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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

30 MARCH 2025

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30_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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न्यायिक स्थानांतरण पर नियम

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4. Why has X sued the government over SAHYOG?

X ने SAHYOG पर सरकार के खिलाफ मुकदमा क्यों दायर किया है?

India's 'Operation Brahma' kicks off; Modi reaches out

GS Paper II

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with the Senior General of the Myanmar junta, Aung Min Hlaing, on Saturday, assuring him of "humanitarian assistance" from India to deal with the devastating aftermath of Friday's earthquake.

Their conversation was held hours after India started 'Operation Brahma' to assist Myanmar, where over 1,600 people have died, and many are trapped in the debris. The Ministry of External Affairs said that no Indian citizen was among the casualties.

The MEA also emphasised that it is coordinating rescue and relief efforts through the Myanmar government, run by the military junta, though a large chunk of quake-hit areas are under rebel control.

'In solidarity'

"Spoke with Senior General H.E. Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar. Conveyed our deep condolences at the loss of lives in the devastating earthquake. As a close friend and neighbour, India stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar in this difficult hour," Mr. Modi said.

"Disaster relief material, humanitarian assistance, search and rescue teams are being expeditiously dispatched to the affected areas as part of

Operation Brahma," Mr. Modi said.

India began sending humanitarian assistance early Saturday morning when a C130 aircraft of the Indian Air Force took off from the Hindon airbase and landed in Yangon. This was followed by two more aircraft carrying relief materials to Myanmar. In an unscheduled media briefing, the MEA said that India would also set up a field hospital in the earthquake-hit region.

'First responder'

"India has been playing the role of first responder in such situations. Last year when Cyclone Yagi had struck, we had responded to assist the government and people of Myanmar. We would do our best to provide relief, rescue and whatever assistance is required to deal with the calamity," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

He added that no casualty has been reported so far from the community of 50,000 to 60,000 Indian nationals living in Myanmar. "We have a large Indian diaspora in Myanmar – almost two million – and we are in touch with those organisations," said Mr. Jaiswal.

The Indian Navy has also prepared four ships for the HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response) operation in Myanmar.

Operation Brahma: India's Humanitarian Aid to Myanmar

ऑपरेशन ब्रह्म: म्यांमार के लिए भारत की

मानवीय सहायता

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Senior General Aung Min Hlaing of the Myanmar junta on Saturday, assuring him of "humanitarian assistance" from India to deal with the devastating aftermath of Friday's earthquake.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शनिवार को म्यांमार जुंटा के वरिष्ठ जनरल आंग मिन हलाइंग से बात की और शुक्रवार के भूकंप के विनाशकारी प्रभाव से निपटने के लिए भारत से "मानवीय सहायता" देने का आश्वासन दिया।

• Their conversation took place hours after India launched "Operation Brahma" to assist Myanmar, where over 1,600 people have died, and many are trapped under debris.

उनकी बातचीत भारत द्वारा "ऑपरेशन ब्रह्म" शुरू करने के कुछ घंटे बाद हुई, जिसमें म्यांमार की मदद की जा रही है, जहां 1,600 से अधिक लोगों की मौत हो चुकी है और कई लोग मलबे में फंसे हुए हैं।

• The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that no Indian citizen was among the casualties.

विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने कहा कि हताहतों में कोई भी भारतीय नागरिक शामिल नहीं है।

• The MEA also emphasized that India is coordinating rescue and relief efforts through the Myanmar military government, even though a large portion of the quake-hit areas is under rebel control.

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विदेश मंत्रालय ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि भारत म्यांमार की सैन्य सरकार के माध्यम से बचाव और राहत कार्यों का समन्वय कर रहा है, हालांकि भूकंप प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का बड़ा हिस्सा विद्रोहियों के नियंत्रण में है।

India Stands in Solidarity

भारत एकजुटता में खड़ा है

- “Spoke with Senior General H.E. Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar. Conveyed our deep condolences for the loss of lives in the devastating earthquake. India stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar in this difficult time,” said Prime Minister Modi.
"वरिष्ठ जनरल एच.ई. मिन आंग हलाइंग से बात की। भयानक भूकंप में जान गंवाने पर गहरी संवेदना व्यक्त की। भारत इस कठिन समय में म्यांमार के लोगों के साथ एकजुटता से खड़ा है," प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा।
- Disaster relief material, humanitarian assistance, and search and rescue teams are being rapidly dispatched to affected areas as part of Operation Brahma.
आपदा राहत सामग्री, मानवीय सहायता, और खोज एवं बचाव दलों को ऑपरेशन ब्रह्म के तहत तेजी से प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में भेजा जा रहा है।
- India began sending humanitarian aid on early Saturday morning when a C-130 aircraft of the Indian Air Force took off from Hindon airbase and landed in Yangon.
भारत ने शनिवार सुबह मानवीय सहायता भेजनी शुरू की, जब भारतीय वायुसेना का C-130 विमान हिंडन एयरबेस से उड़ान भरकर यंगून पहुंचा।
- This was followed by two more aircraft carrying relief materials to Myanmar.
इसके बाद दो और विमानों ने राहत सामग्री के साथ म्यांमार के लिए उड़ान भरी।
- In an unscheduled media briefing, the MEA announced that India would set up a field hospital in the earthquake-hit region.
अचानक बुलाई गई मीडिया ब्रीफिंग में, विदेश मंत्रालय ने घोषणा की कि भारत भूकंप प्रभावित क्षेत्र में एक फील्ड अस्पताल स्थापित करेगा।

India: The First Responder

भारत: पहला उत्तरदाता

- “India has always played the role of first responder in such situations. Last year, when Cyclone Yagi hit Myanmar, India provided assistance. We will continue to provide relief, rescue, and other necessary help,” said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.
"भारत ने हमेशा ऐसे हालात में पहले उत्तरदाता की भूमिका निभाई है। पिछले साल, जब चक्रवात यागी म्यांमार से टकराया था, तब भी भारत ने सहायता दी थी। हम राहत, बचाव और अन्य आवश्यक मदद देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं," विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रंधीर जायसवाल ने कहा।



- **No casualties** have been reported among the **50,000 to 60,000 Indian nationals** living in Myanmar.
म्यांमार में रहने वाले 50,000 से 60,000 भारतीय नागरिकों में से कोई हताहत नहीं हुआ है।
- **India has a large diaspora** of about **2 million people** in Myanmar, and the **government is in touch with their organizations**.
म्यांमार में लगभग 20 लाख भारतीय प्रवासी रहते हैं, और सरकार उनकी संस्थाओं के संपर्क में है।
- The **Indian Navy** has also prepared **four ships** for the **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) operation** in Myanmar. **भारतीय नौसेना** ने भी **मानवीय सहायता और आपदा प्रतिक्रिया (HADR) अभियान** के लिए **चार जहाज तैयार किए हैं**।

SC to hear Tushar Gandhi's plea against 'renovation' of Sabarmati Ashram on April 1

GS Paper II: Polity

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson has moved the Supreme Court, raising concerns over the Gujarat government's "renovation" of Sabarmati Ashram, saying the project had been envisaged in a manner contrary to the spirit and ethos of Gandhian simplicity.

A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Rajesh Bindal is scheduled on April 1 to hear Tushar Gandhi's appeal against a September 8, 2022 decision of the Gujarat High Court, which rejected his plea against the State government's proposed transformation of the ashram.

Plan for 'theme park'

"The Sabarmati Ashram stands as a testament to the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and his pivotal role in India's Freedom Struggle. The proposed renovation project militates against **Article 39** of the



Peace icon: A statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.

Constitution, which emphasises on **prevention of accumulation of wealth**, and **Article 49** of the Constitution, which emphasises on **protection of monuments and places of national importance**. The Sabarmati Ashram is proposed to be transformed into a **theme park**, making a mockery of the teachings of Gandhi," the special leave petition, represented by advocates Kaleeswaram Raj, Nishe Rajen Shonker, and Thulasi K. Raj, submitted.

The petition sought a

stay on activities and construction linked to the project in order to protect the cultural heritage of Sabarmati Ashram as a marker of a national memory. It argued that "cultural heritage, in all its forms, was inextricably linked to the fundamental principles of human dignity and equality, warranting robust legal and institutional protection on a global scale".

Mr. Gandhi, in his petition, pleaded that historical monuments which have existed for over a century would come within the ambit of the Ancient Monuments Act. The Sabarmati Ashram was founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917. "India has duty to protect and preserve culturally and historically significant sites such as the Sabarmati Ashram," the petition said.

The State, in an affidavit in the High Court, had stated the project would not alter the topography of the ashram nor go against Gandhian ethos.

SC to hear Tushar Gandhi's plea against 'renovation' of Sabarmati Ashram on April 1

1 अप्रैल को सबरमती आश्रम के 'नवीनीकरण' के खिलाफ तुषार गांधी की याचिका पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट सुनवाई करेगा

- **Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson, Tushar Gandhi**, has moved the **Supreme Court**, raising concerns over the **Gujarat government's "renovation"** of **Sabarmati Ashram**, saying the project goes against the **spirit and ethos of Gandhian simplicity**.

महात्मा गांधी के परपोते, तुषार गांधी, ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में याचिका दायर की है, जिसमें उन्होंने गुजरात सरकार के सबरमती आश्रम के "नवीनीकरण" पर चिंता जताई है, यह कहते हुए कि यह परियोजना गांधीवादी सरलता की भावना और विचारों के खिलाफ है।

- **A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Rajesh Bindal** is scheduled

to hear Tushar Gandhi's appeal against a **September 8, 2022 decision** of the **Gujarat High Court**, which rejected his plea against the state government's **proposed**



transformation of the ashram.

न्यायमूर्ति एम.एम. सुंदरश और राजेश बिंदल की एक बेंच ने तुषार गांधी की याचिका पर 8 सितंबर 2022 का फैसला सुनने के लिए निर्धारित किया है, जिसमें गुजरात उच्च न्यायालय ने राज्य सरकार के आश्रम के प्रस्तावित परिवर्तन के खिलाफ उनकी याचिका को खारिज किया था।

- The proposed renovation project is said to militate against Article 39 and Article 49 of the Constitution, which deal with prevention of accumulation of wealth and protection of national monuments.

प्रस्तावित नवीनीकरण परियोजना को संविधान के अनुच्छेद 39 और अनुच्छेद 49 के खिलाफ बताया गया है, जो धन संचय को रोकने और राष्ट्रीय स्मारकों की सुरक्षा से संबंधित हैं।

- Sabarmati Ashram is proposed to be transformed into a theme park, which the petitioners argue would make a mockery of Gandhi's teachings.

सबरमती आश्रम को थीम पार्क में बदलने का प्रस्ताव है, जिसे याचिकाकर्ता यह कहते हुए गांधी के उपदेशों का मजाक बनाने जैसा मानते हैं।

- The petition seeks a stay on activities and construction linked to the project to protect the cultural heritage of Sabarmati Ashram.

याचिका में इस परियोजना से जुड़ी गतिविधियों और निर्माण पर रोक लगाने की मांग की गई है ताकि सबरमती आश्रम की सांस्कृतिक धरोहर की रक्षा की जा सके।

- Tushar Gandhi's petition argues that historical monuments that have existed for over a century come under the Ancient Monuments Act.

तुषार गांधी की याचिका में यह तर्क दिया गया है कि ऐतिहासिक स्मारक, जो एक सदी से अधिक समय से अस्तित्व में हैं, प्राचीन स्मारक अधिनियम के तहत आते हैं।

- Sabarmati Ashram was founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917 and India has a duty to protect and preserve culturally and historically significant sites.

सबरमती आश्रम महात्मा गांधी द्वारा 1917 में स्थापित किया गया था और भारत का कर्तव्य है कि वह सांस्कृतिक और ऐतिहासिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण स्थलों की रक्षा और संरक्षण करे।

- The State government in an affidavit had stated that the project would not alter the topography of the ashram nor go against Gandhian ethos.

राज्य सरकार ने एक हथियारनामा में यह कहा था कि परियोजना आश्रम की स्थलाकृति को नहीं बदलेगी और न ही यह गांधीवादी विचारों के खिलाफ जाएगी।



What are the rules on judicial transfers?

Why has Justice Yashwant Varma been transferred to the Allahabad High Court? Why is there a recommendation that Parliament establish a Judicial Council to oversee appointments and transfers? Why was the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act struck down?

GS Paper II: Aar Judiciary

The story so far:

In March 28, the Union government notified the repatriation of Justice Yashwant Varma to his parent High Court in Allahabad, where he had previously served as a judge. The decision comes amid allegations that charred currency notes were recovered from his residence after a fire. His transfer was proposed after Delhi High Court Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya sought an in-house inquiry into the matter. However, Justice Varma has denied the allegations, calling them a "conspiracy to malign" him.

How are High Court judges transferred?

Article 222(1) of the Constitution empowers the President, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), to transfer a judge from one High Court to another. This provision has been the subject of extensive judicial interpretation, particularly through three rulings known as the First, Second, and Third Judges cases.

In *S.P. Gupta versus President of India* (1981), commonly referred to as the First Judges case, the Supreme Court held that consultation with the CJI did not necessitate concurrence, thereby affirming the executive's primacy in judicial appointments and transfers. However, this position was overturned in *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association versus Union of India* (1993), or the Second Judges case, where the Court institutionalised the collegium system. The ruling established that in the event of a disagreement between the President and the CJI, the latter's opinion would prevail. More importantly, the Court underscored that judicial

The Justice Varma case has reignited political discourse on judicial appointments

transfers must serve public interest and improve the administration of justice. Justice J.S. Verma, who authored the judgment, further clarified that the CJI must consult the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, relevant Supreme Court judges, and at least one senior High Court judge or any other individual whose views are deemed significant, including senior members of the Bar, where appropriate. The Court further reasoned that involving multiple judges in the decision-making process serves as an inherent safeguard against arbitrariness. Consequently, it limited judicial review of transfer decisions, asserting that such matters should remain insulated from "legislative debates".

Notably, the Court clarified that a judge's consent is not a prerequisite for either an initial or subsequent transfer. In the Third Judges case (1998), it further refined the collegium system, mandating that transfer recommendations be made by the CJI in consultation with the four seniormost judges. It required inputs from Supreme Court judges who had previously served in the High Court from which the judge was being transferred. Following the collegium's recommendation, the Law Minister reviews it and advises the Prime Minister, who then forwards the recommendation to the President. Once approved, the transfer is formalised through a gazette notification, and the judge assumes office in the new High Court.

What are the criticisms?

A recent report by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) raises serious concerns about judicial independence in India, citing growing executive interference, opacity in appointments, and weak accountability mechanisms. It highlighted that judicial transfers, carried out without the affected judge's consent, are often justified on ambiguous grounds such as "public interest" and the "better administration of justice." This, the report noted, makes it difficult to distinguish legitimate transfers from punitive or retaliatory actions. To mitigate these concerns, the ICJ recommended that Parliament establish a "Judicial Council" to oversee appointments and transfers based on transparent, objective, and predetermined criteria.

What happened to the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act?

To address concerns over the collegium system's opacity, the Narendra Modi government in 2014 proposed sweeping reforms to judicial appointments. In August, Parliament enacted the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014, and the National Judicial Appointments

Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014, establishing an independent body to replace the collegium system for appointing judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts. The NJAC was to be chaired by the CJI and include the two senior-most Supreme Court judges, the Union Law Minister, and two eminent civil society members. One would be nominated by a panel comprising the CJI, Prime Minister, and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, while the other had to belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, or be a woman. The amendment witnessed rare political unanimity, passing in Parliament with near-complete consensus – with the sole dissent from veteran jurist Ram Jethmalani – and was subsequently ratified by 16 State legislatures.

However, within days of its enactment, the law was challenged before the Supreme Court. The primary contention was the veto power granted to any two dissenting NJAC members, potentially allowing the Law Minister and the two eminent members to override the judiciary's majority within the commission.

On October 16, 2015, a five-judge Bench ruled with a 4:1 majority that the NJAC was unconstitutional and violated the "basic structure of the Constitution". The Bench underscored that "the veto power with the Law Minister or with non-judge members, as against a Supreme Court Judge who is a member of the collegium, may involve interference with the independence of the judiciary". However, the lone dissenter, Justice Jasti Chelameswar, observed that, aside from occasional leaks, the collegium records remained "absolutely beyond the reach of any person, including judges of this court who are not lucky enough to become the Chief Justice of India."

What lies ahead?

Justice Varma's transfer seems intended to avert an administrative impasse in Delhi. As the third senior-most judge, he was a member of both the High Court Collegium and several key administrative committees. His continued presence in Delhi risked stalling crucial decision-making processes. No timeline has been set for the three-member inquiry committee investigating the allegations. While hearing a plea for an FIR against the judge, the CJI dismissed it as "premature," stating that any decision on criminal proceedings or a parliamentary reference for removal would depend on the inquiry's findings. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court, in a press release, disclosed that the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court has been directed to refrain from assigning Justice Varma any judicial work for now. The development has also reignited political discourse on judicial appointments. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar remarked that "things would have been different" had the top court not struck down the "historic legislation" establishing the NJAC.



In the works: Allahabad High Court lawyers stage a strike over Delhi High Court Justice Yashwant Varma's transfer, in Prayagraj on March 25. ANI

Rules on Judicial Transfers

न्यायिक स्थानांतरण पर नियम



On March 28, the Union government notified the repatriation of Justice Yashwant Varma to his parent High Court in Allahabad, where he had previously served as a judge.

28 मार्च को केंद्र सरकार ने न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा को उनके मूल इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय में पुनः नियुक्ति का नोटिफिकेशन जारी किया, जहां वह पहले न्यायाधीश के रूप में कार्यरत थे।

- The decision comes amid **allegations** that **charred currency notes** were recovered from his residence after a fire.
यह निर्णय आरोपों के बीच आया है कि एक आग के बाद उसके निवास से जल चुकी मुद्रा नोटों की बरामदगी की गई थी।
- **Justice Varma** has denied the allegations, calling them a “**conspiracy to malign**” him.
न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा ने इन आरोपों का खंडन किया है, उन्हें “कीचड़ उछालने की साजिश” करार दिया है।

How are High Court Judges Transferred?

उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों का स्थानांतरण कैसे किया जाता है?

- **Article 222(1)** of the **Constitution** empowers the **President**, in consultation with the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, to transfer a judge from one High Court to another.
संविधान का अनुच्छेद 222(1) राष्ट्रपति को, भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) की सलाह से, एक न्यायाधीश को एक उच्च न्यायालय से दूसरे उच्च न्यायालय में स्थानांतरित करने का अधिकार देता है।
- This provision has been the subject of extensive **judicial interpretation**, particularly through the **First, Second, and Third Judges cases**.
इस प्रावधान का विस्तृत न्यायिक व्याख्या का विषय रहा है, विशेष रूप से प्रथम, द्वितीय और तृतीय न्यायाधीशों के मामलों के माध्यम से।
- In **S.P. Gupta versus President of India (1981)**, commonly referred to as the **First Judges case**, the Supreme Court held that **consultation with the CJI** did not necessitate concurrence, affirming the executive’s primacy in judicial appointments and transfers.
S.P. गुप्ता बनाम राष्ट्रपति भारत (1981), जिसे सामान्यतः प्रथम न्यायाधीश मामले के रूप में जाना जाता है, में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि **CJI से परामर्श** की आवश्यकता सहमति नहीं थी, इसने न्यायिक नियुक्तियों और स्थानांतरण में **कार्यपालिका की प्रमुखता** को प्रमाणित किया।
- However, this position was overturned in **Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association versus Union of India (1993)**, or the **Second Judges case**, where the Court institutionalised the **collegium system**.
हालांकि, इस स्थिति को सुप्रीम कोर्ट **एडवोकेट्स-ऑन-रिकॉर्ड एसोसिएशन बनाम भारत संघ (1993)**, या **द्वितीय न्यायाधीश मामले** में पलट दिया गया, जहां अदालत ने **कॉलेजियम प्रणाली** को संस्थागत रूप से मान्यता दी।



- The ruling established that in the event of a disagreement between the **President** and the **CJI**, the **CJI's** opinion would prevail.
इस फैसले में यह स्थापित किया गया कि यदि राष्ट्रपति और **CJI** के बीच मतभेद होता है, तो **CJI** की राय निर्णायक होगी।
- The Court underscored that **judicial transfers** must serve **public interest** and improve the **administration of justice**.
अदालत ने यह स्पष्ट किया कि **न्यायिक स्थानांतरण** का उद्देश्य **जनहित** को सेवा देना और **न्याय प्रशासन** में सुधार लाना होना चाहिए।
- **Justice J.S. Verma**, who authored the judgment, further clarified that the **CJI** must consult the **Chief Justice of the concerned High Court**, relevant **Supreme Court judges**, and at least one **senior High Court judge** or others deemed significant.
न्यायमूर्ति जे.एस. वर्मा, जिन्होंने यह फैसला लिखा, ने आगे स्पष्ट किया कि **CJI** को संबंधित **उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश**, संबंधित **सुप्रीम कोर्ट न्यायाधीशों**, और कम से कम एक **वरिष्ठ उच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश** या अन्य महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्तियों से परामर्श करना चाहिए।
- The Court further reasoned that involving multiple judges in the decision-making process serves as an inherent safeguard against arbitrariness.
अदालत ने यह भी तर्क दिया कि निर्णय-निर्माण प्रक्रिया में कई न्यायाधीशों को शामिल करना मनमानी से सुरक्षा का एक स्वाभाविक उपाय है।
- Consequently, the Court limited **judicial review** of transfer decisions, asserting that such matters should remain insulated from "**legislative debates**."
परिणामस्वरूप, अदालत ने स्थानांतरण निर्णयों की **न्यायिक समीक्षा** को सीमित किया, यह कहते हुए कि ऐसी बातें "**विधायी बहसों**" से अलग रहनी चाहिए।
- The Court clarified that a **judge's consent** is not a prerequisite for either an initial or subsequent transfer.
अदालत ने स्पष्ट किया कि **न्यायाधीश की सहमति** किसी भी प्रारंभिक या बाद के स्थानांतरण के लिए आवश्यक नहीं है।
- In the **Third Judges case (1998)**, it further refined the **collegium system**, mandating that transfer recommendations be made by the **CJI** in consultation with the **four seniormost judges**.
तृतीय न्यायाधीश मामले (1998) में, उसने **कॉलेजियम प्रणाली** को और अधिक परिष्कृत किया, जिसमें स्थानांतरण सिफारिशें **CJI** द्वारा **चार वरिष्ठतम न्यायाधीशों** की सलाह से की जाती हैं।
- Following the **collegium's recommendation**, the **Law Minister** reviews it and advises the **Prime Minister**, who then forwards the recommendation to the **President**.
कॉलेजियम की सिफारिश के बाद, **कानून मंत्री** इसे समीक्षा करता है और **प्रधानमंत्री** को सलाह देता है, जो फिर सिफारिश को राष्ट्रपति को भेजता है।
- Once approved, the **transfer** is formalised through a **gazette notification**, and the judge assumes office in the new High Court.
एक बार स्वीकृत होने के बाद, **स्थानांतरण** को **गजट नोटिफिकेशन** के माध्यम से औपचारिक रूप से पूरा किया जाता है, और न्यायाधीश नए उच्च न्यायालय में अपना पदभार ग्रहण करते हैं।



Criticisms आलोचनाएँ

- A recent report by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) raises serious concerns about **judicial independence** in India, citing growing **executive interference**, **opacity in appointments**, and weak **accountability mechanisms**.
जिनेवा स्थित इंटरनेशनल कमीशन ऑफ ज्यूरिस्ट्स (ICJ) की एक हालिया रिपोर्ट में भारत में न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता को लेकर गंभीर चिंताएँ जताई गई हैं, जिसमें बढ़ती कार्यपालिका का हस्तक्षेप, नियुक्तियों में अपारदर्शिता, और कमजोर जवाबदेही तंत्र का हवाला दिया गया है।
- The ICJ highlighted that **judicial transfers**, carried out without the affected judge's consent, are often justified on ambiguous grounds such as "**public interest**" and the "**better administration of justice.**"
ICJ ने यह बताया कि न्यायिक स्थानांतरण, जो प्रभावित न्यायाधीश की सहमति के बिना किए जाते हैं, अक्सर "जनहित" और "न्याय के बेहतर प्रशासन" जैसे अस्पष्ट आधारों पर सही ठहराए जाते हैं।
- This, the report noted, makes it difficult to distinguish legitimate transfers from punitive or retaliatory actions.
रिपोर्ट ने यह भी कहा कि इससे वैध स्थानांतरण को दंडात्मक या प्रतिशोधात्मक कार्रवाइयों से अलग करना कठिन हो जाता है।
- To mitigate these concerns, the ICJ recommended that **Parliament establish a "Judicial Council"** to oversee appointments and transfers based on **transparent, objective, and predetermined criteria**.
इन चिंताओं को कम करने के लिए, ICJ ने संसद से "न्यायिक परिषद" की स्थापना करने की सिफारिश की, जो पारदर्शी, वस्तुनिष्ठ, और पूर्वनिर्धारित मापदंडों के आधार पर नियुक्तियों और स्थानांतरणों की निगरानी करे।

What happened to the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act?

राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति आयोग अधिनियम का क्या हुआ?

- To address concerns over the **collegium system's opacity**, the **Narendra Modi government** in 2014 proposed sweeping reforms to **judicial appointments**.
कॉलेजियम प्रणाली की अपारदर्शिता को लेकर चिंताओं का समाधान करने के लिए, नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार ने 2014 में न्यायिक नियुक्तियों के लिए व्यापक सुधारों का प्रस्ताव रखा।
- In **August 2014**, Parliament enacted the **Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014**, and the **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014**, establishing an **independent body** to replace the **collegium system** for appointing judges to the **Supreme Court and High Courts**.
अगस्त 2014 में, संसद ने संविधान (99वां संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2014, और राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति



आयोग (NJAC) अधिनियम, 2014 को पारित किया, जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट और उच्च न्यायालयों में न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति के लिए कॉलेजियम प्रणाली के स्थान पर एक स्वतंत्र निकाय स्थापित करता है।

- The NJAC was to be chaired by the CJI and include the two senior-most Supreme Court judges, the Union Law Minister, and two eminent civil society members.
NJAC का अध्यक्ष CJI होना था और इसमें दो वरिष्ठतम सुप्रीम कोर्ट न्यायाधीश, केंद्रीय कानून मंत्री, और दो प्रमुख नागरिक समाज के सदस्य शामिल होते थे।
- One member would be nominated by a panel comprising the CJI, Prime Minister, and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, while the other had to belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, or be a woman.
एक सदस्य को CJI, प्रधानमंत्री, और लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता की पैनल द्वारा नामित किया जाता, जबकि दूसरा सदस्य अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति, अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग का होना चाहिए या वह एक महिला होनी चाहिए।
- The amendment witnessed rare political unanimity, passing in Parliament with near-complete consensus — with the sole dissent from veteran jurist Ram Jethmalani — and was subsequently ratified by 16 State legislatures.
इस संशोधन ने दुर्लभ राजनीतिक सर्वसम्मति देखी, जो संसद में लगभग पूर्ण सहमति से पारित हुई — जिसमें वरिष्ठ न्यायविद राम जेठमलानी की एकमात्र असहमतिपूर्ण राय थी — और इसे 16 राज्य विधानसभाओं द्वारा बाद में अनुमोदित किया गया।
- However, within days of its enactment, the law was challenged before the Supreme Court.
हालांकि, इसके पारित होने के कुछ दिनों बाद, इस कानून को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनौती दी गई।
- The primary contention was the veto power granted to any two dissenting NJAC members, potentially allowing the Law Minister and the two eminent members to override the judiciary's majority within the commission.
मुख्य विवाद यह था कि NJAC के दो असहमत सदस्यों को दी गई वीटो पावर, जिससे कानून मंत्री और दो प्रमुख सदस्य न्यायपालिका के बहुमत को आयोग के भीतर पार कर सकते थे।
- On October 16, 2015, a five-judge Bench ruled with a 4:1 majority that the NJAC was unconstitutional and violated the “basic structure of the Constitution”.
16 अक्टूबर 2015 को, एक पाँच न्यायाधीशों की बेंच ने 4:1 बहुमत से यह निर्णय दिया कि NJAC अविधिक है और यह “संविधान की मूल संरचना” का उल्लंघन करता है।
- The Bench underscored that “the veto power with the Law Minister or with non-judge members, as against a Supreme Court Judge who is a member of the collegium, may involve interference with the independence of the judiciary.”
बेंच ने यह स्पष्ट किया कि “कानून मंत्री या गैर-न्यायिक सदस्य के पास वीटो पावर, जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट न्यायाधीश के खिलाफ है, जो कॉलेजियम के सदस्य हैं, यह न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता में हस्तक्षेप कर सकता है।”
- However, the lone dissenter, Justice Jasti Chelameswar, observed that, aside from occasional leaks, the collegium records remained “absolutely beyond the reach of any person, including judges of this court who are not lucky enough to become the Chief Justice of India.”



हालांकि, एकमात्र असहमतिपूर्ण सदस्य, न्यायमूर्ति जस्ती चेलमेश्वर, ने यह टिप्पणी की कि, कभी-कभी लोक होने के अलावा, कॉलेजियम रिपोर्ट्स "किसी भी व्यक्ति के पहुंच से पूरी तरह बाहर" रहते थे, जिसमें इस अदालत के न्यायाधीश भी शामिल हैं, जो भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बनने के लिए भाग्यशाली नहीं होते।

What lies ahead?

आगे क्या होगा?

- **Justice Varma's transfer** seems intended to avert an **administrative impasse** in Delhi. न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा का स्थानांतरण दिल्ली में प्रशासनिक गतिरोध से बचने के लिए किया गया लगता है।
- As the **third senior-most judge**, he was a member of both the **High Court Collegium** and several key **administrative committees**. तीसरे वरिष्ठतम न्यायाधीश के रूप में, वह उच्च न्यायालय कॉलेजियम और कई प्रमुख प्रशासनिक समितियों के सदस्य थे।
- His continued presence in Delhi risked stalling crucial decision-making processes. दिल्ली में उनकी निरंतर उपस्थिति महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय-निर्माण प्रक्रियाओं को ठप कर सकती थी।
- No timeline has been set for the **three-member inquiry committee** investigating the allegations. आरोपों की जांच करने वाली तीन सदस्यीय जांच समिति के लिए कोई समयसीमा निर्धारित नहीं की गई है।
- While hearing a plea for an **FIR against the judge**, the **CJI** dismissed it as "**premature**," stating that any decision on **criminal proceedings** or a **parliamentary reference for removal** would depend on the inquiry's findings. न्यायाधीश के खिलाफ FIR की याचिका सुनते हुए, CJI ने इसे "अत्यधिक जल्दबाजी" करार दिया, यह कहते हुए कि आपराधिक कार्यवाही या हटाने के लिए संसदीय संदर्भ पर कोई भी निर्णय जांच के निष्कर्षों पर निर्भर करेगा।
- Meanwhile, the **Supreme Court**, in a press release, disclosed that the ****Chief Justice**



Why has X sued the government over SAHYOG?

What is Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act? Why is X calling SAHYOG a 'censorship portal'? Is there a move to bypass the limited safeguards under Section 69A of the IT Act, which allows content blocking only on specific grounds such as national security?

GS Paper II: SAHYOG

Aroon Deop

The story so far:

Social media platform X has sued the Union government in the Karnataka High Court for the SAHYOG portal, which it says is a "censorship portal" that allows local police and different parts of the government to indiscriminately demand takedowns of online content.

What is the SAHYOG portal?

The SAHYOG portal was "developed to automate the process of sending notices to intermediaries by the Appropriate Government or its agency under IT Act, 2000 to facilitate the removal or disabling of access to any information, data or communication link being used to commit an unlawful act," the Centre says on the site. It is run by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) with help from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

The portal's existence was disclosed by the MHA during a Delhi High Court case filed by the parent of a "missing" 19-year-old in *Shabana versus Govt of NCT of Delhi and Ors*. The court questioned the government and social media firms over delays in obtaining data from an Instagram account used by the teenager. The

The government says 'takedown' orders are not blocking orders; X calls them illegal

court had emphasised the need for a mechanism to enable real-time interactions between Internet intermediaries and law enforcement in order to address urgent cases.

The government, which was already testing the SAHYOG portal, and the MHA held a virtual conference with State police officials, informing them of the pilot. The portal is to be given over to the police across the country, MHA officials said at the meeting, and would soon be "expanded" to accommodate data requests from social media firms in such cases. The main mandate, however, remained content takedown notices under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. X considers this illegal, as it argues only two laws govern internet takedowns in India.

What are the laws?

Section 79(1) of the IT Act gives online platforms a shield from legal liability for content posted by third parties, that is, their users. Section 79(3), however, qualifies this safe harbour by stating that the shield will not apply if "upon receiving actual knowledge, or on being notified by the appropriate Government or its agency that any information... controlled by the intermediary is being used to commit the unlawful act, the intermediary fails to expeditiously remove or disable access to that material on that resource without vitiating the evidence in any manner." In other words, if social media companies are given notice by any "appropriate Government or its agency," then they can also be taken to court for a piece of content, just like the user. This is incentive enough for social media firms to take down posts that have been flagged by authorities, without an explicit legal direction.

X argues – as have civil society groups – that this is an overreach. "Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act does not authorise the government to issue information blocking orders," X said in its petition. "That power is governed by Section 69A of the IT Act read with the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009." This has been upheld by the *Shreya Singhal* judgment of the Supreme Court in 2015, a verdict that also held unconstitutional

Section 66A, a broad law allowing prosecution over users posting "offensive" content.

Section 69A allows the government to block content, the IT Ministry says, if it impinges on "(i) interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States or (v) public order or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offense relating to above." However, this Section has several safeguards built into it, such as giving users the opportunity to be heard. These safeguards are laid out in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009. However, even blockings under Section 69A have been contentious, because there have been instances where a notice has not been issued.

"While website blocking orders under Section 69A have poor procedural safeguards, they still have some of them," the Internet Freedom Foundation noted in an analysis of X's new lawsuit. "Now, even those basic thresholds have been bypassed by MeitY, which has transformed the safe harbour framework under Section 79 into a censorship system on large-scale."

What is the government's stance?

While these legal challenges are being worked out, the SAHYOG portal has seen participation from most social media firms, including those owned by Meta and Google. The government has argued that the "takedown" orders (as they are called even in the model notice the IT Ministry has shared with authorities) are not blocking orders. "Section 79 regime does not envisage any 'blocking orders' and merely issues notice informing intermediaries of their due diligence obligations," the government said in a filing in the case. "In case of non-compliance of the notices, the result is lifting of safe harbour protection and consequent action under extant law... and the same is fundamentally at a different plane altogether."

The potential for censorship even in such an indirect content governance regime, however, has elicited concerns. As Vasudev Devadasan, then with the Centre for Communications Governance at the National Law University, Delhi, wrote in 2022: "Unlike newspapers and broadcasters who are directly incentivised to protect their own content, social media companies have few incentives to defend their users' content."



AFF

Why has X sued the government over SAHYOG?

X ने SAHYOG पर सरकार के खिलाफ मुकदमा क्यों दायर किया है?

Social media platform X has sued the Union government in the Karnataka High Court over the SAHYOG portal, which it describes as a "censorship portal" that allows local police and various government agencies to indiscriminately demand the takedown of online content.

सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X ने कर्नाटका हाई कोर्ट में SAHYOG पोर्टल के खिलाफ केंद्र सरकार के खिलाफ मुकदमा दायर किया है, जिसे यह "सेंसरशिप पोर्टल" के रूप में वर्णित



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करता है, जो स्थानीय पुलिस और विभिन्न सरकारी एजेंसियों को ऑनलाइन कंटेंट को मनमाने तरीके से हटाने की मांग करने की अनुमति देता है।

What is the SAHYOG portal?

SAHYOG पोर्टल क्या है?

- The **SAHYOG portal** was developed to automate the process of sending notices to intermediaries by the **Appropriate Government** or its agencies under the **IT Act, 2000**, to facilitate the removal or disabling of access to unlawful content.
SAHYOG पोर्टल को आईटी अधिनियम, 2000 के तहत उचित सरकार या उसकी एजेंसियों द्वारा मध्यस्थों को नोटिस भेजने की प्रक्रिया को स्वचालित करने के लिए विकसित किया गया था, ताकि अवैध सामग्री को हटाया जा सके या उसकी पहुंच को निष्क्रिय किया जा सके।
- It is operated by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** with assistance from the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
इसे गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) द्वारा चलाया जाता है, जिसमें इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) की मदद प्राप्त है।
- The portal was disclosed during a **Delhi High Court** case involving a missing teenager, leading to the decision to implement the portal for urgent law enforcement cases.
यह पोर्टल दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के एक मामले के दौरान खुलासा हुआ था, जिसमें एक गुमशुदा किशोरी से संबंधित था, जिसके बाद इसे तत्काल कानून प्रवर्तन मामलों के लिए लागू करने का निर्णय लिया गया था।
- The portal is intended to be used by the police across the country for content takedown notices under **Section 79(3)(b)** of the **IT Act**.
यह पोर्टल देशभर की पुलिस द्वारा आईटी अधिनियम के धारा 79(3)(b) के तहत सामग्री हटाने के नोटिस के लिए उपयोग किया जाने वाला है।

What are the laws?

कौन से कानून हैं?

- **Section 79(1)** of the **IT Act** provides a shield from legal liability to online platforms for third-party content, but **Section 79(3)** qualifies this shield, allowing government agencies to request content takedowns if it violates laws.
आईटी अधिनियम की धारा 79(1) ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म को तृतीय पक्ष सामग्री के लिए कानूनी जिम्मेदारी से सुरक्षा प्रदान करती है, लेकिन धारा 79(3) इस सुरक्षा को योग्य बनाती है, जो सरकार की एजेंसियों को सामग्री हटाने की मांग करने की अनुमति देती है यदि वह कानूनों का उल्लंघन करती है।
- **X** argues that **Section 79(3)(b)** does not authorize the government to issue **content blocking orders**, and only **Section 69A** allows the government to block content based on specific grounds like national security.

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X का कहना है कि धारा 79(3)(b) सरकार को सामग्री अवरोध आदेश जारी करने का अधिकार नहीं देती है, और केवल धारा 69A सरकार को राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा जैसे विशिष्ट कारणों पर आधारित सामग्री को अवरुद्ध करने की अनुमति देती है।

- **Section 69A** allows content blocking by the government on grounds such as **sovereignty, defence, security of the State, or public order**, but it includes safeguards such as giving users a chance to be heard.
धारा 69A सरकार को संप्रभुता, रक्षा, राज्य की सुरक्षा, या सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था जैसे कारणों पर सामग्री अवरुद्ध करने की अनुमति देती है, लेकिन इसमें सुरक्षा उपाय हैं जैसे कि उपयोगकर्ताओं को सुनने का अवसर देना।
- X claims that the government has bypassed these safeguards and transformed the **safe harbour framework** under **Section 79** into a large-scale censorship system.
X का दावा है कि सरकार ने इन सुरक्षा उपायों को बायपास कर दिया है और धारा 79 के तहत सुरक्षित बंदरगाह ढांचे को बड़े पैमाने पर सेंसरशिप प्रणाली में बदल दिया है।

What is the government's stance?

सरकार का रुख क्या है?

- The government argues that the **takedown orders** issued under the portal are not the same as **blocking orders** and are merely notices informing intermediaries of their **due diligence obligations**.
सरकार का कहना है कि पोर्टल के तहत जारी ताकडाउन आदेश ब्लॉकिंग आदेशों के समान नहीं हैं और ये केवल मध्यस्थों को उनके उचित सावधानी कर्तव्यों के बारे में सूचित करने वाले नोटिस हैं।
- If there is non-compliance, the government states that the safe harbour protection is lifted, and further action can be taken under existing laws.
यदि अनुपालन नहीं होता है, तो सरकार का कहना है कि सुरक्षित बंदरगाह संरक्षण हटा लिया जाता है, और मौजूदा कानूनों के तहत आगे की कार्रवाई की जा सकती है।

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

1. AllMS Doctors Perform Rare Surgery on 11-Year-Old

एम्स के डॉक्टरों ने 11 वर्षीय बच्ची पर दुर्लभ सर्जरी की

2. ISRO Sees Breakthrough in Semicryogenic Engine Development for LVM3

इसरो ने LVM3 के लिए सेमिक्रायोजेनिक इंजन विकास में बड़ी सफलता हासिल की



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3. Is a revamped GST 2.0 on the cards?

क्या एक नया रूपांतरित GST 2.0 आने वाला है?

4. U.S. measles cases till March surpasses all of 2024

मार्च तक यू.एस. में खसरे के मामले 2024 के सभी मामलों को पार कर

गए

AIIMS doctors perform rare surgery on 11-year-old

GS Paper III: S&T

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, has successfully performed its first total laparoscopic Whipple operation on an 11-year-old girl, making her the youngest patient in the world to undergo this complex procedure.

The patient from Garhwa, Jharkhand, came in with a rare pancreatic tumour known as a Solid Pseudopapillary Epithelial Neoplasm (SPEN), necessitating the Whipple procedure, which involves the surgical removal and reconstruction of a significant part of the pancreas and the digestive system. The child was operated on February 27 and was discharged 10 days later.

Anjan Kumar Dhua, professor of paediatric surgery, said the patient experienced persistent abdominal pain, and an investigation revealed SPEN.

"Typically, this surgery is done through a very long cut on the tummy, which can be painful afterwards and leaves a big scar. Considering several important factors, the operating team decided to perform the surgery using only four tiny incisions – two measuring 5 mm and two measuring 10 mm. The team operated for eight-and-a-half hours with only 80 ml of blood loss," he said.

AIIMS Doctors Perform Rare Surgery on 11-Year-Old एम्स के डॉक्टरों ने 11 वर्षीय बच्ची पर दुर्लभ सर्जरी की

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, has successfully performed its first total laparoscopic Whipple operation on an 11-year-old girl, making her the youngest patient in the world to undergo this complex procedure.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), दिल्ली ने 11 वर्षीय बच्ची पर पहली पूर्ण रूप से लेप्रोस्कोपिक व्हिपल सर्जरी सफलतापूर्वक की, जिससे वह इस जटिल प्रक्रिया से गुजरने वाली दुनिया की सबसे कम उम्र की मरीज बन गई।

• The patient was from Garhwa, Jharkhand, and was diagnosed with a rare pancreatic tumor known as Solid Pseudopapillary Epithelial Neoplasm (SPEN).

मरीज गढ़वा, झारखंड से थी और उसे दुर्लभ अग्न्याशयी (पैंक्रियाटिक) ट्यूमर हुआ था, जिसे सॉलिड स्यूडोपैपिलरी एपिथेलियल न्यूप्लाज्म (SPEN) कहा जाता है।

• The Whipple procedure was necessary, which involves surgical removal and reconstruction of a significant part of the pancreas and digestive system.

व्हिपल प्रक्रिया आवश्यक थी, जिसमें अग्न्याशय (पैंक्रियास) और पाचन तंत्र के एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्से को शल्यचिकित्सा द्वारा हटाना और पुनर्निर्माण करना शामिल है।

• The child was operated on February 27 and was discharged 10 days later. बच्ची की सर्जरी 27 फरवरी को की गई और उसे 10 दिन बाद अस्पताल से छुट्टी दे दी गई।

• Anjan Kumar Dhua, professor of pediatric surgery, said that the patient had persistent abdominal pain, and an investigation confirmed SPEN.

डॉ. अंजन कुमार धुआ, बाल सर्जरी विभाग के प्रोफेसर, ने बताया कि मरीज को लगातार पेट में दर्द की शिकायत थी और जांच में SPEN की पुष्टि हुई।

• "Typically, this surgery is performed through a long abdominal incision, which can be painful and leave a large scar.

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"आमतौर पर, यह सर्जरी पेट पर एक लंबी चीरा लगाकर की जाती है, जिससे दर्द होता है और बड़ा निशान रह जाता है।

- Considering **various factors**, the surgical team decided to perform the procedure using **only four small incisions—two of 5 mm and two of 10 mm.**

विभिन्न कारकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, सर्जरी टीम ने इसे केवल चार छोटे चीरे लगाकर करने का निर्णय लिया—दो 5 मिमी के और दो 10 मिमी के।

- The **surgery lasted for 8.5 hours**, with only **80 ml of blood loss.**

सर्जरी 8.5 घंटे तक चली, जिसमें मात्र 80 मिलीलीटर रक्त की हानि हुई।

ISRO sees breakthrough in semicryogenic engine development for LVM3

GS Paper III: S&T

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

ISRO has announced significant progress in the design and development of a **semicryogenic engine, or liquid oxygen/kerosene engine**, with a high thrust of **2,000 kN (kilonewton)** that will power the semicryogenic booster stage of the **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3).**

The first major breakthrough in the semicryogenic engine development programme was achieved on Friday, when the first successful hot test of Engine Power Head Test Article, was carried out at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, said the organisation.

Highlighting that the test demonstrated the smooth ignition and boost strap mode operation of the engine for a test duration of 2.5 seconds, the space agency said the objective of the test was to validate the integrated performance of the critical



Trial turf: The test was carried out at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, on Friday. ISRO

sub-systems by carrying out a hot-firing for a short-duration of 2.5 seconds.

"The test proceeded as predicted and all the engine parameters were as expected. With this breakthrough, ISRO is further planning a series of tests on the PHTA to further validate and finetune the performance before the realisation of the fully integrated engine," reads the statement.

Noting that the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is developing the

semicryogenic propulsion engine and stage, the ISRO said the stage (SCI20) powered by the **2,000 kN semicryogenic engine (SE2000)** will replace the present core liquid stage (LI10) of LVM3.

Induction of the semicryogenic propulsion system along with an uprated cryogenic stage in the LVM3 vehicle enhances its payload capability from 4 tonne to 5 tonne in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), the Space Agency said.

ISRO Sees Breakthrough in Semicryogenic Engine Development for LVM3

इसरो ने LVM3 के लिए सेमिक्रायोजेनिक इंजन विकास में बड़ी सफलता हासिल की

ISRO has announced significant progress in the design and development of a **semicryogenic engine (liquid oxygen/kerosene engine)** with a high thrust of **2,000 kN**, which will power the semicryogenic booster stage of the **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3).**

इसरो ने सेमिक्रायोजेनिक इंजन (लिक्विड ऑक्सीजन/केरोसिन



इंजन) के डिजाइन और विकास में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति की घोषणा की है। यह 2,000 kN का उच्च थ्रस्ट उत्पन्न करेगा और लॉन्च व्हीकल मार्क-3 (LVM3) के सेमिक्रायोजेनिक बूस्टर स्टेज को शक्ति प्रदान करेगा।

- The first major breakthrough in the semicryogenic engine development programme was achieved on Friday, when the first successful hot test of Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) was conducted at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

शुक्रवार को सेमिक्रायोजेनिक इंजन विकास कार्यक्रम में पहली बड़ी सफलता मिली, जब इंजन पावर हेड टेस्ट आर्टिकल (PHTA) का पहला सफल हॉट टेस्ट इसरो प्रोपल्शन कॉम्प्लेक्स, महेंद्रगिरि, तमिलनाडु में किया गया।

- The test demonstrated the smooth ignition and boost strap mode operation of the engine for a test duration of 2.5 seconds.

परीक्षण में इंजन के स्मूथ इग्निशन और बूस्ट स्ट्रैप मोड ऑपरेशन को 2.5 सेकंड की अवधि तक सफलतापूर्वक प्रदर्शित किया गया।

- The objective of the test was to validate the integrated performance of the critical sub-systems through hot-firing for a short duration of 2.5 seconds.

इस परीक्षण का उद्देश्य महत्वपूर्ण सब-सिस्टम्स के संयुक्त प्रदर्शन को मान्य करना था, जिसे 2.5 सेकंड की छोटी अवधि के लिए हॉट-फायरिंग के माध्यम से किया गया।

- ISRO stated that the test proceeded as predicted, and all engine parameters were as expected.

इसरो ने कहा कि परीक्षण पूर्वानुमान के अनुसार चला और सभी इंजन पैरामीटर अपेक्षित रूप में थे।

- Following this success, ISRO plans to conduct a series of tests on the PHTA to further validate and fine-tune the performance before realizing the fully integrated engine.

इस सफलता के बाद, इसरो PHTA पर कई परीक्षणों की योजना बना रहा है ताकि पूर्ण रूप से एकीकृत इंजन के विकास से पहले प्रदर्शन को सत्यापित और बेहतर किया जा सके।

- The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is developing the semicryogenic propulsion engine and stage.

लिक्विड प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम्स सेंटर (LPSC) सेमिक्रायोजेनिक प्रणोदन इंजन और स्टेज विकसित कर रहा है।

- The SC120 stage, powered by the 2,000 kN semicryogenic engine (SE2000), will replace the present core liquid stage (L110) of LVM3.

SC120 स्टेज, जो 2,000 kN सेमिक्रायोजेनिक इंजन (SE2000) द्वारा संचालित होगा, LVM3 के वर्तमान कोर लिक्विड स्टेज (L110) को बदल देगा।

- ISRO highlighted that the induction of the semicryogenic propulsion system, along with an uprated cryogenic stage, will enhance LVM3's payload capacity from 4 tonnes to 5 tonnes in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).



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इसरो ने बताया कि सेमिक्रायोजेनिक प्रणोदन प्रणाली और अपग्रेडेड क्रायोजेनिक स्टेज को शामिल करने से LVM3 की पेलोड क्षमता जियोसिंक्रोनस ट्रांसफर ऑर्बिट (GTO) में 4 टन से बढ़कर 5 टन हो जाएगी।

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Is a revamped GST 2.0 on the cards?

What are the issues raised by the Public Accounts Committee on the working of the GST on collection of taxes?

GS Paper III:
Economy

The story so far:

In a report to Parliament, its Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has sought a comprehensive review of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework to eliminate "unnecessary procedures and requirements" that can complicate compliance. It called for a "revamped GST 2.0" to be considered after consultations with all stakeholders.

What has it observed about GST compensation to States?

The PAC observed that the absence of the mandatory CAG audit of the Compensation Fund Account for more than six years has "adversely affected" release of compensation to States. For context, GST's introduction back in 2017 had instilled fears among States about loss of fiscal autonomy and centralisation of all collections to the Union, particularly those housing heavy manufacturing units as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, among others. The GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 was instituted to compensate States for this loss of revenue. About the present lack of audits, the committee observed that it was due to the CAG not receiving the relevant information of the accounts in the appropriate format containing

The reported impact on MSMEs and exporters is noteworthy. The committee expressed concerns about ensuing issues relating to exporters' cash flow requirements and MSMEs due to "complexity" of GST norms

the quantum to be paid and due thereafter, among other things. The PAC also critiqued the Ministry's "lackadaisical" approach for not responding to the audit,

seeking clarification on 2,447 inconsistencies that have kept a total of ₹32,577.73 crore in balance. This was based on an examination of 10,667 cases.

What are some of the other problems?

There are issues regarding the taxation process, which is either delaying the inflow to the government, or tax refunds to businesses requiring working capital. The audit came across instances of incomplete tax refund (to businesses) owing to confusion over tax jurisdictions. The other significant part of the problem relates to cancellation of registrations. The GST Act provides that registrations cannot be cancelled without issuing a 'show cause notice' to the concerned entity and providing it "reasonable opportunity" to argue its defence. The committee noted that of the 14,998 cases where cancellations were done suo motu, notices were not issued in 6,353 cases. The Finance Ministry apprised the committee that this process has been automated. However, the committee said it was concerned about the alleged "lack of proper documentation" and the "effectiveness of the automated system". Brijesh Kothary, partner at law firm Khaitan & Co, told *The Hindu* that taxpayers are not given an option to withdraw or edit the application for registration. "In some cases, the application for registration is rejected without providing clarity on the reason for such rejection," he stated.

What about filing and refunds?

With respect to filing and refunds, the committee said existing mechanisms are "inadequate", pointing at prolonged waiting periods for refunds which could result in potential cash flow challenges to businesses. The Ministry, as per the report, indicated that efforts were being made to streamline the refund process. The committee has sought the refund processing system provide clearer timelines for processing claims and regular updates on their status. At the centre of all GST functions, such as filing, registrations and cancellations or tracking, is the quality of reference data to ease scrutiny. The committee highlighted concerns about manual records not being maintained and a poor documentation rigour. The Finance Ministry said that the 'Antarang portal' would help in streamlining the procedure.

Who gets affected by such glitches?

The reported impact on micro, medium and small enterprises (MSMEs) and exporters is noteworthy. The committee expressed concerns about ensuing issues relating to exporters' cash flow requirements and MSMEs due to "complexity" of GST norms. Delays in processing of refund claims for ITC and complexities with export-related documentation requirements can potentially create cash flow constraints. The committee thus underlined a need to simplify the overall regime, pointing out that ITC claims be processed within a specified timeframe at priority. The committee said a total of 19,730 cases entailing tax implications of about ₹1.45 lakh crore were pending for investigation as of March 2022. Mr. Kothary observed that most of these cases were pending for more than two years. "The government must expediate the handling of appeals and establishment of the GST Appellate Tribunal so as to reduce pendency of cases," he stated.

Is a revamped GST 2.0 on the cards?

क्या एक नया

रूपांतरित GST 2.0

आने वाला है?

In a report to Parliament, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has called for a comprehensive review of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework to eliminate "unnecessary procedures and requirements" that complicate compliance.

एक रिपोर्ट में, लोक लेखा समिति (PAC) ने वस्तु और सेवा कर (GST) ढांचे की व्यापक समीक्षा करने का आह्वान किया है ताकि "अनावश्यक प्रक्रियाओं और आवश्यकताओं" को समाप्त किया जा सके जो



अनुपालन को जटिल बनाती हैं।

- It suggested that a "revamped GST 2.0" be considered after consultations with all stakeholders.
इसने यह सुझाव दिया कि "नव रूपांतरित GST 2.0" सभी हितधारकों से परामर्श करने के बाद विचार किया जाए।

What has it observed about GST compensation to States?

इसने राज्यों को GST मुआवजा के बारे में क्या देखा है?

- The PAC observed that the absence of the mandatory **CAG audit** of the **Compensation Fund Account** for more than six years has "adversely affected" the release of compensation to States.
PAC ने देखा कि **CAG ऑडिट** की अनिवार्यता के बिना **मुआवजा कोष खाता** के छह वर्षों से अधिक समय तक बनाए जाने के कारण राज्यों को मुआवजा जारी करने पर "नकारात्मक प्रभाव" पड़ा है।
- GST's introduction in **2017** raised concerns among States about the loss of fiscal autonomy, particularly in states like **Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka** that house heavy manufacturing units.
2017 में GST की शुरुआत से राज्यों में वित्तीय स्वायत्तता के नुकसान को लेकर चिंताएं उत्पन्न हुईं, विशेष रूप से **तमिलनाडु** और **कर्नाटक** जैसे राज्यों में जहां भारी विनिर्माण इकाइयाँ स्थित हैं।
- The **GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017** was introduced to compensate States for the revenue loss.
GST (राज्यों को मुआवजा) अधिनियम, 2017 को राज्यों को राजस्व नुकसान के लिए मुआवजा देने के लिए पेश किया गया था।
- The committee found that the **CAG** did not receive the relevant account information in the required format, causing delays.
समिति ने पाया कि **CAG** को आवश्यक प्रारूप में संबंधित खाता जानकारी नहीं प्राप्त हुई, जिससे देरी हुई।
- The PAC also criticized the Ministry's "lackadaisical" approach for not responding to audits and seeking clarification on **2,447 inconsistencies** involving a balance of **₹32,577.73 crore**.
PAC ने मंत्रालय की "लापरवाह" दृष्टिकोण की आलोचना की, जिसमें **2,447 असंगतियों** के बारे में स्पष्टीकरण मांगा गया था, जो **₹32,577.73 करोड़** के संतुलन से संबंधित थीं।

What are some of the other problems?

कुछ अन्य समस्याएँ क्या हैं?

- Issues have been raised regarding the taxation process, delaying government inflows or tax refunds to businesses requiring working capital.



कराधान प्रक्रिया को लेकर समस्याएँ उठाई गई हैं, जो सरकार के राजस्व में देरी कर रही हैं या कार्यशील पूंजी की आवश्यकता वाली कंपनियों को कर रिफंड में देरी कर रही हैं।

- The audit found instances of incomplete tax refunds due to confusion over tax jurisdictions.
ऑडिट ने कर क्षेत्रों में भ्रम के कारण अधूरी कर रिफंड की घटनाएँ पाई हैं।
- Another issue is the cancellation of registrations, where notices were not issued in **6,353** out of **14,998** cases of suo motu cancellations.
एक और समस्या पंजीकरण रद्द करने की है, जहां **14,998** मामलों में से **6,353** मामलों में स्वप्रेरित रद्दीकरण के लिए नोटिस जारी नहीं किए गए थे।
- The Finance Ministry claimed that the process has been automated, but the committee raised concerns over the "lack of proper documentation" and the effectiveness of the automated system.
वित्त मंत्रालय ने दावा किया कि प्रक्रिया स्वचालित कर दी गई है, लेकिन समिति ने "सही दस्तावेजीकरण की कमी" और स्वचालित प्रणाली की प्रभावशीलता पर चिंता व्यक्त की।
- Taxpayers are not given an option to withdraw or edit the registration application, and in some cases, applications are rejected without clarity on the rejection reason.
करदाता को पंजीकरण आवेदन वापस लेने या संपादित करने का विकल्प नहीं दिया जाता है, और कुछ मामलों में, बिना अस्वीकृति कारण स्पष्ट किए आवेदन अस्वीकृत कर दिए जाते हैं।

What about filing and refunds?

फाइलिंग और रिफंड के बारे में क्या है?

- The committee highlighted that existing mechanisms for filing and refunds are "inadequate," causing prolonged waiting periods that create cash flow challenges for businesses.
समिति ने यह बताया कि फाइलिंग और रिफंड के लिए मौजूदा तंत्र "अपर्याप्त" हैं, जिससे लंबी प्रतीक्षा अवधि होती है, जो व्यवसायों के लिए नकदी प्रवाह की समस्याएँ उत्पन्न करती हैं।
- The Ministry is making efforts to streamline the refund process, and the committee has requested clearer timelines for processing claims and regular updates.
मंत्रालय रिफंड प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाने के प्रयास कर रहा है, और समिति ने दावों की प्रक्रिया के लिए स्पष्ट समयरेखा और नियमित अपडेट्स की मांग की है।
- Concerns were raised about the poor quality of reference data, manual records, and insufficient documentation, which affect scrutiny.
समीक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाले संदर्भ डेटा की खराब गुणवत्ता, मैनुअल रिकॉर्ड और अपर्याप्त दस्तावेजीकरण को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की गई।
- The Ministry stated that the '**Antarang portal**' would help streamline procedures.
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि '**अंतरंग पोर्टल**' प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने में मदद करेगा।



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Who gets affected by such glitches?

इस तरह की गड़बड़ियों से कौन प्रभावित होता है?

- **Micro, medium, and small enterprises (MSMEs)** and exporters are significantly impacted, particularly by complexities in **GST norms**.
सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्योग (MSMEs) और निर्यातकों पर **GST मानदंडों** की जटिलताओं का विशेष प्रभाव पड़ता है।
- The committee raised concerns about cash flow challenges for exporters and MSMEs due to delays in processing refunds for **ITC** and complex export-related documentation. समिति ने **ITC** के रिफंड के प्रसंस्करण में देरी और निर्यात संबंधित दस्तावेजीकरण में जटिलताओं के कारण निर्यातकों और MSMEs के लिए नकदी प्रवाह की चुनौतियों पर चिंता व्यक्त की।
- The committee called for simplifying the GST regime, especially ensuring that **ITC claims** are processed within a specified timeframe. समिति ने GST शासन को सरल बनाने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया, विशेष रूप से यह सुनिश्चित करते हुए कि **ITC दावे** एक निर्दिष्ट समय सीमा के भीतर प्रसंस्कृत किए जाएं।
- A total of **19,730 cases** involving tax implications of **₹1.45 lakh crore** were pending for investigation as of **March 2022**.
मार्च 2022 तक **₹1.45 लाख करोड़** के कर परिणामों वाले कुल **19,730 मामलों** की जांच लंबित थी।
- Most of these cases have been pending for more than two years. इनमें से अधिकांश मामले दो वर्षों से अधिक समय से लंबित हैं।



U.S. measles cases till March surpasses all of 2024

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

Since the first measles case was reported on January 23, 2025 in Texas, the number of cases has risen sharply and the virus has spread to New York City and 17 other States in the U.S.

As of March 20, the total number of cases reported across the U.S. stands at 378, with Texas and New Mexico alone reporting 327 and 43 cases, respectively. There have been two deaths so far and both were in unvaccinated individuals. With 301 cases reported as of March 14, the total number of cases reported in less than two months since the first case was reported this year surpassed 285 cases reported for all of 2024.

The first outbreak of measles in the U.S. this year has been in the Mennonite community in Gaines County, West Texas. So far about 226 cases have been reported

from Gaines County, and many have been tied to a Mennonite community with low vaccine uptake.

The Mennonite community is largely unvaccinated due to cultural and historical reasons. The Mennonite community in Gaines County has reported nearly 14% vaccine exemption rates for school-aged children.

Of the 378 confirmed measles cases reported as of March 20, CDC noted that 124 (33%) cases have been in children aged under five years and 159 (42%) cases have been in individuals aged 5-19 years; in Texas, 63 adults have been infected. As expected, 95% of individuals infected with measles are either unvaccinated or with unknown vaccination status. While 3% of individuals infected with measles have taken only one dose of the MMR vaccine, 2% have taken both doses of the MMR vaccine.



In 2024, U.S. recorded 285 measles cases across 32 States. AP

That 2% individuals got infected with measles despite being fully vaccinated is not unexpected – even two doses of the MMR vaccine does not provide 100% protection. According to the CDC, one dose of the MMR vaccine is 93% effective against measles, while the effectiveness increases to 97% with two doses. “Some [fully] vaccinated people may still get measles, mumps, or

rubella if they are exposed to the viruses. It could be that their immune system didn't respond as well as they should have to the vaccine; their immune system's ability to fight the infection decreased over time; or they have prolonged, close contact with someone who has a virus,” the CDC says. However, fully vaccinated people generally have milder disease symptoms and are

also less likely to spread the virus to others. But almost everyone who has not been vaccinated will get infected if they are exposed to the virus and get sick.

Though the MMR vaccine is primarily meant to prevent measles infection, individuals exposed to measles virus can still take the vaccine. The MMR vaccine can offer some degree of protection against the disease or reduce the severity of illness if vaccinated within 72 hours of exposure to the measles virus.

On March 13, the WHO said that 1,27,350 measles cases were reported in 2024 in the European region (53 countries in Europe and central Asia), double the number of cases reported in 2023 and the highest number since 1997. There were 38 deaths as of March 6, 2025, the WHO said. The European region accounted for a third of all measles cases globally in 2024.

U.S. measles cases till March surpasses all of 2024

मार्च तक यू.एस. में खसरे के मामले 2024 के सभी मामलों को पार कर गए

Since the first measles case was reported on January 23, 2025 in Texas, the number of cases has risen sharply and the virus has spread to New York City and 17 other States in the U.S.

23 जनवरी 2025 को टेक्सास में पहले खसरे का मामला रिपोर्ट होने के बाद से मामलों में तेज़ी से वृद्धि हुई है और वायरस न्यू यॉर्क सिटी और यू.एस. के 17 अन्य राज्यों में फैल गया है।

- As of **March 20**, the total number of cases reported across the U.S. stands at **378**, with **Texas** and **New Mexico** alone reporting **327** and **43** cases, respectively.
20 मार्च तक, यू.एस. में कुल 378 मामलों की रिपोर्ट आई है, जिनमें टेक्सास और न्यू मैक्सिको में क्रमशः 327 और 43 मामले रिपोर्ट किए गए हैं।
- There have been **two deaths** so far and both were in **unvaccinated** individuals.
अब तक दो मौतें हुई हैं और दोनों अवैक्सिनेटेड व्यक्तियों की थीं।
- With **301** cases reported as of **March 14**, the total number of cases reported in less than two months since the first case was reported this year surpassed **285** cases reported for



all of 2024.

14 मार्च तक 301 मामलों की रिपोर्ट के साथ, इस साल पहले मामले के रिपोर्ट होने के बाद से दो महीने से भी कम समय में रिपोर्ट किए गए कुल मामलों ने 2024 में रिपोर्ट किए गए 285 मामलों को पार कर लिया है।

- The first outbreak of measles in the U.S. this year has been in the **Mennonite community in Gaines County, West Texas.**
इस साल यू.एस. में पहला खसरे का प्रकोप वेस्ट टेक्सास के गेंस काउंटी में मेन्नोनाइट समुदाय में हुआ है।
- So far about **226 cases** have been reported from **Gaines County**, and many have been tied to a Mennonite community with **low vaccine uptake.**
अब तक गेंस काउंटी से लगभग 226 मामले रिपोर्ट किए गए हैं, और इनमें से कई मेन्नोनाइट समुदाय से जुड़ी हुई हैं जिनका टीका प्रचलन कम है।
- The **Mennonite community** is largely **unvaccinated** due to **cultural and historical reasons.**
मेन्नोनाइट समुदाय मुख्य रूप से अवैक्सिनेटेड है क्योंकि इसके पीछे सांस्कृतिक और ऐतिहासिक कारण हैं।
- The Mennonite community in **Gaines County** has reported nearly **14% vaccine exemption rates** for school-aged children.
गेंस काउंटी में मेन्नोनाइट समुदाय ने स्कूल-आयु के बच्चों के लिए लगभग 14% टीका छूट दर की रिपोर्ट दी है।
- Of the **378 confirmed measles cases** reported as of **March 20**, **124 (33%)** cases have been in children aged under **five years** and **159 (42%)** cases have been in individuals aged **5-19 years**; in **Texas**, **63 adults** have been infected.
20 मार्च तक रिपोर्ट किए गए 378 पुष्टि किए गए खसरे के मामलों में से 124 (33%) मामले पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों में और 159 (42%) मामले 5-19 वर्ष आयु के व्यक्तियों में थे; टेक्सास में 63 वयस्क संक्रमित हुए हैं।
- As expected, **95%** of individuals infected with measles are either **unvaccinated** or with **unknown vaccination status.**
जैसा कि उम्मीद की गई थी, 95% लोग जो खसरे से संक्रमित हुए हैं, वे या तो अवैक्सिनेटेड हैं या उनका टीकाकरण स्थिति अज्ञात है।
- While **3%** of individuals infected with measles have taken only **one dose** of the **MMR vaccine**, **2%** have taken **both doses** of the **MMR vaccine.**
जबकि 3% लोग जो खसरे से संक्रमित हुए हैं, उन्होंने केवल एक डोज MMR वैक्सीनेशन ली है, 2% ने दोनों डोज MMR वैक्सीनेशन की है।
- That **2%** individuals got infected with measles despite being fully vaccinated is not unexpected — even **two doses** of the **MMR vaccine** does not provide **100% protection.**
यह 2% लोग खसरे से संक्रमित हुए हैं, भले ही वे पूरी तरह से टीका लगाए गए थे, यह अप्रत्याशित नहीं है — यहां तक कि दो डोज MMR वैक्सीनेशन भी 100% सुरक्षा प्रदान नहीं करती।



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- According to the CDC, **one dose** of the **MMR vaccine** is **93% effective** against measles, while the effectiveness increases to **97%** with **two doses**.
CDC के अनुसार, **MMR वैक्सीनेशन का एक डोज** खसरे के खिलाफ **93% प्रभावी** है, जबकि दो डोज से इसकी प्रभावशीलता **97%** तक बढ़ जाती है।
- "Some [fully] vaccinated people may still get measles, mumps, or rubella if they are exposed to the viruses. It could be that their immune system didn't respond as well as they should have to the vaccine; their immune system's ability to fight the infection decreased over time; or they have prolonged, close contact with someone who has a virus," the CDC says.
"कुछ [पूरी तरह से] वैक्सीनेटेड लोग खसरा, मम्प्स, या रूबेला हो सकते हैं यदि वे वायरस के संपर्क में आते हैं। यह हो सकता है कि उनका **इम्यून सिस्टम** वैक्सीनेशन के बाद **जितना होना चाहिए उतना प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दे पाया हो**; उनका इम्यून सिस्टम समय के साथ संक्रमण से लड़ने की क्षमता में कमी कर चुका हो; या वे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति के साथ लंबे समय तक संपर्क में रहे हों जिसके पास वायरस हो," CDC कहता है।
- However, fully vaccinated people generally have milder disease symptoms and are also less likely to spread the virus to others.
हालाँकि, पूरी तरह से वैक्सीनेटेड लोग सामान्यतः हल्के लक्षणों के साथ होते हैं और वायरस को दूसरों तक फैलाने की संभावना भी कम होती है।
- But almost everyone who has not been vaccinated will get infected if they are exposed to the virus and get sick.
लेकिन लगभग सभी लोग जो वैक्सीनेटेड नहीं हैं, अगर वे वायरस के संपर्क में आते हैं तो संक्रमित हो जाएंगे और बीमार पड़ जाएंगे।
- Though the **MMR vaccine** is primarily meant to prevent measles infection, individuals exposed to measles virus can still take the vaccine.
हालाँकि **MMR वैक्सीनेशन** मुख्य रूप से खसरे के संक्रमण को रोकने के लिए है, लेकिन जिन व्यक्तियों को खसरे के वायरस का संपर्क हुआ है, वे अभी भी टीका ले सकते हैं।
- The **MMR vaccine** can offer some degree of protection against the disease or reduce the severity of illness if vaccinated within **72 hours of exposure** to the measles virus.
MMR वैक्सीनेशन कुछ हद तक रोग से सुरक्षा प्रदान कर सकता है या खसरे के वायरस के संपर्क के **72 घंटों के भीतर** टीका लगाने से बीमारी की गंभीरता को कम कर सकता है।
- On **March 13**, the **WHO** said that **1,27,350 measles cases** were reported in **2024** in the **European region** (53 countries in Europe and central Asia), double the number of cases reported in **2023** and the highest number since **1997**.
13 मार्च को, **WHO** ने कहा कि **2024** में **यूरोपीय क्षेत्र** (यूरोप और मध्य एशिया के **53 देशों**) में **1,27,350 खसरे के मामले** रिपोर्ट किए गए, जो **2023** में रिपोर्ट किए गए मामलों की संख्या का दोगुना है और **1997** के बाद सबसे उच्चतम संख्या है।
- There were **38 deaths** as of **March 6, 2025**, the WHO said.
6 मार्च 2025 तक **38 मौतें** हुई थीं, WHO ने कहा।



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- The European region accounted for a third of all measles cases globally in 2024. 2024 में यूरोपीय क्षेत्र ने वैश्विक रूप से सभी खसरे के मामलों का एक तिहाई हिस्सा बनाया।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. CBI convicts former Bihar Minister in bitumen case

CBI ने पूर्व बिहार मंत्री को बिटुमिन मामले में दोषी ठहराया

CBI convicts former Bihar Minister in bitumen case

GS Paper IV: Ethics

PATNA

Former Bihar Minister Mohammad Illiyas Hussain and four others were on Saturday sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment in the ₹1.57-crore bitumen scam investigated by the CBI.

The Special CBI Court, Ranchi, which pronounced the sentence, also imposed a fine of ₹32 lakh on each accused.

The FIR was filed on August 6, 1996 under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The case pertains to the alleged transportation of bitumen from Haldia to the Road Construction Department, Hazaribagh via Barauni. A probe revealed that no bitumen was transported at all.

CBI convicts former Bihar Minister in bitumen case

CBI ने पूर्व बिहार मंत्री को बिटुमिन मामले में दोषी ठहराया

Former Bihar Minister Mohammad Illiyas Hussain and four others were on Saturday sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment in the ₹1.57-crore bitumen scam investigated by the CBI.

पूर्व बिहार मंत्री मोहम्मद इलियास हुसैन और चार अन्य को शनिवार को ₹1.57 करोड़ बिटुमिन घोटाले में सीबीआई द्वारा किए गए जांच में तीन साल की सश्रम सजा सुनाई गई।

- The Special CBI Court, Ranchi, which pronounced the sentence, also imposed a fine of ₹32 lakh on each accused.

विशेष सीबीआई कोर्ट, रांची, जिसने सजा सुनाई, ने प्रत्येक आरोपी पर ₹32 लाख का जुर्माना भी लगाया।

- The FIR was filed on August 6, 1996 under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

एफ.आई.आर. 6 अगस्त 1996 को भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1988 के तहत दायर की गई थी।

- The case pertains to the alleged transportation of bitumen from Haldia to the Road Construction Department, Hazaribagh via Barauni.

यह मामला हल्दिया से हज़ारीबाग रोड निर्माण विभाग तक बिटुमिन की कथित रूप से बराुई के माध्यम से परिवहन से संबंधित है।



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A probe revealed that **no bitumen** was transported at all.

जांच में यह सामने आया कि कोई बिटुमिन बिल्कुल भी परिवहन नहीं किया

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