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PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

06 MAY 2025

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06_05_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

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1. Caste Census Presents Both Challenges and Opportunities

जाति जनगणना: चुनौतियाँ और अवसर दोनों प्रस्तुत करती है

2. The Implications of Caste Enumeration

जाति गणना के निहितार्थ

3. George Simion, the nationalist who topped Romania's presidential redo

जॉर्ज सिमियन, राष्ट्रवादी जिन्होंने रोमानिया के राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के दोहराव में जीत हासिल की

Shades of victory



GS Paper I: World History

Russian Su-25 jets fly over Red Square in Moscow on Monday, leaving smoke trails in the colours of the Russian national flag, during a rehearsal for the May 9 Victory Day military parade, which marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. AP



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GS Paper I: Society

Cast of characters

Caste census presents both challenges and opportunities

For the first time since 1931, Census forms will record the caste of Indians, but questions remain on the extent of the impact that the data would have on India's affirmative action programmes. Decadal censuses, until now, have categorised citizens as SCs, STs and as per religion. In decades of reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs, there have been concerns about which communities or individuals within these groups are able to access the benefits. The demands for a creamy layer to eliminate the economically better-off sections from reservation quotas, and for sub-categorisation to ensure smaller or relatively more backward communities are not crowded out, have gained moral and political legitimacy. The Supreme Court of India, last August, cleared the way for sub-categorisation within SCs and STs and the Justice G. Rohini Commission in 2023 finished a study to examine sub-categorisation within OBCs. The Court's judgment was quick to draw a sharp fault line within SC and ST communities on the issue of sub-categorisation and the potential for upset in the Commission's report has forced the government to keep its findings closely guarded. Caste groupings continue to be a determinant of political and social life and empirical data on these are essential for more effective development planning. However, the search for increased representativeness through slicing and relabelling of social groups could be an infinite process, leaving some group or the other always dissatisfied.

The other challenge is the logistics of how caste enumeration should be conducted in a country where community-based claims are numerous. The understanding of what caste is, the difference between a sub-caste and a caste group, and the reconciliation of the understanding of caste names with their morphing according to linguistic and regional variations are issues. This gap in understanding caste was reflected in the SECC 2011 dataset as well, which yielded more than 46 lakh different "castes". Apart from the fact that there is no repository of all castes except for the lists of SCs, STs, and OBCs, the question of how to classify communities as castes, tribes, or socially and educationally backward classes continues to be litigated in High Courts and the Court in the form of countless petitions for inclusion or exclusion. The decision to enumerate caste can also be an opportunity to arrive at a consensus on these questions. The political diatribe that accompanied caste enumeration exercises in Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana shows that this could be volatile. The Centre should build consensus on the details, now that all parties are in agreement with caste enumeration in principle. That will keep the integrity of its finding intact and beyond reproach.

Caste Census Presents Both Challenges and Opportunities

जाति जनगणना: चुनौतियाँ और अवसर दोनों प्रस्तुत करती

है

• For the **first time since 1931**, Census forms will record the caste of Indians.

• 1931 के बाद पहली बार, जनगणना प्रपत्रों में भारतीयों की जाति दर्ज की जाएगी।

• Decadal censuses until now have categorised citizens as **SCs, STs, and as per religion**.

• अब तक की हर दशक की जनगणनाओं में नागरिकों को केवल एससी, एसटी, और धर्म के आधार पर वर्गीकृत किया गया है।

• Over decades of **reservation** for SCs, STs, and **OBCs**, there have been concerns about which communities or individuals within these groups access the benefits.

• एससी, एसटी, और ओबीसी के लिए वर्षों से आरक्षण मिलने के बावजूद, यह चिंता बनी रही है कि इन समूहों के भीतर किन समुदायों या व्यक्तियों को लाभ मिल पा रहा है।

• The demands for a **creamy layer** to eliminate economically better-off sections and for **sub-categorisation** to ensure representation of smaller or more backward communities have gained moral and political support. **State of Punjab v Davinder Singh (2024)**, overturns the earlier decision in *E.V. Chinnaiah v State of Andhra Pradesh*. The Court acknowledges that SCs are not a homogenous group and that equitable affirmative action requires addressing internal disparities within the category.

• **क्रीमी लेयर** को बाहर करने और **उप-श्रेणीकरण** के ज़रिए छोटे या ज्यादा पिछड़े समुदायों को प्रतिनिधित्व देने की मांग को **नैतिक और राजनीतिक समर्थन** मिला है।

• The **Supreme Court of India**, in **August 2023**, cleared the way for **sub-categorisation** within **SCs and STs**.

• भारत के **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने अगस्त 2023 में एससी और एसटी के भीतर **उप-श्रेणीकरण** का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया।

• The **Justice G. Rohini Commission** completed a study in **2023** on **sub-categorisation within OBCs**.

• **न्यायमूर्ति जी. रोहिणी आयोग** ने 2023 में ओबीसी के भीतर **उप-श्रेणीकरण** पर अध्ययन पूरा किया।

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- The Court's ruling revealed sharp divisions within SC and ST communities over sub-categorisation, leading to the government keeping the Commission's report secret.
- कोर्ट के निर्णय ने एससी और एसटी समुदायों के भीतर उप-श्रेणीकरण पर गहरी दरार दिखा दी, जिससे सरकार ने आयोग की रिपोर्ट को गोपनीय रखा।

• **Caste groupings** still play a vital role in **political and social life**, making **empirical data** essential for better development planning.

- **जातीय समूह** आज भी **राजनीतिक और सामाजिक जीवन** में अहम भूमिका निभाते हैं, जिससे बेहतर विकास योजनाओं के लिए **आँकड़ों** की जरूरत है।

• However, continuously dividing and relabelling groups may become an **endless process**, leaving some groups always **dissatisfied**.

- हालांकि, समूहों को बार-बार विभाजित और पुनः वर्गीकृत करना एक **अंतहीन प्रक्रिया** बन सकता है, जिससे कोई न कोई समूह हमेशा **असंतुष्ट** रह सकता है।

Logistical and Conceptual Challenges in Caste Enumeration

जाति गणना में तार्किक और वैचारिक चुनौतियाँ

• The logistics of how **caste enumeration** should be conducted are a challenge in a country with **numerous community-based claims**.

- **जाति गणना** कैसे की जाए, यह एक बड़ी चुनौती है, खासकर उस देश में जहाँ **सामुदायिक दावों** की संख्या अत्यधिक है।

• Understanding the difference between **a sub-caste and a caste group**, and reconciling linguistic and regional variations in caste names, remains unresolved.

- **उप-जाति और जाति समूह** के बीच के अंतर को समझना और विभिन्न **भाषाई व क्षेत्रीय भिन्नताओं** को समायोजित करना अब भी एक चुनौती है।

• This confusion was also evident in the **SECC 2011**, which recorded over **46 lakh different castes**.

- यह भ्रम **SECC 2011** में भी दिखा था, जिसमें **46 लाख से अधिक अलग-अलग जातियाँ** दर्ज की गई थीं।

• There is no complete **repository of all castes** beyond the official **SC, ST, and OBC lists**.

- **एससी, एसटी, और ओबीसी** की सूची को छोड़कर सभी जातियों का कोई **संपूर्ण रिकॉर्ड** मौजूद नहीं है।

• The classification of communities as **castes, tribes, or socially and educationally backward classes** is still the subject of litigation in **High Courts**.

- समुदायों को **जाति, जनजाति, या सामाजिक और शैक्षिक रूप से पिछड़े वर्ग** के रूप में वर्गीकृत करने का मुद्दा अब भी **उच्च न्यायालयों** में विचाराधीन है।

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- There are **countless petitions** for inclusion or exclusion in these categories still pending in courts.
- इन वर्गों में **शामिल या बाहर** किए जाने को लेकर **असंख्य याचिकाएँ** अब भी अदालतों में लंबित हैं।
- The decision to conduct **caste enumeration** could help build a **national consensus** on these issues.
- **जाति गणना** का निर्णय इन मुद्दों पर एक **राष्ट्रीय सहमति** बनाने में सहायक हो सकता है।
- However, political controversies during caste surveys in **Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana** show the **volatile** nature of this process.
- हालांकि, **बिहार, कर्नाटक, और तेलंगाना** में जाति सर्वेक्षण के दौरान हुई **राजनीतिक हलचल** इस प्रक्रिया की **संवेदनशीलता** को दर्शाती है।
- Now that all political parties agree with caste enumeration **in principle**, the Centre should build **consensus on implementation details**.
- अब जब सभी राजनीतिक दल **सिद्धांत रूप में जाति गणना** पर सहमत हैं, तो केंद्र को **कार्यान्वयन के विवरण** पर सहमति बनानी चाहिए।
- Such consensus will preserve the **integrity** of the data and keep it **beyond reproach**.
- ऐसी सहमति डेटा की **प्रामाणिकता** को बनाए रखेगी और इसे **आलोचना से परे** रखेगी।

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The implications of caste enumeration

While there is a vast political leadership who came through the lanes of OBC politics, there has also been a concentration of certain OBC communities in these spaces. The upcoming Census, with caste enumeration, could create a window of opportunity for the inclusion of those communities who have been left behind

GS Paper I: Society
FULL CONTEXT

Rama Shanker Singh
Sarthak Bagchi

Numbers are the basis of governance; without them, the state loses confidence. In government offices, one may see that every item – electrical panels, fans, chairs – is meticulously numbered and logged, forming the foundation of administrative records. Thus, governments categorise and quantify all things. As Arjun Appadurai said, every commodity has its own social and political life – this principle also applies to the census of humankind.

Since the emergence of the modern state in India, populations have been enumerated. The first colonial Census conducted in 1872 generated statistical data, allowing the British to control India and regulate every aspect of Indian life. While the Census was seen as an administrative enumeration, a statistical activity more than a political act of a reorganisation of groups, the introduction of the caste Census by H.H. Risley made the Census into a political instrument in a way it had never been used before. Risley had a dramatic influence on the rise of caste organisations and the exploding production of literature about the caste system from all over the subcontinent.

Caste count pre-Independence
In the late 19th century, upper-caste Indian elites sought political reforms and representation from the British. The Census figures enabled the colonial government to reshape India's complex social and cultural fabric through revenue taxation, education, and new opportunities generated in universities, public services and of course legislative bodies. This eventually led to the creation of a supporter base among upper-caste Indian elites for the British.

However, with time, subaltern communities also began seeking access to education and political representation. Dr. B.K. Ambekar's emergence after the 1930s, challenged upper-caste hegemony, creating space for Dalits or the Backward Classes, as they were known then.

While the Government of India Act, 1935 and the Indian Constitution brought dignity and equality to Dalits and Adivasis, thousands of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) were overlooked by the Constituent Assembly during this pivotal moment.

Defining the OBC category

In 1953, the Kaka Kalelkar Commission was established to identify OBC communities and propose welfare measures. In its 1955 report, the commission identified as many as 2,300 communities as OBCs. However, the report was not implemented due to vague criteria and lack of political consensus. In fact, the report received negative feedback from the then Congress Home Minister G.B. Pant, who thought that the emphasis on caste demonstrated "the dangers of separatism" and was "the greatest hindrance in the way of our progress toward an egalitarian society."

During this period, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia articulated a contrarian but transformative vision – "We should follow a new principle that merit comes from opportunity. Sixty per cent of the high opportunities of the country should go to 90% of India's population – Shudras, Harijans, backward castes of religious minorities, women, and tribals. This principle should be applied to the most



Upcoming exercise: Congress workers celebrate the Centre's decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming national Census, in Noida, on May 2, 2021

competitive exams and I reject the Prime Minister's (Jawaharlal Nehru) arguments, which rest on the deceptive foundation of merit and qualifications," as articulated in the *Rammanohar Lohia Rachanawali*, a compilation of the works of Ram Manohar Lohia.

After Lohia's intervention, the Mandal Commission in its 1980 report recommended a 27% reservation for OBCs in central government jobs and educational institutions, noting that OBCs constitute approximately 52% of India's population, on the basis of the 1931 caste Census data. In 1990, the V.P. Singh government allowed the partial implementation of Mandal Commission reports, generating much political heat across the country. However, the ensuing debate around reservations for the backward classes also raised the issue of a lack of new and more relevant data for more accurate policymaking, giving momentum to the demand for a caste census from this period on.

Incidentally, between the Kaka Kalelkar Commission and Mandal Commission, the Mungeri Lal Commission was set up by former Bihar Chief Minister Karpooi Thakur in Bihar, which also recommended reservations for the backward classes.

The impact of the Mandal report

The implementation of the Mandal Commission report has significantly changed the contours of OBC politics in the country, hastening the dominance of the backward castes, especially the intermediary castes. There is now not a single party in India which can oppose OBC reservations. Even in the 2024 parliamentary elections, reservation (or the perceived threat of its removal) was a key issue.

Since 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been

garnering strong support from OBC and Scheduled Castes within the broader Hindutva framework. To reclaim this support, regional parties have expanded their social and electoral base, and have been tirelessly demanding for a Census where caste is also enumerated. In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party led by Akhilesh Yadav, has created a fruitful alliance with backward classes, Dalits, and minorities, by emphasising on proportional representation for castes. The party secured 37 Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh. Recently, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi admitted that the party failed to prioritise OBCs and other reserved categories in the past and that they are ready to amend it. As part of the INDIA alliance's Lok Sabha election agenda, he advocated for a Census where caste is enumerated, aiming to consolidate Congress's traditional voter base while also appealing to OBC, Dalit, minorities and Adivasi constituencies. This, he said, will be like a comprehensive "X-ray" of Indian society.

While there is a vast political leadership who came through the lanes of OBC politics and have reached high positions in political parties and legislative spaces, there are fault lines in it. There is a concentration of certain communities in these spaces, especially of intermediary and extremely backward castes. The new Census, with caste enumeration, could create a window of opportunity for the inclusion of those communities who have been left behind. This Census will extend beyond OBCs, encompassing other subaltern communities and minorities. It will also bring out the number of privileged castes. It will reveal demographic compositions, and, if economic data like land ownership is included, the social roots of India's economic inequality. For smaller Scheduled Castes and OBCs lacking

prominent leaders, this Census will offer a vital opportunity for visibility and advocacy, as land reforms and economic equality efforts have failed, deepening caste-based oppression and marginalisation. It will also give voice to, and more importantly, numbers of denotified and nomadic communities.

An electoral agenda

If one looks at the recent victory of the BJP in Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh, one understands how the BJP has attracted small communities to its fold. Social scientist Badri Narayan has been highlighting this phenomenon for a long time now. In Bihar, where Assembly elections are due later this year, the BJP would want to use its recent decision to conduct a caste count in the upcoming Census, along with the symbolism of honouring Karpooi Thakur with a Bharat Ratna Award, to effectively mobilise the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC). This is to bolster its own social base and improve its political standing, taking the wind out of its ally Nitish Kumar, who has been basking in the glory of carrying out the caste survey in Bihar earlier and has been the beneficiary of EBC support so far. Through the proposed caste enumeration with the Census, the BJP will try to reshape the caste realities of India and consolidate its appeal among a largely untapped voter base. It will try to cement its presence in States where it was a non-dominant player at best. Other national and regional parties will likely pursue similar strategies, but their success to find a foothold in these realigned caste realities will depend on their leadership and party organisation.

Rama Shanker Singh is an independent historian and author of the book Nadi Putra: Uttar Bharat mein Nisadh aur Nadi. Sarthak Bagchi teaches in Ahmedabad University.

THE GIST

▼ The Census figures enabled the colonial government to reshape India's complex social and cultural fabric through revenue taxation, education, and new opportunities generated in universities, public services and of course legislative bodies.

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The Implications of Caste Enumeration



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जाति गणना के निहितार्थ

- While many political leaders have emerged from OBC politics, only certain OBC communities have dominated the political space.
- भले ही कई राजनीतिक नेता ओबीसी राजनीति से उभरे हैं, लेकिन केवल कुछ ओबीसी समुदायों ने राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में वर्चस्व बनाया है।
- The upcoming Census with caste enumeration can open a window of inclusion for communities that were left behind.
- आने वाली जनगणना में जाति गणना के साथ, उन समुदायों के लिए समावेश का अवसर खुल सकता है जो पीछे रह गए थे।
- Numbers are the foundation of governance; without them, the state loses confidence.
- आंकड़े शासन की नींव हैं; इनके बिना राज्य का आत्मविश्वास कमजोर हो जाता है।
- In government offices, every item like electrical panels, fans, chairs is carefully numbered and recorded.
- सरकारी कार्यालयों में, इलेक्ट्रिकल पैनल, पंखे, कुर्सियाँ जैसी हर वस्तु को सावधानीपूर्वक नंबर दिया और दर्ज किया जाता है।
- Arjun Appadurai emphasized that every commodity has a social and political life, which applies to human census as well.
- अर्जुन अप्पादुराई ने कहा कि हर वस्तु का एक सामाजिक और राजनीतिक जीवन होता है, जो मानव जनगणना पर भी लागू होता है।
- **Census During Colonial India**
 - औपनिवेशिक भारत में जनगणना
 - The first colonial Census in 1872 produced statistical data to help the British control India and regulate life.
 - 1872 में हुई पहली औपनिवेशिक जनगणना ने आंकड़ों के माध्यम से ब्रिटिश शासन को भारत को नियंत्रित करने और जीवन को व्यवस्थित करने में मदद की।
 - Though initially seen as an administrative exercise, the introduction of caste Census by H.H. Risley turned it into a political tool.
 - हालांकि शुरुआत में इसे प्रशासनिक कार्य माना गया था, लेकिन एच.एच. रिसले द्वारा जाति जनगणना की शुरुआत ने इसे राजनीतिक उपकरण बना दिया।
 - Risley's work stimulated the rise of caste organisations and led to a flood of caste-related literature across India.
 - रिसले के कार्यों से जातीय संगठनों का उदय हुआ और भारत भर में जाति विषयक साहित्य का विस्तार हुआ।



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• Pre-Independence Caste Count and Elitism

• स्वतंत्रता से पहले की जाति गणना और उच्च वर्गीय प्रभुत्व

• In the late 19th century, upper-caste elites demanded political reforms and representation from the British.

• 19वीं सदी के उत्तरार्ध में, उच्च जातीय अभिजात वर्ग ने ब्रिटिशों से राजनीतिक सुधार और प्रतिनिधित्व की मांग की।

• Census data enabled British authorities to reshape India's **social and cultural systems** using tools like **taxation, education, and public services**.

• जनगणना के आंकड़ों ने ब्रिटिश अधिकारियों को राजस्व, शिक्षा और लोक सेवाओं जैसे माध्यमों से भारत की सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक व्यवस्था को बदलने में मदद की।

• This helped form **upper-caste support bases** for the **colonial government**.

• इससे औपनिवेशिक सरकार के लिए उच्च जातियों का समर्थन आधार तैयार हुआ।

• Rise of Subaltern Demands and Dr. Ambedkar

• दलित-वंचित मांगों का उदय और डॉ. आंबेडकर

• With time, **subaltern communities** demanded **education and political rights**.

• समय के साथ, दलित-वंचित समुदायों ने शिक्षा और राजनीतिक अधिकारों की मांग की।

• After the **1930s**, **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** emerged and **challenged upper-caste dominance**, advocating for **Dalits and Backward Classes**.

• 1930 के बाद, डॉ. भीमराव आंबेडकर ने उभरकर ऊंची जातियों के प्रभुत्व को चुनौती दी और दलितों तथा पिछड़ी जातियों के लिए आवाज़ उठाई।

• Though the **1935 Government of India Act** and the **Indian Constitution** brought **dignity and equality** for **Dalits and Adivasis**, many **OBCs** were left out.

• हालांकि 1935 का भारत सरकार अधिनियम और भारतीय संविधान ने दलितों और आदिवासियों को गरिमा और समानता दी, फिर भी कई ओबीसी समुदाय इससे वंचित रह गए।

• Defining and Recognizing OBCs

• ओबीसी की पहचान और परिभाषा

• In **1953**, the **Kaka Kalelkar Commission** was set up to **identify OBCs** and recommend **welfare measures**.

• 1953 में काका कालेलकर आयोग का गठन किया गया ताकि ओबीसी की पहचान की जा सके और उनके लिए कल्याणकारी उपाय सुझाए जा सकें।

• The **1955 report** identified **2,300 communities** as OBCs, but it was **not implemented** due to **vague criteria** and lack of **political consensus**.



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• 1955 की रिपोर्ट में 2,300 समुदायों को ओबीसी माना गया, लेकिन अस्पष्ट मापदंडों और राजनीतिक सहमति की कमी के कारण इसे लागू नहीं किया गया।

• Then **Home Minister G.B. Pant** criticized the report, calling caste focus “**dangerous separatism**” and a threat to **egalitarianism**.

• उस समय के गृह मंत्री जी.बी. पंत ने रिपोर्ट की आलोचना की और जाति पर जोर को "विभाजनकारी खतरा" और समानता के मार्ग में बाधा बताया।

• Lohia's Vision and Opportunity-Based Merit

• लोहिया की दृष्टि और अवसर आधारित योग्यता

• **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia** opposed Nehru's idea of merit and said **opportunity creates merit**.

• डॉ. राम मनोहर लोहिया ने नेहरू की योग्यता की अवधारणा का विरोध किया और कहा कि अवसर ही योग्यता को जन्म देता है।

• Lohia advocated that **60% of opportunities** should go to **90% of Indians** — including **Shudras, Harijans, backward Muslims, women, and tribals**.

• लोहिया ने यह सुझाव दिया कि देश के **60% अवसर** भारत की **90% आबादी** को मिलने चाहिए — जिनमें शूद्र, हरिजन, पिछड़े मुसलमान, महिलाएं और आदिवासी शामिल हैं।

• He called for this principle to be applied to **competitive exams**, rejecting the **elitist definition of merit**.

• उन्होंने यह सिद्धांत प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं में लागू करने की बात कही और योग्यता की अभिजात परिभाषा को अस्वीकार कर दिया।

• Mandal Commission and 1990 Implementation

• मंडल आयोग और 1990 में कार्यान्वयन

• The **Mandal Commission (1980)** estimated **OBCs as 52%** of the population based on **1931 caste Census**.

• मंडल आयोग (1980) ने 1931 की जाति जनगणना के आधार पर ओबीसी की जनसंख्या 52% आंकी।

• It recommended **27% reservation** in **central government jobs** and **educational institutions** for OBCs.

• इसने ओबीसी के लिए केंद्र सरकार की नौकरियों और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में 27% आरक्षण की सिफारिश की।

• In **1990**, the **V.P. Singh government** partially implemented this, triggering **nationwide political debates**.

• 1990 में, वी.पी. सिंह सरकार ने इसे आंशिक रूप से लागू किया, जिससे देश भर में राजनीतिक बहस छिड़ गई।



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- The controversy highlighted the **absence of updated caste data**, strengthening the demand for a **fresh caste census**.
- विवाद ने नवीन जाति आंकड़ों की कमी को उजागर किया और नई जाति जनगणना की मांग को बल दिया।

• Mungeri Lal Commission in Bihar

• बिहार में मुंगेरी लाल आयोग

- **Between the Kalelkar and Mandal Commissions, Karpoori Thakur, then Bihar CM, established the Mungeri Lal Commission.**
- कालेलकर और मंडल आयोग के बीच, उस समय के बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री कर्पूरी ठाकुर ने मुंगेरी लाल आयोग का गठन किया।
- It also recommended **reservations for backward classes** in Bihar.
- इस आयोग ने भी बिहार में पिछड़े वर्गों के लिए आरक्षण की सिफारिश की थी।

The Impact of the Mandal Report

मंडल रिपोर्ट का प्रभाव

- The implementation of the **Mandal Commission report** significantly changed the contours of **OBC politics** in India, accelerating the dominance of **backward castes**, particularly **intermediary castes**.
- **मंडल आयोग रिपोर्ट** के लागू होने से भारत में **ओबीसी राजनीति** की दिशा में बड़ा बदलाव आया और **पिछड़ी जातियों**, खासकर **मध्यवर्ती जातियों** का वर्चस्व तेज़ी से बढ़ा।
- Today, there is no major political party in India that can openly oppose **OBC reservations**.
- आज भारत में कोई भी प्रमुख राजनीतिक दल **ओबीसी आरक्षण** का खुला विरोध नहीं कर सकता।
- Even in the **2024 parliamentary elections**, **reservation** and the fear of its potential removal emerged as a **key electoral issue**.
- यहां तक कि **2024 के लोकसभा चुनावों** में भी आरक्षण और इसके हटाए जाने की आशंका एक **मुख्य चुनावी मुद्दा** बनी रही।

BJP's Mobilisation of OBCs and Castes Post-2014

2014 के बाद भाजपा द्वारा ओबीसी और जातियों का समर्थन जुटाना

- Since **2014**, the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has successfully attracted support from **OBCs and Scheduled Castes**, framing it within a broader **Hindutva narrative**.

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• 2014 से, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) ने ओबीसी और अनुसूचित जातियों का समर्थन बड़े पैमाने पर प्राप्त किया है, जिसे उन्होंने व्यापक हिंदुत्व ढांचे में रखा है।

• In response, **regional parties** have expanded their **social and electoral base** and strongly demanded a **Caste Census**.

• इसके जवाब में, क्षेत्रीय दलों ने अपने सामाजिक और चुनावी आधार का विस्तार किया और जातिगत जनगणना की जोरदार मांग की।

• In **Uttar Pradesh**, the **Samajwadi Party** led by **Akhilesh Yadav** has successfully built an alliance of **backward castes, Dalits, and minorities**, emphasizing **proportional representation**.

• उत्तर प्रदेश में, अखिलेश यादव के नेतृत्व वाली समाजवादी पार्टी ने पिछड़ी जातियों, दलितों और अल्पसंख्यकों का सफल गठबंधन बनाया है, जो अनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व पर जोर देता है।

• The **Samajwadi Party won 37 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh during the 2024 elections**.

• समाजवादी पार्टी ने 2024 के लोकसभा चुनावों में उत्तर प्रदेश से 37 सीटें जीतीं।

Congress's Shift Toward OBC Inclusion

ओबीसी समावेशन की ओर कांग्रेस का झुकाव

• **Rahul Gandhi** recently acknowledged that the **Congress party** failed to prioritise **OBCs** and other reserved communities in the past.

• हाल ही में राहुल गांधी ने माना कि कांग्रेस पार्टी अतीत में ओबीसी और अन्य आरक्षित वर्गों को प्राथमिकता देने में विफल रही।

• As part of the **INDIA alliance's 2024 Lok Sabha election agenda**, Rahul Gandhi supported the **Caste Census**, describing it as a **complete "X-ray" of Indian society**.

• 2024 के लोकसभा चुनावों के लिए इंडिया गठबंधन के एजेंडे के हिस्से के रूप में, राहुल गांधी ने जातिगत जनगणना का समर्थन किया और इसे भारतीय समाज की पूर्ण "एक्स-रे" बताया।

• The strategy aimed to consolidate **Congress's traditional base** while appealing to **OBC, Dalit, minority, and Adivasi** groups.

• यह रणनीति कांग्रेस के पारंपरिक आधार को मजबूत करने के साथ-साथ ओबीसी, दलित, अल्पसंख्यक और आदिवासी समूहों को लुभाने की कोशिश थी।

Structural Fault Lines in OBC Politics

ओबीसी राजनीति में संरचनात्मक खामियाँ

• Many political leaders have emerged from **OBC backgrounds** and reached high positions, but **representation is skewed**, especially favouring **intermediary and extremely backward**

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castes.

• कई नेता ओबीसी पृष्ठभूमि से उभरकर ऊँचे पदों तक पहुंचे हैं, लेकिन प्रतिनिधित्व असमान है, खासकर मध्यवर्ती और अत्यंत पिछड़ी जातियों के पक्ष में।

• A Caste Census could help include **left-out communities**, especially those **without prominent political leaders**.

• एक जातिगत जनगणना उन छूटी हुई जातियों को शामिल करने में मदद कर सकती है, विशेष रूप से जिनके पास प्रमुख नेता नहीं हैं।

• The Census will not just focus on **OBCs**, but will also include **subaltern communities and minorities**.

• यह जनगणना केवल ओबीसी पर केंद्रित नहीं होगी, बल्कि इसमें वंचित समुदाय और अल्पसंख्यक भी शामिल होंगे।

• It may also reveal **privileged castes, demographic data**, and if extended to **economic indicators like land ownership**, it could highlight **the roots of inequality**.

• यह सवर्ण जातियों, जनसांख्यिकी आंकड़ों और यदि इसमें भूमि स्वामित्व जैसे आर्थिक संकेतक शामिल किए जाएँ, तो यह असमानता की जड़ों को उजागर कर सकती है।

• For **smaller Scheduled Castes and OBCs**, the Census offers a crucial chance for **visibility and advocacy**, since **land reforms and economic efforts have largely failed**.

• छोटी अनुसूचित जातियों और ओबीसी जातियों के लिए, यह जनगणना दृश्यता और पक्षधरता का एक अहम अवसर देगी, क्योंकि भूमि सुधार और आर्थिक प्रयास अक्सर विफल रहे हैं।

• It will also provide recognition to **denotified and nomadic communities** by giving them **statistical representation**.

• यह अवपंजीकृत और घुमंतू समुदायों को सांख्यिकीय प्रतिनिधित्व देकर पहचान दिलाने में मदद करेगा।

Caste Census as an Electoral Agenda

चुनावी एजेंडे के रूप में जातिगत जनगणना

• In States like **Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh**, the BJP has gained support from **smaller caste groups**.

• हरियाणा, राजस्थान, दिल्ली, मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़ और उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे राज्यों में भाजपा ने छोटी जातियों के समूहों का समर्थन हासिल किया है।

• **Social scientist Badri Narayan** has long noted this trend of **smaller caste mobilisation** by the BJP.

• सामाजिक वैज्ञानिक बद्री नारायण लंबे समय से भाजपा द्वारा छोटी जातियों को संगठित करने की प्रवृत्ति को उजागर करते रहे हैं।

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• In Bihar, where **Assembly elections** are expected later in **2025**, the BJP is using its **decision to conduct a caste count in the Census** and the **Bharat Ratna for Karpoori Thakur** to attract **Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs)**.

• बिहार में, जहां **2025 के अंत में विधानसभा चुनाव** संभावित हैं, भाजपा अपने **जाति गणना के फैसले** और **कर्पूरी ठाकुर को भारत रत्न देने के प्रतीकवाद का उपयोग कर अत्यंत पिछड़ी जातियों (EBCs) को लुभा रही है।**

• This strategy seeks to **expand the BJP's social base** and **weaken Nitish Kumar's EBC support**, which had previously been strong due to the **Bihar caste survey**.

• यह रणनीति भाजपा के **सामाजिक आधार को बढ़ाने** और **नीतीश कुमार के ईबीसी समर्थन को कमजोर करने की कोशिश है, जो पहले बिहार जाति सर्वेक्षण के कारण मजबूत था।**

• By pushing for a **Caste Census**, the BJP aims to reshape **India's caste realities** and gain ground in **states where it was earlier weak**.

• **जातिगत जनगणना को आगे बढ़ाकर भाजपा भारत की जातिगत वास्तविकताओं को नया रूप देना चाहती है और उन राज्यों में पकड़ बनाना चाहती है जहाँ वह पहले कमजोर थी।**

• Other parties may adopt similar strategies, but their **success will depend on leadership quality** and **party organisation**.

• अन्य दल भी ऐसी रणनीतियाँ अपना सकते हैं, लेकिन उनकी **सफलता उनके नेतृत्व की गुणवत्ता और पार्टी संगठन पर निर्भर करेगी।**



George Simion, the nationalist who topped Romania's presidential redo

The 38-year-old leader of the hard-right Alliance for the Unity will face a pro-Western reformist in a May 18 run-off that could reshape the European Union and NATO member country's geopolitical direction; a supporter of Trump, he says his party is 'perfectly aligned with the MAGA movement'

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BUCHAREST

George Simion, a nationalist and vocal supporter of the U.S. President Donald Trump, won Romania's first-round presidential election redo by a landslide after capitalising on widespread anti-establishment sentiment.

The 38-year-old leader of the hard-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR, will face a pro-Western reformist in a May 18 run-off that could reshape the European Union and NATO member country's geopolitical direction.

Romania's political landscape was upended last year when a top court voided the previous election in which the far-right outsider Calin Georgescu topped first round. The decision followed allegations of electoral violations and Russian interference, which Moscow has denied.

"For 35 years, the Romanian people lived the lie that we are a democratic country," Mr. Simion, who came fourth in last year's race and later backed Mr. Georgescu, said last week. "And now the people are awakening."

Born in 1986 in Romania's eastern city of Focsani, Mr. Simion took a Bachelor's degree in Business and Administration in Bu-



The leader of Alliance for Uniting Romanians party, George Simion, in Bucharest, Romania. FILE PHOTO

charest, and later a master's degree at a university in the northeastern city of Iasi researching communist-era crimes.

He took part in civic activism, including joining a protest movement against a controversial gold mining project by a Canadian company in a mountainous western region of Romania that contains some of Europe's largest gold deposits. He also campaigned for reunification with neighbouring Moldova.

Founding of AUR

In 2019, Mr. Simion founded the AUR party, which rose to prominence in a 2020 parliamentary election by proclaiming to stand for "family, nation,

faith, and freedom," and has since doubled its support to become Romania's second-largest party in the legislature. It opposes same-sex marriage and has close ties to the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Mr. Simion supports Mr. Trump and said that the AUR party is "perfectly aligned with the MAGA movement," referring to the U.S. President's Make America Great Again movement.

Mr. Simion's political platform has been built on a fiercely anti-establishment agenda and populist rhetoric. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his party staged multiple protests against vaccination and lockdowns, capitalising on

a widespread distrust of the authorities. He labelled the cancelled election last year a "coup d'etat," and adopted stronger populist rhetoric and religious messaging to tap into Mr. Georgescu's electorate. He has branded Romania's current political system as a "hybrid regime" that failed to deliver democracy after the 1989 revolution toppled communism.

"They voted for the change, and they were not allowed to make this change," he said. "This is why I'm running again as a duty towards democracy, towards the constitutional order, to restore the rule of law, to restore the will of the Romanian people."

A Simion presidency

would pose unique foreign policy conundrums. His activities in Moldova led to an expulsion and multiple entry bans on allegations of trying to destabilise the country. He is also banned from entering neighbouring Ukraine for "systemic anti-Ukrainian" activities. "It is in their interest to have good relations with us," he said.

In March, Mr. Simion sparked controversy after remarking during a protest that those responsible for barring Mr. Georgescu's second bid for presidency should be "skinned in a public square," prompting prosecutors to launch a criminal probe for inciting violence. He denied the accusation saying it was a political metaphor.

'Russia a threat'

Observers have long viewed him of being pro-Russian and warn that his presidency would undermine both Brussels and NATO as the war rages on in Ukraine. He refuted the accusations as a "smear campaign" by leftists and said Russia has been the "main threat" to Romania in the last 200 years and remains so today.

"This is why we need a strong NATO and we need troops on the ground in Romania, in Poland and in the Baltic states," he said, although he was against sending further military

aid to Ukraine.

"The danger is not who will be the next President of Romania but ... those who want to create a distance and to form two different opposing geopolitical blocs" between the European Union and the U.S., he said.

On the EU, Mr. Simion said, "We want more power to the 27 states, not toward the European institutions," and that he is "totally aligned" with the position of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who was the only EU head of government to attend Mr. Trump's inauguration in January.

Siegfried Muresan, a Romanian member of the European Parliament, said on Monday that a Simion presidency would be "bad news" for Romania and Europe, and accused the AUR leader of having "disdain for democratic processes."

"George Simion is not a conservative politician. He is an anti-European extremist. His election would endanger Romania, threaten European stability, and serve as a strategic victory for Russia," he said. "He offers no viable solutions to Romania's challenges."

For Claudiu Tufis, an associate professor of political science at the University of Bucharest, accusations that Simion is extremist or pro-Russian are overblown.

George Simion, the nationalist who topped Romania's presidential redo

जॉर्ज सिमियन, राष्ट्रवादी जिन्होंने रोमानिया के राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के दोहराव में जीत हासिल की

• George Simion, a nationalist and vocal supporter of U.S. President Donald Trump, won the first-round of **Romania's redo presidential election by a landslide**, capitalising on widespread anti-establishment sentiment.



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• जॉर्ज सिमियन, जो एक राष्ट्रवादी और पूर्व अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के मुखर समर्थक हैं, ने रोमानिया के पुनः राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के पहले दौर में बड़ी जीत दर्ज की, जो विरोधी सत्ता-विरोधी भावना का लाभ उठाकर संभव हुआ।

• The **38-year-old** leader of the **hard-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians (AUR)** will now face a **pro-Western reformist** on **May 18** in a run-off that could reshape Romania's **geopolitical direction** within the **EU and NATO**.

• **38 वर्षीय** कट्टर-दक्षिणपंथी अलायंस फॉर द यूनिटी ऑफ रोमानियन्स (AUR) के नेता अब **18 मई** को एक पश्चिम समर्थक सुधारवादी के साथ मुकाबला करेंगे, जो यूरोपीय संघ (EU) और नाटो में रोमानिया की भू-राजनीतिक दिशा को बदल सकता है।

Background of the Redo Election

पुनः चुनाव की पृष्ठभूमि

• Romania's political system was disrupted last year when a **top court annulled** the previous presidential vote, citing **electoral violations** and alleged **Russian interference** (which Moscow denied).

• पिछले साल रोमानिया की शीर्ष अदालत ने पिछले राष्ट्रपति चुनाव को रद्द कर दिया, जिसमें चुनावी उल्लंघन और रूसी हस्तक्षेप के आरोप लगे थे (जिसे मॉस्को ने नकारा)।

• George Simion had come **fourth** in the voided election and later **endorsed Calin Georgescu**, the far-right candidate who had topped the first round.

• जॉर्ज सिमियन उस रद्द चुनाव में चौथे स्थान पर रहे थे और बाद में फार-राइट उम्मीदवार कालेन जॉर्जस्कू का समर्थन किया था जो पहले दौर में आगे थे।

Early Life and Activism

प्रारंभिक जीवन और सामाजिक गतिविधियाँ

• Born in **1986** in **Focsani**, Simion earned a **Bachelor's in Business and Administration** from **Bucharest** and a **Master's degree** from **Lasi**, focusing on **communist-era crimes**.

• **1986** में फोकसानी में जन्मे सिमियन ने बुखारेस्ट से बिजनेस एंड एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन में स्नातक और यासी से साम्यवादी युग के अपराधों पर शोध करते हुए मास्टर्स किया।

• He was active in civic protests, including campaigns against a **Canadian gold mining project** and for **reunification with Moldova**.

• उन्होंने नागरिक आंदोलनों में भाग लिया, जिसमें कनाडाई सोने की खनन परियोजना और मोल्दोवा के साथ पुनः एकीकरण के लिए अभियान शामिल था।

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Formation and Rise of AUR

AUR पार्टी का गठन और उदय

• In 2019, Simion founded the **Alliance for the Unity of Romanians (AUR)**, promoting values of **family, nation, faith, and freedom**.

• 2019 में सिमियन ने अलायंस फॉर द यूनिटी ऑफ रोमानियन्स (AUR) की स्थापना की, जो परिवार, राष्ट्र, आस्था और स्वतंत्रता जैसे मूल्यों को बढ़ावा देती है।

• In the **2020 parliamentary elections**, AUR became Romania's **second-largest party** by doubling its support.

• 2020 के संसदीय चुनावों में AUR ने अपना समर्थन दोगुना कर रोमानिया की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी पार्टी बनने का दर्जा प्राप्त किया।

• AUR opposes **same-sex marriage** and has **strong ties** with the **Romanian Orthodox Church**.

• AUR **समलैंगिक विवाह** का विरोध करती है और इसका **रोमानियाई ऑर्थोडॉक्स चर्च** से मजबूत संबंध है।

Alignment with Trump and MAGA

ट्रंप और MAGA आंदोलन से सामंजस्य

• Simion describes his party as “**perfectly aligned with the MAGA movement**”, supporting **Donald Trump's ideology**.

• सिमियन अपनी पार्टी को “**MAGA आंदोलन के साथ पूरी तरह से सामंजस्यपूर्ण**” बताते हैं और **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** की विचारधारा का समर्थन करते हैं।

• Simion's political platform is built on **anti-establishment rhetoric** and **populism**.

• सिमियन की राजनीतिक सोच सत्ता विरोधी विचारों और जनतावाद पर आधारित है।

• During the **COVID-19 pandemic**, AUR held **protests against vaccination and lockdowns**, exploiting public **distrust in the authorities**.

• **कोविड-19 महामारी** के दौरान AUR ने **टीकाकरण और लॉकडाउन** के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन किए और जनता की प्रशासन पर अविश्वास की भावना का लाभ उठाया।

• He called the annulled election a “**coup d'état**” and adopted **stronger populist** and **religious rhetoric** to attract Georgescu's voters.

• उन्होंने रद्द चुनाव को “**तख्तापलट**” कहा और **अधिक जनतावादी** और **धार्मिक भाषा** का प्रयोग कर **जॉर्जस्कू** के मतदाताओं को लुभाया।

• Simion called Romania a “**hybrid regime**” that has failed to deliver democracy since the **1989 revolution**.

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• सिमियन ने रोमानिया को एक “संकर शासन” कहा जो 1989 की क्रांति के बाद से लोकतंत्र लाने में असफल रहा है।

Foreign Policy and Controversies

विदेश नीति और विवाद

- **Simion's activities in Moldova** led to his **expulsion** and **multiple entry bans** on charges of **destabilising** the country.
- **मोल्दोवा** में सिमियन की गतिविधियों के कारण उन्हें **देश से निकाला गया** और **कई बार प्रवेश पर प्रतिबंध** लगाया गया, उन पर **अस्थिरता फैलाने** का आरोप लगा।
- He is also **banned from Ukraine** for “**systemic anti-Ukrainian**” actions.
- उन्हें **यूक्रेन** में भी “**प्रणालीगत रूप से विरोधी-यूक्रेनी**” गतिविधियों के लिए **प्रतिबंधित** किया गया है।
- In **March**, he said people who blocked Georgescu's candidacy should be “**skinned in a public square**”, leading to a **criminal probe for inciting violence**, which he later denied as **metaphorical**.
- **मार्च** में उन्होंने कहा कि जो लोग जॉर्जेंस्कू की उम्मीदवारी को रोक रहे हैं उन्हें “**सार्वजनिक रूप से खाल उतार दी जानी चाहिए**”, जिससे उनके खिलाफ **हिंसा भड़काने का आपराधिक जांच** शुरू हुआ, जिसे उन्होंने बाद में **राजनीतिक रूपक** बताया।

Stance on Russia and NATO

रूस और नाटो पर रुख

- Despite being accused of being **pro-Russian**, Simion called these claims a “**leftist smear campaign**”.
- **रूस समर्थक** होने के आरोपों को सिमियन ने “**वामपंथी बदनामी अभियान**” बताया।
- He stated that **Russia** has been Romania's **main threat for 200 years** and continues to be so.
- उन्होंने कहा कि **रूस** पिछले **200 वर्षों** से रोमानिया के लिए **मुख्य खतरा** रहा है और आज भी है।
- He supports a **strong NATO** and deployment of **troops** in **Romania, Poland, and Baltic states**, though he **opposes sending more military aid to Ukraine**.
- वह **मजबूत नाटो** और **रोमानिया, पोलैंड और बाल्टिक देशों** में **सेना की तैनाती** का समर्थन करते हैं, लेकिन **यूक्रेन को और सैन्य सहायता भेजने** के खिलाफ हैं।

Position on European Union

यूरोपीय संघ पर स्थिति



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• Simion advocates for **more power to the 27 EU member states, rather than to EU institutions.**

• सिमियन यूरोपीय संघ के 27 सदस्य देशों को अधिक अधिकार देने के पक्ष में हैं, न कि EU संस्थाओं को।

• He aligns with Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, who supported Trump and was the only EU leader to attend his inauguration.

• वह इटली की प्रधानमंत्री जॉर्जिया मेलोनी के साथ सामंजस्य में हैं, जो ट्रंप का समर्थन करती हैं और उनकी शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में शामिल होने वाली एकमात्र EU नेता थीं।

Reactions and Criticism

प्रतिक्रियाएं और आलोचना

• Siegfried Muresan, a Romanian MEP, said a Simion presidency would be “bad news” for Romania and Europe, calling him an anti-European extremist.

• रोमानियाई यूरोपीय संसद सदस्य सिगफ्रीड मुरेसन ने कहा कि सिमियन का राष्ट्रपति बनना रोमानिया और यूरोप के लिए बुरी खबर होगी और उन्हें यूरोपीय विरोधी चरमपंथी बताया।

• He warned that Simion’s election would be a strategic victory for Russia and said the AUR leader “offers no viable solutions” to Romania’s issues.

• उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि सिमियन की जीत रूस के लिए रणनीतिक जीत होगी और कहा कि AUR नेता रोमानिया की समस्याओं का कोई व्यवहारिक समाधान नहीं देते।

• However, Claudiu Tuș, a political science professor, argued that claims of Simion being extremist or pro-Russian are overblown.

• हालांकि, राजनीति विज्ञान के प्रोफेसर क्लॉडिउ तुष का मानना है कि सिमियन को चरमपंथी या रूस समर्थक बताना अतिरंजित है।

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

1. **Putin dials Modi to signal support in fight against terror**
पुतिन ने मोदी को फोन कर आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई में समर्थन का संकेत दिया
2. **India-Pakistan tension at its ‘boiling point’, says UN chief calling for calm**



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भारत-पाकिस्तान तनाव 'उबाल के बिंदु' पर, शांति की अपील करते हुए
बोले संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव

3. The Huddle to Discuss Reimagining India's Federalism

भारत के संघवाद की पुनर्कल्पना पर चर्चा के लिए हडल

4. World Bank Official to Represent India at IMF Executive Board

आईएमएफ कार्यकारी बोर्ड में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे वर्ल्ड बैंक अधिकारी

5. Abeyance as a Two-Level Game

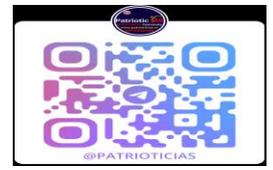
द्वैतीय-स्तरीय खेल के रूप में स्थगन (Abeyance)

6. Detaining Non-Citizens and the Rule of Law

गैर-नागरिकों की गिरफ्तारी और कानून का शासन

7. Samyukta Maharashtra: How a Linguistic Movement Built a State

संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र: कैसे एक भाषाई आंदोलन ने एक राज्य की नींव रखी



Putin dials Modi to signal support in 'fight against terror'



Vowing support: The leaders emphasised the strategic nature of Russian-Indian ties, Kremlin said. FILE PHOTO

GS Paper II
Kaif Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday held a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed "full support" to India in the fight against terrorism.

"President Putin called PM Modi and strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam. He conveyed deepest condolences on the loss of innocent lives and expressed full support to India in the fight against terrorism. He emphasised that the perpetrators of the heinous attack and their supporters must be brought to justice," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement.

Attack was 'barbaric'

A statement from the Russian side announced that Mr. Putin described the terror attack as "barbaric" with both sides calling for an "uncompromising fight against terrorism in all its manifestations".

"The strategic nature of Russian-Indian relations as a special privileged partnership was emphasised. These relations are not subject to external influence and continue to develop dynamically in all areas," said a statement from Kremlin.

Mr. Modi also invited Mr. Putin to visit India for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit that will be hosted here later this year and conveyed his greetings to Russia for the 80th anni-

versary of the Second World War Victory Day, to be celebrated in Moscow on May 9.

President Putin was among the first global leaders to condemn the deadly terror attack of 22 April and Russia has communicated that the two sides should intensify cooperation on counter-terror to deter such attacks in the future. "I would like to reiterate our commitment to further increasing cooperation with Indian partners in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," Mr. Putin had said in a message to Prime Minister Modi on 22 April.

"Both leaders reiterated their commitment to further deepen Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. Prime Minister conveyed greetings to President Putin on the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Victory Day and invited him for the Annual Summit to be held in India later in the year," said Mr Jaiswal in his statement about Monday's telephone discussion.

Russia had invited Prime Minister Modi to participate in the Victory Day parade but India had subsequently designated Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to represent India at the parade that would be attended by several heads of states and governments. However, a statement from the Russian side informed that the May 9 ceremonies in Moscow will be attended by an "Indian representative".

Putin dials Modi to signal support in fight against terror

पुतिन ने मोदी को फोन कर आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई में समर्थन का संकेत दिया

• Russian President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

• रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन ने सोमवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से फोन पर बातचीत की।

• He expressed full support to India in the fight against terrorism.

• उन्होंने आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई में भारत को पूरा समर्थन देने की बात कही।

• Putin strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam and conveyed deepest condolences for the loss of innocent lives.

• पुतिन ने पहलगाम में हुए आतंकी हमले की कड़ी निंदा की और निर्दोष लोगों की मौत पर गहरी संवेदना व्यक्त की।

• He emphasised that the perpetrators and their supporters must be brought to justice.

• उन्होंने जोर दिया कि दोषियों और उनके सहयोगियों को कानूनी सजा मिलनी चाहिए।

Attack was 'barbaric'

हमला 'बर्बर' था

• A Russian statement said that Putin called the attack "barbaric", and both sides agreed on the need for an uncompromising fight against terrorism in all forms.

• रूसी बयान में कहा गया कि पुतिन ने हमले को "बर्बर" बताया और दोनों पक्षों ने आतंकवाद के सभी रूपों के खिलाफ समझौता रहित लड़ाई की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

• The strategic nature of Russia-India relations as a Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership was highlighted.



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• रूस-भारत संबंधों की रणनीतिक प्रकृति को एक विशेष और विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त रणनीतिक साझेदारी के रूप में रेखांकित किया गया।

- These relations are **not subject to external influence** and continue to **develop dynamically**.
- ये संबंध बाहरी प्रभावों से मुक्त हैं और सभी क्षेत्रों में गतिशील रूप से विकसित हो रहे हैं।

Modi invites Putin for India-Russia summit

मोदी ने पुतिन को भारत-रूस शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए आमंत्रित किया

- Prime Minister Modi invited President Putin to visit India for the **23rd India-Russia annual summit** later this year.
- प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने राष्ट्रपति पुतिन को इस वर्ष के अंत में होने वाले **23वें भारत-रूस वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन** के लिए भारत आने का **निमंत्रण** दिया।
- Modi also conveyed **greetings** on the **80th anniversary of Victory Day of the Second World War**, to be celebrated on **May 9** in Moscow.
- मोदी ने **9 मई** को मास्को में मनाए जाने वाले **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध की विजय दिवस की 80वीं वर्षगांठ** पर **शुभकामनाएं** भी दीं।

Early condemnation and call for cooperation

पहले ही निंदा और सहयोग की अपील

- President Putin was among the **first global leaders** to condemn the **April 22 terror attack**.
- राष्ट्रपति पुतिन **22 अप्रैल** के आतंकी हमले की निंदा करने वाले **पहले वैश्विक नेताओं** में शामिल थे।
- Russia communicated the need to **intensify cooperation** with India on **counter-terrorism** to prevent future attacks.
- रूस ने **भविष्य में ऐसे हमलों को रोकने** के लिए भारत के साथ **आतंकवाद विरोधी सहयोग को बढ़ाने** की आवश्यकता बताई।
- On **April 22**, Putin reiterated Russia's **commitment** to fighting terrorism **in all its forms and manifestations**.
- **22 अप्रैल** को पुतिन ने आतंकवाद के सभी रूपों और अभिव्यक्तियों के खिलाफ लड़ाई में **रूस की प्रतिबद्धता** दोहराई।

Reaffirmation of Strategic Partnership

रणनीतिक साझेदारी की पुनः पुष्टि



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• Both leaders reiterated their commitment to **deepen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership**.

• दोनों नेताओं ने विशेष और विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त रणनीतिक साझेदारी को और मजबूत करने की प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।

• Modi conveyed **greetings** to Putin on the **Victory Day celebration** and again invited him for the **Annual Summit**.

• मोदी ने विजय दिवस समारोह पर पुतिन को शुभकामनाएं दीं और उन्हें वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए फिर से आमंत्रित किया।

India's Representation at Victory Day Parade

विजय दिवस परेड में भारत की भागीदारी

• Russia had invited PM Modi to participate in the **Victory Day Parade**, but India nominated **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** instead.

• रूस ने प्रधानमंत्री मोदी को **विजय दिवस परेड** में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित किया था, लेकिन भारत ने इसके लिए **रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह** को नामित किया।

• The **May 9 ceremonies** in Moscow will be attended by an **Indian representative**, as informed by the Russian side.

• रूसी पक्ष ने बताया कि **9 मई** को मास्को में होने वाले समारोह में एक **भारतीय प्रतिनिधि** भाग लेगा।



India-Pakistan tension at its 'boiling point', says UN chief calling for calm

GS Paper II: IS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

A military solution is "no solution" to the India-Pakistan conflict, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday, calling for "maximum restraint" and offering to help in any way to bring down tensions between the two countries.

In one of his strongest such statements thus far, Mr. Guterres cautioned that both countries must avoid a military confrontation that he said could easily "spin out of control", describing the tensions since the Pahalgam attack as the "highest in years", and reaching a "boiling point".

"Now is the time for maximum restraint and stepping back from the brink. That has been my message in my ongoing outreach with both countries. Make no mistake, a military solution is no solution, and I offer my good offices to both governments in the service of peace," Mr. Guterres said in a statement at the UN in New York on Monday.

Mr. Guterres, who had called Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the Pahalgam terror attack, repeated his condemnation



Peace appeal: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says both countries must avoid a military confrontation. AP

of the killings of 26 men, and said he was in touch with both countries. He said the targeting of civilians was "unacceptable" and those responsible must be brought to justice through "credible and lawful means".

"United Nations stands ready to support any initiative that promotes de-escalation, diplomacy and the renewed commitment to peace," he added.

'Closed-door' meet

The UN Secretary-General's statement came even as the UN Security Council members were due to hold a "closed-door" meeting on the situation, where Pakistan, as a current member, is present. After a UNSC resolution last

month, that was watered down at Pakistan's instance, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke to all other non-permanent members of the UNSC, including Greece, which has taken the Presidency of the UNSC this month.

Mr. Guterres's statement came on the heels of a number of statements from other countries calling for de-escalation and diplomacy as Mr. Modi has been meeting with military chiefs to discuss a possible strategy to respond to the Pahalgam attacks. In briefings to foreign envoys, the Ministry of External Affairs has said the attack had "cross-border linkages" while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has blamed Pakistan directly for "sup-

porting, training and funding" terrorist organisations.

Restraint calls

However, several countries including the U.S., U.K., Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the European Union have issued statements counselling restraint and avoiding a broader conflict. On Monday, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim issued a statement after a call with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who cancelled his visit to Malaysia amid rising tensions offering to mediate between India and Pakistan, with "close ties to both", and hoped for a swift de-escalation of tensions, adding support for an "independent and transparent" investigation into the Pahalgam attack.

The MEA did not respond to requests for comments on the UNSG statement as well as that of the Malaysian Prime Minister.

In a comment believed to be aimed at those counselling restraint and dialogue, Mr. Jaishankar said on Sunday that India looked for "partners" and not for "preachers", in expectations from the world in general, and Europe in particular.

India-Pakistan tension at its 'boiling point', says UN chief calling for calm

भारत-पाकिस्तान तनाव 'उबाल के बिंदु' पर, शांति की अपील करते हुए बोले संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव

• **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that a military solution is "no solution" to the India-Pakistan conflict.**

• **संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव एंटोनियो गुटेरेस ने सोमवार को कहा कि भारत-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष का सैन्य समाधान कोई**

समाधान नहीं है।

- He called for "**maximum restraint**" and offered to help in **any way** to reduce the tension between the two countries.
- उन्होंने "अधिकतम संयम" की अपील की और दोनों देशों के बीच तनाव कम करने में हर संभव मदद की पेशकश की।
- In one of his **strongest statements** so far, Mr. Guterres warned that a **military confrontation** could easily "**spin out of control**".
- अब तक के अपने **सबसे कड़े बयानों** में से एक में, गुटेरेस ने चेतावनी दी कि **सैन्य टकराव** आसानी से "नियंत्रण से बाहर हो सकता है"।
- He said the **tensions since the Pahalgam attack** are the "**highest in years**", and have reached a "**boiling point**".



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• उन्होंने कहा कि पहलगाम हमले के बाद से तनाव पिछले कई वर्षों में "सबसे अधिक" है और यह "उबाल के बिंदु" तक पहुँच गया है।

• "Now is the time for maximum restraint and stepping back from the brink," he said.

• उन्होंने कहा, "अब अधिकतम संयम और संकट के किनारे से पीछे हटने का समय है।"

• Mr. Guterres said he was **in touch with both countries** and repeated that **a military solution is no solution.**

• गुटेरेस ने कहा कि वह **दोनों देशों के संपर्क में हैं** और दोहराया कि **सैन्य समाधान कोई समाधान नहीं है।**

• He offered his "**good offices**" to **both governments** in service of peace.

• उन्होंने शांति के लिए **दोनों सरकारों को अपनी "मध्यस्थता की सेवा"** देने की पेशकश की।

• He said he had called **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** after the **Pahalgam terror attack** and **condemned the killings of 26 men.**

• उन्होंने कहा कि उन्होंने पहलगाम आतंकी हमले के बाद **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** को फोन किया था और **26 लोगों की हत्या की निंदा** की थी।

• He said the **targeting of civilians** is "**unacceptable**" and the **perpetrators must be brought to justice** through **credible and lawful means.**

• उन्होंने कहा कि **नागरिकों को निशाना बनाना "अस्वीकार्य"** है और **दोषियों को विश्वसनीय और कानूनी तरीकों से न्याय के कटघरे में लाना चाहिए।**

• The **United Nations** stands ready to support **any initiative** that promotes **de-escalation, diplomacy, and renewed peace commitment.**

• **संयुक्त राष्ट्र तनाव कम करने, कूटनीति और नवीन शांति प्रतिबद्धता को बढ़ावा देने वाली किसी भी पहल का समर्थन करने के लिए तैयार है।**

‘Closed-door’ meeting of UNSC

संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की 'बंद कमरे' की बैठक

• Mr. Guterres's statement came as **UN Security Council (UNSC)** members were to hold a "**closed-door**" meeting on the situation.

• गुटेरेस का यह बयान उस समय आया जब **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC)** के सदस्य इस स्थिति पर "**बंद कमरे**" की बैठक करने वाले थे।

• **Pakistan**, as a current member, will be **present** in the meeting.

• **पाकिस्तान**, वर्तमान सदस्य के रूप में, बैठक में **मौजूद रहेगा।**

• A previous **UNSC resolution**, which was **watered down** at **Pakistan's instance**, had prompted **EAM S. Jaishankar** to talk with **non-permanent UNSC members.**

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• पाकिस्तान के आग्रह पर हल्का किया गया पिछला **UNSC** प्रस्ताव, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर को गैर-स्थायी **UNSC** सदस्यों से बात करने के लिए प्रेरित कर चुका था।

- Among them was **Greece**, which holds the **UNSC Presidency** this month.
- उनमें से एक ग्रीस था, जो इस महीने **UNSC** की अध्यक्षता कर रहा है।

Global calls for de-escalation

वैश्विक स्तर पर तनाव कम करने की अपीलें

- Mr. Guterres's remarks were followed by **several countries** urging **de-escalation and diplomacy**.
- गुटेरेस की टिप्पणियों के बाद कई देशों ने तनाव कम करने और कूटनीति की अपील की।
- **PM Modi** has held meetings with **military chiefs** to discuss a possible **strategy** in response to the **Pahalgam attacks**.
- प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने सैन्य प्रमुखों के साथ पहलगाम हमले के जवाब में एक संभावित रणनीति पर चर्चा की है।
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** told foreign envoys that the attack had "**cross-border linkages**".
- विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने विदेशी दूतों को बताया कि इस हमले के "सीमा पार संपर्क" हैं।
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** directly blamed **Pakistan** for "**supporting, training and funding**" terrorist organisations.
- रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने पाकिस्तान पर सीधे "आतंकी संगठनों को समर्थन, प्रशिक्षण और वित्तपोषण" का आरोप लगाया।

Restraint appeals from other nations

अन्य देशों से संयम की अपील

- Countries like the **U.S.**, **U.K.**, **Saudi Arabia**, **Kuwait**, and the **European Union** have advised **restraint** and avoiding **broader conflict**.
- अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, सऊदी अरब, कुवैत और यूरोपीय संघ जैसे देशों ने संयम बरतने और व्यापक संघर्ष से बचने की सलाह दी है।
- On **Monday**, **Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim** issued a statement after speaking to **Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif**, who cancelled his **Malaysia** visit.
- सोमवार को मलेशियाई प्रधानमंत्री अनवर इब्राहिम ने पाकिस्तानी प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ से बात करने के बाद बयान जारी किया, जिन्होंने मलेशिया यात्रा रद्द कर दी थी।
- Malaysia offered to **mediate** between India and Pakistan, citing "**close ties to both**" and hoped for a **swift de-escalation**.

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• मलेशिया ने भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच **मध्यस्थता** की पेशकश की, यह कहते हुए कि दोनों देशों से "निकट संबंध" हैं और तेजी से तनाव कम होने की आशा जताई।

• Malaysia also supported an "independent and transparent" investigation into the Pahalgam attack.

• मलेशिया ने पहलगाम हमले की "स्वतंत्र और पारदर्शी" जांच का भी समर्थन किया।

• The MEA did not respond to questions on statements by the UN Secretary-General or the Malaysian Prime Minister.

• विदेश मंत्रालय ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासचिव या मलेशियाई प्रधानमंत्री के बयानों पर कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी।

India's stance on international reactions

अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रियाओं पर भारत का रुख

• In a comment seen as directed at those counselling restraint, EAM S. Jaishankar said that India seeks "partners" not "preachers".

• संयम की सलाह देने वालों की ओर संकेत करते हुए, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने कहा कि भारत "उपदेशकों" की नहीं बल्कि "साझेदारों" की तलाश करता है।

• He emphasized this particularly in reference to the expectations from Europe.

• उन्होंने इस बात को विशेष रूप से यूरोप से उम्मीदों के संदर्भ में जोर दिया।



The Huddle to discuss reimagining India's federalism



GS Paper II: Federalism
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Federalism in the Indian context has always been a complex and contested space, involving give and take between the Centre and the States.

Despite the constitutional and regulatory frameworks of the nation supporting the division of powers between the Centre and the States through the Seventh Schedule, specifying the Union, State and Concurrent Lists, pork barrel politics exerts an outside influence on governance decisions across the board in the modern era, and resource sharing is often premised on currying political favour.

Beyond contestation in the sphere of policymaking, there is now an existential challenge to the re-

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presentational power of States within the Indian Union, specifically in the Lok Sabha, in the form of a future delimitation exercise.

Will this exercise, now gathering steam and likely to be implemented in the aftermath of the next Census, lead to States that have brought down their respective population growth rates face a reduction in the number of MPs that

they can send to New Delhi? Will the fact that these States have also broadly been top performers in terms of economic growth and all-round development be factored into the calculation of how many MPs will be assigned to each of them?

In the arena of pure politics too, the intensity of competition has reached unprecedented levels, in terms of the BJP seeking to

expand its already-broad footprint into States such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal, and deepen its grip on the political system in States such as Karnataka. Regional and other Opposition political parties in these States have offered a stout defence of a different political ideology to muscular nationalism. At the heart of this hard-fought political battle, playing out in every constituency of India, is a deeper question about identity politics that goes to the very soul of the pluralistic vision of Indian democracy - will it remain a country that tolerates diversity in religion, language, caste, and more, or will homogenising socio-political forces win the day?

To debate these transformational questions at the heart of India's democ-

racy, *The Hindu Huddle*, which will be held in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10, will host a panel of senior Ministers to debate the topic, "More than a sum of parts: reimagining India's federalism".

Helming this discussion will be Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister of Information Technology and Digital Services for Tamil Nadu, Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT-BT, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj for Karnataka, and P. Rajeeve, Minister for Law, Industries and Coir for Kerala. Narayan Lakshman, Curator of *The Hindu Huddle* and Opinion Editor, *The Hindu*, will moderate the discussion.

If you have any questions that you would like the moderator to ask the panellists, write to huddle@thehindu.co.in

The Huddle to Discuss Reimagining India's Federalism

भारत के संघवाद की पुनर्कल्पना पर चर्चा के लिए हडल

• Federalism in the Indian context has always been a complex and contested space involving negotiations between the Centre and the States.

• भारतीय संदर्भ में संघवाद हमेशा से एक जटिल और विवादास्पद क्षेत्र रहा है, जिसमें केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच मोलभाव शामिल रहा है।

• Despite having constitutional and regulatory frameworks such as the **Seventh Schedule**, which defines the **Union, State, and Concurrent Lists**, **pork barrel politics** still plays a **disproportionate role** in governance.

• भले ही सातवीं अनुसूची जैसे संवैधानिक और नियामक ढाँचे मौजूद हों, जो संघ, राज्य और समवर्ती सूचियाँ निर्धारित करते हैं, फिर भी लोकलुभावन राजनीति शासन में अत्यधिक प्रभाव डालती है।

• **Resource sharing** is often influenced by **political favours**, rather than **objective governance needs**.

• संसाधनों का वितरण अक्सर राजनीतिक पक्षपात के आधार पर होता है, न कि तथ्य आधारित प्रशासनिक ज़रूरतों के अनुसार।

• There is now an **existential challenge** to the **representational power** of States in the **Lok Sabha**, especially with the **upcoming delimitation exercise**.



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• अब लोकसभा में राज्यों की प्रतिनिधिक शक्ति के सामने एक अस्तित्वगत चुनौती है, विशेषकर आगामी सीमांकन प्रक्रिया के चलते।

• This **delimitation** may be implemented **after the next Census**, and may **reduce MPs** for States that have successfully controlled **population growth**.

• यह **सीमांकन** संभवतः **अगली जनगणना के बाद** लागू किया जाएगा और यह उन राज्यों के **सांसदों की संख्या** घटा सकता है जिन्होंने **जनसंख्या वृद्धि** को प्रभावी ढंग से नियंत्रित किया है।

• These same States are also **top performers** in **economic growth** and **human development**, raising concerns about whether that will be considered during seat allocation.

• यही राज्य **आर्थिक विकास** और **मानव विकास** के मामले में भी **श्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शनकर्ता** रहे हैं, जिससे यह चिंता उठती है कि सीट आवंटन में इसे ध्यान में रखा जाएगा या नहीं।

Political Competition and Identity Politics

राजनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा और पहचान की राजनीति

• Political competition has intensified with the **BJP expanding** its reach into States like **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal**, and **tightening control** in **Karnataka**.

• भाजपा ने **तमिलनाडु, केरल और पश्चिम बंगाल** जैसे राज्यों में अपनी पहुंच बढ़ाई है और **कर्नाटक** में अपनी **पकड़ मजबूत** की है, जिससे राजनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा तेज हो गई है।

• **Regional and Opposition parties** have stood in **defence of alternate ideologies**, challenging the **muscular nationalism** promoted by the BJP.

• **क्षेत्रीय और विपक्षी दलों** ने **विकल्पवादी विचारधाराओं** का समर्थन करते हुए भाजपा द्वारा प्रचारित **आक्रामक राष्ट्रवाद** को चुनौती दी है।

• The deeper concern is whether India will continue as a **pluralistic democracy** or yield to **homogenising socio-political forces**.

• बड़ी चिंता यह है कि क्या भारत एक **बहुलतावादी लोकतंत्र** बना रहेगा या **एकरूपी सामाजिक-राजनीतिक शक्तियों** के आगे झुक जाएगा।

• At stake is India's **identity politics** involving **religion, language, caste, and culture**, which shape the **soul of Indian democracy**.

• दांव पर भारत की **पहचान की राजनीति** है जिसमें **धर्म, भाषा, जाति और संस्कृति** शामिल हैं, जो **भारतीय लोकतंत्र की आत्मा** को परिभाषित करती हैं।

Panel Discussion at The Hindu Huddle

द हिंदू हडल में पैनल चर्चा

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- To discuss these transformational issues, **The Hindu Huddle** will be held in **Bengaluru on May 9 and 10**.
- इन परिवर्तनकारी मुद्दों पर चर्चा के लिए **द हिंदू हडल** का आयोजन **9 और 10 मई को बेंगलुरु** में किया जाएगा।
- The panel discussion is titled: **“More than a sum of parts: Reimagining India’s Federalism”**.
- पैनल चर्चा का विषय है: **“कुल योग से अधिक: भारत के संघवाद की पुनर्कल्पना”**।
- Key speakers include **Palanivel Thiaga Rajan**, Minister of IT and Digital Services (Tamil Nadu), **Priyank Kharge**, Minister for IT-BT and Panchayat Raj (Karnataka), and **P. Rajeeve**, Minister for Law and Industries (Kerala).
- प्रमुख वक्ताओं में शामिल हैं: **पलनिवेल थियागा राजन** (तमिलनाडु के सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री), **प्रियांक खड़गे** (कर्नाटक के IT-BT और पंचायत राज मंत्री), और **पी. राजीव** (केरल के कानून और उद्योग मंत्री)।
- The discussion will be **moderated** by **Narayan Lakshman**, Curator of The Hindu Huddle and Opinion Editor at **The Hindu**.
- चर्चा का **संचालन नारायण लक्ष्मण** करेंगे, जो **द हिंदू** के हडल के क्यूरेटर और विचार संपादक हैं।

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World Bank official to represent India at IMF Executive Board

GS Paper II: International Institutions

NEW DELHI

Parameswaran Iyer, Executive Director at the World Bank, has been temporarily entrusted with the responsibility of being India's nominee Director on the Board of International Monetary Fund (IMF) ahead of a crucial May 9 meeting, sources said.

Mr. Iyer's nomination was necessitated to fill a vacancy created with the termination of services of K.V. Subramanian as the Executive Director at the IMF, six months ahead of his three-year tenure.

The government's decision assumes significance as the IMF Executive Board will meet on May 9, to take a call on a new \$1.3 billion loan under a climate resilience loan programme, along with the first review of the ongoing \$7 billion bailout package for Pakistan.

India is making efforts to corner Pakistan diplomatically and at various global fora as New Delhi believes its involvement in the Pahalgam terror attack.

According to sources, had India not nominated Mr. Iyer, the alternate Executive Director Harischandra Pahath Kumbure Gedara of Sri Lanka would



V. Parameswaran Iyer

have discharged duties of ED as per the rules of the Washington-based multilateral funding agency. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has terminated Mr. Subramanian's services effective April 30, 2025. The reasons for his exit have not been officially announced.

According to the sources, Mr. Subramanian is learnt to have raised questions about the IMF's datasets, which did not go down well in the corridors of the multilateral agency. In the past too, the IMF has been unhappy with some of his statements, especially related to India's debt situation. Besides, the sources said, concerns were raised over an "alleged impropriety" relating to the promotion of his latest book, *India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse*.

World Bank Official to Represent India at IMF Executive Board

आईएमएफ कार्यकारी बोर्ड में भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे वर्ल्ड बैंक अधिकारी

• Parameswaran Iyer, currently Executive Director at the World Bank, has been temporarily assigned the responsibility of being India's nominee Director on the IMF Executive Board ahead of the important meeting on May 9.

• परमेश्वरन अय्यर, जो वर्तमान में विश्व बैंक के कार्यकारी निदेशक हैं, को 9 मई की महत्वपूर्ण बैठक से पहले आईएमएफ कार्यकारी बोर्ड में भारत के नामित निदेशक के रूप में अस्थायी रूप से नियुक्त किया गया है।

• This nomination was needed to fill the vacancy created by the termination of K.V. Subramanian, who left his position six months before completing his three-year term.

• यह नामांकन के.वी. सुब्रमण्यम की सेवा समाप्ति से बनी रिक्ति को भरने के लिए आवश्यक था, जो अपने तीन साल के कार्यकाल से छह महीने पहले पद से हट गए।

• The government's decision is important as the IMF Executive Board will meet on May 9 to consider a new \$1.3 billion loan under a climate resilience programme, and also review the ongoing \$7 billion bailout package for Pakistan.

• सरकार का यह निर्णय महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि आईएमएफ कार्यकारी बोर्ड 9 मई को बैठक करेगा जिसमें \$1.3 अरब के जलवायु लचीलापन ऋण कार्यक्रम और पाकिस्तान के लिए चल रहे \$7 अरब के बेलआउट पैकेज की समीक्षा की जाएगी।



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- India is making efforts to **diplomatically isolate Pakistan** on international platforms, especially after **India accused Pakistan of involvement in the Pahalgam terror attack**.
- भारत अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंचों पर पाकिस्तान को कूटनीतिक रूप से अलग-थलग करने के प्रयास कर रहा है, विशेष रूप से पहलगाम आतंकी हमले में पाकिस्तान की संलिप्तता का आरोप लगाने के बाद।
- If Mr. Iyer had not been nominated, then as per the rules of the **Washington-based IMF**, the duties would have been handled by **alternate Executive Director Harischandra Pahath Kumbure Gedara of Sri Lanka**.
- यदि श्री अय्यर को नामित नहीं किया जाता, तो वाशिंगटन स्थित आईएमएफ के नियमों के अनुसार, श्रीलंका के वैकल्पिक कार्यकारी निदेशक हरिश्चंद्र पाहाथ कुंबुरे गेदारा को यह कार्यभार संभालना पड़ता।
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** officially **terminated Mr. Subramanian's services** with effect from **April 30, 2025**.
- मंत्रिमंडल की नियुक्ति समिति ने 30 अप्रैल 2025 से प्रभावी रूप से श्री सुब्रमण्यम की सेवाओं को समाप्त कर दिया है।
- The **reasons for Mr. Subramanian's exit** have **not been officially announced** yet.
- श्री सुब्रमण्यम के हटाए जाने का कारण अब तक औपचारिक रूप से घोषित नहीं किया गया है।
- According to sources, Mr. Subramanian had reportedly **questioned the IMF's datasets**, which was **not well-received** within the IMF.
- सूत्रों के अनुसार, श्री सुब्रमण्यम ने कथित रूप से आईएमएफ के आंकड़ों पर सवाल उठाए थे, जो आईएमएफ के भीतर अच्छी तरह से नहीं लिया गया।
- In the past as well, the **IMF had expressed dissatisfaction** with some of Mr. Subramanian's **public statements**, especially regarding **India's debt situation**.
- इससे पहले भी आईएमएफ ने श्री सुब्रमण्यम के कुछ सार्वजनिक बयानों पर असंतोष जताया था, विशेषकर भारत की ऋण स्थिति को लेकर।
- Additionally, concerns were raised about an **“alleged impropriety”** connected to the **promotion of his latest book**.
- इसके अलावा, उनकी नवीनतम पुस्तक के प्रचार से संबंधित एक **“कथित अनियमितता”** को लेकर भी चिंताएं उठाई गई थीं।

The Messaging from Putting the IWT in 'Abeyance'

IWT को 'अस्थगित' करने से जुड़ा संदेश

- On April 24, India announced that it would hold the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** of 1960 in **abeyance** until Pakistan ceased its support for **cross-border terrorism**.

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• 24 अप्रैल को, भारत ने घोषणा की कि वह 1960 के इंडस वॉटर ट्रीटी (IWT) को अस्थगित करेगा जब तक पाकिस्तान सीमा पार आतंकवाद का समर्थन बंद नहीं करता।

• The term “abeyance,” as used by the Government of India, suggests a **temporary suspension**, leaving open the possibility of reinstatement should Pakistan take credible steps to curb terrorism, particularly in light of the **Pahalgam terror attack on April 22**.

• भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रयुक्त "अस्थगित" शब्द का अर्थ है **अस्थायी निलंबन**, जिससे पुनः लागू होने की संभावना खुली रहती है यदि पाकिस्तान आतंकवाद को नियंत्रित करने के लिए ठोस कदम उठाता है, विशेष रूप से **22 अप्रैल को पहलगाम आतंकवादी हमले के संदर्भ में**।

The Meaning of ‘Abeyance’

‘अस्थगित’ का अर्थ

• The term “abeyance” finds no **legal recognition** under the IWT or the **Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 (VCLT)**.

• "अस्थगित" शब्द को IWT या **1969 के समझौतों पर वियना सम्मेलन (VCLT)** के तहत **कानूनी स्वीकृति नहीं** प्राप्त है।

• India is not a party to the VCLT, while Pakistan has signed it, but has not ratified it.

• भारत VCLT का सदस्य नहीं है, जबकि पाकिस्तान ने इसे हस्ताक्षरित किया है, लेकिन इसे मंजूरी नहीं दी है।

• Unilateral suspension of treaty obligations, as implied by “abeyance,” lacks **legitimacy** under customary **international law** and **international water law** that promotes **water cooperation** as the fundamental norm of the international legal order.

• "अस्थगित" के द्वारा अनुबंध दायित्वों का एकतरफा निलंबन **कस्टमरी अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून** और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय जल कानून** के तहत **वैधता नहीं रखता है**, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनी आदेश में **जल सहयोग** को मूलभूत मानदंड के रूप में बढ़ावा देता है।

• In the IWT, Articles **XII(3)** and **(4)** stipulate that modifications or termination require a **mutually ratified treaty**, which seems remote given the current India-Pakistan relationship.

• IWT में, अनुच्छेद **XII(3)** और **(4)** में संशोधन या समाप्ति के लिए **आपसी अनुमोदित संधि** की आवश्यकता होती है, जो वर्तमान भारत-पाकिस्तान संबंधों को देखते हुए दूर की संभावना लगती है।

• The IWT’s specific provisions preclude **unilateral suspension** of substantive or procedural obligations.

• IWT की विशिष्ट प्रावधानों में **सामग्रीक या प्रक्रिया संबंधी दायित्वों** का एकतरफा निलंबन रोका गया है।

• More broadly, in the **VCLT**, Articles **60**, **61**, and **62** permit suspension of a treaty only under **exceptional circumstances**, such as **material breach**, **impossibility of performance**, or **fundamental change in circumstances**, none of which India has formally invoked.

• **VCLT** में, अनुच्छेद **60**, **61**, और **62** किसी संधि के निलंबन की अनुमति केवल **असाधारण परिस्थितियों** में



देते हैं, जैसे कि सामग्रीक उल्लंघन, प्रदर्शन की असंभवता, या परिस्थितियों में बुनियादी बदलाव, जिनमें से किसी को भी भारत ने आधिकारिक रूप से नहीं उठाया है।

- Therefore, India's invocation of "abeyance" may be seen as a **political signal** rather than a legally enforceable action, potentially putting procedural cooperation on hold.
- इसलिए, भारत द्वारा "अस्थगित" का उल्लेख एक **राजनीतिक संकेत** के रूप में देखा जा सकता है, न कि कानूनी रूप से लागू होने वाली कार्रवाई के रूप में, जो प्रक्रिया संबंधी सहयोग को अस्थायी रूप से रोक सकता है।
- In practical terms, by using abeyance, India can temporarily refuse to carry out all **joint mechanisms** necessary for the treaty's operation.
- व्यावहारिक रूप से, अस्थगित का उपयोग करके, भारत संधि के संचालन के लिए आवश्यक सभी **सामूहिक तंत्रों** को अस्थायी रूप से लागू करने से इनकार कर सकता है।
- India can choose not to share details on **water resource development projects** on western rivers and **hydrological data** crucial for **flood forecasting**, and **planning for irrigation, hydropower, and drinking water**, potentially jeopardizing Pakistan's water interests.
- भारत पश्चिमी नदियों पर **जल संसाधन विकास परियोजनाओं** और **हाइड्रोलॉजिकल डेटा** को साझा न करने का विकल्प चुन सकता है, जो **बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान**, और **सिंचाई, जलविद्युत, और पीने के पानी** की योजना बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, जिससे पाकिस्तान के जल हितों को जोखिम हो सकता है।
- Moreover, India could flush **silt** from its reservoirs without issuing any prior warning to Pakistan.
- इसके अतिरिक्त, भारत अपने जलाशयों से **कीचड़** को बिना पाकिस्तान को कोई पूर्व सूचना दिए बहा सकता है।
- On January 25, 2023, New Delhi issued a notice to Pakistan through the **Indus Commissioners**, citing a **material breach** of the IWT.
- 25 जनवरी 2023 को, नई दिल्ली ने पाकिस्तान को **इंडस कमिश्नरों** के माध्यम से एक नोटिस जारी किया, जिसमें IWT के **सामग्रीक उल्लंघन** का हवाला दिया।
- India argued that Pakistan's unilateral decision to approach the **Permanent Court of Arbitration** violated the treaty's **dispute resolution mechanisms** outlined in Articles VIII and IX.
- भारत ने यह तर्क दिया कि पाकिस्तान का **स्थायी मध्यस्थता न्यायालय** में जाने का एकतरफा निर्णय संधि के **विवाद समाधान तंत्रों** का उल्लंघन करता है, जैसा कि अनुच्छेद VIII और IX में बताया गया है।
- This time, New Delhi has invoked the Treaty as a **counter-terrorism deterrent**, opting for the term "abeyance" rather than "suspension" or "termination".
- इस बार, नई दिल्ली ने संधि का उपयोग **आतंकवाद विरोधी निवारक** के रूप में किया है, और "अस्थगित" शब्द का चयन किया है, न कि "निलंबन" या "समाप्ति"।



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Legal Questions Raised

उठाए गए कानूनी प्रश्न

- Article 60 of the VCLT allows for the **termination** or **suspension** of a treaty in response to a **material breach**. Does Pakistan's alleged support for **cross-border terrorism** not constitute such a breach?
 - VCLT के अनुच्छेद 60 में किसी संधि के समाप्ति या निलंबन की अनुमति दी जाती है, जो सामग्रीक उल्लंघन के जवाब में होता है। क्या पाकिस्तान का सीमा पार आतंकवाद का कथित समर्थन ऐसा उल्लंघन नहीं है?
- Similarly, Article 62 permits treaty suspension or withdrawal in the event of a **fundamental change** in circumstances. Could the persistent threat to national security from **cross-border terrorism** not fulfill this condition?
 - इसी तरह, अनुच्छेद 62 संधि के निलंबन या वापसी की अनुमति देता है यदि परिस्थितियों में बुनियादी बदलाव हो। क्या सीमा पार आतंकवाद से राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा पर लगातार खतरा इस शर्त को पूरा नहीं करता है?
- Yet, these arguments hinge on **untested legal interpretations**, as neither the IWT nor customary international law explicitly links **terrorism** to treaty obligations, risking escalation in an already **volatile bilateral relationship**.
 - फिर भी, ये तर्क अपरिक्षित कानूनी व्याख्याओं पर आधारित हैं, क्योंकि न तो IWT और न ही कस्टमरी अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून आतंकवाद को संधि दायित्वों से स्पष्ट रूप से जोड़ते हैं, जो पहले से ही अस्थिर द्विपक्षीय संबंध में वृद्धि का खतरा उत्पन्न करते हैं।



The messaging from putting the IWT in 'abeyance'

CS Paper II: India-Pakistan

On April 24, India announced that it would hold the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960 in abeyance until Pakistan ceased its support for cross-border terrorism. The term "abeyance," as used by the Government of India, suggests a temporary suspension, leaving open the possibility of reinstatement should Pakistan take credible steps to curb terrorism, particularly in light of the Pahalgam terror attack, on April 22.

The meaning of 'abeyance'

The term "abeyance" finds no legal recognition under the IWT or the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 (VCLT). India is not a party to the VCLT, while Pakistan has signed it, but has not ratified it. Further, unilateral suspension of treaty obligations, as implied by "abeyance," lacks legitimacy under customary international law and international water law that promotes 'water cooperation' as the peremptory norm fundamental to the international legal order. Critically, in the IWT's, Articles XII(3) and (4) stipulate that modifications or termination require a mutually ratified treaty – a prospect that seems remote given the current status quo between India-Pakistan.

Thus, the IWT's specific provisions preclude unilateral suspension of substantive or procedural obligations. More broadly, in the VCLT, Articles 60, 61, and 62 permit suspension of a treaty only under exceptional circumstances, such as a material breach, impossibility of performance, or a fundamental change in circumstances, respectively – none of which India has formally invoked. Therefore, India's invocation of "abeyance" may be seen as a political signal rather than a legally enforceable action, potentially putting procedural cooperation on hold. In practical terms, by using abeyance, India can temporarily refuse to carry out all joint mechanisms necessary for the treaty's operation. India can choose not to share details on water resource development projects on western rivers and hydrological data crucial for flood forecasting and planning for irrigation, hydropower and drinking water that could jeopardise Pakistan's water interests, internal water planning and water security, temporarily if not permanently. Moreover, India could flush silt from its reservoirs (which also requires reservoirs to be filled) without issuing any prior warning to Pakistan.

On January 25, 2023, New Delhi issued a notice to Pakistan through the Indus Commissioners, citing a material breach of the IWT. India argued that Pakistan's unilateral decision to approach the Permanent Court of Arbitration violated the treaty's dispute resolution mechanisms outlined in Articles VIII and IX. This time, New Delhi has invoked the Treaty as a counter-terrorism deterrent, opting for the term "abeyance" rather than "suspension" or "termination".

This choice raises pertinent questions. Article 60 of the VCLT allows for the termination or suspension of a treaty in response to a material breach. Does Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism not constitute such a

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Leveraging water resources as a strategic tool may provide short-term benefit, but could end up harming India

breach? Likewise, Article 62 permits treaty suspension or withdrawal in the event of a fundamental change in circumstances. Could the persistent threat to national security from cross-border terrorism not fulfil this condition? Yet, these arguments hinge on untested legal interpretations, as neither the IWT nor customary international law explicitly links terrorism to treaty obligations, risking escalation in an already volatile bilateral relationship.

Abeyance as a two-level game

The decision to use "abeyance" likely arises from strategic and tactical considerations. First, India's Cabinet Committee on Security may have opted for abeyance as a cautious step to address public sentiment quickly and offer solace to grieving families. The limited time to fully evaluate the legal and diplomatic implications may have influenced this decision. Second, abeyance may also reflect a calculated move to relieve itself from the continuous legal objection it had witnessed vis-à-vis the construction of run-of-the-river projects planned on western rivers. India could leverage this pause to consolidate its rights to optimally use its entitled water usage allocations in western and eastern rivers, particularly through infrastructure projects that enhance its control over the Indus waters. However, this strategy risks escalating tensions, as Pakistan, heavily dependent on the Indus waters, is already viewing such actions as an 'act of war' and a direct threat to its water security.

The choice of terminology is even more critical given Pakistan's current instability. With the military losing the support of the youth since Imran Khan's imprisonment and its attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue during the U.S. Vice-President's India visit, Pakistan's political and economic instability is even more visible. This uncertainty makes it challenging for New Delhi to navigate relations with a state in turmoil. Did India fully account for this while formulating the decision announced by the Foreign Secretary? In such a context, can the abeyance of the IWT genuinely exert meaningful pressure on Pakistan? More fundamentally, will leveraging the IWT as a tool to compel Pakistan to end its support for cross-border terrorism prove effective at all?

It is widely acknowledged that Pakistan, as a failing state, is unlikely to comply with India's demands. By invoking "abeyance", India may buy time to pursue domestic goals, particularly advancing water infrastructure projects on the western and eastern rivers. Many of these projects, including the Kishenganga, Baglihar, and Ratle hydel projects, have faced significant delays due to Pakistan's legal interventions. This move could provide India with the leverage needed to expedite such initiatives. While the Kishenganga and Baglihar were eventually resolved, projects such as Tulbul-Navigation and Ratle remain uncertain. These long-standing tensions, along with the 2021 Parliamentary Committee's emphasis on the need for infrastructure to fully utilise India's allocated waters, mark a critical inflexion point. However,

questions persist about the feasibility of such projects, especially regarding environmental clearances.

In the weeks and months ahead, we could witness a complex interplay of domestic and international strategies, or a "two-level game", between India and Pakistan. Both nations must manage domestic expectations, engage diplomatically to safeguard their interests, and justify their actions as victories. For India, invoking the IWT in "abeyance" serves dual purposes: domestically, it demonstrates a firm stance against terrorism, aligning with public sentiment and reinforcing national security priorities. Internationally, it signals India's frustration with Pakistan's alleged support for terrorism. But could there be more to this strategy?

Ramifications for India

While in India, the decision has resonated emotionally with the public and garnered widespread political support, it risks overshadowing the more profound implications of such a strategy. On the global stage, unilaterally violating the IWT could lead to India facing the Permanent Court of Arbitration or the International Court of Justice, damaging its credibility as a responsible international actor. However, domestically, the strategy raises critical questions about the balance between national security and ecological prudence. The rush to fast-track water infrastructure projects, ostensibly to strengthen India's water rights, risks bypassing essential public and environmental scrutiny. Such actions could have dire consequences in the biodiversity-rich and seismically sensitive Indus basin. Weaponising water resources as a strategic tool may provide short-term leverage but could inadvertently harm India, undermining the foundational principles of democratic governance and constitutional integrity.

At the same time, public sentiment demands a stronger stance against Pakistan, with some public intellectuals advocating escalated military actions akin to the surgical strikes of 2016 and 2019. While such actions might serve as immediate displays of strength, they do not address the root cause of cross-border terrorism. The challenge lies in navigating a path that satisfies national sentiment while ensuring long-term stability and security. New Delhi must carefully craft its narrative and future on-the-ground steps around the IWT abeyance, ensuring that India aligns with broader geopolitical goals and has a sound legal basis within the IWT framework.

Actions taken must reflect strategic foresight, aiming to pressure Pakistan into reevaluating its stance on cross-border terrorism while avoiding harm to India's own ecological and social fabric. The focus should remain on measures that strengthen India's position as a responsible global power, leveraging its democratic values and environmental stewardship. This would uphold India's international standing, ensuring that its actions do not inadvertently harm the region that it seeks to protect.

Abeyance as a Two-Level Game

द्वैतीय-स्तरीय खेल के रूप में स्थगन (Abeyance)

• The decision to use "abeyance" likely stems from both strategic and tactical considerations.



• “Abeyance” (स्थगन) का निर्णय संभवतः रणनीतिक और सामरिक विचारों से प्रेरित है।

• India’s Cabinet Committee on Security may have used this approach to quickly address public sentiment and provide solace to grieving families.

• भारत की सुरक्षा मामलों की मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति ने यह कदम जनता की भावना को शीघ्र संबोधित करने और शोकाकुल परिवारों को सांत्वना देने के लिए अपनाया हो सकता है।

• There may not have been sufficient time to evaluate legal and diplomatic consequences thoroughly.

• संभवतः कानूनी और कूटनीतिक परिणामों का पूरी तरह से मूल्यांकन करने के लिए पर्याप्त समय नहीं था।

• Abeyance could help India relieve itself from legal objections related to run-of-the-river projects on western rivers.

• यह स्थगन भारत को पश्चिमी नदियों पर रन-ऑफ-द-रिवर परियोजनाओं से जुड़े कानूनी आपत्तियों से राहत दिलाने में मदद कर सकता है।

• This pause can allow India to consolidate its rights and optimally use allocated water from western and eastern rivers.

• यह विराम भारत को अपने अधिकारों को सुदृढ़ करने और पश्चिमी और पूर्वी नदियों से आवंटित जल का सर्वोत्तम उपयोग करने की अनुमति दे सकता है।

• However, this strategy risks escalating tensions with Pakistan, which sees such moves as an “act of war” threatening its water security.

• हालांकि, यह रणनीति पाकिस्तान के साथ तनाव को बढ़ा सकती है, जो इन कदमों को "युद्ध की कार्रवाई" और अपनी जल सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा मानता है।

Context of Pakistan’s Internal Instability

पाकिस्तान की आंतरिक अस्थिरता की पृष्ठभूमि

• Pakistan’s instability is worsening, with the military losing youth support post Imran Khan’s imprisonment.

• पाकिस्तान की अस्थिरता बढ़ती जा रही है, खासकर इमरान खान की गिरफ्तारी के बाद सैन्य समर्थन में युवाओं की गिरावट से।



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• Pakistan is also trying to **internationalise the Kashmir issue**, notably during the **U.S. Vice-President's visit to India**.

• पाकिस्तान कश्मीर मुद्दे का अंतरराष्ट्रीयकरण करने की कोशिश कर रहा है, विशेष रूप से अमेरिकी उपराष्ट्रपति की भारत यात्रा के दौरान।

• These factors make it difficult for India to **formulate policies** toward a **state in turmoil**.

• इन परिस्थितियों में भारत के लिए अशांत राष्ट्र के प्रति नीतियां बनाना चुनौतीपूर्ण हो जाता है।

• It raises the question: Did India **fully consider Pakistan's instability** before the **Foreign Secretary's announcement**?

• यह सवाल उठता है: क्या भारत ने विदेश सचिव की घोषणा से पहले पाकिस्तान की अस्थिरता को पूरी तरह से ध्यान में रखा?

• Can abeyance of the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** truly put **meaningful pressure** on Pakistan?

• क्या सिंधु जल संधि (IWT) का स्थगन वास्तव में पाकिस्तान पर प्रभावी दबाव बना सकता है?

• Will using the IWT to **curb cross-border terrorism** be an **effective tool**?

• क्या IWT को पार-सीमा आतंकवाद रोकने के लिए हथियार के रूप में उपयोग करना प्रभावी साबित होगा?

India's Domestic Priorities and Delays

भारत की घरेलू प्राथमिकताएं और परियोजनाओं में देरी

• Pakistan is seen as a **failing state**, unlikely to meet India's **counter-terrorism demands**.

• पाकिस्तान को एक असफल राष्ट्र माना जा रहा है, जिससे भारत की आतंकवाद विरोधी मांगें पूरी होने की संभावना नहीं है।

• India may use "abeyance" to **advance water infrastructure projects**, especially on the **western and eastern rivers**.

• भारत "अस्थगन" का उपयोग कर सकता है ताकि वह पश्चिमी और पूर्वी नदियों पर जल अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं को आगे बढ़ा सके।

• Projects like **Kishenganga, Baglihar, and Ratle** faced **significant delays** due to Pakistan's **legal challenges**.

• किशनगंगा, बगलीहार, और रतले जैसी परियोजनाएं पाकिस्तान की कानूनी आपत्तियों के कारण गंभीर रूप से विलंबित हुई हैं।

• While Kishenganga and Baglihar were **eventually completed**, **Tulbul Navigation** and **Ratle** remain **uncertain**.

• हालांकि किशनगंगा और बगलीहार अंततः पूर्ण हुए, तुलबुल नेविगेशन और रतले परियोजनाएं अभी भी अनिश्चित बनी हुई हैं।

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- The **2021 Parliamentary Committee** stressed the need to **fully utilize allocated water** through better infrastructure.
- **2021 की संसदीय समिति** ने आवंटित जल का पूर्ण उपयोग करने के लिए बेहतर अवसंरचना की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया था।
- Still, concerns remain about **feasibility and environmental clearances** for such large-scale projects.
- फिर भी, ऐसी **बड़ी परियोजनाओं** की व्यवहार्यता और पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी को लेकर चिंताएं बनी हुई हैं।

Two-Level Game of Domestic and Global Strategy

घरेलू और वैश्विक रणनीति का द्वैतीय-स्तरीय खेल

- In the coming period, we may see a **complex interaction of domestic pressures and international diplomacy**.
- आने वाले समय में हम घरेलू दबावों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कूटनीति के बीच जटिल अंतःक्रिया देख सकते हैं।
- Both countries must **satisfy domestic constituencies, engage diplomatically, and frame actions as strategic wins**.
- दोनों देशों को घरेलू अपेक्षाएं पूरी करनी होंगी, कूटनीतिक संवाद करना होगा, और अपने कदमों को रणनीतिक जीत के रूप में प्रस्तुत करना होगा।
- For India, putting IWT in abeyance shows a **firm stance against terrorism**, aligning with **public sentiment and security goals**.
- भारत के लिए IWT को स्थगित करना आतंकवाद के खिलाफ कठोर रुख दिखाता है, जो जन भावना और सुरक्षा लक्ष्यों के अनुरूप है।
- Internationally, it signals **India's frustration over Pakistan's support for terrorism**.
- अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर यह भारत की पाकिस्तान के आतंकवाद समर्थन से उपजी नाराजगी को दर्शाता है।

Ramifications for India

भारत पर प्रभाव

- Domestically, the move has garnered **emotional and political support**.
- घरेलू स्तर पर इस कदम को भावनात्मक और राजनीतिक समर्थन मिला है।
- However, **violating IWT unilaterally** may lead India to face the **Permanent Court of Arbitration** or the **International Court of Justice**.
- हालांकि, यदि भारत IWT का एकतरफा उल्लंघन करता है, तो उसे **स्थायी पंचाट न्यायालय** या **अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालय** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।



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- This could **damage India's credibility** as a **responsible international actor**.
- इससे भारत की एक जिम्मेदार अंतरराष्ट्रीय शक्ति के रूप में साख को नुकसान पहुंच सकता है।
- Domestically, **fast-tracking water projects** might **bypass environmental and public scrutiny**, risking the **Indus basin's ecosystem**.
- घरेलू स्तर पर, यदि जल परियोजनाओं को जल्दबाज़ी में आगे बढ़ाया गया, तो इससे सार्वजनिक और पर्यावरणीय समीक्षा की अनदेखी हो सकती है, जिससे सिंधु घाटी की पारिस्थितिकी को खतरा हो सकता है।
- **Weaponising water** may yield **short-term strategic gains**, but it could also harm **India's democratic governance and environmental integrity**.
- जल को हथियार बनाना अल्पकालिक रणनीतिक लाभ दे सकता है, लेकिन इससे भारत की लोकतांत्रिक शासन व्यवस्था और पर्यावरणीय अखंडता को नुकसान पहुंच सकता है।

Need for Strategic Foresight

रणनीतिक दूरदृष्टि की आवश्यकता

- Public sentiment in India is demanding **tougher responses** like **surgical strikes (2016 and 2019)**.
- भारत में जन भावना कठोर प्रतिक्रिया की मांग कर रही है, जैसे कि 2016 और 2019 के सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक।
- However, such actions may **not address the root causes** of **cross-border terrorism**.
- लेकिन इस प्रकार की कार्रवाइयाँ पार-सीमा आतंकवाद के मूल कारणों को नहीं सुलझाती हैं।
- India must **balance national sentiment** with the need for **long-term regional stability and security**.
- भारत को राष्ट्रीय भावना और दीर्घकालिक क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता और सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलन बनाना होगा।
- Any steps on the IWT should be backed by a **clear legal framework** and **geopolitical alignment**.
- IWT पर कोई भी कदम स्पष्ट कानूनी ढांचे और भू-राजनीतिक लक्ष्य से मेल खाना चाहिए।
- India's actions must reflect **strategic foresight**, not just emotional or reactive decisions.
- भारत के कदमों में केवल भावनात्मक या प्रतिक्रियात्मक नहीं, बल्कि **रणनीतिक दूरदृष्टि** दिखनी चाहिए।
- The goal should be to **pressure Pakistan** on terrorism **without damaging India's ecological and social fabric**.
- उद्देश्य यह होना चाहिए कि भारत पाकिस्तान पर आतंकवाद के मुद्दे पर दबाव बनाए, लेकिन अपने पर्यावरणीय और सामाजिक ताने-बाने को क्षति न पहुंचे।
- India should project itself as a **responsible global power**, respecting **democratic values and environmental stewardship**.



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- भारत को लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों और पर्यावरणीय संरक्षण का सम्मान करने वाली एक जिम्मेदार वैश्विक शक्ति के रूप में प्रस्तुत करना चाहिए।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Detaining non-citizens and the rule of law

GS Paper II: Citizenship

In India, people who are deemed non-citizens can be detained under the National Security Act, 1980, and the Foreigners Act, 1946. Detained non-citizens can spend years in detention camps, enduring uncertainty and harsh conditions.

The Assam experience

In Assam, 19 lakh people have been stripped of their citizenship in the compilation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Many people stripped of their citizenship through this process have been detained. Most of these 'non-citizens' cannot be removed from India - because they have lived their entire lives in India, with no meaningful or continuing ties to any other nation. They were stripped of their citizenship through unfair procedures. They were required to prove their citizenship through documentary proof of their family's residence in India before 1971, even though these documents are inaccessible to many and may be lost or destroyed in flood-prone Assam. Many of their documents were rejected because of misspellings or different versions of names, even though variations like this are common throughout India.

The arbitrary and indefinite detention of non-citizens in India, including those who have been stripped of citizenship by the NRC, was challenged in the Supreme Court in *Rajubala Das v Union of India* (2020). Similar proceedings in Australia in *NZYQ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* (2023) led the High Court to prohibit the indefinite detention of non-citizens where there is no realistic prospect of their removal from Australia, upholding important constitutional limits on the deprivation of liberty. Whether there are similar limits on India's ability to detain non-citizens has important implications for the rule of law and the judiciary's independence.

In Indian law, the principal basis for depriving a person of



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Assam's immigration detention regime is not just a threat to the liberty and well-being of those caught up within it; it also raises important questions of constitutional principles

their liberty – even if it is not the only basis – is where that person has been found guilty of a criminal offence and sentenced by a court, or where they have been detained pending trial and sentence. That is, they have been detained by, or in connection with, the exercise of judicial power.

Being deprived of liberty is hence ordinarily a form of punishment. There are some reasons why a person may be detained other than as punishment; the most obvious example is preventive detention under Article 22 of the Constitution. But it is an important part of India's common law heritage, as in Australia, that these purposes are limited and constrained, including under Article 22 itself. A person cannot be detained for any reason whatsoever. There are also some circumstances in Indian law where judicial power may be exercised by a body other than the courts, such as by tribunals. But the power to detain is under the control and supervision of the nation's courts.

A violation of principles

Non-citizen detention in its current form in Assam violates these principles. Those detained have not been convicted of or charged with any crime or sentenced to any term of imprisonment. It cannot seriously be claimed that they are being detained for the purpose of removing them from India. In response to questions asked in the Assam Legislative Assembly, it was acknowledged that only 26 declared foreigners have been deported since 2017 - despite the fact that, as of December 31, 2023, over 1,59,353 people had been declared foreigners by the State's Foreigners Tribunals. More recently, the Centre has informed the Supreme Court that 13 more Bangladeshi nationals have been deported. But only a tiny fraction of those detained, much less those stripped of citizenship, has been removed from India. Most

non-citizens detained cannot be removed because they are citizens of no other country, and no other country will accept them.

No legitimate reason

In recent orders in *Rajubala Das*, the Supreme Court has ordered that deportation be commenced even without verifying detainees' addresses in the country to which they are being deported. This is no answer to this dilemma. In order to remove a detainee, their nationality will have to be verified and the country to which they are deported must be willing to accept them. The detainees will have to be provided travel documents which will allow them to enter that country. But none of this can happen for detainees who have no other country to call home. In Australia, people in a similar position – that is, people who have no realistic possibility of being removed from Australia – cannot be detained, because their detention would not serve any legitimate purpose.

Non-citizens are hence not detained as punishment, or pending trial, or for removal from India, or for any other recognised 'preventive' purpose – or in accordance with any safeguard on preventive detention under Article 22 of the Constitution. They are merely detained for the purpose of being detained. That is not a recognised or legitimate reason for depriving a person of their liberty under Article 21, regardless of whether that person is a citizen or a non-citizen.

Assam's immigration detention regime is hence not just a threat to the liberty and well-being of those caught up within it; it raises important questions of constitutional principle. The deprivation of liberty has traditionally been recognised as a power to be exercised and controlled by the courts.

If the executive and the legislature encroach upon the traditional role of the courts, this poses a real threat to the rule of law.

Detaining Non-Citizens and the Rule of Law



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गैर-नागरिकों की गिरफ्तारी और कानून का शासन

• In India, people who are deemed non-citizens can be detained under the National Security Act, 1980, and the Foreigners Act, 1946.

• भारत में, जिन्हें गैर-नागरिक माना जाता है, उन्हें राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 1980 और विदेशी अधिनियम, 1946 के तहत हिरासत में लिया जा सकता है।

• Detained non-citizens can spend **years** in **detention camps**, facing **uncertainty** and **harsh conditions**.

• हिरासत में लिए गए गैर-नागरिक कई साल डिटेन्शन कैंपों में बिता सकते हैं, जहाँ उन्हें अनिश्चितता और कठिन परिस्थितियों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

The Assam Experience

असम का अनुभव

• In Assam, **19 lakh people** were stripped of their **citizenship** during the compilation of the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**.

• असम में, **19 लाख लोग राष्ट्रीय नागरिक रजिस्टर (NRC)** के संकलन के दौरान अपनी **नागरिकता** से वंचित कर दिए गए।

• Many of those stripped of citizenship were **detained**.

• जिन लोगों की नागरिकता छीनी गई, उनमें से कई को **हिरासत में** लिया गया।

• Most of these 'non-citizens' cannot be **removed from India**, as they have **lived their entire lives in India** and have **no ties** to any other country.

• इनमें से अधिकांश 'गैर-नागरिकों' को **भारत से बाहर नहीं निकाला जा सकता**, क्योंकि उन्होंने अपना पूरा जीवन **भारत में बिताया है** और किसी अन्य देश से कोई संबंध नहीं है।

• Citizenship was removed through **unfair procedures**, requiring people to prove family residence in India before **1971** using documents often **inaccessible, lost, or damaged** in **flood-prone Assam**.

• नागरिकता को **अनुचित प्रक्रियाओं** के माध्यम से छीना गया, जिसमें लोगों को **1971 से पहले** भारत में परिवार के निवास का प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करना था, जबकि ये दस्तावेज अक्सर **अप्राप्य, गुम, या बाढ़-प्रवण असम में नष्ट** हो चुके होते हैं।

• Documents were **rejected** due to **misspellings** or **name variations**, which are common in India.



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• दस्तावेजों को वर्तनी की गलतियों या नाम में भिन्नताओं के कारण अस्वीकृत कर दिया गया, जबकि भारत में ऐसी भिन्नताएँ आम हैं।

Legal Challenges and Judicial Concerns

कानूनी चुनौतियाँ और न्यायिक चिंताएँ

- The **indefinite** and **arbitrary detention** of non-citizens, including NRC-stripped individuals, was challenged in the **Supreme Court** in **Rajubala Das v Union of India (2020)**.
- NRC से नागरिकता खो चुके व्यक्तियों सहित गैर-नागरिकों की **अनिश्चितकालीन और मनमानी हिरासत** को **राजबाला दास बनाम भारत संघ (2020)** मामले में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में चुनौती दी गई।
- In **Australia**, a similar case (**NZYQ v Minister, 2023**) resulted in a **ban** on indefinite detention of non-citizens **without realistic removal prospects**.
- **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** में इसी तरह के एक मामले (**NZYQ बनाम मंत्री, 2023**) में **गैर-नागरिकों की अनिश्चितकालीन हिरासत पर प्रतिबंध** लगाया गया, यदि उन्हें **हटाए जाने की कोई वास्तविक संभावना नहीं है**।
- Whether **India** has similar **constitutional limits** is important for the **rule of law** and **judiciary's independence**.
- क्या **भारत** में भी ऐसी ही **संवैधानिक सीमाएँ** हैं, यह **कानून के शासन और न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

Basis of Deprivation of Liberty in Indian Law

भारतीय कानून में स्वतंत्रता से वंचित करने का आधार

- In India, **deprivation of liberty** is typically based on being **found guilty** of a **criminal offence**, or **detained pending trial**.
- भारत में, **स्वतंत्रता से वंचित करना** आमतौर पर तब होता है जब किसी को **आपराधिक अपराध का दोषी** पाया जाता है या वह **मुकदमे के लंबित रहने तक हिरासत में** होता है।
- **Punishment** is the ordinary reason for detention, though **preventive detention** is also allowed under **Article 22** of the Constitution.
- हिरासत का सामान्य कारण **सजा** होता है, हालांकि **अनिवार्य हिरासत** को **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 22** के तहत अनुमति दी गई है।
- Preventive detention powers are **limited** and **constrained** even under Article 22.
- **अनुच्छेद 22** के अंतर्गत भी **अनिवार्य हिरासत** की शक्तियाँ **सीमित और नियंत्रित** हैं।



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- Judicial power to detain is under the **supervision of courts**, even if exercised by **tribunals**.
- हिरासत की न्यायिक शक्ति न्यायालयों की निगरानी में रहती है, चाहे वह प्राधिकरणों द्वारा ही क्यों न लागू की जाए।

Violation of Constitutional Principles in Assam

असम में संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों का उल्लंघन

- Detainees in Assam have not been **convicted, charged, or sentenced**, yet they are imprisoned.
- असम में हिरासत में लिए गए लोगों को दोषी नहीं ठहराया गया, आरोपित नहीं किया गया, या सजा नहीं दी गई, फिर भी उन्हें जेल में रखा गया है।
- Only **26 declared foreigners** were **deported** since **2017**, despite **1,59,353 people** being declared foreigners as of **31 December 2023**.
- 2017 से केवल 26 घोषित विदेशी ही निर्वासित किए गए, जबकि 31 दिसंबर 2023 तक 1,59,353 लोग विदेशी घोषित किए जा चुके हैं।
- The Centre recently informed the Supreme Court that **13 more Bangladeshis** have been deported.
- केंद्र सरकार ने हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट को बताया कि 13 और बांग्लादेशी नागरिकों को निर्वासित किया गया है।
- **Most detainees** cannot be removed because they are **stateless** and **no country** is willing to accept them.
- अधिकांश हिरासत में लिए गए लोग को हटाया नहीं जा सकता क्योंकि वे किसी देश के नागरिक नहीं हैं और कोई भी देश उन्हें स्वीकार नहीं कर रहा।

Lack of Legitimate Purpose for Detention

हिरासत के लिए वैध उद्देश्य का अभाव

- The Supreme Court ordered **deportation** without verifying the **detainees' addresses** in the country of deportation.
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने निर्वासन का आदेश दिया, बिना यह जाँचे कि जिन देशों में उन्हें भेजा जा रहा है वहाँ उनका पता क्या है।
- Deportation requires **verified nationality, willingness of receiving country, and travel documents** — all **impossible** for stateless detainees.
- निर्वासन के लिए पुष्टि की गई नागरिकता, स्वीकार करने वाले देश की सहमति, और यात्रा दस्तावेजों की आवश्यकता होती है — जो नागरिकता विहीन हिरासतियों के लिए असंभव है।

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• In **Australia**, similar detainees **cannot be detained**, as detention would serve **no legitimate purpose**.

• ऑस्ट्रेलिया में, ऐसे हिरासतियों को हिरासत में नहीं रखा जा सकता, क्योंकि इससे कोई वैध उद्देश्य पूरा नहीं होता।

Violation of Article 21 and Rule of Law

अनुच्छेद 21 और कानून के शासन का उल्लंघन

• Non-citizens in Assam are not detained as **punishment, pending trial, removal**, or under **preventive detention** safeguards.

• असम में गैर-नागरिकों को सजा, मुकदमे, हटाने, या अनिवार्य हिरासत के सुरक्षा उपायों के तहत हिरासत में नहीं लिया गया है।

• They are detained **merely for being detained**, which is not a **legitimate reason** under **Article 21**.

• उन्हें केवल हिरासत में रखने के लिए हिरासत में लिया गया है, जो अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत वैध कारण नहीं है।

• Assam's **immigration detention regime** poses a threat to both **individual liberty** and **constitutional principles**.

• असम की प्रवासन हिरासत प्रणाली न केवल व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता बल्कि संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों के लिए भी खतरा है।

• Deprivation of liberty is a power traditionally exercised and controlled by the **courts**.

• स्वतंत्रता से वंचित करना एक शक्ति है जिसे परंपरागत रूप से न्यायालयों द्वारा प्रयोग और नियंत्रित किया जाता है।

• **Executive and legislative encroachment** on this judicial power threatens the **rule of law**.

• इस न्यायिक शक्ति पर कार्यपालिका और विधायिका का अतिक्रमण कानून के शासन के लिए खतरा है।

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Remembering the struggle: Army personnel march during the celebrations of Maharashtra Day, which commemorates the formation of the State in 1960, at Shivaji Park, in Mumbai, on May 1. PTI

PATRIOTIC



Samyukta Maharashtra: how a linguistic movement built a State

Maharashtra Day has been celebrated since 1960 on May 1, along with International Labour Day. Looking back at the history of the formation of the State, one must acknowledge the contribution of Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

GS Paper II: State Reorganization

Nikhil Sanjay-Rekha Adsule

The Punjab Mail to Delhi was bustling with the inspiring tune of Lavani "Majhi maina gavavar rahili," composed by Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe. Senior freedom fighter Vithabai led the chorus, enthusiastically accompanied by Comrades Ahilya Ranganekar and Tara Reddy. This episode, described in Meena Deshpande's classic novel, *Hutatma (martyr)*, shows the passion and force of the Marathi people in envisioning the cultural-linguistic goal of a "Samyukta Maharashtra" (Unified Maharashtra), realising the dream of the King of Kiyots, the Kulwadi Bhushan – Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It aligned with Shivaji's vision of Maharashtra Dharma, first illustrated in the Mahikavati Bakhar of the 15th century.

Today, along with International Labour Day, Maharashtra Day has been celebrated since 1960 on May 1. To better understand the cultural-linguistic concept of Samyukta Maharashtra, two key aspects of the movement need to be analysed – Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe's contribution and the role of Dr. Ambedkar and his Scheduled Caste Federation (SCF).

History of the movement

The Gandhian promise of the linguistic reorganisation of States was not fulfilled in the case of the Marathi-speaking public by any of the committees including the Dhar Commission, the JVP Committee, and the Fazl Ali Commission. The Congress leaders, playing with Marathi people's sentiments, sidelined the fair demand for the linguistic creation of a Samyukta Maharashtra encompassing Mumbai, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Belgaum, Karwar, and Nippani. This understanding was democratically

reached under the aegis of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti, headed by Keshavrao Jedhe, and which included stalwarts like S. M. Joshi. They took into cognisance the earlier agreed Nagpur Pact of 1953, improving on the Akola Pact of 1947.

In 1954, the RSS supremo, M. S. Golwalkar, at the Anti-Provincial Conference, echoed the sentiments of the Bombay Citizens Committee, helmed by the Gujarati-speaking elites, who were opposed to the idea of a Samyukta Maharashtra.

It was later Indira Gandhi who nudged the then reluctant Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to accept the demand for a Samyukta Maharashtra, which includes Mumbai, due to the following events – the resignation of Union Finance Minister C. D. Deshmukh, the loss of lives of more than 100 Marathi activists to state brutality, and the Congress debacle in the State during the 1957 elections.

The cultural ethos

The fiery Acharya Atre, whose newspapers, *Navayug* and *Mahratta*, were the movement's voice, shed tears hearing the famous poet Shailendra's song for the movement. The lyrics of the song announced, "Rise, Maratha! The times will change. The storm has risen. And it will calm down only after taking Bombay with it."

Neera Adarkar and Meena Menon have highlighted that these *shahirs* played a critical role in mobilising the Marathi-speaking masses. Here, Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe's role was extremely significant. Annabhau was a folk artist, writer, and social worker. Through the *Lal Bava Kalapathak* (Red flag cultural squad), he and his comrades mobilised masses from the rural areas, garnering their support for the Samyukta Maharashtra movement. Their role can be understood through Jürgen Habermas's

theory of communicative rationality, which focuses on the deliberative democratic model which is open, meaningful, constructive, and uses critical conversations to reach a consensus. In his *lokanatya* (a form of theatre), "Majhi Mumbai", he presents this communicative rationality, foregrounding a discussion between a Marathi person named Vishnu and a bourgeois character, Munim. When Munim asks, "Why should Mumbai be given to Maharashtra?" Vishnu answers, "Just like an eagle has wings and a tiger has claws, just like that, Mumbai is for Maharashtra."

His famous composition, "Majhi Maina Gavavar rahili", became an anthem of the movement. While the state tried to crush his spirit, Annabhau kept the momentum going. He and his comrades successfully engendered fraternity between different classes, transcending gender and caste boundaries, to build an associated linguistic vision of Samyukta Maharashtra with Mumbai being its core.

The role of Ambedkar

Prabodhankar Thackrey, in his autobiography, *Majhi Jeevangatha*, recalls his meeting with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who promised that his party, the SCF, would stand with the Samyukta Maharashtra movement.

Ambedkar was one of the first people to have perspicacity on the Samyukta Maharashtra issue. He submitted his scholarly views before the Dhar Commission. And for the first time, the resolution for a Samyukta Maharashtra was brought to the Bombay Corporation by his party, the SCF, in 1948. His party also seconded the resolution on the same, brought by Acharya Atre, in the Bombay Corporation. He emphasised that linguistic reorganisation can accord cultural specificity, social plurality, and a democratic polity, strengthening

federalism. During the general elections in 1951, he asserted the idea of a Samyukta Maharashtra which includes Mumbai.

Incidentally, in 1956, Ambedkar sent a telegram to Jawaharlal Nehru expressing his indignation with the proposed reorganisation of states in Parliament. He was unwavering in his belief that Mumbai was for Maharashtra only.

Ambedkar clearly articulated his position on the need for a Samyukta Maharashtra in Parliament, newspapers, and public gatherings. He analysed the issue in three different books – *States and Minorities, Need for Checks and Balances, and Thoughts on Linguistic States*. In *Maharashtra as a Linguistic Province* (1948), Ambedkar argues that State formation based on language cultivates social unity and strengthens democracy. He views the concept of Samyukta Maharashtra, including Mumbai, not from the standpoint of mere geography but as an opportunity to establish social and economic democracy. Even after his death, his party supported the Samyukta Maharashtra movement in the 1957 elections, and members of the SCF, like B. K. Gaikwad, B. C. Kamble, and others, remained key players of the movement. Thus, Dr. Ambedkar used his unique blend of theory and praxis for the movement.

The end of this linguistic-cultural movement was reached when, on May 1, 1960, the State of Maharashtra, with Mumbai as its capital, was formed. In that atmosphere of jubilation, somewhere, the following lines of poet Vinda Karandikar reverberated, remembering the sacrifices of the people: "For the liberation of people, There is still one more battle to go; And whose soul is one, These people are immortal."

Nikhil Sanjay-Rekha Adsule is a senior research scholar at IIT-Delhi

Samyukta Maharashtra: How a Linguistic Movement Built a State

संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र: कैसे एक भाषाई आंदोलन ने एक राज्य की नींव रखी

Maharashtra Day and Cultural-Linguistic Legacy

महाराष्ट्र दिवस और सांस्कृतिक-भाषाई विरासत

• *Maharashtra Day* has been celebrated since 1960 on May 1, along with International Labour Day.

• महाराष्ट्र दिवस 1 मई, 1960 से हर साल अंतरराष्ट्रीय मज़दूर दिवस के साथ मनाया जाता है।



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- To understand the *formation of Maharashtra*, one must acknowledge the contribution of **Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe** and **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**.
- *महाराष्ट्र के गठन* को समझने के लिए **लोकशाहीर अण्णाभाऊ साठे** और **डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर** के योगदान को मान्यता देनी होगी।

Cultural Resonance and Literary References

सांस्कृतिक गूंज और साहित्यिक सन्दर्भ

- The *Punjab Mail to Delhi* was filled with the *Lavani tune* “**Majhi maina gavavar rahili,**” composed by **Annabhau Sathe**.
- *दिल्ली जाने वाली पंजाब मेल* में **अण्णाभाऊ साठे** द्वारा रचित लावणी “**माझी मैना गावावर राहिली**” की धुन गूंज रही थी।
- Senior freedom fighter **Vithabai** led the chorus, accompanied by **Comrades Ahilya Ranganekar** and **Tara Reddy**.
- वरिष्ठ स्वतंत्रता सेनानी **विठाबाई** ने नेतृत्व किया, साथ में **कॉमरेड अहिल्या राणगेनकर** और **तारा रेड्डी** थीं।
- The scene is described in **Meena Deshpande's novel 'Hutatma'**, showing the cultural and emotional power behind the dream of *Samyukta Maharashtra*.
- यह दृश्य **मीना देशपांडे** के उपन्यास '**हुतात्मा**' में वर्णित है, जो *संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र* के सपने के पीछे की सांस्कृतिक और भावनात्मक शक्ति को दर्शाता है।
- This dream aligned with **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's** idea of **Maharashtra Dharma**, illustrated in the **15th-century Mahikavati Bakhar**.
- यह सपना **छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज** की *महाराष्ट्र धर्म* की कल्पना से मेल खाता है, जो **15वीं सदी** की **महीकावती बखर** में वर्णित है।

Two Pillars of the Movement

आंदोलन के दो स्तंभ

- Two essential aspects of the *Samyukta Maharashtra* movement are the **contribution of Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe** and the **role of Dr. Ambedkar** and his **Scheduled Caste Federation (SCF)**.
- *संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र* आंदोलन के दो प्रमुख पहलू हैं — **लोकशाहीर अण्णाभाऊ साठे का योगदान** और **डॉ. अंबेडकर** तथा उनकी **शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट फेडरेशन (SCF)** की भूमिका।

Unfulfilled Gandhian Promise and Committee Failures

अधूरी गांधीवादी प्रतिज्ञा और समितियों की विफलता

- The **Gandhian promise of linguistic reorganisation** was **not fulfilled** for the **Marathi-speaking people**.
- गांधीवादी वादा जो *भाषाई पुनर्गठन* से जुड़ा था, वह **मराठी भाषियों** के लिए **पूरा नहीं हुआ**।



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• Committees like the **Dhar Commission**, **JVP Committee**, and **Fazl Ali Commission** rejected the demand.

• धर आयोग, जेपीवी समिति और फज़ल अली आयोग जैसी समितियों ने इस मांग को ठुकरा दिया।

Democratic Mobilisation through Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti

संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र समिति द्वारा लोकतांत्रिक संगठित प्रयास

• The **Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti**, led by **Keshavrao Jedhe** and including leaders like **S. M. Joshi**, campaigned for a state with **Mumbai, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Belgaum, Karwar, and Nippani**.

• केशवराव जेधे की अध्यक्षता में और एस. एम. जोशी जैसे नेताओं के साथ संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र समिति ने मुंबई, विदर्भ, मराठवाड़ा, बेलगाम, कारवार और निपाणी सहित राज्य की मांग की।

• Their stance built upon the **Nagpur Pact (1953)**, which improved upon the earlier **Akola Pact (1947)**.

• उन्होंने अपने विचारों को 1953 के नागपुर समझौते पर आधारित किया, जो 1947 के अकोला समझौते से बेहतर था।

Opposition from Bombay Elites and RSS Support

बॉम्बे के अभिजात वर्ग और आरएसएस का समर्थन विरोध में

• In 1954, **M. S. Golwalkar** of the **RSS** supported the **Bombay Citizens Committee**, which was led by **Gujarati-speaking elites** opposed to Samyukta Maharashtra.

• 1954 में, आरएसएस प्रमुख एम. एस. गोलवलकर ने बॉम्बे सिटिज़न्स कमेटी का समर्थन किया, जो गुजराती भाषी अभिजात वर्ग द्वारा संचालित थी और संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र के विरोध में थी।

Turning Point under Indira Gandhi's Influence

इंदिरा गांधी के प्रभाव से आया निर्णायक मोड़

• **Indira Gandhi** persuaded **Prime Minister Nehru**, who was initially reluctant, to agree to the demand for Samyukta Maharashtra including **Mumbai**.

• इंदिरा गांधी ने प्रारंभ में अनिच्छुक प्रधानमंत्री नेहरू को मुंबई सहित संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र की मांग को स्वीकार करने के लिए राजी किया।

• Key reasons were:

- **Resignation of Union Finance Minister C. D. Deshmukh**
- **100+ Marathi activists were killed by police brutality**



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- Congress defeat in the 1957 State elections
 - प्रमुख कारण थे:
- केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री सी. डी. देशमुख का इस्तीफ़ा
- 100 से अधिक मराठी कार्यकर्ताओं की पुलिस अत्याचार में मौत
- 1957 के राज्य चुनावों में कांग्रेस की हार

The Cultural Ethos

सांस्कृतिक भावना

- The fiery **Acharya Atre**, whose newspapers **Navayug** and **Mahrattha** were the voice of the movement, shed tears after hearing poet **Shailendra's** song written for the movement.
 - तेजतर्रार **आचार्य अत्रे**, जिनके समाचार पत्र **नवयुग** और **महरट्टा** इस आंदोलन की आवाज़ थे, ने कवि **शैलेन्द्र** का आंदोलन के लिए लिखा गीत सुनकर आंसू बहाए।
- The lyrics of the song declared: “**Rise, Maratha! The times will change. The storm has risen. And it will calm down only after taking Bombay with it.**”
 - इस गीत के बोल थे: “**उठ मराठा! समय बदलेगा। तूफान उठ चुका है और यह तब तक शांत नहीं होगा जब तक बॉम्बे को साथ नहीं ले जाता।**”
- **Neera Adarkar** and **Meena Menon** highlighted that these **shahirs** played a crucial role in mobilising the **Marathi-speaking masses**.
 - **नीरा अडारकर** और **मीना मेनन** ने बताया कि इन **शाहिरों** ने **मराठीभाषी जनता** को जुटाने में अहम भूमिका निभाई।
- Among them, **Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe's** contribution was particularly significant.
 - इनमें **लोकशाहिर अण्णाभाऊ साठे** का योगदान विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण था।
- Annabhau was a **folk artist, writer, and social worker**.
 - अण्णाभाऊ एक **लोक कलाकार, लेखक, और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता** थे।
- Through the **Lal Bavta Kalapathak (Red Flag Cultural Squad)**, he mobilised support from **rural areas** for the **Samyukta Maharashtra movement**.
 - उन्होंने **लाल बावटा कलापथक** (लाल झंडा सांस्कृतिक दल) के ज़रिए **ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों** से **संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र आंदोलन** के लिए समर्थन जुटाया।

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- Their role can be analysed through **Jürgen Habermas's theory of communicative rationality**, which emphasizes **deliberative democracy** through **critical dialogue**.
- उनकी भूमिका को **जुर्गन हैबरमास के संवादात्मक तर्कशीलता सिद्धांत** से समझा जा सकता है, जो **चिंतनशील लोकतंत्र और महत्वपूर्ण संवाद** पर आधारित है।
- In his **lokanatya** (folk theatre) titled *Majhi Mumbai*, he shows this theory via a conversation between a **Marathi man, Vishnu**, and a **bourgeois, Munim**.
- अपनी **लोकनाट्य 'माझी मुंबई'** में वह इस सिद्धांत को **मराठी व्यक्ति विष्णु और बुर्जुआ मुनीम** के बीच संवाद के ज़रिए दिखाते हैं।
- When Munim asks, "Why should Mumbai be given to Maharashtra?" Vishnu replies, "Just like an eagle has wings and a tiger has claws, Mumbai is for Maharashtra."
- जब मुनीम पूछता है, "मुंबई महाराष्ट्र को क्यों दी जानी चाहिए?", विष्णु उत्तर देता है, "जिस तरह गरुड़ को पंख और बाघ को पंजे मिलते हैं, उसी तरह मुंबई महाराष्ट्र की है।"
- His famous composition *Majhi Maina Gavavar Rahili* became an **anthem** of the movement.
- उनकी प्रसिद्ध रचना '*माझी मैना गावावर राहिली*' आंदोलन का **गान** बन गई।
- Despite state suppression, **Annabhau** and his comrades continued to fuel the movement.
- राज्य के दमन के बावजूद **अण्णाभाऊ** और उनके साथियों ने आंदोलन को जारी रखा।
- They built **solidarity** across **class, caste, and gender lines** to envision a **unified Maharashtra** with **Mumbai** at its core.
- उन्होंने **वर्ग, जाति और लिंग** की सीमाओं को पार करते हुए **मुंबई केंद्रित संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र** की **एकजुटता** को मजबूती दी।

The Role of Ambedkar

डॉ. आंबेडकर की भूमिका

- **Prabodhankar Thackeray**, in his autobiography *Majhi Jeevangatha*, mentions that **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** promised support from his party **SCF** to the **Samyukta Maharashtra movement**.
- **प्रबोधनकर ठाकरे** ने अपनी आत्मकथा '*माझी जीवनगाथा*' में लिखा कि **डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर** ने अपनी पार्टी **SCF** की ओर से **संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र आंदोलन** को समर्थन देने का वादा किया था।
- Ambedkar was one of the **first thinkers** to deeply analyse the **Samyukta Maharashtra** issue.
- अंबेडकर **संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र मुद्दे** को गहराई से समझने वाले **प्रथम विचारकों** में थे।
- He submitted his **views before the Dhar Commission** and in **1948**, the **SCF** brought the **first resolution** on Samyukta Maharashtra in the **Bombay Corporation**.



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• उन्होंने अपने विचार धार आयोग के सामने प्रस्तुत किए और 1948 में SCF ने संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र पर पहला प्रस्ताव बॉम्बे निगम में रखा।

• SCF also supported the **resolution moved by Acharya Atre** in the Corporation.

• **SCF** ने **आचार्य अत्रे** द्वारा प्रस्तुत प्रस्ताव का भी समर्थन किया।

• Ambedkar argued that **linguistic reorganisation** promotes **cultural identity, social plurality, and a democratic federal polity.**

• अंबेडकर का मानना था कि **भाषायी पुनर्गठन** से सांस्कृतिक पहचान, सामाजिक विविधता और लोकतांत्रिक संघीय ढांचा मजबूत होता है।

• During the **1951 general elections**, he strongly advocated for **Samyukta Maharashtra including Mumbai.**

• **1951** के आम चुनावों में उन्होंने **मुंबई सहित संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र** का जोरदार समर्थन किया।

• In **1956**, Ambedkar sent a **telegram to Nehru**, showing his discontent with the **reorganisation proposals.**

• **1956** में अंबेडकर ने **नेहरू** को टेलीग्राम भेजकर **राज्य पुनर्गठन प्रस्तावों** पर अपनी नाराज़गी जताई।

• He was firm in his belief that **Mumbai belonged to Maharashtra.**

• वह इस विश्वास में अडिग थे कि **मुंबई महाराष्ट्र की है।**

• He expressed his views in **Parliament, in newspapers, and at public rallies.**

• उन्होंने अपनी राय **संसद, अखबारों, और जन सभाओं** में व्यक्त की।

• He discussed this issue in **three major works** — *States and Minorities, Need for Checks and Balances, and Thoughts on Linguistic States.*

• उन्होंने इस मुद्दे पर **तीन प्रमुख पुस्तकों** — *States and Minorities, Need for Checks and Balances, और Thoughts on Linguistic States* — में चर्चा की।

• In *Maharashtra as a Linguistic Province* (1948), he stated that **language-based states** build **social unity and democracy.**

• '*महाराष्ट्र ऐज़ ए लिंक्विस्टिक प्रोविंस*' (1948) में उन्होंने कहा कि **भाषा आधारित राज्य सामाजिक एकता और लोकतंत्र** को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

• He saw **Samyukta Maharashtra with Mumbai** not just as a geographical demand but as a path to **social and economic democracy.**

• उन्होंने **मुंबई सहित संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र** को केवल भौगोलिक मांग नहीं बल्कि **सामाजिक और आर्थिक लोकतंत्र** की दिशा के रूप में देखा।



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- Even after his death, **SCF** supported the movement in the **1957 elections**, with leaders like **B. K. Gaikwad** and **B. C. Kamble** actively participating.
- उनकी मृत्यु के बाद भी **SCF** ने **1957 के चुनावों** में आंदोलन का समर्थन किया और **बी. के. गायकवाड़, बी. सी. कांबले** जैसे नेता सक्रिय रूप से जुड़े रहे।

- Thus, **Dr. Ambedkar** contributed to the movement through a unique combination of **theory and practice**.
- इस तरह, **डॉ. अंबेडकर** ने **सिद्धांत और व्यवहार** के अनूठे मेल से आंदोलन को दिशा दी।

Formation of Maharashtra

महाराष्ट्र राज्य का गठन

- The **Samyukta Maharashtra movement** culminated in the creation of **Maharashtra State** with **Mumbai** as its capital on **May 1, 1960**.
- संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र आंदोलन का अंत **1 मई 1960** को **मुंबई** को राजधानी बनाकर **महाराष्ट्र राज्य** के गठन से हुआ।
- In the atmosphere of celebration, poet **Vinda Karandikar's** lines echoed: "For the liberation of people, there is still one more battle to go; and whose soul is one, these people are immortal."
- इस उल्लास के वातावरण में कवि **विंदा करंदीकर** की पंक्तियाँ गूँज उठीं: "जनता की मुक्ति के लिए अब भी एक लड़ाई बाकी है; और जिनकी आत्मा एक है, वे लोग अमर हैं।"

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

1. Tensions at India-Pakistan Border

भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर तनाव

2. Home Ministry directs States to conduct 'civil defence' drills

गृह मंत्रालय ने राज्यों को 'नागरिक सुरक्षा' अभ्यास आयोजित करने का निर्देश दिया

3. Unprecedented Civic Push in Remote M.P. Hamlet after Horrific Crime



भयानक अपराध के बाद मध्य प्रदेश के दूरस्थ गाँव में अभूतपूर्व
नागरिक विकास कार्य

4. One more child dies of rabies; Kerala seeks changes to ABC rules

एक और बच्चे की रेबीज से मौत; केरल ने एबीसी नियमों में बदलाव की मांग की

5. Opposition to Grazing Land Acquisition in Assam

असम में चरागाह भूमि के अधिग्रहण का विरोध

6. Activists Ask Centre to Withdraw Genome-Edited Rice Varieties

कार्यकर्ताओं ने केंद्र से जीनोम-संपादित चावल की किस्मों को वापस लेने की मांग की

7. Spain Blackout Highlights the Grid Challenge for Renewables

स्पेन में बिजली गुल होने से नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के लिए ग्रिड की चुनौती उजागर हुई

8. Redrawing the Not-So-Pretty Energy Footprint of AI

AI के ऊर्जा उपयोग की बदसूरत तस्वीर को फिर से खींचना

9. Maritime hub

समुद्री केंद्र

10. Hydrogen versus Battery: The Cost of Clean Public Transport

हाइड्रोजन बनाम बैटरी: स्वच्छ सार्वजनिक परिवहन की लागत



Amid tension at border, IAF chief meets PM

Army says it responded proportionately to small arms fire along the border in Jammu and Kashmir; Pakistan bans Indian ships from entering its ports in a retaliatory move after India closed its ports for its vessels; J&K Police holds joint security review meeting focusing on 'intelligence gathering, threat assessments, and emergency response'

SS Paper III: IS

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

As tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack continued to run high, the Indian Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in New Delhi on Sunday. The meeting was held amid growing cross-border skirmishes along Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting assumes significance in the wake of an earlier statement made by Mr. Modi that the armed forces had been granted "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of the Indian response to the Pahalgam attack, which left 26 civilians dead.

The meeting took place

within 24 hours of Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi meeting Mr. Modi and apprising him of the situation in the critical sea lanes of the Arabian Sea.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and the Service chiefs had held meetings with the Prime Minister.

Weighting options

India is weighing its options in responding to the Pahalgam terror attack, which it believes was planned in Pakistan. India has already taken several diplomatic measures, including suspension of the Indus Water Treaty. Official sources said India was in the process of controlling and reducing the flow of water through the Baglihar



Tight vigil: Paramilitary personnel patrol in Srinagar on Sunday as security has been upped in Kashmir since the Pahalgam attack. ANI

Dam on the Chenab river and the Kishanganga Dam on the Jhelum river in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, they could not confirm if such measures have fruited. The treaty prevents India from stor-

ing and constructing large dams on the three rivers flowing in the Union Territory.

Pakistan, in a retaliatory step, banned Indian-flagged ships from entering its ports with immediate ef-

fect on Sunday after New Delhi imposed fresh punitive measures on Saturday, including a ban on the import of goods and entry of Pakistani vessels into its ports.

The Pakistan Ministry of

Maritime Affairs in a notification said that it took the step of banning the Indian ships in the context of the current situation, keeping in mind maritime sovereignty, economic interests and national security.

The borders along Jammu and Kashmir remain tense. An Army spokesperson said the Pakistan Army posts resorted to unprovoked small arms fire across the Line of Control on Saturday night and early Sunday morning.

The districts where cross-border skirmishes were reported included Kupwara and Baramulla in the Kashmir Valley; and Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani and Akhnoor districts in the Jammu division. "The Indian Army responded promptly and proportionately," the Army said.

In the Kashmir Valley, Inspector-General of Police V.K. Birdi, who held a joint security review meeting, delved into "the existing security challenges in the Valley". "The discussions focused on intelligence gathering, threat assessments, emergency response preparedness, and inter-agency coordination," a police spokesperson said.

The joint security review meeting underscored the commitment of all security and intelligence agencies to work in close coordination to maintain peace and stability in the Kashmir Valley, the spokesperson said.

(With PTI inputs)

PARADIGM SHIFT

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'BEFITTING REPLY'

» PAGE 4

Tensions at India-Pakistan Border

भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर तनाव

• Amid rising tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in New Delhi.

• पहलगाम आतंकी हमले के बाद बढ़ते तनाव के बीच वायुसेना प्रमुख एयर चीफ मार्शल ए.पी. सिंह ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से उनके नई दिल्ली स्थित आवास पर मुलाकात की।

• The meeting came amid increasing cross-border skirmishes along Jammu and Kashmir.

• यह बैठक जम्मू-कश्मीर में बढ़ रही सीमा-पार झड़पों के बीच हुई।

• Prime Minister Modi had earlier stated that the armed forces had been given "complete operational freedom" to decide the mode, targets, and timing of India's response.

• प्रधानमंत्री मोदी पहले ही कह चुके हैं कि सशस्त्र बलों को "पूर्ण संचालनात्मक स्वतंत्रता" दी गई है कि वे प्रतिक्रिया का तरीका, लक्ष्य और समय तय कर सकें।

• The Pahalgam attack led to the death of 26 civilians.

• पहलगाम हमला में 26 नागरिकों की मौत हुई थी।



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High-Level Security Meetings

उच्च स्तरीय सुरक्षा बैठकें

- The IAF chief's meeting came within **24 hours** of **Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi** briefing the Prime Minister about the situation in the **Arabian Sea**.
- वायुसेना प्रमुख की बैठक 24 घंटे के भीतर हुई जब नौसेना प्रमुख एडमिरल दिनेश के. त्रिपाठी ने अरब सागर की स्थिति पर प्रधानमंत्री को जानकारी दी थी।
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, NSA **Ajit Doval**, **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan**, and other **Service Chiefs** also held meetings with the PM.
- रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल, मुख्य रक्षा अध्यक्ष जनरल अनिल चौहान और अन्य सेना प्रमुखों ने भी प्रधानमंत्री से बैठक की।

India's Diplomatic and Strategic Response

भारत की कूटनीतिक और रणनीतिक प्रतिक्रिया

- India is considering **multiple options** in response to the **Pahalgam attack**, which it believes was **planned in Pakistan**.
- भारत पहलगाम हमले की प्रतिक्रिया में विभिन्न विकल्पों पर विचार कर रहा है, जिसे वह मानता है कि पाकिस्तान में योजनाबद्ध था।
- Diplomatic steps include **suspension of the Indus Water Treaty**.
- कूटनीतिक कदमों में सिंधु जल संधि का निलंबन शामिल है।
- India is attempting to **control water flow** from the **Baglihar Dam (Chenab River) and Kishanganga Dam (Jhelum River)** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- भारत, जम्मू-कश्मीर में बगलीहार बांध (चेनाब नदी) और किशनगंगा बांध (झेलम नदी) से जल प्रवाह को नियंत्रित करने की कोशिश कर रहा है।
- The **Indus Water Treaty** prohibits India from storing water or building large dams on these rivers.
- सिंधु जल संधि भारत को इन नदियों पर जल संग्रह या बड़े बांध बनाने से रोकती है।

Pakistan's Retaliatory Move

पाकिस्तान की प्रतिकारात्मक कार्रवाई

- In retaliation, **Pakistan banned Indian-flagged ships** from entering its ports **with immediate effect** on **Sunday**.



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• जवाब में, पाकिस्तान ने रविवार को तुरंत प्रभाव से भारतीय झंडा लगे जहाजों के अपने बंदरगाहों में प्रवेश पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।

• This followed India's decision to ban **imports** from Pakistan and **entry of Pakistani vessels** into Indian ports.

• यह कदम भारत द्वारा पाकिस्तानी वस्तुओं के आयात और पाकिस्तानी जहाजों के भारतीय बंदरगाहों में प्रवेश पर प्रतिबंध के बाद आया।

• Pakistan's **Ministry of Maritime Affairs** stated the decision was based on **maritime sovereignty, economic interests, and national security**.

• पाकिस्तान के समुद्री मामलों के मंत्रालय ने कहा कि यह निर्णय समुद्री संप्रभुता, आर्थिक हितों और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखकर लिया गया।

Military Tension and Skirmishes Along the LoC

नियंत्रण रेखा पर सैन्य तनाव और झड़पें

• The border in **Jammu and Kashmir** remains **tense**.

• जम्मू और कश्मीर में सीमा पर तनावपूर्ण स्थिति बनी हुई है।

• According to an **Army spokesperson**, Pakistan resorted to **unprovoked small arms fire** across the **LoC** on **Saturday night and early Sunday**.

• सेना के प्रवक्ता के अनुसार, शनिवार रात और रविवार सुबह पाकिस्तान ने नियंत्रण रेखा पर बिना उकसावे के छोटे हथियारों से गोलीबारी की।

• **Cross-border skirmishes** were reported in districts like **Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani, and Akhnour**.

• कुपवाड़ा, बारामुला, पुंछ, राजौरी, मेंढर, नौशेरा, सुंदरबनी और अखनूर जैसे जिलों में सीमा पार **झड़पों** की सूचना मिली।

• The **Indian Army** responded **promptly and proportionately** to the firing.

• भारतीय सेना ने तत्काल और समानुपातिक प्रतिक्रिया दी।

Joint Security Review in Kashmir Valley

कश्मीर घाटी में संयुक्त सुरक्षा समीक्षा

• In the **Kashmir Valley**, **IGP V.K. Birdi** conducted a **joint security review meeting**.

• कश्मीर घाटी में आईजीपी वी.के. बिर्डी ने संयुक्त सुरक्षा समीक्षा बैठक की।

• The meeting focused on **existing security challenges, intelligence gathering, threat assessments, emergency preparedness, and inter-agency coordination**.

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• बैठक में मौजूदा सुरक्षा चुनौतियों, खुफिया जानकारी एकत्र करने, खतरों के मूल्यांकन, आपातकालीन तैयारी और एजेंसियों के बीच समन्वय पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया।

• The review underscored the commitment of all **security and intelligence agencies** to work together to **maintain peace and stability** in the valley.

• समीक्षा में सभी सुरक्षा और खुफिया एजेंसियों की शांति और स्थिरता बनाए रखने के लिए एकजुट होकर काम करने की प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित किया गया।

Home Ministry directs States to conduct 'civil defence' drills

Countrywide exercise to include air-raid sirens, evacuation plans, and camouflaging vital installations; mock drills to begin tomorrow and continue till Friday amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgalam attack

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Nistula Hebbar
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Monday asked the States to conduct drills up to the village level in 244 categorised districts by operationalising air-raid warning signs, crash blackout measures, evacuation plans, camouflaging vital installations, establishing hotline with the Indian Air Force, and training civilians on various aspects of civil defence measures in the event of a "hostile attack."

The Directorate General of Civil Defence under the Ministry wrote to the Chief Secretaries of all States on Monday to organise a civil defence exercise and rehearsal.

The letter said "civil defence is considered integral component of nation's passive defence strategy" and it would be prudent if

War footing

The drills aim at training civilians on various aspects of defence measures in the event of a 'hostile attack'



Close watch: Security personnel stationed at a marketplace in Srinagar on Monday. AFP

optimum preparedness is maintained in the "current geo-political scenario" where "new and complex threats have emerged."

The States have been asked to activate control rooms, firefighting and warden services, and undertake cleaning of bunkers and trenches among others. Bunkers are present in border villages mostly in Jammu and Kashmir to shield civilians from

PREPARATORY STEPS

- Operationalising air-raid warning signs used to prepare the public when there is an 'external threat'
- Crash blackout measures similar to that conducted in Ferozepur of Punjab, bordering Pakistan, on Sunday
- States asked to undertake cleaning of bunkers and trenches prevalent in border villages

cross-border firing.

The mock drills will begin countrywide on Wednesday and are likely to continue till Friday, a senior government official said.

Four lakh volunteers

Around four lakh volunteers associated with the DG, Civil Defence – that was raised in 1962 in the wake of China war – will be roped in for the drill, the

official told *The Hindu*.

The letter to Chief Secretaries follows an earlier communication on May 2 regarding "civil defence preparedness in vulnerable areas/districts."

Government sources confirmed that this comes in the backdrop of escalating tensions between India and Pakistan in the wake of the terrorist attack in Pahalgalam on April 22 that left 26 people dead.

"Every State including those on the western border will do the mock exercise beginning on May 7. The finer details will be shared on Tuesday. Some States are better equipped and for others, we will issue guidelines," said the official.

The official explained that camouflaging of vital installation amounts to switching off all illumination, including in the vicinity of the plants and vital buildings.

Apart from the volunteers with the Civil Defence, the police will also mobilise volunteers in their jurisdictions, the official said. School, college students, National Cadet Corps (NCC), members from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) will be involved in the exercise.

Blackout drill

On Sunday, police conducted a 30-minute blackout drill in the Ferozepur district of Punjab, bordering Pakistan. The Ferozepur Cantonment Board issued an advisory and residents were asked to switch off lights from 9 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, meanwhile, met with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, followed by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

RELATED REPORT

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Home Ministry directs States to conduct 'civil defence' drills

गृह मंत्रालय ने राज्यों को 'नागरिक सुरक्षा' अभ्यास आयोजित करने का निर्देश दिया

• The Union Home Ministry on Monday asked the States to **conduct drills up to the village level in 244 categorised districts** by

operationalising air-raid warning signs, crash blackout measures, evacuation plans, camouflaging vital installations, establishing a hotline with the Indian Air Force, and training civilians in civil defence in the event of a "hostile attack."

• सोमवार को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने 244 श्रेणीकृत जिलों में गांव स्तर तक अभ्यास कराने का निर्देश दिया, जिसमें हवाई हमले की चेतावनी, ब्लैकआउट उपाय, निकासी योजनाएँ, महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों को छिपाना, भारतीय वायु सेना से हॉटलाइन स्थापित करना, और नागरिकों को "शत्रुतापूर्ण हमले" की स्थिति में नागरिक सुरक्षा के लिए प्रशिक्षित करना शामिल है।



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- The **Directorate General of Civil Defence**, under the Ministry, wrote to **Chief Secretaries** of all States on Monday to organise a **civil defence exercise** and **rehearsal**.
- मंत्रालय के अधीन **नागरिक सुरक्षा महानिदेशालय** ने सोमवार को सभी राज्यों के **मुख्य सचिवों** को पत्र लिखकर **नागरिक सुरक्षा अभ्यास** और **पूर्वाभ्यास** आयोजित करने को कहा।
- The letter stated that “**civil defence is considered an integral component of the nation’s passive defence strategy**” and that **optimum preparedness** should be maintained in the **current geo-political scenario** where “**new and complex threats have emerged.**”
- पत्र में कहा गया कि “**नागरिक सुरक्षा को राष्ट्र की निष्क्रिय रक्षा रणनीति का एक अभिन्न हिस्सा माना जाता है**” और “**वर्तमान भू-राजनीतिक स्थिति**” में, जहां “**नई और जटिल चुनौतियाँ उभर रही हैं,**” वहां **उच्चतम स्तर की तैयारी** बनाए रखना आवश्यक है।
- States have been asked to **activate control rooms, firefighting and warden services**, and undertake **cleaning of bunkers and trenches**, especially in **border villages like Jammu and Kashmir**.
- राज्यों को **कंट्रोल रूम सक्रिय करने, अग्निशमन और वार्डन सेवाएं शुरू करने, और बंकरों व खाइयों की सफाई** करने के लिए कहा गया है, विशेषकर **जम्मू और कश्मीर जैसे सीमा गांवों में**।
- The **mock drills** will begin **nationwide on Wednesday** and are expected to continue till **Friday**, as confirmed by a **senior government official**.
- एक **वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी** के अनुसार, यह **नकली अभ्यास बुधवार से पूरे देश में शुरू होगा और शुक्रवार तक जारी रहेगा**।

Involvement of Volunteers and Forces

स्वयंसेवकों और बलों की भागीदारी

- Around **4 lakh volunteers** of the **Directorate General of Civil Defence**, which was raised in **1962** during the **India-China war**, will participate in the drill.
- **1962 के भारत-चीन युद्ध के दौरान गठित नागरिक सुरक्षा महानिदेशालय के लगभग 4 लाख स्वयंसेवक इस अभ्यास में भाग लेंगे**।
- The letter to Chief Secretaries followed an earlier communication on **May 2** regarding “**civil defence preparedness in vulnerable areas/districts.**”
- **मुख्य सचिवों को यह पत्र 2 मई को भेजे गए एक पूर्व संवाद के बाद आया, जिसमें "संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों/जिलों में नागरिक सुरक्षा तैयारी" की बात की गई थी**।
- **Government sources** confirmed this drill is being conducted in the backdrop of rising tensions with **Pakistan** after the **Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22**, which killed **26 people**.
- **सरकारी सूत्रों ने पुष्टि की कि यह अभ्यास 22 अप्रैल को पहलगाम आतंकवादी हमले के बाद भारत-पाकिस्तान के बीच बढ़ते तनाव के मद्देनजर किया जा रहा है, जिसमें 26 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी**।

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• **Every State**, including those on the **western border**, will participate in the **mock exercise** starting **May 7**.

• हर राज्य, जिसमें पश्चिमी सीमा पर स्थित राज्य भी शामिल हैं, 7 मई से मॉक अभ्यास में भाग लेंगे।

• Detailed guidelines will be issued on **Tuesday**; **some States** are better equipped than others, said the official.

• अधिकारी ने बताया कि कुछ राज्य बेहतर तैयार हैं, बाकियों के लिए मंगलवार को विस्तृत दिशानिर्देश जारी किए जाएंगे।

• **Camouflaging vital installations** means **switching off all lights**, including those around **important buildings and plants**.

• महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों को छिपाने का अर्थ है सभी लाइट्स बंद करना, जिनमें संयंत्रों और प्रमुख भवनों के आसपास की रोशनी भी शामिल है।

• Apart from Civil Defence volunteers, **police** will mobilise local **volunteers**, and **students** from **schools and colleges**, **NCC**, and **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)** will be included.

• नागरिक सुरक्षा स्वयंसेवकों के अलावा, पुलिस स्थानीय स्वयंसेवकों, स्कूल-कॉलेज के छात्रों, NCC, और नेहरु युवा केंद्र संगठन (NYKS) के सदस्यों को भी शामिल करेगी।

Blackout Drill in Punjab

पंजाब में ब्लैकआउट ड्रिल

• On **Sunday**, the police conducted a **30-minute blackout drill** in **Ferozpur district** of **Punjab**, which borders **Pakistan**.

• रविवार को पंजाब के फिरोजपुर जिले, जो पाकिस्तान से सटा हुआ है, में पुलिस ने 30 मिनट की ब्लैकआउट ड्रिल की।

• The **Ferozpur Cantonment Board** issued an advisory asking residents to **switch off lights** from **9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

• फिरोजपुर छावनी बोर्ड ने एक सलाह जारी कर नागरिकों से रात 9 बजे से 9:30 बजे तक लाइट बंद करने को कहा।

• Meanwhile, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** held meetings with **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh** and **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval**.

• इस दौरान, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने रक्षा सचिव राजेश कुमार सिंह और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल के साथ बैठकें कीं।



In this remote M.P. hamlet, unprecedented civic push follows a horrific crime

SS Paper III: Internal Security
Mehul Malpani
BALAGHAT

It's afternoon in Duglai, a village in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, and around a dozen residents are huddled around two electricians busy installing power meters outside the house of a resident, Shyamal Tekam. Above them, a third electrician is replacing power cables damaged several decades ago with new lines.

Duglai is located deep inside the forests of Balaghat, which was last month removed from the Union Home Ministry's list of the districts "most-affected" by left-wing extremism (LWE) and notified as a "district of concern", suggesting that Maoist influence in the area is on the wane.

Till 10 days ago, the village was isolated from the

rest of the country. Except for a few weeks nearly 12 years ago, when electricity poles and cables were laid for the first time, it has never had electricity.

"The cables got damaged within a few weeks and were never replaced," said Mr. Tekam. It has also never been connected with the State road network. But the 130-odd Gondi-speaking residents here, most of whom live in mud houses with thatched roofs, have seen a flurry of activity over the past few days, with senior district officials, police officers, and political leaders making frequent visits and supervising the large-scale civic infrastructure overhaul, which includes a plan to lay a road connecting Duglai with a link road.

While the administration says that the works are part of the Centre's civic infrastructure push in LWE-affected areas, many Duglai residents claim that the civic revamp started only after an outcry following the gang-rape of three minor girls and a woman last month.

The assault

The incident happened around 1.30 a.m. on the intervening night of April 23 and 24, when six Duglai residents – four girls and a woman, aged between seven and 20, and their uncle – were returning from a wedding in the neighbouring Thakurtola village located two kilometres away. The group was accosted by seven men who had chased them on motorcycles from the venue of the event.

As per the police, the accused beat the group's male member, gang-raped four victims, and fled.



Electricity is being extended to Balaghat's Duglai village, which was cut off from the rest of the country till 10 days ago. A.M. FARUQUI

On the morning of April 24, the victims' parents, along with residents of Thakurtola, approached the family members of the accused in Bhagatpur, 3.5 kilometres away, but were

allegedly turned away. Bhagatpur has electricity, roads, concrete houses, cattle, tractors and other farm machines. "They first refused to believe that their sons had

done this and later offered us money to settle the matter among ourselves," said the father of one of the survivors.

Balaghat Superintendent of Police (SP) Nagendra Singh told The Hindu that while some area residents were pushing for a "settlement", the victims stood their ground.

"The village has been under the influence of Maoists for a long time, during which people here have been taught to avoid the police and the administration. Now, with the police visiting the area daily, people have begun to open up," he said.

"Won't back down" On April 25, the survivors, their parents and members of a few tribal outfits reached the Godri police checkpoint and an FIR was filed under charges of gang

rape, assault, and provisions of the POCSO Act. By evening, the police arrested the accused, identified as Lokesh Matre, 22, Inglesh Matre, 19 (brothers), Ajayendra, 27, Maniram Bahre, 21 (brothers), Raju Bagdate, 21, Rajendra Sabre, 24, and Lal Chand Khare, 34. While the accused are currently in judicial custody, the survivors are staying at a State-run shelter home for children in Balaghat town.

Reena*, one of the survivors, said the pressure from families of those accused to reach an agreement did not deter her from pursuing the case.

"Before leaving us in the jungle, they threatened us. But I told the police everything," she said.

Meanwhile, Kankar Munjare, a former MP and a prominent political figure in the area, dubbed

the "hurried" development works in Duglai an "insult" to the survivors and their families.

"Does someone have to get raped or killed to get basic civic services? This is not a form of compensation but an insult to their suffering," he said.

Balaghat Collector Mrunal Meena said there is no connection between the crime and the civic services push in the area.

"We had identified 200 priority villages for electrification under the DAJGUA [Dharti Aaba Janajitay Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan] scheme, and the work is under way in many other villages as well. Duglai is among the villages most affected by Maoism. But we are working to connect these places with the main stream," he said.

*names changed to protect identity

Unprecedented Civic Push in Remote M.P. Hamlet after Horrific Crime

भयानक अपराध के बाद मध्य प्रदेश के दूरस्थ गाँव में अभूतपूर्व नागरिक विकास कार्य

• In Duglai, a remote village in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh, residents were seen gathered as electricians installed power meters and replaced decades-old cables.

• मध्य प्रदेश के बालाघाट ज़िले के दूरस्थ गाँव डुगलाई में, निवासी एकत्र थे जहाँ बिजलीकर्मों बिजली मीटर लगा रहे थे और दशकों पुराने तारों को बदल रहे थे।

• Duglai lies deep in the Balaghat forests, and was recently removed from the Union Home Ministry's list of "most-affected LWE districts" and reclassified as a "district of concern", indicating waning Maoist influence.

• डुगलाई, बालाघाट के जंगलों के अंदर स्थित है और हाल ही में इसे केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय की "सबसे प्रभावित वामपंथी उग्रवाद प्रभावित जिलों" की सूची से हटाकर "चिंता का जिला" घोषित किया गया, जो माओवादी प्रभाव में कमी को दर्शाता है।

• Until 10 days ago, the village had no electricity, except for a brief period 12 years ago, when electric poles and wires were first installed but were soon damaged.

• 10 दिन पहले तक इस गाँव में बिजली नहीं थी, सिवाय 12 साल पहले की एक छोटी अवधि के, जब बिजली के खंभे और तार लगाए गए थे, लेकिन वे जल्द ही क्षतिग्रस्त हो गए।

• The village has also never been connected to the State road network.

• यह गाँव आज तक राज्य की सड़क नेटवर्क से नहीं जुड़ा है।



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- Around **130 Gondi-speaking** people live here, mostly in **mud houses with thatched roofs**, and they have seen an unusual rise in **official visits** and **civic works** recently.
- यहाँ लगभग **130 गोंडीभाषी** लोग रहते हैं, जो अधिकतर **मिट्टी और फूस की झोपड़ियों** में रहते हैं, और हाल में उन्होंने **अधिकारियों के दौरे** और **बड़े स्तर पर नागरिक कार्य** देखे हैं।
- The government claims these developments are part of a broader push under **LWE-area schemes**, but residents say the action started only after a **gang-rape case** last month.
- सरकार का कहना है कि ये कार्य **वामपंथी उग्रवाद प्रभावित क्षेत्रों की योजनाओं** के तहत हैं, लेकिन ग्रामीणों का कहना है कि यह सब **पिछले महीने की सामूहिक बलात्कार घटना** के बाद शुरू हुआ।

The Assault

हमला

- On the night of **April 23–24**, around **1:30 a.m.**, **six villagers** — **four girls and a woman (aged 7 to 20)** and their **uncle** — were returning from a wedding in **Thakurtola**, about **2 km** away.
- **23–24 अप्रैल** की रात लगभग **1:30 बजे**, **छह ग्रामीण** — **चार लड़कियाँ और एक महिला (उम्र 7 से 20 वर्ष)** और उनके **चाचा** — **2 किमी दूर स्थित ठाकुरटोला गाँव से शादी से लौट रहे थे**।
- They were chased by **seven men on motorcycles** from the wedding venue, who then **assaulted the uncle, gang-raped the females, and fled**.
- शादी स्थल से **सात मोटरसाइकिल सवार पुरुषों** ने उनका पीछा किया, फिर **चाचा को पीटा, महिलाओं के साथ सामूहिक बलात्कार किया, और भाग गए**।
- On **April 24 morning**, the victims' families and locals from **Thakurtola** went to confront the accused's families in **Bhagatpur**, **3.5 km** away, but were **turned away**.
- **24 अप्रैल की सुबह**, पीड़ितों के परिवार और **ठाकुरटोला** के लोग **3.5 किमी दूर भगतपुर** में आरोपियों के परिवारों के पास गए, लेकिन उन्हें **लौटा दिया गया**।
- **Bhagatpur** is a developed village with **electricity, roads, cement houses, tractors, and cattle**.
- **भगतपुर** एक विकसित गाँव है जहाँ **बिजली, सड़कें, पक्के मकान, ट्रैक्टर और पशुधन** हैं।
- The victims' families say the accused's families first **denied involvement**, then offered **money for settlement**.
- पीड़ित परिवारों का कहना है कि आरोपियों के परिवारों ने पहले **इनकार किया**, फिर **मामला रफादफा करने के लिए पैसे की पेशकश की**।
- Balaghat SP **Nagendra Singh** said some locals wanted a **compromise**, but the survivors **refused to back down**.



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• बालाघाट एसपी नरेंद्र सिंह ने कहा कि कुछ लोग समझौता चाहते थे, लेकिन पीड़ितों ने झुकने से इनकार कर दिया।

• He added that **Maoist influence** had kept people away from police, but now, with **daily police visits**, locals are opening up.

• उन्होंने कहा कि **माओवादी प्रभाव** के कारण लोग पुलिस से दूर रहते थे, लेकिन अब **पुलिस की रोजाना मौजूदगी** से लोग बातचीत करने लगे हैं।

Filing of FIR and Arrests

एफआईआर दर्ज और गिरफ्तारी

• On **April 25**, the survivors, their families, and tribal activists reached **Godri police checkpost**, where an **FIR** was filed under **gang-rape, assault, and POCSO Act** provisions.

• **25 अप्रैल** को पीड़ितों, उनके परिवारों और कुछ आदिवासी संगठनों ने **गोड़री पुलिस चौकी** पहुँचकर **सामूहिक बलात्कार, हमला और पाँक्सो एक्ट** के तहत **एफआईआर दर्ज कराई**।

• By evening, police arrested **seven accused: Lokesh Matre (22), Inglesh Matre (19), Ajayendra (27), Maniram Bahe (21), Raju Bagdate (21), Rajendra Sabre (24), Lal Chand Khare (34)**.

• शाम तक पुलिस ने **सात आरोपियों** को गिरफ्तार किया: **लोकेश माटरे (22), इंग्लेश माटरे (19), अजयेंद्र (27), मनीराम बाहे (21), राजू बगदाते (21), राजेंद्र साबरे (24), लालचंद खरे (34)**।

• The accused are currently in **judicial custody**, while the survivors are staying in a **state-run children's shelter home in Balaghat**.

• आरोपी इस समय **न्यायिक हिरासत** में हैं, जबकि पीड़ित **बालाघाट में राज्य द्वारा संचालित शेल्टर होम** में रह रही हैं।

• One survivor, **Reena** (name changed), said the **threats** didn't stop her from telling the **full truth** to the police.

• एक पीड़िता **रीना** (बदला हुआ नाम) ने कहा कि **धमकियों** के बावजूद उसने पुलिस को **सारी सच्चाई** बता दी।

Political Reactions and Administrative Denial

राजनीतिक प्रतिक्रिया और प्रशासनिक इनकार

• **Kankar Munjare**, a former MP and political leader, criticized the **rapid development** as an **"insult"**, not compensation.

• पूर्व सांसद और राजनीतिक नेता **कंकर मुंझारे** ने तेज़ विकास कार्यों को **"अपमान"** कहा, न कि कोई मुआवजा।



- He asked: “Does someone need to be raped or killed to receive basic civic services?”
- उन्होंने सवाल किया: “क्या किसी के साथ बलात्कार या हत्या होनी ज़रूरी है, ताकि उसे मूलभूत नागरिक सुविधाएँ मिलें?”

• **Balaghat Collector Mrunal Meena** denied any link between the crime and civic works, saying **200 villages** were identified under the **DAJGUA** scheme for **electrification**.

• **बालाघाट कलेक्टर मृणाल मीणा** ने अपराध और विकास कार्यों के बीच कोई संबंध होने से इनकार किया, कहा कि **DAJGUA** योजना के तहत **200 गाँवों** की **बिजलीकरण** के लिए पहचान की गई थी।

• He said that **Duglai**, being one of the **most Maoist-affected villages**, is now being **mainstreamed** through these efforts.

• उन्होंने कहा कि **डुगलाई**, जो कि **माओवाद से सबसे अधिक प्रभावित गाँवों में से एक** है, अब इन प्रयासों के ज़रिए **मुख्यधारा से जोड़ा जा रहा है।**

One more child dies of rabies; Kerala seeks changes to ABC rules

GS Paper III: S&T
The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Following the death of one more child from rabies after a stray dog bite, the increasing number of stray dogs in the State is in the spotlight again.

A seven-year-old girl from Pathanapuram in Kollam district died at the SAT wing of the Government Medical College Hospital here on Monday despite being administered four doses of anti-rabies vaccination. The mother of child raised the issue of waste dumping near her house which led to stray dogs frequenting the area and her daughter getting bitten.

As per the State government's data presented by Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh in the Assembly earlier this year, 3.17 lakh people sought treatment from government hospitals in 2024 for dog bite-related cases.

Thiruvananthapuram district topped in number of dog bite cases, with 50,870 people seeking treatment. Kollam is in the second place with 37,618 cases, Ernakulam had 32,086 cases, Palakkad 31,303, and Thrissur 29,363. Wayanad was last on the list with 5,719 cases.

Minister's demand
Mr. Rajesh on Monday reiterated his earlier demand to the Union government to amend the Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules to make it less stringent.

“Kerala had over 900



Big digits: As per govt. data, Thiruvananthapuram has the most dog bite cases. G.N. RAO

ABC centres. However, with the stipulations in the new ABC rules, many of these had to be closed down. Another problem we are facing is the opposition from the local population in most places where local bodies have tried to set up ABC centres,” Mr. Rajesh said.

Satheesan's charge

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said the number of stray dogs has increased to such an extent that people are afraid to venture out. The local bodies are also lax in controlling the menace as the government is not providing adequate funds, he added.

“The government was not ready to take the issue seriously even after the Opposition raised it several times. Kerala is experiencing the tragic consequences of this today. The State should at least implement a multidisciplinary disease control system to control rabies. The government cannot evade responsibility for the deaths of children,” said Mr. Satheesan.

One more child dies of rabies; Kerala seeks changes to ABC rules

एक और बच्चे की रेबीज से मौत; केरल ने एबीसी नियमों में बदलाव की मांग की

• A seven-year-old girl from Pathanapuram in Kollam district died at the SAT wing of the Government Medical College Hospital on Monday, despite receiving four doses of the anti-rabies vaccine.

• कोल्लम जिले के पथानापुरम की सात वर्षीय बच्ची की सोमवार को सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल के SAT विंग में मौत हो गई, जबकि उसे रेबीज रोधी टीके की चार खुराक दी गई थी।

• The girl's mother blamed **waste dumping near their house**, which attracted **stray dogs**, leading to the bite.

• बच्ची की मां ने घर के पास कचरा फेंके जाने को जिम्मेदार ठहराया, जिससे आवारा कुत्ते वहां आने लगे और बच्ची को काट लिया।

Rising Cases of Dog Bites in Kerala

केरल में कुत्ते के काटने के बढ़ते मामले

• According to **State government data** presented by **Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh**, **3.17 lakh people** sought treatment for **dog**



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bite-related cases from government hospitals in 2024.

- स्थानीय स्वशासन मंत्री एम.बी. राजेश द्वारा प्रस्तुत राज्य सरकार के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 2024 में 3.17 लाख लोग सरकारी अस्पतालों में कुत्ते के काटने से जुड़ी समस्याओं के इलाज के लिए पहुंचे।

- Thiruvananthapuram district recorded the highest number with 50,870 cases, followed by Kollam (37,618), Ernakulam (32,086), Palakkad (31,303), and Thrissur (29,363). Wayanad reported the lowest at 5,719 cases.

- तिरुवनंतपुरम जिले में सबसे ज्यादा 50,870 मामले सामने आए, इसके बाद कोल्लम (37,618), एर्नाकुलम (32,086), पालक्काड (31,303) और त्रिशूर (29,363) रहे। वायनाड में सबसे कम 5,719 मामले दर्ज किए गए।

State Government's Concern and Demand for Rule Change

राज्य सरकार की चिंता और नियमों में बदलाव की मांग

- Minister **M.B. Rajesh** reiterated his earlier demand to the Union government for amendments in the Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules to make them less stringent.

- मंत्री एम.बी. राजेश ने केंद्र सरकार से पशु जन्म नियंत्रण (ABC) नियमों में संशोधन कर उन्हें कम सख्त बनाने की अपनी पहली मांग दोहराई।

- He said Kerala had over 900 ABC centres, but many had to shut down due to stipulations in the new rules.

- उन्होंने कहा कि केरल में 900 से अधिक ABC केंद्र थे, लेकिन नए नियमों की शर्तों के कारण उनमें से कई को बंद करना पड़ा।

- Another issue is public opposition wherever local bodies attempt to set up these centres.

- एक अन्य समस्या यह है कि स्थानीय निकायों द्वारा इन केंद्रों को स्थापित करने की कोशिश पर स्थानीय जनता का विरोध होता है।

Opposition's Criticism

विपक्ष की आलोचना

- Leader of the Opposition **V.D. Satheesan** said the number of stray dogs has grown so much that people are afraid to go out.

- विपक्ष के नेता वी.डी. सतीसन ने कहा कि आवारा कुत्तों की संख्या इतनी बढ़ गई है कि लोग बाहर निकलने से डरते हैं।

- He blamed local bodies for being inactive and the government for not providing enough funds.

- उन्होंने स्थानीय निकायों को निष्क्रिय और सरकार को पर्याप्त फंड न देने के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया।

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• Satheesan alleged that the **government ignored the issue** despite the Opposition raising it **several times**.

• सतीसन ने आरोप लगाया कि विपक्ष द्वारा कई बार मुद्दा उठाने के बावजूद भी सरकार ने इसे नजरअंदाज किया।

• He urged the State to implement a **multidisciplinary disease control system** to fight rabies, and said the **government cannot evade responsibility** for children's deaths.

• उन्होंने राज्य से रेबीज नियंत्रण के लिए एक बहु-आयामी रोग नियंत्रण प्रणाली लागू करने का आग्रह किया और कहा कि बच्चों की मौत के लिए सरकार जिम्मेदारी से बच नहीं सकती।

Assam villagers oppose transfer of grazing field for logistics park

GS Paper III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Livestock farmers of 21 villages near Guwahati have opposed the Assam government's move to transform a large chunk of grazing land adjoining an ecologically fragile wetland into a logistics park.

On April 7, the Kamrup District Commissioner's office issued a notification proposing the acquisition of 150 bighas, or 49.59 acres, of the Dorabeel grazing field located in Palashbari revenue circle. The Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) Limited intends to hand over the land to a Kolkata-based company for the establishment of a lo-



The grazing area adjoins an ecologically fragile wetland, the villagers said. FILE PHOTO

gistics park.

"This village grazing land is the only one of its kind in this part of the State and serves as a critical lifeline for the livelihoods of the residents of 21 surrounding villages. Various social organisations

and indigenous communities strongly oppose this move, which threatens their existence," said Ashwini Mazumdar of the Dorabeel Village Grazing Field Protection Convening Committee, representing the villagers to be af-

ected by the logistics park.

According to Kanak Chandra Das, who is a member of the committee, more than 3,000 families dependent on this grazing land for livestock rearing would be severely affected by the move. "This project will disrupt their livelihoods," he said.

Another panel member, Abinash Kalita, said some 500 families from 12 villages rely on the superior soil of this land for pottery.

"We, therefore, are against the construction of the logistics park and urge the administration to address our concerns. If necessary, we will launch a robust public movement to protect our rights," the committee said.

Opposition to Grazing Land Acquisition in Assam

असम में चरागाह भूमि के अधिग्रहण का विरोध



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• **Livestock farmers from 21 villages near Guwahati have opposed the Assam government's decision to convert a large grazing land into a logistics park.**

• गुवाहाटी के पास के 21 गांवों के पशुपालकों ने चरागाह भूमि को लॉजिस्टिक्स पार्क में बदलने के असम सरकार के फैसले का विरोध किया है।

• On **April 7**, the **Kamrup District Commissioner's office** issued a notification proposing the acquisition of **150 bighas** (approximately **49.59 acres**) of **Dorabeel grazing field** in the **Palashbari revenue circle**.

• 7 अप्रैल को कामरूप जिला आयुक्त कार्यालय ने पालाशबाड़ी राजस्व क्षेत्र में स्थित डोराबील चरागाह की 150 बीघा (लगभग 49.59 एकड़) भूमि अधिग्रहित करने का प्रस्ताव जारी किया।

• The **Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) Limited** plans to hand over the land to a **Kolkata-based company** for developing the logistics park.

• असम औद्योगिक विकास निगम (AIDC) लिमिटेड इस भूमि को कोलकाता की एक कंपनी को लॉजिस्टिक्स पार्क बनाने के लिए सौंपने की योजना बना रहा है।

• This **village grazing land** is the **only one of its kind** in the region and is crucial for the livelihood of people from the **21 surrounding villages**.

• यह गांव की चरागाह भूमि इस क्षेत्र में अपनी तरह की एकमात्र है और आसपास के 21 गांवों के लोगों की आजीविका के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

• Social organisations and **indigenous communities** have **strongly opposed** the move, calling it a **threat to their survival**.

• सामाजिक संगठनों और आदिवासी समुदायों ने इस कदम का कड़ा विरोध किया है और इसे उनके अस्तित्व के लिए खतरा बताया है।

• **Ashwini Mazumdar**, representing the **Dorabeel Village Grazing Field Protection Convening Committee**, highlighted the risks posed to the villagers' livelihoods.

• डोराबील गांव चरागाह संरक्षण संयोजन समिति का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले अश्विनी मजूमदार ने ग्रामीणों की आजीविका पर मंडरा रहे खतरे को उजागर किया।

• Committee member **Kanak Chandra Das** said over **3,000 families** dependent on this land for **livestock rearing** will be severely affected.

• समिति के सदस्य कनक चंद्र दास ने बताया कि इस भूमि पर पशुपालन के लिए निर्भर 3,000 से अधिक परिवार इस फैसले से गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित होंगे।

• Another committee member, **Abinash Kalita**, noted that **500 families from 12 villages** depend on the land's **superior soil for pottery**.



• समिति के एक अन्य सदस्य अविनाश कलिता ने बताया कि 12 गांवों के 500 परिवार इस भूमि की उत्तम मिट्टी पर कुम्हारी के लिए निर्भर हैं।

• The committee has declared its **opposition to the logistics park** and warned of launching a **strong public movement** to protect their rights.

• समिति ने लॉजिस्टिक्स पार्क का विरोध जताते हुए अपने अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए सशक्त जन आंदोलन शुरू करने की चेतावनी दी है।

Activists ask Centre to withdraw genome-edited rice varieties, say it's unsafe

GS Paper III: Environment
The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Coalition for GM-free India, a civil society organisation that is fighting a case against genetically modified crops in the Supreme Court, has demanded that the Centre withdraw the two genome-edited paddy varieties announced on Sunday.

The organisation, in a statement on Monday, said the seeds have the potential to harm humans and cause irreversible damage to the environment. Venu-gopal Badaravada, a member of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) governing body representing farmers, said the announcement reflects a troubling trend of prioritising “science for health



The Centre had announced the development of two gene-edited varieties of rice. ANI

lines” over “solutions for the farm”.

The coalition termed the announcement illegal and said the Centre knows that lack of safety will reveal itself if the genome-edited rice varieties are put through regulatory testing, and therefore deregulate Site-Directed Nuclease 1 and Site-Directed Nuclease 2 (SDN-1 and SDN-2) gene

editing techniques in the country. “It is shocking that the Government of India is doing unlawful things under pressure from corporate lobbies. There is an enormous body of scientific literature that is pointing to the lack of safety of gene editing techniques,” the Coalition said, adding that the seeds are being released based on unscientific rationale and “under a smokescreen of higher yield/drought resistance, etc, without any safety testing at all.”

The Centre had announced the development of two varieties of rice, Kamala (DRR Dhan 100), developed by the Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, and Pusa DST Rice 1, developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi.

Activists Ask Centre to Withdraw Genome-Edited Rice Varieties

कार्यकर्ताओं ने केंद्र से

जीनोम-संपादित चावल की

किस्मों को वापस लेने की

मांग की

• The Coalition for GM-free India, a civil society organisation fighting a case against genetically modified crops in the Supreme Court, has demanded that the Centre withdraw the two genome-edited paddy varieties announced on Sunday.

• जीएम-मुक्त भारत गठबंधन, जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जेनेटिक रूप से संशोधित फसलों के खिलाफ केस लड़ रहा है, उसने केंद्र से रविवार को घोषित की गई दो जीनोम-संपादित धान किस्मों को वापस लेने की मांग की है।

• In a statement on Monday, the organisation said the seeds could harm human health and cause irreversible damage to the environment.

• संगठन ने सोमवार को एक बयान में कहा कि ये बीज मानव स्वास्थ्य को नुकसान पहुँचा सकते हैं और पर्यावरण को अपूरणीय क्षति पहुँचा सकते हैं।



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- **Venugopal Badaravada**, a member of the **ICAR governing body** representing farmers, said the announcement reflects a troubling trend of prioritising “**science for headlines**” over “**solutions for the farm.**”
- किसानों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले **आईसीएआर गवर्निंग बॉडी** के सदस्य **वेंगुगोपाल बदरावाड़ा** ने कहा कि यह घोषणा “**खबरों के लिए विज्ञान**” को “**खेती के समाधान**” पर प्राथमिकता देने की चिंताजनक प्रवृत्ति दर्शाती है।
- The coalition termed the announcement **illegal** and claimed that the Centre is avoiding **regulatory testing** because the **lack of safety** would be exposed if the **genome-edited rice** underwent testing.
- गठबंधन ने इस घोषणा को **अवैध** बताया और कहा कि केंद्र सरकार **नियामक परीक्षण** से बच रही है क्योंकि यदि **जीनोम-संपादित चावल** का परीक्षण किया जाए तो **सुरक्षा की कमी** उजागर हो जाएगी।
- It criticised the **deregulation of Site-Directed Nuclease 1 (SDN-1) and Site-Directed Nuclease 2 (SDN-2) gene editing techniques** in the country.
- संगठन ने देश में **साइट-डायरेक्टेड न्यूक्लियेज 1 (SDN-1) और साइट-डायरेक्टेड न्यूक्लियेज 2 (SDN-2)** जैसी **जीन संपादन तकनीकों** के अविनियमन की आलोचना की।
- The coalition alleged that the **Government of India** is acting **unlawfully** under **pressure from corporate lobbies**.
- गठबंधन ने आरोप लगाया कि **भारत सरकार कॉर्पोरेट लॉबी के दबाव** में आकर **गैरकानूनी** कार्य कर रही है।
- It stated that there is a **large body of scientific literature** that points to the **lack of safety** in gene editing technologies.
- गठबंधन ने कहा कि **विज्ञान साहित्य का बड़ा हिस्सा** यह दर्शाता है कि **जीन संपादन तकनीकें सुरक्षित नहीं हैं**।
- The seeds, according to the coalition, are being released based on **unscientific rationale** and claims such as **higher yield** and **drought resistance**, without **any safety testing**.
- गठबंधन के अनुसार, ये बीज **अवैज्ञानिक तर्कों** और **अधिक उपज व सूखा प्रतिरोध** जैसे दावों के आधार पर **बिना किसी सुरक्षा परीक्षण के जारी किए जा रहे हैं**।

Genome-Edited Rice Varieties Announced by the Centre

केंद्र द्वारा घोषित जीनोम-संपादित चावल की किस्में

- The **Centre** announced the development of two rice varieties: **Kamala (DRR Dhan 100)**, developed by the **Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad**, and **Pusa DST Rice 1**, developed by the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi**.
- केंद्र ने दो चावल की किस्मों के विकास की घोषणा की: **कमला (DRR धन 100)** जिसे **भारतीय चावल अनुसंधान संस्थान, हैदराबाद** ने विकसित किया है, और **पूसा डीएसटी राइस 1**, जिसे **भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान, दिल्ली** ने विकसित किया है।

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When the wind stops or the sun is hiding, other sources have to step in within minutes, or there need to be adequate systems for storing and then releasing renewable energy in place

They will have to “assist the system with additional controls to support the grid, particularly in inertia terms,” he said.

Marc Petit, professor of electrical systems at top French engineering school CentraleSupélec, argued that moving away from fossil fuels would make hydroelectric and nuclear power plants “even more essential for stabilising the system” as they use rotating machines.

A range of technical solutions already exists to compensate for renewables’ lack of inertia and hence to support grid stability. These include gravity storage, cryogenic liquid air, compressed air, and concentrated solar power.

As it undergoes a transition away from coal, Britain is banking on flywheels, a tried and tested system. Surplus power from solar and wind farms is used to make the large wheels turn, creating kinetic energy. This stored energy can then be converted to provide electricity to the grid if needed.

Just before the massive blackout on April 28, wind and solar power provided 70% of Spain’s electricity output. But renewables are intermittent sources of energy as they rely on nature.

When the wind stops blowing or the sun is hiding, other sources have to step in within minutes, or there need to be adequate systems for storing and then releasing renewable energy in place.

Depending on the country, backup supply currently comes from mainly thermal power plants, nuclear reactors, or hydroelectricity. To handle the ups and downs of renewable power, countries must ramp up storage capacity. The most widespread method is pumped storage hydropower from water reservoirs.

But large stationary batteries, akin to shipping containers, are increasingly being deployed alongside wind and solar farms – a segment dominated by China.

Spain blackout highlights the grid challenge for renewables

GS Paper III: Environment

Agence France Presse

The cause of last week’s massive power outage in Spain and Portugal remains unclear, but it has shone a spotlight on solar and wind energy, which critics accuse of straining electricity grids.

The rise of renewables presents a challenge for power grids, which must evolve to adapt as countries move away from fossil fuels.

Grid operators must ensure that electricity is constantly balanced between demand and supply.

A metric of this balance is the frequency of the electricity flowing through the grid, set at 50 Hz in Europe and 60 Hz in the US. If that number drifts too far off, it can jeopardise the grid.

Historically, the electricity system has relied on conventional power plants – gas, coal, nuclear, and hydroelectric – that use spinning turbines to generate electricity. These machines keep the frequency stable.

If a power plant fails or if electricity demand increases too quickly, they help stabilise the grid by releasing the kinetic energy stored in their rotors.

Instead of spinning machines, solar and wind farms use electronic systems that feed power into the grid, making it harder to maintain that delicate balance.

Renewable energy will have to do more than provide carbon-free electricity in the future, said Jose Luis Dominguez-Garcia, an electrical systems expert at the Catalonia Energy Research Institute.

• The growth of **renewables** presents a challenge for **power grids**, which must **evolve** as countries shift from **fossil fuels**.

Spain Blackout Highlights the Grid Challenge for Renewables

स्पेन में बिजली गुल होने से नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के लिए ग्रिड की चुनौती उजागर हुई

• The cause of last week’s massive power outage in Spain and Portugal remains unclear.

• पिछले सप्ताह स्पेन और पुर्तगाल में हुई बड़ी बिजली कटौती का कारण स्पष्ट नहीं है।

• The incident has brought attention to **solar and wind energy**, which critics say strain the **electricity grids**.

• इस घटना ने सौर और पवन ऊर्जा पर ध्यान खींचा है, जिसे आलोचक बिजली ग्रिड पर बोझ डालने वाला मानते हैं।



• नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा की वृद्धि पावर ग्रिड के लिए चुनौती है, जिन्हें जीवाश्म ईंधनों से हटने पर खुद को विकसित करना होगा।

• Grid operators must maintain a **constant balance** between **electricity supply and demand**.

• ग्रिड ऑपरेटरों को बिजली की आपूर्ति और मांग के बीच निरंतर संतुलन बनाए रखना होता है।

• A key metric of this balance is the **grid frequency** — **50 Hz** in **Europe** and **60 Hz** in the **US**.

• इस संतुलन का मुख्य मापदंड ग्रिड की आवृत्ति है — यूरोप में 50 Hz और अमेरिका में 60 Hz।

• If frequency strays too far, it can **jeopardise the grid**.

• यदि आवृत्ति बहुत अधिक बदल जाए, तो यह ग्रिड को खतरे में डाल सकती है।

Traditional Grid Stability Methods

परंपरागत ग्रिड स्थिरता विधियाँ

• Historically, the system depended on **conventional power plants** (gas, coal, nuclear, hydroelectric) that use **spinning turbines**.

• पारंपरिक रूप से, यह प्रणाली गैस, कोयला, परमाणु, और जलविद्युत जैसे परंपरागत पावर प्लांट्स पर निर्भर रही है जो घूमने वाले टर्बाइनों का उपयोग करते हैं।

• These turbines help keep the **frequency stable**.

• ये टर्बाइन आवृत्ति को स्थिर बनाए रखने में मदद करते हैं।

• If demand spikes or a plant fails, **rotors** in these machines release **kinetic energy** to stabilise the grid.

• यदि मांग अचानक बढ़ती है या कोई प्लांट फेल हो जाता है, तो ये मशीनों के रोटर अपनी गतिज ऊर्जा छोड़कर ग्रिड को स्थिर करते हैं।

Renewables and Grid Challenges

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और ग्रिड की चुनौतियाँ

• In contrast, **solar and wind farms** use **electronic systems**, not spinning turbines, making **grid balancing harder**.

• इसके विपरीत, सौर और पवन संयंत्र इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सिस्टम का उपयोग करते हैं, न कि घूमने वाले टर्बाइनों का, जिससे ग्रिड संतुलन बनाए रखना कठिन होता है।

• Renewables must provide more than **carbon-free electricity**; they must help **support the grid**.

• नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को केवल कार्बन-मुक्त बिजली ही नहीं, बल्कि ग्रिड को सहारा भी देना होगा।



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• According to **Jose Luis Dominguez-Garcia** from the **Catalonia Energy Research Institute**, renewables must assist in **inertia support**.

• कैटलोनिया ऊर्जा अनुसंधान संस्थान के जोसे लुइस डोमिंगुएज़-गार्सिया के अनुसार, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को जड़त्व समर्थन में मदद करनी होगी।

• **Marc Petit** from **CentraleSupelec** stated that **hydroelectric and nuclear plants** will be **essential** due to their **rotating machines**.

• सेंट्रालसुपेलेक के मार्क पेटिट ने कहा कि जलविद्युत और परमाणु संयंत्र उनकी घूमने वाली मशीनों के कारण अनिवार्य हो जाएंगे।

Solutions for Grid Stability with Renewables

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के साथ ग्रिड स्थिरता के समाधान

• Existing technical solutions include **gravity storage**, **cryogenic liquid air**, **compressed air**, and **concentrated solar power**.

• मौजूदा तकनीकी समाधान में गुरुत्वाकर्षण भंडारण, क्रायोजेनिक तरल हवा, संपीड़ित हवा, और संकेन्द्रित सौर ऊर्जा शामिल हैं।

• **Britain** is using **flywheels** to store **kinetic energy** generated from surplus **solar and wind power**.

• ब्रिटेन में सौर और पवन ऊर्जा की अतिरिक्त आपूर्ति से उत्पन्न गतिज ऊर्जा को फ्लाइवील्स में संग्रहित किया जा रहा है।

• This stored energy can be used to supply **electricity to the grid** when needed.

• यह संग्रहित ऊर्जा आवश्यकता पड़ने पर ग्रिड को बिजली देने में प्रयोग की जा सकती है।

Blackout Context and Energy Mix in Spain

ब्लैकआउट की पृष्ठभूमि और स्पेन में ऊर्जा मिश्रण

• Just before the **blackout on April 28**, **wind and solar** contributed **70%** of **Spain's electricity**.

• 28 अप्रैल के ब्लैकआउट से ठीक पहले, स्पेन की बिजली का 70% हिस्सा पवन और सौर ऊर्जा से आ रहा था।

• **Renewables are intermittent** as they depend on **natural conditions** (sunlight and wind).

• नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा अस्थिर होती है क्योंकि यह प्राकृतिक परिस्थितियों (धूप और हवा) पर निर्भर करती है।

• When **sunlight or wind** is unavailable, other sources must fill the gap quickly or energy storage must be in place.

• जब धूप या हवा नहीं होती, तो अन्य स्रोतों को जल्दी से पूर्ति करनी होती है या ऊर्जा भंडारण की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

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Backup and Storage Needs

बैकअप और भंडारण की आवश्यकता

- Currently, backup comes from **thermal plants, nuclear reactors, or hydroelectric sources**, depending on the country.
- वर्तमान में, देश के अनुसार **थर्मल प्लांट्स, परमाणु रिएक्टर, या जलविद्युत स्रोतों** से बैकअप दिया जाता है।
- To manage fluctuations in renewables, countries must increase **storage capacity**.
- नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में उतार-चढ़ाव को संभालने के लिए देशों को अपनी **भंडारण क्षमता** बढ़ानी होगी।
- The most widespread method is **pumped storage hydropower** using **water reservoirs**.
- सबसे सामान्य तरीका **जलाशयों का उपयोग कर पम्पड स्टोरेज जलविद्युत** है।
- **Large stationary batteries**, similar to **shipping containers**, are also being installed with wind and solar farms.
- **शिपिंग कंटेनरों** जैसे **बड़े स्थायी बैटरियों** को भी पवन और सौर संयंत्रों के साथ लगाया जा रहा है।
- This battery segment is currently **dominated by China**.
- इस बैटरी क्षेत्र पर फिलहाल **चीन का वर्चस्व** है।



Redrawing the not-so-pretty energy footprint of AI

SS Paper III: S&T

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) has undoubtedly eased access to art and reduced the time and the effort required to complete certain tasks. For example, ChatGPT-4o can generate a Studio Ghibli-inspired portrait in seconds with just a prompt. But this ease comes at a significant energy cost that is often overlooked – one that has even led to Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) melting. As AI tools advance, this environmental impact will continue to become more detrimental, making this an unsustainable technology. How can AI be developed sustainably? And can leveraging nuclear energy, specifically Small Modular Reactors (SMR), be a possible alternative?

AI is not free. Every time one uses ChatGPT or any other AI tool, somewhere in the world, there is a data centre chugging electricity, much of which is generated from fossil fuels. “It’s super fun seeing people love images in ChatGPT, but our GPUs are melting,” tweeted Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI. Projections indicate that these data centres could account for 10% of the world’s total electricity usage by 2030. Though these estimates mirror worldwide energy trends, it is necessary to highlight that India currently has sufficient capacity to generate electricity for its own domestic AI needs. Yet, with increasing adoption and ambitions, proactive planning is imperative.

Training an AI model, whether it is a conversational tool such as ChatGPT or an image-generator tool such as Midjourney, can generate the same amount of CO₂ as five cars running continuously across their life. Once deployed, AI tools continue to draw immense power from data centres as they serve countless users around the globe. This resource consumption is staggering, and it is becoming more unsustainable as AI adoption grows.

To start with, AI companies need to be transparent about their energy consumption. Just



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Small modular nuclear reactors could be the energy answer to support booming AI and data infrastructure

as some regulations mandate the disclosure of privacy practices surrounding data usage, companies must also be mandated to disclose their environmental impact – first, how much energy is being consumed? Second, where is it coming from? Third, what steps are being taken to minimise energy consumption? Such data would provide further insights on where energy is being used the most and encourage research and development to create a more sustainable model of AI development.

Advantages of SMRs

Another, perhaps controversial, solution would be to address the energy source behind all of this technological growth. It is time nuclear energy, particularly SMRs, is discussed seriously. While this is often a subject of heated debate, it is also a powerful potential solution to the energy demands created by AI and other emerging technologies. The AI boom is happening fast, and the current energy infrastructure will just not be able to keep up.

SMRs present a transformative opportunity for the global energy landscape to support booming AI and data infrastructure. Unlike traditional large-scale nuclear power plants that demand extensive land, water, and infrastructure, SMRs are designed to be compact and scalable. This flexibility allows them to be deployed closer to high-energy-demand facilities, such as data centres, which require consistent and reliable power to manage vast amounts of computational workloads. Their ability to provide 24x7, zero-carbon, baseload electricity makes them an ideal alternative to renewable sources such as solar and wind by ensuring a stable energy supply regardless of weather conditions.

The benefits of SMRs extend beyond just energy reliability. Their modular construction reduces construction time and costs when

compared to conventional nuclear plants, enabling faster deployment to meet the rapidly growing demands of AI and data-driven industries. Additionally, SMRs offer enhanced safety features, with passive safety systems that rely on natural phenomena to cool the reactor core and safely shut down, reducing the risk of accidents. This makes them more acceptable and easier to integrate into regions where large-scale nuclear facilities would face opposition. The ability of SMR to operate in diverse environments, from urban areas to remote locations, also supports the decentralisation of energy production, reducing transmission losses and enhancing grid resilience.

Some of the challenges

However, the adoption of SMRs is not without challenges. Significant policy shifts will be required to create a robust regulatory framework that addresses safety, waste management and public perception. There is also the matter of substantial upfront investment, as the technology is still maturing and may face issues of cost competitiveness when compared to established energy sources. Additionally, coordinating SMR deployment with existing renewable energy initiatives will require careful planning to maximise synergies while minimising redundancy. In India’s case, despite these challenges, the cost of electricity from SMRs is predicted to fall from ₹10.3 to ₹5 per kWh after the reactors are functional, which is less than the average cost of electricity.

In conclusion, a public-private partnership model presents a realistic solution to the challenges of sustainable AI development. By leveraging the strengths of both sectors, this model can facilitate the efficient development of SMRs alongside other forms of renewable energy to support advancements in AI.

Redrawing the Not-So-Pretty Energy Footprint of AI

AI के ऊर्जा उपयोग की बदसूरत तस्वीर को फिर से खींचना

• Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) has eased access to art and reduced the time and effort needed for tasks.

• जनरेटिव आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) ने कला तक पहुंच को आसान बना दिया है और कार्यों को पूरा करने के लिए लगने वाला समय और प्रयास घटा दिया है।

• Tools like ChatGPT-4o can generate a Studio Ghibli-inspired portrait in seconds using a simple prompt.

• ChatGPT-4o जैसे टूल एक साधारण प्रॉम्प्ट पर कुछ ही सेकंड में Studio Ghibli से प्रेरित चित्र बना सकते हैं।



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- This convenience comes at a significant energy cost, which is often ignored.
- यह सुविधा महत्वपूर्ण ऊर्जा लागत के साथ आती है, जिसे अक्सर नजरअंदाज कर दिया जाता है।
- In some cases, the high energy use has led to GPUs melting.
- कुछ मामलों में अत्यधिक ऊर्जा उपयोग के कारण GPU तक पिघल गए हैं।
- As AI tools advance, the environmental impact will grow, raising questions about sustainability.
- जैसे-जैसे AI टूल विकसित हो रहे हैं, इनका पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव बढ़ता जा रहा है, जिससे टिकाऊपन पर सवाल उठते हैं।
- There is a need to explore sustainable development of AI — including options like Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
- AI के सतत विकास की आवश्यकता है — जिसमें स्मॉल मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर्स (SMRs) जैसे विकल्पों पर विचार किया जा सकता है।

AI's Hidden Energy Cost

AI की छिपी हुई ऊर्जा लागत

- Using ChatGPT or any AI tool requires energy from data centres, often powered by fossil fuels.
- ChatGPT या किसी भी AI टूल का उपयोग करने के लिए डेटा सेंटरों से ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता होती है, जो अक्सर जीवाश्म ईंधनों से संचालित होते हैं।
- Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, tweeted that “our GPUs are melting” due to AI usage.
- OpenAI के CEO सैम ऑल्टमैन ने ट्वीट किया कि AI के उपयोग से “हमारे GPU पिघल रहे हैं।”
- By 2030, data centres could account for 10% of the world's total electricity usage.
- 2030 तक, डेटा सेंटर दुनिया की कुल बिजली खपत का 10% तक उपयोग कर सकते हैं।
- India currently has enough electricity capacity for its domestic AI needs, but growth demands proactive planning.
- भारत के पास वर्तमान में अपनी घरेलू AI आवश्यकताओं के लिए पर्याप्त बिजली क्षमता है, लेकिन भविष्य की सक्रिय योजना की आवश्यकता है।
- Training an AI model can generate as much CO2 as five cars running across their lifetimes.
- एक AI मॉडल को प्रशिक्षित करने से उतना CO2 उत्सर्जित हो सकता है जितना कि पांच कारों के पूरे जीवनकाल में।



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- Even after deployment, AI tools consume huge amounts of power from data centres to serve global users.
- तैनाती के बाद भी, AI टूल दुनिया भर के उपयोगकर्ताओं को सेवाएं देने के लिए डेटा सेंटरों से अत्यधिक ऊर्जा खपत करते हैं।
- This growing resource consumption makes the technology unsustainable over time.
- यह बढ़ती हुई संसाधन खपत इस तकनीक को समय के साथ अस्थिर (असस्टेनेबल) बना देती है।

Need for Transparency and Regulation

पारदर्शिता और नियमन की आवश्यकता

- AI companies must be transparent about their energy usage, similar to how data privacy is regulated.
- AI कंपनियों को अपनी ऊर्जा खपत के बारे में पारदर्शी होना चाहिए, जैसे डेटा गोपनीयता के लिए नियम बनाए जाते हैं।
- They should disclose: (1) How much energy is consumed? (2) Where is it coming from? (3) What steps are being taken to reduce it?
 - उन्हें यह खुलासा करना चाहिए: (1) कितनी ऊर्जा खर्च हो रही है? (2) यह कहां से आ रही है? (3) इसे कम करने के लिए कौन से कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?
- Such disclosures will help identify high-energy use areas and encourage R&D for more sustainable AI.
- ऐसे खुलासे ऊर्जा खपत वाले क्षेत्रों की पहचान करने और अधिक सतत AI के लिए अनुसंधान और विकास (R&D) को प्रोत्साहित करेंगे।

Advantages of SMRs

SMRs के लाभ

- A **controversial but important solution** to energy needs driven by technological growth is to consider **nuclear energy**, especially **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**.
- तकनीकी विकास से उत्पन्न ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं के समाधान के लिए एक **विवादास्पद लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण उपाय** है – **न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी**, विशेष रूप से **स्मॉल मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर (SMRs)** पर विचार करना।
- The **rapid rise of AI** is outpacing the capabilities of current energy infrastructure.
- **AI की तेज़ी से बढ़ती मांग** वर्तमान ऊर्जा ढांचे की क्षमताओं से अधिक हो रही है।
- SMRs offer a **transformative opportunity** for the global energy system to support **AI and data infrastructure**.
- SMRs वैश्विक ऊर्जा प्रणाली को **AI और डेटा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर** का समर्थन करने के लिए एक **परिवर्तनकारी अवसर** प्रदान करते हैं।



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• Unlike large nuclear plants, SMRs are **compact and scalable**, needing **less land, water, and infrastructure**.

• बड़े परमाणु संयंत्रों की तुलना में SMRs **कॉम्पैक्ट और स्केलेबल** होते हैं और इन्हें **कम भूमि, पानी और अवसंरचना** की आवश्यकता होती है।

• They can be located **closer to high-energy-demand sites** like data centres.

• इन्हें **उच्च ऊर्जा मांग वाले स्थलों** जैसे डेटा सेंटर्स के करीब स्थापित किया जा सकता है।

• SMRs offer **24x7, zero-carbon, baseload power**, unlike solar and wind, which depend on weather.

• SMRs **24x7, ज़ीरो-कार्बन, बेसलोड बिजली** प्रदान करते हैं, जबकि सौर और पवन ऊर्जा मौसम पर निर्भर होते हैं।

Additional Benefits of SMRs

SMRs के अतिरिक्त लाभ

• **Modular construction** of SMRs reduces **construction time and cost**, ensuring **faster deployment** than conventional nuclear plants.

• SMRs का **मॉड्यूलर निर्माण निर्माण समय और लागत** को कम करता है, जिससे यह **पारंपरिक परमाणु संयंत्रों** की तुलना में तेज़ी से स्थापित किए जा सकते हैं।

• They include **enhanced safety features**, using **passive systems** based on **natural cooling** mechanisms.

• इनमें **उन्नत सुरक्षा विशेषताएँ** होती हैं, जो **प्राकृतिक शीतलन तंत्र** पर आधारित **निष्क्रिय प्रणालियों** का उपयोग करती हैं।

• This reduces the **risk of accidents**, making them more **acceptable** in regions where **large nuclear plants face opposition**.

• इससे **दुर्घटनाओं का खतरा** कम होता है, जिससे वे उन क्षेत्रों में अधिक **स्वीकार्य** बन जाते हैं जहाँ **बड़े परमाणु संयंत्रों का विरोध** होता है।

• SMRs can be used in **urban and remote areas**, enabling **decentralised energy production** and reducing **transmission losses**.

• SMRs को **शहरी और दूरदराज़ क्षेत्रों** में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है, जिससे **विकेन्द्रित ऊर्जा उत्पादन** संभव होता है और **ट्रान्समिशन लॉस** कम होता है।

• This enhances **grid resilience** and ensures **stable electricity** even in remote zones.

• इससे **ग्रिड की मजबूती** बढ़ती है और **स्थिर बिजली आपूर्ति** सुनिश्चित होती है, विशेषकर **दूरदराज़ क्षेत्रों** में।

Some of the Challenges

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- **Significant policy changes** are needed to create a **robust regulatory framework** for SMRs, covering **safety, waste management, and public perception**.
- SMRs के लिए सुरक्षा, अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन और जन धारणा को कवर करने वाला एक मज़बूत नियामक ढाँचा बनाने हेतु महत्वपूर्ण नीतिगत परिवर्तन आवश्यक हैं।
- SMRs require **high upfront investment**, and the **technology is still maturing**.
- SMRs के लिए प्रारंभिक निवेश अधिक होता है, और यह प्रौद्योगिकी अभी विकासशील है।
- **Cost competitiveness** with existing energy sources remains a concern.
- मौजूदा ऊर्जा स्रोतों की तुलना में लागत प्रतिस्पर्धा अभी भी एक चुनौती है।
- There is a need to **coordinate SMR deployment with renewable energy plans** to avoid **redundancy** and maximise **synergy**.
- **SMRs की स्थापना को नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा योजनाओं के साथ समन्वित करने की आवश्यकता है ताकि दोहराव से बचा जा सके और सहयोग को अधिकतम किया जा सके।**
- In **India**, despite challenges, **SMR electricity costs** are projected to fall from **₹10.3 to ₹5 per kWh** after they become operational.
- भारत में, इन चुनौतियों के बावजूद, **SMRs से उत्पन्न बिजली की लागत के ₹10.3 से घटकर ₹5 प्रति यूनिट (kWh) तक आने की संभावना है।**
- This is **lower than the average cost** of electricity currently available.
- यह वर्तमान में उपलब्ध औसत बिजली लागत से कम है।

Conclusion: Public-Private Partnership Model

निष्कर्ष: सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी मॉडल

- A **public-private partnership** model offers a **realistic solution** to ensure **sustainable AI development**.
- सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी मॉडल स्थायी AI विकास के लिए एक वास्तविक समाधान प्रदान करता है।
- This model can support the **efficient development of SMRs along with renewable energy**, helping meet the **energy demands of emerging technologies**.
- यह मॉडल नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के साथ SMRs के कुशल विकास में सहायता कर सकता है, जिससे नई तकनीकों की ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं को पूरा किया जा सके।



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GS Paper III:

Maritime hub

The Vizhinjam port offers enormous economic benefits for India

The commissioning of the Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport, developed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) under a public-private partnership model with the Kerala government, marks a milestone in India's maritime history. For a country such as India, which relies heavily on foreign ports for handling around 75% of its inbound and outbound transshipment cargo, resulting in an annual revenue loss of approximately \$200 million-\$220 m, the port presents enormous economic opportunities. Its natural draft of about 20 metres, requiring minimal capital dredging, and its proximity to international shipping routes linking Europe, West Asia and the Far East – the east-west shipping axis – position it as a strong contender to become a transshipment hub. This could potentially bring home a significant portion of Indian cargo transshipment handled by the Singapore, Colombo, Salalah and Dubai ports. Ultra-large container vessels can berth without deviating from their route, thereby saving costs. As India's first semi-automated port equipped with remote-controlled quay cranes and an AI-powered vessel traffic management system, Vizhinjam will significantly reduce vessel turnaround times. India's container throughput capacity last year was approximately 20 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), contrasting with China's 330 million TEUs. This highlights the need for modern ports such as Vizhinjam along India's coastline.

Following the project's agreement in 2015, the Kerala government faced challenges, including protests from fisherfolk supported by the Latin Church, natural calamities and the COVID-19 pandemic. Commercial operations commenced in July 2024, with 265 ships, including large mother ships, having berthed so far. In the first phase, the Kerala government invested ₹5,595 crore, Adani Ports spent ₹2,454 crore, and the Union government provided a viability gap fund loan of ₹818 crore – a funding structure that sparked political debate. For Vizhinjam, an all-weather port, to become a game-changer in South Asia's maritime trade, the Centre and the State must ensure the timely completion of rail and road connectivity, which is crucial for leveraging the port's full potential. This will facilitate efficient cargo delivery to the entire hinterland of South India. The subsequent development phases, for which APSEZ and the Kerala government have signed an agreement involving an investment of around ₹9,500 crore by 2028, must also be implemented promptly. Warehousing, logistics, and industrial facilities are essential for the port to evolve into a thriving commercial maritime hub.

विज़िंजम ट्रांसशिपमेंट हब बनने के लिए उपयुक्त है।

Maritime hub

समुद्री केंद्र

- Commissioning of Vizhinjam Port
- The Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport, developed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) under a public-private partnership model with the Kerala government, marks a major milestone in India's maritime history.

- केरल सरकार के साथ सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी मॉडल के तहत अदानी पोर्ट्स एंड स्पेशल इकोनॉमिक ज़ोन लिमिटेड (APSEZ) द्वारा विकसित विज़िंजम अंतरराष्ट्रीय ट्रांसशिपमेंट डीपवॉटर मल्टीपुर्पज सीपोर्ट, भारत के समुद्री इतिहास में एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है।

- India's Dependence on Foreign Ports

- India currently depends on foreign ports for handling about 75% of its transshipment cargo, causing an annual revenue loss of \$200 million-\$220 million.

- भारत वर्तमान में अपने लगभग 75% ट्रांसशिपमेंट कार्गो को संभालने के लिए विदेशी बंदरगाहों पर निर्भर है, जिससे हर साल लगभग \$200 मिलियन-\$220 मिलियन की राजस्व हानि होती है।

- Strategic Location and Infrastructure

- With a natural draft of about 20 metres, requiring minimal capital dredging, and proximity to major international shipping routes (Europe, West Asia, Far East), Vizhinjam is well-positioned to become a transshipment hub.

- लगभग 20 मीटर के प्राकृतिक ड्राफ्ट के साथ, जिसे बहुत कम पूंजीगत ड्रेजिंग की आवश्यकता होती है, और यूरोप, पश्चिम एशिया और फार ईस्ट को जोड़ने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिपिंग मार्गों के करीब होने के कारण,

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- **Saving Costs and Attracting Large Vessels**
 - **Ultra-large container vessels** can berth without deviating from their routes, resulting in **cost savings**.
 - अल्ट्रा-लार्ज कंटेनर जहाज बिना अपने मार्ग से हटे ही यहां ठहर सकते हैं, जिससे **लागत में बचत** होती है।
- **Technological Advancements**
 - Vizhinjam is India's **first semi-automated port**, with **remote-controlled quay cranes** and an **AI-powered vessel traffic management system**, enabling **reduced vessel turnaround times**.
 - विज़िंजम भारत का पहला अर्ध-स्वचालित बंदरगाह है, जिसमें रिमोट-नियंत्रित क्वे क्रैन और एआई-संचालित पोत यातायात प्रबंधन प्रणाली है, जिससे जहाजों के रुकने और जाने का समय घटता है।
- **Container Throughput Capacity Comparison**
 - In the last year, India handled **approximately 20 million TEUs**, compared to **China's 330 million TEUs**, indicating the **need for modern ports** like Vizhinjam.
 - पिछले वर्ष भारत ने लगभग **20 मिलियन TEUs** संभाले, जबकि चीन ने **330 मिलियन TEUs**, जिससे विज़िंजम जैसे आधुनिक बंदरगाहों की आवश्यकता का संकेत मिलता है।
- **Challenges Faced by Kerala Government**
 - Since the agreement in **2015**, the Kerala government faced challenges such as **protests from fisherfolk supported by the Latin Church, natural calamities**, and the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
 - **2015** में समझौते के बाद, केरल सरकार को **लैटिन चर्च द्वारा समर्थित मछुआरों के विरोध, प्राकृतिक आपदाओं और कोविड-19 महामारी** जैसी चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ा।
- **Commencement of Operations**
 - **Commercial operations began in July 2024**, and **265 ships**, including **large mother ships**, have berthed at the port so far.
 - **व्यावसायिक संचालन जुलाई 2024** में शुरू हुआ, और अब तक **265 जहाज**, जिनमें **बड़े मदर शिप्स** शामिल हैं, बंदरगाह पर आ चुके हैं।
- **Investment and Political Debate**
 - In the first phase:
 - Kerala government invested **₹5,595 crore**
 - Adani Ports invested **₹2,454 crore**
 - Union government provided **₹818 crore** as a **viability gap fund loan**
 - These investments led to **political debates**.
 - पहले चरण में:
 - केरल सरकार ने **₹5,595 करोड़** का निवेश किया
 - अदानी पोर्ट्स ने **₹2,454 करोड़** खर्च किए
 - केंद्र सरकार ने **₹818 करोड़** की वायबिलिटी गैप फंड ऋण सहायता दी
 - इस **वित्तीय संरचना** को लेकर राजनीतिक बहस भी हुई।



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• **Need for Connectivity Infrastructure**

• For Vizhinjam to become a **game-changer in South Asia's maritime trade**, timely **completion of rail and road connectivity** is essential.

• विज़िंजम को दक्षिण एशिया के समुद्री व्यापार में गेम-चेंजर बनाने के लिए, रेल और सड़क संपर्क का समय पर निर्माण आवश्यक है।

• **Benefits to Southern India's Hinterland**

• Enhanced connectivity will enable **efficient cargo delivery** to the **entire hinterland of South India**.

• बेहतर संपर्क से दक्षिण भारत के पूरे आंतरिक क्षेत्र में कार्गो की कुशल आपूर्ति संभव हो सकेगी।

• **Future Expansion Plans**

• For subsequent development phases, **APSEZ and the Kerala government** have signed an agreement involving **₹9,500 crore investment by 2028**.

• आगे के विकास चरणों के लिए, **APSEZ और केरल सरकार** ने 2028 तक **₹9,500 करोड़** के निवेश का समझौता किया है।

• **Need for Supporting Infrastructure**

• **Warehousing, logistics, and industrial facilities** are essential for Vizhinjam to evolve into a **thriving commercial maritime hub**.

• विज़िंजम को एक सफल वाणिज्यिक समुद्री केंद्र बनाने के लिए **वेयरहाउसिंग, लॉजिस्टिक्स और औद्योगिक सुविधाएं** आवश्यक हैं।



Hydrogen versus battery: The cost of clean public transport

CS Paper III: S&T

At present, hydrogen fuel cell buses and trucks cost 20-30% more than their battery electric counterparts

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Nearly seven in 10 people in developing countries are expected to be living in cities by 2050 given rapid urbanisation. While urban growth provides greater access to jobs and essential services, it also brings challenges with it such as traffic congestion and air pollution, which significantly impact health.

In India, a *Lancet* study reports that from 2008 to 2019, short-term exposure to PM2.5 particles accounted for nearly 30,000 deaths annually across 10 major cities, representing 7.2% of all deaths. This includes around 5,100 deaths per year in Mumbai, 4,678 in Kolkata, and 2,870 in Chennai (Chart 1).

These alarming figures have prompted many cities, including Cairo (Egypt), Dakar (Senegal), Santiago (Chile), and Bogotá (Colombia), to explore cleaner public transport options. As a result, demand for electric vehicles (EVs) has risen globally. By 2023, there were 40 million electric cars on the world's roads – a 35% increase from the previous year. However, EVs still represent only a small share of total global vehicles.

Chart 2 shows electric car sales from 2012 to 2024. Over half of global sales took place in China, followed by Europe and the U.S., with other regions contributing a much smaller share.

While battery electric vehicles (BEVs) dominate the market, Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) present an alternative with several advantages – they have a longer driving range due to higher energy density, can refuel in just 5-15 minutes, and are generally lighter than battery-powered vehicles. They are particularly suitable for long-distance travel, rugged terrain, and extreme cold.

However, FCEVs remain rare, with only 93,000 units globally – equating to just one hydrogen veh-

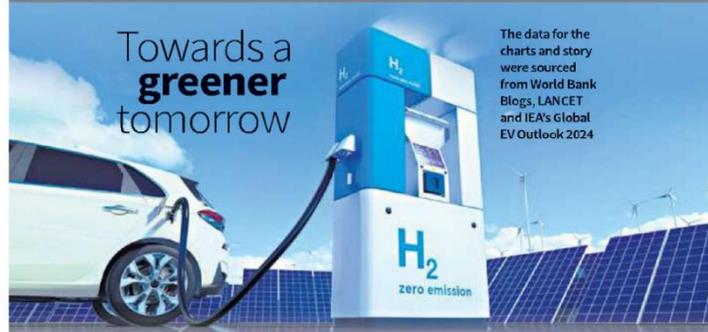
icle for every 330 battery-powered ones. This is largely due to their high initial and operational costs. As shown in Chart 3, fuel cell buses and trucks cost 20-30% more than their battery-electric counterparts. Nonetheless, prices for both are expected to converge by 2030 as technology improves.

Operational costs, however, remain a concern. Chart 4 highlights the cost per kilometre for various vehicle types. Diesel buses cost about \$0.27 per km, while electric buses cost only \$0.17, making them more economical despite their higher upfront cost.

In contrast, hydrogen fuel cell buses are significantly more expensive to operate. Blue hydrogen, produced from natural gas, costs \$0.84 per km, while green hydrogen, derived from renewable sources, costs \$0.91 per km. Experts predict that the initial cost of hydrogen vehicles will match that of battery-electric vehicles within the next five years. However, their operational costs are expected to remain high, even beyond 2030.

In India, the adoption of EVs is progressing at a steady pace. EVs accounted for approximately 5% of total vehicle sales in 2023. Electric car registrations rose by 70% year-on-year to 80,000 units compared to just a 10% growth in overall car sales. However, the most rapid growth was in the three-wheeler segment, where India accounted for nearly 60% of global electric three-wheeler sales. In fact, in 2023, India surpassed China to become the largest market for electric three-wheelers, with over 0.58 million units sold.

India also ranks as the world's second-largest market for electric two-wheelers, with 0.88 million units sold in 2023. But this figure is significantly lower than China's 6 million units. Notably, China, India, and ASEAN countries dominate the global market for electric two- and three-wheelers, while all other regions combined contribute less than 5% to global sales in these categories.



The data for the charts and story were sourced from World Bank Blogs, LANCET and IEA's Global EV Outlook 2024

Chart 1: Deaths attributable to PM2.5 exposure every year in the 2008-2019 period

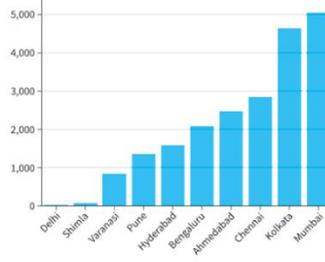


Chart 3: The chart shows the initial cost of various vehicles in \$1000 (k\$)

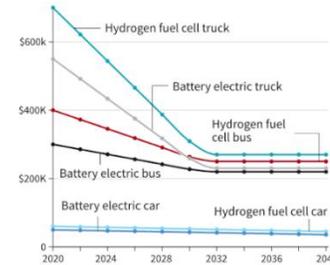


Chart 2: Electric car sales between 2012 and 2024. Figures in million

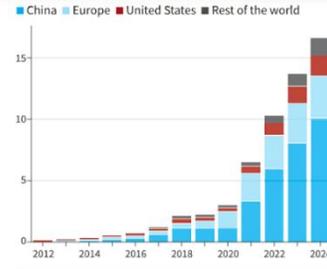
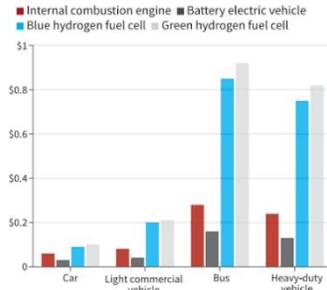


Chart 4: The chart highlights the cost per kilometre for various vehicle types



Hydrogen versus Battery: The Cost of Clean Public Transport

हाइड्रोजन बनाम बैटरी: स्वच्छ सार्वजनिक परिवहन की लागत

Urbanisation and Air Pollution Challenges

शहरीकरण और वायु प्रदूषण की चुनौतियाँ

- Nearly 70% of people in developing countries are expected to live in cities by 2050 due to rapid urbanisation.
- 2050 तक विकासशील देशों में लगभग 70% लोग तेजी से हो रहे शहरीकरण के कारण शहरों में रहने की संभावना है।



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- Urbanisation offers better access to **jobs and essential services**, but it also causes **traffic congestion** and **air pollution**, which severely impact health.
- शहरीकरण रोजगार और आवश्यक सेवाओं तक बेहतर पहुंच देता है, लेकिन इसके साथ यातायात जाम और वायु प्रदूषण जैसी समस्याएँ भी आती हैं, जो स्वास्थ्य पर गंभीर असर डालती हैं।

• A **Lancet study** found that from **2008 to 2019**, short-term exposure to **PM2.5 particles** caused nearly **30,000 deaths annually** in **10 major Indian cities**.

• **Lancet** के एक अध्ययन के अनुसार **2008 से 2019** के बीच **PM2.5 कणों** के अल्पकालिक संपर्क से **भारत के 10 प्रमुख शहरों** में हर साल लगभग **30,000 मौतें** हुईं।

- This includes about **5,100 deaths/year** in **Mumbai**, **4,678** in **Kolkata**, and **2,870** in **Chennai**.
- इसमें मुंबई में **5,100**, कोलकाता में **4,678**, और चेन्नई में **2,870** वार्षिक मौतें शामिल हैं।

Global Shift Toward Cleaner Public Transport

स्वच्छ सार्वजनिक परिवहन की ओर वैश्विक रुझान

• Due to such alarming statistics, cities like **Cairo (Egypt)**, **Dakar (Senegal)**, **Santiago (Chile)**, and **Bogotá (Colombia)** are adopting cleaner transport systems.

• इन चिंताजनक आंकड़ों के कारण **काहिरा (मिस्र)**, **डकार (सेनेगल)**, **सैंटियागो (चिली)** और **बोगोटा (कोलंबिया)** जैसे शहर **स्वच्छ परिवहन प्रणाली** अपना रहे हैं।

• Demand for **electric vehicles (EVs)** has increased worldwide. By **2023**, there were **40 million electric cars**, a **35% rise** from the previous year.

• **इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (EVs)** की मांग वैश्विक स्तर पर बढ़ी है। **2023** तक दुनिया भर में **4 करोड़ इलेक्ट्रिक कारें** थीं, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में **35% अधिक** थीं।

• However, EVs still form only a **small share** of the global vehicle fleet.

• हालांकि, EVs अभी भी वैश्विक वाहनों का केवल **छोटा हिस्सा** हैं।

Electric Car Market Distribution

इलेक्ट्रिक कार बाजार का वितरण

• Over **50% of global EV sales** were in **China**, followed by **Europe** and the **U.S.**

• वैश्विक EV बिक्री का **50% से अधिक चीन** में हुआ, इसके बाद **यूरोप** और **अमेरिका** का स्थान रहा।

• Other regions contributed only a **small share** to global electric car sales.

• अन्य क्षेत्रों ने वैश्विक इलेक्ट्रिक कार बिक्री में केवल **छोटा योगदान** दिया।

Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) vs Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs)

बैटरी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (BEVs) बनाम फ्यूल सेल इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (FCEVs)

• **BEVs dominate** the EV market, but **FCEVs** offer benefits such as **longer range**, **faster refuelling (5–15 minutes)**, and **lighter weight**.

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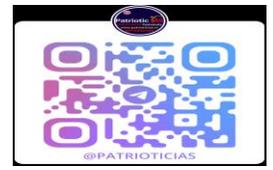
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• EV बाजार में BEVs का प्रभुत्व है, लेकिन FCEVs के फायदे हैं जैसे लंबी दूरी की रेंज, 5–15 मिनट में फ्यूलिंग, और कम वजन।

- FCEVs are ideal for **long-distance travel**, **rugged terrain**, and **extreme cold** conditions.
- FCEVs लंबी दूरी की यात्रा, पथरीले इलाकों, और अत्यधिक ठंडे मौसम के लिए उपयुक्त हैं।

FCEV Adoption and Cost Gap

FCEV अपनाने और लागत का अंतर

- Globally, there are only **93,000 hydrogen vehicles**, or **1 for every 330 battery EVs**.
- दुनिया में केवल **93,000 हाइड्रोजन वाहन** हैं, यानी हर **330 बैटरी EVs** पर **1 हाइड्रोजन वाहन**।
- This is due to **high initial and operational costs** of FCEVs.
- इसका कारण FCEVs की उच्च प्रारंभिक और संचालन लागत है।
- **Fuel cell buses and trucks** currently cost **20–30% more** than battery electric ones.
- फ्यूल सेल बसें और ट्रक वर्तमान में बैटरी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों की तुलना में **20–30% अधिक महंगे** हैं।
- These prices are expected to **equalise by 2030** as technology improves.
- तकनीक में सुधार के साथ ये कीमतें **2030 तक समान** हो सकती हैं।

Operational Cost Comparison

संचालन लागत की तुलना

- **Diesel buses** cost around **\$0.27/km**, while **electric buses** cost about **\$0.17/km**.
- डीजल बसों की लागत लगभग **\$0.27 प्रति किमी** है, जबकि इलेक्ट्रिक बसों की लागत **\$0.17 प्रति किमी** है।
- **Hydrogen fuel cell buses** are costlier: **blue hydrogen** costs **\$0.84/km**, and **green hydrogen** costs **\$0.91/km**.
- हाइड्रोजन फ्यूल सेल बसें अधिक महंगी हैं: **ब्लू हाइड्रोजन** की लागत **\$0.84 प्रति किमी** और **ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन** की लागत **\$0.91 प्रति किमी** है।
- Experts believe hydrogen vehicle prices will **match battery vehicles in 5 years**, but **operational costs** will stay **higher beyond 2030**.
- विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि **5 वर्षों में हाइड्रोजन वाहनों की कीमत** बैटरी वाहनों के बराबर हो जाएगी, लेकिन संचालन लागत **2030 के बाद भी अधिक** बनी रहेगी।

Electric Vehicle Adoption in India

भारत में इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन अपनाने की स्थिति

- In **2023**, EVs made up about **5% of all vehicle sales** in India.
- **2023** में भारत में कुल वाहन बिक्री का लगभग **5% EVs** का हिस्सा था।



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• Electric car registrations grew by **70% year-on-year**, reaching **80,000 units**, while overall car sales grew only **10%**.

• इलेक्ट्रिक कारों का पंजीकरण **सालाना 70%** बढ़कर **80,000 यूनिट** हो गया, जबकि कुल कार बिक्री में केवल **10% की वृद्धि हुई**।

• The **fastest growth** occurred in the **three-wheeler segment**, where India contributed **60% of global electric three-wheeler sales**.

• सबसे तेजी से वृद्धि **तीन-पहिया वाहनों** में हुई, जहां भारत ने वैश्विक इलेक्ट्रिक तीन-पहिया बिक्री का **60% योगदान** दिया।

• In **2023**, India overtook China to become the **largest market for electric three-wheelers**, selling over **0.58 million units**.

• **2023** में भारत ने चीन को पीछे छोड़कर **सबसे बड़ा इलेक्ट्रिक तीन-पहिया वाहन बाजार** बनते हुए **0.58 मिलियन यूनिट** से अधिक बिक्री की।

• India is the **second-largest market for electric two-wheelers**, with **0.88 million units** sold in **2023**.

• भारत **0.88 मिलियन यूनिट** की बिक्री के साथ **2023** में इलेक्ट्रिक दो-पहिया वाहनों का **दूसरा सबसे बड़ा बाजार** है।

• However, this is still much lower than **China's 6 million units**.

• हालांकि, यह अब भी **चीन की 6 मिलियन यूनिट्स** से काफी कम है।

• **China, India, and ASEAN** countries dominate the global electric **two- and three-wheeler** market; other regions account for **less than 5%**.

• **चीन, भारत, और आसियान देश** वैश्विक इलेक्ट्रिक दो- और तीन-पहिया वाहन बाजार में **प्रमुख भूमिका** निभाते हैं; अन्य क्षेत्रों का योगदान **5% से कम** है।

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