelling power-sharing deal between Mr. Kiir and Mr. Machar risks a return of the civil war that killed around 4,00,000 people in five years.

The deputy chair of Mr. Machar's party said his arrest "abrogated" the agreement. "The prospect for peace and stability in South Sudan has now been put into serious jeopardy," Oyet Nathaniel Pierino said in a statement on Thursday.

On Friday, Machar's party, condemned his "unlawful house arrest," calling it a government tactic to "derail the peace process and consolidate power through unconstitutional means".



V-P 'Under House Arrest', Says South Sudan Govt दक्षिण सूडान सरकार का बयान: उपराष्ट्रपति 'गृह गिरफ्तारी' में

The South Sudan government stated on Friday that First Vice-President Riek Machar was under house arrest, two days after his detention.

दक्षिण सूडान सरकार ने शुक्रवार को बताया कि पहले उपराष्ट्रपति रीक माचार को दो दिन पहले हिरासत में लेने के बाद गृह गिरफ्त में रखा गया है।

- A former Kenyan premier arrived in Juba to mediate the crisis, which threatens to end the fragile peace deal between rival factions.
पूर्व केन्याई प्रधानमंत्री जुबा पहुंचे संकट को सुलझाने के लिए, जो विरोधी गुटों के बीच नाजुक शांति समझौते को समाप्त करने की धमकी दे रहा है।

UN Chief Urges Peace

संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रमुख ने शांति की अपील की

- UN Chief Antonio Guterres urged warring parties to put down weapons and prioritize the people of South Sudan.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रमुख एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने संघर्षरत गुटों से हथियार डालने और दक्षिण सूडान की जनता को प्राथमिकता देने की अपील की।
- The conflict risks pushing the world's youngest nation back into civil war.
यह संघर्ष दुनिया के सबसे नए देश को फिर से गृहयुद्ध में धकेल सकता है।

Government's Justification for House Arrest

गृह गिरफ्तारी पर सरकार का स्पष्टीकरण

- President Salva Kiir ordered Riek Machar's house arrest, as stated by Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth.
राष्ट्रपति सलवा कीर ने रीक माचार की गृह गिरफ्तारी का आदेश दिया, यह जानकारी सूचना मंत्री माइकल माकुएई लुएथ ने दी।
- Machar was accused of instigating his forces in Nasir County to rebel against the government.
माचार पर आरोप लगाया गया कि उन्होंने नासिर काउंटी में अपनी सेना को विद्रोह के लिए उकसाया।
- The government alleged that Machar wanted to disrupt peace and prevent elections, pushing South Sudan back into war.



सरकार का आरोप है कि माचार शांति भंग करना और चुनाव रोकना चाहते हैं, जिससे दक्षिण सूडान फिर से युद्ध में चला जाए।

- The public was urged to **remain calm and maintain peace**.
जनता से शांत रहने और शांति बनाए रखने की अपील की गई।

Political Fallout and Reactions

राजनीतिक प्रभाव और प्रतिक्रियाएं

- The **power-sharing deal between Kiir and Machar is at risk**, which could lead to the return of civil war that killed 4,00,000 people in five years.
कीर और माचार के बीच सत्ता-साझाकरण समझौता खतरे में है, जिससे गृहयुद्ध फिर से भड़क सकता है, जिसने पांच वर्षों में 4,00,000 लोगों की जान ली थी।
- **Oyet Nathaniel Pierino, deputy chair of Machar's party**, said that his arrest violates the peace agreement.
माचार की पार्टी के उपाध्यक्ष, ओयेट नाथानिएल पिएरिनो, ने कहा कि उनकी गिरफ्तारी शांति समझौते का उल्लंघन है।
- He warned that **peace and stability in South Sudan are now in serious jeopardy**.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि दक्षिण सूडान में शांति और स्थिरता अब गंभीर संकट में है।
- **Machar's party condemned the house arrest**, calling it a government tactic to derail the peace process and consolidate power unconstitutionally.
माचार की पार्टी ने गृह गिरफ्तारी की निंदा की, इसे शांति प्रक्रिया को बाधित करने और असंवैधानिक रूप से सत्ता मजबूत करने की सरकारी रणनीति बताया।

Bangladesh welcomes China to participate in Teesta project

GS Paper I: Teesta
Kall River
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh on Friday welcomed Chinese participation in the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project. Bangladesh's assurance was communicated during the ongoing visit of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to China. The two sides also signed an agreement on exchange of hydrological information of the Yarlung Zangbo-Jamuna (Brahmaputra) River. In a joint statement issued after the end of the official discussion, the two sides announced that Bangladesh and China have agreed to

start discussion for a Free Trade Agreement "at an early date".

"The two sides agreed to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, strengthen international cooperation on industrial and supply chains and work together to achieve modernisation in both countries," the Joint Statement said. They also extended support to the "core issues" relevant to both sides, and Bangladesh reiterated its support for the "one China policy".

Apart from addressing the Boao Forum annual meeting in Hainan, Mr. Yunus also met President Xi Jinping in Beijing. Mr. Yu-

nus met a group of Chinese traders and investors for a high-level round table at the Presidential Hotel in Beijing on Friday.

"Bangladesh reiterated its firm commitment to the One-China principle and its position that China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory," the Joint Statement stated. Bangladesh expressed appreciation to China for creating convenient conditions for the treatment of medical tourists from Bangladesh in the Yunnan province.

"China consistently adheres to the principle of



Muhammad Yunus

non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respects Bangladesh's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, supports Bangladesh in safeguarding its national independence, respects the development path independently cho-

sen by the people of Bangladesh, and supports Bangladesh in exploring a development path suited to its own national conditions," said the Joint Statement. Bangladesh has assured China that together they will advocate an "equal and orderly multipolar world".

The two sides have also assured that they will start negotiations on optimising the China-Bangladesh Investment Agreement. The Joint Statement informed that Bangladesh has welcomed Chinese companies to participate in the Mongla Port Facilities Modernisation and Expansion Project. That apart, the two

sides stand ready to cooperate in "further" developing the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone in Chittagong.

The year 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relation between Bangladesh and China and the two sides resolved to deepen exchanges on this occasion on "culture, tourism, media, education, health care and youth." They also agreed to deepen cooperation in blue economy and announced that they will hold a new round of Dialogue on Maritime Cooperation "at an appropriate time."

Bangladesh Welcomes China to Participate in Teesta Project



बांग्लादेश ने तीस्ता परियोजना में चीन की भागीदारी का स्वागत किया

- Bangladesh on Friday welcomed Chinese participation in the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project.
शुक्रवार को बांग्लादेश ने तीस्ता नदी व्यापक प्रबंधन और पुनर्स्थापन परियोजना में चीन की भागीदारी का स्वागत किया।
- This assurance was given during the ongoing visit of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to China.
यह आश्वासन बांग्लादेश के मुख्य सलाहकार मुहम्मद यूनुस की चीन यात्रा के दौरान दिया गया।

Agreement on Hydrological Information Exchange

जल विज्ञान संबंधी जानकारी के आदान-प्रदान पर समझौता

- Both countries signed an agreement on the exchange of hydrological information for the Yarlung Zangbo-Jamuna (Brahmaputra) River.
दोनों देशों ने यारलुंग जंगबो-जमुना (ब्रह्मपुत्र) नदी के लिए जल विज्ञान संबंधी जानकारी के आदान-प्रदान पर समझौता किया।
- In a joint statement, both nations announced plans to start discussions for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) at an early date.
एक संयुक्त बयान में, दोनों देशों ने जल्द से जल्द मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) पर चर्चा शुरू करने की घोषणा की।

Strengthening Economic and Strategic Cooperation

आर्थिक और रणनीतिक सहयोग को मजबूत करना

- Both sides agreed to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and strengthen international cooperation on industrial and supply chains.
दोनों पक्षों ने उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली बेल्ट एंड रोड सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने और औद्योगिक और आपूर्ति शृंखला में अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग को मजबूत करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- They also extended support to each other's core issues, with Bangladesh reaffirming its support for the "One China Policy".
उन्होंने एक-दूसरे के प्रमुख मुद्दों पर समर्थन व्यक्त किया, जिसमें बांग्लादेश ने "वन चाइना पॉलिसी" के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।

Meetings with Chinese Leadership and Business Delegations

चीनी नेतृत्व और व्यापारिक प्रतिनिधियों से बैठकें



- **Muhammad Yunus addressed the Boao Forum annual meeting in Hainan.**
मुहम्मद यूनस ने हैनान में बोआओ फोरम की वार्षिक बैठक को संबोधित किया।
- **He also met President Xi Jinping in Beijing.**
उन्होंने बीजिंग में राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग से मुलाकात की।
- **Yunus attended a high-level roundtable with Chinese traders and investors at the Presidential Hotel in Beijing.**
यूनस ने बीजिंग के प्रेसिडेंशियल होटल में चीनी व्यापारियों और निवेशकों के साथ उच्चस्तरीय बैठक में भाग लिया।

Bangladesh Reaffirms Commitment to One-China Policy

बांग्लादेश ने 'वन चाइना पॉलिसी' के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई

- **Bangladesh reaffirmed its commitment to the One-China Principle, recognizing China as the sole legal government.**
बांग्लादेश ने 'वन चाइना सिद्धांत' के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई, और चीन को एकमात्र वैध सरकार के रूप में मान्यता दी।
- **Bangladesh declared that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory.**
बांग्लादेश ने कहा कि ताइवान चीन के क्षेत्र का अविभाज्य हिस्सा है।

Medical Tourism and Non-Interference Policy

चिकित्सा पर्यटन और गैर-हस्तक्षेप नीति

- **Bangladesh appreciated China's support for medical tourists from Bangladesh in Yunnan province.**
बांग्लादेश ने युन्नान प्रांत में बांग्लादेशी चिकित्सा पर्यटकों के लिए चीन के समर्थन की सराहना की।
- **China reaffirmed its non-interference policy, respecting Bangladesh's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.**
चीन ने अपनी गैर-हस्तक्षेप नीति दोहराई, और बांग्लादेश की स्वतंत्रता, संप्रभुता और क्षेत्रीय अखंडता का सम्मान करने की बात कही।
- **China also expressed support for Bangladesh's national independence and development path.**
चीन ने बांग्लादेश की राष्ट्रीय स्वतंत्रता और विकास पथ के प्रति समर्थन व्यक्त किया।

Bangladesh and China Strengthen Bilateral Ties

बांग्लादेश और चीन ने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूत किया

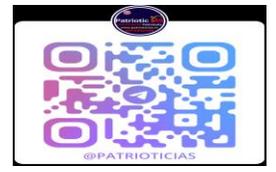
- **Bangladesh assured China that both nations will advocate for an "equal and orderly multipolar world".**



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



बांग्लादेश ने चीन को आश्वासन दिया कि दोनों देश मिलकर "समान और सुव्यवस्थित बहुधुवीय विश्व" की वकालत करेंगे।

Investment and Infrastructure Cooperation

निवेश और बुनियादी ढांचे में सहयोग

- Both sides agreed to **start negotiations on optimizing the China-Bangladesh Investment Agreement.**
दोनों देशों ने चीन-बांग्लादेश निवेश समझौते को अनुकूलित करने पर वार्ता शुरू करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- **Bangladesh welcomed Chinese companies to participate in the Mongla Port Facilities Modernisation and Expansion Project.**
बांग्लादेश ने चीनी कंपनियों का स्वागत किया कि वे मोंगला पोर्ट सुविधाओं के आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार परियोजना में भाग लें।
- Both nations are ready to cooperate in **further developing the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone in Chittagong.**
दोनों देश चटगांव में चीनी आर्थिक और औद्योगिक क्षेत्र को और विकसित करने में सहयोग करने को तैयार हैं।

50 Years of Diplomatic Relations

द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के 50 वर्ष

- **The year 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China.**
वर्ष 2025 बांग्लादेश और चीन के कूटनीतिक संबंधों की 50वीं वर्षगांठ का प्रतीक होगा।
- Both nations resolved to **deepen exchanges in culture, tourism, media, education, healthcare, and youth programs.**
दोनों देशों ने संस्कृति, पर्यटन, मीडिया, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य सेवा और युवा कार्यक्रमों में सहयोग बढ़ाने का संकल्प लिया।

Cooperation in Blue Economy and Maritime Dialogue

ब्लू इकोनॉमी और समुद्री सहयोग पर वार्ता

- Both sides agreed to **enhance cooperation in the blue economy.**
दोनों पक्षों ने ब्लू इकोनॉमी में सहयोग बढ़ाने पर सहमति जताई।



- They announced plans to hold a new round of Dialogue on Maritime Cooperation at an appropriate time.

उन्होंने उपयुक्त समय पर समुद्री सहयोग पर एक नया संवाद आयोजित करने की घोषणा की।

Myanmar's rebels disrupt China rare earth trade, sparking regional scramble

By seizing sites that produce roughly half of the world's heavy rare earths, KIA rebels have been able to throttle the supply of minerals used for **wind turbines and electric vehicles**, driving up prices; the KIA aims at gaining leverage over China, which backs the junta, amid the ongoing civil war

GS Paper I: Mapping

Reuters
BANGKOK

When armed rebels seized northern Myanmar's **rare-earth mining belt** in October, they dealt a blow to the country's embattled military junta - and wrested control of a key global resource.

By capturing sites that produce roughly **half of the world's heavy rare earths**, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) rebels have been able to throttle the supply of minerals used in **wind turbines and electric vehicles**, sending prices of one key element skyward.

The KIA is seeking leverage against neighbouring China, which supports the junta and has invested heavily in rare earths mining in **Myanmar's Kachin state**, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Chinese imports of rare earth oxides and compounds from Myanmar dropped to 311 metric tons in February, down 89% compared to the year-ago period, according to Chinese customs data reported. Most of the fall came after October.

One of the nine people with knowledge of Myanmar's rare earths industry and its four-year civil war described the move by the KIA—part of a patchwork of armed groups fighting military rule—as an attempt to drive a wedge between the junta and China.

"They want to use rare earth reserves as a leverage



A worker waters the site of a rare earth metals mine at Nancheng county, China. FILE PHOTO

in their negotiation with China," said Dan Seng Lawn, executive director of the non-profit Kachinland Research Centre, which studies Kachin socio-political issues.

Three of the people also detailed previously unreported interest in the sector by India, China's regional rival, which they said in late 2024 sent officials from a state-owned rare earths mining and refining firm to Kachin.

The KIA group

The KIA is one of the largest and oldest ethnic militias in Myanmar. It fights for the autonomy of the Kachin minority, a mostly Christian group who have long held grievances against the Bamar Buddhist majority.

The group has imposed a hefty tax on the mostly Chinese-operated rare-

earth miners working around Panwa and Chipwe towns in Kachin, according to Dan Seng Lawn. China has been one of the staunchest international backers of Myanmar's military since it deposed a civilian-led government in 2021 and ignited a bloody civil war. Beijing continues to see the junta as a guarantor of stability along its frontier, though the military has been ejected from most of the borderlands since a major rebel offensive in 2023.

A spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry said the department was not aware of the specifics of the situation in the mining belt but it continues to "actively promote peace talks and provide all possible support and assistance for the peace process in northern Myanmar."

Chinese spot prices of

terbium oxide (<SMM-REO-TXO>), whose supply is concentrated in Kachin, jumped 21.9% to 6,550 yuan per kg between late September and March 24, data from Shanghai Metals Market show. Prices of dysprosium oxide (<SMM-REO-DXO>), which is also largely mined in Kachin but was in lower demand over the last six months, eased 3.2% to 1,665 yuan per kg during the same period. Most rare earths from Kachin are processed in China, so a protracted stalemate would have global implications.

"A prolonged shutdown would likely lead to higher, potentially more volatile rare earth prices in China, and a reshaping of market dynamics in the near term," research firm Adamas Intelligence said.

Chinese miners started building up major opera-

tions in Kachin in the 2010s, after Beijing tightened regulations on domestic mines.

Kachin's often unregulated mines steadily expanded after the 2021 coup with the tacit approval of the junta, according to the U.K.-based Global Witness non-profit. But the growth came at a heavy cost, ravaging the environment and leaving Kachin's hills pock-marked with leeching pools, according to witness accounts and satellite imagery.

Export plunge

Since the KIA's takeover, a 20% tax imposed by the rebels has made it effectively impossible for local operators to run profitable mines.

The KIA wants China to stop pushing it to set down arms against the junta and to recognise the rebels' de facto control of the border, said Dan Seng Lawn, adding that the parties had met at least twice in recent months.

The KIA has full control of the border in areas where it operates and anti-junta groups rule most of the rest of Myanmar's frontier with China.

Beijing appeared reluctant to accept the KIA's demands, though it risked its monopoly on Myanmar's rare earth reserves if it doesn't position itself pragmatically, Dan Seng Lawn said.

Reopening the minerals sector would be a major financial lifeline to the rebels: Myanmar's heavy

rare earths trade stood at around \$1.4 billion in 2023, according to Global Witness.

The KIA has told miners in Kachin it will now allow shipments of existing rare earth inventories to China. But to resume operations at full capacity, the KIA needs an agreement with China, home to thousands of workers with the know-how, said Singapore-based rare-earth expert Thomas Kruegger.

Amid the ongoing tussle, India has attempted to deepen its influence in Kachin, with which it also shares a border, according to Dan Seng Lawn and two people familiar with Indian official thinking. India's state-run mining and refining firm IREL in December sent a team to Kachin to study resources there, according to a source.

Indian authorities have reservations about operating in an area with armed non-state actors, but the Kachin desire to diversify away from China and New Delhi's need for resources have pushed the two parties to talk, the Indian source said.

An Indian delegation that included IREL also held an online meeting with the Kachins in December to discuss their interest in reopening the rare-earth sector, said Dan Seng Lawn.

They were willing to pay higher prices than China, he said. "However, any India deal faces multiple obstacles", said Kruegger and Dan Seng Lawn.

Myanmar's Rebels Disrupt China Rare Earth Trade, Sparking Regional Scramble



म्यांमार के विद्रोहियों ने चीन के दुर्लभ खनिज व्यापार को बाधित किया, क्षेत्रीय हलचल बढ़ी

By seizing sites that produce roughly half of the world's heavy rare earths, KIA rebels have disrupted the supply of minerals used in wind turbines and electric vehicles, causing a spike in prices.

दुनिया के लगभग आधे भारी दुर्लभ खनिज उत्पादन स्थलों को KIA विद्रोहियों ने कब्जे में लेकर पवन टरबाइनों और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों में इस्तेमाल होने वाले खनिजों की आपूर्ति बाधित कर दी, जिससे कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई।

- The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) aims to gain leverage over China, which supports Myanmar's military junta.
काचिन इंडिपेंडेंस आर्मी (KIA) का उद्देश्य चीन पर दबाव बनाना है, जो म्यांमार की सैन्य जुंटा सरकार का समर्थन करता है।

Impact on China's Rare Earth Imports

चीन के दुर्लभ खनिज आयात पर प्रभाव

- Chinese imports of rare earth oxides and compounds from Myanmar dropped to 311 metric tons in February, a decline of 89% compared to last year.
म्यांमार से चीन के दुर्लभ खनिज ऑक्साइड और यौगिकों का आयात फरवरी में घटकर 311 मीट्रिक टन रह गया, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में 89% की गिरावट है।
- Most of the decline occurred after October 2024, when KIA rebels took control of mining sites.
इस गिरावट का अधिकांश हिस्सा अक्टूबर 2024 के बाद हुआ, जब KIA विद्रोहियों ने खनन स्थलों पर नियंत्रण कर लिया।

KIA's Strategy Against the Junta and China

जुंटा और चीन के खिलाफ KIA की रणनीति

- KIA's move is seen as an attempt to weaken the Myanmar military junta and increase bargaining power with China.
KIA की यह कार्रवाई म्यांमार की सैन्य जुंटा को कमजोर करने और चीन के साथ सौदेबाजी की ताकत बढ़ाने के रूप में देखी जा रही है।



- Dan Seng Lawn, executive director of Kachinland Research Centre, stated that the KIA wants to use rare earth reserves as leverage in negotiations with China.
काचिनलैंड रिसर्च सेंटर के कार्यकारी निदेशक डैन सेंग लॉन के अनुसार, KIA दुर्लभ खनिज भंडार का उपयोग चीन के साथ बातचीत में दबाव बनाने के लिए करना चाहता है।

India's Interest in Myanmar's Rare Earths

म्यांमार के दुर्लभ खनिजों में भारत की रुचि

- India, China's regional rival, reportedly sent officials from a state-owned rare earths mining and refining firm to Kachin in late 2024.
चीन के क्षेत्रीय प्रतिद्वंद्वी भारत ने 2024 के अंत में अपनी एक सरकारी दुर्लभ खनिज खनन और परिशोधन कंपनी के अधिकारियों को काचिन भेजा।

Background on the KIA Group

KIA समूह की पृष्ठभूमि

- KIA is one of the largest and oldest ethnic militias in Myanmar, fighting for the autonomy of the Kachin minority, which is mostly Christian.
KIA म्यांमार के सबसे बड़े और पुराने जातीय विद्रोही समूहों में से एक है, जो मुख्यतः ईसाई काचिन अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय की स्वायत्तता के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है।
- The group has imposed heavy taxes on Chinese-operated rare earth miners in Panwa and Chipwe towns in Kachin.
इस समूह ने काचिन के पानवा और चिपवे शहरों में चीनी संचालित दुर्लभ खनिज खनिकों पर भारी कर लगाया है।

China's Continued Support for Myanmar's Junta

म्यांमार की जुंटा सरकार के लिए चीन का निरंतर समर्थन

- China has been a strong supporter of Myanmar's military junta since 2021, despite the ongoing civil war.
चीन 2021 से म्यांमार की सैन्य जुंटा सरकार का मजबूत समर्थक रहा है, भले ही वहां गृहयुद्ध जारी है।
- Beijing views the junta as a stabilizing force along its border, though the military has lost control of most border regions after a major rebel offensive in 2023.
बीजिंग जुंटा को अपनी सीमा पर स्थिरता बनाए रखने वाली ताकत के रूप में देखता है, हालांकि 2023 में बड़े विद्रोही हमले के बाद सैन्य शासन ने अधिकांश सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों पर नियंत्रण खो दिया है।

China's Response and Rising Rare Earth Prices

चीन की प्रतिक्रिया और दुर्लभ खनिजों की बढ़ती कीमतें



- A spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry stated that the department was not aware of specifics regarding the mining belt situation.
चीन के विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि विभाग को खनन क्षेत्र की स्थिति के विशेष विवरण की जानकारी नहीं है।
- China continues to promote peace talks and provide support for the peace process in northern Myanmar.
चीन शांति वार्ता को बढ़ावा देने और उत्तरी म्यांमार में शांति प्रक्रिया के लिए समर्थन देने में लगा हुआ है।
- Terbium oxide prices surged 21.9% from late September to March 24, reaching 6,550 yuan per kg.
टर्बियम ऑक्साइड की कीमतें सितंबर के अंत से 24 मार्च तक 21.9% बढ़कर 6,550 युआन प्रति किलोग्राम हो गईं।
- Dysprosium oxide prices, however, dropped 3.2% to 1,665 yuan per kg during the same period.
डिसप्रोसियम ऑक्साइड की कीमतें इसी अवधि में 3.2% घटकर 1,665 युआन प्रति किलोग्राम हो गईं।
- Since most rare earths from Kachin are processed in China, a long-term deadlock could have global implications.
चूंकि काचिन से अधिकांश दुर्लभ खनिज चीन में प्रोसेस किए जाते हैं, इसलिए दीर्घकालिक गतिरोध वैश्विक प्रभाव डाल सकता है।

Impact of KIA's Control Over Rare Earths

KIA के दुर्लभ खनिज नियंत्रण का प्रभाव

- Adamas Intelligence stated that a prolonged shutdown could lead to higher and more volatile rare earth prices in China.
एडामस इंटेलिजेंस के अनुसार, लंबे समय तक खनन बंद रहने से चीन में दुर्लभ खनिजों की कीमतें और अधिक अस्थिर हो सकती हैं।
- Chinese miners expanded operations in Kachin in the 2010s after Beijing tightened domestic mining regulations.
2010 के दशक में चीनी खनिकों ने काचिन में बड़े पैमाने पर खनन कार्य शुरू किया, जब बीजिंग ने घरेलू खनन नियमों को कड़ा कर दिया।
- After the 2021 coup, Kachin's unregulated mines expanded with tacit approval from Myanmar's junta.
2021 के तख्तापलट के बाद, काचिन में अनियंत्रित खदानों का विस्तार हुआ, जिसे म्यांमार की जुंटा सरकार की अप्रत्यक्ष मंजूरी प्राप्त थी।
- This expansion has severely damaged the environment, leaving Kachin's hills scarred with toxic pools, as confirmed by witnesses and satellite images.
इस विस्तार से पर्यावरण को गंभीर नुकसान हुआ, जिससे काचिन की पहाड़ियां जहरीले जलाशयों से भर गईं, जिसे गवाहों और सैटेलाइट तस्वीरों ने प्रमाणित किया।



Export Decline and KIA's Demands

निर्यात में गिरावट और KIA की मांगें

- Since the KIA took over the rare earth mines, it imposed a 20% tax, making local mining operations unprofitable.
KIA द्वारा दुर्लभ खनिज खदानों पर नियंत्रण करने के बाद, उसने 20% कर लगाया, जिससे स्थानीय खनन कंपनियां घाटे में चली गईं।
- The KIA wants China to stop pressuring it to disarm against the junta and recognize its control over the border.
KIA चाहती है कि चीन उस पर जुंटा के खिलाफ हथियार डालने का दबाव बंद करे और उसके सीमा पर नियंत्रण को मान्यता दे।
- The KIA and China have met at least twice in recent months for negotiations.
हाल के महीनों में KIA और चीन की कम से कम दो बार बैठकें हुई हैं।

India's Growing Interest in Kachin's Rare Earths

काचिन के दुर्लभ खनिजों में भारत की बढ़ती रुचि

- India has attempted to increase its influence in Kachin, which shares a border with India.
भारत ने काचिन में अपना प्रभाव बढ़ाने का प्रयास किया, जो भारत की सीमा से सटा हुआ है।
- In December 2024, India's state-run mining firm IREL sent a team to Kachin to study resources.
दिसंबर 2024 में, भारत की सरकारी खनन कंपनी IREL ने काचिन में संसाधनों का अध्ययन करने के लिए एक टीम भेजी।
- Indian officials are cautious about operating in a conflict zone, but Kachin's desire to reduce dependency on China has encouraged discussions.
भारतीय अधिकारी संघर्ष क्षेत्र में काम करने को लेकर सतर्क हैं, लेकिन काचिन की चीन पर निर्भरता कम करने की इच्छा ने बातचीत को आगे बढ़ाया है।
- In December 2024, an Indian delegation including IREL held an online meeting with Kachin leaders to discuss investment opportunities.
दिसंबर 2024 में, IREL सहित एक भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने काचिन नेताओं के साथ ऑनलाइन बैठक की ताकि निवेश के अवसरों पर चर्चा की जा सके।
- India has shown a willingness to pay higher prices than China for rare earths.
भारत ने दुर्लभ खनिजों के लिए चीन से अधिक कीमत चुकाने की इच्छा जताई है।
- However, experts like Thomas Kruemmer and Dan Seng Lawn warn that any India deal faces multiple obstacles.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



हालांकि, थॉमस क्रूमर और डैन सेंग लॉन जैसे विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी कि भारत के साथ किसी भी समझौते में कई बाधाएं हो सकती हैं।

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

1. Free speech is an integral part of healthy and civilised society: SC

स्वतंत्र अभिव्यक्ति स्वस्थ और सभ्य समाज का अभिन्न अंग है: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

2. X Corp. is trying to 'mislead' court with false claims: Centre

X कॉर्प अदालत को 'गुमराह' करने की कोशिश कर रहा है गलत दावों के साथ: केंद्र

3. Restaurants can't enforce service charge: Delhi HC

रेस्तरां सेवा शुल्क अनिवार्य नहीं कर सकते: दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय

4. Even Indira couldn't change Pak.'s 'bigoted mindset', says Jaishankar

यहां तक कि इंदिरा भी पाकिस्तान की 'कट्टर मानसिकता' नहीं बदल सकीं: जयशंकर

5. Gehlot refers mineral tax Bill to Murmu for assent

गहलोत ने खनिज कर विधेयक की स्वीकृति के लिए मुर्मू को भेजा

6. BJP members slam 'insult' to King Rana Sanga

बीजेपी सदस्यों ने राजा राणा सांगा के 'अपमान' की निंदा की



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**7. Data Protection Act sections undermine RTI legislation:
Moitra**

डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम की धाराएं सूचना के अधिकार (RTI) कानून को कमजोर करती हैं: महुआ मोइत्रा

**8. University's negligence led to Nepal student's death:
NHRC**

विश्वविद्यालय की लापरवाही ने नेपाल की छात्रा की मौत को जन्म दिया:
एनएचआरसी

**9. India's geopolitical vision should be larger
भारत का भू-राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण व्यापक होना चाहिए**

**10. Advantage China in Africa's nuclear energy market race
अफ्रीका के परमाणु ऊर्जा बाजार की दौड़ में चीन को बढ़त**

**11. Beyond Bengaluru: Story of Villages
बेंगलुरु से परे: गांवों की कहानी**



Free speech is an integral part of healthy and civilised society: SC

It quashes hate speech case filed against Congress MP; Bench says a person's views can't be silenced because the majority does not like them; Justice Oka says State shouldn't victimise individual opinions on behalf of those crippled by insecurity

GS Paper II: FR

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said the fundamental right to free speech through poetry, theatre, stand-up comedy, and satire must be cherished, as it quashed a criminal case accusing Congress MP Imran Pratapgadhi of inciting discord through his poem on "suffering injustice with love".

The judgment was based on an appeal filed by Mr. Pratapgadhi against the registration of a criminal case by the Gujarat Police under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. "Seventy-five years into our Republic, we cannot be seen to be so shaky on our fundamentals that a mere recital of a poem, or

for that matter, any form of art or entertainment, such as stand-up comedy, can be alleged to lead to animosity or hatred amongst different communities. Subscribing to such a view would stifle all legitimate expressions of view in the public domain, which is so fundamental to a free society," a Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan wrote in its verdict.

Restrictions and rights

Justice Bhuyan explained to Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta that the "reasonable restrictions" on free speech must remain reasonable. "Restrictions cannot be harmful or oppressive. Restrictions cannot overshadow the fundamental right to free speech," Justice Bhuyan said pointedly.



The Gujarat Police had filed a case against Imran Pratapgadhi, accusing the Congress MP of inciting discord through his poem. ANI

The top court said free speech was an integral part of a healthy and civilised society. A person's views cannot be silenced merely because the majority does not like the sound of them. The law enforcement authorities and courts must employ the standards of reasonable, strong-minded,

firm, and courageous minds, and not weak and vacillating ones who scent danger in every hostile point of view, before initiating criminal action against freedom of expression.

Justice Oka, who authored the judgment with inputs from Justice Bhuyan,

said the State and the police should not play ball to victimise individual opinions on behalf of those crippled by insecurity and view criticism as a threat to their power and position.

The Gujarat Police had registered a case against Mr. Pratapgadhi, accusing him of promoting enmity among people of different groups on the basis of caste and religion.

Justice Oka, during a March 3 hearing of the case, remarked the poem was a reference to non-violence, a path followed by Mahatma Gandhi himself. Mr. Mehta had however found the poem at best "sadak chaap" (cheap). He objected to the comparison with Mahatma Gandhi.

The Bench referred to a tendency to stifle art and poetry.

Free speech is an integral part of healthy and civilised society: SC

स्वतंत्र अभिव्यक्ति स्वस्थ और सभ्य समाज का अभिन्न अंग है: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

The Supreme Court on Friday said the fundamental right to free speech through poetry, theatre, stand-up comedy, and satire must be cherished.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि कविता, थिएटर, स्टैंड-अप कॉमेडी और व्यंग्य के माध्यम से स्वतंत्र अभिव्यक्ति का मौलिक अधिकार संजोकर रखा जाना चाहिए।



- The court **quashed** a criminal case against Congress MP Imran Pratapgadhi for his poem on “suffering injustice with love”.
कोर्ट ने कांग्रेस सांसद इमरान प्रतापगढ़ी के खिलाफ “प्रेम के साथ अन्याय सहने” पर आधारित कविता को लेकर दर्ज आपराधिक मामला रद्द कर दिया।
- The judgment was based on an **appeal filed by Mr. Pratapgadhi** against the Gujarat Police's case under **Section 196** of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**.
यह निर्णय श्री प्रतापगढ़ी द्वारा दायर अपील पर आधारित था, जिसमें उन्होंने गुजरात पुलिस द्वारा भारतीय न्याय संहिता की धारा 196 के तहत दर्ज मामले को चुनौती दी थी।
- **Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan** stated that **free expression** is fundamental to a free society.
न्यायमूर्ति ए.एस. ओका और उज्जल भुयान की पीठ ने कहा कि स्वतंत्र अभिव्यक्ति, स्वतंत्र समाज के लिए मौलिक है।
- “75 years into our Republic”, we should not be **so insecure** that a poem or stand-up comedy is seen as a threat.
"हमारे गणराज्य के 75 वर्ष बाद", हमें इतने असुरक्षित नहीं होना चाहिए कि कविता या स्टैंड-अप कॉमेडी को खतरे के रूप में देखा जाए।

Restrictions and Rights

प्रतिबंध और अधिकार

- Justice **Ujjal Bhuyan** explained to **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta** that “reasonable restrictions” must remain **reasonable**.
न्यायमूर्ति उज्जल भुयान ने सॉलिसिटर-जनरल तुषार मेहता को समझाया कि "उचित प्रतिबंध" को उचित ही रहना चाहिए।
- **Restrictions should not be harmful or oppressive** and must not **overshadow free speech**.
प्रतिबंध हानिकारक या दमनकारी नहीं होने चाहिए और इन्हें स्वतंत्र अभिव्यक्ति को दबाना नहीं चाहिए।
- The court emphasized that **law enforcement** and **courts** must use “**reasonable, strong-minded, firm, and courageous standards**” before **initiating criminal action**.
अदालत ने जोर देकर कहा कि कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों और न्यायालयों को "उचित, मजबूत मानसिकता, दृढ़ और साहसी मानकों" का पालन करना चाहिए, इससे पहले कि वे आपराधिक कार्रवाई शुरू करें।

State should not victimize individual opinions

राज्य को व्यक्तिगत विचारों को निशाना नहीं बनाना चाहिए

- Justice **A.S. Oka** stated that the **State and Police** should not be used to **suppress opinions** on behalf of those **crippled by insecurity**.



न्यायमूर्ति ए.एस. ओका ने कहा कि राज्य और पुलिस को उन लोगों की असुरक्षा के कारण विचारों को दबाने के लिए इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

- The Gujarat Police had filed a case against Mr. Pratapgadhi, accusing him of promoting enmity based on caste and religion.

गुजरात पुलिस ने श्री प्रतापगढ़ी के खिलाफ जाति और धर्म के आधार पर शत्रुता बढ़ाने का आरोप लगाते हुए मामला दर्ज किया था।

- During the March 3 hearing, Justice Oka remarked that the poem referred to non-violence, which was followed by Mahatma Gandhi.

3 मार्च की सुनवाई के दौरान, न्यायमूर्ति ओका ने कहा कि यह कविता अहिंसा का संदर्भ देती है, जिसे महात्मा गांधी ने अपनाया था।

- Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta dismissed the poem as “sadak chaap” (cheap) and opposed its comparison with Mahatma Gandhi.

सॉलिसिटर-जनरल तुषार मेहता ने इस कविता को “सड़क छाप” (सस्ती) कहकर खारिज कर दिया और इसकी महात्मा गांधी से तुलना का विरोध किया।

Tendency to stifle art and poetry

कला और कविता को दबाने की प्रवृत्ति

- The Bench pointed out a growing tendency to stifle artistic expressions like poetry and stand-up comedy.

पीठ ने यह इंगित किया कि कविता और स्टैंड-अप कॉमेडी जैसी कलात्मक अभिव्यक्तियों को दबाने की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ रही है।



X Corp. is trying to 'mislead' court with false claims: Centre

GS Paper II
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union government has told the Karnataka High Court that X Corp. is "attempting to mislead the court" about the law used to direct social media platforms to block access to harmful content.

X is "falsely alleging that authorities are passing information blocking orders" under Section 79(3)(d) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 in a bid to circumvent a Supreme Court judgment that only allows such orders to be issued under Section 69A of the same law, the Centre said in a statement filed before the court, opposing X's petition. The Centre insisted that Section 79 is a suitably tailored regime, in line with global practices, which seeks to balance the competing interests of the stakeholders involved, while keeping legitimate state interests in mind.

X Corp. is trying to wrongly portray the SAHYOG portal as a "censorship" tool, the Centre said, pointing out that 38 top IT intermediaries — including Google, Microsoft, and Amazon — have already come aboard the portal for routing lawfully issued notices for removal of unlawful content.

The portal has been created to ensure a seamless process and cooperation for routing notices lawfully issued by different authorised agencies and branches of government, including by the courts, for the removal of unlawful content. In fact, Meta Inc., representing Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp, is putting in place API-based



The Centre says X is trying to wrongly portray the SAHYOG portal as a 'censorship' tool. AFP

integration with the SAHYOG portal to enable real-time action, the Centre claimed, in its statement.

'No blocking orders'

The Centre also made it clear that it was not issuing direct 'blocking orders' under Section 79(3) in violation of Section 69A, but was simply notifying platforms of harmful content and warning them of their liability if they ignored such notices.

"Section 79 regime does not envisage any 'blocking orders' and merely issues notice informing intermediaries of their due diligence obligations. In case of non-compliance of the notices, the result is lifting of safe harbour protection and consequent action under extant law as per Rule 7 of IT Rules, 2001, and the same is fundamentally at a different plane altogether," it said.

Centre also argued that illegal or unlawful content cannot attract the same level of constitutional protection as free speech, while insisting that there is no prohibition or embargo on exercising of freedom of speech and expression, nor is there any pre-publication censorship under Section 79.

करने का प्रयास करती है, साथ ही वैध राज्य हितों को ध्यान में रखती है।

- X Corp. is trying to wrongly portray the SAHYOG portal as a "censorship" tool.

X कॉर्प सहयोग पोर्टल को गलत तरीके से "सेंसरशिप" उपकरण के रूप में पेश करने की कोशिश कर रहा है।

- The Centre pointed out that 38 top IT intermediaries — including Google, Microsoft, and Amazon — have already joined the portal for routing lawfully issued notices for removal of unlawful content.

केंद्र ने बताया कि Google, Microsoft और Amazon सहित 38 शीर्ष आईटी मध्यस्थ पहले ही पोर्टल

X Corp. is trying to 'mislead' court with false claims: Centre

X कॉर्प अदालत को 'गुमराह' करने की कोशिश कर रहा है गलत दावों के साथ: केंद्र

The Union government has told the Karnataka High Court that X Corp. is "attempting to mislead the court" about the law used to direct social media platforms to block access to harmful content.

केंद्र सरकार ने कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय को बताया कि X कॉर्प सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म को हानिकारक सामग्री को ब्लॉक करने के लिए इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले कानून के बारे में "अदालत को गुमराह करने" की कोशिश कर रहा है।

- X Corp. is "falsely alleging" that authorities are passing information blocking orders under Section 79(3)(d) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 in a bid to circumvent a Supreme Court judgment.

X कॉर्प "गलत तरीके से दावा कर रहा है" कि अधिकारी सूचना अवरोध आदेश सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000 की धारा 79(3)(d) के तहत पारित कर रहे हैं ताकि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय को दरकिनार किया जा सके।

- The Centre insisted that Section 79 is a suitably tailored regime, in line with global practices, which seeks to balance the competing interests of stakeholders while keeping legitimate state interests in mind.

केंद्र ने जोर देकर कहा कि धारा 79 एक उपयुक्त रूप से तैयार की गई व्यवस्था है, जो वैश्विक प्रथाओं के अनुरूप है और यह हितधारकों के प्रतिस्पर्धी हितों को संतुलित



से जुड़ चुके हैं ताकि कानूनी रूप से जारी नोटिसों के माध्यम से अवैध सामग्री को हटाने की प्रक्रिया को पूरा किया जा सके।

- The **SAHYOG portal** ensures a **seamless process and cooperation** for routing **lawfully issued notices** by different authorized agencies and government branches, including **courts**.

सहयोग पोर्टल विभिन्न अधिकृत एजेंसियों और सरकारी शाखाओं (जिनमें अदालतें भी शामिल हैं) द्वारा कानूनी रूप से जारी नोटिसों को पारित करने के लिए एक सुनिश्चित प्रक्रिया और सहयोग प्रदान करता है।

- **Meta Inc.**, representing **Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp**, is putting in place **API-based integration** with the **SAHYOG portal** to enable **real-time action**.

Meta Inc., जो **Facebook, Instagram और WhatsApp** का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, **सहयोग पोर्टल** के साथ **API-आधारित एकीकरण** लागू कर रहा है ताकि **रीयल-टाइम कार्रवाई** संभव हो सके।

‘No blocking orders’

‘कोई ब्लॉकिंग आदेश नहीं’

- The **Centre clarified** that it was **not issuing direct ‘blocking orders’** under **Section 79(3)** in violation of **Section 69A**, but was simply notifying platforms of **harmful content** and warning them of their liability.

केंद्र ने स्पष्ट किया कि वह धारा 79(3) के तहत प्रत्यक्ष ‘ब्लॉकिंग आदेश’ जारी नहीं कर रहा है, जो कि धारा 69A का उल्लंघन होगा, बल्कि केवल हानिकारक सामग्री के बारे में प्लेटफॉर्म को सूचित कर रहा है और उनकी जिम्मेदारी की चेतावनी दे रहा है।

- **Section 79** regime does not envisage any ‘blocking orders’ and merely issues **notices informing intermediaries** of their **due diligence obligations**.

धारा 79 की व्यवस्था किसी भी ‘ब्लॉकिंग आदेश’ की परिकल्पना नहीं करती है, बल्कि केवल मध्यस्थों को उनके सावधानीपूर्वक पालन की जिम्मेदारी के बारे में सूचना नोटिस जारी करती है।

- In case of **non-compliance**, the result is **lifting of safe harbour protection** and consequent action under **Rule 7 of IT Rules, 2001**.

अनुपालन न करने की स्थिति में, सुरक्षित बंदरगाह सुरक्षा को हटाने और आईटी नियम, 2001 की नियम 7 के तहत कार्रवाई का परिणाम हो सकता है।

- The Centre argued that **illegal or unlawful content** cannot attract the same level of **constitutional protection** as **free speech**.

केंद्र ने तर्क दिया कि अवैध या गैरकानूनी सामग्री को मौलिक अधिकार के रूप में स्वतंत्र अभिव्यक्ति के समान संवैधानिक सुरक्षा नहीं मिल सकती।

- The Centre insisted that there is **no prohibition or embargo** on the exercise of **freedom of speech and expression** nor any **pre-publication censorship** under **Section 79**.

केंद्र ने जोर देकर कहा कि स्वतंत्र अभिव्यक्ति और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के उपयोग पर कोई प्रतिबंध या रोक नहीं है, न ही धारा 79 के तहत पूर्व-प्रकाशन सेंसरशिप लागू है।



Restaurants can't enforce service charge: Delhi HC

Restaurants can't enforce service charge: Delhi HC

रेस्तरां सेवा शुल्क अनिवार्य नहीं कर सकते:

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय

The Delhi High Court on Friday ruled that service charge or tips is a voluntary payment by the customer and cannot be made compulsory by hotels and restaurants.

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने शुक्रवार को फैसला सुनाया कि सेवा शुल्क या टिप ग्राहकों द्वारा स्वेच्छा से दिया जाने वाला भुगतान है और इसे होटल और रेस्तरां द्वारा अनिवार्य नहीं किया जा सकता।

• The court ruled that “the mandatory collection of service charge is contrary to law and violates the guidelines”.

न्यायालय ने कहा कि “सेवा शुल्क को अनिवार्य रूप से वसूलना कानून के खिलाफ है और यह दिशानिर्देशों का उल्लंघन करता है”।

• It also said that if consumers wish to pay any voluntary tip for services they had enjoyed, it would not be barred.

न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा कि यदि ग्राहक सेवाओं के लिए स्वेच्छा से टिप देना चाहते हैं, तो इस पर कोई रोक नहीं होगी।

• The court rejected the plea by National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations challenging the Central Consumer Protection Authority's (CCPA) July 2022 guidelines.

न्यायालय ने नेशनल रेस्तरां एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया (NRAI) और होटल एवं रेस्तरां संघ महासंघ द्वारा दायर याचिका को

GS Paper II:
Governance

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday ruled that service charge or tips is a voluntary payment by the customer, and it cannot be made compulsory or mandatory by hotels and restaurants.

The court ruled that “the mandatory collection of service charge is contrary to law and violates the guidelines”.

It also said that if consumers wish to pay any voluntary tip for services that they had enjoyed, the same would obviously not be barred.

The court rejected the plea by associations of hotel and restaurant owners such as National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations challenging the Central Consumer Protection Authority's (CCPA) July 2022 guidelines prohibiting hotels and restaurants from automatically levying 'service charge' over and above the cost of the food items.

The CCPA had been receiving several complaints regarding restaurants and hotels collecting 'service



Mandatory collection of service charge is contrary to law and violates guidelines, rules HC

charge' in the range of 5-20% in lieu of 'tip' or 'gratuity' from consumers on a compulsory basis.

'Follow guidelines'

On July 4, 2022, the CCPA, under the Consumer Affairs Ministry, issued guidelines stating that hotels or restaurants cannot add service charge automatically or by default in the food bill. “No collection of service charge shall be done by any other name,” it said.

The court, on Friday, ruled: “All restaurant establishments would have to adhere to the guidelines passed by the CCPA. If there is any violation, action is liable to be taken in accordance with law”.



खारिज कर दिया, जिसमें केंद्रीय उपभोक्ता संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (CCPA) के जुलाई 2022 के दिशानिर्देशों को चुनौती दी गई थी।

- These **guidelines prohibit hotels and restaurants from automatically levying 'service charge' over and above the cost of food items.**

ये दिशानिर्देश होटल और रेस्तरां को रोकते हैं कि वे भोजन की लागत के अतिरिक्त 'सेवा शुल्क' स्वचालित रूप से न जोड़ें।

- The **CCPA** had been receiving **several complaints** about restaurants and hotels **collecting a 'service charge' of 5-20%** in lieu of 'tip' or 'gratuity' on a **compulsory basis.**

CCPA को कई शिकायतें मिल रही थीं कि रेस्तरां और होटल 5-20% तक का 'सेवा शुल्क' 'टिप' या 'इनाम' के रूप में अनिवार्य रूप से वसूल रहे थे।

'Follow guidelines'

'दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करें'

- On **July 4, 2022**, the **CCPA** under the **Consumer Affairs Ministry** issued **guidelines** stating that **hotels or restaurants cannot add service charge automatically** or by default in the food bill.

4 जुलाई 2022 को उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय के तहत CCPA ने दिशानिर्देश जारी किए, जिनमें कहा गया कि होटल या रेस्तरां भोजन बिल में सेवा शुल्क स्वचालित रूप से नहीं जोड़ सकते।

- "No collection of service charge shall be done by any other name," it said.

इसमें कहा गया, "सेवा शुल्क किसी अन्य नाम से भी एकत्र नहीं किया जा सकता।"

- The court ruled on **Friday** that "all restaurant establishments must adhere to the **CCPA guidelines**".

न्यायालय ने शुक्रवार को फैसला सुनाया कि "सभी रेस्तरां प्रतिष्ठानों को CCPA दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करना होगा"।

- If **any violation** occurs, **action will be taken as per the law.**

यदि कोई उल्लंघन होता है, तो कानून के अनुसार कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) | केंद्रीय उपभोक्ता संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (CCPA)

- **Established under Consumer Protection Act, 2019** to protect **consumer rights**, prevent **unfair trade practices**, and regulate **misleading advertisements.**

उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2019 के तहत उपभोक्ता अधिकारों की रक्षा, अनुचित व्यापार प्रथाओं को रोकने और भ्रामक विज्ञापनों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए स्थापित।



• **Functions | कार्य:**

- Investigate violations of consumer rights and unfair trade practices.
उपभोक्ता अधिकारों के उल्लंघन और अनुचित व्यापार प्रथाओं की जांच करना।
- Regulate false and misleading advertisements and impose penalties.
झूठे और भ्रामक विज्ञापनों को नियंत्रित करना और दंड लगाना।
- Take suo motu actions, issue guidelines, and conduct inquiries.
**स्वतः संज्ञान लेकर कार्रवाई करना, दिशा-निर्देश जारी करना और जांच करना।
- Order recall of unsafe goods and services.
असुरक्षित वस्तुओं और सेवाओं को वापस लेने का आदेश देना।
- Impose fines on manufacturers, endorsers, and advertisers.
निर्माताओं, प्रमोटर्स और विज्ञापनदाताओं पर जुर्माना लगाना।

• **Headquarters: New Delhi**

मुख्यालय: नई दिल्ली

• **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**

नोडल मंत्रालय: उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय

• **Recent Actions | हालिया कार्रवाई:**

- Fined major e-commerce platforms for misleading ads.
भ्रामक विज्ञापनों के लिए प्रमुख ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफार्मों पर जुर्माना लगाया।
- Cracked down on fake online reviews and deceptive practices.
नकली ऑनलाइन समीक्षाओं और धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण प्रथाओं पर कार्रवाई की।



Even Indira couldn't change Pak.'s 'bigoted mindset', says Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister responds to questions in Parliament on minority rights in Bangladesh and Pakistan; he says India has raised issue at international forums and with government concerned; Islamabad brazenly harbours terrorists, he adds

GS Paper II: South Asia

NEW DELHI

Even the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi could not change Pakistan's "bigoted mindset" in 1971, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday, responding to questions in Parliament about the condition of minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Mr. Jaishankar said that it was not possible to "change the mindset" of a neighbouring country, but that India had raised the issue at international forums, and in Bangladesh's case, directly with the government in Dhaka. The responses come a few days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to travel to Bangkok to attend the seven-nation BIMSTEC Summit (April 3-4) along with Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, though the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has been non-committal about whether the leaders will hold a bilateral meeting on



Thorny issues: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Friday. ANI

the sidelines.

During **Question Hour** in the Lok Sabha on Friday, Mr. Jaishankar received a number of questions about the treatment of the minority Hindu community in both Bangladesh and Pakistan. However, he restricted most of his responses to Pakistan's failure to keep promises given in a number of India-Pakistan agreements on equal and fair treatment of religious minorities there, enumerating at least 10 cases of attacks just in February 2025

on Hindus, Christians, Sikhs and Ahmadiyya sect members.

"We are making our position very well-known, we are taking it up at the international level but we as a government and a country cannot change the mindset of a neighbour who has a fanatical, bigoted mindset. Even Indira Gandhi could not do it," Mr. Jaishankar told the House, referring to the 1971 India-Pakistan war and the creation of Bangladesh. "Despite it being taken up in international fo-

rum and bodies, the Government of Pakistan does not take action to protect its minorities and this is the position on which we have been very public and very clear," he added.

Quoting from recent speeches made by India's envoys to the United Nations and Human Rights Council, Mr. Jaishankar called Pakistan a country with "human rights abuses, persecution of minorities and the systematic erosion of democratic values" and state policies to "brazenly harbour UN-sanctioned terrorists."

In response to a specific question about Bangladesh, Mr. Jaishankar said that India followed the situation there "closely", and had compiled 2,400 incidents of violence against minorities there in 2024, and 72 incidents thus far in 2025.

"I have taken it up with my counterpart [Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain]; Foreign Secretary [Vikram Misri] took it up when he

visited Bangladesh [in December 2024], and this continues to be a matter of concern for the Government of India," Mr. Jaishankar said in response to a question by Arun Kumar Sagar, MP, though he sidestepped references to Bangladesh in responses to other MPs from the Bharatiya Janata Party, including Ravi Shankar Prasad and Nishikant Dubey, and Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT).

The Minister's statements comes at a time when a report issued by the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom recommended that Pakistan continue to be designated a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) by the U.S., and said minorities there were persecuted by violent attacks, mob lynching, and false blasphemy cases.

The Ministry of External Affairs had sharply rejected the report as it also criticised India for attacks on religious minorities.

Even Indira couldn't change Pak.'s 'bigoted mindset', says Jaishankar

यहां तक कि इंदिरा भी पाकिस्तान की 'कट्टर मानसिकता' नहीं बदल सकीं:

जयशंकर

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday that even former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi could not

change Pakistan's bigoted mindset in 1971.

विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि 1971 में पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री इंदिरा गांधी भी पाकिस्तान की कट्टर मानसिकता नहीं बदल सकीं।

- He was responding to questions in Parliament about the condition of minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
वे संसद में पाकिस्तान और बांग्लादेश में अल्पसंख्यकों की स्थिति पर उठाए गए प्रश्नों का उत्तर दे रहे थे।
- Jaishankar stated that it is not possible to change a neighboring country's mindset, but India has raised the issue at international forums and with Bangladesh's government directly.
जयशंकर ने कहा कि किसी पड़ोसी देश की मानसिकता बदलना संभव नहीं है, लेकिन भारत ने इस मुद्दे को अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंचों पर और बांग्लादेश की सरकार के साथ प्रत्यक्ष रूप से उठाया है।
- His comments came days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangkok for the BIMSTEC Summit (April 3-4), where Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus will also be present.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



यह बयान प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की बैंकॉक यात्रा (3-4 अप्रैल) से कुछ दिन पहले आया, जहां बांग्लादेश के मुख्य सलाहकार मुहम्मद यूनस भी उपस्थित होंगे।

Pakistan's failure to protect minorities

पाकिस्तान का अल्पसंख्यकों की रक्षा करने में विफल रहना

- During Question Hour in Lok Sabha on Friday, Jaishankar received several questions about the treatment of Hindu minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh. शुक्रवार को लोकसभा में प्रश्नकाल के दौरान, जयशंकर से पाकिस्तान और बांग्लादेश में हिंदू अल्पसंख्यकों के हालात पर कई सवाल पूछे गए।
- He criticized Pakistan for failing to honor agreements on equal and fair treatment of religious minorities. उन्होंने पाकिस्तान को धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों के समान और न्यायसंगत व्यवहार के समझौतों का पालन करने में विफल रहने पर आलोचना की।
- He mentioned at least 10 attacks in February 2025 on Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, and Ahmadiyya sect members in Pakistan. उन्होंने कहा कि फरवरी 2025 में हिंदुओं, ईसाइयों, सिखों और अहमदिया समुदाय के सदस्यों पर कम से कम 10 हमले हुए।
- "We are making our position well known at the international level, but we cannot change a country with a fanatic and bigoted mindset," he stated. उन्होंने कहा, "हम अपनी स्थिति अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर स्पष्ट कर रहे हैं, लेकिन हम एक कट्टर और संकीर्ण मानसिकता वाले देश को नहीं बदल सकते।"
- He recalled the 1971 India-Pakistan war and the creation of Bangladesh, stating that despite international pressure, Pakistan does not protect its minorities. उन्होंने 1971 के भारत-पाकिस्तान युद्ध और बांग्लादेश के निर्माण का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय दबाव के बावजूद पाकिस्तान अपने अल्पसंख्यकों की रक्षा नहीं करता।

Human rights abuses in Pakistan

पाकिस्तान में मानवाधिकार हनन

- Jaishankar quoted statements from India's envoys to the UN and Human Rights Council, calling Pakistan a country with "human rights abuses, persecution of minorities, and systematic erosion of democratic values." जयशंकर ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र और मानवाधिकार परिषद में भारत के प्रतिनिधियों के बयानों को उद्धृत किया, जिसमें पाकिस्तान को "मानवाधिकार हनन, अल्पसंख्यकों पर अत्याचार और लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों के व्यवस्थित क्षरण" वाला देश बताया गया।
- He accused Pakistan of harboring UN-sanctioned terrorists and supporting extremist groups.



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उन्होंने पाकिस्तान पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा प्रतिबंधित आतंकवादियों को शरण देने और चरमपंथी समूहों का समर्थन करने का आरोप लगाया।

Minority rights in Bangladesh

बांग्लादेश में अल्पसंख्यकों के अधिकार

- Regarding **Bangladesh**, Jaishankar said India **monitors the situation closely** and recorded **2,400 incidents of violence against minorities in 2024** and **72 incidents so far in 2025**.

बांग्लादेश के संदर्भ में, जयशंकर ने कहा कि भारत स्थिति पर करीबी नजर रखता है, और 2024 में 2,400 और 2025 में अब तक 72 अल्पसंख्यकों पर हिंसा की घटनाएं दर्ज की गई हैं।

- He raised the issue with **Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain** and **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** during a visit in **December 2024**.

उन्होंने बांग्लादेश के विदेश मामलों के सलाहकार तौहीद हुसैन और विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिश्री के साथ दिसंबर 2024 की यात्रा के दौरान इस मुद्दे को उठाया।

- However, he **avoided responding to specific references to Bangladesh** in questions from **BJP MPs Ravi Shankar Prasad, Nishikant Dubey, and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant**.

हालांकि, उन्होंने भाजपा सांसद रवि शंकर प्रसाद, निशिकांत दुबे और शिवसेना (UBT) सांसद अरविंद सावंत के बांग्लादेश से जुड़े सवालों पर कोई स्पष्ट प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी।

US report on Pakistan and India's response

पाकिस्तान पर अमेरिकी रिपोर्ट और भारत की प्रतिक्रिया

- A report by the **United States Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** recommended that **Pakistan continue to be designated as a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC)**.

अमेरिकी अंतरराष्ट्रीय धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता आयोग (USCIRF) की रिपोर्ट में पाकिस्तान को "विशेष चिंता वाला देश" (CPC) के रूप में सूचीबद्ध बनाए रखने की सिफारिश की गई।

- The report highlighted **violent attacks, mob lynching, and false blasphemy cases** against minorities in Pakistan.

रिपोर्ट में अल्पसंख्यकों पर हिंसक हमलों, भीड़ द्वारा हत्या और झूठे ईशनिंदा मामलों का उल्लेख किया गया।

- However, the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** rejected the report, as it also **criticized India for attacks on religious minorities**.

हालांकि, विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने इस रिपोर्ट को खारिज कर दिया, क्योंकि इसमें भारत में धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों पर हमलों की भी आलोचना की गई थी।

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Gehlot refers mineral tax Bill to Murmu for assent

GS Paper II: Center State Relations

BENGALURU

Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot has referred the Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Land) Tax Bill, 2024, which proposes taxes on mineral-bearing land and mineral rights, for the assent of President of India Droupadi Murmu.

The Bill proposes to levy a tax of ₹20 to ₹100 per tonne for different minerals.

The proposed law is expected to bring in revenue of ₹4,207.95 crore, and tax on mineral-bearing lands would fetch another ₹505.9 crore a year.

Citing various provisions of the Bill passed by the State legislature, the Governor said they would have an impact on the earlier passed parliamentary legislation/Central Acts.

Gehlot refers mineral tax Bill to Murmu for assent

गहलोट ने खनिज कर विधेयक की स्वीकृति के लिए मुर्मू को भेजा

Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot has referred the **Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Land) Tax Bill, 2024** to President Droupadi Murmu for her assent.

कर्नाटक के राज्यपाल थावरचंद गहलोट ने कर्नाटक (खनिज अधिकार और खनिज युक्त भूमि) कर विधेयक, 2024 को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू की स्वीकृति के लिए भेजा है।

- The **Bill proposes taxes on mineral-bearing land and mineral rights.**

विधेयक में खनिज युक्त भूमि और खनिज अधिकारों पर कर लगाने का प्रस्ताव है।

- It proposes a tax of ₹20 to ₹100 per tonne for different minerals.

इसमें विभिन्न खनिजों पर प्रति टन ₹20 से ₹100 तक कर लगाने का प्रस्ताव है।

- The proposed law is expected to generate revenue of ₹4,207.95 crore, while the tax on mineral-bearing lands would bring an additional ₹505.9 crore annually.

प्रस्तावित कानून से ₹4,207.95 करोड़ का राजस्व प्राप्त होने की उम्मीद है, जबकि खनिज युक्त भूमि पर कर से वार्षिक ₹505.9 करोड़ अतिरिक्त प्राप्त होंगे।

Citing various provisions of the State legislature-passed Bill, the Governor stated that it would impact earlier parliamentary legislation and Central Acts.

राज्य विधानसभा द्वारा पारित विधेयक के विभिन्न प्रावधानों का हवाला देते हुए, राज्यपाल ने कहा कि इसका प्रभाव पहले से पारित संसदीय कानूनों और केंद्रीय अधिनियमों पर पड़ेगा।



BJP members slam 'insult' to King Rana Sanga

GS Paper II:
Parliament
The Hindu
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday condemned the remarks by a Samajwadi Party MP against Rajput king Rana Sanga, asserting that the nation "will not tolerate insult" to great warriors.

Rana Sanga was the ruler of Mewar between 1508 and 1528. The SP's Rajya Sabha member Ramji Lal Suman had made a controversial observation that the Rajput king had "invited" Mughal invader Babur to the Indian subcontinent to defeat Ibrahim Lodi in the 16th century. His exact description of Rana Sanga was "expunged" from the records of the Rajya Sabha.

"I condemn the remarks made against Rana Sanga. Hindustan will not tolerate insult to legendary leaders like Shivaji and Rana Sanga," Mr. Prasad said, raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha. He said the legendary warrior formed part of India's heritage and continued to inspire Indians.

Rao Rajendra Singh, a BJP member from Jaipur,



BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad speaks during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Friday. ANI

said Rana Sanga was the synonym for valour. He asked the Opposition if they approved of such comments against a warrior who had given his life fighting for the country.

Rajya Sabha proceedings were interrupted on Friday morning by protests over Mr. Suman's now-expunged remarks on the Rajput king.

The BJP demanded an unqualified apology from him, while the Opposition walked out in protest over an attack on Mr. Suman's home by the Karni Sena, a Rajput group.

Amid this war of words, the House was adjourned for half an hour.

As soon as the House sat on Friday morning, the Treasury benches started protesting. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar pleaded for order in the House, saying that the sentiments of the people are very precious, just as the dignity of a member of the House and his security are important.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju criticised the language used by Mr. Suman about the Rajput hero, and urged the Congress – in its position as the leading party in the Opposition INDIA bloc – to condemn the statement.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge respond-

ed, saying that the Opposition respects all patriots who fought for the country and does not condone insults against anyone. "But it does not mean that law and order should be taken into their own hands," Mr. Kharge said, referring to Karni Sena workers vandalising Mr. Suman's residence in Agra.

Suman gets shut down

During the war of words, Mr. Suman got up to speak, which provoked the Treasury benches to stand up and collect in the aisles. The Chairman then adjourned the House for half an hour.

Shortly after the House reassembled at noon for the Question Hour, Mr. Suman again stood up, requesting an opportunity to speak. Several Opposition members, including Mr. Kharge, the DMK's Tiruchi Siva, and the Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, were on their feet, supporting his request.

However, when Mr. Suman was not allowed to speak, the Opposition parties staged a walkout from the House, which then resumed the Question Hour.

'Social media giving life to expunged remarks'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Opposition and Treasury benches traded blame on Friday, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar reflected on the peculiar problem facing Parliament in the age of social media. Underlining that Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Lal Suman's "outrageous" remarks had been expunged, he said, "The problem is that whatever we expunge is expunged in our record but the social media gives traction to it."

There was a time, he said, when a remark was expunged and it remained so, but this has changed with the speed of electronic messaging. He has urged the Rajya Sabha's ethics committee to come up with a code of conduct so that the members exert care and sensitivity in what they say in the House.

BJP members slam 'insult' to King Rana Sanga

बीजेपी सदस्यों ने राजा राणा सांगा के 'अपमान' की निंदा की

Former Union Minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday condemned the remarks by Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Lal Suman against Rajput king Rana Sanga.

पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री और बीजेपी नेता रवि शंकर प्रसाद ने शुक्रवार को समाजवादी पार्टी के सांसद रामजी लाल सुमन द्वारा राजपूत राजा राणा सांगा पर की गई टिप्पणी की निंदा की।



- He asserted that the nation “will not tolerate insult” to great warriors like Rana Sanga and Shivaji.
उन्होंने कहा कि राष्ट्र "महान योद्धाओं जैसे राणा सांगा और शिवाजी के अपमान को बर्दाश्त नहीं करेगा"।
- Rana Sanga ruled Mewar between 1508 and 1528.
राणा सांगा ने 1508 से 1528 के बीच मेवाड़ पर शासन किया।
- SP MP Ramji Lal Suman made a controversial remark claiming that Rana Sanga invited Mughal invader Babur to India to defeat Ibrahim Lodi.
समाजवादी पार्टी के सांसद रामजी लाल सुमन ने विवादास्पद टिप्पणी करते हुए दावा किया कि राणा सांगा ने मुगल आक्रमणकारी बाबर को भारत बुलाया था ताकि इब्राहिम लोदी को हराया जा सके।
- His exact description of Rana Sanga was “expunged” from Rajya Sabha records.
राज्यसभा के रिकॉर्ड से उनकी राणा सांगा पर की गई टिप्पणी को हटा दिया गया।

Protests in Parliament

संसद में विरोध प्रदर्शन

- Ravi Shankar Prasad raised the issue during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha and condemned the remarks.
रवि शंकर प्रसाद ने लोकसभा में शून्यकाल के दौरान यह मुद्दा उठाया और टिप्पणी की निंदा की।
- He emphasized that Rana Sanga is part of India’s heritage and continues to inspire people.
उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि राणा सांगा भारत की विरासत का हिस्सा हैं और आज भी लोगों को प्रेरित करते हैं।
- BJP MP Rao Rajendra Singh from Jaipur stated that Rana Sanga symbolizes valor and questioned the Opposition’s stance on such comments.
जयपुर से बीजेपी सांसद राव राजेंद्र सिंह ने कहा कि राणा सांगा वीरता के प्रतीक हैं और विपक्ष से पूछा कि क्या वे ऐसे बयानों का समर्थन करते हैं।
- Rajya Sabha proceedings were disrupted on Friday morning due to protests over Mr. Suman’s remarks.
शुक्रवार सुबह राज्यसभा की कार्यवाही रामजी लाल सुमन की टिप्पणी पर हुए विरोध प्रदर्शन के कारण बाधित हुई।
- BJP demanded an unconditional apology, while the Opposition walked out in protest over an attack on Suman’s house by Karni Sena.
बीजेपी ने बिना शर्त माफी की मांग की, जबकि करणी सेना द्वारा सुमन के घर पर हमले के विरोध में विपक्ष ने वॉकआउट किया।



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

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- Amid the chaos, the House was adjourned for half an hour.
अराजकता के बीच, सदन को आधे घंटे के लिए स्थगित कर दिया गया।

Government vs Opposition clash

सरकार और विपक्ष के बीच टकराव

- As soon as the House convened, Treasury benches started protesting, and Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar appealed for order.
जैसे ही सदन की कार्यवाही शुरू हुई, सत्तापक्ष के सांसदों ने विरोध शुरू कर दिया, और सभापति जगदीप धनखड़ ने शांति बनाए रखने की अपील की।
- Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju criticized the language used by Suman and urged the Congress to condemn the statement.
संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरन रिजजू ने सुमन द्वारा इस्तेमाल की गई भाषा की आलोचना की और कांग्रेस से इस बयान की निंदा करने का आग्रह किया।
- Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge responded, saying that the Opposition respects all patriots but law and order should not be taken into their own hands.
कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने जवाब देते हुए कहा कि विपक्ष सभी देशभक्तों का सम्मान करता है, लेकिन कानून-व्यवस्था को हाथ में लेना उचित नहीं है।
- He referred to Karni Sena workers vandalizing Mr. Suman's residence in Agra.
उन्होंने आगरा में करणी सेना द्वारा सुमन के घर में की गई तोड़फोड़ का जिक्र किया।

Suman denied a chance to speak

सुमन को बोलने का मौका नहीं मिला

- During the heated exchange, Suman stood up to speak, triggering loud protests from BJP members.
गरमागर्म बहस के दौरान, सुमन ने बोलने की कोशिश की, जिससे बीजेपी सांसदों ने जोरदार विरोध किया।
- Chairman adjourned the House for half an hour due to the uproar.
सभापति ने हंगामे के कारण सदन को आधे घंटे के लिए स्थगित कर दिया।
- When the House resumed at noon, Suman again requested a chance to speak, but was not allowed.
जब दोपहर में सदन फिर से शुरू हुआ, तो सुमन ने फिर से बोलने का अनुरोध किया, लेकिन उन्हें अनुमति नहीं दी गई।
- Several Opposition leaders, including Kharge, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, and AAP's Sanjay Singh, supported his request.
खड़गे, डीएमके के तिरुचि शिवा और आप के संजय सिंह सहित कई विपक्षी नेताओं ने उनके अनुरोध का समर्थन किया।



- When Suman was denied a chance to speak, Opposition parties staged a walkout, and the House resumed the Question Hour.
जब सुमन को बोलने की अनुमति नहीं मिली, तो विपक्षी दलों ने वॉकआउट कर दिया, और सदन ने प्रश्नकाल फिर से शुरू किया।

Data protection Act sections undermine RTI legislation: Moitra

GS Paper II: Digital Personal Data

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra said during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Friday that **Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, undermined the Right to Information (RTI) Act** by overriding some of its provisions.

“As a result of this, you won’t get data on wilful known defaulters or anything which the government doesn’t want you to get. This is completely undermining the **RTI Act,**” the Trinamool leader alleged.

The two-term Lok Sabha member from Krishnagar raised objections to a Section in the Act which states that **any group which possesses data –**



Mahua Moitra

journalists, activists, or political parties – can now be classified as a **data fiduciary.**

“The **Data Protection Board, which is completely made by the government, has the power to impose a fine of ₹250 crore, and that can go up to ₹500 crore.** This will have a chilling effect on anyone seeking data,” she said.

She asked the government to repeal Section 42 (3) of the Act.

Data Protection Act sections undermine RTI legislation: Moitra

डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम की धाराएं सूचना के अधिकार (RTI) कानून को कमजोर करती हैं: महुआ मोइत्रा

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra said during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha on Friday that **Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 undermines the Right to Information (RTI) Act.**

तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद महुआ मोइत्रा ने शुक्रवार को लोकसभा में शून्यकाल के दौरान कहा कि डिजिटल निजी डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 की धारा 44(3) सूचना के अधिकार (RTI) अधिनियम को कमजोर करती है।

• She alleged that this section **prevents access to data on wilful defaulters** or any information **the government does not want to disclose.**

उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि यह धारा जानबूझकर कर्ज न चुकाने वालों की जानकारी या ऐसी कोई भी सूचना जिसे

सरकार उजागर नहीं करना चाहती, उसे प्राप्त करने से रोकती है।

- “**This completely undermines the RTI Act,**” the Trinamool leader said.
"यह पूरी तरह से RTI अधिनियम को कमजोर करता है," तृणमूल नेता ने कहा।



Concerns over data classification

डेटा वर्गीकरण को लेकर चिंता

- **Moitra raised objections** to a section that allows **any group possessing data**—including **journalists, activists, and political parties**—to be classified as a **data fiduciary**.
मोइत्रा ने एक धारा पर आपत्ति जताई, जिसमें कहा गया है कि जो भी समूह डेटा रखता है—जैसे पत्रकार, कार्यकर्ता, और राजनीतिक दल—उन्हें 'डेटा फिडुशियरी' (डेटा न्यासी) के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया जा सकता है।
- She pointed out that the **Data Protection Board, controlled by the government**, has the power to **impose fines ranging from ₹250 crore to ₹500 crore**.
उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रित डेटा संरक्षण बोर्ड को ₹250 करोड़ से ₹500 करोड़ तक का जुर्माना लगाने का अधिकार है।
- **"This will have a chilling effect on anyone seeking data,"** she warned.
"यह किसी भी व्यक्ति पर डराने वाला प्रभाव डालेगा जो डेटा प्राप्त करना चाहता है," उन्होंने चेतावनी दी।

Call to repeal Section 42(3)

धारा 42(3) को हटाने की मांग

- **Moitra urged the government to repeal Section 42(3) of the Act**.
मोइत्रा ने सरकार से अधिनियम की धारा 42(3) को हटाने की मांग की।

Data Fiduciary | डेटा फिड्यूशरी

- **Definition:** A **Data Fiduciary** is an entity that **determines the purpose and means** of processing **personal data** and is responsible for ensuring **data protection and privacy**.
परिभाषा: डेटा फिड्यूशरी वह इकाई होती है जो व्यक्तिगत डेटा के प्रसंस्करण के उद्देश्य और तरीके निर्धारित करती है और डेटा संरक्षण और गोपनीयता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उत्तरदायी होती है।
- **Role & Responsibilities | भूमिका और जिम्मेदारियाँ:**
 - **Ensure fair and lawful processing** of personal data.
व्यक्तिगत डेटा का उचित और वैध प्रसंस्करण सुनिश्चित करना।
 - **Obtain consent** from individuals before collecting and processing their data.
**डेटा एकत्र करने और प्रसंस्करण से पहले व्यक्तियों से सहमति लेना।



- **Implement security measures** to protect data from breaches.
डेटा उल्लंघनों से बचाने के लिए सुरक्षा उपाय लागू करना।
- **Provide transparency** about how data is used and shared.
डेटा उपयोग और साझा करने की प्रक्रिया में पारदर्शिता बनाए रखना।
- **Comply with data protection laws** and regulatory guidelines.
डेटा संरक्षण कानूनों और विनियामक दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करना।
- **Example:**
 - **Social Media Platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)** act as **Data Fiduciaries** by collecting and processing user data.
सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म (जैसे Facebook, Twitter) उपयोगकर्ता डेटा एकत्र करके और संसाधित करके डेटा फिड्यूसरी के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
 - **Banks and Financial Institutions** handle sensitive financial data, making them **Data Fiduciaries**.
बैंक और वित्तीय संस्थान संवेदनशील वित्तीय डेटा का प्रबंधन करते हैं, जिससे वे डेटा फिड्यूसरी बनते हैं।
- **Relevant Law in India | भारत में प्रासंगिक कानून:**
 - **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act, 2023)** defines **Data Fiduciaries** and regulates their responsibilities.
डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023 (DPDP अधिनियम, 2023) में डेटा फिड्यूसरी को परिभाषित किया गया है और उनकी जिम्मेदारियों को विनियमित किया गया है।
 - **Entities processing large amounts of data** may be classified as **Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDFs)** with stricter compliance rules.
जो संस्थाएँ बड़ी मात्रा में डेटा संसाधित करती हैं, उन्हें महत्वपूर्ण डेटा फिड्यूसरी (SDFs) के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया जा सकता है, जिन पर सख्त नियम लागू होते हैं।



Govt. passes Bill to simplify maritime regulations

GS Paper III: Ease of doing Business

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed a Bill, which seeks to modernise provisions governing the carriage of goods by sea and simplify maritime regulations.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024, was passed by a voice vote. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 9, 2024.

It seeks to replace the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925, which establishes the responsibilities, liabilities, rights, and immunities in case of goods carried from one port to another port in India or abroad.

The new Bill retains all provisions of the Act.

“This new legislation is a part of the greater initiative of the government to rid ourselves of all vestiges of the colonial mindset and ensure ease doing business through simple and rationalised law,” Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal had said in Parliament before the Bill was passed.

Govt. passes Bill to simplify maritime regulations

सरकार ने समुद्री नियमों को सरल बनाने के लिए विधेयक पारित किया

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed a Bill that aims to modernize provisions related to the carriage of goods by sea and simplify maritime regulations.

लोकसभा ने शुक्रवार को एक विधेयक पारित किया, जिसका उद्देश्य समुद्री माल परिवहन से जुड़े प्रावधानों को आधुनिक बनाना और समुद्री नियमों को सरल बनाना है।

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024, was passed by a voice vote. माल के समुद्री परिवहन से संबंधित विधेयक, 2024, को ध्वनि मत से पारित किया गया।

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 9, 2024.

यह विधेयक 9 अगस्त 2024 को लोकसभा में प्रस्तुत किया गया था।

It aims to replace the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925, which defines responsibilities, liabilities, rights, and immunities for transporting goods between Indian and foreign ports.

यह विधेयक भारतीय समुद्री माल परिवहन अधिनियम, 1925 की जगह लेने के लिए लाया गया है, जो भारतीय और विदेशी बंदरगाहों के बीच माल परिवहन की जिम्मेदारियां, देनदारियां, अधिकार और छूट निर्धारित करता है।

The new Bill retains all provisions of the previous Act.

नया विधेयक पुराने अधिनियम के सभी प्रावधानों को बनाए रखता है।

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal stated that this legislation is part of the government's initiative to remove colonial-era laws and promote ease of doing business.

केंद्रीय बंदरगाह, नौवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री सर्बानंद सोनोवाल ने कहा कि यह विधेयक सरकार की उपनिवेशकालीन कानूनों से मुक्ति पाने और व्यापार को आसान बनाने की पहल का हिस्सा है।



University's negligence led to Nepal student's death: **NHRC**

KIIT officials handled the student's complaint prior to her death in a 'very casual manner', and their 'gross negligence' may be treated as act of 'abetment to commit suicide', says report

GS Paper II: NHRC

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission has said the negligence of the KIIT University in Odisha was responsible for the death of a Nepalese woman student on its campus last month. The panel's report deemed it an instance of abetment to suicide.

Expressing strong displeasure over the sequence of events leading to the death and a lackadaisical approach of the university authorities in handling the situation, the rights panel asked the Odisha Chief Secretary to submit an action-taken report.

On February 16, the 20-year-old student was found dead in her university hostel room. Subsequently, angry students began protesting on the campus, alleging that the university had ignored complaints of harassment. When tensions escalated, the university forcibly evicted more than 500 Nepalese students from the university.

Taking cognisance of the incident, the NHRC had directed its Registrar (Law) to conduct an on-



Students during a protest after a Nepalese student was found dead in her hostel room in KIIT University, Bhubaneswar last month. PTI

the-spot inquiry along with a team of two officers from its Investigation Division, one not below the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police, and another from the Law Division. The NHRC team found that the International Relation Office (IRO) of the KIIT did not act decisively on specific complaint of the deceased that she was being blackmailed by one of her classmates, Advik Shrivastava. The IRO handled the matter in a very casual manner, it found.

"The IRO office and disciplinary committee just got undertakings from the victim and the alleged ac-

cused rather than informing or referring to this complaint to the Internal Complaints Committee or the local police station," the NHRC findings say.

Gross negligence

"The Chairperson of the ICC has also admitted in her statement that the complaint of the deceased girl dated March 12, 2024 should have been forwarded to the ICC. Therefore, the conduct of the IRO, university officers and disciplinary committee and college authorities was sufficient to show that there is gross negligence and omission on their part

which may be treated as act of abetment to commit suicide on the part of the university officials, which finally resulted in her suicide," the right panel report further indicts.

The NHRC also found that the Nepalese students were ill-treated by the university officials with abusive and derogatory remarks.

"The registrar of university Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty and other witnesses have admitted that two administrative officers namely Jayanti Nath and Manjusha Pandey had misbehaved with Nepalese students and remarks made by them were improper, unacceptable and cannot be appreciated. Later, they said university officials were suspended, which itself proved that the shortcomings and negligence were on the part of university officials," the investigating team of NHRC said in the report.

"Regrettably, the university was unrepentant and even had the audacity to reply that there had been no merit in the allegations. This manifests sheer insensitivity, if not downright arrogance," it observed.

University's negligence led to Nepal student's death: NHRC

विश्वविद्यालय की लापरवाही ने नेपाल की छात्रा की मौत को जन्म दिया:



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



एनएचआरसी

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) stated that KIIT University's negligence in Odisha was responsible for the death of a Nepalese woman student last month.

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) ने कहा कि ओडिशा के केआईआईटी विश्वविद्यालय की लापरवाही पिछले महीने नेपाल की महिला छात्रा की मौत के लिए जिम्मेदार थी।

- The panel's report categorized the incident as **abetment to suicide**.
आयोग की रिपोर्ट में इस घटना को आत्महत्या के लिए उकसाने का मामला बताया गया।

Lack of action by university authorities

विश्वविद्यालय प्रशासन की निष्क्रियता

- The NHRC expressed **strong displeasure** over the university's **careless approach** in handling the situation.
एनएचआरसी ने विश्वविद्यालय के लापरवाह रवैये पर कड़ी नाराजगी जाहिर की।
- The panel directed the **Odisha Chief Secretary** to submit an **action-taken report**.
आयोग ने ओडिशा के मुख्य सचिव को की गई कार्रवाई की रिपोर्ट सौंपने का निर्देश दिया।

Incident details

घटना का विवरण

- On **February 16**, a **20-year-old student** was found **dead in her hostel room**.
16 फरवरी को 20 वर्षीय छात्रा को अपने हॉस्टल के कमरे में मृत पाया गया।
- Following the incident, **students began protesting**, alleging that the university **ignored harassment complaints**.
घटना के बाद, छात्रों ने प्रदर्शन शुरू कर दिया, यह आरोप लगाते हुए कि विश्वविद्यालय ने उत्पीड़न की शिकायतों को नजरअंदाज किया।
- As tensions rose, the **university forcibly evicted over 500 Nepalese students** from the campus.
स्थिति बिगड़ने पर विश्वविद्यालय ने जबरन 500 से अधिक नेपाली छात्रों को परिसर से बाहर निकाल दिया।



NHRC investigation findings

एनएचआरसी जांच के निष्कर्ष

- The NHRC formed a **special investigation team**, including its **Registrar (Law)**, a **Senior Superintendent of Police**, and a **Law Division officer**.
एनएचआरसी ने एक विशेष जांच दल गठित किया, जिसमें रजिस्ट्रार (कानून), एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक और एक कानून प्रभाग अधिकारी शामिल थे।
- The team found that the **International Relations Office (IRO) of KIIT University failed to act decisively** on a **blackmail complaint** filed by the deceased against her classmate **Advik Shrivastava**.
जांच दल ने पाया कि केआईआईटी विश्वविद्यालय के अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध कार्यालय (IRO) ने मृत छात्रा द्वारा उसके सहपाठी अद्विक श्रीवास्तव के खिलाफ दर्ज ब्लैकमेल की शिकायत पर ठोस कार्रवाई नहीं की।
- The **IRO and disciplinary committee** merely took **undertakings** from both parties, instead of informing the **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** or the **police**.
IRO और अनुशासन समिति ने आंतरिक शिकायत समिति (ICC) या पुलिस को सूचना देने के बजाय, केवल दोनों पक्षों से बयान लिए।

Gross negligence and accountability

गंभीर लापरवाही और जवाबदेही

- The **Chairperson of ICC** admitted that the deceased's **complaint dated March 12, 2024**, should have been forwarded to the committee.
आईसीसी की अध्यक्ष ने स्वीकार किया कि मृतक छात्रा की 12 मार्च 2024 की शिकायत आईसीसी को भेजी जानी चाहिए थी।
- The NHRC concluded that the **actions of IRO, university officials, and the disciplinary committee amounted to gross negligence**.
एनएचआरसी ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि IRO, विश्वविद्यालय अधिकारियों और अनुशासन समिति की कार्रवाई गंभीर लापरवाही की श्रेणी में आती है।
- The panel stated that this **negligence could be treated as abetment to suicide**.
आयोग ने कहा कि यह लापरवाही आत्महत्या के लिए उकसाने के बराबर मानी जा सकती है।

Maltreatment of Nepalese students

नेपाली छात्रों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार

- The NHRC found that **university officials mistreated Nepalese students** using **abusive and derogatory remarks**.



एनएचआरसी ने पाया कि विश्वविद्यालय के अधिकारियों ने नेपाली छात्रों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार किया और आपत्तिजनक व अनुचित टिप्पणियां कीं।

- Registrar Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty and other witnesses admitted that two administrative officers, Jayanti Nath and Manjusha Pandey, misbehaved with Nepalese students.

रजिस्ट्रार ज्ञान रंजन मोहंती और अन्य गवाहों ने स्वीकार किया कि दो प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, जयंती नाथ और मंजूषा पांडे, ने नेपाली छात्रों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार किया।

- These officials were later suspended, confirming the university's failure and negligence.

इन अधिकारियों को बाद में निलंबित कर दिया गया, जिससे विश्वविद्यालय की विफलता और लापरवाही साबित होती है।

University's insensitive response

विश्वविद्यालय की असंवेदनशील प्रतिक्रिया

- Despite strong evidence, the university denied any wrongdoing and stated that the allegations had no merit.

मजबूत सबूतों के बावजूद, विश्वविद्यालय ने किसी भी गलती से इनकार किया और कहा कि आरोप निराधार हैं।

- The NHRC criticized the university's unrepentant attitude, calling it "sheer insensitivity and arrogance".

एनएचआरसी ने विश्वविद्यालय के पश्चातापहीन रवैये की निंदा की, इसे "पूरी तरह असंवेदनशीलता और अहंकार" बताया।

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

1. Establishment of NHRC

- **Statutory Body:** Established in 1993 under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993** (not a constitutional body).
- **Amendment:** The Act was amended in 2006.
- **Purpose:** Acts as a **watchdog** for human rights in India, covering **life, liberty, equality, and dignity** as guaranteed by the **Constitution** and **international covenants** enforceable by Indian courts.

2. Objectives of NHRC

(a) **Strengthening institutional arrangements** for a more **focused approach** to human rights issues.



- (b) **Investigating human rights violations** independently of the government, reinforcing its commitment to human rights protection.
- (c) **Supporting and complementing existing efforts** to safeguard human rights.

3. Composition of NHRC

- **Multi-member body** consisting of:
 - **Chairperson: Retired Chief Justice of India.**
 - **Four members:**
 - **Serving or retired Supreme Court judges.**
 - **Serving or retired Chief Justice of a High Court.**
 - **Two experts with knowledge/experience in human rights.**
 - **Ex-officio members:**
 - **Chairpersons of:**
 - National Commission for **Minorities**
 - National Commission for **Scheduled Castes (SCs)**
 - National Commission for **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**
 - National Commission for **Women**

4. Appointment of NHRC Members

- **Appointed by the President** based on recommendations of a **six-member committee:**
 - **Prime Minister (Chairperson)**
 - **Speaker of Lok Sabha**
 - **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha**
 - **Leaders of Opposition** in both Houses of Parliament
 - **Union Home Minister**
- **Judges' Consultation:** If a **sitting Supreme Court judge** or a **Chief Justice of a High Court** is to be appointed, **consultation with the Chief Justice of India** is mandatory.

5. Tenure & Restrictions

- **Term: 5 years or until the age of 70 years**, whichever is earlier.
- **Post-Tenure Employment:** Chairperson and members are **not eligible** for further government employment (Central or State).



India's geopolitical vision should be larger

GS Paper II: India's Foreign Policy in New Global World Order

Earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for their "noble mission" to end the fighting between Ukraine and Russia. This has brought cheer to Indians.

But there is a question to be asked – Why has India refrained from playing a more active political role in regional and international conflicts around the world?

This is all the more surprising when one considers the decisive steps taken by Indian leaders in conflicts in the neighbourhood whether, *inter alia*, in Bangladesh in 1971 when India helped stop a genocide and give birth to a new nation; in the Maldives in 1988 by stopping armed mercenaries overthrow its President; in Sri Lanka in 2009 by helping in the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or, recently, by combating piracy in the region.

Let there be no mistake. India has been an active net contributor to global public good whether through the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic, robust climate action which includes establishing the International Solar Alliance, the sharing of digital public infrastructure to the world or its role as first responder during natural disasters.

A reticence

However, in the last two decades, India has, rightly, prioritised economic growth, both under the United Progressive Alliance and National Democratic Alliance governments. This has catapulted India to the rank of fifth largest economy. Having reached there, we seem to have convinced ourselves that if we take an active political role in global or regional conflicts, it could adversely affect our growth and development.

India's reticence may also stem from the fact that it feels that getting involved in regional conflicts will upset the strong bilateral relations that have been carefully cultivated with countries. Or that these conflicts are best left to key players in that region and outside, like in West Asia where India has big stakes but does not want to be more proactive than the Gulf countries, which are lukewarm to the unfolding tragedy in Gaza and the region. Yes, all of the above has some rationale. At a time when the world order is disintegrating, and with India having global ambitions of its own, India's geopolitical vision should be larger, which will only help, not hinder, our economic ambitions.

Historically, one will be right to say that India provided political leadership to the Non-Aligned Movement to empower developing countries emerging from colonisation to find their voice. One might also be right to say that our multi-alignment policy of today is an equally



T.S. Tirumurti

was Ambassador/
Permanent
Representative of
India to the United
Nations, New York
(2020-22) and
President of UN
Security Council for
August 2021

compelling political stand to navigate geopolitical fissures by strengthening our bilateral relations with every key country. But non-alignment was also for the Global South while multi-alignment is primarily for us.

However, when a country becomes the fifth largest economy, prides itself as a thriving democracy, aspires for a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) seat as a permanent member and also aspires to be an important pole in a multipolar world, the expectations of the international community from India only increase. India needs to do much more than take a stand or be a bystander. If in the UNSC, India claims that decisions are not credible without the participation of the world's largest democracy, then this logic applies equally to decisions taken outside the UNSC.

Mr. Putin's statement is an expression of gratitude to India's Prime Minister, who made a bold statement in his visiting Russia last year in the midst of the Ukraine war. India's decision to abstain on UNSC votes on the war, when there was considerable pressure to vote against Russia, influenced big developing countries to take a more balanced position on the war. Further, Mr. Modi had conveyed to the Russian President earlier that this is "not an era of war" and pressed him not to use nuclear arms. But Mr. Putin's statement is also a subtle encouragement to India to play a much bigger role. When India is one of the few countries with credibility which can speak to both Russia and Ukraine, should it not be on the high table?

There is a global reset

The flip side is that if India does not meet those expectations, it is ceding space to countries such as Türkiye or Saudi Arabia or Qatar, to tackle conflicts in Europe, West Asia, Africa, or the South China Sea, where the stakes for India are high. The meeting between Ukraine and Russia in 2022 took place in Türkiye. The U.S.-Russia and U.S.-Ukraine talks that took place in Saudi Arabia recently, fit into an ambitious Saudi Arabia's version of multi-alignment. And just now, the Presidents of Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo met in Qatar to forge a ceasefire in eastern Congo. Further, geopolitical clout is something the Trump 2.0 administration recognises, unlike when India was ignored by its 'strategic partner' the U.S. during Troika Plus talks on Afghanistan, or in Bangladesh recently, in India's own neighbourhood.

Faced with a global reset, with the U.S. and parts of Europe lurching to the right, where the U.S. could downsize its engagements in some regions, particularly Europe and Asia on the one hand, and with fragmentation of trade and rising protectionism on the other, India needs to reach outwards instead of just trying to protect its

space. Given that its adversarial relations with China are not going to vanish anytime soon and its trade deficit with China is set to increase with the supply chains closely linked, strengthening of alignments with friends in theatres outside the region is key. It becomes even more relevant when the U.S. and China move towards a "deal" which could end up dividing regions into their spheres of influence and the balance of power shifts in Asia, where the Quad (India, Japan, Australia and the U.S.) could potentially lose its strategic relevance and India comes under pressure.

A time for a shift and also reform

This calls for regional policies, since regional policy is not just the sum of India's bilateral relations with countries in that region, be it West Asia or Central Asia. For example, India developed close bilateral relations with the Central Asian countries and important regional stakes, but downgraded its participation in the regional grouping, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. East Asia demands India's enhanced attention too, especially after its refusal to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). This is the time for a strategic shift towards Europe, which is under pressure. And also a time to undertake internal economic reforms to enhance India's competitiveness and meet U.S. expectations on a bilateral trade agreement, which could be the fulcrum for a broader engagement with the Trump 2.0 administration. However, being proactive in conflicts does not mean that India becomes a mediator or passes messages from one party to another. Further, waiting for warring parties or a dominant power such as America to invite India may be a prudent policy, but they will not ask India unless New Delhi conveys its readiness to be a geopolitical player committed to international peace and security.

For example, India played an important role, but not a mediatory one, in the Korean war in the UN Security Council between 1951-52 barely four years after Indian independence. The fact that India was an impoverished nation did not deter it. In recognition, it was made chair of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. During India's recent stint in the UNSC (2021-22), it was a bridge for divergent views.

Therefore, in a "Trumpian" world, and as the world order gets shaped in favour of the big powers, both old and new, and when there is geopolitical fragmentation, even unilateralism, let us not treat economic development and geopolitics as mutually exclusive. We need to practise multi-alignment in all its dimensions to gain the full benefits. India should use the window of Trump 2.0 and emerge as a major pole by actively shaping a disintegrating world order.

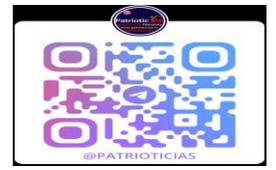
In a 'Trumpian' world, India must not treat economic development and geopolitics as mutually exclusive

India's geopolitical vision should be larger

भारत का भू-राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण व्यापक होना चाहिए

Earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for their efforts to end the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

इस महीने की शुरुआत में, रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी



सहित विश्व नेताओं का धन्यवाद किया, जिन्होंने यूक्रेन-रूस संघर्ष को समाप्त करने के प्रयास किए।

- This acknowledgment brought cheer to Indians.
इस स्वीकृति से भारतीयों में उत्साह बढ़ा।

India's limited political role in global conflicts

वैश्विक संघर्षों में भारत की सीमित राजनीतिक भूमिका

- Despite its historic interventions, India has avoided taking a more active role in global conflicts.
अपने ऐतिहासिक हस्तक्षेपों के बावजूद, भारत ने वैश्विक संघर्षों में अधिक सक्रिय भूमिका निभाने से परहेज किया है।
- In contrast, India played a decisive role in conflicts such as:
इसके विपरीत, भारत ने निम्नलिखित संघर्षों में निर्णायक भूमिका निभाई:
 - Bangladesh in 1971, where India helped stop a genocide and aided in the formation of a new nation.
1971 में बांग्लादेश, जहां भारत ने नरसंहार रोकने और एक नए राष्ट्र के निर्माण में मदद की।
 - Maldives in 1988, where India prevented an armed coup against its President.
1988 में मालदीव, जहां भारत ने राष्ट्रपति के खिलाफ सशस्त्र विद्रोह को रोका।
 - Sri Lanka in 2009, where India assisted in the defeat of the LTTE.
2009 में श्रीलंका, जहां भारत ने LTTE की हार में सहायता की।
 - Recent anti-piracy efforts in the region.
क्षेत्र में हाल ही में समुद्री डकैती के खिलाफ प्रयास।

India's contributions to global welfare

वैश्विक कल्याण में भारत का योगदान

- India has been a net contributor to global public good, including:
भारत वैश्विक सार्वजनिक भलाई में सक्रिय योगदानकर्ता रहा है, जिसमें शामिल हैं:
 - 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic.
कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान 'वैक्सीन मैत्री' पहल।
 - Robust climate action, including the establishment of the International Solar Alliance.
मजबूत जलवायु कार्रवाई, जिसमें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन की स्थापना शामिल है।
 - Sharing digital public infrastructure with the world.
वैश्विक स्तर पर डिजिटल सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना साझा करना।



- Acting as the first responder during natural disasters.
प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के दौरान प्रथम प्रतिक्रिया देने वाला देश बनना।

India's strategic reticence

भारत की रणनीतिक संकोच

- Over the last two decades, India has prioritized economic growth, under both the UPA and NDA governments.
पिछले दो दशकों में, भारत ने यूपीए और एनडीए सरकारों के तहत आर्थिक विकास को प्राथमिकता दी है।
- This has led to India becoming the world's fifth-largest economy.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप भारत विश्व की पांचवीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन गया है।
- However, India now believes that taking an active political role in conflicts may harm its economic growth.
हालांकि, अब भारत मानता है कि संघर्षों में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाने से आर्थिक विकास प्रभावित हो सकता है।

Concerns about bilateral relations

द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को लेकर चिंताएँ

- India may fear that involvement in regional conflicts could damage strong bilateral ties.
भारत को आशंका है कि क्षेत्रीय संघर्षों में हस्तक्षेप से मजबूत द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को नुकसान हो सकता है।
- India also avoids being more proactive than key regional players, such as in West Asia, where it has significant economic stakes.
भारत मुख्य क्षेत्रीय खिलाड़ियों से अधिक सक्रिय भूमिका निभाने से बचता है, जैसे कि पश्चिम एशिया, जहां उसके महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक हित हैं।
- Despite this, India's global ambitions demand a larger geopolitical vision.
इसके बावजूद, भारत की वैश्विक महत्वाकांक्षाएँ एक व्यापक भू-राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण की मांग करती हैं।

Historical leadership and changing priorities

ऐतिहासिक नेतृत्व और बदलती प्राथमिकताएँ

- Historically, India led the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), helping developing nations find their voice.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, भारत गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन (NAM) का नेतृत्व करता था, जिससे विकासशील देशों को अपनी आवाज़ बुलंद करने में मदद मिली।



- Today, India follows a **multi-alignment policy**, which **strengthens bilateral ties with key nations**.
आज, भारत बहु-संरेखण नीति अपनाता है, जो प्रमुख देशों के साथ द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूत करता है।
- However, **NAM supported the Global South**, whereas **multi-alignment primarily benefits India**.
हालांकि, **NAM वैश्विक दक्षिण (Global South) के लिए था**, जबकि **बहु-संरेखण नीति मुख्य रूप से भारत के लिए फायदेमंद है।**

The need for greater global responsibility

वैश्विक स्तर पर अधिक जिम्मेदारी की आवश्यकता

- As the **fifth-largest economy**, a **thriving democracy**, and an **aspirant for a permanent seat in the UNSC**, **global expectations from India are increasing**.
पांचवीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था, सशक्त लोकतंत्र, और संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में स्थायी सदस्यता के दावेदार के रूप में, भारत से वैश्विक अपेक्षाएँ बढ़ रही हैं।
- India **cannot remain a bystander**; it must **do more than just taking a stand**.
भारत सिर्फ दर्शक नहीं रह सकता; उसे सिर्फ स्थिति स्पष्ट करने से अधिक करना होगा।
- If India argues that **UNSC decisions lack credibility without its participation**, the **same logic applies to global decisions outside the UNSC**.
यदि भारत यह तर्क देता है कि **UNSC में बिना उसकी भागीदारी के निर्णय विश्वसनीय नहीं होते**, तो यही तर्क **UNSC के बाहर लिए गए वैश्विक निर्णयों पर भी लागू होता है।**

Mr. Putin's statement is an expression of gratitude to India

पुतिन का बयान भारत के प्रति आभार की अभिव्यक्ति है

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his bold stance on the Ukraine war during his visit to Russia last year**.
रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का पिछले साल रूस दौर के दौरान यूक्रेन युद्ध पर साहसिक रुख अपनाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।
- **India abstained from UNSC votes on the war, despite pressure to vote against Russia, influencing big developing countries to take a more balanced stance**.
भारत ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) में युद्ध पर मतदान से परहेज किया, जबकि रूस के खिलाफ वोट देने का दबाव था, जिससे बड़े विकासशील देशों को संतुलित रुख अपनाने में मदद मिली।
- **Modi told Putin that "this is not an era of war" and urged him not to use nuclear weapons**.



मोदी ने पुतिन से कहा कि "यह युद्ध का युग नहीं है" और परमाणु हथियारों के उपयोग से बचने का आग्रह किया।

- Putin's statement is also a subtle encouragement for India to play a bigger global role.

पुतिन का यह बयान भारत को वैश्विक स्तर पर बड़ी भूमिका निभाने के लिए एक संकेत भी है।

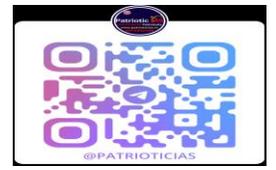
- As one of the few countries with credibility that can engage with both Russia and Ukraine, India should have a seat at the high table.

भारत उन कुछ देशों में से एक है जिसकी विश्वसनीयता रूस और यूक्रेन दोनों से बातचीत करने की क्षमता रखती है, इसलिए भारत को उच्च स्तर की वार्ताओं में शामिल होना चाहिए।

There is a global reset

वैश्विक स्तर पर पुनर्संरचना हो रही है

- If India does not take up these expectations, it will cede space to countries like Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, or Qatar in global conflicts.
यदि भारत इन अपेक्षाओं को नहीं अपनाता, तो वह तुर्की, सऊदी अरब या कतर जैसे देशों को वैश्विक संघर्षों में अपनी जगह लेने देगा।
- Türkiye hosted Russia-Ukraine talks in 2022, while Saudi Arabia facilitated U.S.-Russia and U.S.-Ukraine talks.
2022 में तुर्की ने रूस-यूक्रेन वार्ता की मेजबानी की, जबकि सऊदी अरब ने अमेरिका-रूस और अमेरिका-यूक्रेन वार्ताओं को आगे बढ़ाया।
- Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo held ceasefire talks in Qatar.
रवांडा और कांगो लोकतांत्रिक गणराज्य ने कतर में युद्धविराम वार्ता की।
- Geopolitical influence is recognized by the U.S., and ignoring India in key discussions (e.g., Troika Plus talks on Afghanistan) shows a missed opportunity.
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने भू-राजनीतिक प्रभाव को मान्यता दी है, और ट्रोइका प्लस वार्ता (अफगानिस्तान पर चर्चा) से भारत को बाहर रखना एक खोया हुआ अवसर दिखाता है।
- With the U.S. and parts of Europe shifting to the right, their focus may reduce on certain global issues, making it crucial for India to step up.
अमेरिका और यूरोप के कुछ हिस्सों के दक्षिणपंथ की ओर झुकाव के कारण, उनकी वैश्विक मुद्दों पर पकड़ कमजोर हो सकती है, जिससे भारत के लिए आगे आना आवश्यक हो जाता है।
- India-China trade deficit is increasing, and supply chains are closely linked, necessitating strengthening ties with friendly nations outside the region.
भारत-चीन व्यापार घाटा बढ़ रहा है, और आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएं गहराई से जुड़ी हुई हैं, जिससे क्षेत्र से बाहर मित्र देशों के साथ संबंध मजबूत करना आवश्यक हो जाता है।
- If U.S. and China reach a deal, Asia's power balance may shift, impacting the Quad (India, Japan, Australia, U.S.) and India's strategic relevance.
यदि अमेरिका और चीन किसी समझौते पर पहुंचते हैं, तो एशिया की शक्ति संतुलन बदल सकती है, जिससे क्वाड (भारत, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, अमेरिका) की रणनीतिक प्रासंगिकता प्रभावित हो सकती है।



A time for a shift and also reform

बदलाव और सुधार का समय

- India needs regional policies beyond just bilateral ties, especially in West Asia and Central Asia.
भारत को सिर्फ द्विपक्षीय संबंधों तक सीमित न रहते हुए क्षेत्रीय नीतियों की आवश्यकता है, खासकर पश्चिम एशिया और मध्य एशिया में।
- India built strong ties with Central Asian countries, but downgraded its participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
भारत ने मध्य एशियाई देशों के साथ मजबूत संबंध बनाए, लेकिन शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) में अपनी भागीदारी को कम कर दिया।
- East Asia also needs India's focus, especially after it refused to join the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership).
पूर्वी एशिया को भी भारत के अधिक ध्यान की आवश्यकता है, खासकर जब भारत ने क्षेत्रीय व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी (RCEP) में शामिल होने से इनकार कर दिया।
- Strategic engagement with Europe is needed as it faces economic and political pressure.
यूरोप के साथ रणनीतिक जुड़ाव आवश्यक है, क्योंकि वह आर्थिक और राजनीतिक दबाव का सामना कर रहा है।
- India must also undertake internal economic reforms to boost competitiveness and secure a U.S. bilateral trade agreement.
भारत को आंतरिक आर्थिक सुधारों को अपनाने की आवश्यकता है, ताकि प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बढ़े और अमेरिका के साथ द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौता संभव हो।
- Being proactive in conflicts does not mean mediation; India must position itself as a responsible geopolitical player.
संघर्षों में सक्रिय होने का मतलब मध्यस्थता करना नहीं है; भारत को एक जिम्मेदार भू-राजनीतिक खिलाड़ी के रूप में स्थापित करना चाहिए।
- Waiting for an invitation from the U.S. or dominant powers is not a viable strategy; India must assert its role proactively.
अमेरिका या अन्य शक्तिशाली देशों से आमंत्रण का इंतजार करना व्यावहारिक रणनीति नहीं है; भारत को स्वयं अपनी भूमिका स्पष्ट रूप से स्थापित करनी होगी

India's past role in conflict resolution

संघर्ष समाधान में भारत की पूर्व भूमिका

- India played a key role in the Korean War (1951-52), just four years after independence, proving its capability in global peace efforts.



भारत ने कोरियाई युद्ध (1951-52) में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, स्वतंत्रता के सिर्फ चार साल बाद, जिससे उसकी वैश्विक शांति प्रयासों में क्षमता साबित हुई।

- This led to India being appointed as chair of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission.

इसके कारण भारत को न्यूट्रल नेशंस रेपट्रिएशन कमीशन (तटस्थ राष्ट्र प्रत्यावर्तन आयोग) का अध्यक्ष बनाया गया।

- During its recent UNSC tenure (2021-22), India acted as a bridge for diverse opinions.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) के हालिया कार्यकाल (2021-22) के दौरान, भारत ने विभिन्न विचारों के बीच सेतु का काम किया।

India must seize the Trump 2.0 opportunity

भारत को ट्रंप 2.0 के अवसर का लाभ उठाना चाहिए

- In a changing world order, where big powers reshape geopolitics, India must not isolate economic growth from strategic engagement.

बदलती वैश्विक व्यवस्था में, जहां बड़ी शक्तियां भू-राजनीति को नया आकार दे रही हैं, भारत को आर्थिक विकास और रणनीतिक भागीदारी को अलग नहीं रखना चाहिए।

- Practicing multi-alignment in all its dimensions will maximize India's global benefits.

सभी स्तरों पर बहु-संरेखण (multi-alignment) का अभ्यास करना भारत के वैश्विक लाभ को अधिकतम करेगा।

- India must use the geopolitical opportunity under Trump 2.0 to establish itself as a key global power.

भारत को ट्रंप 2.0 के तहत भू-राजनीतिक अवसर का उपयोग करना चाहिए, ताकि वह एक प्रमुख वैश्विक शक्ति के रूप में उभर सके।



Advantage China in Africa's nuclear energy market race

GS Paper II: Africa

The Russia-Ukraine war has demonstrated the importance of energy security, where many European countries were caught scrambling and developing new energy partnerships. The devastating impact of the war did not spare Africa too despite the geographical distance. As African leaders are reworking the energy basket of their countries, nuclear energy is emerging as the driver of this energy transformation.

Currently, Africa has only one nuclear plant, at Koeberg in South Africa, built by a French consortium. However, other African countries, which includes Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya and Zambia, are projecting the use of nuclear energy to enhance electricity access for their citizens.

According to some estimates, Africa is expected to generate 15,000 MW of nuclear energy by 2035. Africa's nuclear energy market is poised for significant growth, representing an investment opportunity of \$105 billion. Unsurprisingly, many countries want a slice of this strategic market.

The scramble for Africa's nuclear market

So far, France has dominated Africa's nuclear market. However, it is rapidly losing its influence and struggling to maintain its relevance, particularly in Francophone Africa. Meanwhile, since 2023, the United States has been organising the US-Africa Nuclear Energy Summit (USANES). However, it will depend on U.S. President Donald Trump on whether and how he wants to proceed with the U.S.'s nuclear expansion plan in Africa.

Russia, another important player in Africa's nuclear market, has inked several agreements with Egypt, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Burundi. Since July 2022, Russia's Rosatom has been building a reactor in El Dabaa, Egypt, though progress is slow. With Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power (KHNP) at the helm, South Korea has also shown its interest in capturing this untapped market. However, the country that is



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With a number of African countries reworking their energy basket, Beijing could emerge as the partner country of choice

undoubtedly winning the race for the nuclear market is China.

Explaining China's dominance

China's nuclear ambition in Africa is a relatively new phenomenon. In 2012, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the China Atomic Energy Authority began a scholarship programme for students from African and South Asian countries wishing to develop national nuclear programmes. It served, among other things, to provide training in Chinese procedures and equipment to increase the chances of African countries purchasing them. Today, China has more than 50 operating reactors. Undoubtedly, China has emerged as an attractive partner for African countries interested in developing nuclear energy.

China's nuclear expansion in Africa is being spearheaded by two large state-owned companies – the China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN) and the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

In 2024, during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing, Nigeria signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China that includes the design, construction, operation, upgrading, maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear power stations in Nigeria. The visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Nigeria in early 2025 further cemented this collaboration.

At the same summit, Uganda also signed an MoU with China to build a 2 GW nuclear plant. The first unit, of 1 GW, is expected to be connected to the grid by 2031. Kenya also plans to have a research reactor in operation by 2030. While Kenya is still open on its choice of partner country, Ghana has selected the U.S.-based NuScale Power and Regnum Technology Group to build its Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), while China National Nuclear Corporation is set to build a Large Reactor (LR).

In West Africa, the junta leaders of Burkina

Faso, Niger and Mali are all leading pro-Russian governments, and signed an MoU with Russia on the sidelines of the Russia-Africa Summit 2023. Although they have approached the Russian nuclear behemoth, Rosatom, to build their nuclear capacity, the massive investment required to make a nuclear power plant and Russia's own economic stagnation due to the Ukraine war and associated sanctions may deter Russia from investing on such a large scale in far-away Africa. This would again most likely push these countries, desperate for foreign investment, toward China.

Africa's nuclear ambition, impact on India

As the global drive toward cleaner and more efficient energy accelerates, Africa will increasingly consider nuclear energy as a panacea to the problem. Therefore, regardless of China and the debt trap risk, African countries would look to Chinese financing to support them in their nuclear journey. Today, China is already leading the race in constructing new nuclear power plants across the world.

Further, very few African countries possess the transmission networks required to receive and distribute power from these nuclear plants. China can also help build these transmission networks under the framework of its schemes such as the "Belt and Road Initiative". If China manages to do that, this will not only enhance its position as a leader in Africa's clean energy market but also entrench its overall dominance in Africa.

As of January 30, 2025, India's nuclear generation capacity is 8,180 MW. As India aims to generate 100GW of nuclear energy by 2047, it would be important for India to secure African uranium. In 2009, India signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Namibia. India also plans to develop some uranium mining projects in Niger and Namibia. Yet, with increasing Chinese dominance, it would be harder for India to venture in Africa's nuclear market, impacting India's energy security in the long run.

Advantage China in Africa's nuclear energy market race

अफ्रीका के परमाणु ऊर्जा बाजार की दौड़ में चीन को बढ़त

The Russia-Ukraine war has highlighted the importance of energy security, forcing many European nations to develop new energy partnerships.

रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध ने ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के महत्व को उजागर किया, जिससे कई यूरोपीय देशों को नई ऊर्जा साझेदारियों को विकसित करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा।

- Despite **geographical distance**, Africa was also impacted by the war, prompting African leaders to reconsider their energy policies.

भौगोलिक दूरी के बावजूद, अफ्रीका पर भी युद्ध का प्रभाव पड़ा, जिससे अफ्रीकी नेताओं को अपनी ऊर्जा नीतियों पर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा।

- Nuclear energy is emerging as a **key solution** for Africa's energy transformation. परमाणु ऊर्जा अफ्रीका के ऊर्जा परिवर्तन के लिए एक प्रमुख समाधान बनकर उभर रही है।



Africa's growing nuclear energy market

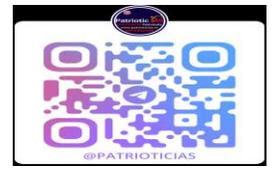
अफ्रीका का बढ़ता परमाणु ऊर्जा बाजार

- Currently, **Africa has only one nuclear power plant, located at Koeberg, South Africa, built by a French consortium.**
वर्तमान में, अफ्रीका में केवल एक परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र है, जो दक्षिण अफ्रीका के कोएबर्ग में स्थित है और इसे फ्रांसीसी समूह द्वारा बनाया गया था।
- **Countries like Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, and Zambia are planning to adopt nuclear energy to improve electricity access.**
घाना, नाइजीरिया, सूडान, रवांडा, केन्या और जाम्बिया जैसे देश बिजली की पहुंच बढ़ाने के लिए परमाणु ऊर्जा अपनाने की योजना बना रहे हैं।
- **By 2035, Africa is expected to generate 15,000 MW of nuclear power.**
2035 तक, अफ्रीका से 15,000 मेगावाट परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पादन की उम्मीद है।
- **The African nuclear energy market presents an investment opportunity worth \$105 billion.**
अफ्रीकी परमाणु ऊर्जा बाजार में \$105 बिलियन का निवेश अवसर मौजूद है।
- **Several global powers are competing for a share in this strategic market.**
कई वैश्विक शक्तियां इस रणनीतिक बाजार में हिस्सेदारी के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रही हैं।

The scramble for Africa's nuclear market

अफ्रीका के परमाणु बाजार के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा

- **France has historically dominated Africa's nuclear market, but is now struggling to maintain its influence, especially in Francophone Africa.**
फ्रांस ने ऐतिहासिक रूप से अफ्रीका के परमाणु बाजार पर प्रभुत्व बनाए रखा था, लेकिन अब वह विशेष रूप से फ्रैंकोफोन अफ्रीका में अपनी पकड़ बनाए रखने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहा है।
- **Since 2023, the United States has been organizing the US-Africa Nuclear Energy Summit (USANES).**
2023 से, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका यूएस-अफ्रीका परमाणु ऊर्जा शिखर सम्मेलन (USANES) का आयोजन कर रहा है।
- **The future of the U.S.'s nuclear expansion in Africa will depend on President Donald Trump's policy direction.**
अफ्रीका में अमेरिका की परमाणु विस्तार योजना का भविष्य राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की नीतियों पर निर्भर करेगा।
- **Russia has signed agreements with Egypt, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Burundi to expand its nuclear influence in Africa.**
रूस ने मिस्र, माली, बुर्किना फासो और बुरुंडी के साथ समझौते किए हैं ताकि वह अफ्रीका में अपना परमाणु प्रभाव बढ़ा सके।



- Since July 2022, Russia's Rosatom has been constructing a nuclear reactor in El Dabaa, Egypt, but progress has been slow.
जुलाई 2022 से, रूस की रोसाटॉम कंपनी मिस्र के एल डब्बा में एक परमाणु रिएक्टर का निर्माण कर रही है, लेकिन काम धीमी गति से चल रहा है।
- South Korea's KHNP (Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power) is also trying to enter Africa's nuclear energy market.
दक्षिण कोरिया की KHNP (कोरिया हाइड्रो एंड न्यूक्लियर पावर) भी अफ्रीका के परमाणु ऊर्जा बाजार में प्रवेश करने का प्रयास कर रही है।
- However, China is currently leading the race in securing Africa's nuclear energy market.
हालांकि, अभी चीन इस दौड़ में सबसे आगे है, और वह अफ्रीका के परमाणु ऊर्जा बाजार को सुरक्षित करने में सफल हो रहा है।

Explaining China's dominance

चीन के प्रभुत्व की व्याख्या

- China's nuclear ambition in Africa is a recent development.
अफ्रीका में चीन की परमाणु महत्वाकांक्षा एक हालिया विकास है।
- In 2012, China collaborated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to start a scholarship program for African and South Asian students.
2012 में, चीन ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA) के साथ मिलकर अफ्रीकी और दक्षिण एशियाई छात्रों के लिए एक छात्रवृत्ति कार्यक्रम शुरू किया।
- This program helped train African nations in Chinese nuclear procedures and equipment, increasing the chances of Chinese nuclear technology adoption.
इस कार्यक्रम ने अफ्रीकी देशों को चीनी परमाणु प्रक्रियाओं और उपकरणों में प्रशिक्षित किया, जिससे चीनी परमाणु तकनीक अपनाने की संभावना बढ़ी।
- China has over 50 operational nuclear reactors, making it an attractive partner for African countries seeking nuclear energy development.
चीन के पास 50 से अधिक परिचालन परमाणु रिएक्टर हैं, जिससे वह परमाणु ऊर्जा विकसित करने की इच्छुक अफ्रीकी देशों के लिए आकर्षक साझेदार बन गया है।

China's nuclear expansion strategy

चीन की परमाणु विस्तार रणनीति

- China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN) and China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) are leading China's nuclear expansion in Africa.



चीन जनरल न्यूक्लियर पावर ग्रुप (CGN) और चाइना नेशनल न्यूक्लियर कॉरपोरेशन (CNNC) अफ्रीका में चीन के परमाणु विस्तार का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं।

- In 2024, during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing, Nigeria signed an MoU with China for the design, construction, and maintenance of nuclear power stations.

2024 में, बीजिंग में चीन-अफ्रीका सहयोग मंच (FOCAC) के दौरान, नाइजीरिया ने चीन के साथ परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्रों के डिजाइन, निर्माण और रखरखाव के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

- In early 2025, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Nigeria, strengthening bilateral nuclear cooperation.

2025 की शुरुआत में, चीन के विदेश मंत्री वांग यी ने नाइजीरिया का दौरा किया, जिससे द्विपक्षीय परमाणु सहयोग मजबूत हुआ।

Uganda also signed an MoU with China to build a 2 GW nuclear plant, with 1 GW expected to be operational by 2031.

युगांडा ने भी चीन के साथ परमाणु संयंत्र के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसमें 2 गीगावाट क्षमता होगी और 1 गीगावाट 2031 तक चालू होने की उम्मीद है।

- Kenya aims to have a research reactor by 2030 but has not yet finalized its nuclear partner.

केन्या 2030 तक एक अनुसंधान रिएक्टर स्थापित करने की योजना बना रहा है, लेकिन उसने अभी तक अपने परमाणु साझेदार को अंतिम रूप नहीं दिया है।

- Ghana has selected U.S.-based NuScale Power and Regnum Technology Group for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), while China's CNNC will build a Large Reactor (LR).

घाना ने छोटे मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर (SMRs) के लिए अमेरिकी कंपनी NuScale Power और Regnum Technology Group को चुना है, जबकि चीन की CNNC एक बड़े रिएक्टर (LR) का निर्माण करेगी।

- Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali, with their pro-Russian governments, signed an MoU with Russia's Rosatom during the Russia-Africa Summit 2023.

बुर्किना फासो, नाइजर और माली, जिनकी सरकारें रूस समर्थक हैं, ने रूस-अफ्रीका शिखर सम्मेलन 2023 के दौरान रूसी कंपनी रोसाटॉम के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

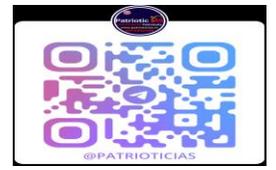
- However, Russia's economic struggles due to the Ukraine war and sanctions may limit its investments in Africa, pushing these nations toward China.

हालांकि, यूक्रेन युद्ध और प्रतिबंधों के कारण रूस की आर्थिक समस्याएं उसे अफ्रीका में निवेश करने से रोक सकती हैं, जिससे ये देश चीन की ओर आकर्षित हो सकते हैं।

Africa's nuclear ambition and its impact on India

अफ्रीका की परमाणु महत्वाकांक्षा और भारत पर इसका प्रभाव

- As the world moves toward clean and efficient energy, African nations see nuclear energy as a key solution.



जैसे-जैसे दुनिया स्वच्छ और कुशल ऊर्जा की ओर बढ़ रही है, अफ्रीकी देश परमाणु ऊर्जा को एक महत्वपूर्ण समाधान के रूप में देख रहे हैं।

- **Despite concerns about China's debt trap, African nations are likely to rely on Chinese financing for nuclear projects.**

चीन के ऋण जाल (Debt Trap) को लेकर चिंताओं के बावजूद, अफ्रीकी देश परमाणु परियोजनाओं के लिए चीनी वित्तपोषण पर निर्भर रह सकते हैं।

- **China is already the global leader in nuclear power plant construction.**
चीन पहले से ही परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्रों के निर्माण में वैश्विक नेता है।
- **Many African nations lack power transmission networks, and China could fill this gap through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).**

कई अफ्रीकी देशों के पास बिजली पारेषण नेटवर्क नहीं हैं, और चीन अपने बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) के माध्यम से इस कमी को पूरा कर सकता है।

- **If China successfully builds these networks, it will solidify its dominance in Africa's clean energy market.**

यदि चीन इन नेटवर्कों का निर्माण करने में सफल होता है, तो यह अफ्रीका के स्वच्छ ऊर्जा बाजार में अपनी प्रधानता को मजबूत करेगा।

India's nuclear energy goals and African uranium

भारत की परमाणु ऊर्जा महत्वाकांक्षा और अफ्रीकी यूरेनियम

- **As of January 30, 2025, India's nuclear generation capacity is 8,180 MW.**
30 जनवरी 2025 तक, भारत की परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पादन क्षमता 8,180 मेगावाट है।
- **India aims to generate 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047, making African uranium a crucial resource.**

भारत का लक्ष्य 2047 तक 100 गीगावाट परमाणु ऊर्जा उत्पन्न करना है, जिससे अफ्रीकी यूरेनियम एक महत्वपूर्ण संसाधन बन जाता है।

- **In 2009, India signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Namibia.**

2009 में, भारत ने नामीबिया के साथ एक नागरिक परमाणु सहयोग समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

- **India also plans to develop uranium mining projects in Niger and Namibia.**

भारत नाइजर और नामीबिया में यूरेनियम खनन परियोजनाओं को विकसित करने की योजना बना रहा है।

- **However, China's growing dominance in Africa's nuclear sector will make it harder for India to enter the African market.**

हालांकि, अफ्रीका के परमाणु क्षेत्र में चीन का बढ़ता प्रभुत्व भारत के लिए इस बाजार में प्रवेश करना कठिन बना सकता है।

- **This could impact India's long-term energy security.**

इससे भारत की दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा सुरक्षा प्रभावित हो सकती है।



Beyond Bengaluru: story of villages

Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, proposes to add 24 urbanised villages around Bengaluru to the city's civic limits. **Shreyas H.S.** visits some of the villages to discover the contrasting realities there

GS Paper II: Local Governance

Pointing to the high-rises under construction, 70-year-old Muniyamma recalled a starkly different Bagaluru, an urbanised village, off Ballari Road in Bengaluru North taluk. Fifteen years ago, it was a quiet expanse where only a handful of men and women toiled on fertile farmland. But in just over a decade, the village panchayat's landscape has morphed into an urban sprawl.

Lured by what was then called a "good price" by real estate agents, Muniyamma's husband sold the small landholding he had for a pittance compared to land prices now. Muniyamma has embraced the inevitable, setting up a small tea stall to sustain her family. "The fields are gone, industries have taken over, and the village's population has surged beyond anything I could have imagined," she said.

The catalyst? — Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), established in 2008, at Devanahalli. "Once the airport came up industries followed, paving the way for real estate. The airport is barely 15 km from here, and we are absorbed into Bengaluru," she said.

Like a cinematic time-lapse capturing the shifting geography of a place, Muniyamma narrated the transformation of Bagaluru: "In the lands where farmers were ploughing to cultivate paddy, clusters of high-rise apartments are being constructed. The billboards have replaced tall trees, narrow roads are widened, and land rates are soaring and with this, the panchayat is absorbing people from outside. The population has increased from about 2,500 to 15,000," Muniyamma said in one breath.



Jigani town has a thriving stone industry with dealers offering a wide variety of natural stones like granite, marble, and limestone, for construction. **K. MURALI KUMAR**

Integration of villages

The tale of Bagaluru is not very different from the stories of 23 other villages around Bengaluru that the State government is planning to integrate with the city's municipal limits under the proposed Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, recently passed in the legislature but now sent back to the government by a Governor seeking clarifications.

These 24 villages remain villages only on paper and are, in fact, completely urbanised. They now have industries, tech parks, educational institutions, gated communities, and apartment complexes dotting their landscape. The influx of urban migration has brought with it a host of urban problems.

The rural and town municipal governance structures for these areas are not equipped to handle them. However, the rationale behind the proposal to include these villages in Bengaluru's civic limits also includes their revenue-generating potential, given the real estate and development stagnation in the core areas of Bengaluru in the long run.

Back in 2008

This offers a sense of deja vu, as in 2008, Bengaluru's civic administration expanded from the erstwhile 225 sq. km. to 708 sq. km. by incorporating seven City Municipal Corporations and one Town Municipal Corporation apart from 110 villages, forming the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The GBG Bill, 2024, argues this experiment has been a failure and opts for multiple corporations to govern the city.



A lot of Bengaluru's woes result from haphazard development in erstwhile peripheral areas... And they continue to grow beyond BBMP today.

V. RAVICHANDAR, member of BBMP Restructuring Committee

Taluk and urban villages

- **Bengaluru North**
Gulabehalli, Totadaguddadahalli, Srikanthapura, Anjaneppaly, Chikkatandakhalu, Kodigehalli (part), Chikka Banavara, Madanayakanahalli
- **Bengaluru North (A para)**
Chikkajajala, Bagalur, Sathanur, Sughatta, Kadiganahalli, Hunasemaranahalli
- **Bengaluru South**
Doddathoguru, Bettadasanapura
- **Bengaluru East**
Avotahalli, Halanayakanahalli
- **Anekal**
Dommasandra, Hebbagodi, Maragondanahalli, Bommasandra, Sarjapur, Attibele, Jigani

"A lot of Bengaluru's woes result from haphazard development in these erstwhile peripheral areas — engulfed rural and urban settlements, and large new developments put up by developers for thousands of new residents and offices in the middle of panchayat areas. And they continue to grow beyond BBMP today," said V. Ravichandar, member of the BBMP Restructuring Committee, which has recommended a municipalisation commission to deal with peripheral growth of the city.

One of the key drivers of this change is the availability of empty plots of land for development, a resource that is severely stressed within the present city. In most Western cities, the downtown (core city) gets commercialised with workspaces and shopping hubs, even as residences are thrown to the suburbs.

However, when the IT boom knocked on the doors of Bengaluru, space was premium in the core, pushing for these new workspaces that drive large-scale migration to this day, coming up in the suburbs — mainly due to the availability of land. However, this development was completely market-driven with the government regulation playing catch up, leading to haphazard development, encroachment of water bodies and storm water drains etc. What is unfolding now is no different.

Contrasting Realities

The villages now slated for inclusion into the city offer a picture of contrasting realities — swanky tech parks housing IT giants, commercial shopping hubs and luxury villas and apartments on the one side, besides problem-ridden village



The incomplete Dommasandra flyover at Sarjapur has become a bottleneck, causing long traffic jams. **K. MURALI KUMAR**

pockets that house people who have sold their lands for a pittance. Many of them, in the same breath, talk of their idyllic past with nostalgia, even as they see a glimmer of hope of a better tomorrow with them joining Bengaluru. Right now, they are struggling to make ends meet.

Jigani, an industrial town 28 km from the city's centre, in Anekal taluk, is run by a Town Municipal Council. Dotted with small and large-scale automobile engineering industries, packaging and granite industries providing employment to thousands of people, Jigani has seen a huge influx of urban migration of not just the labour force, but upper-middle-class sections as well. One sees apartments and gated communities springing up everywhere. The town's population density has shot through the roof. The roads in the industrial area are in a bad condition everywhere.

Krishnan Umni, a manager in an automobile parts manufacturing industry, said, "The area needs good roads, improved underground drainage system, uninterrupted power supply to homes, improved markets, vending zones, and public education infrastructure." He hopes joining the bandwagon of Bengaluru will bring the desired change.

Only a short distance away, Lakshman M. was grazing his sheep, inhabiting a different world. He said urbanisation had not brought any change in his life. Apart from some locals who work as domestic workers in the nearby villas, many are still unemployed, he said. "The industries employ outsiders for work despite them standing on the land the locals provided for meagre compensation. We can neither afford to buy land that costs about ₹1.5 crore per acre nor rent a space to do business. We can only graze sheep to survive," he solemnly said.

Twelve years ago, 75-year-old Sardar, a long-time resident of Sathanur village in North Bengaluru, parted with his 3.5-acre land for ₹3,80,000, a decision that haunts him to this day. What seemed like a fair deal at the time has become his big regret, as the land's value has soared beyond imagination, leaving him with nothing but memories of what once belonged to him.

An acre of converted land now costs ₹1 crore. Although apartment complexes are yet to make their way into the village, people are constructing three-floor houses to generate revenue through rent. With a private university and an upscale school close by, the village is fast embracing development. The paying guest accommodations is a lucrative business, and so are eateries that cater to students. Sardar walking down memory lane says ragi and paddy cultivation has vanished in less than two decades but firmly says transformation is inevitable.

In the villages planned for integration into Bengaluru, the farmers have either sold or have been selling lands for layouts, housing projects and industries. Some also say this is an opportunity to make money and invest in profitable businesses. Shivashankarappa, a former member of Bommasandra Town Municipal Council said, "We have sold the land for reasonable compensation for industries. The locals here have now engaged in business activities, an opportunity came along with the establishment of industries." But he laments that the infrastructure of the area is crumbling.

The land prices in areas like Attibele, Bommasandra, Chikkajajala, and Sarjapur are even higher.

The towering IT giants of Sarjapur and Bommasandra rise amidst sprawling tech parks, standing as symbols of rapid urbanization fueled by a booming real estate market and a thriving job sector.

The economic ripple effect is evident — trendy pubs, upscale restaurants, and bustling eateries are springing up, eager to cater to the growing workforce and affluent residents of the area. In some pockets, the transformation is so profound that they mirror Bengaluru's Central Business District, pulsating with energy, commerce, and urban sophistication.

In Attibele, although the layouts are carved and villas are built, places tucked away from the bustling commercial establishments, the silence lingers. Ashwith P., a resident in Attibele said: "Till date, the population density is still low. In the gated communities of Chandapura, there are hardly 10 families. But these are luxury villas that offer quietude. But the rapid pace of development engulfing the area will soon overtake this as well," he said.

These quiet villages are now emerging as the next major hotspots for real estate and business.

Will joining Bengaluru fix problems?

Today these urbanised villages are overwhelmed. Panchayats and town municipalities are grappling with key challenges such as fund mobilisation, traffic management, waste management, and underground drainage systems, among others. Will joining Bengaluru fix the problems, is the moot question. Though many are hopeful, there have been dissenting voices as well.

A panchayat official in Sarjapur said the village panchayat is struggling to keep pace with rapid urbanisation. With the rise of apartments, layouts, and IT companies, the population has grown by leaps and bounds. As a result, the village must expand underground drainage, meet rising water demands, and manage the increasing generation of solid waste. The gram panchayat has limited avenues for revenue generation, leading to poor civic infrastructure.

This is not unique to Sarjapur. Several villages of what once belonged to him. Panchayats and town municipalities face similar issues, with waste management becoming an enormous challenge. Shivashankarappa, a former member of the Bommasandra Town Municipal Council, noted that due to poor infrastructure, waste is often dumped in vacant sites or storm-water drains.

They believe merging with Bengaluru is the only solution as it will provide them more funds, urban planning and engineering expertise they do not have and this would fix the infrastructure woes of these villages. More significantly, it will provide a more suitable urban governance structure for these areas. For instance, Karnataka State Police is presently considering adding several of these rural police stations to Bengaluru City Police Commissionerate.

Is GP better option?

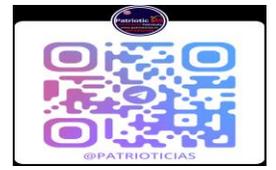
However, some believe village panchayats are a better bet to handle these crises at the local level than get subsumed in Bengaluru.

Sampath Ramanujam, a gram panchayat member from Seegehalli, pointed out that using the same argument BBMP was born subsuming 110 villages, seven CMCs and one TMC. "These areas continue to suffer from neglect even today. The government has yet to provide even basic facilities nearly two decades after they joined Bengaluru. Residents of these areas have been arguing about going back to local corporations, indicating this experiment has failed. Then integrating more villages may not be practical," he argued.

He said despite some challenges, smaller panchayats can implement better plans. Seegehalli, with 14,000 residents and about 40 apartment complexes and layouts, benefits from its compact size and manageable governance. The panchayat has incentivised solar installations by providing a property tax rebate which has been effective. Besides regular revenue, they also mobilise funds through corporate social responsibility initiatives, he said.

As quibbles continue over the right way ahead, the march of Bengaluru seems unstoppable.

Beyond Bengaluru: Story of Villages



बंगलुरु से परे: गांवों की कहानी

Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, proposes to add 24 urbanised villages around Bengaluru to the city's civic limits.

ग्रेटर बंगलुरु गवर्नेंस बिल, 2024, बंगलुरु के आसपास के 24 शहरीकृत गांवों को शहर की नागरिक सीमा में शामिल करने का प्रस्ताव रखता है।

- Shreyas H.S. visited some of these villages to explore their **contrasting realities**.
श्रेयस एच.एस. ने इन गांवों का दौरा कर उनकी विभिन्न वास्तविकताओं को समझा।

Transformation of Bagaluru

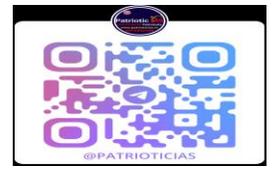
बगलूरु का बदलाव

- 70-year-old Muniyamma recalls a very different Bagaluru, an urbanised village off Ballari Road in Bengaluru North taluk.
70 वर्षीय मुनियम्मा को एक अलग बगलूरु याद है, जो बल्लारी रोड के पास बंगलुरु उत्तर तालुक का एक शहरीकृत गांव है।
- Fifteen years ago, it was a quiet farmland, but now it has turned into an urban sprawl.
पंद्रह साल पहले, यह एक शांत कृषि भूमि थी, लेकिन अब यह एक शहरी विस्तार में बदल गया है।
- Her husband sold their land for a low price, but now land prices have skyrocketed.
उनके पति ने अपनी जमीन कम कीमत में बेची थी, लेकिन अब भूमि की कीमतें आसमान छू रही हैं।
- She has set up a small tea stall to sustain her family.
उन्होंने अपने परिवार का पालन-पोषण करने के लिए एक छोटी चाय की दुकान खोली है।
- The main catalyst for this transformation was the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), established in 2008, at Devanahalli.
इस परिवर्तन का मुख्य कारण केम्पेगौड़ा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा (KIA), 2008 में देवनहल्ली में स्थापित हुआ था।
- "Once the airport was built, industries followed, leading to real estate expansion."
"जैसे ही हवाई अड्डा बना, उद्योग आए, जिससे रियल एस्टेट का विस्तार हुआ।"
- The village's population increased from 2,500 to 15,000.
गांव की जनसंख्या 2,500 से बढ़कर 15,000 हो गई।

Integration of Villages

गांवों का एकीकरण

- The story of Bagaluru is similar to that of 23 other villages around Bengaluru.
बगलूरु की कहानी बंगलुरु के आसपास के 23 अन्य गांवों की तरह है।



- The **State government** plans to include these villages in **Bengaluru's municipal limits** under the **Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024**.
राज्य सरकार इन गांवों को बेंगलुरु की नगर सीमा में शामिल करने की योजना बना रही है, जिसे ग्रेटर बेंगलुरु गवर्नेंस बिल, 2024 में प्रस्तावित किया गया है।
- The bill was recently passed in the legislature but has been **sent back by the Governor for clarifications**.
यह विधेयक हाल ही में विधानमंडल में पारित किया गया, लेकिन इसे गवर्नर ने स्पष्टीकरण के लिए वापस भेज दिया।
- These **24 villages** are **urbanised in reality**, having **industries, tech parks, educational institutions, gated communities, and apartment complexes**.
ये 24 गांव वास्तव में शहरीकृत हो चुके हैं, जहां उद्योग, टेक पार्क, शैक्षणिक संस्थान, गेटेड कम्युनिटी और अपार्टमेंट परिसर हैं।
- The **influx of urban migration** has led to **urban problems**, which rural governance structures are **not equipped to handle**.
शहरी प्रवास में वृद्धि के कारण शहरी समस्याएं बढ़ गई हैं, जिनसे निपटने के लिए ग्रामीण प्रशासन सक्षम नहीं है।

Expansion of Bengaluru's Civic Administration

बेंगलुरु की नगर प्रशासन का विस्तार

- In **2008**, Bengaluru's civic administration **expanded from 225 sq.km. to 708 sq.km.**, incorporating **seven City Municipal Corporations, one Town Municipal Corporation, and 110 villages**.
2008 में, बेंगलुरु का नगर प्रशासन 225 वर्ग किमी से बढ़कर 708 वर्ग किमी हो गया, जिसमें सात नगर निगम, एक टाउन नगर निगम और 110 गांव शामिल किए गए।
- The **Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Bill, 2024**, argues that this expansion was a **failure**.
ग्रेटर बेंगलुरु गवर्नेंस (GBG) बिल, 2024, का तर्क है कि यह विस्तार असफल रहा।
- It proposes **multiple corporations** instead of a **single governing body**.
यह एक ही प्रशासनिक निकाय के बजाय कई नगर निकायों का प्रस्ताव देता है।

Uncontrolled Urban Growth

अनियंत्रित शहरी विकास

- **V. Ravichandar**, a member of the **BBMP Restructuring Committee**, states that **Bengaluru's woes stem from haphazard development** in newly integrated areas.
वी. रविचंद्र, जो BBMP पुनर्गठन समिति के सदस्य हैं, का कहना है कि बेंगलुरु की समस्याएं अनियोजित विकास के कारण हैं।



- These areas have **grown beyond BBMP limits**, leading to **encroachments, traffic congestion, and lack of basic infrastructure**.
ये क्षेत्र BBMP की सीमा से बाहर बढ़ गए हैं, जिससे अतिक्रमण, ट्रैफिक जाम और बुनियादी सुविधाओं की कमी हो गई है।
- The **availability of empty plots** in these villages has led to **massive real estate expansion**.
इन गांवों में खाली प्लॉट की उपलब्धता के कारण भारी रियल एस्टेट विस्तार हुआ है।

Comparison with Western Cities

पश्चिमी शहरों से तुलना

- In most **Western cities**, the **downtown area** becomes a **commercial hub**, while **residences shift to the suburbs**.
अधिकांश पश्चिमी शहरों में डाउनटाउन क्षेत्र व्यापारिक केंद्र बन जाता है, जबकि रिहायशी इलाके उपनगरों में शिफ्ट हो जाते हैं।
- However, **Bengaluru's IT boom** led to **suburban expansion**, as land in the core city was limited.
लेकिन बेंगलुरु में आईटी उद्योग के विस्तार ने उपनगरीय विस्तार को बढ़ावा दिया, क्योंकि मुख्य शहर में भूमि सीमित थी।
- The development was **market-driven**, with **government regulations failing to keep up**, leading to **unplanned growth and encroachments**.
यह विकास बाजार-आधारित था, और सरकारी नियमों की कमी के कारण अनियंत्रित विस्तार और अतिक्रमण हुआ।
- The situation today is **no different**, with **rapid urbanisation continuing without adequate infrastructure planning**.
आज की स्थिति भी अलग नहीं है, जहां बुनियादी ढांचे की पर्याप्त योजना के बिना तेजी से शहरीकरण जारी है।

Contrasting Realities

विपरीत वास्तविकताएँ

- The villages slated for **inclusion into Bengaluru** present a stark contrast—**swanky tech parks, commercial shopping hubs, luxury villas, and apartments** on one side, and **poverty-stricken village pockets** on the other.
बेंगलुरु में शामिल होने वाले गांवों की स्थिति विरोधाभासी है—एक तरफ आधुनिक टेक पार्क, वाणिज्यिक शॉपिंग हब, लक्जरी विला और अपार्टमेंट, और दूसरी तरफ गरीबी से जूझते ग्रामीण क्षेत्र।



- Many villagers who **sold their lands for a low price** now struggle to **make ends meet**, even as they hope for a better future after **joining Bengaluru**.
कई ग्रामीणों ने अपनी जमीन कम कीमत पर बेच दी, और अब गुज़ारा करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं, लेकिन बेंगलुरु से जुड़ने के बाद बेहतर भविष्य की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।

Jigani: An Industrial Town

जिगानी: एक औद्योगिक नगर

- Jigani, located 28 km from Bengaluru city center in Anekal taluk, is run by a Town Municipal Council.
जिगानी, जो बेंगलुरु शहर से 28 किमी दूर अनेकल तालुक में स्थित है, को नगर परिषद द्वारा संचालित किया जाता है।
- The town has **automobile, packaging, and granite industries**, employing **thousands of workers**.
इस शहर में ऑटोमोबाइल, पैकेजिंग और ग्रेनाइट उद्योग हैं, जो हजारों लोगों को रोजगार देते हैं।
- **Urban migration** has increased population density, and **gated communities and apartments** are rapidly coming up.
शहरी प्रवास के कारण जनसंख्या घनत्व बढ़ रहा है, और गेटेड कम्युनिटी और अपार्टमेंट तेजी से बन रहे हैं।
- The **industrial area roads are in poor condition**.
औद्योगिक क्षेत्र की सड़कें खराब स्थिति में हैं।
- **Krishnan Unni**, a manager in an automobile parts industry, says the area **needs better roads, drainage, power supply, markets, vending zones, and public education infrastructure**.
कृष्णन उन्नी, जो एक ऑटोमोबाइल पार्ट्स उद्योग में प्रबंधक हैं, कहते हैं कि इस क्षेत्र में बेहतर सड़कें, जल निकासी, बिजली आपूर्ति, बाजार, विक्रय ज़ोन और सार्वजनिक शिक्षा सुविधाएं आवश्यक हैं।

Impact on Locals

स्थानीय लोगों पर प्रभाव

- Just a short distance away, **Lakshman M.**, a shepherd, says **urbanization has not changed his life**.
थोड़ी दूर पर, लक्ष्मण एम., जो एक चरवाहा हैं, कहते हैं कि शहरीकरण ने उनके जीवन में कोई बदलाव नहीं लाया।
- Many locals **remain unemployed**, while industries **hire outsiders** despite being built on **land acquired from villagers at low compensation**.



कई स्थानीय लोग अब भी बेरोजगार हैं, जबकि उद्योगों में बाहरी लोगों को काम पर रखा जाता है, जबकि ये उद्योग गांववालों की ज़मीन कम मुआवजे में खरीदकर बनाए गए हैं।

- "We cannot afford to buy land that now costs ₹1.5 crore per acre, nor can we rent space for business. Grazing sheep is our only means of survival," he says.
"हम ₹1.5 करोड़ प्रति एकड़ की मौजूदा दर पर जमीन खरीदने में सक्षम नहीं हैं, और ना ही व्यापार के लिए जगह किराए पर ले सकते हैं। हमारे पास भेड़ चराने के अलावा कोई विकल्प नहीं है," वह कहते हैं।

Regret Over Land Sales

भूमि बिक्री का पछतावा

- **Sardar (75)**, a resident of Sathanur village, sold his 3.5-acre land for ₹3,80,000 twelve years ago.
सतनूर गांव के 75 वर्षीय सरदार ने 12 साल पहले 3.5 एकड़ भूमि ₹3,80,000 में बेच दी।
- The land's value has now soared to over ₹1 crore per acre, leaving him with deep regret.
अब इस भूमि की कीमत ₹1 करोड़ प्रति एकड़ से अधिक हो गई है, जिससे उन्हें गहरा पछतावा है।
- Though apartment complexes have not yet arrived, villagers are constructing three-floor houses for rental income.
हालांकि अभी अपार्टमेंट परिसर नहीं बने हैं, लेकिन गांववाले किराए के लिए तीन मंजिला मकान बना रहे हैं।
- The presence of a private university and an upscale school has accelerated development.
एक निजी विश्वविद्यालय और एक उच्चस्तरीय स्कूल की मौजूदगी ने विकास को तेज कर दिया है।
- Ragi and paddy cultivation has vanished in less than two decades.
रागी और धान की खेती दो दशकों से भी कम समय में पूरी तरह खत्म हो गई।

Opportunities and Infrastructure Challenges

अवसर और बुनियादी ढांचे की चुनौतियां

- Many farmers have sold their lands for real estate and industries.
कई किसानों ने अपनी ज़मीनें रियल एस्टेट और उद्योगों के लिए बेच दी हैं।
- Some locals see this as an opportunity to invest in businesses.
कुछ स्थानीय लोग इसे व्यवसाय में निवेश करने का अवसर मानते हैं।
- **Shivashankarappa**, former member of Bommasandra Town Municipal Council, says locals have shifted to business activities due to the presence of industries.
बोम्मसांद्रा नगर परिषद के पूर्व सदस्य शिवशंकरप्पा कहते हैं कि उद्योगों की स्थापना के कारण स्थानीय लोग अब व्यवसाय में लगे हुए हैं।
- However, he laments that infrastructure is deteriorating.
हालांकि, वह इस क्षेत्र में बुनियादी ढांचा खराब होने की बात भी स्वीकारते हैं।



Skyrocketing Land Prices and Economic Boom

बढ़ती भूमि कीमतें और आर्थिक उछाल

- **Attibele, Bommasandra, Chikkajala, and Sarjapur** have even **higher land prices**.
अट्टीबेल, बोम्मासंद्रा, चिक्काजला और सरजापुर में भूमि की कीमतें और भी अधिक हैं।
- **Sarjapur and Bommasandra** have transformed into **IT hubs**, with towering tech parks symbolizing **rapid urbanization and a booming real estate market**.
सरजापुर और बोम्मासंद्रा आईटी हब बन चुके हैं, जहां ऊंची टेक पार्क इमारतें तेजी से बढ़ते शहरीकरण और फलते-फूलते रियल एस्टेट बाजार का प्रतीक हैं।
- The **economic impact is visible**, with **trendy pubs, upscale restaurants, and bustling eateries** opening to cater to the **affluent residents and workforce**.
आर्थिक प्रभाव स्पष्ट रूप से दिख रहा है, जहां आधुनिक पब, उच्चस्तरीय रेस्तरां और व्यस्त भोजनालय समृद्ध निवासियों और कर्मचारियों की जरूरतें पूरी कर रहे हैं।
- Some areas now **mirror Bengaluru's Central Business District**, filled with **commerce, energy, and urban sophistication**.
कुछ क्षेत्रों की स्थिति अब बेंगलुरु के सेंट्रल बिजनेस डिस्ट्रिक्ट जैसी हो गई है, जो व्यापार, ऊर्जा और शहरी परिष्कार से भरपूर है।

Attibele: A Developing Real Estate Hub

अट्टीबेल: एक उभरता रियल एस्टेट केंद्र

- Although **layouts and villas** have been built in **Attibele**, some areas remain **quiet and sparsely populated**.
हालांकि अट्टीबेल में लेआउट और विला बनाए गए हैं, फिर भी कुछ क्षेत्र शांत और कम आबादी वाले हैं।
- **Ashwith P.**, a resident of **Attibele**, says **gated communities in Chandapura** have barely **10 families**.
अश्विथ पी., अट्टीबेल के निवासी, बताते हैं कि चंदापुरा की गेटेड कम्युनिटीज में मुश्किल से 10 परिवार रहते हैं।
- "But the **rapid pace of development** will soon overtake this silence," he says.
"लेकिन तेजी से हो रहा विकास जल्द ही इस शांति को खत्म कर देगा," वे कहते हैं।
- These **emerging villages** are becoming the **next major hotspots for real estate and business**.
ये उभरते गांव अब रियल एस्टेट और व्यापार के नए प्रमुख केंद्र बन रहे हैं।

Will Joining Bengaluru Fix Problems?

क्या बेंगलुरु में शामिल होना समस्याओं का समाधान करेगा?



- Today, these **urbanised villages** are **overwhelmed** with challenges.
आज ये शहरीकृत गांव कई समस्याओं से जूझ रहे हैं।
- **Panchayats and town municipalities** struggle with **fund mobilisation, traffic management, waste management, and underground drainage systems**.
पंचायतें और नगर पालिकाएं फंड एकत्रीकरण, ट्रैफिक प्रबंधन, कचरा प्रबंधन और भूमिगत जल निकासी प्रणाली जैसी समस्याओं से जूझ रही हैं।
- The key question is: **Will merging with Bengaluru solve these issues?**
मुख्य प्रश्न यह है: क्या बेंगलुरु में शामिल होने से ये समस्याएं हल हो जाएंगी?
- While **many are hopeful**, some voices **oppose this move**.
कई लोग आशान्वित हैं, लेकिन कुछ इस कदम का विरोध भी कर रहे हैं।

Challenges in Village Panchayats

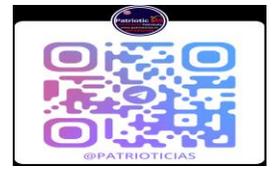
ग्राम पंचायतों की चुनौतियां

- A **panchayat official in Sarjapur** said that the **village panchayat is struggling** to cope with **rapid urbanisation**.
सरजापुर के एक पंचायत अधिकारी ने कहा कि ग्राम पंचायत तेजी से हो रहे शहरीकरण से निपटने के लिए संघर्ष कर रही है।
- With the rise of **apartments, layouts, and IT companies**, the **population has increased drastically**.
अपार्टमेंट, लेआउट और आईटी कंपनियों की वृद्धि के कारण जनसंख्या तेजी से बढ़ी है।
- The panchayat needs to **expand underground drainage, manage rising water demands, and control increasing solid waste generation**.
पंचायत को भूमिगत जल निकासी का विस्तार, पानी की बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करना और ठोस कचरे के बढ़ते उत्पादन को नियंत्रित करना आवश्यक है।
- The **gram panchayat has limited revenue sources**, leading to **poor civic infrastructure**.
ग्राम पंचायत के पास सीमित राजस्व स्रोत हैं, जिसके कारण नागरिक सुविधाओं की स्थिति खराब है।

Waste Management: A Growing Concern

कचरा प्रबंधन: बढ़ती समस्या

- The issue is not limited to **Sarjapur**; **many other village panchayats and municipalities** face similar challenges.
यह समस्या केवल सरजापुर तक सीमित नहीं है; कई अन्य ग्राम पंचायतें और नगरपालिकाएं भी ऐसी ही चुनौतियों का सामना कर रही हैं।
- **Shivashankarappa**, a former member of **Bommasandra Town Municipal Council**, noted that **waste is often dumped in vacant sites or stormwater drains** due to poor infrastructure.



बोम्मासंद्रा नगर परिषद के पूर्व सदस्य शिवशंकरप्पा ने कहा कि खराब बुनियादी ढांचे के कारण कचरा अक्सर खाली स्थानों या बरसाती नालों में फेंक दिया जाता है।

Advantages of Merging with Bengaluru

बेंगलुरु में शामिल होने के फायदे

- Many believe that merging with Bengaluru will bring more funds, better urban planning, and engineering expertise.
कई लोग मानते हैं कि बेंगलुरु में शामिल होने से अधिक फंड, बेहतर शहरी नियोजन और इंजीनियरिंग विशेषज्ञता मिलेगी।
- This move could help improve infrastructure and provide a better urban governance structure.
इससे बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार और एक बेहतर शहरी प्रशासन प्रणाली विकसित हो सकती है।
- The Karnataka State Police is considering adding several rural police stations to the Bengaluru City Police Commissionerate for better law enforcement.
कर्नाटक राज्य पुलिस कई ग्रामीण पुलिस थानों को बेंगलुरु सिटी पुलिस कमिश्नरेट में शामिल करने पर विचार कर रही है।

Is Gram Panchayat a Better Option?

क्या ग्राम पंचायत बेहतर विकल्प है?

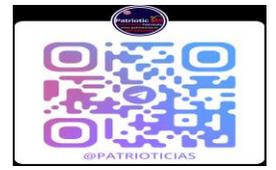
- Some argue that village panchayats can handle these crises more effectively at the local level.
कुछ लोगों का मानना है कि ग्राम पंचायतें इन संकटों को स्थानीय स्तर पर अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से संभाल सकती हैं।
- Sampath Ramanujam, a gram panchayat member from Seegehalli, pointed out that using this same logic, BBMP was created by merging 110 villages, seven CMCs, and one TMC.
सीगेहल्ली के ग्राम पंचायत सदस्य संपत रामानुजम ने कहा कि इसी तर्क के आधार पर 110 गांव, 7 नगर पालिकाएं (CMC) और 1 टाउन म्यूनिसिपल काउंसिल (TMC) मिलाकर BBMP बनाया गया था।
- Even after nearly two decades, many of these areas still lack basic facilities.
लगभग दो दशकों बाद भी, इन क्षेत्रों में बुनियादी सुविधाओं की कमी बनी हुई है।
- Some residents want to return to local corporations, proving that the BBMP experiment has failed.
कुछ निवासी स्थानीय नगर निगमों में वापस जाना चाहते हैं, जिससे साबित होता है कि BBMP का प्रयोग असफल रहा।



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Success Story of Smaller Panchayats

छोटी पंचायतों की सफलता की कहानी

- Despite challenges, **smaller panchayats** can implement **better governance plans**.
चुनौतियों के बावजूद, छोटी पंचायतें बेहतर प्रशासनिक योजनाएं लागू कर सकती हैं।
- **Seeghalli, with 14,000 residents and 40 apartment complexes, has successfully managed urbanisation.**
सीगेहल्ली, जहां 14,000 निवासी और 40 अपार्टमेंट परिसर हैं, ने शहरीकरण को सफलतापूर्वक प्रबंधित किया है।
- The **panchayat incentivised solar installations** by offering a **property tax rebate**, which proved effective.
ग्राम पंचायत ने सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्रों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए संपत्ति कर में छूट दी, जो प्रभावी साबित हुई।
- Additional funds are mobilised through **corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives**.
अतिरिक्त फंड कॉर्पोरेट सोशल रिस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी (CSR) पहलों के माध्यम से जुटाए जाते हैं।

The Unstoppable Expansion of Bengaluru

बेंगलुरु का अटूट विस्तार

- Despite debates on the **best governance model**, **Bengaluru's expansion continues**.
सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रशासनिक मॉडल पर बहस के बावजूद, बेंगलुरु का विस्तार जारी है।
- The decision to **integrate more villages** remains a **complex and contentious issue**.
और अधिक गांवों को शामिल करने का निर्णय एक जटिल और विवादास्पद मुद्दा बना हुआ है।



Royal fight



A pro-monarchist group hurls tear gas shell at police officers during a protest in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Friday. [GS Paper II: Nepal](#)

PAI



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

1. Equitable distribution

समान वितरण

2. Cabinet Okays ₹22,919 Crore Scheme for Electronics Component Manufacturing

मंत्रिमंडल ने ₹22,919 करोड़ की इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स घटक निर्माण योजना को मंजूरी दी

3. Core Sector Growth Slows to 2.9% in February from 7.1%

कोर सेक्टर की वृद्धि फरवरी में घटकर 2.9% हुई, जो पहले 7.1% थी

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GS Paper III: Taxation

Equitable distribution

PAC recommendations on GST reforms will resonate with States

The 19th report of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is appropriately scathing in its criticism of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, introduced in July 2017 to simplify, unify and improve indirect tax compliance in India. At the outset, the PAC highlights a nearly 2% drop in indirect tax revenue between FY18 and FY20 – the first two years of GST prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the several discrepancies flagged, it is the non-auditing and non-finalisation of the States' Compensation Fund for over six years that stands out as particularly troubling. This has strained the functioning of what was meant to be a unified yet federal tax structure. The PAC notes the Centre's failure to furnish the Compensation Fund Account to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), a necessary step to certify and release timely compensation to States for revenue losses since the rollout of GST. The centralising tendencies of the GST regime have long been a point of contention for major revenue-generating States, many of which have raised concerns over diminished fiscal autonomy and sharp declines in indirect tax collections. As a destination-based tax, GST is levied at the point of consumption, adversely affecting manufacturing-heavy States.

To address these concerns, the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, mandated a Compensation Fund and promised States a 14% annual revenue growth for five years (2017-22), using FY16 as the base year. However, many States have reported either non-receipt of funds or serious delays, which they say have negatively impacted governance. The PAC attributes this to the Centre's indifferent approach. In one striking example, the PAC cites 2,447 inconsistencies – amounting to ₹32,577.73 crore – out of a sample of 10,667 cases – and criticises the Finance Ministry's audit approach as "lackadaisical". The PAC has recommended establishing a formal mechanism with the CAG to ensure timely audits and updates on pending cases. It also calls for a comprehensive review to develop a "GST 2.0" – a recommendation that is likely to resonate with States demanding a greater share of GST revenues, closer to 70%-80%, up from the current 50%.

- **Manufacturing-heavy States** are disadvantaged because GST is a destination-based tax, which benefits consumer-heavy States.

Equitable distribution

समान वितरण

PAC recommendations on GST reforms will resonate with States

जीएसटी सुधारों पर पीएसी की सिफारिशें राज्यों के बीच गुंजेगी

- The 19th report of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has strongly criticized the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, which was introduced in July 2017.

संसद की लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) की 19वीं रिपोर्ट ने जुलाई 2017 में लागू किए गए वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST) प्रणाली की कड़ी आलोचना की है।

- The report highlights a nearly 2% drop in indirect tax revenue between FY18 and FY20, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

रिपोर्ट में FY18 से FY20 के बीच अप्रत्यक्ष कर राजस्व में लगभग 2% की गिरावट को उजागर किया गया है, जो कोविड-19 महामारी से पहले की अवधि थी।

- One of the biggest concerns is the non-auditing and non-finalization of the States' Compensation Fund for over six years.

सबसे बड़ी चिंता राज्य क्षतिपूर्ति कोष का छह साल से अधिक समय तक ऑडिट और अंतिम रूप न दिया जाना है।

- The Centre has failed to provide the Compensation Fund Account to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), delaying timely compensation to States.

केंद्र सरकार ने अब तक क्षतिपूर्ति कोष का लेखा-जोखा नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) को नहीं दिया, जिससे राज्यों को समय पर क्षतिपूर्ति नहीं मिल पाई।

- Revenue-generating States have raised concerns about the centralizing nature of GST, which has reduced their fiscal autonomy.

राजस्व उत्पन्न करने वाले राज्यों ने GST की केंद्रीकरण प्रवृत्ति पर आपत्ति जताई है, जिससे उनकी वित्तीय स्वायत्तता प्रभावित हुई है।



उद्योग-प्रधान राज्यों को नुकसान हो रहा है, क्योंकि जीएसटी उपभोग आधारित कर प्रणाली है, जिससे उपभोक्ता प्रधान राज्यों को लाभ मिलता है।

GST Compensation and States' Concerns

जीएसटी क्षतिपूर्ति और राज्यों की चिंताएँ

- The **GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017**, guaranteed **14% annual revenue growth for five years (2017-22)** using **FY16 as the base year**.
जीएसटी (राज्यों को क्षतिपूर्ति) अधिनियम, 2017 ने पांच वर्षों (2017-22) के लिए 14% वार्षिक राजस्व वृद्धि की गारंटी दी थी, जिसमें FY16 को आधार वर्ष के रूप में लिया गया था।
- Many States have reported either non-receipt or delayed payments, affecting **governance** and financial planning.
कई राज्यों ने या तो भुगतान न मिलने या देरी से मिलने की शिकायत की है, जिससे शासन संचालन प्रभावित हुआ है।
- The PAC blamed the **Centre's indifferent approach**, leading to **financial instability in many States**.
PAC ने केंद्र सरकार के उदासीन रवैये को दोषी ठहराया, जिससे कई राज्यों में वित्तीय अस्थिरता उत्पन्न हुई।
- PAC's investigation found **2,447 inconsistencies amounting to ₹32,577.73 crore** in a sample of **10,667 cases**.
PAC की जांच में 10,667 मामलों के नमूने में ₹32,577.73 करोड़ की 2,447 विसंगतियाँ पाई गईं।
- The Finance Ministry's audit approach was termed as **"lackadaisical"**.
वित्त मंत्रालय के ऑडिट दृष्टिकोण को "लापरवाह" करार दिया गया।

Recommendations for GST Reforms

जीएसटी सुधारों के लिए सिफारिशें

- PAC has recommended establishing a formal audit mechanism with **CAG** to ensure timely audits and fund disbursements.
PAC ने CAG के साथ एक औपचारिक ऑडिट प्रणाली स्थापित करने की सिफारिश की, जिससे समय पर ऑडिट और फंड वितरण सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।
- It called for a **comprehensive review of GST**, proposing a **GST 2.0 model**.
PAC ने जीएसटी की व्यापक समीक्षा की मांग की, और GST 2.0 मॉडल का प्रस्ताव दिया।
- States are demanding an **increase in their share of GST revenue from the current 50% to 70-80%**.
राज्य वर्तमान 50% के बजाय जीएसटी राजस्व में अपनी हिस्सेदारी बढ़ाकर 70-80% करने की मांग कर रहे हैं।



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Cabinet okays
₹22,919 crore
scheme for
electronics
component
manufacturing

GS Paper III:
Manufacturing Sector
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a ₹22,919-crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme for a period of six years, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav announced.

The scheme is the next step in the government's electronics manufacturing efforts, which have so far focused on setting up semiconductor fabrication units and IT hardware, along with finished goods like mobile phones.

"Passive component and sub-assembly manufacturing will increase domestic value addition," Mr. Vaishnav told media-persons.

Unlike past schemes, this scheme would not be based on production-linked incentive, where manufacturers would be rewarded for incremental manufacturing, he added.

Instead, they would receive incentives pegged to the factory's turnover, as well as in employment creation. The target is to induce ₹59,350 crore in investments, production worth ₹4,56,500 crore, and the creation of 91,600 direct jobs in the coming years. Active components refer to semiconductors and other critical components. This scheme is targeted at sub-assemblies such as controllers for displays and phone cameras, and for 'bare components' which include circuit boards, hardware enclosures, and lithium-ion batteries, Mr. Vaishnav said.

Cabinet Okays ₹22,919 Crore Scheme for Electronics Component Manufacturing

मंत्रिमंडल ने ₹22,919 करोड़ की इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स घटक निर्माण योजना को मंजूरी दी

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a ₹22,919-crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme for a period of six years.

शुक्रवार को केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने ₹22,919 करोड़ की इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स घटक निर्माण योजना को छह वर्षों के लिए मंजूरी दी।

• Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnav, announced the decision.

केंद्रीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और आईटी मंत्री, अश्विनी वैष्णव ने इस निर्णय की घोषणा की।

Next Step in Electronics Manufacturing

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्माण में अगला कदम

• The scheme is the next step in the government's electronics manufacturing efforts.

यह योजना सरकार के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स निर्माण प्रयासों का अगला चरण है।

• So far, the focus has been on semiconductor fabrication units, IT hardware, and finished goods like mobile phones.

अब तक ध्यान सेमीकंडक्टर फैब्रिकेशन यूनिट, आईटी हार्डवेयर और मोबाइल फोन जैसे तैयार उत्पादों पर रहा है।

• Passive component and sub-assembly manufacturing will increase domestic value addition, said Vaishnav.

पैसिव कंपोनेंट और सब-असेंबली निर्माण से घरेलू मूल्य संवर्धन में वृद्धि होगी, वैष्णव ने कहा।

Incentives Linked to Turnover and Employment

राजस्व और रोजगार से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन योजना

• Unlike past schemes, this scheme will not be based on production-linked incentives (PLI).

पिछली योजनाओं के विपरीत, यह योजना उत्पादन से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन (PLI) योजना पर आधारित नहीं होगी।

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- Instead, manufacturers will receive incentives based on factory turnover and employment creation.
इसके बजाय, निर्माता फैक्ट्री के राजस्व और रोजगार सृजन के आधार पर प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त करेंगे।

Investment and Job Creation Targets

निवेश और रोजगार सृजन के लक्ष्य

- The scheme aims to attract ₹59,350 crore in investments.
इस योजना का लक्ष्य ₹59,350 करोड़ का निवेश आकर्षित करना है।
- Expected production output is valued at ₹4,56,500 crore.
अनुमानित उत्पादन मूल्य ₹4,56,500 करोड़ रहेगा।
- The plan aims to create 91,600 direct jobs.
इस योजना के तहत 91,600 प्रत्यक्ष नौकरियां सृजित करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है।

Focus on Sub-Assemblies and Bare Components

सब-असेंबली और बेसिक घटकों पर ध्यान

- Active components include semiconductors and other critical components.
सक्रिय घटकों (Active Components) में सेमीकंडक्टर और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण घटक शामिल हैं।
- This scheme targets sub-assemblies like controllers for displays and phone cameras.
यह योजना डिस्प्ले और फोन कैमरों के नियंत्रक (Controllers) जैसी सब-असेंबली को लक्षित करती है।
- The scheme also covers bare components such as circuit boards, hardware enclosures, and lithium-ion batteries.
यह योजना सर्किट बोर्ड, हार्डवेयर एनक्लोजर और लिथियम-आयन बैटरियों जैसे मूल घटकों को भी शामिल करती है।



Core sector growth slows to 2.9% in February from 7.1%

GS Paper III: Industries

NEW DELHI

The output of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed to a five-month low of 2.9% in February as against 7.1% growth registered a year earlier, according to official data released on Friday.

On a monthly basis, the growth rate in the production of these sectors was lower than the 5.1% expansion recorded in January.

The previous low level of growth of 2.4% was recorded in September. In February, production of crude oil and natural gas recorded negative growth.

The production growth

in September.

इससे पहले सितंबर में 2.4% की न्यूनतम वृद्धि दर्ज की गई थी।

Sector-wise Performance in February

फरवरी में क्षेत्रवार प्रदर्शन

However, fertilizer and cement output rose 10.2% and 10.5% respectively in February this year

of coal, refinery products, steel and electricity moderated to 1.7%, 0.8%, 5.6%, and 2.8%, respectively, against 11.6%, 2.6%, 9.4% and 7.6% in February last.

However, fertilizer and cement output rose 10.2% and 10.5% respectively.

Core sector growth was 4.4% during April-February this fiscal against 7.8%.

Core sector contributes 40.27% to the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

Core Sector Growth Slows to 2.9% in February from 7.1%

कोर सेक्टर की वृद्धि

फरवरी में घटकर 2.9%

हुई, जो पहले 7.1% थी

- The output of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed to a five-month low of 2.9% in February, compared to 7.1% growth a year earlier.

आठ प्रमुख बुनियादी ढांचा क्षेत्रों का उत्पादन फरवरी में 2.9% पर आ गया, जो पिछले वर्ष 7.1% था, और यह पांच महीने का न्यूनतम स्तर है।

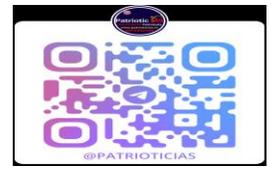
- The official data was released on Friday.

आधिकारिक आंकड़े शुक्रवार को जारी किए गए।

Monthly Growth Comparison

मासिक वृद्धि की तुलना

- On a monthly basis, growth was lower than the 5.1% expansion recorded in January. मासिक आधार पर, यह वृद्धि जनवरी में दर्ज 5.1% की वृद्धि से कम रही।
- The previous low was 2.4%



- **Crude oil and natural gas** production recorded **negative growth**.
कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन में नकारात्मक वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।
- The **growth rates of other key sectors** were as follows:
अन्य प्रमुख क्षेत्रों की वृद्धि दर इस प्रकार रही:
 - **Coal: 1.7%**, compared to **11.6% in February last year**.
कोयला: 1.7%, जबकि पिछले वर्ष फरवरी में 11.6% थी।
 - **Refinery products: 0.8%**, compared to **2.6% in February last year**.
रिफाइनरी उत्पाद: 0.8%, जबकि पिछले वर्ष फरवरी में 2.6% थी।
 - **Steel: 5.6%**, compared to **9.4% in February last year**.
इस्पात: 5.6%, जबकि पिछले वर्ष फरवरी में 9.4% थी।
 - **Electricity: 2.8%**, compared to **7.6% in February last year**.
बिजली: 2.8%, जबकि पिछले वर्ष फरवरी में 7.6% थी।
- However, **fertilizer and cement** production recorded a **positive growth of 10.2% and 10.5%**, respectively.
हालांकि, उर्वरक और सीमेंट के उत्पादन में 10.2% और 10.5% की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।

Fiscal Year Performance (April-February)

वित्तीय वर्ष प्रदर्शन (अप्रैल-फरवरी)

- **Core sector growth** during **April-February** of this fiscal year was **4.4%**, compared to **7.8% last year**.
इस वित्तीय वर्ष के अप्रैल-फरवरी के दौरान कोर सेक्टर की वृद्धि 4.4% रही, जबकि पिछले वर्ष 7.8% थी।
- **Core sector contributes 40.27%** to the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.
कोर सेक्टर का योगदान औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) में 40.27% है।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. A Minefield of Gold Blows Up

सोने की तस्करी का बड़ा खुलासा



A minefield of govt bows up

The alleged gold smuggling case involving **Ranya Rao**, an actor and the step-daughter of an IPS officer in Karnataka, has sent shock waves through the State. While the Opposition has questioned the ruling Congress over the involvement of politicians, serious concerns have been raised about the security breach at the airport and the abuse of police protocol by the families of officers, reports **K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj**

GS Paper IV: Ethics Essay

Ron March 3, sleuths from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) waited at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru, for a "passenger of interest", ZS195849. They reportedly had intelligence that the passenger, travelling on Emirates flight EK566 from Dubai, which was scheduled to arrive at 6:20 p.m., may be carrying gold - "either in crude form or as paste".

The passenger was Harshavardhini Ranya (Ranya Rao), a Kannada film actor and the step-daughter of K. Ramachandra Rao, Director General of Police (DGP), Karnataka Police. As Ranya disembarked the flight and walked into the airport terminal, two personnel from the Karnataka Police greeted her. They were Basavaraj, head constable, International Airport Police Station; and Dharmish Kumar, constable, Karnataka State Intelligence. With the two of them providing her protocol services, Ranya walked through the green channel meant for passengers with no dutiable or prohibited goods. The DRI said in its report later, Ranya had walked through the same channel several times in the past after landing from Dubai, the DRI report added.

However, this time things took a different turn. The DRI said officials stationed at the exit of the green channel summoned her aside for checks. They asked if she had any gold to declare to Customs, Ranya said she did not. Two female officers then took the actor into a private room, where Ranya reportedly confessed to having hidden gold bars on her body, the DRI said. The agency claimed that it recovered "two metal bars with foreign markings" of 24 karat gold weighing 14.2 kilograms from her. The DRI said Ranya had used a crepe bandage on her calf and a medical adhesive tape on her wrist to conceal the gold. They also found bars of gold in the pockets of her jeans and the soles of her shoes. The DRI's assessor estimated the gold recovered to be worth ₹12.56 crore.

The DRI also detained Basavaraj and Kumar, who had been escorting her. In his statement to the DRI, Basavaraj claimed that "as a gesture of courtesy, he had been, from time to time, instructed to provide protocol assistance to family members of senior officials". He said he had been "asked by DGP Ramachandra Rao to assist his family members by providing protocol assistance" and had provided the service a few times to Rao earlier. He claimed that Ranya called him on March 3, informing him of her arrival from Dubai and requesting him to be present at the airport. He said he had no knowledge of any attempt to smuggle gold. Kumar simply tagged along with him.

However, on March 6, when her police custody ended and she was transferred to jail, Ranya wrote to the DRI chief from the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, denying all the allegations against her. She disputed the manner she had signed at the airport on March 3, which showed that gold had been recovered from her. She claimed that she had been framed in the case, detained from the aircraft contrary to the DRI's version of events, slapped repeatedly, and made to sign on around 40 pages.

How the case blew up
The case sent shock waves through the power corridors of Karnataka. Multiple Central agencies - the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Directorate of Enforcement (DE), and the Income Tax Department - joined the probe along with the DRI, which is rare for a gold smuggling case.

The Opposition, citing a speculative media report that said two Ministers in the State government were linked to the case, demanded that the government name them. The ruling Congress hit back saying 12 acres of land had been allotted by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board to a company led by Ranya during the previous Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime.

A First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Basanagouda Patil Yatal, a BJP leader, for making "vulgar" remarks against Ranya, claiming that she had affairs with multiple politicians. He has since been expelled from the party for other reasons.

However, none of the documents submitted to the courts by any of the Central agencies mention the involvement of any politician or minister. Speaking in the Karnataka Legislature session, Home Minister G. Parashantha claimed that the Central agencies had not informed the State of any details regarding the case.

The Karnataka government has sent Rao, who was posted as Chairman and Managing Director, Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation, on mandatory leave. An inquiry committee led by Additional Chief Secretary Garav Gupta was appointed to probe the misuse of police protocol and the role of Rao, in the case.

In a press statement immediately after Ranya's arrest, Rao claimed that he had no knowledge of gold smuggling. He said if Ranya had violated any



IF someone successfully smuggles over 10 kg of gold and also sells it in the black market in India, they make around ₹50 lakh

an official

laws, legal action would be taken against her. "I ask all of you to recognise that I too am a grieving parent," he said. "I had no knowledge of such an unimaginable situation unfolding in my life."

Only a mule?
Ranya's statement to the DRI, which she has now disputed in its entirety, claimed that she was just a mule and was forced to carry the consignment. But multiple documents of the DRI, including its complaint to the CBI based on which the agency has registered a case, has indicated "a possible nexus with a coordinated smuggling syndicate, possibly operating from Dubai (UAE)", and international links to the case.

After she was caught at the airport on March 3, in her statement to the DRI, which is part of the remand application submitted to the court, Ranya claimed that she got a bunch of boxes over in northern Protocol calls from foreign members over two weeks preceding her trip to Dubai. She said that a man "of African-American accent" told her the gold handed over to her. She also claimed that she had been instructed to dump gold in an auto-rickshaw at a traffic signal at the end of the service road outside KIA and that this was the first time she had ever got gold from Dubai.

However, multiple documents accessed by *The Hindu*, including DRI applications before the court, and court orders, indicate that the agencies are not buying this theory. They believe that Ranya ran a company in Dubai, which imported gold to Dubai and smuggled it into India. The agency has also accused her of running a business transactions to transfer the funds from India to Dubai to purchase gold.

Raids at Ranya's residence in the posh locality of LaValette Road in Bengaluru yielded ₹2.67 crore

of cash and jewellery worth ₹2.06 crore. Ranya could not show sources for both, the DRI said. More significantly, her arrest memo, accessed by *The Hindu*, shows that the DRI recovered two Dubai Customs declarations dated November 12, 2024, and December 20, 2024 in favour of Ranya. However, on these trips, she did not declare any gold in Bengaluru and pay Customs duty. This indicates at least two prior instances of smuggling, sources said. DRI officials also recovered a Resident Identity Card issued by Dubai in her name.

DRI documents claimed that a forensic analysis of her phone led them to make the second arrest in the case - Tarun Raju, 30, a U.S. citizen and an Overseas Citizenship of India card holder, who is based out of Bengaluru. His arrest and a probe into the company that the two of them ran in Dubai paint a different picture of the entire operation, sources claimed. Tarun is the grandson of a prominent hotelier and industrialist in Bengaluru. Tarun and Ranya knew each other from college. Ranya debuted as a lead actor in *Manikyam* in 2014. She then starred in the Tamil film *Wuqoof* in 2015 and the Kannada film *Patak* in 2017. Tarun debuted as a lead actor with the 2018 Telugu film *Parichayam* under the name Viraat Konuram. However, opportunities dried up for both of them after these films.

Later, Ranya started a series of marketing firms, sources said. Ranya and Tarun incorporated a firm, Vira Diamonds Trading LLC, with a 50% stake to both in Dubai in 2023. This gave Ranya a resident card in Dubai and exempted her from needing a visa to visit the UAE, sources said. While Ranya was the sole investor, Tarun was a working partner and Ranya invested on his behalf. He exited the firm in December 2024.

The company was reportedly importing gold into Dubai, as the UAE doesn't levy import duty on gold. DRI documents indicate that Ranya used to buy gold from wholesale suppliers in other countries, such as Switzerland and Thailand,

making payments in foreign currency in Dubai. Though the company had claimed that they were selling the imported gold in Dubai, it is now suspected that Ranya was smuggling it to India, making over 26 trips between 2023 and 2025. The remand application of Tarun reportedly details instances where the company was cheated of ₹1.7 crore by suppliers. The DRI has claimed the payment was organised by Ranya through hawala channels from India to Dubai.

The modus operandi
Tarun played a key role in smuggling gold from the Dubai International Airport, the DRI has claimed in court. The gold that he and Ranya would allegedly smuggle from Dubai to India would be declared with Dubai Customs in the name of Tarun as being taken to either Geneva or Bangkok. After passing Dubai Customs, Tarun would hand over the gold to Ranya who would also be travelling the same day, said sources.

Though Tarun has argued in the courts, while applying for bail, that he exited Vira Diamonds in December 2024 and is in no way connected with the case, the DRI has claimed that on March 3, Tarun was also in Dubai with Ranya, and bought his air ticket with the money that she transferred to him. In his statement to the DRI, Tarun admitted that the purpose of his visit was to collect gold from Ranya and hand it over to her. He collected the consignment, declared it as being taken to Geneva with Dubai Customs, handed it over to Ranya after passing through Customs, and travelled to Hyderabad, the DRI has claimed.

A senior Customs official said that the duo seems to have exploited two loopholes in the system in Dubai. First, while the company they had floated claimed to import gold and sell it in Dubai, they seem to have "exported" it back to Geneva or Bangkok, without raising red flags. Second, after they declared at Dubai Customs that they were taking the gold to Geneva, agencies there don't seem to have realised that two of them were boarding flights to India. Since Dubai Customs and India Customs do not have a channel of communication, their activities seem to have gone below the radar.

Gold smuggling is still lucrative
After returning to power in May 2024, the BJP-led Central government cut import duty on gold from 15% to 6%. This was expected to cut down gold smuggling. However, the practice remains lucrative, especially since gold prices have shot up over the past year, sources in the gold market said. A senior official who has probed smuggling cases said that after the cut in Customs duty on gold, smugglers are now being caught carrying the precious metal in large quantities, usually over 10 kg, to make a trip "valuable".

In another case flagged by the DRI to the CBI, two foreign nationals were caught trying to smuggle 21.28 kg of gold into India through Mumbai Airport days after Ranya was caught. "If someone successfully smuggles over 10 kg of gold and also sells it in the black market in India, they are bound to make around ₹50 lakh," an official said.

The DRI has now alleged that Ranya was selling the smuggled gold herself. The agency arrested a gold trader, Sabli Sakariyappa, from the north Karnataka district of Ballari, on March 26, accusing him of "assisting and abetting Ranya in disposing of the smuggled gold and sharing the sale proceeds".

Earlier this month, the DRI raided two jewellery stores in Bengaluru. The ED raided a firm that gives loans against pledged gold. Ranya is alleged to have sold the smuggled gold through some of these channels, sources said. While the probe seems to have established the trail of gold, what remains to be probed is the money trail and any assets the accused allegedly acquired through the proceeds of crime, sources said.

Misuse of police protocol
The committee headed by Gupta has submitted its report to the State government. Sources in the government said that the report doesn't conclude that Rao was involved. However, it reportedly says that prima facie, he knew that protocol assistance was being given to Ranya and she had used his official car to get home from the airport in multiple instances.

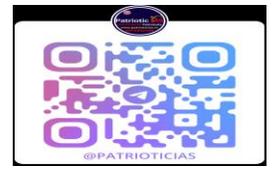
Meanwhile, sources in the Karnataka State Police said that as per the rules, only police officers with the rank of Inspector General of Police and above, and Indian Administrative Service officers with the rank of Joint Secretary and above, are eligible for police protocol at airports when they are on official trips. "But many senior officers and politicians have been abusing police protocol at the airport. No rule extends this protocol to the family members of officers. But no one imagined that this could be misused to carry out alleged criminal activities. It is high time this abuse of protocol stops," a senior IPS officer said.

A senior Customs official said Customs usually "conducts random checks, and checks based on specific intelligence of contraband or passenger profiling." But the officer conceded that if a passenger is accompanied by police protocol, they are usually not subjected to random checks. While a former Customs official argued that a full body scanner would help plug loopholes at the airport, the senior Customs official pointed out that full body scanners are deployed at departures for security purposes under Act, 1988, and arrivals. Trials for full body scanners were held at multiple airports, including at KIA, as mandated by security agencies in 2023. But they are not operational yet.

Meanwhile, the CBI, based on a complaint by the DRI, has registered a case against unknown public servants of the Government of India under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and is probing officials who were posted at the airport during Ranya's earlier trips, when she is suspected to have smuggled gold. Ranya and Tarun's bail pleas have been rejected and both of them are lodged in judicial custody.

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A Minefield of Gold Blows Up

सोने की तस्करी का बड़ा खुलासा

Case Overview

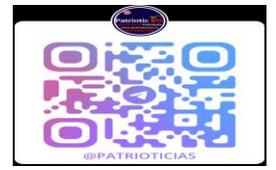
मामले का सारांश

- **Kannada film actor Ranya Rao**, stepdaughter of IPS officer **K. Ramachandra Rao**, was caught in a **gold smuggling case** at **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)**, **Bengaluru**.
कन्नड़ फिल्म अभिनेत्री रान्या राव, जो आईपीएस अधिकारी के. रामचंद्र राव की सौतेली बेटी हैं, को केम्पेगौड़ा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे, बेंगलुरु पर सोने की तस्करी के मामले में पकड़ा गया।
- **On March 3, 2024**, the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** intercepted **Ranya** at the airport on suspicion of smuggling gold from **Dubai**.
3 मार्च 2024 को, राजस्व खुफिया निदेशालय (DRI) ने रान्या को हवाई अड्डे पर रोका, क्योंकि वह दुबई से सोना तस्करी करने के संदेह में थी।
- She was carrying **14.2 kg of 24-karat gold worth ₹12.56 crore**, hidden using **crepe bandages, medical adhesive tape, and her clothes**.
उसके पास 14.2 किलोग्राम 24 कैरेट सोना था, जिसकी कीमत ₹12.56 करोड़ थी, जिसे उसने पट्टियों, मेडिकल टेप और अपने कपड़ों में छुपा रखा था।
- **Two Karnataka Police officers, Basavaraj (Head Constable) and Dhanush Kumar (Constable)**, helped her **bypass customs** using **VIP security protocol**.
कर्नाटक पुलिस के दो अधिकारी, बसवराज (मुख्य कांस्टेबल) और धनुष कुमार (कांस्टेबल), ने वीआईपी सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल का उपयोग करके उसे कस्टम जांच से बचने में मदद की।

How the Smuggling Was Caught

तस्करी का खुलासा कैसे हुआ

- **DRI officials at the green channel exit** stopped **Ranya** and asked her if she was carrying gold, which she **initially denied**.
DRI अधिकारियों ने ग्रीन चैनल के बाहर रान्या को रोका और पूछा कि क्या वह सोना लेकर आई है, जिसे उसने पहले नकार दिया।
- **Two female officers** took her to a private room, where she later **confessed** to smuggling gold.
दो महिला अधिकारियों ने उसे एक निजी कमरे में ले जाकर जांच की, जहां उसने बाद में तस्करी की बात कबूल की।
- The gold was found **hidden on her body, in her jeans pockets, and in the soles of her shoes**.
सोना उसके शरीर, जींस की जेबों और जूतों के तलवों में छुपा हुआ मिला।



- Basavaraj and Dhanush Kumar were also detained for their role in facilitating her movement.

बसवराज और धनुष कुमार को भी गिरफ्तार किया गया, क्योंकि उन्होंने उसे सुरक्षा मुहैया कराई थी।

Defense and Allegations

बचाव और आरोप

- Basavaraj claimed he was following orders from DGP Ramachandra Rao to provide protocol assistance to family members.
बसवराज ने दावा किया कि वह डीजीपी रामचंद्र राव के आदेशों का पालन कर रहा था और परिवार के सदस्यों को प्रोटोकॉल सहायता प्रदान कर रहा था।
- Ranya later denied all allegations and said she was framed, detained from the aircraft, and forced to sign documents under duress.
रान्या ने बाद में सभी आरोपों को खारिज कर दिया और कहा कि उसे फंसाया गया, विमान से ही हिरासत में लिया गया, और दबाव में दस्तावेजों पर हस्ताक्षर करवाए गए।
- She claimed that DRI officers physically assaulted her and made her sign over 40 pages of documents.
उसने दावा किया कि DRI अधिकारियों ने उसे मारा-पीटा और 40 से अधिक पन्नों पर जबरन हस्ताक्षर कराए।

Political Fallout and Investigation

राजनीतिक विवाद और जांच

- The case created a political storm in Karnataka, with opposition leaders accusing the ruling Congress of shielding politicians involved in the smuggling network.
इस मामले ने कर्नाटक में राजनीतिक हलचल मचा दी, जहां विपक्षी नेताओं ने कांग्रेस सरकार पर तस्करी में शामिल नेताओं को बचाने का आरोप लगाया।
- Multiple central agencies—CBI, ED, and Income Tax Department—joined the investigation, which is unusual for a gold smuggling case.
इस मामले में सीबीआई, ईडी और आयकर विभाग सहित कई केंद्रीय एजेंसियां शामिल हुईं, जो आमतौर पर सोने की तस्करी के मामलों में नहीं होता।
- Opposition demanded names of ministers allegedly involved, but the Congress countered by pointing out Ranya's business links to BJP.
विपक्ष ने तस्करी में कथित रूप से शामिल मंत्रियों के नाम उजागर करने की मांग की, लेकिन कांग्रेस ने रान्या के भाजपा से व्यावसायिक संबंधों को उजागर कर जवाब दिया।
- A BJP leader, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, made derogatory remarks about Ranya, claiming she had affairs with multiple politicians.



भाजपा नेता बसनगौड़ा पाटिल यतनाल ने रान्या के बारे में अपमानजनक टिप्पणी की, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि उसके कई नेताओं के साथ संबंध हैं।

- An FIR was filed against Yatnal, and he was later expelled from BJP for unrelated reasons.

यतनाल के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज की गई, और उन्हें बाद में भाजपा से निष्कासित कर दिया गया।

Karnataka Government's Response

कर्नाटक सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया

- Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that Central agencies had not provided any updates to the State government.
कर्नाटक के गृह मंत्री जी. परमेश्वर ने कहा कि केंद्रीय एजेंसियों ने राज्य सरकार को कोई जानकारी नहीं दी।
- DGP Ramachandra Rao was sent on mandatory leave, and a committee was formed under Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta to investigate his role.
डीजीपी रामचंद्र राव को अनिवार्य अवकाश पर भेज दिया गया, और अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव गौरव गुप्ता की अध्यक्षता में एक जांच समिति बनाई गई।
- Rao denied any involvement and stated that if Ranya had committed a crime, legal action would be taken.
राव ने किसी भी संलिप्तता से इनकार किया और कहा कि यदि रान्या ने कोई अपराध किया है, तो कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।
- In a press statement, he called himself a grieving parent, expressing shock over the situation.
एक प्रेस बयान में, उन्होंने खुद को एक दुखी पिता बताया और इस स्थिति पर आश्चर्य व्यक्त किया।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- The gold smuggling case involving Ranya Rao has turned into a major political and administrative controversy.
रान्या राव से जुड़े सोने की तस्करी का मामला एक बड़े राजनीतिक और प्रशासनिक विवाद में बदल गया है।
- The involvement of police officers and VIP protocol misuse raises serious questions about airport security.
पुलिस अधिकारियों की संलिप्तता और वीआईपी प्रोटोकॉल के दुरुपयोग ने हवाई अड्डे की सुरक्षा पर गंभीर सवाल खड़े कर दिए हैं।
- The case is being monitored at the highest levels, and further investigations are ongoing.
यह मामला उच्च स्तर पर निगरानी में है, और आगे की जांच जारी है।



Only a Mule?

सिर्फ एक वाहक या बड़ी साजिश?

Ranya's Claim vs. DRI's Findings

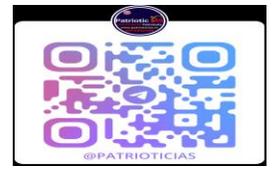
रान्या का दावा बनाम DRI की जांच

- Ranya Rao initially claimed that she was just a mule and was forced to smuggle gold.
रान्या राव ने शुरुआत में दावा किया कि वह सिर्फ एक वाहक थी और तस्करी करने के लिए मजबूर की गई थी।
- However, DRI documents suggest an organized smuggling syndicate, possibly based in Dubai (UAE).
लेकिन, DRI के दस्तावेजों से पता चलता है कि यह एक संगठित तस्करी गिरोह था, जो संभवतः दुबई (UAE) से संचालित हो रहा था।
- Before her Dubai trip, Ranya received VoIP calls from foreign numbers. A man with an African-American accent instructed her to collect gold at Dubai Airport's Terminal 3.
दुबई यात्रा से पहले, रान्या को विदेशी नंबरों से VoIP कॉल मिलीं। एक अफ्रीकी-अमेरिकी लहजे वाले व्यक्ति ने उसे दुबई हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल 3 पर सोना लेने के लिए कहा।
- She allegedly learned how to hide gold from YouTube videos and was told to drop it in an auto-rickshaw outside Bengaluru Airport.
उसने कथित तौर पर YouTube वीडियो से सोना छिपाने के तरीके सीखे और उसे बंगलुरु हवाई अड्डे के बाहर एक ऑटो-रिक्शा में छोड़ने के लिए कहा गया।
- DRI officials do not believe this story, as they found evidence of Ranya running a company in Dubai for gold imports and hawala transactions.
DRI अधिकारियों को यह कहानी भरोसेमंद नहीं लगी, क्योंकि उन्हें दुबई में रान्या की एक कंपनी के जरिए सोने के आयात और हवाला लेनदेन के प्रमाण मिले।

Evidence Against Ranya

रान्या के खिलाफ सबूत

- ₹2.67 crore cash and ₹2.06 crore worth of jewellery were seized from her residence in Lavelle Road, Bengaluru.
बंगलुरु के लावेल रोड स्थित रान्या के घर से ₹2.67 करोड़ नकद और ₹2.06 करोड़ मूल्य के गहने बरामद किए गए।
- Dubai Customs declarations (Nov 13, 2024 & Dec 20, 2024) were found in her name, but she never declared any gold in India.
दुबई कस्टम्स घोषणाएं (13 नवंबर 2024 और 20 दिसंबर 2024) उसके नाम पर मिलीं, लेकिन उसने भारत में कभी भी सोने की घोषणा नहीं की।



- A Resident Identity Card from Dubai was also found, proving her frequent visits and business links there.

दुबई का एक निवासी पहचान पत्र भी मिला, जिससे उसके लगातार वहां जाने और व्यापारिक संबंधों का पता चलता है।

Tarun Raju's Involvement

तरुण राजू की संलिप्तता

- Tarun Raju (30), a U.S. citizen and OCI cardholder, was arrested based on forensic evidence from Ranya's phone.
तरुण राजू (30), जो एक अमेरिकी नागरिक और OCI कार्डधारक है, को रान्या के फोन से मिले सबूतों के आधार पर गिरफ्तार किया गया।
- Tarun and Ranya ran "Vira Diamonds Trading LLC" in Dubai, with 50% stakes each, registered in 2023.
तरुण और रान्या ने "वीरा डायमंड्स ट्रेडिंग LLC" नामक कंपनी 2023 में दुबई में शुरू की, जिसमें दोनों की 50% हिस्सेदारी थी।
- Company allegedly imported gold to Dubai from Switzerland & Thailand, using hawala transactions from India.
कंपनी कथित तौर पर स्विट्जरलैंड और थाईलैंड से दुबई में सोना आयात करती थी, जिसके लिए भारत से हवाला लेनदेन किया जाता था।
- Tarun exited the company in December 2024, but was in Dubai with Ranya on March 3, 2025, the day of her arrest.
तरुण ने दिसंबर 2024 में कंपनी छोड़ दी थी, लेकिन 3 मार्च 2025 को रान्या के साथ दुबई में मौजूद था, जब वह पकड़ी गई।

Modus Operandi (Smuggling Method)

तस्करी का तरीका

- Gold was declared at Dubai Customs under Tarun's name, supposedly for Geneva or Bangkok.
सोने को दुबई कस्टम्स में तरुण के नाम से घोषित किया जाता था, जो जिनेवा या बैंकॉक ले जाने के लिए बताया जाता था।
- After passing through Dubai Customs, Tarun would hand over the gold to Ranya, who would then fly to India.
दुबई कस्टम्स पार करने के बाद, तरुण सोना रान्या को सौंप देता था, जो फिर भारत के लिए उड़ान भरती थी।



- Dubai and Indian Customs do not share direct communication, allowing this smuggling method to go undetected for years.
दुबई और भारतीय कस्टम्स के बीच सीधी सूचना साझाकरण प्रणाली नहीं है, जिससे यह तस्करी कई वर्षों तक बिना पकड़े जारी रही।

Gold Smuggling Still Profitable

सोने की तस्करी अब भी फायदेमंद

- In May 2024, the BJP-led Central government reduced gold import duty from 15% to 6%.
मई 2024 में, भाजपा सरकार ने सोने के आयात शुल्क को 15% से घटाकर 6% कर दिया।
- Despite this, gold smuggling remains lucrative due to rising gold prices.
इसके बावजूद, बढ़ती सोने की कीमतों के कारण इसकी तस्करी अभी भी लाभदायक बनी हुई है।
- DRI recently caught two foreign nationals at Mumbai Airport smuggling 21.28 kg gold.
DRI ने हाल ही में मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर दो विदेशी नागरिकों को 21.28 किलोग्राम सोने की तस्करी करते हुए पकड़ा।
- A smuggler carrying 10 kg of gold can earn around ₹50 lakh per trip.
10 किलोग्राम सोने की तस्करी करने वाला तस्कर प्रति यात्रा लगभग ₹50 लाख कमा सकता है।
- Ranya was allegedly selling smuggled gold herself, with trader Sahil Sakariya Jain from Ballari helping her dispose of it.
रान्या कथित तौर पर खुद तस्करी का सोना बेच रही थी, जिसमें बल्लारी के व्यापारी साहिल साकारिया जैन उसकी मदद कर रहे थे।

Misuse of Police Protocol

पुलिस प्रोटोकॉल का दुरुपयोग

- Committee led by Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta submitted its report, finding that DGP Ramachandra Rao knew about protocol misuse.
अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव गौरव गुप्ता की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपी, जिसमें पाया गया कि डीजीपी रामचंद्र राव को प्रोटोकॉल दुरुपयोग की जानकारी थी।
- Police protocol at airports is meant only for high-ranking officials, but was misused by Ranya multiple times.
हवाई अड्डों पर पुलिस प्रोटोकॉल केवल उच्च पदस्थ अधिकारियों के लिए होता है, लेकिन रान्या ने इसे कई बार गलत तरीके से इस्तेमाल किया।
- Customs officers admitted that VIP protocol passengers are rarely checked, allowing smugglers to bypass security.
कस्टम्स अधिकारियों ने स्वीकार किया कि वीआईपी प्रोटोकॉल वाले यात्रियों की शायद ही कभी जांच होती है, जिससे तस्करों को सुरक्षा से बचने का अवसर मिलता है।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



Current Status

मौजूदा स्थिति

- CBI has filed a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, to investigate public servants involved in the smuggling network.
सीबीआई ने भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1988 के तहत मामला दर्ज किया, ताकि सरकारी अधिकारियों की संलिप्तता की जांच की जा सके।
- Both Ranya and Tarun remain in judicial custody after their bail pleas were rejected.
रान्या और तरुण की जमानत याचिकाएं खारिज कर दी गईं, और वे न्यायिक हिरासत में हैं।

🏠 इस मामले की आगे की जांच से और बड़े खुलासे होने की संभावना है।