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CONTACT: 9971932488



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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

12 APRIL 2025

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12_04_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. In the Age of Age-Tech

एज-टेक के युग में

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



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In the age of age-tech

With social structures changing and families shrinking, many senior citizens are nagged by questions on how to productively use the silver years without feeling isolated or burdening others. **Shilpa Elizabeth** looks at age-tech, a new and emerging sector that harnesses technology to seek some answers



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**GS Paper I: Society:
Elderly People**

Illustration: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Raghavendra (name changed), 73, is part of around six WhatsApp groups for the elderly. An electrical engineer who spent more than 30 years in Mumbai, he moved to Bengaluru post-retirement to live with his daughter. In a city of 1.4 crore people, the septuagenarian was starting to feel lonely given his daughter's busy work schedule and his wife's demise eight years ago. Then, he found his tribe online.

"They get me a cake for Christmas. I get Tirupati laddus for them. We are all now planning a trip together to Vietnam," says a very cheerful Raghavendra, during a meetup held by Sukoon Unlimited, a city-based start-up building a community for seniors.

New research area

Research on longevity has been receiving unprecedented attention across the world. In 2024, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) announced the launch of the Longevity India Initiative, a project focused on efforts to extend human 'health span' and combat ageing-related challenges. Maverick millionaires like Bryan Johnson have even been attempting anti-ageing experiments.

But the elderly in India have been at an interesting, or rather puzzling, cross-section. With social structures changing and families shrinking to nuclear, how to productively use the silver years without feeling isolated and not burdening others has been a question troubling many lately.

Age-tech, a new and emerging sector, hopes to answer this question with the

help of technology and ease the problems of people like Raghavendra.

Age-tech start-ups

Neeraj Sagar, founder of Wisdom Circle, started an online group of age-tech founders in India about two years ago. The group had its first of-line meetup last year in Bengaluru where almost 40 founders showed up.

"In a year that number has become 100," says Sagar.

According to estimates, India currently has about 15 crore senior citizens (people above 60 years), a number which is expected to more than double to 32 crore by 2050. A changing demography means the average age going up and the market needs shifting, prodding entrepreneurs to be early movers in the space. From physical health to emotional well-being to cognitive skills to the employability of seniors, age-tech start-ups attempt to address a spectrum of challenges faced by seniors.

Eliminating loneliness

In 2022, WHO revealed that 1 in 4 older people experience social isolation, seriously impacting their health and longevity, with effects on mortality comparable to smoking, and obesity.

Vibha Singal, founder of Sukoon Unlimited,



When somebody in your family reports having memory issues, you just brush it off as something normal with ageing. But ways to assess if it is normal ageing or accelerated ageing is still not prevalent in India.

ISSAC JOHN
Co-founder of cognitive health start-up Ivory

points out that people with ageing parents often give importance to the latter's physical health and financial and logistical needs, but are not always in a position to help them with their emotional wellbeing.

"When a person is 60, their kids are between the age of 30 and 40 trying to build their own families and careers."

There is also a growing segment of elders who are financially independent and prefer being on their own rather than moving in with their children or uprooting their lives to a different place, Singal notes.

"We see if we can help the parents beat loneliness so that they age slower. Finding purpose and community are the fulcrums to beating loneliness. That's what Sukoon is out to do."

Started in 2024, Sukoon, according to Singal, is India's first platform for seniors by seniors offering services such as emotional support, counselling, group therapies, volunteering opportunities, and concierge services.

Both the service providers and service takers are people above 50 years old. "When a service provider is a senior citizen, it gives them purpose. And if the service taker is a senior citizen, there is a sense of community," Singal notes.

From 200 members in the first month, the community has grown to 6,000 users spread across 400 cities and towns in a year with the average age between 58 and 68. Around 60% of the users are men and 40% women. Some of the most discussed concerns include children's reluctance to marry, and loss of spouse.

The company has also invested in a proprietary AI tool which can respond in more than 100 languages. Singal notes that more than 65% of the community members talk to it. There have been instances of users talking to it like a friend, naming it and even spending hours with it.

Fifty-nine-year-old Miranda (name changed), a finance professional at a corporate firm, dialled a *Sarathi* at Sukoon when she couldn't come to terms with the thought of retiring in a year.

"The thought of being without a job made me feel purposeless," she says.

Employment opportunities

Miranda's concerns are shared by many. Neeraj Sagar of Wisdom Circle notes that not only is there a significant population who prefer to work even after retiring from their permanent roles, but also quite a few companies who are looking to tap into the experience of the elderly.

Wisdom Circle, which helps retired professionals find employment opportunities, has been around for three years now. Around 95,000 people and 1,500 companies have registered on the platform which has listed about 2,500 roles.

According to Sagar, the demand mostly comes from small and medium businesses and start-ups who are looking to hire specialists for a few days of the week. As far as the elders are concerned, he says, there is a lot more openness to hybrid roles.

But what motivates people to continue working post-retirement? Is it the money or is it something more?

"Money is important to everyone, not always to meet the financial ends, but to feel valued," says Sagar.

It's often a bid to continue to feel respected and relevant, backed by the impulse to impart

the skills they have acquired over a lifetime and give back to society.

"What we are observing is that people who are worth way more are applying for roles that are not paying them as much. So, staying relevant takes priority over getting paid highly. We are also seeing a lot of people apply to nonprofit roles which pay lesser."

Keeping the brain sharp

In 2023, a study by Jinkook Lee and others showed that more than 80 lakh Indians suffer from dementia. As the Indian population looks at an increased lifespan and the elderly population is estimated to be 20% of the total population by 2050, the burden of neurodegenerative diseases is also high.

"Typically, when somebody in your family reports having memory issues, you just brush it off as something normal with ageing," points out Issac John, co-founder of cognitive health start-up Ivory. "But ways to assess if it is normal ageing or accelerated ageing is still not prevalent in India."

Co-founded by John and Rahul Krishnan, Ivory offers neuroscience-backed assessments that claim to help keep the brain sharp and identify neurodegenerative risks early. The duo who up-close witnessed close relatives suffering from neurodegenerative diseases wanted to build a differentiated product for the segment aged above 45 years.

The users first take a simple assessment which tells them their cognitive age. People who are found at risk are suggested to take up a clinical grade assessment.

"We work very closely with the medium and high-risk customers, get them to do a health and lifestyle profiling and recommend things that they need to change in their life, along with a personalized cognitive brain training session available for them on the app," John explains.

The app currently has about 30,000 users with two-third of them females and 60% from tier-1 cities.

Easy on the knees

When it comes to physical health, orthopaedics forms a crucial need for the elderly. Statistics show that around 50% of the senior population need assistance with basic tasks like sit-to-stand.

"In the larger scheme of things, the inability to carry out this function by yourself has two implications. Apart from the physical exhaustion and the strain, there is the risk that if you do not perform it safely, you could either fall into or out of the chair and end up injuring yourself," notes Sanchit Jhunjhunwala, co-founder at Translead Medtech, a deep-tech spin-off from IISc, Bengaluru.

"This also leads to a hesitation to participate socially, culturally and economically. Even at home, you may stop yourself from drinking another glass of water because you will need to stand up, go to the washroom, sit down, stand up again, come back and sit down."

The start-up has designed an assistive chair which offers support while performing the actions of sitting down and standing up, without any electrical power or sensors. The chair seat gently pushes the user while trying to stand up. While sitting down, the sharp rise of the seat drops slowly.

"There has been a 2.5-fold growth in the num-

ber of knee replacements done in the last five years. And you're looking at upwards of 5 lakh such surgeries happening," Jhunjhunwala puts it in perspective.

He notes that UNSDG recommendations talk about reserving 5% of seating in public space for accessibility.

"You need to make these elements functional as well. That's where we come in. We are looking at a need of 25 million such assisted chairs in public spaces and 8 million in homes, offices, and so on."

The start-up, which is getting ready to begin its shipments in June, has also an assistive commode for the elderly in the pipeline.

Tech that alienates

While developments in technology to assist older people are welcomed, one concern among experts is that, at times, the real needs of the elderly take a backseat to the fascination with technology and its potential.

Arvind Kasthuri, head of the geriatric unit at St John's Medical College, Bengaluru, recollects his experience of working with a group which was developing wearables for older people years ago and how the team was more focused on what the devices could do rather than what the user wanted or what was feasible.

"Many of them are so kicked with the technology that they cannot resist the temptation," he warns.

"They have to mesh their technologies into the real world of healthcare and see how the patient flows are. Looking at technologies from a patient flow point of view, and then trying to plug those gaps is better than working at it from the technology end and seeing what all those technologies can actually achieve."

Prethesh Kiran, Associate Professor at the Department of Community Health, St John's Medical College, adds that there is a clear urban-rural divide when it comes to age-tech. He also points out that a large number of seniors find it a challenge to adapt to new technologies.

Keeping pace is hard

"Digitisation is great news. But it is also happening at a very rapid pace, excluding key demography in our country, which is our elders," says Bilal Zaidi, founder of Elderra, which helps seniors learn digital tools.

Zaidi recollects how calls from his elderly parents seeking help to book autorickshaws or groceries via apps increased over the last few years. Hailing autos down the road became almost impossible for them, and the *kirana* store that used to deliver the groceries to them shut shop in the onslaught of quick commerce.

"The other challenge is, in the absence of an understanding of technology, the elderly population is very vulnerable to scams," adds Zaidi.

Govt. should join in

The tech divide becomes even more stark in rural areas. On top of it, age-tech's focus on financially independent seniors living in cities makes the services unaffordable for the larger elderly population. The government and larger corporates should join hands with the startups to make the services accessible for a larger populace, suggests Susan Barton, an eldercare specialist in Bengaluru.

In the Age of Age-Tech एज-टेक के युग में



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Changing Families and Social Structures

परिवर्तित होती पारिवारिक और सामाजिक संरचनाएँ

- With **families shrinking** and **social structures changing**, many senior citizens are questioning how to use their silver years productively without feeling **isolated** or like a **burden**.
परिवारों के छोटा होने और सामाजिक ढांचे के बदलने के साथ, कई बुजुर्ग यह सोचते हैं कि वे अपनी बुजुर्गी के वर्षों को बिना अलग-थलग महसूस किए और बोझ बने बिना कैसे उपयोगी बना सकते हैं।
- Age-tech is a **new and emerging sector** using **technology** to address these concerns.
एज-टेक एक नया और उभरता हुआ क्षेत्र है जो इन चिंताओं को तकनीक की मदद से हल करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।

Finding a Community in Loneliness

अकेलेपन में समुदाय की खोज

- **Raghavendra (name changed), 73**, is part of around **six WhatsApp groups** for the elderly.
राघवेंद्र (बदला हुआ नाम), 73 वर्ष, लगभग छह व्हाट्सएप समूहों का हिस्सा हैं जो बुजुर्गों के लिए हैं।
- A retired **electrical engineer**, he moved from **Mumbai to Bengaluru** to live with his daughter but felt **lonely** due to her **busy schedule** and the **death of his wife** eight years ago.
एक सेवानिवृत्त इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियर, वे मुंबई से बेंगलुरु अपनी बेटी के साथ रहने आए, लेकिन बेटी के व्यस्त कार्यक्रम और आठ साल पहले पत्नी की मृत्यु के कारण उन्हें अकेलापन महसूस हुआ।
- He found a community online through a platform called **Sukoon Unlimited** and is now planning a trip to **Vietnam** with new friends.
उन्होंने सुकून अनलिमिटेड नामक प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन समुदाय पाया और अब वे नए दोस्तों के साथ वियतनाम की यात्रा की योजना बना रहे हैं।

Focus on Longevity Research

दीर्घायु अनुसंधान पर ध्यान

- In **2024**, the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** launched the **Longevity India Initiative** to **extend human health span and combat ageing-related challenges**.
2024 में, भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान (IISc) ने लॉन्जेविटी इंडिया इनिशिएटिव की शुरुआत की, जिसका उद्देश्य मानव की स्वास्थ्य अवधि को बढ़ाना और बुजुर्गों से जुड़ी समस्याओं से निपटना है।
- Globally, people like **Bryan Johnson**, a **millionaire**, are experimenting with **anti-ageing** methods.
वैश्विक स्तर पर, ब्रायन जॉनसन जैसे करोड़पति लोग एंटी-एजिंग तकनीकों के साथ प्रयोग कर रहे हैं।

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Growth of Age-Tech Start-ups

एज-टेक स्टार्टअप्स का विकास

- Neeraj Sagar, founder of **Wisdom Circle**, started an **online group** of age-tech founders in India **two years ago**.
नीरज सागर, विजडम सर्कल के संस्थापक ने दो साल पहले भारत में एज-टेक फाउंडर्स का ऑनलाइन समूह शुरू किया।
- The first **offline meetup** was held in **Bengaluru** with **40 founders**; the number has now grown to **100**.
पहला ऑफलाइन मीटअप बेंगलुरु में हुआ जिसमें **40 संस्थापक** शामिल हुए; अब यह संख्या बढ़कर **100** हो गई है।
- India has about **15 crore senior citizens** (above **60 years**) today, which is expected to rise to **32 crore by 2050**.
भारत में वर्तमान में लगभग **15 करोड़ वरिष्ठ नागरिक (60 वर्ष से अधिक आयु)** हैं, और यह संख्या **2050 तक 32 करोड़ तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद** है।

Tackling Various Challenges

विभिन्न समस्याओं से निपटना

- Age-tech start-ups are addressing issues from **physical health, emotional well-being, and cognitive skills to the employability of seniors**.
एज-टेक स्टार्टअप्स **शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य, भावनात्मक कल्याण, संज्ञानात्मक क्षमताएं, और वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की रोजगार क्षमता से जुड़ी समस्याओं का समाधान** कर रहे हैं।

The Problem of Loneliness

अकेलेपन की समस्या

- In **2022**, the **WHO** reported that **1 in 4 older people experiences social isolation**, which impacts health as seriously as **smoking and obesity**.
2022 में, **डब्ल्यूएचओ** ने बताया कि **हर 4 में से 1 बुजुर्ग सामाजिक अलगाव का अनुभव करता है**, जो **धूम्रपान और मोटापे जितना स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव डालता है**।
- **Vibha Singal**, founder of **Sukoon Unlimited**, says most children focus on parents' **physical, financial, and logistical needs**, but often overlook **emotional well-being**.
विभा सिंगल, सुकून अनलिमिटेड की संस्थापक कहती हैं कि अधिकांश बच्चे अपने माता-पिता की शारीरिक, आर्थिक, और लॉजिस्टिक ज़रूरतों पर ध्यान देते हैं, लेकिन अक्सर उनकी भावनात्मक भलाई को नजरअंदाज कर देते हैं।



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Independent and Purposeful Living

स्वतंत्र और उद्देश्यपूर्ण जीवन

- Many elders today are **financially independent** and prefer living on their own instead of **relocating** with their children.
आज कई बुजुर्ग आर्थिक रूप से स्वतंत्र हैं और अपने बच्चों के साथ स्थान परिवर्तन करने की बजाय स्वयं रहना पसंद करते हैं।
- Sukoon's aim is to **beat loneliness** by helping seniors find **purpose** and **community**.
सुकून का उद्देश्य बुजुर्गों को उद्देश्य और समुदाय प्रदान करके अकेलेपन को दूर करना है।

Sukoon Unlimited's Unique Approach

सुकून अनलिमिटेड का अनोखा दृष्टिकोण

- **Founded in 2024**, Sukoon is **India's first platform by seniors for seniors**, offering services like **emotional support, counselling, group therapy, volunteering, and concierge services**.
2024 में शुरू हुआ सुकून, भारत का पहला प्लेटफॉर्म है जो बुजुर्गों द्वारा बुजुर्गों के लिए बनाया गया है, जिसमें भावनात्मक समर्थन, परामर्श, समूह चिकित्सा, स्वयंसेवा, और कंसीयर्ज सेवाएं शामिल हैं।
- Both service providers and receivers are **above 50 years**, which gives both **purpose** and **community**.
सेवा देने और लेने वाले दोनों ही लोग 50 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के होते हैं, जिससे दोनों को उद्देश्य और समुदाय की भावना मिलती है।
- From **200 members** in the first month, the community has grown to **6,000 users** across **400 cities** in just **one year**.
पहले महीने में 200 सदस्य थे, और अब यह समुदाय एक साल में 400 शहरों में फैले 6,000 उपयोगकर्ताओं तक पहुंच गया है।
- The average user age is **between 58 and 68 years**, with **60% men** and **40% women**.
उपयोगकर्ताओं की औसत आयु 58 से 68 वर्ष के बीच है, जिनमें 60% पुरुष और 40% महिलाएं हैं।

AI and Emotional Connection

एआई और भावनात्मक जुड़ाव

- Sukoon has invested in a **proprietary AI tool** that can respond in **100+ languages**.
सुकून ने एक स्वदेशी एआई टूल में निवेश किया है जो 100 से अधिक भाषाओं में जवाब दे सकता है।
- Over **65% of users** talk to the AI; many treat it like a **friend**, even **naming it** and chatting for **hours**.
65% से अधिक उपयोगकर्ता इस एआई से बातचीत करते हैं; कई लोग इसे मित्र मानते हैं, नाम देते हैं और घंटों बातचीत करते हैं।

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Dealing with Fear of Retirement

सेवानिवृत्ति के डर से निपटना

- **Miranda (name changed), 59, a finance professional**, reached out to Sukoon's **Sarathi** when she felt **purposeless** thinking about **retirement**.
मिरांडा (बदला हुआ नाम), 59, एक वित्त पेशेवर, ने सेवानिवृत्ति के विचार से **निरर्थकता** महसूस करते हुए सुकून के **सारथी** से संपर्क किया।
- She said the idea of not having a **job** was deeply **unsettling**.
उन्होंने कहा कि **नौकरी के बिना** रहने का विचार उन्हें बेहद **बेचैन** कर रहा था।

Employment Opportunities

रोज़गार के अवसर

- Many people like Miranda share the concern about post-retirement employment.
मिरांडा की तरह कई लोग सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद रोजगार को लेकर चिंता साझा करते हैं।
- **Neeraj Sagar** from **Wisdom Circle** notes that there is a **significant population** who wants to work even after retirement, and many companies are interested in hiring experienced seniors.
विज़डम सर्कल के नीरज सागर का कहना है कि एक **बड़ी आबादी** सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद भी काम करना चाहती है, और कई कंपनियाँ अनुभवी वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को काम पर रखना चाहती हैं।
- Wisdom Circle has helped seniors find jobs for the past **three years**.
विज़डम सर्कल पिछले **तीन वर्षों** से वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को नौकरी दिलाने में मदद कर रहा है।
- The platform has **95,000 registered users** and **1,500 companies**, listing about **2,500 job roles**.
इस प्लेटफॉर्म पर **95,000 उपयोगकर्ता** और **1,500 कंपनियाँ** पंजीकृत हैं, और इसमें लगभग **2,500 नौकरी की भूमिकाएँ** सूचीबद्ध हैं।
- Most demand comes from **small and medium businesses** and **startups** wanting to hire specialists for a few days a week.
ज्यादातर मांग **छोटे और मध्यम व्यवसायों** और **स्टार्टअप्स** से आती है जो सप्ताह में कुछ दिनों के लिए विशेषज्ञों को काम पर रखना चाहते हैं।
- There is more openness among seniors to **hybrid roles**.
वरिष्ठ नागरिकों में **हाइब्रिड भूमिकाओं** के लिए अधिक स्वीकार्यता देखी जा रही है।
- Sagar says **money** is important, but it's often more about **feeling valued and relevant**.
सागर कहते हैं कि **पैसा** ज़रूरी है, लेकिन यह अक्सर **सम्मानित और प्रासंगिक महसूस करने** से ज़्यादा होता है।
- Many seniors apply for **low-paying** or **non-profit roles**, prioritizing **relevance over salary**.



कई वरिष्ठ नागरिक कम वेतन या गैर-लाभकारी भूमिकाओं के लिए आवेदन करते हैं, जहां प्रासंगिकता को वेतन से ऊपर रखा जाता है।

- **Keeping the Brain Sharp**

मस्तिष्क को सक्रिय बनाए रखना

- A 2023 study revealed that over **80 lakh Indians suffer from dementia.**

2023 के एक अध्ययन में बताया गया कि 80 लाख से अधिक भारतीय डिमेंशिया से पीड़ित हैं।

- **By 2050, the elderly population will be 20% of the total population, increasing the burden of neurodegenerative diseases.**

2050 तक वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की संख्या कुल जनसंख्या का 20% हो जाएगी, जिससे तंत्रिका संबंधी बीमारियों का बोझ बढ़ेगा।

- **Ivory**, a cognitive health start-up, helps identify **neurodegenerative risks** and offers brain training for people over **45 years**.

आईवरी, एक कॉग्निटिव हेल्थ स्टार्टअप, 45 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के लोगों के लिए तंत्रिका संबंधी जोखिमों की पहचान करता है और मस्तिष्क प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करता है।

- Users first take a **cognitive assessment** to find their **cognitive age**.

उपयोगकर्ता पहले एक मस्तिष्क मूल्यांकन लेते हैं जिससे उनकी संज्ञानात्मक आयु का पता चलता है।

- At-risk users are guided with **personalized brain training, health, and lifestyle profiling** through the app.

जो उपयोगकर्ता जोखिम में पाए जाते हैं उन्हें ऐप के ज़रिए व्यक्तिगत मस्तिष्क प्रशिक्षण, स्वास्थ्य और जीवनशैली प्रोफाइलिंग दी जाती है।

- The app has **30,000 users, two-thirds female, and 60% are from tier-1 cities.**

ऐप के 30,000 उपयोगकर्ता हैं, जिनमें दो-तिहाई महिलाएं हैं और 60% टियर-1 शहरों से हैं।

- **Easy on the Knees**

घुटनों के लिए आरामदायक तकनीक

- **Around 50% of the senior population need help with basic sit-to-stand tasks.**

लगभग 50% वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को बैठने से खड़े होने जैसी बुनियादी गतिविधियों में सहायता की आवश्यकता होती है।

- **Translead Medtech**, a deep-tech start-up from **IISc Bengaluru**, has designed an **assistive chair** to help seniors sit and stand safely.

आईआईएससी बेंगलुरु की ट्रांसलीड मेडटेक नामक डीप-टेक स्टार्टअप ने वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को सुरक्षित बैठने और खड़े होने में मदद के लिए एक सहायक कुर्सी तैयार की है।

- The **chair works without electricity or sensors, and gives gentle support while standing or sitting.**

यह कुर्सी बिजली या सेंसर के बिना काम करती है और धीरे से सहारा देती है जब कोई व्यक्ति बैठता या खड़ा होता है।

- There has been a **2.5 times growth in knee replacement surgeries in the last five years, now exceeding 5 lakh surgeries.**



पिछले पाँच वर्षों में घुटने के प्रत्यारोपण सर्जरी में 2.5 गुना वृद्धि हुई है और अब ये संख्या 5 लाख को पार कर गई है।

- UNSDG guidelines suggest **5% public seating** should be **accessible**.
यूएनएसडीजी दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार **5% सार्वजनिक बैठने की व्यवस्था सुलभ** होनी चाहिए।
- The company plans to launch **25 million chairs** in public places and **8 million** in homes and offices.
कंपनी का लक्ष्य **25 मिलियन कुर्सियों** को सार्वजनिक स्थलों और **8 मिलियन** को घरों व कार्यालयों में स्थापित करना है।
- An **assistive commode for the elderly** is also in development.
वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए एक **सहायक कमोड** भी तैयार किया जा रहा है।

Tech That Alienates

तकनीक जो अलग कर देती है

- **Experts caution that tech developers often focus more on what technology can do rather than what seniors need.**
विशेषज्ञों ने चेताया है कि तकनीकी डेवलपर्स अक्सर इस पर ज्यादा ध्यान देते हैं कि तकनीक क्या कर सकती है, बजाय इसके कि वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को क्या चाहिए।
- Arvind Kasthuri from St John's Medical College highlights the gap between **technology and patient needs**.
सेंट जॉन मेडिकल कॉलेज के अरविंद कस्तूरी ने तकनीक और रोगी की जरूरतों के बीच के अंतर को रेखांकित किया।
- He stresses integrating technology with **real-world healthcare** and patient workflows.
वे जोर देते हैं कि तकनीक को वास्तविक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली और रोगी प्रक्रियाओं के साथ जोड़ा जाए।
- Pretesh Kiran points out the **urban-rural divide** and difficulty seniors face in adapting to **new technology**.
प्रेतेश किरण ने शहरी-ग्रामीण अंतर और वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को नई तकनीक अपनाने में आने वाली कठिनाइयों को उजागर किया।
- **Keeping Pace is Hard**
तेज़ी से बदलती तकनीक से तालमेल बैठाना मुश्किल
- **Bilal Zaidi**, founder of **Elderra**, says the **rapid digitisation** is excluding the **elderly**.
एल्डेरा के संस्थापक बिलाल जैदी कहते हैं कि तेज़ी से हो रही डिजिटलीकरण प्रक्रिया वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को बाहर कर रही है।
- Zaidi says his elderly parents found it hard to **book autos** or **order groceries** online.
जैदी ने कहा कि उनके बुजुर्ग माता-पिता के लिए ऑटो बुक करना या ऑनलाइन किराना ऑर्डर करना मुश्किल हो गया है।



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CONTACT: 9971932488



- Closure of local shops and rise of **quick commerce** left them with fewer options.
स्थानीय दुकानों के बंद होने और **क्विक कॉमर्स** के बढ़ने से उनके पास कम विकल्प रह गए हैं।
- Lack of tech awareness makes the elderly **vulnerable to scams**.
तकनीकी जानकारी की कमी के कारण वरिष्ठ नागरिक **ठगी का शिकार** हो सकते हैं।
- **Govt. Should Join In**
सरकार को भी साथ आना चाहिए
- **The tech divide is more severe in rural areas.**
ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में तकनीकी विभाजन और अधिक गंभीर है।
- Most age-tech services target **financially independent seniors in cities**, making them **unaffordable** for the broader population.
अधिकांश एज-टेक सेवाएं **शहरी क्षेत्रों के आर्थिक रूप से स्वतंत्र वरिष्ठ नागरिकों** को लक्षित करती हैं, जिससे ये **बाकी आबादी के लिए महंगी** हो जाती हैं।
- **Susan Barton**, an eldercare expert, suggests **government and corporates** should partner with start-ups to make these services **affordable and accessible**.
वरिष्ठ देखभाल विशेषज्ञ **सुसान बार्टन** का सुझाव है कि **सरकार और कॉर्पोरेट** को स्टार्टअप्स के साथ मिलकर इन सेवाओं को **सुलभ और किफायती** बनाना चाहिए।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Trump warns of tariffs for Mexico over water dispute

must 'jointly resist bullying', says Xi

GS Paper I: Mapping Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump threatened Mexico with “escalating consequences” on trade unless it provides more water to Texas under a contentious decades-old treaty.

He claimed Mexico was violating a 1944 pact under which the U.S. shares water from the Colorado River in exchange for flows from the Rio Grande, which forms part of the border between the two countries. “We will keep escalating consequences, including TARIFFS and, maybe even SANCTIONS, until Mexico honors the Treaty,” Mr. Trump wrote on Truth Social.



France: Xi Jinping and Pedro Sanchez arrive for a bilateral Diaoyutai Guest House in Beijing on Friday. AFP

responsibilities... ly resist unilateral practices,” Mr. Xi
ie stressed, would

not only “safeguard their own legitimate rights and interests, but also... safeguard international fairness and justice.”

arks to visiting **Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez**, who said tensions over cooperation between the European Union and China

Mr. Sanchez, in turn, told a press conference following his meeting with Mr. Xi that tensions over trade should not impede cooperation between the European Union and China. Spain buys about €45 billion of goods every year from China, its fourth-largest trading partner, but sells around €7.4 billion worth.

Mr. Sanchez broke with the rest of the European Union on his last trip to China in September 2024, urging the bloc to reconsider plans to impose high tariffs on Chinese electric cars and calling for a “fair trade order”.



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

- 1. China imposes 125% tariff on U.S. goods**
चीन ने अमेरिकी वस्तुओं पर 125% टैरिफ लगाया
- 2. India Sees Urgency in Closing Deals with the West: Jaishankar**

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



भारत ने पश्चिमी देशों के साथ समझौते जल्द करने की आवश्यकता

महसूस की: जयशंकर

3. Indian EVMs Not Connected to Internet or Wi-Fi, Says EC After U.S. Official's Comments

भारतीय ईवीएम इंटरनेट या वाई-फाई से नहीं जुड़ी हैं, अमेरिकी अधिकारी की टिप्पणी के बाद चुनाव आयोग ने कहा

4. Giving Shape to the University of the Future

भविष्य के विश्वविद्यालय को आकार देना

5. Children subjected to rape, sexual violence in DR Congo, says UN

डीआर कॉन्गो में बच्चों के साथ बलात्कार और यौन हिंसा: संयुक्त राष्ट्र

6. International Reactions and Human Rights Concerns

अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रिया और मानवाधिकार चिंताएं

PATRIOTIC IAS



China imposes 125% tariff on U.S. goods

GS Paper II: Super Powers

April 2: As part of 'Liberation day', Trump imposed an additional 34% tariff on all Chinese imports, bringing the total to 54%

April 4: China responded with an additional 34% tariff on all U.S. products

April 7: Trump retaliated with 50% more tariff, raising total tariffs on Chinese imports to 104%

April 9: China retaliated with an additional 50% tariff, raising total tariffs on U.S. imports to 84%

April 9: Trump once again raised the total tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%



Reuters
BEIJING

China, on Friday, continued its tit-for-tat move against the Trump administration's tariffs by hiking its levies on imports from the U.S. to 125% against duties of 145% by America even as it evinced interest in dialogue with Washington to resolve the impasse.

China's Customs Tariff Commission said, "Even if the U.S. imposes higher tariffs, it would no longer make economic sense and ultimately go down as a joke in world economic history." "Given that it's already impossible for the Chinese market to accept U.S. imports at the current tariff level, if the United States imposes further tariffs on Chinese products, China will ignore it," it said.

Yet, should the U.S. persist in substantially undermining China's interests, Beijing will take firm countermeasures, it added.

In a message on social media on Friday morning, U.S. President Donald Trump continued to insist that "we are doing really well on our tariff policy".

"Very exciting for America, and the World!!! It is moving along quickly," he wrote.

China's new tariffs of 125% against U.S. imports will be effective from Saturday, it said.

The announcement follows the U.S. move to raise

the "reciprocal tariffs" on Chinese imports to 125%. The U.S. later confirmed the total tariff on Chinese products was 145%, with the inclusion of 20% levies announced by Donald Trump soon after he took over power in January this year.

Mr. Trump's heavy tariffs left China to wage a lone battle as he paused tariffs against all other countries.

Lawsuit filed

Also, similar to previous tariff hikes, China has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. with the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism, a Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson said.

While slapping additional measures, China, however, kept its door open for talks to resolve the issue. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian on Friday said if the U.S. truly wanted to resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation, it must cease its maximum pressure tactics and reckless actions.

China has made clear its position on the issue of tariffs multiple times. "There are no winners in tariff wars or trade wars. China does not want to engage in such wars, but we are not afraid to do so," Mr. Lin told a media briefing here.

XI REACHES OUT TO EU
» PAGE 12

China imposes 125% tariff on U.S. goods चीन ने अमेरिकी वस्तुओं पर 125% टैरिफ लगाया

On Friday, China increased its import tariffs on U.S. goods to 125%, continuing its tit-for-tat response to the Trump administration's tariffs.

शुक्रवार को चीन ने अमेरिकी वस्तुओं पर आयात शुल्क बढ़ाकर 125% कर दिया, जो कि ट्रम्प प्रशासन के टैरिफ के खिलाफ जवाबी कार्रवाई का हिस्सा था।

- This move comes in response to 145% duties imposed by the U.S., though China also showed interest in dialogue to resolve the issue.

यह कदम अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए 145% शुल्क के जवाब में उठाया गया है, हालांकि चीन ने संवाद के प्रति भी रुचि दिखाई है।

- The Customs Tariff Commission of China stated that even if the U.S. increases tariffs, it would no longer make economic sense and would be seen as a joke in world economic history.

चीन के सीमा शुल्क टैरिफ आयोग ने कहा कि अगर अमेरिका टैरिफ बढ़ाता है, तो उसका आर्थिक रूप से कोई औचित्य नहीं रहेगा और यह विश्व आर्थिक इतिहास में मज़ाक के रूप में देखा जाएगा।

- The Commission also said that at the current tariff level, the Chinese market cannot accept U.S. imports, and if the U.S. imposes further tariffs, China will ignore them.

आयोग ने यह भी कहा कि मौजूदा टैरिफ स्तर पर चीनी बाजार अमेरिकी आयात को स्वीकार नहीं कर सकता, और अगर अमेरिका और अधिक टैरिफ लगाता है, तो चीन उन्हें नज़रअंदाज़ करेगा।

- However, if the U.S. continues to undermine China's interests, Beijing will take firm countermeasures.

हालांकि, अगर अमेरिका चीन के हितों को नुकसान पहुंचाता है, तो बीजिंग कड़े जवाबी कदम उठाएगा।

Statements from President Trump

राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप के बयान

- On Friday morning, U.S. President Donald Trump insisted on social media that "we are doing really well on our tariff policy."



शुक्रवार सुबह, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने सोशल मीडिया पर दावा किया कि “हम अपनी टैरिफ नीति पर बहुत अच्छा कर रहे हैं।”

- He added, “**Very exciting for America, and the World! It is moving along quickly.**” उन्होंने कहा, “अमेरिका और दुनिया के लिए बहुत रोमांचक! यह तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ रहा है।”

New Tariffs Effective from Saturday

नए टैरिफ शनिवार से लागू होंगे

- China's new **125% tariffs on U.S. imports will be effective from Saturday.** चीन का नया **125%** टैरिफ अमेरिकी वस्तुओं पर शनिवार से लागू होगा।
- This follows the **U.S. decision** to raise its own “**reciprocal tariffs**” on Chinese imports to **125%**. यह अमेरिका के निर्णय के बाद आया है जिसमें उसने चीनी वस्तुओं पर “प्रतिशोधात्मक टैरिफ” को **125%** तक बढ़ाया।
- The **U.S. later confirmed that the total tariff on Chinese products now stands at 145%, after including the 20% additional levies imposed by Trump in January.** अमेरिका ने बाद में पुष्टि की कि चीनी उत्पादों पर कुल टैरिफ अब **145%** हो गया है, जिसमें ट्रंप द्वारा जनवरी में लगाए गए **20%** अतिरिक्त शुल्क भी शामिल हैं।
- Trump had **paused tariffs on all other countries**, leaving **China to face the full brunt** of the trade measures. ट्रंप ने अन्य सभी देशों पर टैरिफ को स्थगित कर दिया था, जिससे केवल चीन पर ही इन व्यापार उपायों का असर पड़ा।

China Files Lawsuit with WTO

चीन ने WTO में मुकदमा दायर किया

- China has also filed a **lawsuit** with the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** through its **dispute settlement mechanism**, similar to previous tariff hikes. चीन ने विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) के विवाद समाधान तंत्र के तहत एक मुकदमा भी दायर किया है, जैसा कि उसने पहले के टैरिफ बढ़ोतरी के समय किया था।

China Keeps Door Open for Dialogue

चीन ने संवाद का रास्ता खुला रखा

- While taking **additional measures**, China emphasized that it remains **open to dialogue** to resolve the dispute. अतिरिक्त कदम उठाते हुए भी चीन ने ज़ोर दिया कि वह विवाद को सुलझाने के लिए संवाद के लिए तैयार है।



- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said the U.S. must end its pressure tactics and reckless actions if it genuinely wants to resolve the issue through negotiation.

चीनी विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता लिन जियान ने कहा कि अगर अमेरिका वास्तव में बातचीत के ज़रिए समाधान चाहता है, तो उसे अपनी दबाव की रणनीति और लापरवाह कार्यवाहियाँ बंद करनी होंगी।

- China reiterated that there are no winners in tariff or trade wars, and while it does not want such conflicts, it is not afraid to face them.

चीन ने फिर से दोहराया कि टैरिफ या व्यापार युद्धों में कोई विजेता नहीं होता, और हालांकि वह ऐसे टकराव नहीं चाहता, लेकिन उनसे डरता भी नहीं है।

World Trade Organization (WTO)

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) एक सरकारी संगठन है जिसका मुख्यालय जिनेवा, स्विट्ज़रलैंड में स्थित है।

It regulates and facilitates international trade between nations.

यह अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार को नियंत्रित और सुगम बनाता है।

Governments use the WTO to negotiate trade agreements, settle disputes, and ensure a predictable and fair trading system.

सरकारें WTO का उपयोग व्यापार समझौतों पर बातचीत करने, विवादों को हल करने और एक पूर्वानुमेय और निष्पक्ष व्यापार प्रणाली सुनिश्चित करने के लिए करती हैं।

It operates in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) system.



यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) प्रणाली के साथ मिलकर कार्य करता है।

Membership

सदस्यता

- The WTO has **164 members**, representing over **98% of global trade and GDP**.
- WTO के 164 सदस्य हैं, जो वैश्विक व्यापार और GDP के 98% से अधिक का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं।

Establishment

स्थापना

- Officially established on **January 1, 1995**, under the **Marrakesh Agreement of 1994**, replacing the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) of 1948**.
- आधिकारिक रूप से 1 जनवरी 1995 को 1994 के मार्राकेश समझौते के तहत स्थापित किया गया, जिसने 1948 के सामान्य शुल्क और व्यापार समझौते (GATT) की जगह ली।

Main Functions

मुख्य कार्य

1. Monitoring Trade Agreements

1. व्यापार समझौतों की निगरानी

- The WTO facilitates trade in goods, services, and intellectual property among member countries.
- WTO सदस्य देशों के बीच वस्तुओं, सेवाओं और बौद्धिक संपदा के व्यापार को सुगम बनाता है।
- It provides a framework for trade agreements aimed at reducing tariffs, quotas, and other restrictions.



- यह व्यापार समझौतों के लिए एक रूपरेखा प्रदान करता है, जिसका उद्देश्य टैरिफ, कोटा और अन्य प्रतिबंधों को कम करना है।

2. Dispute Resolution

2. विवाद समाधान

- The WTO administers an independent dispute resolution system, ensuring that members comply with trade agreements and settle trade-related disputes fairly.
- WTO एक स्वतंत्र विवाद समाधान प्रणाली संचालित करता है, जो यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि सदस्य व्यापार समझौतों का पालन करें और व्यापार से जुड़े विवादों को निष्पक्ष रूप से सुलझाएं।

3. Non-Discrimination Policy

3. गैर-भेदभाव नीति

- The WTO prohibits discrimination among trading partners while allowing exceptions for environmental protection, national security, and public health concerns.
- WTO व्यापार भागीदारों के बीच भेदभाव पर प्रतिबंध लगाता है, लेकिन पर्यावरण संरक्षण, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संबंधी चिंताओं के लिए कुछ अपवादों की अनुमति देता है।

Structure of WTO

WTO की संरचना

1. Ministerial Conference

1. मंत्रिस्तरीय सम्मेलन

- The highest decision-making body, consisting of all members.
- सभी सदस्यों से मिलकर बनी सर्वोच्च निर्णय लेने वाली संस्था।



- Usually held **biennially**, emphasizing **consensus-based decision-making**.
- आमतौर पर हर दो साल में आयोजित होती है और सर्वसम्मति आधारित निर्णय लेने पर जोर देती है।

2. General Council

2. सामान्य परिषद

- Oversees the **day-to-day functioning** of the WTO.
- WTO के दैनिक कार्यों की देखरेख करता है।
- Composed of **representatives from all member countries**.
- सभी सदस्य देशों के प्रतिनिधियों से मिलकर बना होता है।

3. Secretariat

3. सचिवालय

- Consists of **600+ staff members**, led by the **Director-General** and **four Deputy Directors-General**.
- **600+ कर्मचारी**, जिनका नेतृत्व महानिदेशक और चार उप-महानिदेशक करते हैं।
- Provides **administrative, professional, and technical support**.
- प्रशासनिक, व्यावसायिक और तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करता है।

India and WTO

भारत और WTO

- India is a **founding member** of the WTO and plays an **active role in shaping trade agreements**.
- भारत WTO का संस्थापक सदस्य है और व्यापार समझौतों को आकार देने में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाता है।
- WTO reviews India's trade policies **periodically**, helping assess **economic policies and reforms**.
- WTO भारत की व्यापार नीतियों की समय-समय पर समीक्षा करता है, जिससे आर्थिक नीतियों और सुधारों का मूल्यांकन करने में मदद मिलती है।



Major Milestones and Events

प्रमुख मील के पत्थर और घटनाएँ

- 2001: Doha Development Agenda launched to address concerns of developing nations.
- 2001: दोहा विकास एजेंडा की शुरुआत, जिसका उद्देश्य विकासशील देशों की चिंताओं को दूर करना था।
- 2013: Bali Package adopted, focusing on trade facilitation, agriculture, and development.
- 2013: बाली पैकेज अपनाया गया, जिसमें व्यापार सुगमता, कृषि और विकास पर ध्यान दिया गया।

Recent Developments

हाल की घटनाएँ

- March 2025: China filed a revised request for dispute consultations at the WTO regarding US-imposed tariffs.
- मार्च 2025: चीन ने WTO में विवाद परामर्श के लिए संशोधित अनुरोध दायर किया, जो अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए टैरिफ से संबंधित था।
- December 2024: Questions raised about the relevance of the WTO due to US trade policies under President Donald Trump's second term.
- दिसंबर 2024: अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के दूसरे कार्यकाल में व्यापार नीतियों के कारण WTO की प्रासंगिकता पर सवाल उठे।



India sees urgency in closing deals with the West: Jaishankar

GS Paper II: India and West

NEW DELHI

The recent U.S. tariffs have “focused our minds on the need for **correcting a certain skewed nature of our openness to the global economy**”, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday, calling for growing partnerships with Western economies in engaging in free trade.

“I’d argue, we have an opportunity today... if we can focus on **these three big [free trade agreement] negotiations, with the U.S., the European Union and the U.K.,** if these work out for us this year, we’d be in a different situation.” India is “geared up for a high degree of urgency” in sealing the deals, he said, contrasting the fervour with past reluctance.

‘West is more open’

“Many of us have argued that our **complementary partners are in the West, where real growth is possible, where they’re more open, with market economies, contractual underpinnings, and are much more competitive than the economies to our east,**” he added.



S. Jaishankar

Mr. Jaishankar was speaking at **Carnegie India’s annual Global Technology Summit.**

On bi- and multilateral collaboration frameworks like the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET), Mr. Jaishankar said that domestic follow-through was important. “My reality check on the partnerships would be that you have to move both the regulatory system and the real economy in step with each other,” he said.

“Often we would have discussions, but if they were not followed through by projects, then those discussions don’t have the seriousness the other party would have given,” he added.

- ‘West is more open’
‘पश्चिम ज्यादा खुला हुआ है’
- Jaishankar pointed out that **complementary economic partners are found more in the West, where there is real growth and market competitiveness.**

India Sees Urgency in Closing Deals with the West: Jaishankar

भारत ने पश्चिमी देशों के साथ समझौते जल्द करने की आवश्यकता महसूस की: जयशंकर

The recent U.S. tariffs have pushed India to rethink **its openness to the global economy**, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

हाल ही में लगे अमेरिकी टैरिफ ने भारत को वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के प्रति अपनी खुली नीति पर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए प्रेरित किया है, यह बात विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने कही।

- He emphasized the importance of **strengthening partnerships** with Western economies through **free trade agreements.**

उन्होंने **मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों** के माध्यम से पश्चिमी

अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के साथ **साझेदारी मजबूत करने** की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।

- Jaishankar said that India is **ready with urgency** to finalize **three major FTAs — with the U.S., European Union, and the U.K.**

जयशंकर ने कहा कि भारत **तीन बड़े मुक्त व्यापार समझौते — अमेरिका, यूरोपीय संघ और ब्रिटेन** के साथ — को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए **तत्परता के साथ तैयार** है।

- He added that if these **FTAs** are finalized this year, India would find itself in a **completely different trade position.**

उन्होंने कहा कि अगर ये **समझौते इस वर्ष पूरे** हो जाते हैं, तो भारत एक **पूरी तरह से अलग व्यापारिक स्थिति** में होगा।



जयशंकर ने बताया कि भारत के लिए पूरक आर्थिक साझेदार मुख्य रूप से पश्चिमी देशों में हैं, जहाँ वास्तविक विकास और बाजार प्रतिस्पर्धा मौजूद है।

- He contrasted this with the economies to India's East, suggesting that Western economies are more conducive for contractual and competitive trade.
उन्होंने भारत के पूर्वी देशों की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की तुलना करते हुए कहा कि पश्चिमी देश अनुबंध आधारित और प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक व्यापार के लिए अधिक अनुकूल हैं।
- Importance of Domestic Follow-Through
घरेलू स्तर पर कार्यान्वयन की महत्ता
- Speaking on collaborations like the U.S.–India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET), he said domestic implementation is crucial.
महत्वपूर्ण और उभरती तकनीक पर अमेरिका-भारत पहल (ICET) जैसे सहयोगों पर बोलते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि घरेलू स्तर पर कार्यान्वयन बेहद जरूरी है।
- He stressed that regulatory systems and the real economy must move together to make these partnerships successful.
उन्होंने जोर दिया कि इन साझेदारियों को सफल बनाने के लिए नियमकारी तंत्र और वास्तविक अर्थव्यवस्था को साथ-साथ आगे बढ़ना होगा।
- Often, talks and dialogues fail to yield results if they are not followed up with real projects.
अक्सर बातचीत और संवाद का कोई परिणाम नहीं निकलता यदि उन्हें वास्तविक परियोजनाओं के साथ आगे नहीं बढ़ाया जाता।
- He concluded by saying that such follow-through gives seriousness and credibility to India's international engagements.
उन्होंने अंत में कहा कि इस तरह का फॉलो-थ्रू भारत की अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिबद्धताओं को गंभीरता और विश्वसनीयता प्रदान करता है।



Indian EVMs not connected to Internet or Wi-Fi, says EC after U.S. official's comments

**GS Paper II:
Elections**

Against the backdrop of claims by U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard that electronic voting systems are vulnerable to hacking, the Election Commission on Friday said India uses electronic voting machines (EVM) which work like "simple, correct and accurate calculators" and cannot be connected to either the Internet, Wi-Fi, or Infrared.

EC sources said some countries use electronic voting systems which are a mix of multiple systems, machines, and processes, including various private networks like the Internet. In India, while pressing the button of choice, the voter can also see the corresponding VVPAT slips for enhancing his or her satisfaction and confidence.

Counting of any number of votes (even 100 crores) can be completed in less than a day and no one can tamper with these machines which are either stored in a strong room or with an authorised person



Tried and tested: EVMs have stood legal scrutiny by the SC and are invariably checked by political parties, says EC. K. MURALI KUMAR

at any given point of time, the sources added.

In India, the EVMs have stood legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court and are invariably checked by political parties at various stages. They pointed out that more than five crore paper trail machine slips have been verified and matched during counting in front of political parties.

Ms. Gabbard said on Thursday that the U.S. Cabinet has found "evidence of how these electronic voting systems have been vulnerable to hackers for a very long time and vulnerable to exploitation to manipulate the results of the votes being cast". She ad-

ded that the findings mandate the use of paper ballots across the country so that voters can have faith in the integrity of the U.S. elections.

Last year, tech czar Elon Musk had called for the elimination of EVMs, citing the risk of being hacked by humans or artificial intelligence (AI).

The then Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had in January responded to Mr. Musk's claim saying, "A global IT expert said EVMs can be hacked while our elections were going on. They [U.S.] don't have EVMs, they have electronic voting mechanisms."

Indian EVMs Not Connected to Internet or Wi-Fi, Says EC After U.S. Official's Comments

भारतीय ईवीएम इंटरनेट या वाई-फाई से नहीं जुड़ी हैं, अमेरिकी अधिकारी की टिप्पणी के बाद चुनाव आयोग ने कहा

The Election Commission (EC) stated that India's EVMs are like

"simple, correct, and accurate calculators" and are not connected to the Internet, Wi-Fi, or Infrared.

चुनाव आयोग (EC) ने कहा कि भारत की ईवीएम "सरल, सही और सटीक कैलकुलेटर" की तरह काम

करती हैं और ये इंटरनेट, वाई-फाई या इन्फ्रारेड से जुड़ी नहीं होतीं।

- This clarification came after **U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard** claimed that **electronic voting systems** are vulnerable to hacking.



यह स्पष्टीकरण तब आया जब अमेरिकी राष्ट्रीय खुफिया निदेशक तुलसी गैबर्ड ने दावा किया कि इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग सिस्टम हैकिंग के लिए संवेदनशील होते हैं।

- According to EC sources, some countries use **electronic voting systems** that combine **multiple machines, systems**, and even **private networks** like the Internet.
EC सूत्रों के अनुसार, कुछ देश इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग सिस्टम में कई मशीनों, प्रणालियों और यहां तक कि प्राइवेट नेटवर्क जैसे कि इंटरनेट का उपयोग करते हैं।
- In contrast, **Indian EVMs operate offline**, and voters can verify their choice through the **VVPAT slip, ensuring transparency and confidence**.
इसके विपरीत, भारतीय ईवीएम ऑफ़लाइन काम करती हैं, और मतदाता अपनी पसंद को वीवीपैट स्लिप के माध्यम से सत्यापित कर सकते हैं, जिससे पारदर्शिता और भरोसा सुनिश्चित होता है।
- Counting of even **100 crore votes** can be done in **less than a day**, and the machines are either kept in a **strong room** or with an **authorised person** at all times.
यहां तक कि **100 करोड़ वोटों** की गिनती भी एक दिन से कम में की जा सकती है, और मशीनें हमेशा या तो स्ट्रॉन्ग रूम में रखी जाती हैं या किसी अधिकृत व्यक्ति के पास होती हैं।
- Indian EVMs have **passed Supreme Court scrutiny** and are checked by **political parties** at multiple stages of the electoral process.
भारतीय ईवीएम ने **सुप्रीम कोर्ट की जांच** पास की है और इन्हें **राजनीतिक दलों** द्वारा चुनाव प्रक्रिया के विभिन्न चरणों में जांचा जाता है।
- **Over five crore paper trail slips** have been **verified and matched** with votes in front of **political parties** during counting.
गिनती के दौरान पांच करोड़ से अधिक पेपर ट्रेल स्लिप्स को जाँचा और मिलाया गया है, वह भी राजनीतिक दलों की उपस्थिति में।
- **U.S. Concerns on Voting Systems**
अमेरिका में वोटिंग सिस्टम को लेकर चिंता
- Tulsi Gabbard stated that **electronic voting systems in the U.S. have long been vulnerable to hacking and manipulation**.
तुलसी गैबर्ड ने कहा कि अमेरिका में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग सिस्टम लंबे समय से हैकिंग और छेड़छाड़ के लिए संवेदनशील रहे हैं।
- **She emphasized the need for paper ballots to restore public trust in elections**.
उन्होंने जनता का भरोसा बहाल करने के लिए पेपर बैलट की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- In **2023**, tech leader **Elon Musk** also called for the **elimination of EVMs**, citing the **risk of hacking by humans or AI**.
2023 में तकनीकी दिग्गज एलन मस्क ने भी ईवीएम को समाप्त करने की बात कही थी, यह कहते हुए कि उन्हें मानव या कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) द्वारा हैक किया जा सकता है।
- **EC Response to Musk's Remarks**
मस्क की टिप्पणी पर चुनाव आयोग की प्रतिक्रिया
- In **January**, then **Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar** responded by saying, "They [U.S.] don't even have EVMs, they have **electronic voting mechanisms**."



जनवरी में, तत्कालीन मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त राजीव कुमार ने जवाब देते हुए कहा, "वे [अमेरिका] तो ईवीएम रखते ही नहीं, उनके पास इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मैकेनिज्म हैं।"

Giving shape to the university of the future

GS Paper II: Education Sector

The National Education Policy proposes to change India's siloed higher education system by establishing large multidisciplinary educational institutions. The emphasis will be on having a more cross-disciplinary education, a pedagogical shift towards "communication, discussion, debate, research, and opportunities for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking", and interdisciplinary research.

How do we transform the existing system of universities, colleges, and the research ecosystem in India to achieve these objectives? The answer: a progression from a multidisciplinary campus or university space to a cross-disciplinary collaborative teaching and research practice, interdisciplinary thought and also research based on integrated disciplinary frameworks.

Multidisciplinarity is the existence of multiple disciplines in a single project or programme without seeking interaction. Disciplines exist parallel to each other, with each applying their own disciplinary methods and perspectives and maintaining boundaries. Cross-disciplinary approach expects collaboration between different disciplines without emphasising knowledge integration. It works towards creating connections and fostering dialogue between disciplines. An example would be an educationist and an economist writing this article. An interdisciplinary approach on the other hand, integrates insights, methods, and concepts from different disciplines to address complex real-world problems. It goes beyond collaboration, leading to the synthesis of knowledge across disciplinary boundaries.

The multidisciplinary campus

Phasing out single stream institutes of higher education (IHE) to establish a multidisciplinary campus can work in two ways. First, by adding departments to expand the existing core disciplinary focus – for example, the Indian Institutes of Technology are adding or strengthening their humanities and social sciences, offering integrated masters programmes in economics and allied disciplines. Second, creating university clusters by connecting existing



Devayani Tirthali

is an educational researcher and research design consultant



Parag Waknis

is a faculty of economics at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi

Creating a higher education structure in India that implements the vision of the National Education Policy 2020 will need to be a well-thought-out plan

institutions – for example, a commerce college can collaborate with an arts and science college to create a cluster university. This requires administrative streamlining and not just academic collaboration. Clustering single stream institutions might be a cost effective and time efficient way of creating large multidisciplinary institutions in the short term. However, according to the 2020-21 All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE), a significant proportion of institutions are undergraduate colleges, 35% of these are single stream, and many of these are only B.Ed colleges, making it difficult to find appropriate disciplinary variety nearby that is suitable for clustering.

In addition to repurposing existing IHEs, new multidisciplinary universities will have to be established to reach the goal of having "at least one in or near every district" by 2030. It would be wise to establish a single multidisciplinary campus in a district rather than have one institution with multiple campuses across districts to maximise educational and research efficiency. Research shows that while public universities have a higher educational efficiency, they have lower research efficiency because they need to manage multiple campuses.

Cross-disciplinary learning and practice

The university of the future cannot be just a collection of multiple departments. It needs a disciplinary faculty that is open to collaboration and diverse points of views, and experienced in working across disciplines. To achieve this in the long run, students (i.e., faculty of the future) and current faculty need exposure to different disciplines. This cross-disciplinary approach to learning starts with students taking courses across departments outside their core discipline. The next step is to encourage and facilitate cross-disciplinary research and projects to solve complex problems.

At this stage, faculty and students are expected to bring in their disciplinary knowledge, collaborating and fostering dialogue between the disciplines. This can lead to the creation of cross-disciplinary courses – for example, a course titled 'Economic changes and class

structures as seen in Indian cinema, in collaboration with the economics, sociology, and film studies faculty'.

Incentivising such cross disciplinary courses, projects or centres needs additional funding to sustain it over multiple years. The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) programme in the United States is a good example of substantial investment in having teachers and researchers of the future with a "breadth of skills, strengths, and understanding to work in an interdisciplinary environment while being well grounded with depth of knowledge in a major field".

On inter-disciplinary thought

Cross-disciplinary learning and practice expects collaboration between disciplines. On the other hand, interdisciplinary thinking and research requires drawing deeper connections between disciplines and the creation of integrated frameworks. Can cross-disciplinary research and practice really reach this ideal? In the experience of the writers of this article of the Integrated Graduate Research Traineeship (IGERT), this was achieved in some cross-disciplinary combinations such as biotechnology, medicine, chemistry and biology. However, for disciplines such as engineering and architecture, participating students reported challenges in finding publication venues for integrated research, securing and advancing in academic employment, as they did not fit in any particular discipline. Thus, to avoid interdisciplinarity from sliding into traditional practice, there is a need to overhaul funding and the publication ecosystem as well as faculty hiring/promoting practices.

The cost implications of all these changes will be enormous and staggered over several years. This will require reprioritising public spending. The governance and regulatory changes to achieve this also need to be carefully thought out. The fact is that we are trying to create a higher education structure that broadly resembles the American system at its zenith, which has organically grown over a century, in one of the most unregulated and competitive environments.

Giving Shape to the University of the Future

भविष्य के विश्वविद्यालय को आकार देना

The National Education Policy aims to transform India's siloed higher education system by creating large multidisciplinary educational institutions.

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति का उद्देश्य भारत की विभाजित उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को बदलना है और बड़े बहु-विषयक शैक्षिक संस्थानों की स्थापना करना है।



- The focus will shift towards **cross-disciplinary education**, promoting **communication, discussion, debate, research, and interdisciplinary thinking**.
अब जोर पारस्परिक विषय आधारित शिक्षा, संवाद, चर्चा, बहस, अनुसंधान और अंतरविषयक सोच को बढ़ावा देने पर होगा।
- The goal is to move from just a **multidisciplinary campus** to **collaborative teaching and research**, and **integrated disciplinary frameworks**.
लक्ष्य केवल बहु-विषयक परिसर से आगे बढ़कर सहयोगात्मक शिक्षण और अनुसंधान तथा एकीकृत विषयक ढांचे की ओर बढ़ना है।
- **Understanding the Approaches: Multidisciplinary, Cross-disciplinary, and Interdisciplinary**
दृष्टिकोण की समझ: बहु-विषयक, पारस्परिक विषयक और अंतरविषयक
- **Multidisciplinary** involves multiple disciplines working together in the same space but without **interaction or integration**.
बहु-विषयकता में कई विषय एक साथ होते हैं लेकिन उनके बीच संवाद या समेकन नहीं होता।
- **Each discipline maintains its own methods and boundaries**.
हर विषय अपनी पद्धतियों और सीमाओं को बनाए रखता है।
- **A cross-disciplinary approach** encourages **collaboration** between disciplines, though not necessarily **integrating knowledge**.
पारस्परिक विषयक दृष्टिकोण विषयों के बीच सहयोग को बढ़ावा देता है, लेकिन जरूरी नहीं कि वह ज्ञान का समावेश करे।
- **It helps create connections and encourages dialogue among disciplines — like an educationist and economist co-authoring an article**.
यह विषयों के बीच संबंध बनाता है और संवाद को प्रोत्साहित करता है — जैसे एक शिक्षाविद और अर्थशास्त्री एक लेख मिलकर लिखें।
- **Interdisciplinary approach** integrates **methods, concepts, and insights** from multiple disciplines to address **real-world problems**.
अंतरविषयक दृष्टिकोण विभिन्न विषयों के तरीकों, अवधारणाओं और दृष्टिकोणों को जोड़ता है ताकि वास्तविक जीवन की समस्याओं को हल किया जा सके।
- It goes beyond mere collaboration and leads to **synthesis of knowledge**.
यह केवल सहयोग से आगे बढ़कर ज्ञान का समेकन करता है।
- **The Multidisciplinary Campus**
बहु-विषयक परिसर
- Replacing **single-stream Institutes of Higher Education (IHE)** with **multidisciplinary campuses** can happen in two ways:
एकल विषय आधारित उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों (IHE) को बहु-विषयक परिसरों में बदलने के दो तरीके हो सकते हैं:
- One method is to **add departments** to expand the current **core disciplinary focus** — for example, **IITs adding humanities and social sciences**.



पहला तरीका है कि मौजूदा मुख्य विषय फोकस को विस्तार देने के लिए नए विभाग जोड़े जाएं — जैसे आईआईटी में मानविकी और सामाजिक विज्ञान जोड़े जा रहे हैं।

- Some IITs are offering **integrated masters programmes** in **economics** and related fields.

कुछ आईआईटी अर्थशास्त्र और संबंधित विषयों में एकीकृत मास्टर्स प्रोग्राम भी शुरू कर रहे हैं।

- Another method is to form **university clusters** by connecting existing institutions — like a **commerce college collaborating with arts and science colleges**.

दूसरा तरीका है कि मौजूदा संस्थानों को जोड़कर यूनिवर्सिटी क्लस्टर बनाए जाएं — जैसे एक कॉमर्स कॉलेज का आर्ट्स और साइंस कॉलेजों के साथ सहयोग।

- This requires **administrative streamlining**, not just **academic collaboration**.

इसके लिए केवल शैक्षणिक सहयोग नहीं, बल्कि प्रशासनिक समन्वय की भी आवश्यकता है।

- **Clustering single-stream institutions** can be a **cost-effective** and **time-efficient** method in the short term.

एकल विषय संस्थानों को क्लस्टर करना अल्पकालिक रूप में एक कम लागत और समय कुशल तरीका हो सकता है।

- According to **2020-21 AISHE data**, a large number of institutions are **undergraduate colleges**, of which **35%** are **single-stream**, mostly **B.Ed colleges**.

2020-21 के AISHE डेटा के अनुसार, बहुत सारे संस्थान स्नातक कॉलेज हैं, जिनमें से **35%** एकल विषय वाले हैं, और इनमें से अधिकांश बीएड कॉलेज हैं।

- This makes it difficult to find **suitable disciplinary variety** for clustering.

इससे उपयुक्त विषय विविधता खोजना मुश्किल हो जाता है।

- **Need for New Multidisciplinary Universities**

नई बहु-विषयक विश्वविद्यालयों की आवश्यकता

- Apart from **repurposing existing IHEs**, **new multidisciplinary universities** will need to be established.

मौजूदा उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों को नया रूप देने के साथ-साथ नई बहु-विषयक विश्वविद्यालयों की स्थापना भी आवश्यक होगी।

- The goal is to have **at least one** in or near **every district** by **2030**.

लक्ष्य है कि **2030 तक हर जिले में या उसके पास कम से कम एक बहु-विषयक विश्वविद्यालय** हो।

- It is more efficient to establish a **single campus per district** rather than a **multi-campus institution across districts**.

हर जिले में एकल परिसर बनाना कई जिलों में फैले परिसरों की तुलना में अधिक प्रभावी होगा।

- Studies show **public universities have higher educational efficiency but lower research efficiency** due to the burden of **managing multiple campuses**.

अध्ययनों से पता चलता है कि सरकारी विश्वविद्यालयों की शैक्षणिक दक्षता अधिक होती है लेकिन अनुसंधान दक्षता कम होती है क्योंकि उन्हें कई परिसरों का प्रबंधन करना पड़ता है।

- **Cross-Disciplinary Learning and Practice**

पारस्परिक विषयक अधिगम और अभ्यास



- The university of the future cannot merely be a collection of multiple departments.
भविष्य का विश्वविद्यालय केवल कई विभागों का संग्रह नहीं हो सकता।
- It must have a **disciplinary faculty that is open to collaboration, diverse viewpoints, and cross-disciplinary experience.**
इसमें ऐसा विषयगत संकाय होना चाहिए जो सहयोग के लिए खुला, विविध दृष्टिकोणों को स्वीकार करने वाला, और पारस्परिक विषयक अनुभव से युक्त हो।
- To achieve this long-term goal, both **students (future faculty)** and **current faculty** must be exposed to **different disciplines.**
इस दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए, छात्रों (भविष्य के संकाय) और वर्तमान संकाय को विभिन्न विषयों का अनुभव देना होगा।
- **Cross-disciplinary learning** begins when students take **courses from departments outside their core discipline.**
पारस्परिक विषयक अधिगम तब शुरू होता है जब छात्र अपने मुख्य विषय के बाहर के विभागों से पाठ्यक्रम लेते हैं।
- The next step involves encouraging and facilitating **cross-disciplinary research and projects** that tackle **complex problems.**
अगला चरण जटिल समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए पारस्परिक विषयक अनुसंधान और परियोजनाओं को प्रोत्साहित और सक्षम बनाना है।
- At this level, both **faculty and students** are expected to contribute their **disciplinary knowledge** and foster **dialogue between disciplines.**
इस स्तर पर, संकाय और छात्र, दोनों को अपने विषयगत ज्ञान का योगदान देना होता है और विषयों के बीच संवाद को प्रोत्साहित करना होता है।
- This can result in **cross-disciplinary courses** — such as a course on “*Economic changes and class structures as seen in Indian cinema*”, involving **economics, sociology, and film studies** faculty.
यह पारस्परिक विषयक पाठ्यक्रमों को जन्म दे सकता है — जैसे “भारतीय सिनेमा में दिखाई देने वाले आर्थिक परिवर्तन और वर्ग संरचनाएं” पर आधारित पाठ्यक्रम जिसमें अर्थशास्त्र, समाजशास्त्र और फिल्म अध्ययन के संकाय शामिल हों।
- **Incentivising cross-disciplinary efforts** — such as **courses, projects, or centres** — requires **additional funding** for long-term sustainability.
पारस्परिक विषयक प्रयासों — जैसे पाठ्यक्रम, परियोजनाएं या केंद्र — को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए अतिरिक्त फंडिंग की आवश्यकता होती है ताकि उन्हें लंबे समय तक चलाया जा सके।
- The NSF’s **IGERT programme** in the **United States** is a strong example of major investment in creating **interdisciplinary researchers and teachers.**
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका का NSF का IGERT कार्यक्रम एक ऐसा उदाहरण है जिसमें अंतरविषयक शिक्षकों और शोधकर्ताओं को विकसित करने में महत्वपूर्ण निवेश किया गया।
- It focuses on building individuals with a **breadth of skills** to work **interdisciplinarily**, while maintaining **depth in a core field.**



यह ऐसे व्यक्तियों को तैयार करता है जिनके पास विविध कौशल हों ताकि वे अंतरविषयक रूप से कार्य कर सकें और अपने मुख्य विषय में गहराई बनाए रखें।

- **On Interdisciplinary Thought**

अंतरविषयक चिंतन पर

- **Cross-disciplinary learning** focuses on **collaboration between disciplines.**

पारस्परिक विषयक अधिगम का ध्यान विषयों के बीच सहयोग पर होता है।

- **Interdisciplinary thinking**, however, involves making **deeper connections** and creating **integrated frameworks.**

अंतरविषयक चिंतन में गहरे संबंध बनाना और एकीकृत ढांचे तैयार करना शामिल होता है।

- The key question is — can **cross-disciplinary research** reach this **interdisciplinary ideal?**

मुख्य प्रश्न यह है — क्या पारस्परिक विषयक अनुसंधान इस अंतरविषयक आदर्श तक पहुंच सकता है?

- From the authors' experience in the **IGERT programme**, some **cross-disciplinary combinations** — such as **biotechnology, medicine, chemistry, and biology** — successfully achieved this.

लेखकों के **IGERT कार्यक्रम** के अनुभव के अनुसार, कुछ पारस्परिक विषय संयोजन — जैसे जैव प्रौद्योगिकी, चिकित्सा, रसायन और जीवविज्ञान — में यह सफलता मिली।

- However, in fields like **engineering and architecture**, students faced difficulties in **publishing integrated research** or **advancing in academia**, as their work did not fit a single discipline.

हालाँकि, इंजीनियरिंग और वास्तुकला जैसे क्षेत्रों में छात्रों को एकीकृत शोध प्रकाशित करने या शैक्षणिक प्रगति में कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा क्योंकि उनका कार्य किसी एक विशिष्ट विषय में नहीं आता था।

- To prevent **interdisciplinary work** from reverting to **traditional practices**, changes are needed in **funding, publication ecosystems, and faculty hiring/promotions.**

अंतरविषयक कार्य को पारंपरिक प्रथाओं में बदलने से रोकने के लिए फंडिंग, प्रकाशन प्रणाली, और संकाय भर्ती/प्रमोशन में बदलाव की आवश्यकता है।

- **Cost Implications and Policy Changes**

लागत प्रभाव और नीतिगत परिवर्तन

- These changes will have **high costs** and will be implemented over **several years.**

इन बदलावों की लागत बहुत अधिक होगी और इन्हें कई वर्षों में लागू किया जाएगा।

- This will require **reprioritising public spending.**

इसके लिए सार्वजनिक व्यय को पुनः प्राथमिकता देनी होगी।

- **Governance and regulatory frameworks** must be carefully revised to support this transformation.

इस परिवर्तन को सफल बनाने के लिए शासन और नियामक ढांचे में सावधानीपूर्वक बदलाव करने होंगे।

- India is trying to build a **higher education system** resembling the **American system at its peak**, which evolved over a **century** in a **competitive and unregulated environment.**



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



भारत एक उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली तैयार करने का प्रयास कर रहा है जो अमेरिकी प्रणाली के शिखर काल के समान हो, जिसे एक सदी में प्रतिस्पर्धी और अनियंत्रित माहौल में विकसित किया गया था।

Children subjected to rape, sexual violence in DR Congo, says UN

GS Paper II: International Organization

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The UN condemned on Friday the widespread rape of children in conflict-torn eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where thousands were reportedly subjected to sexual violence in the first two months of 2025.

UNICEF's plea

"The rate of sexual violence against children has never been higher," warned James Elder of the United Nations children's agency UNICEF, demanding action.

"Early reports show that

Children make up between 35 to 45% of the nearly 10,000 cases of rape and sexual violence

children make up between 35 to 45% of the nearly 10,000 cases of rape and sexual violence reported... in just January and February of this year," he told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Goma.

"In short, based on initial data, ... during the most intense phase of this year's conflict in eastern DRC, a child was raped every half an hour."

Children subjected to rape, sexual violence in DR Congo, says UN

डीआर कॉन्गो में बच्चों के साथ बलात्कार और यौन हिंसा: संयुक्त राष्ट्र

The United Nations on Friday condemned the widespread rape of children in conflict-torn eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने शुक्रवार को संघर्षग्रस्त पूर्वी डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ कॉन्गो (डीआरसी) में बच्चों के साथ बड़े पैमाने पर बलात्कार की निंदा की।

- Thousands of children were reportedly subjected to sexual violence in the first two months of 2025.

2025 के पहले दो महीनों में हजारों बच्चों को यौन हिंसा का शिकार बनाया गया।

- UNICEF's plea
यूनिसेफ की अपील
- James Elder, spokesperson of UNICEF, warned that the rate of sexual violence against children has never been higher.
यूनिसेफ के प्रवक्ता जेम्स एल्डर ने चेतावनी दी कि बच्चों के खिलाफ यौन हिंसा की दर पहले से कहीं अधिक हो गई है।
- He demanded immediate action to address the crisis.
उन्होंने इस संकट से निपटने के लिए तत्काल कार्रवाई की मांग की।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- He said that early reports show **children made up between 35% to 45%** of nearly **10,000 cases of rape and sexual violence** reported in **January and February**.
उन्होंने कहा कि प्रारंभिक रिपोर्टों के अनुसार जनवरी और फरवरी में दर्ज किए गए लगभग **10,000 मामलों में 35% से 45% पीड़ित बच्चे** थे।
- He was speaking to reporters in **Geneva**, via video from **Goma**.
वह **जिनेवा** में पत्रकारों से **गोमा** से वीडियो के माध्यम से बात कर रहे थे।
- He said that during the **most intense phase** of this year's conflict in **eastern DRC**, a **child was raped every half an hour**, based on initial data.
उन्होंने कहा कि इस वर्ष के **सबसे तीव्र संघर्ष काल** में, **पूर्वी डीआरसी** में **हर आधे घंटे में एक बच्चा बलात्कार का शिकार हुआ**, प्रारंभिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार।
- **With 4 executions, Kabul marks highest daily tally under Taliban**
चार फांसी के साथ तालिबान शासन में काबुल में एक दिन में सबसे ज्यादा मौत की सज़ाएं
- On **Friday**, **four men** were publicly executed in **Afghanistan**, which is the **highest number of executions in a single day** since the **Taliban's return to power**.
शुक्रवार को अफगानिस्तान में चार लोगों को सार्वजनिक रूप से फांसी दी गई, जो तालिबान के सत्ता में लौटने के बाद एक दिन में सबसे अधिक फांसी का आंकड़ा है।
- These executions took place in **sports stadiums** across **three separate provinces**.
ये फांसी की सज़ाएं **तीन अलग-अलग प्रांतों के खेल स्टेडियमों में दी गईं**।
- With these, the total number of **public executions** since **2021** has reached **10**.
इन फांसी के साथ **2021** से अब तक कुल **10 लोगों को सार्वजनिक रूप से मौत की सज़ा दी जा चुकी है**।
- **Public Executions During First Taliban Rule**
तालिबान के पहले शासन में सार्वजनिक फांसी
- During the **first Taliban regime (1996–2001)**, public executions were common, mostly carried out in **sports stadiums**.
तालिबान के पहले शासन (1996–2001) के दौरान, सार्वजनिक फांसी आम थी और ज्यादातर **खेल स्टेडियमों में होती थीं**।
- In **Qala-i-Naw, Badghis province**, two men were shot **six or seven times** by a **male relative** of the victims in front of spectators.
बादगीस प्रांत के कला-ए-नौ में दो लोगों को पीड़ितों के पुरुष रिश्तेदार ने छह से सात बार गोली मारकर दर्शकों के सामने मार डाला।
- According to **Mohammad Iqbal Rahimyar**, a 48-year-old spectator, the men were made to sit and turn their backs before being shot.
48 वर्षीय दर्शक मोहम्मद इकबाल रहीमयार के अनुसार, इन लोगों को बैठाकर पीठ घुमा दी गई और फिर गोली मारी गई।
- **Supreme Court's Statement on the Executions**
फांसी पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का बयान
- The men were sentenced to **retaliatory punishment** for shooting other men, after their cases were **examined very precisely and repeatedly**, said the **Supreme Court**.



सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि इन लोगों को दूसरों को गोली मारने के अपराध में बदले की सज़ा दी गई, और उनके मामलों की बारीकी से और बार-बार जांच की गई।

- The **victims' families** refused to grant **amnesty** to the convicted men.

पीड़ितों के परिवारों ने दोषियों को माफ़ी देने से इनकार कर दिया।

- A man named **Zabihullah** said that **if the families had forgiven them it would be better**, otherwise **“it's God's order and should be implemented.”**

ज़बीहुल्लाह नाम के व्यक्ति ने कहा कि अगर परिवारों ने माफ किया होता तो बेहतर होता, अन्यथा "यह अल्लाह का आदेश है और इसे लागू किया जाना चाहिए।"

- **Third and Fourth Executions**

तीसरी और चौथी फांसी

- The **third man** was executed in **Zaranj, Nimroz province**, and the **fourth** in **Farah city**, in the **western province** of the same name.

तीसरे व्यक्ति को निमरोज़ प्रांत के ज़रांज में और चौथे व्यक्ति को फाराह शहर में पश्चिमी प्रांत में फांसी दी गई।

- **Public Invitations and Reactions**

जनता को निमंत्रण और प्रतिक्रियाएं

- The public had been officially invited to **attend the executions** through notices circulated widely on **Thursday**.

गुरुवार को व्यापक रूप से प्रसारित नोटिस के माध्यम से जनता को फांसी देखने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया था।

- A spectator named **Javid**, aged 30, said, **“It's good that the Islamic Emirate shows its politics and force.”**

30 वर्षीय दर्शक जाविद ने कहा, "यह अच्छा है कि इस्लामिक अमीरात अपनी राजनीति और ताकत दिखा रहा है।"



With 4 executions, Kabul marks highest daily tally under Taliban

GS Paper II: Human Rights Violation

KABUL.

Four men were publicly executed in Afghanistan on Friday, the Supreme Court said, the highest number of executions to be carried out in one day since the Taliban's return to power.

The executions at sports stadiums in three separate provinces brought to 10 the number of men publicly put to death since 2021.

Public executions were common during the Taliban's first rule from 1996 to 2001, with most carried out in sports stadiums.

Two men were shot around six or seven times by a male relative of the victims in front of spectators in Qala-i-Naw, the centre of Badghis province, witness said.

"They were made to sit and turn their backs to us. Relatives from the victims' families stood behind and shot them with a gun," Mo-

hammad Iqbal Rahimyar, a 48-year-old spectator, said.

The men had been "sentenced to retaliatory punishment" for shooting other men, after their cases were "examined very precisely and repeatedly", the Supreme Court said.

The families of the victims turned down the opportunity to offer the men amnesty, it said.

"If the family of the victim had forgiven the men it would be better, otherwise it's God's order, and should be implemented," a 35-year-old man who gave his name as Zabihullah said outside the stadium.

Afghans had been invited to "attend the event" in official notices shared widely on Thursday.

A third man was executed in Zaranj in Nimroz province and the fourth was in Farah city in the western province of the same name.

"It's good that the Islam-



The executions at sports stadiums in three provinces brought to 10 the number of men publicly put to death since 2021. AFP

ic Emirate shows its politics and force. I am very happy with that," said another 30-year-old spectator named Javid, referring to the Taliban government's official name.

Eye for an eye

Amnesty International called on the Taliban authorities to halt public executions, which it called a "gross affront to human dignity".

The previous execution was in November 2024, when a convicted murderer was shot three times in the chest by a member of the victim's family in front of thousands of spectators, including high-ranking Taliban officials, at a stadium in Gardez, the capital of eastern Paktia province.

Corporal punishment – mainly flogging – has been common under the Taliban authorities and em-

ployed for crimes including theft, adultery and alcohol consumption.

However, all execution orders are signed by the Taliban's reclusive Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, who lives in the movement's heartland of Kandahar.

Akhundzada ordered judges in 2022 to fully implement all aspects of the Taliban government's interpretation of Islamic law – including "eye-for-an-eye" punishments known as "qisas", allowing for the death penalty in retribution for the crime of murder.

One of the most infamous images from Taliban's first rule depicted the 1999 execution of a woman wearing an all-covering burqa in a Kabul stadium. She had been accused of killing her husband.

The United Nations and rights groups such as Amnesty have condemned the

Taliban government's use of corporal punishment and the death penalty.

Report findings

Amnesty included Afghanistan in countries where "death sentences were known to have been imposed after proceedings that did not meet international fair trial standards", the non-governmental organisation said in its annual report on death sentences published in April.

The report said Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia were responsible for 91% of known executions last year, with increases in death sentences in all three countries spurring a global rise.

The 1,518 executions recorded worldwide in 2024 did not include thousands of people believed to have been executed in China – the world's leading exponent of capital punishment – Amnesty said.

International Reactions and Human Rights Concerns

अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रिया और मानवाधिकार चिंताएं

Amnesty International called for the Taliban to halt public executions, calling them a "gross affront to human dignity."

एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल ने तालिबान से सार्वजनिक फांसी बंद करने की अपील की, और इन्हें "मानव गरिमा के खिलाफ गंभीर अपमान" बताया।

- The last public execution occurred in November 2024, when a convicted murderer was shot three times in the chest by a victim's family member in front of thousands of spectators, including high-ranking Taliban officials, at a stadium in Gardez, Paktia province.

पिछली सार्वजनिक फांसी नवंबर 2024 में हुई थी, जब एक दोषी हत्यारे को पीड़ित के परिवार के सदस्य ने छाती में तीन बार गोली मारकर हज़ारों दर्शकों और वरिष्ठ तालिबान अधिकारियों की मौजूदगी में पकित्या प्रांत के गार्देज़ स्टेडियम में मारा।

- Corporal Punishment under Taliban

तालिबान शासन में शारीरिक दंड

- Under Taliban rule, corporal punishment like flogging is common for crimes such as theft, adultery, and alcohol consumption.

तालिबान शासन के तहत, चोरी, व्यभिचार और शराब पीने जैसे अपराधों के लिए शारीरिक दंड, विशेषकर कोड़े मारना, आम है।



- All **execution orders** are approved by **Taliban's Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada**, who resides in **Kandahar**.
सभी मृत्युदंड आदेश तालिबान के सर्वोच्च नेता हिबतुल्लाह अखुंदज़ादा द्वारा कंधार से अनुमोदित किए जाते हैं।
- In **2022**, Akhundzada instructed judges to fully implement **Islamic law**, including “**qisas**” or “**eye-for-an-eye**” punishments.
2022 में, अखुंदज़ादा ने न्यायाधीशों को **इस्लामी कानून**, विशेष रूप से “**क़िसास**” यानी “**आंख के बदले आंख**” जैसी सज़ाओं को पूरी तरह लागू करने का निर्देश दिया।
- One of the most **infamous images** from the Taliban's first rule shows the **1999 execution** of a woman wearing a **burqa** in a **Kabul stadium**, accused of killing her husband.
तालिबान के पहले शासन की सबसे **कुख्यात छवियों** में से एक में **1999 में एक महिला की काबुल स्टेडियम में फांसी** को दिखाया गया है, जिसे **अपने पति की हत्या** का आरोपी बताया गया था।
- **Amnesty Report on Global Executions**
वैश्विक फांसी पर एमनेस्टी की रिपोर्ट
- **Amnesty International's April report** included **Afghanistan** among countries where **death sentences** were imposed after **unfair trials**.
एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल की **अप्रैल रिपोर्ट** में **अफगानिस्तान** को उन देशों में शामिल किया गया जहाँ **अनुचित न्याय प्रक्रिया** के बाद **मृत्युदंड** दिए गए।
- According to the report, **Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia** accounted for **91% of known executions in 2024**, contributing to a **global rise** in death sentences.
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **ईरान, इराक और सऊदी अरब** ने **2024 में जात फांसी के 91% मामलों** के लिए योगदान दिया, जिससे **वैश्विक मृत्युदंड दर** में वृद्धि हुई।
- In **2024**, **1,518 executions** were recorded globally, excluding **thousands believed executed in China**, which remains the **world's top user of capital punishment**.
2024 में विश्वभर में **1,518 फांसी दर्ज** की गईं, **चीन** में कथित तौर पर की गई **हज़ारों फांसी** को छोड़कर, जो अब भी **मृत्युदंड देने वाला दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा देश** बना हुआ है।

Amnesty International

एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल

- Amnesty International (AI) is a prominent **international non-governmental organization (NGO)** dedicated to the **promotion and protection of human rights** worldwide.
एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल (AI) एक प्रमुख **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGO)** है जो वैश्विक स्तर पर **मानवाधिकारों के संरक्षण और संवर्धन** के लिए समर्पित है।
- Established in **1961**, AI has been instrumental in advocating for individuals whose rights have been violated, emphasizing **justice, freedom, and equality**.



1961 में स्थापित AI ने उन व्यक्तियों की वकालत करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है जिनके अधिकारों का उल्लंघन हुआ है, और यह न्याय, स्वतंत्रता और समानता पर जोर देता है।

Founding and Historical Background

स्थापना और ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- **Establishment:** Founded on **May 28, 1961**, in **London, United Kingdom**, by **British lawyer Peter Benenson**, inspired by the plight of **two Portuguese students** imprisoned for raising a toast to freedom.

स्थापना: 28 मई 1961 को लंदन, यूनाइटेड किंगडम में ब्रिटिश वकील पीटर बेनेनसन द्वारा स्थापित किया गया, जो स्वतंत्रता के लिए टोस्ट उठाने पर जेल में डाले गए दो पुर्तगाली छात्रों की दुर्दशा से प्रेरित थे।

- **Initial Focus:** AI began by campaigning for the release of **prisoners of conscience**—individuals jailed solely for their **beliefs, ethnicity, or peaceful expression of opinion**.

प्रारंभिक ध्यान: AI ने शुरुआत में अंतरात्मा के बंदियों की रिहाई के लिए अभियान चलाया—ऐसे व्यक्ति जो केवल अपने विश्वास, जातीयता या शांतिपूर्ण अभिव्यक्ति के कारण जेल में थे।

- **Evolution:** Over the decades, AI expanded its mandate to address issues like **torture, death penalty, discrimination, and refugee rights**, adapting to the evolving human rights landscape.

विकास: दशकों में AI ने यातना, मृत्युदंड, भेदभाव और शरणार्थियों के अधिकारों जैसे मुद्दों को शामिल करते हुए अपने कार्यक्षेत्र का विस्तार किया और बदलते मानवाधिकार परिदृश्य के अनुसार खुद को ढाला।

Mission and Objectives

मिशन और उद्देश्य

- **Core Mission:** To conduct thorough **research** and take **action** to prevent and end **grave abuses of human rights**, ensuring **justice and freedom** for all.

मुख्य मिशन: गंभीर मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों को रोकने और समाप्त करने के लिए गहन अनुसंधान करना और कार्रवाई करना, ताकि सभी के लिए न्याय और स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

- **Key Objectives:**

प्रमुख उद्देश्य:

- Advocate for the **release of individuals imprisoned unjustly**.
अन्यायपूर्वक जेल में डाले गए व्यक्तियों की रिहाई के लिए वकालत करना।
- Oppose and work towards the **abolition of the death penalty** globally.
वैश्विक स्तर पर मृत्युदंड के उन्मूलन की दिशा में कार्य करना और उसका विरोध करना।



- Combat torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.
यातना और अन्य क्रूर, अमानवीय या अपमानजनक व्यवहार के खिलाफ लड़ना।
- Support the rights of marginalized groups, including women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and refugees.
महिलाएं, LGBTQ+ व्यक्ति और शरणार्थियों सहित वंचित समूहों के अधिकारों का समर्थन करना।

Organizational Structure and Leadership

संगठनात्मक संरचना और नेतृत्व

- **Headquarters:** Located in London, United Kingdom.
मुख्यालय: लंदन, यूनाइटेड किंगडम में स्थित है।
- **Global Presence:** AI operates in over 150 countries, with a membership exceeding 10 million individuals worldwide.
वैश्विक उपस्थिति: AI 150 से अधिक देशों में कार्य करता है, और इसकी सदस्यता 1 करोड़ से अधिक व्यक्तियों तक फैली हुई है।
- **Leadership:** As of 2021, Agnès Callamard serves as the Secretary-General, bringing extensive experience in human rights advocacy.
नेतृत्व: 2021 तक, एग्नेस कैलमार्ड AI की सचिव-जनरल हैं, जो मानवाधिकारों की वकालत में व्यापक अनुभव लेकर आई हैं।

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

1. Dire Efforts: On De-extinction and Conservation

विलुप्त प्रजातियों को पुनर्जीवित करने और संरक्षण पर गंभीर प्रयास

2. The Beijing India Report as Milestone and Opportunity

बीजिंग भारत रिपोर्ट: एक मील का पत्थर और अवसर

3. The Role of Women in Adaptation

अनुकूलन में महिलाओं की भूमिका

4. India's Industrial Output Growth Slows to a Six-Month Low of 2.9% in February: Ministry



भारत की औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि फरवरी में छह महीने के निचले

स्तर 2.9% पर पहुंची: मंत्रालय

5. 6.84 Lakh Families Under Lens in Haryana for Giving 'False' Info to Avail of BPL, AAY Benefits

बीपीएल, एवाई लाभ पाने के लिए 'झूठी' जानकारी देने पर हरियाणा में 6.84 लाख परिवार जांच के घेरे में

6. Caught in a Cyber Snare

साइबर जाल में फंसे

7. Equity MF inflows sink to an 11-month low amid volatility

अस्थिरता के बीच इक्विटी म्यूचुअल फंड प्रवाह 11 महीनों के निचले स्तर पर पहुंचा

8. Adopting AI harder than thought: Nilekani

एआई को अपनाना सोचे से कठिन: नंदन नीलेकणी

9. India 'eyeing win-win interim deal' with U.S. during the 90-day pause

90-दिन की रोक के दौरान भारत और अमेरिका के बीच 'विन-विन अंतरिम समझौते' की तैयारी

10. Iron ore exports to China plummet in FY25 on output glut, slowdown

FY25 में अधिक उत्पादन और मंदी के कारण चीन को लौह अयस्क निर्यात में भारी गिरावट



GS Paper III: Environment

Dire efforts

The conservation argument for resurrecting dire wolf is not credible

Colossal Biosciences is an American company with an unusual marketing line: combining **genomics** with conservation – not in its traditional form, but through **de-extinction**, which is **resurrecting species extinct for thousands of years**. Leading this project is Harvard **geneticist George Church**, a prominent promoter of the company, who aims to bring back the **woolly mammoth**, a distant ancestor of the elephant. The stated logic is to combat global warming. During the **Pleistocene Ice Ages**, the mammoth roamed lush grasslands across the tundra. Until its extinction around 5,000 years ago, the **Arctic tundra also supported large populations of bison, wolves, cave lions, and giant deer**. As the climate warmed, these species disappeared, and the grasslands gave way to shrubbery and sheets of snow. As temperatures rise, permafrost begins to disappear, resulting in high emissions of methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. To prevent this, some scientists at a Siberian park have been transporting large animals that are resistant to cold to see if their foraging can restore the grasslands. Grass absorbs less heat than the tall trees in a shrub forest – the dominant species – and therefore decelerates warming, but it cannot stop warming.

The woolly mammoth, though extinct, is seen as a potent weapon in this climate plan. Scientists at Colossal have extracted fragments of its DNA from fossils and reconstructed its genome. By comparing it to that of the modern elephant, they have edited specific genes to recreate mammoth-like traits, with the goal of eventually incubating a hybrid embryo in an elephant's womb. Scientists have also experimented with the dire wolf, an extinct relative of the gray wolf, and birthed three snow-white wolves. However, this claim has yet to pass rigorous peer review. Critics point out that only 20 genes were edited, and what has been created is, in essence, a "strange-looking gray wolf". Despite such criticisms, the technological achievement is a testament to the ability to engineer precision edits to the genome. The work of Chinese scientist He Jiankui, who claimed to have produced gene-edited human babies, remains controversial. Colossal may be credited for its genomics work, but the claim that it is reviving species for conservation is not credible. Thousands of living species are vanishing due to habitat loss and human encroachment. Spending millions of dollars on speculative projects, whose benefits, if there are any, will fructify only over centuries, takes away resources from immediate conservation efforts. The scientific community must lay down strict guidelines on the use of gene-editing technology in applications other than health.

युग के दौरान मौजूद टुंड्रा घास के मैदानों को पुनर्स्थापित करना है।

Dire Efforts: On De-extinction and Conservation

विलुप्त प्रजातियों को पुनर्जीवित करने और संरक्षण पर गंभीर प्रयास

Colossal Biosciences and Its Unique Approach कोलॉसल बायोसाइंसेज़ और इसका अनोखा दृष्टिकोण

- **Colossal Biosciences** is an American company that claims to combine **genomics with conservation**, not in traditional ways, but through **de-extinction** — the resurrection of species extinct for thousands of years.

कोलॉसल बायोसाइंसेज़ एक अमेरिकी कंपनी है जो पारंपरिक तरीकों के बजाय **जीनोमिक्स को संरक्षण के साथ जोड़ने का दावा करती है**, वह भी **हजारों सालों से विलुप्त प्रजातियों को पुनर्जीवित करने (de-extinction)** के माध्यम से।



- **George Church**, a Harvard geneticist, is leading this project and aims to bring back the **woolly mammoth**, a distant ancestor of the elephant.

जॉर्ज चर्च, एक **हार्वर्ड के आनुवंशिकी विशेषज्ञ**, इस परियोजना का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं और **हाथी के एक दूर के पूर्वज वूली मैमथ को पुनर्जीवित करने का लक्ष्य रखते हैं**।

- The stated aim is to **combat global warming by restoring tundra grasslands**, which existed during the **Pleistocene Ice Ages**.

घोषित उद्देश्य है वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि से लड़ना, जिसके लिए **प्लीस्टोसीन हिम**



Ecological Background and Climate Logic

पारिस्थितिकीय पृष्ठभूमि और जलवायु से जुड़ा तर्क

- Until its extinction around **5,000 years ago**, the **Arctic tundra** supported **bison, wolves, cave lions, and giant deer** along with the mammoth.
लगभग 5,000 वर्ष पूर्व तक आर्कटिक टुंड्रा में मैमथ के साथ-साथ बाइसन, भेड़िये, गुफा शेर और विशाल हिरण भी रहते थे।
- As **climate warmed**, grasslands gave way to **shrubbery and snow**, and this led to the disappearance of these species.
जैसे-जैसे जलवायु गर्म हुई, घास के मैदानों की जगह झाड़ियाँ और बर्फ ने ले ली, जिससे ये प्रजातियाँ विलुप्त हो गईं।
- **Permafrost** started melting, emitting **methane**, a greenhouse gas more potent than **carbon dioxide**.
परमाफ्रॉस्ट के पिघलने से मीथेन जैसी गैसों निकलने लगीं, जो कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड की तुलना में अधिक प्रभावी ग्रीनहाउस गैस है।
- In a Siberian park, **cold-resistant animals** are being introduced to test whether their foraging can help **restore grasslands**.
साइबेरिया के एक पार्क में ठंड-सहिष्णु जानवरों को लाकर यह परीक्षण किया जा रहा है कि क्या उनके चराई व्यवहार से घास के मैदान पुनः विकसित हो सकते हैं।
- **Grass** absorbs less heat than tall shrubs, hence it can **decelerate warming**, though it cannot stop it completely.
घास झाड़ियों की तुलना में कम गर्मी अवशोषित करती है, जिससे यह तापमान वृद्धि की गति को धीमा कर सकती है, लेकिन इसे पूरी तरह से रोक नहीं सकती।

Woolly Mammoth and Genome Engineering

वूली मैमथ और जीनोम इंजीनियरिंग

- Colossal scientists have extracted **DNA fragments** of the woolly mammoth and **reconstructed its genome** using modern elephants for comparison.
कोलॉसल के वैज्ञानिकों ने वूली मैमथ के डीएनए के अंशों को निकालकर उसका जीनोम पुनर्निर्मित किया है और इसकी तुलना आधुनिक हाथियों से की है।
- **Specific genes** were **edited** to recreate **mammoth-like traits**, with the goal of creating a **hybrid embryo** inside an elephant's womb.
विशेष जीन को संपादित कर मैमथ जैसे लक्षण उत्पन्न किए गए हैं, जिससे एक संकर भ्रूण को हाथी के गर्भ में विकसित किया जा सके।



Dire Wolf Experiment and Criticism

डायर वुल्फ प्रयोग और आलोचना

- Scientists have experimented with **dire wolves**, extinct relatives of gray wolves, and have **birthed three snow-white wolves**.
वैज्ञानिकों ने ग्रे वुल्फ के विलुप्त रिश्तेदार डायर वुल्फ पर प्रयोग कर तीन सफेद भेड़ियों का जन्म कराया है।
- This claim has **not undergone rigorous peer review** and is seen skeptically by many in the scientific community.
यह दावा अब तक कड़ी वैज्ञानिक समीक्षा से नहीं गुजरा है, और वैज्ञानिक समुदाय में इसे संदेह की नजर से देखा जा रहा है।
- Only **20 genes** were edited, and critics argue that the result is just a "**strange-looking gray wolf**", not a true resurrection.
केवल 20 जीन को संपादित किया गया, और आलोचकों का कहना है कि यह केवल एक "अजीब दिखने वाला ग्रे वुल्फ" है, न कि किसी विलुप्त प्रजाति का सच्चा पुनर्जन्म।

Ethical and Practical Concerns

नैतिक और व्यावहारिक चिंताएं

- Despite the achievement, it shows the **precision** of modern **genome editing** techniques.
उपलब्धि के बावजूद, यह आधुनिक जीनोम संपादन तकनीकों की सटीकता को दर्शाता है।
- Example: **He Jiankui**, a Chinese scientist, faced global criticism for **gene-editing human babies**, which remains controversial.
उदाहरण: ही जियानकुई, एक चीनी वैज्ञानिक ने मानव शिशुओं में जीन-संपादन किया, जो अब भी विवादास्पद है।

Conservation Versus De-extinction

संरक्षण बनाम विलुप्ति से पुनर्जीवन

- Though Colossal claims to revive extinct species for **conservation**, these efforts lack **credibility**.
भले ही कोलासल संरक्षण के नाम पर विलुप्त प्रजातियों को पुनर्जीवित करने का दावा करता है, लेकिन ये प्रयास विश्वसनीय नहीं हैं।
- **Thousands of existing species** are facing extinction due to **habitat loss** and **human encroachment**.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



हजारों मौजूदा प्रजातियाँ आवास हानि और मानव अतिक्रमण के कारण विलुप्त होने के कगार पर हैं।

- Investing **millions of dollars** in such speculative projects with results expected only after **centuries**, diverts **resources** from urgent conservation needs.
इन परियोजनाओं पर करोड़ों डॉलर खर्च करना, जिनके परिणाम सदियों बाद आएंगे, वर्तमान की तत्काल संरक्षण जरूरतों से संसाधनों को भटका देता है।
- The **scientific community** must establish **strict guidelines** for using **gene-editing** beyond the realm of **healthcare**.
वैज्ञानिक समुदाय को स्वास्थ्य के अलावा क्षेत्रों में जीन-संपादन के उपयोग के लिए कड़े दिशानिर्देश तय करने चाहिए।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



The Beijing India Report as milestone and opportunity

GS Paper II: Society

“It breaks my heart to see girls dropping out of school due to climate change and migration,” says a *didi* from Dhanelikanhar village in Kaner, Chhattisgarh. “This generation was supposed to do better.” It has been 30 years since the adoption of the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, a landmark international agenda outlining an action plan for gender equality across 12 dimensions such as education, health, economics and politics. It has helped India focus attention on gender perspectives in policies, pass the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act** and the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) or POSH Act**, and push for the economic empowerment of women. Yet, the implementation of these laws often falls short, resulting in a gap between fundamental rights and women’s lived experiences.

An important integration

Gender inequality and the climate crisis are one of the greatest challenges of today, which the quote above highlights. It also shows the need to integrate ‘gender and climate’ especially for rural communities. The inadequacy of a robust climate lens in the Beijing India Report 2024 (India’s Report on Beijing+30) is a significant opportunity – integrating gender and climate considerations is not just an imperative for achieving gender equality but is also essential for India’s sustainable and resilient future and human rights.

Existing inequalities, especially in India’s rural areas, leave women and girls with less access to resources and decision-making power. They are often concentrated in the agrarian economy. The link between climate change and issues among women due to extreme heat exposure, malnutrition caused by droughts, food insecurity, and displacement leading to a higher rate of hysterectomies, infertility and menstrual health concerns is an area of concern. Heat stress and/or extreme precipitation affect/s agriculture productivity, human productivity and ecosystem functionality, causing price fluctuations, loss in income, distress migration, damaged infrastructure and hampered services for women. It results in nearly 33% losses in income, especially from non-farm livelihood streams.

If we look at climate policies and finance, they are primarily directed towards clean energy, green transport and energy efficiency. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, approximately 6% of climate policies mention women, 1% mention people living in poverty and 6% mention farmers. At the household or family level, the increased burden of unpaid care work (water collection, fuel gathering) due to climate-related resource scarcity affects women. The daily workload of women in India exceeds eight hours, with a



Neeraja Kudrimoti

is an Associate Director of Climate Action at Transform Rural India, and a catalytic leader in climate action, rural development, public policy and grassroots transformation

staggering 71% unpaid work hours, according to a new report from Arsh-TRock. It warns that without efforts to combat climate change, the time women spend on unpaid tasks could reach 8.3 hours a day by 2050.

In India, over 50% of pregnant women are anaemic, which is an underlying cause or contributing factor to maternal deaths in India. The lack of consistent access to food affects women’s health, as those experiencing food insecurity are 1.6 times more likely to suffer from anaemia when compared to their food-secure counterparts. In India, which has the highest rate of intimate partner violence among the countries in the study, there was a clear correlation between temperature rise and abuse: for each rise in degree Celsius, physical violence rose by 8% and sexual violence by 7.3%.

The role of women in adaptation

Women play a vital role in climate adaptation and mitigation. Their traditional knowledge of sustainable agriculture and natural resource management is crucial in safeguarding the ecosystem in rural areas. Rural indigenous women are primarily responsible for preserving traditional climate-resilient seeds suitable for local climatic conditions. These need to be harnessed in the local decision-making processes and leadership in women-led climate initiatives. Women are responsible for half of the world’s food production and have organically adapted to climate change by using sustainable agriculture. There are many formal and informal women collectives that have shared workloads, have worked on increasing productivity, and are the first responders in disasters and safeguarding the local ecosystems. For women in urban areas, waste management and pollution could be the priorities, but for indigenous women, the three ‘M’s, i.e., Mahua (forest-based livelihoods), Mao (safety and security due to conflicts over resources) and Migration (distress migration and the related challenges and support required), could be priorities.

The Beijing India Report has an inadequate climate-gender connection, which must be rectified. It must include a robust climate lens with a focus on having gender-responsive climate action, developing indicators and data related to the gendered impacts of climate change and also building insights.

There needs to be a special focus on climate budgeting, which generally results in two things – greenwashing and using women as conduits to redirect resources. Hence, it is necessary to design and use gender-audited and gender-responsive climate budgets. Women in rural areas must have platforms to empower them in climate decision-making. A need for climate support hubs, especially for disaster support, health and women’s safety services,

awareness of migration risks, and protection of sexual and reproductive rights is strongly felt by women.

Facilitating community climate consultations that are inclusive of women, and promoting women’s leadership in both green energy initiatives and local political leadership on climate action are crucial. By investing in women’s education and capacity in climate action and promoting women-led climate initiatives, the consequences of gender invisibility can be turned around. Human-animal conflict also needs to be explored with a gender lens. More aggressive data and research dedicated to climate and gender is needed on the gender-climate nexus in India. Closing the gender gap in agricultural resources could significantly increase food production, with potential gains of 20%-30% in farm yields and the capacity to feed 100 million to 150 million more people.

At the policy level, a gender responsive National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) and a percolation to the grass-root level needs to be ensured. A special focus on strengthening disaster preparedness and response with a focus on vulnerable women, leveraging public services, addressing trafficking risks, and reaching out to geriatric women are crucial. There need to be immediate and aggressive policies on livelihood diversification by promoting non-farm livelihoods and skilling opportunities for women to adapt to the impacts of climate change on agriculture.

Private sector participation is important

Green funds must focus on fostering women-led and women-supportive innovations, having technological interventions, and ensuring women’s participation in a green economic transition, by developing green businesses, products and services. More funds must be redirected to human capital at the forefront of climate adaptation and mitigation space, especially in climate-vulnerable areas, to build resilience. The role of the private sector is important as it will help in investing in climate-related projects that specifically empower women, promote gender-inclusive practices and processes, and provide access to climate-resilient technologies and services that benefit women disproportionately affected by climate change impacts.

There need to be co-operative partnerships between government, civil society, research institutions, the private sector, citizens and international organisations. In all these the emphasis must be on knowledge sharing, regular communication, consultations, capacity exchange, recognition of champions and best practices, and collective advocacy to empower women as leaders in building climate resilience for a more just and sustainable future in India.

The report has an inadequate ‘climate-gender’ connection, which must be rectified with policy and ground-level changes

The Beijing India Report as Milestone and Opportunity

बीजिंग भारत रिपोर्ट: एक मील का पत्थर और अवसर

The report lacks a strong 'climate-gender' connection, which must be corrected through policy and ground-level changes.

रिपोर्ट में 'जलवायु-लिंग' संबंध की स्पष्टता नहीं है, जिसे नीतिगत और जमीनी स्तर के बदलावों के माध्यम से सुधारा जाना चाहिए।



- “It breaks my heart to see girls dropping out of school due to **climate change and migration**,” says a woman from **Dhanelikanhar village, Kanker, Chhattisgarh**.
“जलवायु परिवर्तन और प्रवास के कारण लड़कियों को स्कूल छोड़ते देखना दिल तोड़ देता है,” ऐसा कहती हैं छत्तीसगढ़ के कांकेर जिले के धनेलीकन्हार गांव की एक दीदी।
- The quote reflects the need to **integrate gender and climate**, especially in **rural areas**.
यह कथन विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लिंग और जलवायु को एकीकृत करने की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।
- **30 Years of the Beijing Declaration**
बीजिंग घोषणा के 30 वर्ष
- The **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, adopted **30 years ago**, was a historic international agenda for **gender equality** across **12 dimensions**, including education, health, economics, and politics.
30 साल पहले अपनाई गई बीजिंग घोषणा और कार्य योजना, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, अर्थव्यवस्था और राजनीति सहित 12 क्षेत्रों में लैंगिक समानता के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय एजेंडा था।
- It helped India focus on **gender perspectives in policies**, and led to laws like the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act** and the **POSH Act**.
इसने भारत को नीतियों में लिंग परिप्रेक्ष्य पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने में मदद की, और घरेलू हिंसा से महिलाओं की रक्षा अधिनियम तथा POSH अधिनियम जैसे कानून लाए।
- However, there remains a **gap between law and lived experiences** due to **poor implementation**.
हालांकि, कमजोर क्रियान्वयन के कारण कानून और वास्तविक जीवन अनुभवों के बीच अब भी अंतर बना हुआ है।
- **Gender and Climate Crisis: A Dual Challenge**
लैंगिक और जलवायु संकट: एक दोहरा संकट
- **Gender inequality and climate change** are two of the **biggest challenges** of our time.
लैंगिक असमानता और जलवायु परिवर्तन हमारे समय की दो सबसे बड़ी चुनौतियाँ हैं।
- In **rural India**, women have **less access to resources** and **decision-making power**, despite their concentration in the **agrarian economy**.
ग्रामीण भारत में महिलाएं संसाधनों और निर्णय-निर्माण की शक्ति से वंचित हैं, जबकि वे कृषि आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में प्रमुख भूमिका निभाती हैं।
- Women face **extreme heat, drought-related malnutrition, food insecurity, displacement**, and resulting **health issues** such as **hysterectomies, infertility, and menstrual concerns**.
महिलाएं अत्यधिक गर्मी, सूखा जनित कुपोषण, खाद्य असुरक्षा, विस्थापन, और इसके कारण उत्पन्न स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं जैसे कि गर्भाशय हटाने, बांझपन, और मासिक धर्म संबंधी समस्याओं का सामना करती हैं।
- **Economic Impacts and Livelihood Concerns**
आर्थिक प्रभाव और आजीविका की चिंता



- **Heat stress and extreme precipitation damage agriculture productivity, ecosystems, and infrastructure, leading to price fluctuations, loss of income, and distress migration.**
गर्मी का तनाव और अत्यधिक वर्षा कृषि उत्पादकता, पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र और बुनियादी ढांचे को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं, जिससे कीमतों में अस्थिरता, आय में गिरावट और विवश प्रवास होता है।
- **Nearly 33% of income is lost, especially from non-farm livelihoods.**
लगभग 33% आय का नुकसान होता है, विशेष रूप से गैर-कृषि आजीविका से।
- **Skewed Climate Policies and Financial Gaps**
झुकी हुई जलवायु नीतियाँ और वित्तीय अंतर
- **Current climate policies and finance focus mainly on clean energy, green transport, and energy efficiency, and neglect gender equity.**
वर्तमान जलवायु नीतियाँ और वित्तीय निवेश मुख्य रूप से स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, हरित परिवहन, और ऊर्जा दक्षता पर केंद्रित हैं, जबकि लैंगिक समानता की अनदेखी होती है।
- **According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, only 6% of climate policies mention women, 1% mention the poor, and 6% mention farmers.**
खाद्य और कृषि संगठन के अनुसार, केवल 6% जलवायु नीतियों में महिलाओं, 1% में गरीबों, और 6% में किसानों का उल्लेख है।
- **Increased Unpaid Work and Time Burden on Women**
महिलाओं पर बढ़ता हुआ अवैतनिक कार्य और समय का बोझ
- **Due to resource scarcity from climate change, women spend more time on unpaid care work like water collection and fuel gathering.**
जलवायु परिवर्तन से संसाधनों की कमी के कारण महिलाएं जल संग्रह और ईंधन एकत्र करने जैसे अवैतनिक देखभाल कार्यों में अधिक समय व्यतीत करती हैं।
- **According to Arsh-Rock Report, women in India spend over 8 hours daily on work, with 71% of it unpaid.**
Arsh-Rock रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में महिलाएं प्रतिदिन 8 घंटे से अधिक काम करती हैं, जिसमें से 71% अवैतनिक होता है।
- **By 2050, if climate change continues unchecked, unpaid work hours may rise to 8.3 hours/day.**
यदि 2050 तक जलवायु परिवर्तन को नियंत्रित नहीं किया गया, तो अवैतनिक कार्य समय बढ़कर 8.3 घंटे प्रतिदिन हो सकता है।
- **Maternal Health and Nutrition Concerns**
मातृ स्वास्थ्य और पोषण संबंधी चिंताएं
- **In India, over 50% of pregnant women are anaemic, contributing to maternal deaths.**
भारत में 50% से अधिक गर्भवती महिलाएं एनीमिक हैं, जो मातृ मृत्यु का प्रमुख कारण है।
- **Women facing food insecurity are 1.6 times more likely to be anaemic.**
खाद्य असुरक्षा से जूझ रही महिलाओं में एनीमिया की संभावना 1.6 गुना अधिक होती है।



• Gender Violence and Rising Temperatures

लैंगिक हिंसा और बढ़ते तापमान का संबंध

- India has the **highest rate of intimate partner violence** among the studied countries. अध्ययन किए गए देशों में भारत में सर्वाधिक अंतरंग साथी हिंसा दर पाई गई है।
- A **1°C increase in temperature** is linked to an **8% rise in physical violence** and **7.3% rise in sexual violence**. तापमान में 1 डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि से 8% शारीरिक हिंसा और 7.3% यौन हिंसा में वृद्धि देखी गई है।

• Way Forward: Gender-Climate Integration Needed

आगे का रास्ता: आवश्यक है लिंग-जलवायु एकीकरण

- The **Beijing+30 Report 2024** should integrate **gender and climate** for a **sustainable, resilient, and equitable future**. बीजिंग+30 रिपोर्ट 2024 को लैंगिक और जलवायु पहलुओं को एकीकृत करना चाहिए ताकि सतत, लचीला, और समान भविष्य सुनिश्चित हो सके।
- This integration is critical for **achieving gender equality** and **protecting human rights** in the face of climate change. यह एकीकरण लैंगिक समानता प्राप्त करने और मानव अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए आवश्यक है, विशेषकर जलवायु परिवर्तन के संदर्भ में।

The Role of Women in Adaptation

अनुकूलन में महिलाओं की भूमिका

Women's Traditional Knowledge and Leadership

महिलाओं का पारंपरिक ज्ञान और नेतृत्व

- Women play a **vital role** in climate **adaptation and mitigation** due to their **traditional knowledge** in **sustainable agriculture** and **natural resource management**. जलवायु अनुकूलन और न्यूनीकरण में महिलाएं महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं क्योंकि उनके पास सतत कृषि और प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के प्रबंधन का पारंपरिक ज्ञान होता है।
- **Rural indigenous women** are primarily responsible for **preserving traditional climate-resilient seeds** suited to **local climatic conditions**. ग्रामीण आदिवासी महिलाएं मुख्य रूप से स्थानीय जलवायु परिस्थितियों के अनुरूप जलवायु सहिष्णु पारंपरिक बीजों के संरक्षण के लिए उत्तरदायी होती हैं।
- This knowledge needs to be integrated into **local decision-making** and **women-led climate initiatives**. इस ज्ञान को स्थानीय निर्णय-निर्माण और महिला-नेतृत्व वाले जलवायु प्रयासों में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।



Women's Contribution to Food Production and Disaster Response

खाद्य उत्पादन और आपदा प्रतिक्रिया में महिलाओं का योगदान

- Women contribute to **half of the world's food production** and have organically adapted to climate change through **sustainable agriculture**.
महिलाएं दुनिया के कुल खाद्य उत्पादन का आधा योगदान देती हैं और उन्होंने सतत कृषि के माध्यम से स्वाभाविक रूप से जलवायु परिवर्तन के अनुकूलन को अपनाया है।
- Many **formal and informal women collectives** have improved **productivity, shared workloads**, and have acted as **first responders** in **disasters** and in **safeguarding ecosystems**.
कई औपचारिक और अनौपचारिक महिला समूहों ने उत्पादकता बढ़ाई है, कार्यभार साझा किया है, और आपदाओं में तथा स्थानीय पारिस्थितिक तंत्र की रक्षा में प्रथम प्रतिक्रिया देने वाली बनी हैं।

Differing Priorities of Urban and Indigenous Women

शहरी और आदिवासी महिलाओं की प्राथमिकताओं में अंतर

- In urban areas, women prioritize **waste management** and **pollution**, while for indigenous women, the focus is on the **three M's: Mahua** (forest livelihoods), **Mao** (safety/security from conflicts), and **Migration** (distress-related challenges).
शहरी क्षेत्रों में महिलाएं कचरा प्रबंधन और प्रदूषण को प्राथमिकता देती हैं, जबकि आदिवासी महिलाओं के लिए प्राथमिकताएं होती हैं तीन M: महुआ (वन आधारित आजीविका), माओवादी खतरे (सुरक्षा/सुरक्षा), और प्रवास (विपत्ति से जुड़े मुद्दे)।

Need to Strengthen Gender-Climate Connection in Policy

नीतियों में लिंग-जलवायु संबंध को मजबूत करने की आवश्यकता

- The **Beijing India Report** lacks a strong **climate-gender connection** and must include **gender-responsive climate action, indicators, and gendered impact data**.
बीजिंग इंडिया रिपोर्ट में जलवायु-लिंग संबंध की कमी है और इसमें लिंग-संवेदनशील जलवायु कार्रवाई, संकेतक और लिंग आधारित प्रभावों के आंकड़े शामिल होने चाहिए।

Climate Budgeting and Women's Role

जलवायु बजट और महिलाओं की भूमिका



- Climate budgeting often results in **greenwashing** and using **women as conduits** for resource redirection. Hence, **gender-audited** and **gender-responsive** climate budgets are necessary.

जलवायु बजट अक्सर हरित धोखाधड़ी और महिलाओं को संसाधनों के हस्तांतरण के माध्यम के रूप में उपयोग करने की ओर ले जाता है। इसलिए, लिंग-लेखापरीक्षित और लिंग-संवेदनशील जलवायु बजट आवश्यक हैं।

Empowering Women in Decision-Making

निर्णय लेने में महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाना

- Rural women need **platforms** for participation in **climate decision-making**.
ग्रामीण महिलाओं को जलवायु निर्णय-निर्माण में भागीदारी के लिए मंचों की आवश्यकता है।
- There is a strong need for **climate support hubs** focusing on **disaster support, health, women's safety, migration risks, and sexual and reproductive rights**.
आपदा समर्थन, स्वास्थ्य, महिला सुरक्षा, प्रवास संबंधी जोखिम और यौन एवं प्रजनन अधिकारों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने वाले जलवायु सहायता केंद्रों की सख्त आवश्यकता है।

Promoting Women's Leadership and Education

महिला नेतृत्व और शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देना

- Facilitate **community climate consultations** inclusive of women and promote **women's leadership** in **green energy** and **local climate politics**.
सामुदायिक जलवायु विचार-विमर्श में महिलाओं की भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करें और हरित ऊर्जा तथा स्थानीय जलवायु राजनीति में महिला नेतृत्व को बढ़ावा दें।
- Invest in **women's education, capacity building, and promote women-led climate initiatives** to address **gender invisibility**.
महिलाओं की शिक्षा, क्षमता निर्माण में निवेश करें और महिला-नेतृत्व वाले जलवायु प्रयासों को बढ़ावा दें ताकि लिंग अदृश्यता को दूर किया जा सके।

Gender Lens on Human-Animal Conflict and Research

मानव-पशु संघर्ष और अनुसंधान में लिंग दृष्टिकोण

- Human-animal conflict should be addressed through a **gender lens** and more **data and research** should be dedicated to the **gender-climate nexus**.
मानव-पशु संघर्ष को लिंग दृष्टिकोण से देखा जाना चाहिए और लिंग-जलवायु संबंध पर अधिक आंकड़ों और अनुसंधान की आवश्यकता है।



Agricultural Gender Gap and Food Security

कृषि में लिंग अंतर और खाद्य सुरक्षा

- Closing the **gender gap** in **agricultural resources** could raise **farm yields** by **20%-30%** and enable feeding **100-150 million** more people.
कृषि संसाधनों में लिंग अंतर को समाप्त करने से 20%-30% तक खेती की उपज बढ़ सकती है और 10 से 15 करोड़ अतिरिक्त लोगों को भोजन उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है।

Policy Reforms and Grassroot Inclusion

नीतिगत सुधार और जमीनी समावेशन

- National and State Action Plans on Climate Change (**NAPCC, SAPCC**) must be **gender-responsive** and implemented at the **grassroot level**.
राष्ट्रीय और राज्य जलवायु परिवर्तन कार्य योजनाएं (**NAPCC, SAPCC**) को लिंग-संवेदनशील बनाया जाना चाहिए और जमीनी स्तर तक लागू किया जाना चाहिए।

Focus on Disaster Preparedness and Livelihood Diversification

आपदा तैयारी और आजीविका विविधीकरण पर ध्यान

- Focus on **disaster preparedness** for **vulnerable women**, **public service access**, addressing **trafficking risks**, and support for **geriatric women**.
कमजोर महिलाओं के लिए आपदा तैयारी, सार्वजनिक सेवाओं तक पहुंच, मानव तस्करी के जोखिमों को संबोधित करना, और बुजुर्ग महिलाओं के लिए समर्थन पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- Promote **non-farm livelihoods** and provide **skilling opportunities** to help women **adapt to agricultural impacts** of climate change.
महिलाओं को जलवायु परिवर्तन के कृषि प्रभावों के अनुकूल बनाने के लिए गैर-कृषि आजीविकाओं को बढ़ावा दिया जाना चाहिए और कौशल विकास के अवसर प्रदान किए जाने चाहिए।

Private Sector Participation is Important

निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी महत्वपूर्ण है

- Green funds must focus on fostering **women-led** and **women-supportive innovations**, ensuring **technological interventions**, and promoting **women's participation** in a green economic transition through the development of **green businesses, products, and services**.
ग्रीन फंड को महिला-नेतृत्व वाली और महिलाओं का समर्थन करने वाली नवाचारों को बढ़ावा देने, तकनीकी हस्तक्षेप सुनिश्चित करने और हरित आर्थिक संक्रमण में महिलाओं की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए, विशेष रूप से हरित व्यवसायों, उत्पादों और सेवाओं के विकास के माध्यम से।



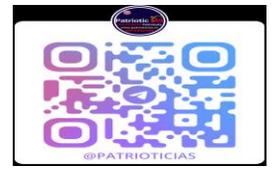
TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- More funds must be redirected to **human capital** at the forefront of **climate adaptation and mitigation**, especially in **climate-vulnerable areas**, to build **resilience**.
अधिक फंड को जलवायु अनुकूलन और शमन के क्षेत्र में अग्रणी मानव पूंजी की ओर पुनर्निर्देशित किया जाना चाहिए, विशेष रूप से जलवायु-संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में लचीलापन (**resilience**) बनाने के लिए।
- The role of the **private sector** is important as it can help in **investing in climate-related projects** that empower women, promote **gender-inclusive practices**, and provide access to **climate-resilient technologies and services**.
निजी क्षेत्र की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह जलवायु-संबंधी परियोजनाओं में निवेश कर सकता है जो महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाती हैं, लैंगिक समावेशी प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देती हैं, और जलवायु-लचीली तकनीकों और सेवाओं तक महिलाओं की पहुंच सुनिश्चित करती हैं।
- These efforts are particularly essential for **women disproportionately affected by climate change impacts**.
ये प्रयास विशेष रूप से उन महिलाओं के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं जो जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों से असमान रूप से प्रभावित होती हैं।
- **Need for Collaborative Partnerships**
सहयोगी साझेदारी की आवश्यकता
- There is a need for **co-operative partnerships** between the **government, civil society, research institutions, private sector, citizens, and international organisations**.
सरकार, नागरिक समाज, शोध संस्थानों, निजी क्षेत्र, नागरिकों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठनों के बीच सहयोगी साझेदारियों की आवश्यकता है।
- The emphasis must be on **knowledge sharing, regular communication, consultations, capacity exchange, and recognition of champions and best practices**.
इसमें जोर ज्ञान साझा करने, नियमित संवाद, परामर्श, क्षमताओं के आदान-प्रदान, और श्रेष्ठ उदाहरणों व अग्रदूतों की पहचान पर होना चाहिए।
- Collective **advocacy** must be promoted to empower **women as leaders** in building **climate resilience** for a **just and sustainable future** in India.
भारत में न्यायसंगत और सतत भविष्य के लिए जलवायु लचीलापन निर्माण में महिलाओं को नेता के रूप में सशक्त करने के लिए सामूहिक वकालत को बढ़ावा दिया जाना चाहिए।



India's Industrial output growth slows to a six-month low of 2.9% in February: Ministry

GS Paper III: Industries

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at its slowest rate in six months, clocking a pace of 2.9% in February, dragged down by decelerating growth across all sectors, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The IIP's growth rate came in much lower than the 4% estimated by Reuters.

"A combination of high base effects along with a slowing growth in mining and manufacturing sectors led to the growth falling in February 2025," said Paras Jasrai, associate director at

India Ratings and Research.

Mining sector growth slowed to 1.6% in February, as against 8.1% in the same month of the previous year. Manufacturing sector grew at a pace of 2.9%, as against 4.9% in the year ago period. Electricity production dipped to 3.6% this February, from 7.6% a year ago.

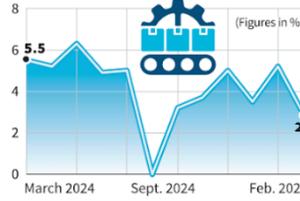
Capital goods output

As per use-based classification, capital goods output grew the fastest at 8.2% in February.

This was against the 1.7% in the corresponding period last year. All other goods categories registered

Slackening growth

India's industrial production growth decelerated to a six-month low of 2.9 per cent in February 2025



The chart shows India's rate of production growth as per the IIP from March 2024 to February 2025

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

a slower output growth in February 2025, compared to the same month last year. Intermediate goods output grew the slowest at 1.5% and consumer non-durables continued to decline, albeit at a slower

pace, with output declining 2.1%, a slower slip in comparison to 3.2% in the year ago period.

'Muted nature'

"Worryingly, the output growth of all the sub-se-

ctors at the use-based level declined in February 2025 compared to the previous month, after a gap of five months. This indicates the muted and volatile nature of industrial output growth," Mr. Jasrai said.

"Deceleration in IP growth in February was driven by manufacturing, while higher power demand cushioned the slowdown to an extent. Capital and infrastructure goods output growth remains elevated. IP growth in March likely accelerated, supported by inventory build-up ahead of the U.S. tariff announcements," said Aastha Gudwani, India Chief Economist at Barclays.

India's Industrial Output Growth Slows to a Six-Month Low of 2.9% in February: Ministry

भारत की औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि फरवरी में छह महीने के निचले स्तर 2.9% पर पहुंची: मंत्रालय

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at its slowest rate in six months, reaching 2.9% in February 2025, due to slowing growth across all sectors, as per data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) की वृद्धि दर फरवरी 2025 में 2.9% रही, जो पिछले छह महीनों की सबसे धीमी दर है, क्योंकि सभी क्षेत्रों में वृद्धि धीमी रही, यह आंकड़ा सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी किया गया।

- The growth rate was significantly lower than the 4% estimate projected by Reuters. यह वृद्धि दर रॉयटर्स द्वारा अनुमानित 4% से काफी कम रही।
- Paras Jasrai, Associate Director at India Ratings and Research, stated that a combination of high base effects and slowing growth in mining and manufacturing led to the dip.



इंडिया रेटिंग्स एंड रिसर्च के एसोसिएट डायरेक्टर परस जसराय ने कहा कि उच्च आधार प्रभाव और खनन और विनिर्माण क्षेत्रों में धीमी वृद्धि के संयोजन से यह गिरावट आई।

Sector-wise Performance

क्षेत्रवार प्रदर्शन

- The mining sector growth dropped to 1.6% in February 2025, compared to 8.1% in the same month last year.
खनन क्षेत्र की वृद्धि फरवरी 2025 में घटकर 1.6% रह गई, जबकि पिछले साल इसी महीने में यह 8.1% थी।
- The manufacturing sector grew at 2.9%, compared to 4.9% in February 2024.
विनिर्माण क्षेत्र में वृद्धि 2.9% रही, जबकि फरवरी 2024 में यह 4.9% थी।
- Electricity production also declined to 3.6% this February from 7.6% a year ago.
बिजली उत्पादन भी इस फरवरी में 3.6% रहा, जो कि एक साल पहले 7.6% था।

Capital Goods Output and Other Categories

पूंजीगत वस्तुओं का उत्पादन और अन्य श्रेणियाँ

- As per use-based classification, capital goods output recorded the highest growth of 8.2% in February 2025, compared to 1.7% in the same month last year.
उपयोग-आधारित वर्गीकरण के अनुसार, पूंजीगत वस्तुओं का उत्पादन फरवरी 2025 में 8.2% की सबसे तेज़ वृद्धि के साथ दर्ज हुआ, जबकि पिछले साल इसी महीने में यह 1.7% था।
- Intermediate goods output grew the slowest at 1.5%.
मध्यवर्ती वस्तुओं का उत्पादन में सबसे धीमी वृद्धि 1.5% रही।
- Consumer non-durables output declined by 2.1%, which was a smaller fall compared to 3.2% in February 2024.
उपभोक्ता गैर-स्थायी वस्तुओं का उत्पादन 2.1% घटा, जो कि फरवरी 2024 की 3.2% की गिरावट से कुछ कम है।

Muted Nature of Industrial Growth

औद्योगिक वृद्धि की मंद प्रवृत्ति

- Mr. Jasrai highlighted that the output growth of all sub-sectors at the use-based level declined in February 2025 compared to the previous month, breaking a five-month trend of expansion.
श्री जसराय ने बताया कि उपयोग आधारित सभी उप-क्षेत्रों में उत्पादन वृद्धि फरवरी 2025 में पिछले महीने की तुलना में घट गई, जिससे पिछले पांच महीनों की वृद्धि की प्रवृत्ति टूट गई।



- He added this reflects the muted and volatile nature of industrial output growth. उन्होंने कहा कि यह औद्योगिक उत्पादन वृद्धि की मंदी और अस्थिर प्रकृति को दर्शाता है।

Sectoral Insights and Future Outlook

क्षेत्रीय विश्लेषण और भविष्य की संभावना

- **Aastha Gudwani**, India Chief Economist at **Barclays**, stated that the **slowdown** was primarily due to the **manufacturing sector**, but **higher power demand** helped cushion the impact.

बार्कलेज की भारत प्रमुख अर्थशास्त्री आस्था गुडवानी ने कहा कि यह मंदी मुख्यतः विनिर्माण क्षेत्र के कारण थी, लेकिन बिजली की अधिक मांग ने इसके प्रभाव को कुछ कम किया।

- She also noted that **capital and infrastructure goods output** remained **strong**, and that **March's IIP growth** likely improved due to **inventory build-up** ahead of the **U.S. tariff announcements**.

उन्होंने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि पूंजीगत और अवसंरचना वस्तुओं का उत्पादन मजबूत रहा, और अमेरिकी टैरिफ घोषणाओं से पहले भंडारण बढ़ने के कारण मार्च में IIP वृद्धि में सुधार की संभावना है।

6.84 lakh families under lens in Haryana for giving 'false' info to avail of BPL, AAY benefits

GS Paper III: Subsidies

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Amid a surge in the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) card holders in Haryana over the past three years, 6.84 lakh families have come under the scanner of the State government for allegedly providing false income details in the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) to illegally obtain benefits meant for the poor. The PPP, introduced in 2019, is a unique family ID system designed to facilitate "paperless" and "faceless" delivery of government schemes, services, and benefits.

The government identified these families using a

special software, inputs from the Crime Investigation Department, and data from fair price shops, a source in the State government said. Sirsa and Hisar districts have the highest number of such families.

Earlier this month, the government had sent stern text messages to these families, warning them to voluntarily correct their income details in the PPP by April 20 or face consequences. "Wrong income details or artificial division of family in Parivar Pehchan Patra has come to the notice of the State government during the Assembly session. Please enter the correct information by April 20, otherwise legal action can be initiated, in-

cluding recovery of improper benefits. The PPP is the basis of trust, keep it strong with honesty: Haryana Parivar Pehchan Patra Authority," read the message sent on April 3.

'Another chance'

According to Satish Khola, State coordinator of the Haryana PPP Authority, the government is giving families that provided incorrect income details or created multiple family IDs at the same address, either on purpose or by mistake, a chance to rectify their information in the PPP to avoid legal action.

"Chief Minister Nayab Saini aims to make PPP an impeccable and accurate document with the sup-



port of citizens and this is a step to achieve it amicably. These people have the opportunity to correct their income details and merge the multiple family IDs. They can easily do it by logging into the authority's website, else the govern-

ment will take appropriate action," said Mr. Khola. Haryana has 76,81,632 PPPs covering 2,93,12,014 members, as of April this year, while 59,96,380 families hold BPL and AAY ration cards. This suggests that 67.64% of households

Families given time till April 20 to correct their details and avoid legal consequences

in the State live below the poverty line, contradicting Haryana's status as one of India's most prosperous States with a per capita income of ₹3,25,759.

Congress's Rohtak MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra had raised this issue in the Assembly during the Budget Session. Speaking to *The Hindu*, he accused the BJP government of issuing a large number of BPL and AAY ration cards without proper verification in the run-up to the Assembly

poll last year for political gain. He claimed that the government relied on self-verification of income by PPP holders to issue ration cards, bypassing the mandatory physical verification stated in the PPP Act.

As many as 37,62,893 BPL cards were issued between April 2022 and September 2024, increasing the number of beneficiary families from 8,82,417 to 46,45,310. During this period, 54,705 new AAY cards were also issued, taking the total number of beneficiaries to 2,92,845.

Possible reasons

Mr. Khola said the seemingly disproportionate number of BPL families could be partially attrib-

uted to the Haryana government increasing the maximum income limit for BPL families from ₹1.20 lakh to ₹1.80 lakh in December 2022, and the issuance of PPPs to migrant families under the 'One nation, one ration card' scheme.

"After the introduction of PPP, we removed 9.6 lakh ineligible families from the PDS system, but added 16 lakh new BPL families with an increase in the income limit. Around 5 lakh migrant families were also issued PPPs," he said.

Mr. Khola said the income details furnished in the PPPs were self-verified and cross-checked by local and sector committees, but "discrepancies cannot be completely ruled out".

6.84 Lakh Families Under Lens in Haryana for Giving 'False' Info to Avail of BPL, AAY Benefits

बीपीएल, एएवाई लाभ पाने के लिए 'झूठी' जानकारी देने पर हरियाणा में 6.84 लाख परिवार जांच के घेरे में



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



Over the past three years, the number of BPL (Below Poverty Line) and AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) card holders in Haryana has surged significantly.

पिछले तीन वर्षों में हरियाणा में बीपीएल (गरीबी रेखा से नीचे) और एएवाई (अंत्योदय अन्न योजना) कार्डधारकों की संख्या में तेज़ वृद्धि हुई है।

- Around **6.84 lakh families** are under investigation for allegedly providing **false income details** in the **Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP)** to obtain benefits meant for the poor.
लगभग **6.84 लाख परिवारों** पर आरोप है कि उन्होंने परिवार पहचान पत्र (PPP) में गलत आय विवरण देकर गरीबों के लिए निर्धारित लाभ प्राप्त किए।
- The **PPP**, launched in **2019**, is a unique family ID system meant to enable **paperless** and **faceless** delivery of government services and schemes.
2019 में शुरू किया गया **PPP** एक अनोखा पारिवारिक पहचान प्रणाली है जो सरकारी सेवाओं और योजनाओं की **बिना कागज** और **बिना संपर्क** डिलीवरी सुनिश्चित करता है।

Identification of Suspect Families

संदिग्ध परिवारों की पहचान

- These families were flagged using **special software**, inputs from the **Crime Investigation Department**, and data from **fair price shops**.
इन परिवारों की पहचान **विशेष सॉफ्टवेयर**, **अपराध जांच विभाग** की जानकारी और **सस्ती दर की दुकानों** के डेटा के माध्यम से की गई।
- **Sirsa** and **Hisar** districts have the **highest number** of such families.
सिरसा और **हिसार** जिलों में ऐसे **सबसे अधिक** परिवार पाए गए हैं।

Government's Warning and Deadline

सरकार की चेतावनी और समयसीमा

- In **April 2025**, the government sent **stern text messages** to these families, asking them to **correct their income details** in the **PPP by April 20** or face **legal action**.
अप्रैल 2025 में सरकार ने इन परिवारों को **कड़ी चेतावनी भरे संदेश** भेजे और **20 अप्रैल तक PPP में अपनी आय की जानकारी सुधारने** को कहा, अन्यथा **कानूनी कार्रवाई** की चेतावनी दी।
- The message also warned against **artificial family division** and emphasized that **PPP is the basis of trust**.
संदेश में **कृत्रिम रूप से परिवारों को विभाजित करने** पर भी चेतावनी दी गई और कहा गया कि **PPP विश्वास का आधार** है।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Government's Clarification and Second Chance

सरकार की सफाई और दूसरा मौका

- **Satish Khola**, State Coordinator of the **Haryana PPP Authority**, said families that gave **wrong income data** or created **multiple family IDs** will get a **chance to rectify the errors**.
हरियाणा PPP प्राधिकरण के राज्य समन्वयक सतीश खोला ने कहा कि जिन्होंने गलत आय विवरण दिया या कई परिवार आईडी बनाए, उन्हें गलती सुधारने का मौका मिलेगा।
- **Chief Minister Nayab Saini** wants to make the **PPP an accurate and error-free document with citizen support**.
मुख्यमंत्री नायब सैनी चाहते हैं कि PPP को सटीक और त्रुटिरहित दस्तावेज़ बनाया जाए, जिसमें नागरिकों का सहयोग हो।
- Families can update their info by **logging into the official website**; otherwise, the government will take **appropriate action**.
परिवार अपनी जानकारी सरकारी वेबसाइट में लॉग इन करके अपडेट कर सकते हैं, नहीं तो सरकार उचित कार्रवाई करेगी।

Current PPP and Ration Card Data

वर्तमान PPP और राशन कार्ड आंकड़े

- As of **April 2025**, **76,81,652 PPPs** cover **2,93,12,014 members** in Haryana.
अप्रैल 2025 तक हरियाणा में 76,81,652 PPP के अंतर्गत 2,93,12,014 सदस्य शामिल हैं।
- **51,96,380 families** have **BPL and AAY ration cards**, implying **67.64% households** live below the poverty line.
51,96,380 परिवारों के पास बीपीएल और एएवाई राशन कार्ड हैं, जिससे पता चलता है कि 67.64% घर गरीबी रेखा से नीचे जीवन जी रहे हैं।
- This contradicts Haryana's image as one of **India's most prosperous states**, with a **per capita income of ₹3,25,759**.
यह आंकड़ा हरियाणा की भारत के सबसे समृद्ध राज्यों में से एक होने की छवि से मेल नहीं खाता, जहां की प्रति व्यक्ति आय ₹3,25,759 है।

Political Accusations

राजनीतिक आरोप

- **Congress MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra** raised this issue in the **Assembly**, accusing the **BJP government** of issuing **excessive BPL and AAY cards** before elections for **political gains**.



कांग्रेस विधायक भारत भूषण बत्रा ने विधानसभा में यह मुद्दा उठाया और आरोप लगाया कि बीजेपी सरकार ने चुनाव से पहले राजनीतिक लाभ के लिए अत्यधिक बीपीएल और एएवाई कार्ड जारी किए।

- He said the cards were issued based on **self-verification** without **mandatory physical checks**, violating the **PPP Act**.

उन्होंने कहा कि कार्ड स्व-पुष्टि के आधार पर दिए गए, जबकि अनिवार्य भौतिक सत्यापन नहीं किया गया, जो कि PPP अधिनियम का उल्लंघन है।

BPL and AAY Expansion Figures

बीपीएल और एएवाई विस्तार के आंकड़े

- From **April 2022 to September 2024**, **37,62,893 BPL cards** were issued, raising the number of beneficiaries from **8,82,417 to 46,45,310 families**.

अप्रैल 2022 से सितंबर 2024 के बीच 37,62,893 बीपीएल कार्ड जारी किए गए, जिससे लाभार्थी परिवारों की संख्या 8,82,417 से बढ़कर 46,45,310 हो गई।

- Additionally, **54,705 new AAY cards** were issued, raising the total **AAY beneficiaries to 2,92,845**.

इसके अलावा 54,705 नए एएवाई कार्ड जारी किए गए, जिससे कुल लाभार्थियों की संख्या 2,92,845 हो गई।

Possible Reasons Behind the Increase

वृद्धि के संभावित कारण

- Mr. Khola stated that the increase is partially due to the **income limit for BPL families** being raised from **₹1.20 lakh to ₹1.80 lakh** in **December 2022**.

श्री खोला ने बताया कि यह वृद्धि आंशिक रूप से दिसंबर 2022 में बीपीएल परिवारों की आय सीमा ₹1.20 लाख से बढ़ाकर ₹1.80 लाख करने के कारण हुई।

- **5 lakh migrant families** were also issued PPPs under the **One Nation, One Ration Card** scheme.

‘वन नेशन, वन राशन कार्ड’ योजना के तहत 5 लाख प्रवासी परिवारों को भी PPP जारी किए गए।

- Since the launch of PPP, **9.6 lakh ineligible families** were removed from the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**, while **16 lakh new BPL families** were added.

PPP के लागू होने के बाद 9.6 लाख अपात्र परिवारों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) से हटाया गया, जबकि 16 लाख नए बीपीएल परिवार जोड़े गए।

- He added that income data in PPPs is **self-verified** and cross-checked by **local committees**, but **discrepancies** can still occur.

उन्होंने कहा कि PPP में दी गई आय जानकारी स्व-पुष्टि होती है और स्थानीय समितियों द्वारा जांच की जाती है, लेकिन विसंगतियों की संभावना को नकारा नहीं जा सकता।



Caught in a cyber snare

Seven Keralites were among the 283 Indians rescued recently from the custody of **cyber fraudsters in Myanmar** and brought back to the country, **Dinesh Kallungal, M.P. Praveen and Sam Paul A.** catch up with the youths on their return to Kerala to unravel the murky world of **human trafficking and cybercrime**

GS Paper III: Cyber Security

Aneesh, 40, a resident of Alappuzha district, underwent major surgery in August 2024 to treat three blockages in his coronary arteries.

He came across a social media advertisement in November seeking call centre executives in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, with a monthly salary of 6,000 Chinese yuan (around ₹72,000) during the days of his financial crisis.

Aneesh, who was working as a restaurant manager then, wasted no time in applying, unaware that it would land him in serious trouble, turning him into a victim of labour fraud and human trafficking.

He attended an online video interview conducted by a woman and was declared selected. She sent him the visa and a free flight ticket. Aneesh boarded a flight to Bangkok from Delhi on the night of December 15, 2024 with hopes of rebuilding his life. Everything seemed fine until he landed at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok.

Outside the airport, a cab driver was waiting for him with a placard with his name printed on it. There were not many conversations between the passenger and the driver except the essential ones as the vehicle sped past urban areas and deserted villages.

"After travelling for around five tedious hours, he took me to a riverbank opposite the Myanmar border. A motor boat was ready there waiting for me. I was asked to board the vessel, which sliced through the waves to take me to the other side of the river," recalls Aneesh.

KK Park hub of scamsters

At sunrise, Aneesh realised that he had reached the KK Park building complex located at Myawaddy Township, Myanmar. The imposing multi-storey enclave that housed dozens of firms is located next to the Moel river on the Myanmar-Thailand border. It's from this building, a complex that some alleged international online scamsters are operating their cyber factories to entrap unsuspecting victims.

Initially, Aneesh was assigned data entry work. However, since his typing speed was low, he was given training to improve it. "I realised something was wrong within the first few weeks of joining the firm.

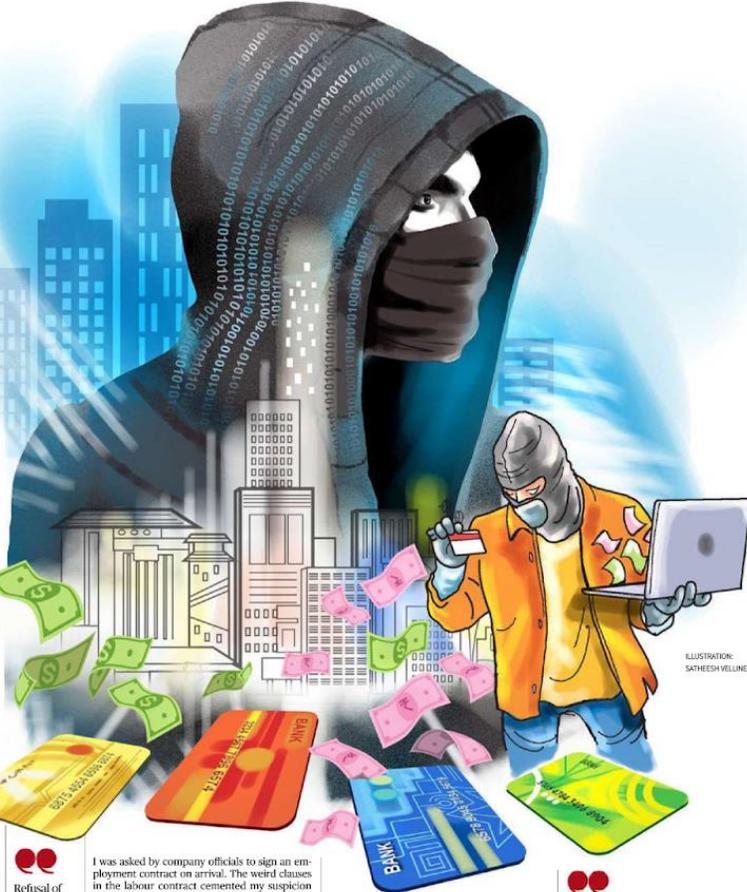


ILLUSTRATION: SATHESH VELLINEZH

Refusal of work meant physical torture and even starvation. When I insisted on quitting, I was given two options to be released: either cough up a fine of \$3,600 or give three references from my contact list.

NELSON JOSEPH
AVINNI

I was asked by company officials to sign an employment contract on arrival. The weird clauses in the labour contract cemented my suspicion that I was trapped there in the foreign soil. The employer wanted me to sign an agreement that I will have to pay him \$3,000 dollars (around ₹26 lakh) if I quit the job of my own volition during the contract period. Stranger was the second clause, which stated that I have to pay the company \$1,000 (around ₹87,000) in the event of the firm terminating my services. I decided against signing the contract," says Aneesh.

Military crackdown comes of help
Aneesh considers himself lucky to have escaped what he calls a big trap. "The military launched a crackdown on illegal activities at KK Park one day following an alleged kidnapping case. I don't know much about the details," he says.

"The men in military uniform gave us two options: those who wanted to stay could stay, and others could leave. I didn't think twice. I chose to go with the military personnel," says Aneesh.

He and a few others from the State were among the 283 Indian nationals who were thus rescued and brought back in an Indian Air Force aircraft to Delhi on March 10.

Indian embassies in Myanmar and Thailand coordinated with local authorities to secure their repatriation from Mae Sot in Thailand. The victims were allegedly forced to work in fraudulent call centres engaged in cybercrimes operating in regions along the Myanmar-Thailand border.

Nelson Joseph, a native of Kollam, and a Tamil Nadu native, who reached Bangkok to join the firms that recruited them for online jobs were together taken in a cab to a seemingly deserted resort along the Thailand-Myanmar border on December 30, 2024. A ferry took them to KK Park.

"The building illuminated with lights at night was a prison for the workers once they entered the compound. It was a self-sustained township complete with all basic services, including pharmacy, hospitals, and banking facilities," remembers Joseph.

Before joining duty, Joseph was asked to surrender his mobile phone, passport, and other personal belongings. In an other alien land and surroundings, the office, resembling a call centre, alone gave him an air of familiarity.

Phones kept on ringing incessantly. All the staff remained glued to their computers and made phone calls to different numbers. The room sounded like an international workspace where people of different ethnicities and accents spoke continuously over the phones.

Atmosphere of anxiety
Well-built security personnel with intimidating looks and demeanour kept a close watch on them. An atmosphere of anxiety permeated the space. Though it left everyone uneasy, no one complained as everyone was keen to survive, ignoring the working conditions in the process.

"We weren't allowed to talk to co-workers. What little we could share about our situation, we did when we occasionally met along the aisles leading to the toilets," says Joseph.

During a fortnight-long training, a colleague who had come a week earlier broke the news that it was a scam centre where hundreds of people of different nationalities remained trapped.

"On completing training, I was given a woman's ID. My job was to strike relationships with US citizens above 45 years of age through social networking sites and hand over the contacts to another group which would start responding to the messages," he says.

Joseph tried to protest once about the working conditions, only to be threatened by his manager, a Chinese national, to be handed over to the Myanmar Army.

"Refusal of work meant physical torture and even starvation. When I insisted on quitting, I was given two options to be released: either cough up a fine of \$3,600 or give three references from my contact list," says Joseph.

Many go despite awareness drives

"Long before the scam was widely reported we have been running awareness campaigns, including videos on social media, warning against falling for lucrative IT jobs offered on travel visas or visit visas, especially in Southeast Asian destinations such as Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. Yet, people continue to go to these destinations," says Ajith Kolassery, Chief Executive Officer of NoRKA-Roots, which took the initiative to bring the Keralites home from Delhi.

Aran, 34, and his brother Sujith, 40, from Ernakulam are relieved to return home from KK Park. However, the fear of what lies ahead lingers after unknowingly getting trapped in a scam centre involved in investment fraud.

Sujith M., a 20-year-old from Kollam, remembers having a smooth passage across the border to Myanmar without being stopped at any immigration checkpoints. However, he sensed danger the moment he saw a machine-gun-wielding boy barely in his teens standing guard outside his office.

He says that he was held captive at KK Park for three months, during which his mobile phone usage was rationed while VPN access was required for internet connectivity. Not only has he lost his job but his scheduled marriage is also now on the verge of collapse.

He says that a case involving a Chinese national trapped at the scam centre led to the rescue of people of all nationalities, including Indians.

"On our return, we were interrogated by various law enforcement agencies, which has become an embarrassment to us after the months-long ordeal in a foreign land," says Sujith.

Kerala needs a strong pre-departure migration orientation programme and it should start in colleges. It would help uncover fraudulent recruitment practices, including fake offer letters.

S. IRUDAYA RAJAN
Chair, International Institute of Migration and Development

Those in the Kerala Police refuse to buy the claims of the evacuees to be victims of overseas recruitment scams at face value. The evacuees could face legal charges if any complaints are lodged against them, say the police.

"That fear is real among the evacuees. I did nothing wrong, but the fear stays with me. What if people see me as a scammer? I'm still trying to process everything and figure out my next step," says Aran.

S. Irudaya Rajan, Chair of the International Institute of Migration and Development, describes the recruitment by scamsters as the "selling of people" by a "labour mafia" interlinked by agents in India and the destination countries in Southeast Asia. "Kerala needs a strong pre-departure migration orientation programme, and it should start in colleges. It would help uncover fraudulent recruitment practices, including fake offer letters," he suggests.

Nandakishore Harikumar, a cybersecurity entrepreneur who is about to set up a scam intelligence research team, says he came across around 4,000 Facebook advertisements for such overseas recruitments during May and June 2024, when he was researching on the subject.

Motive behind recruiting Indians

"Indians are among their targets, and that's why they recruit Indians from various regions, as interacting in local languages creates more trust. Southeast Asian countries are being chosen for these kind of scams owing to their lax regulation regime and scant cooperation with enforcement agencies like the Interpol," he says.

Meanwhile, Aneesh thanks his stars for deciding against signing the contract while being allegedly held hostage in Myanmar.

"Had I signed the contract and stayed there, I would have been forced to commit cyber fraud. I am happy to be back with my wife and son," he says.

Though saved from cyber fraudsters and human traffickers, the uncertainties of life back home stare at these youngsters. Forced to return empty-handed and humiliated, they live in the constant fear of being held responsible for being "inadvertently" part of the cyber misdoings. (all names changed)



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CONTACT: 9971932488



Caught in a Cyber Snare

साइबर जाल में फंसे

• Seven Keralites were among the 283 Indians recently rescued from cyber fraudsters in Myanmar.

म्यांमार में साइबर ठगों की कैद से हाल ही में छुड़ाए गए 283 भारतीयों में से 7 केरलवासी थे।

• They were brought back to India safely.
उन्हें सुरक्षित रूप से भारत वापस लाया गया।

• Journalists Dinesh Kallungal, M.P. Praveen, and Sam Paul A. met the youths in Kerala to uncover the story.

पत्रकार दिनेश कल्लुंगल, एम.पी. प्रवीण, और सैम पॉल ए. ने केरल में युवाओं से मिलकर कहानी को उजागर किया।

Aneesh's Ordeal Begins

अनीश की त्रासदी की शुरुआत

• Aneesh (40) from Alappuzha district underwent heart surgery in August 2024 for three coronary blockages.

अलाप्पुझा ज़िले के अनीश (40 वर्ष) ने अगस्त 2024 में तीन कोरोनरी ब्लॉकेज के लिए हृदय सर्जरी करवाई।

• In November, he found a social media ad offering call centre jobs in Bangkok with ₹72,000/month salary.

नवंबर में उन्होंने बैंकॉक में ₹72,000 प्रति माह वेतन वाली कॉल सेंटर नौकरी का सोशल मीडिया विज्ञापन देखा।

• At that time, he was working as a restaurant manager and applied immediately.
उस समय वह एक रेस्तरां प्रबंधक थे और उन्होंने तुरंत आवेदन किया।

• He gave an online video interview, conducted by a woman, and was selected.
उन्होंने एक महिला द्वारा लिया गया ऑनलाइन इंटरव्यू दिया और चयनित हो गए।

• She sent him a visa and free flight ticket to Bangkok.
उसने उन्हें वीजा और बैंकॉक की मुफ्त फ्लाइट टिकट भेजी।

• On December 15, 2024, he flew from Delhi to Bangkok.
15 दिसंबर 2024 को उन्होंने दिल्ली से बैंकॉक की उड़ान भरी।

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Strange Journey from Bangkok to Myanmar

बैंकॉक से म्यांमार की अजीब यात्रा

- At **Suvarnabhumi Airport**, a cab driver with a placard awaited him.
सुवर्णभूमि हवाई अड्डे पर एक कैब ड्राइवर उनका नाम-पत्र लेकर खड़ा था।
- The driver took him on a **5-hour journey** through urban and rural areas to a **riverbank** near the **Myanmar border**.
ड्राइवर उन्हें 5 घंटे की यात्रा कराकर म्यांमार सीमा के पास नदी तट पर ले गया।
- A **motorboat** was waiting; he was asked to cross the **river**.
वहां एक मोटरबोट तैयार थी और उन्हें नदी पार करने को कहा गया।

KK Park – Hub of Scams

केके पार्क – घोटालों का अड्डा

- He reached the **KK Park building complex** in **Myawaddy Township, Myanmar** by sunrise.
वह सूरज उगने तक म्यावाडी टाउनशिप, म्यांमार के केके पार्क भवन परिसर पहुंच गए।
- It is a **multi-storey complex** near the **Moei River**, allegedly used by **cyber scamsters**.
यह बहु-मंज़िला भवन मोई नदी के पास है, जहां कथित रूप से साइबर ठग काम करते हैं।
- Initially, Aneesh was assigned **data entry work**.
शुरुआत में अनीश को डाटा एंट्री का कार्य दिया गया।
- Due to **slow typing speed**, he was given **training**.
धीमी टाइपिंग स्पीड के कारण उन्हें प्रशिक्षण दिया गया।
- Within a few weeks, Aneesh felt that **something was wrong**.
कुछ ही हफ्तों में अनीश को लगा कि कुछ गड़बड़ है।
- He was asked to sign a **labour contract** with **strange clauses**.
उनसे एक अजीब शर्तों वाला श्रम अनुबंध साइन करवाने को कहा गया।
- One clause required **\$3,000 (₹2.6 lakh)** payment if he quit **voluntarily**.
एक शर्त के अनुसार अगर वह स्वेच्छा से नौकरी छोड़ते, तो उन्हें \$3,000 (₹2.6 लाख) चुकाने पड़ते।
- Another clause demanded **\$1,000 (₹87,000)** if the **company terminated** his service.
दूसरी शर्त थी कि अगर कंपनी ने सेवा समाप्त की, तो उन्हें \$1,000 (₹87,000) देना होगा।



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- Aneesh refused to sign, realizing he was **trapped**.

अनीश ने यह समझते हुए कि वह फंस गए हैं, अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर करने से इनकार कर दिया।

Military Crackdown Comes of Help

सेना की कार्रवाई से मिली मदद

- Aneesh considers himself lucky to have escaped what he calls a **big trap**.

अनीश खुद को भाग्यशाली मानते हैं कि वे एक **बड़े जाल** से बच निकलने में सफल रहे।

- He says the **military** launched a crackdown on **illegal activities** at KK Park following an **alleged kidnapping case**.

वे बताते हैं कि एक कथित अपहरण मामले के बाद सेना ने केके पार्क में अवैध गतिविधियों पर कार्रवाई की।

- The soldiers gave them two options — stay or leave. Aneesh immediately chose to **leave**.

सैनिकों ने उन्हें दो विकल्प दिए — रुकना या जाना। अनीश ने तुरंत जाने का निर्णय लिया।

- Aneesh and a few others were among **283 Indian nationals** who were **rescued** and brought back to Delhi on **March 10** in an **Indian Air Force aircraft**.

अनीश और कुछ अन्य लोग उन **283 भारतीय नागरिकों** में शामिल थे जिन्हें **10 मार्च** को भारतीय वायुसेना के विमान से दिल्ली लाया गया।

Coordination by Indian Embassies

भारतीय दूतावासों का समन्वय

- Indian embassies in **Myanmar** and **Thailand** coordinated with local authorities to repatriate them from **Mae Sot**.

म्यांमार और थाईलैंड में भारतीय दूतावासों ने Mae Sot से वापसी के लिए स्थानीय अधिकारियों के साथ समन्वय किया।

- Victims were allegedly forced to work in **fraudulent call centres** involved in **cybercrime** on the **Myanmar-Thailand border**.

पीड़ितों को कथित रूप से म्यांमार-थाईलैंड सीमा पर साइबर अपराध में लगे धोखाधड़ी कॉल सेंटर्स में काम करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया।

Experience of Nelson Joseph

नेल्सन जोसेफ का अनुभव

- Nelson Joseph from **Kollam** and another man from **Tamil Nadu** were taken to a deserted **resort** on the **Thailand-Myanmar border** on **December 30, 2024**, and then ferried to **KK Park**.

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

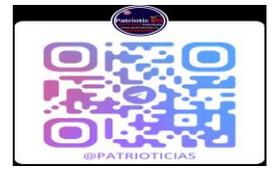
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कोल्लम के नेल्सन जोसेफ और तमिलनाडु के एक व्यक्ति को 30 दिसंबर 2024 को थाईलैंड-म्यांमार सीमा के एक सुनसान रिज़ॉर्ट में ले जाया गया और फिर केके पार्क पहुंचाया गया।

• The **KK Park building** was like a **prison** despite its appearance as a township with **pharmacy, hospitals, and banking.**

केके पार्क की इमारत, दिखने में फार्मसी, अस्पताल और बैंकिंग जैसी सुविधाओं से युक्त एक टाउनशिप जैसी थी, लेकिन असल में वह एक कैदखाना थी।

• On arrival, Joseph was forced to **surrender his phone, passport, and other personal items.** पहुंचने पर, जोसेफ से फोन, पासपोर्ट और अन्य निजी सामान छीन लिए गए।

• The workspace looked like a **call centre**, with phones ringing constantly and staff talking in **different languages and accents.**

कार्यक्षेत्र एक कॉल सेंटर जैसा था, जहां लगातार फोन बजते रहते थे और कर्मचारी **अलग-अलग भाषाओं और उच्चारणों** में बात करते थे।

Tense Work Environment

तनावपूर्ण कार्य वातावरण

• Well-built **security guards** constantly watched over the workers, creating an atmosphere of **fear and anxiety.**

मजबूत कद-काठी वाले **सुरक्षा कर्मी** कर्मचारियों पर लगातार नजर रखते थे, जिससे डर और बेचैनी का माहौल बना रहता था।

• Talking to co-workers was prohibited, and workers only shared information when they met near **toilets.**

सहकर्मियों से बात करना मना था, और जानकारी केवल **शौचालयों** के पास मिलने पर ही साझा की जाती थी।

• During a **two-week training**, Joseph learned it was a **scam centre** trapping people of **different nationalities.**

दो सप्ताह की ट्रेनिंग के दौरान, जोसेफ को पता चला कि यह एक **घोटाले का केंद्र** था जहाँ **विभिन्न देशों** के लोगों को फँसाया गया था।

• He was assigned the job of using a **woman's identity** to **build relationships** with **US citizens** above the age of **45** via **social media.**

उन्हें एक **महिला की पहचान** का उपयोग करके **45 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र** के अमेरिकी नागरिकों से **सोशल मीडिया** पर **संबंध बनाने** का कार्य दिया गया।

Attempts to Quit and Threats

काम छोड़ने की कोशिश और धमकियाँ

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



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• When Joseph tried to protest, his **Chinese manager** threatened to **hand him over to the Myanmar Army**.

जब जोसेफ ने विरोध किया, तो उनके चीनी प्रबंधक ने उन्हें म्यांमार सेना को सौंपने की धमकी दी।

• Refusing to work led to **physical torture** and **starvation**.

काम करने से इनकार करने पर शारीरिक प्रताड़ना और भूखा रखा जाना झेलना पड़ता था।

• To get released, Joseph was told to either pay a **fine of \$3,600** or provide **three references** from his contact list.

जोसेफ को रिहा होने के लिए या तो \$3,600 का जुर्माना भरने या अपनी संपर्क सूची से तीन संदर्भ देने को कहा गया।

Awareness Drives Ignored

जागरूकता अभियान की अनदेखी

• Ajith Kolassery, CEO of **NoRKA-Roots**, said awareness videos were circulated warning against IT jobs on **travel or visit visas** to **Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia**.

नोर्का-रूट्स के सीईओ अजीत कोलसेरी ने बताया कि थाईलैंड, म्यांमार, लाओस और कंबोडिया जैसे देशों में ट्रेवल या विजिट वीजा पर आईटी जॉब्स के लिए चेतावनी देने वाले वीडियो प्रसारित किए गए थे।

• Still, people continue to fall for such offers.

इसके बावजूद लोग ऐसे ऑफर्स में फँसते रहते हैं।

More Victims from Kerala

केरल के अन्य पीड़ित

• Arun (34) and Sujith (40) from **Ernakulam** managed to return but are **haunted** by their experience.

एर्नाकुलम के अरुण (34) और सुजीत (40) वापस तो आ गए, लेकिन अब भी उस अनुभव से डरे हुए हैं।

• Sujith M. from **Kollam** said he crossed into Myanmar **without any immigration check** and saw a **teenager with a machine gun** at the office entrance.

कोल्लम के सुजीत एम. ने बताया कि वे बिना किसी इमिग्रेशन जांच के म्यांमार में घुसे और कार्यालय के बाहर मशीन गन लिए एक किशोर को देखा।

• He was held **captive for three months**, had **restricted phone use**, and could only access the internet via **VPN**.

उन्हें तीन महीने तक बंदी बनाकर रखा गया, फोन का उपयोग सीमित था, और VPN से ही इंटरनेट चला सकते थे।

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- His **job is lost**, and his **marriage plans** are now in jeopardy.
उनकी नौकरी चली गई और उनकी शादी की योजना अब संकट में है।
- A case involving a **Chinese national** helped rescue people of many nationalities.
एक चीनी नागरिक के मामले से कई देशों के लोगों को बचाया जा सका।
- On returning, they were **interrogated by law enforcement**, which caused further **embarrassment**.
वापसी पर, उन्हें कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों ने पूछताछ की, जिससे और भी शर्मिंदगी हुई।

Fear of Legal Trouble

कानूनी मुसीबत का डर

- Kerala Police are skeptical and may **press charges** if any complaints are filed.
केरल पुलिस संदेह में है और अगर कोई शिकायत दर्ज होती है तो मुकदमा चलाया जा सकता है।
- Evacuees fear being seen as **scammers** despite being victims.
पीड़ितों को डर है कि उन्हें ठग समझा जाएगा।
- Arun says he did **nothing wrong**, but fear and uncertainty still remain.
अरुण कहते हैं कि उन्होंने कुछ गलत नहीं किया, फिर भी डर और असमंजस बना हुआ है।

Larger Recruitment Network

बड़े पैमाने पर भर्ती नेटवर्क

- S. Irudaya Rajan from **International Institute of Migration and Development** calls this a '**labour mafia**' network operating via **agents in India and Southeast Asia**.
इंटरनेशनल इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ माइग्रेशन एंड डेवलपमेंट के एस. इरुदया राजन ने इसे 'लेबर माफिया' कहा जो भारत और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में एजेंटों के माध्यम से काम करता है।
- He suggests starting **pre-departure orientation** in **colleges** to detect **fake job offers**.
वे सुझाव देते हैं कि कॉलेजों में ही विदेश यात्रा पूर्व प्रशिक्षण शुरू किया जाए ताकि फर्जी नौकरी के ऑफर को पहचाना जा सके।

Cybersecurity Warnings

साइबर सुरक्षा की चेतावनियाँ

- Nandakishore Harikumar, a **cybersecurity entrepreneur**, found around **4,000 Facebook ads** for such recruitments during **May and June 2024**.

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



साइबर सुरक्षा उद्यमी नंदकिशोर हरिकुमार ने मई और जून 2024 में ऐसी भर्ती के लगभग 4,000 फेसबुक विज्ञापन देखे।

Why Indians Are Targeted

भारतीय क्यों निशाने पर हैं

- Indians are recruited to interact in **local languages**, creating **more trust** among victims. भारतीयों को **स्थानीय भाषाओं** में बातचीत करने के लिए भर्ती किया जाता है ताकि **विश्वास** बढ़ाया जा सके।
- These scams thrive in **Southeast Asia** due to **lax laws** and **poor enforcement**. ये घोटाले **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया** में **कानूनों की ढील** और **कम प्रवर्तन** के कारण फलते-फूलते हैं।

Aneesh's Final Relief

अनीश की अंतिम राहत

- Aneesh is thankful he didn't sign the **contract** which would have forced him into **cybercrime**. अनीश खुश हैं कि उन्होंने वह **कॉन्ट्रैक्ट** साइन नहीं किया जो उन्हें **साइबर अपराध** करने पर मजबूर करता।
- He is now happy to be back with his **wife and son**. वे अब अपनी **पत्नी और बेटे** के साथ लौटकर खुश हैं।
- Despite escaping, these youth face an **uncertain future**, **humiliation**, and the **fear of being misunderstood**. बचने के बावजूद, इन युवाओं को **अनिश्चित भविष्य**, **अपमान** और **गलत समझे जाने के डर** का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।



Equity MF inflows sink to an 11-month low amid volatility

Notable decline seen in **sectoral and thematic mutual funds**, where net inflows fell 97% to ₹170 cr. in March, the steepest since June 2023; contributing **SIP accounts** dipped to 8.11 crore in March

GS Paper III: Capital Market

Asnokamitran I.

MUMBAI

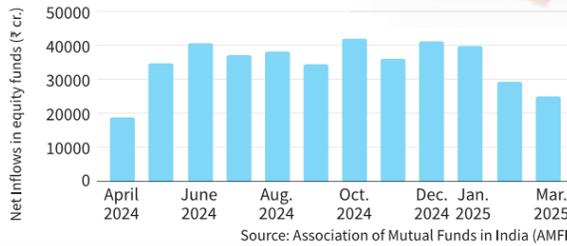
Net inflows into equity mutual fund schemes in March declined 14.4% to ₹25,082 crore, amid global market shocks, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

The inflows have been declining for three consecutive months and was in the negative for half of fiscal year 2024-25.

To a query on slowing equity inflows, AMFI's chief executive Venkat Chalasani said, "Inflows have definitely come down

Losing appeal

The flows have dipped to an 11-month low in March, registering a 14% decline compared with February



slightly... from ₹29,303 crore during the month of February to ₹25,082 crore in March."

"Redeeming feature is that there is positive

growth across all the schemes, except in respect of sectoral and thematic funds, where you have witnessed a marginal negative cash flow of ₹170 crore,"

Mr. Chalasani said at a media briefing. A notable decline in inflows was noticed in sectoral and thematic mutual funds, where net inflows fell 97% to ₹170 crore in March.

This was the steepest decline since June 2023.

The number of contributing SIP accounts reduced to 8.11 crore in March from 8.26 crore in the previous month. The number of contributing SIP accounts have been reducing for the past three months. SIP contributions also reduced to ₹25,926 crore in March from about ₹26,000 crore in February.

Equity MF inflows sink to an 11-month low amid volatility

अस्थिरता के बीच इक्विटी म्यूचुअल फंड प्रवाह 11 महीनों के निचले स्तर पर पहुंचा

Net inflows into equity mutual fund schemes in March declined 14.4% to ₹25,082 crore, due to global market shocks, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

मार्च में इक्विटी म्यूचुअल फंड योजनाओं में शुद्ध प्रवाह 14.4% घटकर ₹25,082 करोड़ रह गया, जिसका कारण वैश्विक बाजार के झटके बताए गए हैं, यह जानकारी एसोसिएशन ऑफ म्यूचुअल फंड्स इन इंडिया (AMFI) द्वारा दी गई।

- Inflows have been declining for three consecutive months and remained negative for half of fiscal year 2024-25.



पिछले तीन महीने से प्रवाह में गिरावट हो रही है और यह वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के आधे हिस्से में नकारात्मक रहा है।

- AMFI CEO Venkat Chalasani stated that inflows have slightly come down from ₹29,303 crore in February to ₹25,082 crore in March.

AMFI के सीईओ वेंकट चलासानी ने बताया कि प्रवाह में थोड़ी गिरावट आई है, फरवरी में ₹29,303 करोड़ से घटकर मार्च में ₹25,082 करोड़ हो गया है।

- There is still positive growth across all schemes, except for sectoral and thematic funds, where there was a marginal negative cash flow of ₹170 crore.

सभी योजनाओं में सकारात्मक वृद्धि देखने को मिली, लेकिन सेक्टरल और थीमैटिक फंड्स में ₹170 करोड़ का मामूली नकारात्मक नकदी प्रवाह देखा गया।

- Net inflows in sectoral and thematic mutual funds fell 97% to ₹170 crore in March — the steepest decline since June 2023.

सेक्टरल और थीमैटिक म्यूचुअल फंड्स में शुद्ध प्रवाह 97% घटकर ₹170 करोड़ रह गया, जो कि जून 2023 के बाद सबसे बड़ी गिरावट है।

- The number of contributing SIP accounts reduced to 8.11 crore in March from 8.26 crore in February.

मार्च में SIP योगदानकर्ताओं की संख्या घटकर 8.11 करोड़ रह गई, जो फरवरी में 8.26 करोड़ थी।

- SIP contributions also declined to ₹25,926 crore in March from approximately ₹26,000 crore in February.

मार्च में SIP का योगदान घटकर ₹25,926 करोड़ रह गया, जो कि फरवरी में लगभग ₹26,000 करोड़ था।

- The number of SIP contributors has been falling consistently for the past three months.

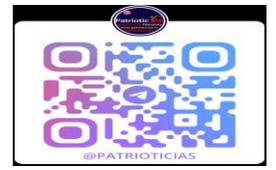
पिछले तीन महीनों से SIP योगदानकर्ताओं की संख्या लगातार घट रही है।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



Adopting AI harder than thought: Nilekani

GS Paper III: AI

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Artificial intelligence is “turning out to be far more difficult than we thought to actually make work at scale and useful to everyone,” said Infosys founder Nandan Nilekani.

For the technology to truly work, the “cost per inference” should be as low as ₹1, he said, referring to a computing parameter which is inexpensive for AI systems with a small number of parameters.

Adopting AI at scale is “even harder in the enterprise” world as companies

are far more cautious about handing over decision-making to models that are prone to errors, he said speaking at Carnegie India’s Global Technology Summit on Friday.

The most difficult is implementing AI in the public sector, he said, adding this was because the public sector has structural concerns. “It has ministries, it has departments, everybody is territorial. So data is not shared. If data is the lifeblood of AI, we have to find a way to bring all AI together, irrespective of which part of the government it comes from.”

Adopting AI harder than thought: Nilekani

एआई को अपनाना सोचे से कठिन: नंदन नीलेकणी

Artificial intelligence is turning out to be far more difficult than expected to make work at scale and useful to everyone, said Infosys founder Nandan Nilekani.

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



इन्फोसिस के संस्थापक नंदन नीलेकणी ने कहा कि आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस को बड़े स्तर पर प्रभावी बनाना और सभी के लिए उपयोगी बनाना सोचे से कहीं अधिक कठिन साबित हो रहा है।

- For the technology to truly work, the “cost per inference” should be as low as ₹1, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि इस तकनीक को वास्तव में काम करने के लिए "प्रति अनुमान लागत (cost per inference)" को ₹1 जितना कम होना चाहिए।

- This refers to a **computing parameter** that is inexpensive for **AI systems** with a **small number of parameters**.

यह एक कंप्यूटिंग पैरामीटर को दर्शाता है, जो कम पैरामीटर्स वाले एआई सिस्टम के लिए सस्ता होता है।

- Adopting AI at scale is **even harder in the enterprise world**, as companies are **more cautious** about **handing over decision-making** to models that are **prone to errors**, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि एंटरप्राइज दुनिया में बड़े स्तर पर एआई को अपनाना और भी कठिन है क्योंकि कंपनियां ऐसे मॉडल्स को निर्णय लेने की क्षमता सौंपने में अधिक सतर्क रहती हैं, जो त्रुटियों की संभावना रखते हैं।

- He was speaking at **Carnegie India's Global Technology Summit on Friday**.

वे शुक्रवार को कार्नेगी इंडिया के ग्लोबल टेक्नोलॉजी समिट में बोल रहे थे।

- He stated that the **most difficult** area is implementing AI in the **public sector**, due to its **structural concerns**.

उन्होंने कहा कि सबसे कठिन क्षेत्र है सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में एआई का कार्यान्वयन, क्योंकि वहां संरचनात्मक समस्याएं होती हैं।

- The public sector has **ministries and departments**, and everyone is **territorial**, so **data is not shared**, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में मंत्रालय और विभाग होते हैं, और हर कोई अपने क्षेत्र को लेकर संवेदनशील होता है, जिससे डेटा साझा नहीं किया जाता।

- He added that if **data is the lifeblood of AI**, then we must find a way to **bring all AI together**, regardless of **which part of the government** it originates from.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि अगर डेटा एआई का जीवन स्रोत है, तो हमें ऐसा तरीका ढूँढना होगा जिससे सभी एआई को एक साथ लाया जा सके, चाहे वह सरकार के किसी भी हिस्से से क्यों न हो



India 'eyeing win-win interim deal' with U.S. during the 90-day pause

GS Paper III: External Sector

NEW DELHI

Through video-conferences and soon-to-be scheduled physical meetings, the government is hard at work to sew up an interim trade deal with the U.S. on "win-win" terms for both countries in the 90-day tariff pause announced by President Donald Trump.

"We are in continuous engagement. It could be through video conferencing. It could be some visits both ways. Work has started. We are ahead of everybody else. Among various possibilities, the two sides could reach an agreement on tariffs within 90 days if it is a win-win for both," an official source told



Huge stakes: In 2024, India exported goods worth \$77.51 billion to the U.S. and its imports were worth \$42.19 billion. GETTY IMAGES

businessline.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump put on hold for 90 days the reciprocal tariffs, including the 26% levy on India. But a baseline tariff of 10% stays for all.

The proposed India-U.S. bilateral trade agreement (BTA) would, however,

take more time and steps are on to deliver the first tranche by fall of 2025, the official said. The terms of reference of the proposed BTA have already been signed by the two sides.

"Everything is on the table, both tariffs and non-tariff issues," the official said.

This indicates that issues such as intellectual property, government procurement, digital trade and data localisation, which the U.S. has been interested in for a long time, are also up for discussion.

Core focus

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said securing the country's interests would be of foremost concern in any negotiation.

"We never negotiate at gunpoint," he clarified.

In 2024, India exported goods worth \$77.51 billion to the U.S. and its imports were worth \$42.19 billion leading to a trade imbalance of over \$35 billion.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

India 'eyeing win-win interim deal' with U.S. during the 90-day pause

90-दिन की रोक के दौरान भारत और अमेरिका के बीच 'विन-विन अंतरिम समझौते' की तैयारी

The government is actively working to finalise an interim trade deal with the U.S. during the 90-day tariff pause announced by President Donald Trump.

राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा घोषित 90-दिन की टैरिफ रोक के दौरान सरकार अमेरिका के साथ एक अंतरिम व्यापार समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने पर सक्रिय रूप से काम कर रही है।

- Efforts are ongoing through video-conferencing and upcoming in-person meetings to complete the deal.



इस समझौते को पूरा करने के लिए वीडियो-कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग और आगामी प्रत्यक्ष बैठकों के माध्यम से प्रयास जारी हैं।

- An official source stated that work has already begun, and India is ahead of others in the discussions.

एक आधिकारिक सूत्र ने कहा कि काम पहले ही शुरू हो चुका है और भारत चर्चाओं में दूसरों से आगे है।

- If both sides find it mutually beneficial, a **tariff agreement** could be reached within **90 days**.

यदि दोनों पक्षों को यह पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी लगे, तो **90 दिनों के भीतर टैरिफ समझौता** हो सकता है।

- On **Wednesday**, Mr. Trump put a hold on **reciprocal tariffs**, including a **26% levy on India**, for **90 days**.

बुधवार को श्री ट्रंप ने भारत पर **26% शुल्क सहित पारस्परिक टैरिफ** को **90 दिनों के लिए** रोक दिया।

- However, a **baseline tariff of 10%** will remain applicable for all.

हालांकि, सभी के लिए **10% का मूल टैरिफ** लागू रहेगा।

- The full **bilateral trade agreement (BTA)** between India and the U.S. is expected to take more time.

भारत और अमेरिका के बीच पूर्ण **द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते (BTA)** में अभी और समय लगेगा।

- Work is in progress to deliver the **first tranche** of the BTA by **fall of 2025**.

2025 की शरद ऋतु तक BTA की **पहली किस्त** को लागू करने के लिए कार्य चल रहा है।

- The **terms of reference** for the BTA have already been signed by both countries.

BTA के **शर्तों के संदर्भ (terms of reference)** पर दोनों देशों द्वारा पहले ही हस्ताक्षर किए जा चुके हैं।

- **Tariff and non-tariff issues** such as **intellectual property, government procurement, digital trade, and data localisation** are all open for discussion.

बौद्धिक संपदा, सरकारी खरीद, डिजिटल व्यापार, और डेटा स्थानीयकरण जैसे टैरिफ और गैर-टैरिफ मुद्दे सभी चर्चा के लिए खुले हैं।

- **Core focus**

मुख्य फोकस

- Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** stated that **protecting India's interests** would be the top priority during negotiations.

वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने कहा कि बातचीत के दौरान **भारत के हितों की सुरक्षा** सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता होगी।

- He clarified that India "**never negotiates at gunpoint**".

उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि भारत कभी भी "**दबाव में बातचीत नहीं करता**"।

- In **2024**, India exported **\$77.51 billion** worth of goods to the U.S., while imports stood at **\$42.19 billion**, leading to a **trade imbalance of over \$35 billion**.

2024 में, भारत ने अमेरिका को **77.51 अरब डॉलर** के सामान का निर्यात किया, जबकि आयात **42.19**

अरब डॉलर का रहा, जिससे **35 अरब डॉलर से अधिक का व्यापार असंतुलन** हुआ।



Iron ore exports to China plummet in FY25 on output glut, slowdown

**GS Paper III:
Resources**

NEW DELHI

Iron ore exports to China, the largest buyer from India, have almost halved in FY25 to 24.14 million tonne (mt) from the year-earlier period following an economic slowdown and a glut in steel production in Asia's largest economy. Iron ore is key feedstock material in steel-making.

China, the world's largest crude steel producer, accounted for 80% of the iron-ore shipments from India; slightly lower than the 86% average it has maintained over a six-year-period (FY20 - FY25), data sourced from market research firm, BigMint, show. Supplies to China peaked



in FY24 when almost 95% of the exports, or 45.4 mt (out of 47.8 mt) went there.

Average realisations, sources said, were about the \$100 per tonne range for Indian exporters, 17% down on a y-o-y basis, as against \$120 mt for FY24. Existing iron ore price is

about \$110 a tonne range.

Exports slip

Overall, iron ore export shipments saw a sharp 35% decline y-o-y to 30.92 mt, from the 47.8 mt in the year-earlier period, as per the data. Exports of iron ore fines and lumps were recorded at almost 24 mt, while pellet sales overseas were assessed at 6.8 mt in the just-concluded fiscal.

In FY24, iron ore exports stood at 36.5 mt and pellets more than 11 mt, a three-year high.

"Demand for iron ore and pellets was lower because of a decline in steel production in FY25," a market participant told *businessline*. China produced 924 mt of crude steel bet-

ween April 2024 and February, a slight dip of 1% y-o-y, as per data of World Steel Association (WSA).

Steel production there has slowed due to spiralling debt crisis and overcapacity in real estate and construction - key consumer industries, slowdown in infrastructure projects, and so on.

"Therefore, even though iron ore imports (may look) high, the general slowdown in demand led to accumulation of port inventories in China, which further weighed on demand," BigMint said. Other major buyers of iron ore from India included Malaysia and Indonesia.

(The writer is with *The Hindu businessline*)

Iron ore exports to China plummet in FY25 on output glut, slowdown

FY25 में अधिक उत्पादन और मंदी के कारण चीन को लौह अयस्क निर्यात में भारी गिरावट

Iron ore exports to China, India's largest buyer, have dropped to 24.14 million tonnes in FY25, almost half compared to the previous year.

FY25 में, भारत के सबसे बड़े खरीदार चीन को लौह अयस्क का निर्यात घटकर 24.14 मिलियन टन रह गया, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में लगभग आधा है।



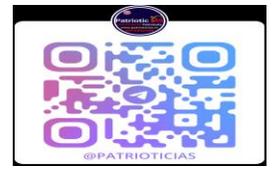
- The decline is due to an **economic slowdown** and a **glut in steel production** in China, Asia's largest economy.
इस गिरावट का कारण चीन में आर्थिक मंदी और स्टील उत्पादन में अधिकता है, जो एशिया की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है।
- **Iron ore** is a crucial **raw material** used in **steel-making**.
लौह अयस्क इस्पात निर्माण में उपयोग होने वाली एक महत्वपूर्ण कच्ची सामग्री है।
- **China**, the **world's largest crude steel producer**, accounted for **80%** of India's iron ore shipments in FY25.
चीन, जो दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा कच्चा इस्पात उत्पादक है, ने FY25 में भारत के लौह अयस्क निर्यात का **80%** हिस्सा खरीदा।
- This share is slightly lower than the **86% average** China maintained during **FY20–FY25**.
यह हिस्सा FY20 से FY25 के दौरान बनाए गए **86%** औसत से थोड़ा कम है।
- **Exports to China peaked** in FY24, when **95%** of total exports (or **45.4 mt out of 47.8 mt**) went there.
FY24 में, चीन को निर्यात उच्चतम स्तर पर था, जब कुल निर्यात का **95%** (या **47.8 में से 45.4 मिलियन टन**) वहां भेजा गया।
- **Average realisations** for Indian exporters were around **\$100 per tonne** in FY25, which is **17% lower** year-on-year from **\$120 per tonne** in FY24.
भारतीय निर्यातकों के लिए FY25 में औसत मूल्य प्राप्ति लगभग **\$100 प्रति टन** रही, जो FY24 के **\$120 प्रति टन** से **17% कम** है।
- The **current price** of iron ore stands around **\$110 per tonne**.
इस समय लौह अयस्क की कीमत लगभग **\$110 प्रति टन** है।
- **Exports slip**
निर्यात में गिरावट
- Overall **iron ore exports** fell by **35% year-on-year** to **30.92 million tonnes** in FY25, compared to **47.8 million tonnes** in the previous year.
FY25 में कुल लौह अयस्क निर्यात वर्ष-दर-वर्ष **35%** गिरकर **30.92 मिलियन टन** रह गया, जबकि पिछले वर्ष यह **47.8 मिलियन टन** था।
- Exports of **finest and lumps** were recorded at nearly **24 million tonnes**, while **pellet exports** stood at **6.8 million tonnes**.
लौह अयस्क फाईंस और लंप्स का निर्यात लगभग **24 मिलियन टन** रहा, जबकि पैलेट निर्यात **6.8 मिलियन टन** पर रहा।
- In FY24, iron ore exports were **36.5 million tonnes**, and pellet exports crossed **11 million tonnes** — the **highest in three years**.
FY24 में, लौह अयस्क निर्यात **36.5 मिलियन टन** था और पैलेट निर्यात **11 मिलियन टन** से अधिक रहा — जो **तीन वर्षों में सबसे अधिक** था।
- **Demand for iron ore and pellets** declined in FY25 due to a **drop in steel production**.
FY25 में स्टील उत्पादन में गिरावट के कारण लौह अयस्क और पैलेट की मांग में कमी आई।



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

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CONTACT: 9971932488



- **China produced 924 million tonnes** of crude steel between **April 2024 and February**, which is a **1% decline year-on-year**, according to **World Steel Association**.
चीन ने अप्रैल 2024 से फरवरी तक 924 मिलियन टन कच्चे इस्पात का उत्पादन किया, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में 1% कम है, यह जानकारी **वर्ल्ड स्टील एसोसिएशन** द्वारा दी गई है।
- Steel production in China slowed due to a **debt crisis, real estate overcapacity**, and delays in **infrastructure projects**.
चीन में कर्ज संकट, अत्यधिक रियल एस्टेट निर्माण क्षमता, और बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं में मंदी के कारण **स्टील उत्पादन धीमा** हुआ।
- Despite high imports, **demand slowdown** caused **accumulation of port inventories** in China, which further **reduced demand**.
भले ही आयात उच्च रहे, लेकिन मांग में गिरावट के कारण चीन के बंदरगाहों पर भंडारण बढ़ गया, जिससे मांग और भी कम हो गई।

Other major buyers of Indian iron ore include **Malaysia** and **Indonesia**.
भारत से लौह अयस्क के अन्य प्रमुख खरीदारों में **मलेशिया** और **इंडोनेशिया** शामिल हैं।