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PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

08 MAY 2025

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08_04_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Renowned Bengali Writer Amar Mitra Recalls 1965 War Experiences

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प्रसिद्ध बंगाली लेखक अमर मित्रा को 1965 के युद्ध के अनुभव याद आए

2. First Attack in Pakistan's Punjab Since 1971

1971 के बाद पाकिस्तान के पंजाब में पहला हमला

Renowned Bengali writer Amar Mitra remembers nights of blackout in Kolkata during the 1965 war

GS Paper I: 1965 War

Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

How, in 1965, he travelled from end of what was then Calcutta to another in complete darkness, on a lightless bus, to watch a play; and how, in 1971, he travelled across the border into what was then East Pakistan carrying biscuits and tea leaves and first-aid – eminent Bengali writer Amar Mitra dug into memories even as people in Kolkata – including WhatsApp groups – discussed mock drills and the possibility of a full-scale war with Pakistan.

"I have clear memories of the 1965 war with Pakistan. Can't believe 60 years have passed. I was 14 at the time. We lived in Belgachia

in north Calcutta. We had so many blackout nights. We had covered our windowpanes with paper so that no light seeped out of the house. We also heard sirens," Mr. Mitra, a novelist decorated with several honours including the O. Henry and Sahitya Akademi awards, told *The Hindu*.

'Ghostly city'

"One evening, along with my elder brother [acclaimed actor and theatre personality Manoj Mitra, who died in November 2024], I went to watch a play written by him at a theatre in the Rabindra Sarobar area. We took a double-decker bus. Travelling from north Kolkata to south Kolkata, I saw a completely dark city from the



Amar Mitra

window of the bus – a ghostly city. The bus was also without any lights. But the city was not sleeping. Everything was functioning, but under a blackout," Mr. Mitra recalled.

The writer, whose family had migrated from East Bengal back in 1947 during Partition, worked with the Land Reforms department

of the West Bengal government apart from pursuing literary ambitions, and during a long career as a writer produced several memorable books, including *Dhanapatir Char*, *Dhrubaputra*, *Aswacharit*, *Radcliffe Line*, and *Kumari Megher Desh Chai*.

"In 1971, I was only 20 years old, when I thought that as a Bengali I should try to help the liberation army of East Pakistan. My friends and I collected a good amount of money from our neighbourhood and purchased first-aid requirements like cotton, Dettol, benzene, and bandage, along with tea, biscuit, and rice. We went to Bongaon by train and from there to the Petrapole border on foot. Indian guards

advised us not to cross the border, saying Pakistani spies were active there, but we somehow reached a Mukti Bahini camp and handed over our little gifts," Mr. Mitra said.

'Situation alarming'

The writer found the present situation alarming and said terrorism must be uprooted from Kashmir and other places in the country. "We are proud of being secular. Religion cannot rule a country – religion is something to believe in. But at the same time, war is not good for mankind. No one wins in a war. It is the common people, brave soldiers who die. Nobody likes war. Everybody likes to live in peace," he said.

Renowned Bengali Writer Amar Mitra Recalls 1965 War Experiences

प्रसिद्ध बंगाली लेखक अमर मित्रा को 1965 के युद्ध के अनुभव याद आए

- Amar Mitra recalls the **blackout nights** in **Kolkata during the 1965 war** with Pakistan, when he was just **14 years old** and lived in **Belgachia**, North Calcutta.
- अमर मित्रा को 1965 के युद्ध के दौरान कोलकाता में अंधेरे की रातें याद हैं, जब वह केवल 14 वर्ष के थे और उत्तरी कोलकाता के बेलगछिया में रहते थे।



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• During that time, families **covered windowpanes with paper** to prevent light from escaping and triggering air raids, and they often heard **sirens**.

• उस समय, परिवारों ने खिड़कियों को कागज से ढक दिया था ताकि कोई रोशनी बाहर न जाए और हवाई हमलों से बचा जा सके, और अक्सर सायरन की आवाजें सुनी जाती थीं।

• Amar Mitra is a **Sahitya Akademi** and **O. Henry Award**-winning novelist.

• अमर मित्रा साहित्य अकादमी और ओ. हेनरी पुरस्कार से सम्मानित उपन्यासकार हैं।

A Ghostly Journey in Darkness

अंधेरे में भूतिया यात्रा

• One night during the war, he traveled with his elder brother **Manoj Mitra** (a renowned theatre personality who passed away in **November 2024**) to watch a play written by Manoj.

• युद्ध के दौरान एक रात, वे अपने बड़े भाई **मनोज मित्रा** (जो एक प्रसिद्ध थिएटर कलाकार थे और **नवंबर 2024** में निधन हो गया) के साथ उनके द्वारा लिखे गए नाटक को देखने निकले।

• They took a **double-decker bus** from **North Kolkata to South Kolkata** (Rabindra Sarobar area) which was **completely lightless**, just like the city outside.

• उन्होंने उत्तरी कोलकाता से दक्षिण कोलकाता (रवींद्र सरोबर क्षेत्र) तक **डबल डेकर बस** ली, जो पूरी तरह **बिना रोशनी** के थी, जैसे शहर भी अंधेरे में था।

• He described Kolkata under blackout as a "**ghostly city**", yet everything was still functioning under the darkness.

• उन्होंने अंधेरे में डूबी कोलकाता को "**भूतिया शहर**" कहा, फिर भी शहर के कामकाज जारी थे।

Partition Background and Career

विभाजन की पृष्ठभूमि और करियर

• Amar Mitra's family migrated from **East Bengal** during the **1947 Partition**.

• अमर मित्रा का परिवार **1947 के विभाजन** के दौरान **पूर्वी बंगाल** से आया था।

• He worked in the **Land Reforms Department** of the West Bengal government while also pursuing his literary career.

• उन्होंने पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार के **भूमि सुधार विभाग** में काम किया और साथ ही साहित्यिक लेखन भी करते रहे।

• His famous books include **Dhanapatir Char**, **Dhrubaputra**, **Aswacharit**, **Radcliffe Line**, and **Kumari Megher Desh Chai**.

• उनके प्रसिद्ध पुस्तकों में **धनपतिर चार**, **ध्रुवपुत्र**, **अश्वचरित**, **रैडक्लिफ़ लाइन**, और **कुमारी मेघेर देश चाई** शामिल हैं।

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Contribution to 1971 Liberation War

1971 की मुक्ति संग्राम में योगदान

- In 1971, at the age of 20, Amar Mitra decided to support the **East Pakistan Liberation Army (Mukti Bahini)** by collecting and delivering **first-aid items, tea, and biscuits**.
- 1971 में, 20 वर्ष की उम्र में, अमर मित्रा ने पूर्वी पाकिस्तान की मुक्ति सेना (मुक्ति बहिनी) की सहायता के लिए प्राथमिक उपचार सामग्री, चाय, और बिस्कुट इकट्ठा कर पहुँचाए।
- Along with friends, he went to **Bongaon by train** and walked to the **Petrapole border**, despite warnings from **Indian guards** about **Pakistani spies**.
- दोस्तों के साथ, वे ट्रेन से बोंगांव गए और पेट्रापोल सीमा तक पैदल चले, जबकि भारतीय सैनिकों ने पाकिस्तानी जासूसों की चेतावनी दी थी।
- They successfully reached a **Mukti Bahini camp** and handed over the collected items.
- वे सफलतापूर्वक एक मुक्ति बहिनी शिविर तक पहुंचे और संग्रहित वस्तुएं सौंप दीं।

Views on Present Scenario

वर्तमान स्थिति पर विचार

- Amar Mitra finds the **present situation alarming** and emphasizes that **terrorism must be uprooted** from **Kashmir and other regions**.
- अमर मित्रा वर्तमान स्थिति को चिंताजनक मानते हैं और कहते हैं कि आतंकवाद को कश्मीर और अन्य क्षेत्रों से समाप्त करना चाहिए।
- He asserts that **India is secular**, and **religion should not rule a country**; it is something for **personal belief**, not governance.
- वे मानते हैं कि भारत धर्मनिरपेक्ष है और धर्म को देश पर शासन नहीं करना चाहिए; यह केवल व्यक्तिगत आस्था की चीज है।
- At the same time, he believes that **war is not good for mankind** — it brings **death to common people and brave soldiers**, and no one truly wins.
- साथ ही, उनका मानना है कि युद्ध मानवता के लिए अच्छा नहीं है — इसमें सामान्य लोग और बहादुर सैनिक मारे जाते हैं, और कोई भी वास्तव में नहीं जीतता।
- He concludes by saying, **“Nobody likes war. Everybody wants to live in peace.”**
- वे कहते हैं, “कोई युद्ध नहीं चाहता। हर कोई शांति में जीना चाहता है।”



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First Attack in Pakistan's Punjab Since 1971

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First attack in Pak.'s Punjab since 1971

GS Paper I: Post Independence India

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

Four of the nine strikes carried out under Operation Sindoor were on Pakistan's territory, including its heartland, Punjab – marking the first time India has carried out a strike there since the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, 54 years ago.

The targets chosen are connected to a series of terror attacks in India over the years. They are the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, the Pathankot attack, the Uri terror attacks, and the Pahalgam attack on April 22, among others.

The government deployed two women officers to brief the media, and the world, on the operation – Colonel Sofiya Qureshi from the Army and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh from the Indian Air Force (IAF) – after the initial statement by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Colonel Qureshi is an officer from the Corps of Signals, commanding a Unit. She was selected for the role of Military Observer in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2006. In March 2016, she became the first and only woman officer to lead an Army contingent at a multinational military exercise, Force 18, hosted by India for interoperability in sustaining peace among the ASEAN nations.

Real-time footage from unmanned aerial vehicles confirmed the destruction of targets

Wing Commander Singh is a helicopter pilot flying Cheetah and Chetak, with over 2,500 hours flying hours to her credit. She is currently posted at the Directorate of Operations (Media & Public Relations) at the IAF headquarters in the national capital.

Synchronised strikes

The strikes were carried out between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday. All munitions struck their designated targets and the strikes were synchronised to avoid detection and maximise the element of surprise, sources in the know said. Real-time footage from unmanned aerial vehicles confirmed the destruction of target facilities. "The decision to target deep into Pakistani-administered territory was a departure from prior doctrine and marked a new level of strategic assertiveness," a source observed.

Over the past three decades, Pakistan has systematically built terror infrastructure, Colonel Qureshi said, showcasing a map of the 21 camps identified, of which nine were picked for the strikes. "It is a complex web of recruitment and indoctrination centres, training areas for initial and refresher courses and launch pads with handlers."

Among the targets was Markaz Taiba in Muridke, the headquarters of the Lashkar-e-Taiba led by Hafiz Saeed, around 25 km from the International Boundary (IB). "Terrorists trained here have also been associated with many terrorist attacks, including Mumbai attacks in 2008. Ajmal Kasab, the Pakistani terrorist captured alive after Mumbai attack, had confessed to having received training at Muridke. As per inputs, it was revealed that David Coleman Headley had also received training at this camp," Colonel Qureshi said.

Important target

Another important target was Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur, the headquarters of the Jaish-e-Mohammed, located around 100 km from the IB. This camp was used for recruitment, training, and indoctrinating JeM terrorists and was frequently visited by terrorist commanders, including Masood Azhar, according to Colonel Qureshi. Two other targets in Sialkot of Pakistan were the Sarjal camp and the Mehmoona Joya camp. The Sarjal camp is located about 6 km from the IB, opposite Samba-Kathua sector.

It is in this camp where the terrorists who killed four personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in March 2025 were trained and launched. The Mehmoona Joya camp is located around 12 km from the IB and is a key training facility of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. The camp was being used as the control centre for the revival of terrorism in Kathua and Jammu region, Colonel Qureshi said.

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Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sofiya Qureshi addressing the media on Operation Sindoor. ANI

• Four of the nine strikes under **Operation Sindoor** were conducted on Pakistan's territory, including its heartland, Punjab — **this marks the first Indian strike in Punjab since the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, 54 years ago.**

• ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के तहत हुए 9 हमलों में से 4 पाकिस्तान की सीमा के भीतर किए गए, जिनमें पंजाब जैसे उसके मुख्य क्षेत्र शामिल हैं – यह 1971 के बांग्लादेश मुक्ति संग्राम के बाद 54 वर्षों में पहली बार है जब भारत ने पाकिस्तान के पंजाब में हमला किया है।

• The targets were linked to major terror attacks in India: **26/11 Mumbai, Pathankot, Uri, and Pahalgam (April 22, 2025).**

• इन हमलों के लक्ष्य भारत में हुए बड़े आतंकी हमलों से जुड़े थे: **26/11 मुंबई, पठानकोट, उरी, और पहलगाम (22 अप्रैल 2025)।**

Women Officers' Briefing to Media

महिला अधिकारियों ने मीडिया को जानकारी दी

• Two women officers, **Colonel Sofiya Qureshi** from the **Army** and **Wing Commander Vyomika Singh** from the **Air Force**, addressed the media after the initial statement by **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.**

• विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिश्री के प्रारंभिक बयान के बाद सेना की कर्नल सोफिया कुरैशी और वायुसेना की विंग कमांडर व्योमिका सिंह ने मीडिया को जानकारी दी।



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• Colonel Qureshi, from the **Corps of Signals**, was the **first and only woman officer** to lead an Indian Army contingent at **Force 18**, a multinational peace exercise by ASEAN in **2016**.

• कर्नल कुरैशी, जो सिग्नल कोर से हैं, 2016 में ASEAN द्वारा आयोजित बहुराष्ट्रीय शांति अभ्यास Force 18 में भारतीय सेना की टुकड़ी का नेतृत्व करने वाली पहली और एकमात्र महिला अधिकारी थीं।

• She was also selected as a **Military Observer in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2006**.

• उन्हें 2006 में डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ कांगो में सैन्य पर्यवेक्षक के रूप में भी चुना गया था।

• Wing Commander Singh, a **Cheetah and Chetak helicopter pilot**, has logged over **2,500 flying hours** and is posted at the **IAF Media & PR Directorate** in Delhi.

• विंग कमांडर सिंह, जो चीता और चेतक हेलीकॉप्टर पायलट हैं, के पास 2,500 से अधिक उड़ान घंटे हैं और वे IAF मीडिया और जनसंपर्क निदेशालय, दिल्ली में तैनात हैं।

Synchronised Strikes with Strategic Shift

संगठित हमले और रणनीतिक बदलाव

• The strikes were conducted between **1:05 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday**, with all munitions hitting their **designated targets**.

• हमले बुधवार को सुबह 1:05 बजे से 1:30 बजे के बीच किए गए, और सभी गोले निर्धारित लक्ष्यों पर लगे।

• The strikes were **synchronised** to avoid detection and ensure **element of surprise**.

• हमले संगठित रूप से किए गए ताकि दुश्मन को पता न चले और आश्चर्य कारक बना रहे।

• **Real-time footage from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** confirmed destruction of targets.

• मानवरहित हवाई वाहनों (UAVs) से प्राप्त रीयल-टाइम फुटेज ने लक्ष्यों के विनाश की पुष्टि की।

• The **decision to strike deep into Pakistani-administered territory was a strategic departure from previous doctrine**.

• पाक अधिकृत क्षेत्र में गहराई तक हमला करने का निर्णय पहले की रणनीति से एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव है।

Terror Infrastructure Built Over 30 Years

30 वर्षों में निर्मित आतंक का ढांचा

• According to **Colonel Qureshi**, Pakistan has developed a **complex terror network with 21 identified camps; 9 were chosen** for the strikes.

• कर्नल कुरैशी के अनुसार, पाकिस्तान ने एक जटिल आतंकी नेटवर्क तैयार किया है, जिसमें 21 शिविर चिन्हित किए गए हैं; इनमें से 9 को लक्ष्य बनाया गया।

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• These include recruitment centres, training areas, indoctrination hubs, and launch pads with handlers.

• इनमें भर्ती केंद्र, प्रशिक्षण क्षेत्र, ब्रेनवॉश केंद्र, और हैंडलर्स के साथ लॉन्च पैड शामिल हैं।

Key Target: Markaz Taiba, Muridke

प्रमुख लक्ष्य: मरकज़ तैयबा, मुरिदके

• Markaz Taiba in Muridke, 25 km from the **International Boundary (IB)**, is the **Lashkar-e-Taiba headquarters** led by **Hafiz Saeed**.

• मुरिदके में मरकज़ तैयबा, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा से 25 किमी दूर है, हाफिज सईद के नेतृत्व में लश्कर-ए-तैयबा का मुख्यालय है।

• Terrorists from this camp were linked to many attacks including the **2008 Mumbai attacks**.

• इस शिविर के आतंकी 2008 के मुंबई हमलों सहित कई हमलों से जुड़े रहे हैं।

• **Ajmal Kasab**, caught alive during the 26/11 attack, confessed to being trained at **Muridke**.

• 26/11 हमले में जीवित पकड़ा गया अजमल कसाब ने स्वीकार किया कि उसने मुरिदके में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया था।

• Intelligence inputs also confirmed that **David Headley** trained there.

• खुफिया जानकारी से यह भी पुष्टि हुई कि डेविड हेडली ने भी यहां प्रशिक्षण लिया था।

Important Target: Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur

महत्वपूर्ण लक्ष्य: मरकज़ सुब्हान अल्लाह, बहावलपुर

• Located 100 km from the IB, this is the **Jaish-e-Mohammed headquarters**, used for recruitment, training, and indoctrination.

• अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा से 100 किमी दूर स्थित यह जैश-ए-मोहम्मद का मुख्यालय है, जो भर्ती, प्रशिक्षण और ब्रेनवॉश के लिए उपयोग होता है।

• **Masood Azhar** and other commanders frequently visited this camp.

• मसूद अजहर और अन्य कमांडर इस शिविर में अक्सर जाते थे।

Additional Targets in Sialkot

सियालकोट में अन्य लक्ष्य

• Two camps in **Sialkot**, **Sarjal** and **Mehmoona Joya**, were also struck.

• सियालकोट के दो शिविरों – सरजल और मेहमूना जोया — को भी निशाना बनाया गया।



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• Sarjal camp, just 6 km from the IB, is opposite Samba-Kathua sector, where terrorists who killed 4 J&K police personnel in March 2025 were trained.

• सरजल शिविर, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा से मात्र 6 किमी दूर है, सांबा-कठुआ सेक्टर के सामने है, जहां मार्च 2025 में 4 जम्मू-कश्मीर पुलिसकर्मियों की हत्या करने वाले आतंकियों को प्रशिक्षित किया गया था।

• Mehmoona Joya camp, about 12 km from the IB, is a key Hizb-ul-Mujahideen training facility and acted as a control centre for reviving terrorism in Kathua and Jammu.

• मेहमूना जोया शिविर, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा से लगभग 12 किमी दूर है, हिज्बुल मुजाहिदीन का प्रमुख प्रशिक्षण केंद्र है और कठुआ और जम्मू में आतंकवाद की पुनर्स्थापना के लिए कंट्रोल सेंटर के रूप में कार्य कर रहा था।

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

1. Strokes of Justice: On 'Operation Sindoor' and After
न्याय की चोटें: 'ऑपरेशन सिन्दूर' और उसके बाद
2. The Building Blocks of an India-U.S. Energy Future
भारत-अमेरिका ऊर्जा भविष्य की आधारशिला
3. Pakistan, Bangladesh and Core Identity Questions
पाकिस्तान, बांग्लादेश और मूल पहचान के सवाल
4. Reimagining Access to Justice and Rectifying Systemic Barriers
न्याय तक पहुंच की पुनः कल्पना और प्रणालीगत बाधाओं का सुधार



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Strokes of justice

India must be prepared for escalatory action by Pakistan

India carried out precision military strikes across nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir early on Wednesday. Targets included Bahawalpur, the headquarters of the Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Muridke, a nerve centre of the Lashkar-e-Taiba – terrorist outfits bred by Pakistan to target India. India said the strikes were to destroy the camps used to train terrorists and to “pre-empt as well as deter” more such cross-border attacks following the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22 in which 26 people were killed by terrorists who identified the targets by their religion. India’s military strikes were “measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible”, the government said. In 2019, India had carried out surgical strikes in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in north Pakistan, after the Pulwama terrorist attack. The response this time has been sharper and more resolute. Muridke and Bahawalpur are in Punjab, the heartland of Pakistan’s ruling elite, that has been playing the double game on terrorism. Pakistan has, for decades, used terrorism as a low-cost instrument of war against India, under an umbrella of nuclear blackmail. India has been trying to figure out an appropriate response to this. With Balakot, and now Operation Sindoor, the point is clear – India can have an overt military response in the event of a terrorist attack against it, apart from economic and diplomatic measures. India has also underscored the point that there were no civilian, economic or military targets on Wednesday.

Overt military action in response to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism marks a change in India’s strategy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. How this will change Pakistan’s behaviour remains uncertain. The strikes destroyed terrorist bases, but that setback may not be long term, considering the perennial supply of radicalised youths in Pakistan. Pakistan has not only raised terrorists who target India but also harboured Osama bin Laden, the most wanted terrorist for the West, even while it was claiming to be an ally in the war on terror. Pakistan’s character will have to change if it is to behave differently. India has reached out to other countries, and world powers must use their considerable leverage to coerce Pakistan to act responsibly. The retaliatory strikes apart, the investigation into Pahalgam should continue in full vigour and be taken to its logical conclusion. India should also watch out for escalatory moves by Pakistan and be prepared to respond militarily and diplomatically. The Centre on Wednesday pointed out that the terrorists wanted to disturb normalcy in Kashmir and create communal rift in the country. All political parties have supported the military operation. While strengthening the domestic political consensus on the issue, the Centre should also ensure that elements who try to create communal strife and play into the hands of Pakistan are restrained. Any missteps will carry a great risk.

• 2019 में भारत ने पुलवामा हमले के बाद बालाकोट (खैबर पख्तूनख्वा) में सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक की थी।

Strokes of Justice: On ‘Operation Sindoor’ and After

न्याय की चोटें: 'ऑपरेशन सिन्दूर' और उसके बाद

- India carried out **precision military strikes** across **nine locations** in **Pakistan** and **Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir** early on **May 7, 2025**.
- भारत ने 7 मई 2025 को सुबह पाकिस्तान और पाक अधिकृत कश्मीर में नौ स्थानों पर सटीक सैन्य हमले किए।
- Targets included **Bahawalpur** (headquarters of **Jaish-e-Mohammed**) and **Muridke** (nerve centre of **Lashkar-e-Taiba**).
- लक्ष्य में बहावलपुर (जैश-ए-मोहम्मद का मुख्यालय) और मुरिदके (लश्कर-ए-तैयबा का केंद्र) शामिल थे।
- These outfits are **terrorist groups** nurtured by Pakistan to target India.
- ये संगठन भारत को निशाना बनाने के लिए पाकिस्तान द्वारा पाले गए आतंकी समूह हैं।
- India stated that the strikes aimed to destroy **terrorist training camps** and to **pre-empt and deter** more such **cross-border attacks**.
- भारत ने कहा कि इन हमलों का उद्देश्य आतंकी प्रशिक्षण शिविरों को नष्ट करना और सीमापार हमलों को रोकना और हतोत्साहित करना था।
- These strikes followed the **Pahalgam terror attack** on **April 22, 2025**, in which **26 people** were killed, identified by their religion.
- यह कार्रवाई 22 अप्रैल 2025 को पहलगाम आतंकी हमले के बाद की गई, जिसमें 26 लोगों की हत्या की गई थी, जिन्हें उनके धर्म के आधार पर निशाना बनाया गया।
- The government described India’s response as “**measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible**.”
- सरकार ने भारत की प्रतिक्रिया को “संयमित, असंवर्धनीय, आनुपातिक और जिम्मेदाराना” बताया।

Historical Context and Change in Strategy

ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य और रणनीति में बदलाव

- In 2019, India had carried out **surgical strikes** in **Balakot** (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) after the **Pulwama** attack.

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- This time, the response has been **sharper and more resolute**.
- इस बार भारत की प्रतिक्रिया **और अधिक तीखी और दृढ़** रही है।
- **Bahawalpur and Muridke are in Punjab, the heartland of Pakistan's ruling elite**, which has been **playing a double game** on terrorism.
- **बहावलपुर और मुरिदके** पाकिस्तान के पंजाब में हैं, जो वहां की शासक अभिजात वर्ग का गढ़ है और जो आतंकवाद पर **दोहरी नीति** अपनाता रहा है।
- Pakistan has long used **terrorism as a low-cost war strategy** under the cover of **nuclear blackmail**.
- पाकिस्तान ने लंबे समय से **परमाणु ब्लैकमेल** की आड़ में आतंकवाद को **कम लागत वाले युद्ध के साधन** के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया है।

India's Assertive Response

भारत की मुखर प्रतिक्रिया

- With **Balakot** and now **Operation Sindoor**, India signals that it can take **overt military action** besides **economic and diplomatic responses** to terrorist attacks.
- **बालाकोट** और अब **ऑपरेशन सिन्दूर** के साथ भारत ने संकेत दिया है कि वह **आतंकी हमलों** के जवाब में **खुले सैन्य कदम** उठा सकता है, न कि केवल **आर्थिक और राजनयिक**।
- India also emphasized that there were **no civilian, economic, or military targets** struck on **May 7**.
- भारत ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि **7 मई** को न तो कोई **नागरिक, न आर्थिक और न ही सैन्य ठिकानों** को निशाना बनाया गया।

Impact on Pakistan and Global Stakes

पाकिस्तान पर प्रभाव और वैश्विक दायित्व

- This kind of **overt military action** under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** reflects a **strategic shift** in India's response to **Pakistan-sponsored terrorism**.
- **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** के नेतृत्व में इस तरह की **खुली सैन्य कार्रवाई** भारत की **रणनीति में बदलाव** को दर्शाती है, जो **पाक प्रायोजित आतंकवाद** के प्रति अपनाई गई है।
- It remains uncertain whether these strikes will change **Pakistan's behavior**.
- यह अभी अनिश्चित है कि क्या इन हमलों से **पाकिस्तान का व्यवहार** बदलेगा।
- Although the **terror bases** were destroyed, **radicalized youth** in Pakistan remain in supply, making the setback **possibly temporary**.
- हालांकि **आतंकी अड्डे** नष्ट किए गए, पाकिस्तान में **कट्टरपंथी युवाओं** की निरंतर आपूर्ति के कारण यह झटका **संभवतः अस्थायी** हो सकता है।

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• Pakistan has harbored **Osama bin Laden** even while claiming to be a **partner in the war on terror**.

• पाकिस्तान ने **ओसामा बिन लादेन** को शरण दी, जबकि वह **आतंक के खिलाफ युद्ध में साझेदार** होने का दावा करता रहा।

• For change to happen, **Pakistan's fundamental character** must change.

• बदलाव के लिए **पाकिस्तान के मूल चरित्र** में बदलाव होना जरूरी है।

• India has reached out to **other countries**, urging **global powers** to **leverage** their influence to make Pakistan act **responsibly**.

• भारत ने **अन्य देशों** से संपर्क किया है और **वैश्विक शक्तियों** से आग्रह किया है कि वे अपने प्रभाव का उपयोग कर पाकिस्तान को **जिम्मेदाराना व्यवहार** के लिए बाध्य करें।

Continued Vigilance and Internal Cohesion

निरंतर सतर्कता और आंतरिक एकता

• Alongside the **retaliatory strikes**, the **Pahalgam investigation** must continue with **full vigour** until its **logical conclusion**.

• **प्रति-प्रहार** के साथ-साथ **पहलगाम जांच** को **पूरी दृढ़ता** से आगे बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए और इसे **तार्किक निष्कर्ष** तक ले जाना चाहिए।

• India should remain alert to any **escalatory actions** by Pakistan and be ready with **military and diplomatic responses**.

• भारत को पाकिस्तान की किसी भी **उत्तेजक कार्रवाई** के लिए सतर्क रहना चाहिए और **सैन्य व राजनयिक** जवाब के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए।

• The government noted that the terrorists aimed to **disrupt normalcy in Kashmir** and **create communal tension** in the country.

• सरकार ने बताया कि आतंकियों का उद्देश्य **कश्मीर में सामान्य स्थिति को बिगाड़ना** और देश में **सांप्रदायिक तनाव** पैदा करना था।

• **All political parties** have supported the **military operation**, reflecting **domestic political unity**.

• **सभी राजनीतिक दलों** ने इस **सैन्य अभियान** का समर्थन किया है, जिससे **घरेलू राजनीतिक एकता** का प्रदर्शन हुआ है।

• The Centre must ensure that elements trying to **incite communal strife** and **support Pakistan's agenda** are kept **under check**.

• केंद्र को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि जो तत्व **सांप्रदायिक वैमनस्य** भड़काने और **पाकिस्तानी एजेंडे** को बढ़ावा देने का प्रयास करें, उन्हें **नियंत्रित** किया जाए।



- Any misstep could carry serious risk.
- कोई भी चूक गंभीर खतरे को जन्म दे सकती है।

The building blocks of an India-U.S. energy future

GS Paper II: India-US

United States Vice-President J.D. Vance recently highlighted the U.S.'s willingness to cooperate with India more closely on energy and defence. India's foreign policy establishment outlined the need for cooperation on energy, defence, technology and the mobility of people. The developments may have been news, but the issues are not new. These topics have increasingly defined India-U.S. relations over the years despite changes in administration, but with some change in emphasis. There is an opportunity now for renewed investment in them.

India's energy security will be guided by three imperatives: having sufficient energy resources at predictable prices, minimal disruptions in supply chains, and progress towards an increasingly sustainable energy mix. Nuclear energy and critical minerals will matter in these respects and can be the bedrock of further deepening energy and technology partnership between Washington and New Delhi.

A critical minerals compact

The energy transition will unfold not only via electrons but also with elements. China's restrictions in April on exports of rare earths were just the latest move in periodic disruptions for more than a decade. On the one hand, China controls nearly 90% of global rare earth processing capacity. On the other, it leverages this market power to serve its strategic purposes. The result: the minerals needed for new energy technologies, advanced electronics or defence equipment are contingent on fragile global supply chains.

In 2024, India and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to diversify these supply chains. Three principles must now guide India-US cooperation on critical minerals.

First, critical minerals must be viewed as the pillar of multiple sectors, and not just as a mining silo. They are needed across the economy – and in the strategic sectors on which India and the U.S. wish to collaborate. This broad framing prioritises long-term strategy and enables cross-sectoral skills and technology exchange.

Second, policies for critical minerals must play out at bilateral and plurilateral levels. They must establish guarantees of supply and frameworks for cooperation. Demand creation, not supply coercion, must drive this relationship. An India-U.S. critical minerals consortium could look into joint exploration and processing. India, with its emerging mineral exploration base, and the U.S., with its deep capital and technology, should co-invest in third-country projects across Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia.

Beyond the bilateral relationship, the Quad (including Japan and Australia) can be a capability multiplier. This includes collaboration on minerals processing technology. Further, data



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Nuclear energy and critical minerals can be the bedrock of a deepening energy and technology partnership

transparency and traceability of these minerals are crucial. For this, establish a dedicated India-U.S. Mineral Exchange – a secure digital platform for real-time trade, investment, and collaboration on critical minerals. This can especially help vulnerable industries such as electric vehicles, aerospace, and semiconductors. India and the U.S. should also co-develop a blockchain-based traceability standard for critical minerals, inspired by the EU's Battery Passport.

Moreover, India and the U.S. should build joint strategic stockpiles of key minerals to safeguard supply chains against geopolitical or trade disruptions, leveraging existing storage infrastructure in both countries (such as India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves or the US National Defense Stockpile) for cost-effective deployment.

India has made early moves – becoming the first non-G7 member of the Mineral Security Partnership – and it will host the Quad summit later this year. It is an opportunity to formalise these specific approaches. The Quad countries are also exploring joint engagement with mineral-rich nations.

Third, patience will be key. While a battery plant may take two years to build, exploration of mines and building processing facilities take between 12 to 16 years. A durable India-U.S. critical minerals partnership must be structured with a 20-year horizon and interim targets, consistent with the initial goals of India's own Critical Minerals Mission. To realise these ambitions, India and the U.S. must also invest in the 'plumbing' of the energy partnership: data-sharing protocols, investment tracking, workforce development, and innovation corridors under platforms such as the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET).

Nuclear energy as next frontier of linkages

As India's electricity demand surges, we need a reliable source that complements the intermittency of solar and wind to build a stable, secure grid. Even as battery costs have fallen dramatically, nuclear power offers another firm, low-carbon source essential to achieving India's net-zero goals.

India has an ambitious goal of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. Converting this into action will need a shift in momentum. Currently, nuclear energy contributes just over 8 GW, or about 2% of India's installed capacity. To meet the 2047 target, India must commission approximately 5GW-6 GW annually from the early 2030s. Studies by institutions, including the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), suggest that achieving net zero by 2070 could require nuclear capacity exceeding 200 GW under certain scenarios.

To realise this vision, India must implement

three pivotal reforms. First, shorten deployment timelines to ensure scale. Reducing the build time of nuclear projects from, say, nine to six years could cut the levelised cost of electricity by 8%. This calls for standardised designs, faster approvals, and skilled project delivery.

Second, enable private sector participation. That means having credible offtakers to reduce risks, structure competitive bids, and offer long-term purchase commitments. Small Modular Reactors, with their lower capex and flexibility and lower land requirement, become bankable only when private capital has clear incentives and predictable returns. Applications include the use of nuclear energy for green steel or to service rapidly rising demand for Artificial Intelligence. The overall capital requirement for 100 GW of nuclear power is enormous: up to \$180 billion by 2047. The exposure of domestic banks and non-banking financial companies to the power sector is approximately \$200 billion. We must rewire our financial system to support this transition. The growth of nuclear as a viable source of energy and international cooperation rests on assurances of clear policies and offtake and payment guarantees, collaboration with global firms for tech transfer and co-creation, and rules and standards for waste management.

Issue of safety

Third, amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 to enable private investments in nuclear power plants. India's indigenous reactor designs can be modularised. The recent approval for Holtec International to transfer SMR technology to Indian companies, including Larsen & Toubro and Tata Consulting Engineers, is an example of the potential of India-U.S. collaboration in this direction. However, India should always prioritise nuclear safety by adopting advanced waste handling and decommissioning technologies, especially as it could lead the manufacturing of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). With smaller emergency zones and air-cooling capability, SMRs suit water-scarce regions but demand robust, centralised waste management and repurposing strategies from the start.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook report (April 2025) shows concerning levels of global uncertainty amid trade and tariff tensions. For India's energy security and sustainable economic development, bilateral relations between India and the U.S. must offer greater assurance in strategic and shared interests. India's continued growth story and the U.S.'s technological prowess and capital are mutually complementary. A resilient energy future needs a long-term vision, not just the pursuit of short-term wins, a road map, and a resilient architecture of cooperation.

The views expressed are personal

The Building Blocks of an India-U.S. Energy Future भारत-अमेरिका ऊर्जा भविष्य की आधारशिला



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- United States Vice-President **J.D. Vance** recently expressed interest in deepening cooperation with India in **energy** and **defence** sectors.
- अमेरिका के उपराष्ट्रपति **जेडी वेंस** ने हाल ही में भारत के साथ **ऊर्जा** और **रक्षा** क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ाने की इच्छा जताई।
- India's foreign policy framework supports cooperation in **energy**, **defence**, **technology**, and **mobility of people**.
- भारत की विदेश नीति रूपरेखा **ऊर्जा**, **रक्षा**, **प्रौद्योगिकी** और **लोगों की आवाजाही** में सहयोग को समर्थन देती है।
- These themes have been consistent in India-U.S. ties despite changes in governments, though the **focus** sometimes shifts.
- ये विषय भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों में लगातार बने रहे हैं, भले ही सरकारें बदली हों, हालांकि **ध्यान** कभी-कभी बदलता रहा है।
- There is a present opportunity for **renewed investments** in these areas.
- इन क्षेत्रों में **नवीन निवेश** का वर्तमान में एक अवसर मौजूद है।
- India's energy security rests on three priorities: **sufficient resources**, **stable prices**, and **sustainable energy transition**.
- भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा तीन प्राथमिकताओं पर आधारित है: **पर्याप्त संसाधन**, **स्थिर कीमतें**, और **सतत ऊर्जा परिवर्तन**।
- **Nuclear energy and critical minerals** are key to all these areas.
- **न्यूक्लियर ऊर्जा** और **क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स** इन सभी क्षेत्रों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- These can become the **foundation of a deeper India-U.S. energy and technology partnership**.
- ये भारत-अमेरिका ऊर्जा और प्रौद्योगिकी साझेदारी की **मजबूत नींव** बन सकते हैं।

A Critical Minerals Compact

क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स समझौता

- The global energy transition requires not just **electrons**, but also **elements** — critical minerals.
- वैश्विक ऊर्जा परिवर्तन के लिए केवल **इलेक्ट्रॉनों** की नहीं, बल्कि **तत्वों** — क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स की भी आवश्यकता है।
- In **April 2024**, China imposed restrictions on **rare earth** exports — part of ongoing disruptions over the past **decade**.

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• अप्रैल 2024 में चीन ने रेयर अर्थ निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाया – जो पिछले दस वर्षों में लगातार हो रही बाधाओं का हिस्सा है।

• China controls nearly 90% of global rare earth processing capacity and uses it for strategic advantage.

• चीन के पास वैश्विक रेयर अर्थ प्रोसेसिंग क्षमता का लगभग 90% नियंत्रण है और वह इसे रणनीतिक लाभ के लिए उपयोग करता है।

• This results in fragile and vulnerable global supply chains for critical technologies.

• इसका परिणाम है कि वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएँ कमजोर और अस्थिर हो जाती हैं।

• In 2024, India and the U.S. signed an MoU to diversify and secure critical mineral supply chains.

• 2024 में भारत और अमेरिका ने आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को विविध और सुरक्षित बनाने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

Three Guiding Principles for India-U.S. Mineral Cooperation

भारत-अमेरिका खनिज सहयोग के तीन मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत

• First, critical minerals must be seen as cross-sectoral assets, not just as mining resources.

• पहला, क्रिटिकल मिनेरल्स को केवल खनन संसाधन नहीं बल्कि बहु-क्षेत्रीय संपत्ति के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।

• These minerals are vital for strategic sectors both nations wish to collaborate in.

• ये खनिज उन रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों के लिए आवश्यक हैं जिनमें दोनों देश सहयोग करना चाहते हैं।

• Second, policies must be implemented bilaterally and plurilaterally, with supply guarantees and cooperation frameworks.

• दूसरा, नीतियों को द्विपक्षीय और बहुपक्षीय स्तर पर लागू किया जाना चाहिए, जिसमें आपूर्ति की गारंटी और सहयोग ढांचे शामिल हों।

• An India-U.S. Critical Minerals Consortium could explore joint ventures in exploration and processing.

• भारत-अमेरिका क्रिटिकल मिनेरल्स कंसोर्टियम संयुक्त रूप से खोज और प्रोसेसिंग परियोजनाओं की संभावना तलाश सकता है।

• India offers an emerging mineral base, while the U.S. brings deep capital and advanced technology.

• भारत के पास उभरता हुआ खनिज आधार है, जबकि अमेरिका के पास गहरा पूंजी निवेश और उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकी है।

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- They can **co-invest** in third countries like those in **Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia**.
- वे अफ्रीका, दक्षिण अमेरिका, और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया जैसे तीसरे देशों में संयुक्त निवेश कर सकते हैं।
- The **Quad (India, U.S., Japan, Australia)** can further **amplify capabilities** in minerals **technology and cooperation**.
- क्वाड (भारत, अमेरिका, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया) खनिज प्रौद्योगिकी और सहयोग में क्षमताओं को बढ़ा सकता है।
- This includes **collaboration on processing technologies** and **traceability systems**.
- इसमें प्रोसेसिंग तकनीकों और ट्रेसबिलिटी सिस्टम पर सहयोग शामिल है।

India-U.S. Mineral Exchange and Blockchain Standards

भारत-अमेरिका खनिज विनिमय और ब्लॉकचेन मानक

- A **dedicated India-U.S. Mineral Exchange** should be developed — a **secure digital platform** for real-time **trade, investment, and collaboration**.
- एक समर्पित भारत-अमेरिका खनिज विनिमय विकसित किया जाना चाहिए – जो वास्तविक समय व्यापार, निवेश, और सहयोग के लिए एक सुरक्षित डिजिटल मंच हो।
- This would benefit **vulnerable sectors** like **electric vehicles, aerospace, and semiconductors**.
- इससे इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन, एयरोस्पेस, और सेमीकंडक्टर्स जैसे संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों को लाभ होगा।
- **India and the U.S. should co-develop a blockchain-based traceability standard, inspired by the EU's Battery Passport**.
- भारत और अमेरिका को ब्लॉकचेन आधारित ट्रेसबिलिटी मानक को EU के बैटरी पासपोर्ट से प्रेरणा लेकर संयुक्त रूप से विकसित करना चाहिए।

Building Strategic Mineral Stockpiles

रणनीतिक खनिज भंडार का निर्माण

- India and the U.S. should build **joint strategic stockpiles** of **key minerals** to protect supply chains from **geopolitical or trade disruptions**.
- भारत और अमेरिका को प्रमुख खनिजों के संयुक्त रणनीतिक भंडार बनाने चाहिए ताकि भू-राजनीतिक या व्यापारिक बाधाओं के कारण आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएं प्रभावित न हों।
- Existing infrastructure like **India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves** and the **U.S. National Defense Stockpile** can be used for **cost-effective deployment**.



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• भारत का रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार और अमेरिका का राष्ट्रीय रक्षा भंडार जैसे मौजूदा ढांचे को कम लागत पर तैनाती के लिए उपयोग में लाया जा सकता है।

India's Early Role and the Quad Opportunity

भारत की अग्रणी भूमिका और क्वाड का अवसर

• **India is the first non-G7 member of the Mineral Security Partnership** and will host the **Quad summit** later this year.

• भारत खनिज सुरक्षा साझेदारी का पहला गैर-G7 सदस्य है और इस वर्ष के अंत में क्वाड शिखर सम्मेलन की मेज़बानी करेगा।

• This provides an opportunity to **formalise** strategic approaches with Quad nations who are also exploring **joint engagement with mineral-rich countries**.

• यह अवसर रणनीतिक उपायों को औपचारिक रूप देने का है, जबकि क्वाड देश भी खनिज संपन्न देशों के साथ संयुक्त भागीदारी की दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं।

Need for Long-term Patience and Vision

दीर्घकालिक धैर्य और दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता

• While a **battery plant** takes **2 years**, **mining and processing facilities** may take **12 to 16 years** to develop.

• जहाँ एक बैटरी संयंत्र बनाने में 2 वर्ष लगते हैं, वहीं खनन और प्रसंस्करण सुविधाओं को विकसित करने में 12 से 16 वर्ष लग सकते हैं।

• The **India-U.S. minerals partnership** should have a **20-year horizon with interim targets**, aligned with India's **Critical Minerals Mission**.

• भारत-अमेरिका खनिज साझेदारी में **20 वर्षों का दृष्टिकोण और अंतरिम लक्ष्य** होने चाहिए, जो भारत के क्रिटिकल मिनेरल्स मिशन से मेल खाते हों।

• Investments are needed in areas like **data-sharing protocols**, **investment tracking**, **workforce development**, and **innovation corridors** under initiatives like **iCET**.

• **iCET** जैसे प्लेटफॉर्म के तहत डेटा साझाकरण प्रोटोकॉल, निवेश निगरानी, कार्यबल विकास, और नवाचार गलियारों में निवेश की आवश्यकता है।

Nuclear Energy as the Next Frontier

परमाणु ऊर्जा एक अगला प्रमुख क्षेत्र

• With rising electricity demand, **nuclear energy** can provide a **firm, low-carbon** source to complement **intermittent solar and wind** sources.

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• बढ़ती बिजली की मांग के साथ, परमाणु ऊर्जा एक स्थिर, निम्न-कार्बन स्रोत बन सकती है जो सौर और पवन ऊर्जा की अस्थिरता को संतुलित कर सकती है।

• Though **battery costs** have fallen, nuclear energy remains **essential** to meet **India's net-zero goals**.

• भले ही बैटरी की लागत कम हुई हो, लेकिन भारत के नेट ज़ीरो लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए परमाणु ऊर्जा अनिवार्य है।

India's Nuclear Power Goals and Challenges

भारत के परमाणु ऊर्जा लक्ष्य और चुनौतियाँ

• **India targets 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047**, but currently it produces just over **8 GW (2%)** of its installed capacity.

• भारत का लक्ष्य 2047 तक 100 गीगावाट परमाणु क्षमता प्राप्त करना है, जबकि वर्तमान में यह केवल 8 गीगावाट (2%) स्थापित क्षमता का योगदान देता है।

• To meet this, India must add **5–6 GW per year from the early 2030s**.

• इसे प्राप्त करने के लिए भारत को 2030 के दशक की शुरुआत से हर साल 5–6 गीगावाट जोड़ने होंगे।

• **CEEW** and other studies show that **achieving net zero by 2070 could require over 200 GW of nuclear power under some scenarios**.

• **CEEW** और अन्य अध्ययनों के अनुसार, यदि 2070 तक नेट ज़ीरो हासिल करना है, तो कुछ परिदृश्यों में 200 गीगावाट से अधिक परमाणु क्षमता की आवश्यकता हो सकती है।

Three Pivotal Reforms Needed

तीन प्रमुख सुधारों की आवश्यकता

• **Shorten deployment timelines:** Reducing **build time** from **9 to 6 years** can reduce **electricity costs** by **8%**.

• तैनाती की समयसीमा घटाएं: निर्माण समय को 9 से 6 वर्षों तक घटाने से बिजली की लागत में 8% की कमी आ सकती है।

• This needs **standardised designs**, **faster approvals**, and **skilled project delivery**.

• इसके लिए मानकीकृत डिज़ाइन, तेज़ अनुमोदन, और कुशल परियोजना निष्पादन की आवश्यकता होगी।

• **Enable private sector participation:** This includes **credible offtakers**, **competitive bidding**, and **long-term purchase commitments**.

• निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी को सक्षम बनाना: इसमें विश्वसनीय खरीददार, प्रतिस्पर्धी बोलियाँ, और दीर्घकालिक खरीद प्रतिबद्धताएँ शामिल हैं।

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- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** are more viable with **private capital**, due to **lower capex**, **land need**, and greater **flexibility**.
- स्मॉल मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टर (SMR) निजी पूंजी के साथ अधिक व्यवहार्य होते हैं, क्योंकि इनमें कम पूंजीगत खर्च, कम भूमि आवश्यकता, और अधिक लचीलापन होता है।
- These can support **green steel production** or meet **AI-related energy demand**.
- ये ग्रीन स्टील उत्पादन या AI से संबंधित ऊर्जा मांग को पूरा कर सकते हैं।
- **Overall capital needed for 100 GW of nuclear power** is about **\$180 billion by 2047**.
- 2047 तक 100 गीगावाट परमाणु ऊर्जा के लिए कुल अनुमानित पूंजी लागत लगभग **\$180 अरब** है।
- India's financial system must be rewired to support this, given current exposure of **\$200 billion** in the power sector.
- बिजली क्षेत्र में वर्तमान में **\$200 अरब** की देनदारी को देखते हुए भारत की वित्तीय प्रणाली को इस दिशा में पुनः संरचित करना होगा।
- Success will depend on **policy clarity, offtake and payment guarantees, tech transfer, and waste standards**.
- सफलता नीतियों की स्पष्टता, खरीद और भुगतान की गारंटी, तकनीकी हस्तांतरण, और कचरे के मानकों पर निर्भर करेगी।

Amending Civil Liability Law and Ensuring Safety

नागरिक उत्तरदायित्व कानून में संशोधन और सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना

- Amend the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010** to allow **private investment** in nuclear energy.
- परमाणु क्षति के लिए नागरिक उत्तरदायित्व अधिनियम, 2010 में संशोधन करके निजी निवेश को सक्षम बनाना होगा।
- India's **indigenous reactor designs** can be **modularised** for quicker rollout.
- भारत की स्वदेशी रिएक्टर डिज़ाइन को मॉड्यूलर बनाया जा सकता है ताकि उन्हें तेजी से लागू किया जा सके।
- **Holtec International** has been approved to transfer **SMR technology** to **Indian companies** like **L&T and Tata Consulting Engineers**.
- होलटेक इंटरनेशनल को SMR तकनीक एलएंडटी और टाटा कंसल्टिंग इंजीनियर्स जैसी भारतीय कंपनियों को हस्तांतरित करने की अनुमति दी गई है।
- India must adopt **advanced waste handling and decommissioning technologies** to ensure **nuclear safety**.



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- भारत को उन्नत कचरा प्रबंधन और परमाणु संयंत्रों के निष्क्रियकरण की तकनीकों को अपनाना चाहिए ताकि परमाणु सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित हो सके।
- SMRs, with **smaller emergency zones and air-cooling capabilities**, are ideal for **water-scarce regions** but require **robust waste strategies**.
- SMR, जिनमें छोटे आपातकालीन क्षेत्र और वायु शीतलन क्षमताएं होती हैं, जल-संकटग्रस्त क्षेत्रों के लिए उपयुक्त हैं, लेकिन इसके लिए मजबूत कचरा रणनीति आवश्यक है।
- The **IMF World Economic Outlook (April 2025)** shows growing **global uncertainty** due to **trade and tariff tensions**.
- IMF का विश्व आर्थिक परिदृश्य (अप्रैल 2025) व्यापार और शुल्क तनावों के कारण बढ़ती वैश्विक अनिश्चितता को दर्शाता है।
- A strong **India-U.S. bilateral energy relationship** is vital for **India's energy security** and **sustainable development**.
- भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और सतत विकास के लिए एक मजबूत भारत-अमेरिका द्विपक्षीय ऊर्जा संबंध आवश्यक है।
- **India's economic growth** and the U.S.'s **technology and capital** are **mutually complementary**.
- भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि और अमेरिका की प्रौद्योगिकी एवं पूंजी एक-दूसरे को पूरक हैं।
- A **resilient energy future** needs **long-term vision, a clear roadmap, and strong cooperation architecture** — not just short-term wins.
- एक मजबूत ऊर्जा भविष्य के लिए दीर्घकालिक दृष्टि, स्पष्ट रोडमैप, और मजबूत सहयोग ढांचा आवश्यक है — केवल तत्काल लाभ पर्याप्त नहीं हैं।



Pakistan, Bangladesh and core identity questions

Pakistan reveals a tumultuous confluence of unresolved identity, ideological rigidity, persistent reliance on proxy warfare, and selective amnesia. Two events – seemingly distinct but deeply entangled – have reignited the foundational questions about what Pakistan is and what it seeks to remain.

Events of contrast

On one front, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, delivered a speech that resurrected the ghosts of the two-nation theory, the ideological foundation upon which Muhammad Ali Jinnah led the movement for the creation of Pakistan. In April, at the Overseas Pakistanis Convention in Islamabad, Gen. Munir declared that people of Pakistan are "fundamentally different" from Hindus – by religion, by tradition, by culture, and by ambition. "Our forefathers thought we were different in every possible aspect of life," he remarked, invoking the foundational narrative of Pakistan's birth. His language and tone were nostalgic, divisive and arrogant – an impassioned appeal to safeguard Jinnah's ideological legacy from being forgotten.

A day later, in Dhaka, Bangladesh asked Pakistan to account for the horrors of its disgusting past. During the first Foreign Secretary-level talks in 15 years, Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary demanded a long-awaited apology for the atrocities committed by Pakistan's army during the 1971 Liberation War. Even though the current regime in Bangladesh is courting Pakistan, the demand for confession of guilt is not merely ironic – it is a regrettable theatre of amnesia couched as strategic pragmatism. However, Pakistan's role during the birth of Bangladesh is an episode of colossal brutality that it still echoes in the nation's soul. Along with the apology for a horrendous campaign of systematic repression, Bangladesh has reiterated its demand for more than \$4 billion in reparations – its share of undivided Pakistan's assets, including aid, pension funds and other state resources.

The irony here could not be starker, perhaps even tragic. It is a moment rich in historical contradiction: while Pakistan's security establishment affirms the hypothesis that



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Pakistan's invocation of the two-nation theory must lead it to craft an honest self-examination

Partition was imperative and morally justified, its former eastern wing – once tethered by fraud and fiction – demands accountability for the violent consequences of that very Partition gone awry, before formal reconciliation can be pursued.

A theory, its reinforcement, the gaps

The two-nation theory argued that Muslims and Hindus were fundamentally distinct communities, defined by religious and cultural cleavages, and, therefore, could not function cohesively within a unified political framework once colonial rule ended in the Indian subcontinent. But this ideological assertion was not just a political device; it became a deeply embedded mythos, reinforced by the Pakistan state through textbooks and speeches. Yet, the theory contained its own seeds of disintegration. When the cultural and linguistic aspirations of Bengalis of East Pakistan were contemptuously denied, their votes in democratic elections utterly disrespected, and their cultural identity brutally suppressed by the Punjabi elite in Islamabad, the very logic of the two-nation theory turned in upon itself.

Gen. Munir's speech, then, needs to be understood not merely as a reaffirmation of a discredited ideology, but as an act of forgetting – a deliberate effacement of South Asian history's inconvenient lessons. It is a return to the familiar comforts of a useless theory that promises certainty in a world increasingly defined by ambiguity and fracture. But such affirmations, no matter how forcefully delivered, do not address the economic, political and security challenges that Pakistan faces.

Pakistan has never formally apologised for the atrocities against Bengalis, with successive regimes either denying or downplaying the violence, sometimes blaming rogue elements. Disturbingly, Pakistan appears ready to repeat the same pattern of repression in Balochistan, unapologetically demonstrating similar aggression, denial and unwillingness to engage politically with legitimate grievances. Instead of learning from its mistakes in East Pakistan, Rawalpindi seems trapped in a cycle of dictatorial responses to dissent, reinforcing the very divisions that once led to Pakistan's

disintegration. The ideological orientation of the current Bangladeshi regime – emerging after Sheikh Hasina's ouster – represents not a principled shift but rather an opportunistic recalibration, driven by misguided beliefs that are causing significant tensions within the top echelons of the regime in Dhaka and in the relationship between the regime and many of the citizens, particularly as it seeks to distance itself from India and strengthen ties with Pakistan.

Nonetheless, for most of the Bangladeshi people, the catastrophic events of 1971 are not matters of distant historical record; they are vivid inter-generational memories, reinforced by the collective trauma surrounding the nation's birth.

So profound is the burden of this trauma that has driven the Dhaka regime to demand both a formal apology and reparations from Pakistan, even as Bangladesh signals a pragmatic turn toward normalisation. However, the demand for moral and material accountability is not driven by vindictiveness, but serves as a cathartic plea for the minimal recognition of responsibility from the aggressor. That Pakistan continues to withhold such recognition is indicative not merely of ideological obstinacy, but of a deeper pathology.

One must ask Pakistan's hybrid regime: what, precisely, has been gained through the repetition of ideology at the expense of self-examination? Has the invocation of the two-nation theory made Pakistan more cohesive, more egalitarian, or more at peace with its neighbours – or even with itself? The consequential question now is whether Pakistan can craft a national identity rooted in its own values and aspirations, not just in opposition to the 'Indian other'.

The two-nation theory may have been the genesis of Pakistan, but its emotionalism and divisiveness make it a very poor and inadequate guide for national action. As military tensions escalate in the wake of Indian airstrikes on terror camps in Pakistan following the Pahalgalam terror attack, the dangers of following the theory are thrown into stark relief. The hybrid regime, grappling with the riddle of the Imran Khan phenomenon, the ongoing insurgency in Balochistan, and strained relations with the Afghan Taliban, can find little solace in the obsolete concept of the two-nation theory.

Pakistan, Bangladesh and Core Identity Questions

पाकिस्तान, बांग्लादेश और मूल पहचान के सवाल

- Pakistan is caught in a **conflict of unresolved identity**, **ideological rigidity**, **proxy warfare**, and **selective amnesia** about its past.
- पाकिस्तान एक **अनसुलझी पहचान**, **वैचारिक कट्टरता**, **प्राँक्सी युद्ध** और अपने अतीत के प्रति **चयनात्मक भूलने** के संकट में फंसा हुआ है।



Contrasting Events in Islamabad and Dhaka

इस्लामाबाद और ढाका की विपरीत घटनाएँ

- General **Asim Munir**, Pakistan's Army Chief, spoke at an **April** event in Islamabad, declaring that Pakistanis are "**fundamentally different**" from **Hindus in religion, culture, and ambition**.
- पाकिस्तान के सेना प्रमुख आसीम मुनीर ने अप्रैल में इस्लामाबाद में एक कार्यक्रम में कहा कि पाकिस्तान के लोग हिंदुओं से धर्म, संस्कृति और आकांक्षाओं में "मूल रूप से भिन्न" हैं।
- His speech aimed to revive the **two-nation theory**, presenting it as a legacy of **Jinnah** to be protected.
- उनका भाषण दो-राष्ट्र सिद्धांत को पुनर्जीवित करने की कोशिश था, जिसे उन्होंने जिन्ना की विरासत के रूप में बचाने की बात कही।
- Meanwhile in **Dhaka**, Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary demanded **a formal apology** and **\$4 billion in reparations from Pakistan for the 1971 war atrocities**.
- इसी समय ढाका में, बांग्लादेश के विदेश सचिव ने **1971 युद्ध के अत्याचारों** के लिए पाकिस्तान से औपचारिक माफी और **4 अरब डॉलर की क्षतिपूर्ति** की मांग की।
- Pakistan's insistence on the **two-nation theory** contrasts sharply with **Bangladesh's demand** for justice for the **brutality** of Partition and its aftermath.
- पाकिस्तान की दो-राष्ट्र सिद्धांत पर जोर, बांग्लादेश की **Partition की क्रूरता** के लिए न्याय की मांग से बिल्कुल विपरीत है।
- The **birth of Bangladesh** directly contradicted the idea that all Muslims could form one nation, exposing the internal **cultural and linguistic divisions**.
- बांग्लादेश का निर्माण इस विचार के विरुद्ध था कि सभी मुसलमान एक राष्ट्र बना सकते हैं, जिससे आंतरिक सांस्कृतिक और भाषाई विभाजन उजागर हुए।

Two-Nation Theory's Internal Collapse

दो-राष्ट्र सिद्धांत का आंतरिक पतन

- The **two-nation theory** claimed that **Hindus and Muslims were too different to coexist**, but it failed when **East Pakistan (Bangladesh)** rebelled against **Punjabi domination**.
- दो-राष्ट्र सिद्धांत ने कहा था कि हिंदू और मुसलमान इतने भिन्न हैं कि साथ नहीं रह सकते, लेकिन यह उस समय विफल हो गया जब **पूर्वी पाकिस्तान (बांग्लादेश)** ने पंजाबी वर्चस्व के खिलाफ विद्रोह किया।
- Bengali votes were **disrespected**, identity was **repressed**, and **cultural suppression** by Islamabad led to **secession**.
- बंगाली मतों को अनदेखा किया गया, पहचान को दबाया गया, और इस्लामाबाद द्वारा सांस्कृतिक दमन ने अलगाव को जन्म दिया।



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Munir's Speech as Act of Forgetting

मुनीर का भाषण: इतिहास को भुलाने का प्रयास

- General Munir's words are a **deliberate act of forgetting** — ignoring the lessons of history and repeating a **discredited ideology**.
- जनरल मुनीर का भाषण जानबूझकर इतिहास को भुलाने का प्रयास है — अतीत के सबक को नजरअंदाज करना और एक अविश्वसनीय विचारधारा को दोहराना।
- Such rhetoric does not solve **Pakistan's real problems** — its **economic, political, and security crises**.
- इस प्रकार की बयानबाजी पाकिस्तान की आर्थिक, राजनीतिक, और सुरक्षा संबंधी समस्याओं को हल नहीं करती।

Denial of 1971 Atrocities and Repetition in Balochistan

1971 के अत्याचारों से इनकार और बलूचिस्तान में पुनरावृत्ति

- Pakistan has never **formally apologized** for the **1971 atrocities**, often blaming **rogue elements** instead.
- पाकिस्तान ने 1971 के अत्याचारों के लिए कभी भी औपचारिक रूप से माफी नहीं मांगी, और अक्सर इसे उपद्रवी तत्वों पर टाल दिया।
- A similar pattern of **repression and denial** is visible today in **Balochistan**, indicating **no lessons learned**.
- आज बलूचिस्तान में उत्पीड़न और इनकार का यही पैटर्न दिख रहा है, जिससे स्पष्ट होता है कि कोई सबक नहीं सीखा गया।

Dhaka's Call for Apology and Reparations

ढाका की माफी और क्षतिपूर्ति की मांग

- Bangladesh's demand for an **apology and reparations** is not about revenge, but a **plea for recognition and closure**.
- बांग्लादेश की माफी और क्षतिपूर्ति की मांग बदले के लिए नहीं, बल्कि **मान्यता और संतोष** के लिए है।
- These demands stem from **inter-generational trauma** that remains vivid in the memory of Bangladeshis.
- ये मांगें पीढ़ियों से चले आ रहे आघात से जुड़ी हैं जो आज भी बांग्लादेशियों की स्मृति में जीवित हैं।

Pakistan's Need for Honest Introspection

पाकिस्तान के लिए ईमानदार आत्मनिरीक्षण की आवश्यकता

- Instead of repeating the **two-nation theory**, Pakistan must ask what it has **actually gained** from ideological repetition.



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• दो-राष्ट्र सिद्धांत को दोहराने के बजाय पाकिस्तान को यह पूछना चाहिए कि उसे वास्तव में क्या हासिल हुआ है।

- Has the theory brought **peace, equality, or unity** inside Pakistan or in its neighborhood?
- क्या इस सिद्धांत ने पाकिस्तान के अंदर या उसके पड़ोस में **शांति, समानता, या एकता** लाई है?
- Pakistan must move toward an identity built on its **own values**, not just in opposition to **India**.
- पाकिस्तान को **भारत के विरोध** के बजाय अपने **स्वयं के मूल्यों** पर आधारित पहचान की ओर बढ़ना चाहिए।

Two-Nation Theory: Poor Guide for Modern Policy

दो-राष्ट्र सिद्धांत: आधुनिक नीति के लिए कमजोर मार्गदर्शक

• The theory may explain the **birth of Pakistan**, but it cannot guide national policy amid modern **terror threats, regional conflicts, and internal instability**.

• यह सिद्धांत **पाकिस्तान के निर्माण** की व्याख्या कर सकता है, लेकिन आधुनिक **आतंकी खतरे, क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष, और आंतरिक अस्थिरता** के बीच यह राष्ट्रीय नीति का मार्गदर्शन नहीं कर सकता।

• Recent events like **Indian airstrikes** following the **Pahalgam terror attack** show how dangerous outdated ideologies can be.

• हाल की घटनाएं जैसे **पहलगाम आतंकी हमले** के बाद **भारतीय हवाई हमले**, यह दिखाते हैं कि पुरानी विचारधाराएं कितनी **खतरनाक** हो सकती हैं।

• Pakistan's **hybrid regime**, struggling with **Imran Khan's challenge**, the **Baloch insurgency**, and **Taliban ties**, finds no relief in **obsolete ideologies**.

• पाकिस्तान की **संयुक्त शासन प्रणाली**, जो **इमरान खान की चुनौती, बलूच विद्रोह, और तालिबान संबंधों** से जूझ रही है, उसे **पुरानी विचारधाराओं** से कोई राहत नहीं मिलती।



The road to regulatory reform

GS Paper II: Governance

India is unique among emerging economies, as its growth has been driven primarily by services rather than manufacturing. If you take a cross-section of the Indian economy from 1980 until now, the share of manufacturing in India's gross value added has crept up marginally, from 16% to 17.5%. The share of services, however, has gone up dramatically, from 33% to 55% of India's gross value added.

What accounts for this unique feature of the Indian economy? The answer is that the brunt of economic regulation has fallen on manufacturing, as the factory – rather than the call centre or software firm – is seen as the archetype of industry. Services, by contrast, have been less exposed to regulatory attention.

That, however, is changing, as the growth of services brings them into the limelight. To recount some experiences in this regard: a few years back, an inspector visited a modern office of a service sector company run by one of us and demanded to see the snake-pit (meant to trap snakes). Arcane regulations mandate that all establishments have one. Recognising that hardly any observe this stipulation in practice, he indicated that the demand could be made to go away for a consideration.

On another occasion, when the second floor of an authorised office was being fitted out, a consultant assured us there would be no problem if we installed electric connections. When we did so, however, the same consultant arrived with the police, wanting to arrest the owner for violating regulations. It was evident that this was an extortion ring run in cahoots with local authorities.

Multiple similar incidents point to the hazards of doing business in India. When deregulation became the theme for the 2025 Budget, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced setting up a high-level committee for regulatory reform, that was indeed the right priority.



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To curb regulatory cholesterol, the regime of inspections, checks, and no-objection certificates (NOCs) should be replaced by self-certification-based approvals and renewals, at least in low-risk activities. The validity of licences and approvals can be extended by the States in line with best-in-class practices in India and Southeast Asia. Certified third parties can be brought in to provide a range of approvals, such as building plans, labour, fire safety, and lift – speeding up the process.

Need for reforms

For ease of doing business that helps entrepreneurs on the ground, factor markets such as land and labour need to be reformed. Land should be made available for industrial use by lifting restrictions and easing regulations around land acquisition, change of land use, zoning, and building byelaws.

Further, full transparency should be legally mandated on documentation, NOCs, and checklists needed for all approvals and inspections. Deviations from the official procedure made available online should not be permitted. A joint inspection with prior notice should be mandated with a common checklist and harmonised documentation, taking place not more than once a year.

Technology should also be introduced for automated approvals and NOCs. For example, buildings not in flight paths or below a certain height can get an automatic NOC from the Airports Authority of India based on geotagged location. A similar approach for NOCs related to mining, forests, railways, and defence can be envisaged.

There is a need to go through labour laws and the Factories Act with a fine-tooth comb, eliminating archaic provisions and criminalising other offences. A time-bound appeals mechanism should be instituted for harassment cases by departments, with consequences for overreach.

To change the culture of the bureaucracy from one of blocking to enabling, facilitating investments and economic growth should be made part of the performance evaluation criteria of all departments.

India needs manufacturing and services engines to fire. And gig work is set to be a permanent part of this landscape. Indian labour laws need to acquire sufficient flexibility to accommodate this.

There are moves afoot in some States to equate gig workers with full-time employees and impose overly inflexible labour laws currently applicable to the latter on the former. If anything, the movement should be in the opposite direction. If we are to utilise India's demographic dividend, we cannot wish away gig work, which offers significant opportunities for India's burgeoning workforce.

Regulation that recognises the rights and dignity of workers – whether gig or full-time – is essential. Such regulation should, however, be optimal, legitimising enterprises running on their labour rather than placing insuperable obstacles in their path. The prevailing attitude of regulators towards business remains one of distrust. This bureaucratic attitude needs to be transformed into one of trust.

Essentially, India is once again at a 1991-like moment. It carried out successful macro-economic reforms in 1991, and stable monetary and fiscal policies continue to serve it well to this day. However, achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047 requires stepping up the rate of economic growth to at least 8% annually and sustaining it at that level, even as it rows against strong external headwinds created by global trade wars.

This requires deep reform at the micro-economic level. While external factors may be beyond India's control, energising the domestic economy by removing regulatory cholesterol is a powerful internal lever it can pull.

The prevailing attitude of regulators towards business remains one of distrust. This bureaucratic attitude needs to be transformed into one of trust



The Road to Regulatory Reform

नियामकीय सुधार की राह

- The **attitude of regulators** towards businesses is still rooted in **distrust**.
- नियामकों का व्यवसायों के प्रति दृष्टिकोण अब भी अविश्वास पर आधारित है।
- This **bureaucratic mindset** must shift to a **trust-based approach**.
- यह नौकरशाही सोच अब विश्वास-आधारित दृष्टिकोण में बदलनी चाहिए।
- **Growth Driven by Services, Not Manufacturing**
 - **सेवाओं द्वारा संचालित वृद्धि, न कि विनिर्माण द्वारा**
 - Unlike other emerging economies, **India's growth** has been largely **driven by services**.
 - अन्य उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के विपरीत, **भारत की वृद्धि** मुख्यतः **सेवाओं द्वारा संचालित** रही है।
 - **From 1980 to now**, the share of **manufacturing** in **gross value added** increased marginally from **16% to 17.5%**.
 - **1980 से अब तक**, सकल मूल्य वर्धन में **विनिर्माण** का हिस्सा मामूली रूप से **16% से 17.5%** तक बढ़ा है।
 - In contrast, the **services sector** rose sharply from **33% to 55%**.
 - इसके विपरीत, **सेवाओं का क्षेत्र** तेज़ी से **33% से 55%** तक बढ़ा है।
- **Disproportionate Regulatory Focus on Manufacturing**
 - **विनिर्माण पर असमान नियामकीय ध्यान**
 - **Regulation** in India has focused more on **factories than call centres or software firms**.
 - भारत में **नियमन** ने **फैक्ट्री** पर अधिक ध्यान दिया है, **बजाय कॉल सेंटरों या सॉफ्टवेयर कंपनियों** के।
 - This **skewed focus** partly explains why **services have thrived while manufacturing has lagged**.
 - यह असमान ध्यान इस बात की आंशिक व्याख्या करता है कि क्यों **सेवाएं फली-फूलीं** जबकि **विनिर्माण पिछड़** गया।
- **Regulatory Overreach in the Services Sector**
 - **सेवा क्षेत्र में नियामकीय अतिरेक**
 - With the **expansion of services**, regulators have started targeting this sector as well.
 - **सेवाओं के विस्तार** के साथ, नियामक अब इस क्षेत्र को भी निशाना बना रहे हैं।
 - An **inspector once demanded a snake-pit in a modern office** due to archaic rules.
 - एक बार एक **निरीक्षक** ने **पुराने नियमों के तहत एक आधुनिक ऑफिस में साँप पकड़ने का गड्ढा दिखाने** की मांग की।
 - He hinted at making the requirement “disappear” for a **bribe**.
 - उसने इसे हटाने के लिए **घूस** की पेशकश की।
 - In another case, **officials colluded with consultants and police** in **extortion** during a routine office renovation.



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• एक अन्य मामले में, अधिकारियों ने सलाहकारों और पुलिस के साथ मिलकर जबरन वसूली की जब एक ऑफिस में काम चल रहा था।

• Budget 2025 and Regulatory Reforms

• बजट 2025 और नियामकीय सुधार

• The 2025 Budget rightly focused on **deregulation** and setting up a **high-level committee for regulatory reform**.

• बजट 2025 ने सही रूप से नियमन-उन्मूलन और नियामकीय सुधार के लिए उच्च स्तरीय समिति बनाने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।

• Self-Certification and Simplified Approvals

• आत्म-प्रमाणन और सरल स्वीकृतियाँ

• **Inspections, checks, and NOCs** should be replaced with **self-certification in low-risk activities**.

• निरीक्षण, जांच और अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र (NOC) को कम-जोखिम वाली गतिविधियों में आत्म-प्रमाणन से बदला जाना चाहिए।

• **Licence validity** should be extended by States as per **best practices in Southeast Asia**.

• लाइसेंस की वैधता को राज्यों द्वारा दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया की सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के अनुसार बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए।

• **Certified third parties** can approve **building plans, labour, fire safety, etc.**, to **speed up processes**.

• प्रमाणित तीसरे पक्ष द्वारा भवन योजनाएँ, श्रम, अग्नि सुरक्षा आदि को मंजूरी देने से प्रक्रिया तेज़ हो सकती है।

• Land and Labour Market Reforms

• भूमि और श्रम बाजार में सुधार

• **Land acquisition, zoning, and building byelaws** must be simplified for industrial use.

• भूमि अधिग्रहण, क्षेत्र निर्धारण, और भवन उपविधियों को औद्योगिक उपयोग के लिए सरल बनाना चाहिए।

• **Transparency in documents, NOCs, and inspection checklists** must be legally mandated.

• दस्तावेज़ों, NOC, और निरीक्षण चेकलिस्ट में पारदर्शिता को कानूनी रूप से अनिवार्य किया जाना चाहिए।

• Inspections should be **joint**, with **prior notice**, **once a year**, and follow a **common checklist**.

• निरीक्षण संयुक्त, पूर्व सूचना के साथ, साल में एक बार, और एक **समान चेकलिस्ट** के अनुसार होना चाहिए।

• Use of Technology for Approvals

• स्वीकृतियों के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग

• **Automated NOCs based on geotagged data** should be introduced, e.g., for buildings below flight paths.

• **जियोटैग किए गए डेटा पर आधारित स्वचालित NOC** लागू किए जाने चाहिए, जैसे उड़ान मार्गों के नीचे के भवनों के लिए।

• A similar **automated approach** can be applied for **mining, forests, railways, and defence**

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clearances.

- इसी तरह का स्वचालित तरीका खनन, वन, रेलवे, और रक्षा स्वीकृतियों में लागू किया जा सकता है।

• Labour Laws and Bureaucratic Culture

• श्रम कानून और नौकरशाही संस्कृति

- Review **labour laws** and the **Factories Act** to remove outdated provisions and decriminalise others.
- श्रम कानूनों और कारखाना अधिनियम की समीक्षा कर पुराने प्रावधानों को हटाना और अन्य को अपराध मुक्त करना चाहिए।
- Create a **time-bound appeal mechanism** for cases of **harassment by departments**, with penalties for overreach.
- विभागों द्वारा उत्पीड़न के मामलों के लिए **समयबद्ध अपील तंत्र** बनाना चाहिए, जिसमें **अधिकारों के दुरुपयोग पर दंड** हो।
- **Economic facilitation** should be part of **performance evaluations** of departments.
- आर्थिक निवेश और विकास में सहयोग को विभागों के प्रदर्शन मूल्यांकन का हिस्सा बनाया जाना चाहिए।

• Recognising Gig Work in Labour Laws

• श्रम कानूनों में गिग कार्य को मान्यता देना

- **Gig work** is now a **permanent part** of the Indian economy and must be recognised in **labour law frameworks**.
- गिग कार्य अब भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था का **स्थायी हिस्सा** है और इसे श्रम कानूनों में मान्यता मिलनी चाहिए।
- Some states are wrongly trying to **treat gig workers like full-time employees** under **rigid laws**.
- कुछ राज्य गिग श्रमिकों को **पूर्णकालिक कर्मचारियों** की तरह कड़े कानूनों के तहत मानने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- The correct approach is to ensure **worker dignity and rights** with **flexible and optimal regulations**.
- सही दृष्टिकोण यह है कि श्रमिकों की गरिमा और अधिकारों को लचीले और उचित नियमों के साथ सुनिश्चित किया जाए।

• Trust-Based Regulation for Economic Growth

• आर्थिक विकास के लिए विश्वास आधारित नियमन

- The regulatory system should **support legitimate enterprises**, not **hinder** them.
- नियामकीय प्रणाली को **वैध उद्यमों का समर्थन** करना चाहिए, न कि **रोकना**।
- The prevailing **distrust** towards businesses must be replaced with **institutional trust**.
- व्यवसायों के प्रति व्याप्त **अविश्वास** को **संस्थागत विश्वास** में बदलना चाहिए।

• A 1991-like Reform Moment for India

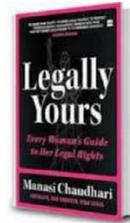
- भारत के लिए 1991 जैसा सुधार का क्षण



- In 1991, India undertook **macro-economic reforms** that still benefit its economy.
- 1991 में भारत ने जो व्यापक आर्थिक सुधार किए थे, वे अब भी देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को लाभ पहुंचा रहे हैं।
- Achieving a **developed India by 2047** requires **8% annual growth**, sustained despite **global headwinds**.
- 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनने के लिए प्रति वर्ष 8% वृद्धि की आवश्यकता है, जो वैश्विक चुनौतियों के बावजूद स्थिर रहनी चाहिए।
- This calls for **micro-economic reforms**, especially reducing **regulatory cholesterol** to boost the **domestic economy**.
- इसके लिए सूक्ष्म आर्थिक सुधारों की ज़रूरत है, विशेषकर नियामकीय जटिलताओं को कम कर घरेलू अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित करने की।



Bastions of justice: A view of the Madras High Court in Chennai. M. MOORTHY





Reimagining access to justice and rectifying systemic barriers

GS Paper II: Judiciary

Amid a slew of challenges faced by the judiciary, two books, one advocating for reforms in district courts, and the other democratising legal knowledge for women, offer a roadmap to restoring public trust and advancing justice

Aaratrika Bhaumik

Public confidence in the Indian judiciary appears to be wavering due to a slew of reasons. The alleged discovery of burnt currency notes at the residence of High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma has reignited concerns over judicial corruption and prompted several judges to publicly declare their assets.

There is also a perception that caste, religion, and political affiliations often dictate judicial conduct. Recently, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court delivered a speech at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event. Meanwhile, the continuing spectacle of “bulldozer justice”, despite the Supreme Court rendering such extra-judicial demolitions illegal, further signals the increasing pressures on the judiciary.

Rethinking judicial reforms

Amid a credibility crisis, *Tareekh Pe Justice: Reforms for India's District Courts* (Simon & Schuster) by Prashant Reddy T. and Chitrakshi Jain offers a timely and critical intervention. The authors argue that meaningful judicial reforms must begin at the level of the district courts – the first and often the only point of contact for most Indian litigants. Far removed from the grandeur of constitutional benches, these courts often operate from dilapidated facilities. Yet they form the backbone of the judiciary, adjudicating the vast majority of civil and criminal cases across the country.

Reddy and Jain challenge the popular narrative that a ‘resource crunch’ is the primary affliction of the district judiciary, manifesting in burgeoning case backlogs and a pervasive culture of adjournments. These visible systemic infirmities are

merely the tip of the iceberg. Drawing on anecdotal evidence, the authors echo a concern once voiced by former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud – that district judges operate under the looming threat of retribution, acutely aware that delivering a verdict perceived as unpalatable to the ruling dispensation could invite Kafkaesque disciplinary proceedings. These enquiries, initiated by the High Courts, have routinely admitted unreliable hearsay evidence, resulting in the arbitrary dismissal of judges.

Culture of opacity

Even more concerning is the secrecy surrounding these proceedings. The authors are unflinching in their critique: “While the judiciary has been vocal about advocating for transparency in government, it has remained resistant to subjecting itself to external scrutiny.”

This entrenched culture of opacity extends to judicial statistics. The book raises serious concerns about the reliability of data published on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), an online repository launched in 2015 under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project to track case statuses across all levels of the judiciary. The authors draw attention to the NJDG’s own disclaimer, which concedes that it does not offer verified or authentic information. With scathing candour, they remark, “These are strange disclaimers for the e-courts project, which has consumed ₹2,308 crore of public money since its inception in 2005.”

Reddy and Jain also flag instances where the Supreme Court has arbitrarily invoked Article 121 of the Constitution to withhold statistical information from Parliament. While the provision restricts parliamentary debate on the conduct of individual judges except during

impeachment proceedings, they contend that it cannot be used to insulate the judiciary’s performance from legitimate scrutiny. Adopting a similar adversarial stance, the Supreme Court Registry has aggressively litigated against Right to Information (RTI) requests filed by citizens seeking data on judicial delays and other systemic limitations.

In the final sections of the book, three radical reforms are proposed to fundamentally reimagine the justice system. The first involves restructuring the judiciary to mirror the U.S. model, with two parallel hierarchies of courts – one to adjudicate disputes under parliamentary law and another under State laws. Pointing to the growing trend of ‘tribunalisation’ as evidence that this shift is already in motion, they argue that such a framework would bolster accountability by establishing clearer chains of command. The second proposal advocates for the reintroduction of jury trials to foster civic engagement. While acknowledging the additional resource demands, the authors reason that the potential to restore institutional credibility and strengthen civic culture far outweighs the marginal increase in costs. Lastly, they underscore the importance of procedural law in ensuring fairness and predictability in adjudication.

Demystifying the law

Making justice truly accessible requires not only institutional reforms but also a concerted effort to cultivate greater awareness of legal rights. This is particularly crucial for women, who are increasingly vulnerable to violence, even within the confines of their homes. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-2021 revealed that 29.3% of married Indian women aged 18 to 49 have

experienced domestic or sexual violence, yet a staggering 87% of victims of marital violence do not seek help. All too often, due to a lack of legal literacy, countless women endure abuse, exploitation, and mistreatment in silence. *Legally Yours* (HarperCollins) by Manasi Chaudhari serves as a beacon of hope, offering women a comprehensive resource to understand and assert their legal rights.

Drawing on her decades of experience as a family lawyer, Chaudhari is cognisant that legal literacy extends far beyond merely knowing that laws exist. It requires a nuanced understanding of how legal provisions can be meaningfully applied to navigate the complex realities of women’s personal and professional lives. Her book offers practical insights and actionable solutions to a range of issues that many women confront daily: What recourse is available if someone threatens to leak private photos? What are the property rights in a live-in relationship? How can one respond to workplace sexual harassment? What remedies are available if an employer unlawfully withholds maternity benefits?

Yet, Chaudhari remains mindful of her audience, consciously avoiding the intimidating jargon typically associated with legal discourse. Instead, she infuses the book with engaging elements – Bollywood references, quizzes, and group activities. She also debunks several common myths: that domestic violence only involves physical abuse and protects only married women; that silence constitutes consent; and that maternity leave is unavailable to women who suffer a miscarriage, among others.

In doing so, the book democratises legal knowledge and empowers a crucial stakeholder to confidently navigate a system that too often feels alienating.

Reimagining Access to Justice and Rectifying Systemic Barriers

न्याय तक पहुंच की पुनः कल्पना और प्रणालीगत बाधाओं का सुधार

- Public trust in the judiciary is weakening due to various challenges.
- High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma allegedly found with burnt currency notes, raising corruption concerns.

• न्यायपालिका में जनता का विश्वास विभिन्न चुनौतियों के कारण कमजोर हो रहा है।
हाई कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश जस्टिस यशवंत वर्मा के आवास पर जली हुई मुद्रा मिलने का आरोप भ्रष्टाचार की चिंताओं को बढ़ा रहा है।



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- Many judges have begun publicly declaring their assets to counter allegations.
 - कई न्यायाधीशों ने अपने संपत्ति विवरण सार्वजनिक करना शुरू कर दिया है ताकि आरोपों का खंडन किया जा सके।
- Judicial conduct is perceived to be influenced by caste, religion, and political ties.
 - न्यायिक कार्यवाही को जाति, धर्म, और राजनीतिक संबंधों से प्रभावित माना जा रहा है।
- **Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav spoke at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event, raising questions on neutrality.**
 - जस्टिस शेखर कुमार यादव ने विश्व हिंदू परिषद के एक कार्यक्रम में भाषण दिया, जिससे न्यायिक निष्पक्षता पर सवाल उठे।
- **“Bulldozer justice” continues despite the Supreme Court’s declaration against such practices.**
 - सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा ऐसी कार्यवाहियों को अवैध ठहराने के बावजूद "बुलडोजर न्याय" की घटनाएं जारी हैं।

Rethinking Judicial Reforms

न्यायिक सुधारों पर पुनर्विचार

- The **book Tareekh Pe Justice by Prashant Reddy T. and Chitrakshi Jain** highlights the need for reforms in district courts, the most common contact point for Indian citizens.
 - प्रशांत रेड्डी टी. और चित्राक्षी जैन की पुस्तक *तारीख पे जस्टिस* में जिला न्यायालयों में सुधार की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया गया है, जो आम भारतीयों के लिए सबसे सामान्य संपर्क स्थल हैं।
- District courts often operate in poor conditions despite handling most civil and criminal cases.
 - जिला न्यायालय अक्सर खराब अवस्थाओं में कार्य करते हैं, जबकि वे अधिकांश दीवानी और आपराधिक मामलों का निपटारा करते हैं।
- Authors argue that the main issue is not just lack of resources but institutional threats and retributive pressures.
 - लेखक मानते हैं कि समस्या केवल संसाधनों की कमी नहीं है बल्कि संस्थागत खतरों और प्रतिशोधात्मक दबावों की भी है।
- **Judges risk punishment if they deliver verdicts seen as unfavourable to the government.**
 - यदि न्यायाधीश सरकार के प्रतिकूल निर्णय सुनाते हैं, तो उन्हें सजा का खतरा रहता है।
- Disciplinary proceedings often rely on unverified hearsay evidence, leading to arbitrary dismissals.

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• अनौपचारिक और अप्रमाणित गवाही के आधार पर विचारणाएं होती हैं, जिससे मनमाने तरीके से न्यायाधीशों को हटाया जाता है।

Culture of Opacity

गोपनीयता की संस्कृति

- Judiciary advocates transparency for the government but resists scrutiny of itself.
- न्यायपालिका सरकार में पारदर्शिता की मांग करती है, लेकिन स्वयं पर निगरानी का विरोध करती है।
- **Data on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is unreliable.**
- नेशनल जुडिशियल डाटा ग्रिड (एनजेडीडीजी) पर उपलब्ध आंकड़े अविश्वसनीय हैं।
- NJDG includes a disclaimer stating the data is not verified or authentic.
- एनजेडीडीजी में यह अस्वीकरण है कि डेटा सत्यापित या प्रामाणिक नहीं है।
- ₹2,308 crore has been spent on the **e-Courts Project since 2005**, yet basic data is questionable.
- ₹2,308 करोड़ की राशि 2005 से ई-कोर्ट्स परियोजना पर खर्च की गई है, फिर भी मूलभूत आंकड़ों की विश्वसनीयता संदेहास्पद है।
- The Supreme Court has cited **Article 121 to deny statistical information to Parliament.**
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अनुच्छेद 121 का हवाला देकर संसद को आंकड़े देने से मना कर दिया।
- Article 121 bars debate on judge conduct in Parliament except during impeachment, but authors say it cannot shield performance data.
- अनुच्छेद 121 संसद में न्यायाधीशों की कार्यशैली पर बहस को रोकता है, लेकिन लेखक कहते हैं कि यह प्रदर्शन से संबंधित आंकड़ों को छिपाने का औजार नहीं हो सकता।
- Supreme Court Registry has opposed RTI requests seeking judicial data and delays.
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट रजिस्ट्री ने RTI याचिकाओं का विरोध किया है जो न्यायिक आंकड़ों और देरी की जानकारी मांगती हैं।

Proposed Reforms to Reimagine the Justice System

न्याय प्रणाली की पुनर्रचना हेतु प्रस्तावित सुधार

- First, restructure the judiciary into two parallel systems — one for Parliamentary laws, another for State laws, like the U.S. model.
- पहला सुझाव है कि न्यायपालिका को दो समानांतर प्रणाली में बदला जाए — एक संसदीय कानूनों के लिए और दूसरी राज्य कानूनों के लिए, जैसे अमेरिका में होता है।



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- Authors cite rising “tribunalisation” as a sign this model is already emerging.
 - लेखक कहते हैं कि "न्यायाधिकरणकरण" की बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति दिखाती है कि यह मॉडल पहले से आकार ले रहा है।
- **Second, reintroduce jury trials to enhance civic engagement.**
 - दूसरा सुझाव है कि जूरी ट्रायल को फिर से शुरू किया जाए ताकि नागरिक भागीदारी बढ़ सके।
- **Though more resources would be needed, it can boost trust and democratic culture.**
 - हालांकि इसके लिए अधिक संसाधन लगेंगे, लेकिन यह विश्वास और लोकतांत्रिक संस्कृति को मजबूत कर सकता है।
- **Third, strengthen the role of procedural law to ensure fairness and predictability in decisions.**
 - तीसरा सुझाव है कि प्रक्रियात्मक कानून की भूमिका को मजबूत किया जाए ताकि न्याय और पूर्वानुमानिता सुनिश्चित हो सके।

Demystifying the Law

कानून को समझना सरल बनाना

- Making **justice truly accessible** requires not only institutional reforms but also a **concerted effort** to create **greater awareness of legal rights**.
 - न्याय को वास्तव में सुलभ बनाना केवल संस्थागत सुधारों से नहीं, बल्कि कानूनी अधिकारों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के संगठित प्रयासों से भी संभव होता है।
- This is especially important for **women**, who are increasingly **vulnerable to violence**, even within the confines of their homes.
 - यह विशेष रूप से महिलाओं के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, जो अब भी अपने ही घरों में हिंसा के प्रति अत्यधिक संवेदनशील हैं।
- The **National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-2021** found that **29.3% of married Indian women aged 18 to 49** have experienced **domestic or sexual violence**.
 - राष्ट्रीय पारिवारिक स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS) 2019-2021 के अनुसार, 18 से 49 वर्ष की विवाहित भारतीय महिलाओं में से 29.3% ने घरेलू या यौन हिंसा का अनुभव किया है।
- Yet, **87% of marital violence victims do not seek help**.
 - फिर भी, वैवाहिक हिंसा की शिकार महिलाओं में से 87% ने मदद नहीं मांगी।
- Due to lack of **legal literacy**, many women endure **abuse, exploitation, and mistreatment in silence**.
 - कानूनी साक्षरता की कमी के कारण, कई महिलाएँ शोषण, उत्पीड़न और दुर्व्यवहार को चुपचाप सहती हैं।



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Legally Yours by Manasi Chaudhari

मानसी चौधरी द्वारा 'लीगली योन्स'

- *Legally Yours* (HarperCollins) by Manasi Chaudhari provides a **comprehensive resource** for women to understand and assert their **legal rights**.
- मानसी चौधरी की *लीगली योन्स* (हार्पर कॉलिन्स) महिलाओं को उनके कानूनी अधिकारों को समझने और लागू करने के लिए एक व्यापक संसाधन प्रदान करती है।
- Drawing from her **decades of experience** as a **family lawyer**, Chaudhari stresses that **legal literacy** is more than just knowing that laws exist.
- एक पारिवारिक वकील के रूप में अपने दशकों के अनुभव के आधार पर, चौधरी बताती हैं कि कानूनी साक्षरता का मतलब केवल कानूनों की जानकारी होना नहीं है।
- It means understanding how laws can be **practically applied** in the **personal and professional lives** of women.
- इसका अर्थ है यह जानना कि कानूनों को महिलाओं के व्यक्तिगत और पेशेवर जीवन में व्यावहारिक रूप से कैसे लागू किया जा सकता है।
- The book offers **practical insights** and **solutions** to **everyday legal issues** faced by women.
- यह पुस्तक महिलाओं द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली दैनिक कानूनी समस्याओं पर व्यावहारिक सुझाव और समाधान प्रस्तुत करती है।

Common Legal Scenarios Addressed

सामान्य कानूनी स्थितियाँ जिन पर प्रकाश डाला गया है

- What can you do if someone **threatens to leak private photos**?
- यदि कोई व्यक्ति आपकी निजी तस्वीरें लीक करने की धमकी देता है, तो आप क्या कर सकती हैं?
- What are the **property rights** in a **live-in relationship**?
- लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप में संपत्ति अधिकार क्या होते हैं?
- How to deal with **workplace sexual harassment**?
- कार्यक्षेत्र में यौन उत्पीड़न का कैसे सामना करें?
- What are the remedies if an employer **withholds maternity benefits**?
- यदि नियोक्ता मैटरनिटी बेनिफिट्स रोक देता है, तो उपाय क्या हैं?

Accessible and Engaging Style

सुगम और आकर्षक शैली

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• Chaudhari avoids **legal jargon** and instead uses **Bollywood references, quizzes, and group activities** to make the book engaging.

• चौधरी कानूनी शब्दजाल से बचती हैं और इसके बजाय बॉलीवुड संदर्भ, प्रश्नोत्तरी, और समूह गतिविधियों का उपयोग करती हैं ताकि पुस्तक को रोचक बनाया जा सके।

• She also **debunks common myths** such as:

- वह आम भ्रांतियों को भी तोड़ती हैं, जैसे कि:
 - **Domestic violence** involves only **physical abuse**.
 - घरेलू हिंसा केवल शारीरिक शोषण होती है।
 - It protects only **married women**.
 - यह केवल विवाहित महिलाओं की रक्षा करता है।
 - **Silence constitutes consent**.
 - चुप्पी को सहमति माना जाता है।
 - **Maternity leave** is not available after **miscarriage**.
 - गर्भपात के बाद मैटरनिटी लीव उपलब्ध नहीं होती।

Democratising Legal Knowledge

कानूनी ज्ञान का लोकतंत्रीकरण

• The book **democratises legal knowledge** by making it **accessible** and **relatable**, empowering women to face a system that often feels **alienating**.

• यह पुस्तक कानूनी ज्ञान को जनसुलभ बनाती है, जिससे महिलाएँ एक ऐसे तंत्र का साहसपूर्वक सामना कर सकें जो अक्सर अलग-थलग महसूस होता है।

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

1. Indian forces hit Pakistan terror bases

भारतीय सेना ने पाकिस्तान के आतंकवादी ठिकानों पर हमला किया

2. India Briefs Envoys of 13 Security Council Members

भारत ने सुरक्षा परिषद के 13 देशों के दूतों को जानकारी दी

3. Terror Sites Targeted by Indian Forces

भारतीय बलों द्वारा निशाना बनाए गए आतंकवादी ठिकाने

4. PMLA Ruling Review: SC Seeks Issues for Consideration

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PMLA निर्णय की समीक्षा: सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने विचारार्थ बिंदुओं की मांग की

5. The Hindu Huddle to shine the light on rising tide of non-communicable diseases in India

भारत में बढ़ती गैर-संचारी बीमारियों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेगा द हिंदू हडल

6. Climate change is disrupting the human gut in a new path to illness

जलवायु परिवर्तन मानव आंत को एक नई बीमारी की ओर ले जा रहा है

7. A Step Up: On India and the 2025 Human Development Report

एक कदम ऊपर: भारत और 2025 मानव विकास रिपोर्ट

8. The Road to Regulatory Reform

नियामकीय सुधार की राह

9. Pakistan's Complex Web of Terror Networks

पाकिस्तान का आतंकवादी नेटवर्कों का जटिल जाल

10. India-U.K. Goods Trade Surged 60% in Eight Years

भारत-यू.के. वस्तु व्यापार आठ वर्षों में 60% बढ़ा



Indian forces hit Pakistan terror bases

24 precision strikes hit infrastructure across nine sites used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK

Air defence network on 'highest state' of alert in anticipation of counter-response from Pakistan

Targets destroyed without harming any civilian population, as per plan, says Defence Minister

GS Paper III: Terrorism

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In a swift and decisive military action under Operation Sindoor against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Indian armed forces carried out 24 precision strikes on nine different targets within a span of just 25 minutes in the early hours of Wednesday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India exercised its "right to respond" to an attack on its soil, referring to the Pahalgam attack, and the armed forces "scripted history" by acting with "precision, precaution, and compassion" to destroy the camps used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK.

The entire air defence network has been put on the highest state of alert in anticipation of any counter-response from Pakistan.

"India has demonstrated considerable restraint in its response. However, Indian armed forces are fully prepared to respond to Pakistani misadventure, if any, to escalate the situation," Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said at a media briefing during the day, which was led by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

'Non-escalatory action'
Mr. Misri said India exercised its right to act on terror targets, stressing that the actions were "measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible".

"The action was carried out very thoughtfully and in a measured manner. It was limited only to the camps and other infrastructure used for training terrorists, with the aim of breaking their morale," the Defence Minister said while addressing the 60th Raising Day event of the

Strategic targets

Armed forces carry out 24 precision strikes on targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor

The Indian armed forces scripted history last night... Through Operation Sindoor India used its 'right to respond' to attack on its soil

RAJNATH SINGH,
Defence Minister

SERIAL	CAMP
1	SAWAL NALA
2	SYED NA BELAL
3	MARKAZ-E-JOZA
4	CHELABANDI
5	ABULLAH BIN MASOOD
6	POJK
7	GANHI HABBULLAH
8	BATRAGI
9	BALAKOT
10	GISHI
11	BGI
12	SEWLA
13	GULPUR
14	KOTIL
15	BARALI
16	DUNGI
17	BARNALA
18	MEHMOONA JOYA
19	SARJAL
20	BHIMBER
21	BAHAWALPUR

Targeted sites in Pakistan belong to terror groups across the border at distances ranging from 6 km to 100 km

Action limited only to the camps and infrastructure used for training terrorists, with the aim of breaking their morale, says Defence Minister

Swift action: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri at a press briefing on the military strikes on terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR

'Precision capability' strikes conducted between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday

5 sites hit in PoK and 4 across the International Border

Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

He asserted that as per plan, the targets were destroyed and no civilian population was harmed.

The strikes were conducted between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday, which were announced by the Defence Ministry shortly after that in a statement. "No Pakistani military facilities have been targeted. India has demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution," the Ministry said, adding, "We are living up to the commitment that those responsible for the Pahalgam attack will be held accountable."

Pakistan Army spokesperson Lt. General Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry said 31 people were killed and 57 injured in the missile strikes.

Of the 21 camps identified in Pakistan and PoK belonging to the terror groups Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and

Jaish-e-Mohammed, nine were targeted, located at distances ranging from 6 km to 100 km from the border.

The targets in PoK are the Sawal Nala camp and Syedna Belal camp in Muzaffarabad, Gulpur camp and Abbas camp in Kotil, and the Barnala camp in Bhimber. The targets in Pakistan are the Mehmoona Joya camp and Sarjal camp in Sialkot, Markaz Taiba in Muridke, and Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur.

In remarks at the briefing, Mr. Misri noted that following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, the Government of India "naturally" responded with a set of initial measures, referring to the announcements on April 23, and it was deemed essential that the perpetrators and planners of the attack be brought to justice.

"Despite a fortnight having passed since the attacks, there has been no demonstrable step from

Pakistan to take action against the terrorist infrastructure on its territory or on territory under its control. Instead, all it has indulged in are denials and allegations. Our intelligence monitoring of Pakistan-based terrorist modules indicated that further attacks against India were impending. There was thus a compulsion both to deter and to preempt," he said.

Mr. Misri said India "exercised its right to respond and preempt as well as deter" more such cross-border attacks.

"The selection of targets for Operation Sindoor was based on credible intelligence inputs and role of these facilities in perpetrating terror activities," Wing Commander Singh said during the briefing on the operation. "The locations were so selected to avoid damage to civilian installations and loss of civilian lives."

To this, Colonel Sofiya

Qureshi, who was also present at the briefing, added that the target selection was done with due diligence.

'Clinical efficiency'
The strikes on the terror camps were undertaken through "precision capability", using niche technology weapons with careful selection of warheads that ensured no collateral damage, Wing Commander Singh stated. "The point of impact in each of the target was a specific building or a group of buildings. All the targets were neutralised with clinical efficiency and the results reiterate the professionalism of the Indian armed forces in planning and execution of operations," she said.

Defence sources said the majority of the targets were hit by the Army and the rest by the Indian Air Force (IAF). Given that the fighter jets did not cross the border, the likely op-

tions exercised were Rafale or Mirage 2000 jets with the SCALP long-range missile and HAMMER air-to-ground weapon.

The Army, sources said, used precision-guided munitions and loitering munitions. The Army has the Excalibur precision-guided rounds that can be fired from 155mm artillery guns and has also procured several types of loitering munitions in the past few years. However, sources ruled out any use of missiles by the Army.

An Indian military response has been widely expected, and senior leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had reiterated that the perpetrators behind the attack would not be spared.

These are the third such punitive strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK in the past decade following the surgical strikes by the Indian Army in September 2016 after the Uri terror attack and

12 J&K civilians, one soldier killed in Pak. shelling

SRINAGAR, JAMMU
One soldier and at least 12 civilians, three women and three children among them, were killed and 51 injured as the Pakistan Army resorted to heavy mortar shelling and firing in four districts close to the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. Residents living close to the border areas were gripped with a sense of fear as casualties rose, with the authorities setting up temporary shelters in Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla, and R.S. Pora. Officials said the shelling impacted Balakote, Mendhar, Mankote, Krishna Ghati, Gulpur, Kerri, and Poonch town, and left 42 injured. Indian Army said it was responding in a "proportionate manner". » PAGE 5

the Balakot air strikes by the Indian Air Force against terror training camp in February 2019 after the Pulwama terror attack.

In a statement following the air strikes, the Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations said that all planes of the Pakistan Air Force were airborne.

"All strikes were made by India from its own airspace. Pakistan will respond to it at a time and place of its own choosing. It will not go unanswered. The temporary pleasure of India will be replaced by enduring grief," it stated. Last week Mr. Modi had given "complete operational freedom" to the forces to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of the Indian response. (With inputs from PTI)

EDITORIAL
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Indian forces hit Pakistan terror bases

भारतीय सेना ने पाकिस्तान के आतंकवादी ठिकानों पर हमला किया

• Indian armed forces carried out 24 precision strikes on 9 different targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) within 25 minutes during early hours of Wednesday under Operation Sindoor.



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• भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों ने ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के तहत बुधवार की सुबह 25 मिनट में पाकिस्तान और पाकिस्तान अधिकृत कश्मीर (PoK) में 9 अलग-अलग ठिकानों पर 24 सटीक हमले किए।

• Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** said India exercised its **right to respond** to the **Pahalgam attack**, and the forces acted with "**precision, precaution, and compassion**".

• रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा कि भारत ने पहलगाम हमले के जवाब में प्रतिक्रिया का अधिकार प्रयोग किया और सेनाओं ने "सटीकता, सावधानी और करुणा" के साथ कार्रवाई की।

• The **entire air defence network** has been placed on the **highest state of alert** anticipating any counter-response from Pakistan.

• पाकिस्तान की किसी संभावित प्रतिक्रिया की आशंका में पूरा वायु रक्षा तंत्र उच्चतम सतर्कता की स्थिति में रखा गया है।

• Wing Commander **Vyomika Singh** said Indian forces are fully prepared to **respond to any Pakistani misadventure**.

• विंग कमांडर व्योमिका सिंह ने कहा कि भारतीय सेनाएं पाकिस्तानी दुस्साहस का पूरी तरह से जवाब देने के लिए तैयार हैं।

Non-escalatory and Responsible Action

गैर-उत्तेजक और जिम्मेदार कार्रवाई

• Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri** stated that the strikes were **measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible**.

• विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिश्री ने कहा कि हमले संतुलित, गैर-उत्तेजक, आनुपातिक और जिम्मेदार थे।

• Defence Minister emphasized that the action was **limited only to terror training camps to break their morale**.

• रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि कार्रवाई केवल आतंकवादी प्रशिक्षण शिविरों तक सीमित थी ताकि उनका मनोबल तोड़ा जा सके।

• He also confirmed that **no civilian population was harmed** during the strikes.

• उन्होंने यह भी पुष्टि की कि हमलों के दौरान किसी भी नागरिक आबादी को नुकसान नहीं पहुंचा।

• The strikes were conducted between **1:05 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday**, as per the **Defence Ministry's statement**.

• रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार ये हमले बुधवार को 1:05 बजे से 1:30 बजे के बीच किए गए।

• The Ministry added that **no Pakistani military facilities** were targeted and the **action showed considerable restraint**.

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• मंत्रालय ने कहा कि किसी भी पाकिस्तानी सैन्य प्रतिष्ठान को निशाना नहीं बनाया गया और यह कार्रवाई अत्यंत संयम के साथ की गई।

Casualties and Targeted Camps

हताहत और लक्षित शिविर

- Pakistan Army spokesperson Lt. Gen. Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry stated that **31 people were killed** and **57 injured** in the missile strikes.
- पाकिस्तान सेना के प्रवक्ता लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल अहमद शरीफ चौधरी ने बताया कि मिसाइल हमलों में 31 लोगों की मौत और 57 लोग घायल हुए।
- Out of **21 identified terror camps**, **9 camps** were targeted, belonging to groups like **Hizb-ul-Mujahideen**, **Lashkar-e-Taiba**, and **Jaish-e-Mohammed**.
- पहचाने गए 21 आतंकी शिविरों में से 9 शिविरों को निशाना बनाया गया, जो हिज्ब-उल-मुजाहिदीन, लश्कर-ए-तैयबा और जैश-ए-मोहम्मद जैसे संगठनों से जुड़े थे।
- These camps were located between **6 km and 100 km** from the **India-Pakistan border**.
- ये शिविर भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा से 6 किमी से 100 किमी की दूरी पर स्थित थे।

Locations of Targeted Camps in PoK and Pakistan

PoK और पाकिस्तान में लक्षित शिविरों के स्थान

- In PoK:
 - **Sawai Nala** and **Syedna Belal** camps in **Muzaffarabad**
 - **Gulpur** and **Abbas** camps in **Kotli**
 - **Barnala** camp in **Bhimber**
 - PoK में:
 - मुझफ्फराबाद में सवाई नाला और सैयदना बिलाल शिविर
 - कोटली में गुलपुर और अब्बास शिविर
 - भींबर में बरनाला शिविर
- In Pakistan:
 - **Mehmoona Joya** and **Sarjal** camps in **Sialkot**
 - **Markaz Taiba** in **Muridke**
 - **Markaz Subhan Allah** in **Bahawalpur**
 - पाकिस्तान में:

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- मुरिदके में मरकज़ तैयबा
- बहावलपुर में मरकज़ सुभान अल्लाह

India's Response to Pahalgam Terror Attack

पहलगाम आतंकवादी हमले पर भारत की प्रतिक्रिया

- Following the **Pahalgam terror attack on April 22**, Mr. Misri stated that the Government of India “**naturally**” responded with a set of initial measures on **April 23**.
- **22 अप्रैल** को हुए पहलगाम आतंकवादी हमले के बाद, श्री मिस्री ने कहा कि भारत सरकार ने **23 अप्रैल** को स्वाभाविक रूप से प्रारंभिक कदम उठाए।
- He emphasized that it was **essential** to bring the **perpetrators and planners** of the attack to **justice**.
- उन्होंने जोर दिया कि हमले के दोषियों और योजनाकारों को न्याय के कटघरे में लाना अनिवार्य था।
- Despite **two weeks** having passed, **Pakistan** has taken **no demonstrable action** against the **terrorist infrastructure** on its territory or that under its control.
- दो सप्ताह बीत जाने के बावजूद, पाकिस्तान ने अपने क्षेत्र या नियंत्रण वाले क्षेत्रों में आतंकवादी ढांचे के खिलाफ कोई स्पष्ट कार्रवाई नहीं की है।
- Instead, Pakistan has responded with only **denials and allegations**.
- इसके बजाय, पाकिस्तान ने केवल **इनकार और आरोप** ही लगाए हैं।
- Indian intelligence monitoring has indicated that **further attacks** from **Pakistan-based terrorist modules** were **impending**.
- भारतीय खुफिया निगरानी के अनुसार, पाकिस्तान-आधारित आतंकवादी मॉड्यूलों से आगे हमलों की संभावना थी।
- This led to a **compulsion to deter and preempt** such threats.
- इसके कारण ऐसे खतरों को **निष्क्रिय और रोकने की अनिवार्यता** उत्पन्न हुई।

Operation Sindoor and Target Selection

ऑपरेशन सिंदूर और लक्ष्य चयन

- Mr. Misri said India exercised its **right to respond, pre-empt, and deter** further attacks.
- श्री मिस्री ने कहा कि भारत ने प्रतिक्रिया देने, रोकने और भविष्य के हमलों को निष्क्रिय करने का अधिकार प्रयोग किया।



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- Wing Commander Singh stated that the **target selection** for **Operation Sindoor** was based on **credible intelligence inputs**.
- विंग कमांडर सिंह ने कहा कि ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के लिए लक्ष्य चयन विश्वसनीय खुफिया जानकारी पर आधारित था।

- The targets played a role in **perpetrating terror activities**.
- ये लक्ष्य आतंकी गतिविधियों को अंजाम देने में शामिल थे।
- Locations were selected to **avoid damage** to **civilian installations** and prevent **civilian casualties**.
- स्थानों का चयन सिविल प्रतिष्ठानों को नुकसान और नागरिकों की जान को बचाने के लिए किया गया।
- Colonel Sofiya Qureshi added that **target selection was done with due diligence**.
- कर्नल सोफिया कुरैशी ने जोड़ा कि लक्ष्य चयन सावधानीपूर्वक किया गया।

Precision and Execution

सटीकता और निष्पादन

- Strikes were carried out using “**precision capability**”, with **niche technology weapons** and **carefully selected warheads** to ensure **no collateral damage**.
- हमलों को "सटीक क्षमता", उन्नत तकनीकी हथियारों और सावधानी से चुने गए वारहेड्स के उपयोग से अंजाम दिया गया ताकि कोई सहायक नुकसान न हो।
- Each **impact point** was a **specific building or group of buildings**, and all targets were **neutralised with clinical efficiency**.
- हर प्रभाव बिंदु एक विशेष इमारत या इमारतों का समूह था, और सभी लक्ष्यों को सटीक दक्षता के साथ निष्क्रिय किया गया।
- This demonstrated the **professionalism of the Indian armed forces** in planning and execution.
- इससे भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों की योजना और निष्पादन में पेशेवरता प्रदर्शित हुई।

Role of Army and Air Force

सेना और वायुसेना की भूमिका

- Defence sources confirmed that the **majority of targets** were hit by the **Indian Army**, while others were struck by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- रक्षा सूत्रों के अनुसार, अधिकांश लक्ष्य भारतीय सेना द्वारा और अन्य भारतीय वायुसेना (IAF) द्वारा नष्ट किए गए।



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• Fighter jets did **not cross the border**; likely used **Rafale or Mirage 2000 jets** with **SCALP long-range missiles** and **HAMMER air-to-ground weapons**.

• लड़ाकू विमानों ने सीमा पार नहीं की; संभवतः राफेल या मिराज 2000 विमानों से **SCALP लंबी दूरी की मिसाइलें** और **HAMMER एयर-टू-ग्राउंड हथियार** का उपयोग किया गया।

• The Army used **precision-guided munitions** and **loitering munitions**, including **Excalibur rounds** fired from **155mm artillery guns**.

• सेना ने सटीक मार्गदर्शित हथियारों और मंडराने वाले हथियारों का उपयोग किया, जिनमें **155 मिमी तोपों से दागे जाने वाले Excalibur गोले** शामिल थे।

• However, no **missiles** were used by the Army.

• हालांकि, सेना द्वारा कोई मिसाइल का उपयोग नहीं किया गया।

Political and Strategic Context

राजनीतिक और रणनीतिक संदर्भ

• A **military response** from India was **widely expected** after the attack.

• इस हमले के बाद भारत की सैन्य प्रतिक्रिया की व्यापक रूप से अपेक्षा की जा रही थी।

• Senior leaders, including **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, reiterated that the **perpetrators would not be spared**.

• प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी समेत वरिष्ठ नेताओं ने दोहराया कि **दोषियों को नहीं छोड़ा जाएगा**।

• This was the **third punitive strike** by India in the past **decade**, following:

- **Surgical strikes in September 2016** after the **Uri terror attack**.
- **Balakot air strikes in February 2019** after the **Pulwama attack**.
 - यह पिछले एक दशक में तीसरी जवाबी कार्रवाई थी, इससे पहले:
- सितंबर 2016 में उरी हमले के बाद सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक।
- फरवरी 2019 में पुलवामा हमले के बाद बालाकोट एयर स्ट्राइक।

Pakistan's Reaction

पाकिस्तान की प्रतिक्रिया

• Pakistan's **Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)** stated that **all planes of the Pakistan Air Force were airborne**.

• पाकिस्तान की इंटर-सर्विसेज पब्लिक रिलेशंस (ISPR) ने कहा कि पाकिस्तानी वायुसेना के सभी विमान हवा में थे।

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- ISPR claimed that **all strikes by India** were from its own airspace.
- ISPR ने दावा किया कि भारत द्वारा किए गए सभी हमले अपने वायुक्षेत्र से किए गए।
- Pakistan warned that it will **respond at a time and place of its choosing** and said India's "temporary pleasure" will be replaced by enduring grief.
- पाकिस्तान ने चेतावनी दी कि वह अपने चुने हुए समय और स्थान पर जवाब देगा और कहा कि भारत की "क्षणिक खुशी" स्थायी दुख में बदल जाएगी।

Prime Minister's Directive

प्रधानमंत्री का निर्देश

- Last week, Prime Minister **Modi** gave the forces "**complete operational freedom**" to choose the **mode, targets, and timing** of the response.
- पिछले सप्ताह, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने सेना को "पूर्ण परिचालन स्वतंत्रता" दी कि वे प्रतिक्रिया का तरीका, लक्ष्य और समय स्वयं तय करें।

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India briefs envoys of 13 Security Council members

Foreign Secretary conveys details of military strikes to them as part of a larger strategy to counter Pakistan at the UNSC 1267 terror listing and FATF; Misri denies that India has escalated tensions

GS Paper III: IS

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

India's strikes on Pakistan were not an escalation, but a "response" to the Pahalgam terror attack, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told envoys of 13 of 15 countries in the United Nations Security Council.

Pakistan's envoy was not invited to the briefing held at South Block hours after India's action, but included China's envoy Xu Feihong. Sierra Leone was not present at the meeting as it does not have an envoy here.

In New York, the Indian Permanent Mission is reaching out to the UNSC members, government sources said.

During the meeting, Mr. Misri reiterated that India's response to the "barbaric" Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 were killed were "targeted, measured and non-escalatory", and aimed at deterring and pre-empting more attacks being planned against India. He said that by "shielding" The Resistance Front (TRF), by insisting on its omission from the UNSC resolution released last week, Pakistan had itself escalated the situation. In-



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri says India will respond to any military escalation by Pakistan after Operation Sindoor. FILE PHOTO

dia would respond to any military escalation by Pakistan at this point, he added.

According to sources, the Foreign Secretary was asked a number of questions about the operations in the early hours of Wednesday, from the envoys of countries such as China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the U.S. and non-permanent members Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Panama, South Korea, Slovenia and Somalia.

He denied suggestions that India had "escalated tensions" as the strikes were a response, and said India's objectives of targeting nine sites had been met.

In particular, when asked by U.K. High Com-

missioner Lindy Cameron about whether Indians had targeted civilians in mosques that were damaged, Indian officials said that the targets were terror camps that were inside larger complexes.

According to diplomatic sources, Mr. Misri was also asked about damage to Indian military and civilian infrastructure, to which he replied that it was "too early to tell".

The special briefing is believed to be a part of a larger strategy to reach out at the UN's top body, to thwart moves by Pakistan, a non-permanent elected member for 2025-26, that has permanent member China's support, from holding any meetings or issuing statements that hurt

India's interests, and to hold the TRF and other groups in Pakistan to account on UN forums, including the 1267 committee for terrorist designation, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that looks into terror-financing and money laundering among member States.

Earlier, briefing the media at Delhi's National Media Centre, Mr. Misri had recounted in detail how India had raised the issue of Pakistan's support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the TRF, its front outfit, at various UN-linked forums.

As *The Hindu* had reported, Pakistan, with support from China, had ensured the UNSC statement draft on the Pahalgam attack issued on April 25 was watered down, and insisted on omitting reference to the TRF, and changed a sentence that asked members to cooperate with the "Government of India" to "all relevant authorities" for the investigation into the attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan's pressure to remove references to TRF in the April 25 UN Security Council Press Statement is notable in this regard," Mr. Misri said.

India Briefs Envoys of 13 Security Council Members

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भारत ने सुरक्षा परिषद के 13 देशों के दूतों को जानकारी दी

- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri informed envoys of 13 out of 15 United Nations Security Council (UNSC) members about India's military strikes on Pakistan.
- विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिस्री ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) के 15 में से 13 देशों के दूतों को पाकिस्तान पर भारत की सैन्य कार्रवाई की जानकारी दी।
- The strikes were described as a **response** to the **Pahalgam terror attack** and not an escalation.
- इस हमले को पाहलगाम आतंकी हमले की प्रतिक्रिया बताया गया, न कि तनाव बढ़ाने वाला कदम।
- **Pakistan's envoy was not invited**, but **China's envoy Xu Feihong** attended the briefing.
- पाकिस्तान के दूत को न्यौता नहीं दिया गया, लेकिन चीन के दूत शु फेइहोंग बैठक में शामिल हुए।
- **Sierra Leone** was absent as it does not have an envoy posted in India.
- सिएरा लियोन की अनुपस्थिति रही क्योंकि भारत में उसका कोई दूत मौजूद नहीं है।
- The meeting was held at **South Block**, hours after India's military action.
- यह बैठक भारत की सैन्य कार्रवाई के कुछ ही घंटों बाद **साउथ ब्लॉक** में आयोजित की गई।
- In **New York**, the **Indian Permanent Mission** is also reaching out to UNSC members.
- न्यूयॉर्क में, भारत का स्थायी मिशन भी UNSC सदस्यों से संपर्क कर रहा है।

India's Stance on the Strikes

भारत का रुख सैन्य कार्रवाई को लेकर

- Mr. Misri said the strikes were **targeted, measured, and non-escalatory**, aimed at deterring future attacks.
- मिस्री ने कहा कि यह कार्रवाई निशाने पर केंद्रित, मापी गई और गैर-उत्तेजक थी, जिसका उद्देश्य भविष्य के हमलों को रोकना है।
- He blamed **Pakistan** for shielding **The Resistance Front (TRF)** by having it omitted from the recent UNSC resolution.
- उन्होंने पाकिस्तान पर आरोप लगाया कि उसने हालिया UNSC प्रस्ताव से **TRF (द रेसिस्टेंस फ्रंट)** का नाम हटवाकर उसे बचाने की कोशिश की।
- He stated that if Pakistan escalates militarily, **India would respond** accordingly.
- उन्होंने कहा कि अगर पाकिस्तान सैन्य स्तर पर तनाव बढ़ाता है, तो भारत भी जवाब देगा।

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Questions from UNSC Members

UNSC सदस्यों द्वारा पूछे गए सवाल

- Questions came from envoys of **China, France, Russia, the UK, the US, Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Panama, South Korea, Slovenia, and Somalia.**
- सवाल पूछने वालों में चीन, फ्रांस, रूस, यूके, यूएस, अल्जीरिया, डेनमार्क, ग्रीस, गुयाना, पनामा, दक्षिण कोरिया, स्लोवेनिया और सोमालिया के दूत शामिल थे।
- When **UK High Commissioner Lindy Cameron** asked about **mosque damages**, Indian officials clarified that targets were **terror camps** within **larger complexes.**
- जब यूके की हाई कमिश्नर लिंडी कैमरन ने मस्जिदों में नुकसान को लेकर सवाल किया, तो भारतीय अधिकारियों ने स्पष्ट किया कि लक्ष्य बड़े परिसरों में स्थित आतंकी शिविर थे।
- On being asked about damage to **Indian military and civilian infrastructure**, Mr. Misri said it was **too early to tell.**
- भारतीय सैन्य और नागरिक ढांचे को हुए नुकसान पर पूछे गए सवाल पर मिस्री ने कहा कि अभी कुछ कहना जल्दबाज़ी होगी।

Strategic Intentions Behind the Briefing

जानकारी देने के पीछे की रणनीतिक मंशा

- The briefing is part of a **broader strategy** to counter **Pakistan and China** at the **UNSC and FATF.**
- यह जानकारी देना **UNSC और FATF** में पाकिस्तान और चीन का मुकाबला करने की व्यापक रणनीति का हिस्सा है।
- **Pakistan, with China's support**, aims to **block meetings or statements** at the UNSC that could harm India.
- पाकिस्तान, चीन के समर्थन से, UNSC में भारत के खिलाफ बैठकें या बयान रोकने की कोशिश कर रहा है।
- India is pushing to hold **TRF and other Pakistani groups** accountable at the **UN 1267 Sanctions Committee** and **FATF.**
- भारत **UN 1267 प्रतिबंध समिति और FATF** में TRF और पाकिस्तान के अन्य समूहों को जवाबदेह ठहराने की कोशिश कर रहा है।

India's Previous Steps at the UN

संयुक्त राष्ट्र में भारत की पूर्ववर्ती कार्रवाइयाँ

- Mr. Misri earlier briefed the media about India raising **Pakistan's support to Lashkar-e-Taiba and TRF** at various UN forums.

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• मिस्री ने पहले मीडिया को बताया कि भारत ने विभिन्न UN मंचों पर लश्कर-ए-तैयबा और TRF को पाकिस्तान द्वारा समर्थन देने का मुद्दा उठाया है।

• On April 25, the UNSC statement on the Pahalgam attack was watered down due to Pakistan and China's pressure.

• 25 अप्रैल को पाहलगाम हमले पर UNSC का बयान पाकिस्तान और चीन के दबाव के कारण कमज़ोर कर दिया गया था।

• References to TRF were removed, and the line asking members to cooperate with Government of India was changed to "all relevant authorities".

• TRF का जिक्र हटा दिया गया, और सदस्य देशों से भारत सरकार के साथ सहयोग करने वाली पंक्ति को बदलकर "सभी संबंधित प्राधिकरणों" कर दिया गया।

• Mr. Misri emphasized that removal of TRF references in the April 25 UN statement is a notable instance of Pakistan's efforts to shield terror groups.

• मिस्री ने जोर देकर कहा कि 25 अप्रैल के UN बयान में TRF के उल्लेख को हटाना, पाकिस्तान की आतंकी समूहों को बचाने की कोशिश का उल्लेखनीय उदाहरण है।



Terror sites targeted by Indian forces linked to JeM, LeT, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

Outfits and their leaders, variously named by probe agencies, UNSC, and the U.S., have masterminded a series of terror attacks in India over the years; Muzaffarabad and other locations where the Indian defence forces have struck, serve as 'launching pads' for terrorists, according to agencies

GS Paper III: IS

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The terrorist bases targeted by the Indian armed forces in nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) early on Wednesday have been linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

Indian investigation agencies said the JeM's terrorist recruitment and training base in Bahawalpur in Pakistan was set up soon after the outfit's formation in March 2000 by Masood Azhar in the months following his release along with two others by India in exchange for the passengers and crew of the IC-814 flight hijacked on December 24, 1999.

The outfit has masterminded a series of terror attacks in India, including the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly car blast in October 2001; Parliament attack in coordination with the LeT on December 13, 2001; the Pathankot airbase attack in January 2016; and the Pulwama suicide bombing on February



Remains of the day: A private security guard walking through the rubble of a building damaged in an Indian missile attack in Muridke, a town in Pakistan's Punjab province, on Wednesday. AP

14, 2019 in which at least 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel were killed, prompting the Indian forces to launch the Balakot air strike 12 days later.

The anti-terrorism United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1267 Committee had listed Azhar in May 2019, while the JeM itself was sanctioned back in 2001.

On May 1, 2019, the U.S.

Department of State welcomed the listing and noted that Azhar "has been responsible for numerous terrorist attacks and is a serious threat to regional stability and peace in South Asia".

"JeM was designated by the U.S. as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) in 2001 and has been listed by the UN since 2001. The United

States also designated Azhar as an SDGT in 2010," the U.S. Department of State had said.

The LeT
Co-founded in 1987-88 by Hafiz Saeed, the LeT has its headquarters in Muridke near Lahore. Its parent organisation is Markaz al Dawatul Wal Irshad, later renamed Jamaat-ud-Dawa.

Apart from the 2001 Parliament attack, the LeT

The JeM training base is in Bahawalpur and LeT headquarters is in Muridke

was behind the October 2005 Delhi blasts series in which over 60 people were killed; the July 2006 Mumbai train blasts in which more than 200 people were killed; and the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in November 2008 that claimed 166 lives. The outfit also masterminded the Uri Army base attack killing 19 soldiers in September 2016, the probe agencies found.

Thereafter, Indian forces had conducted surgical strikes against "terrorist launchpads" across the Line of Control (LoC).

In May 2005, the UNSC 1267 Committee had sanctioned the LeT on the charge that it had connections with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Al-Qaeda, and associated entities. Saeed was listed on December 10, 2008, along with several other key LeT terrorists.

The U.S., on November 24, 2017, expressed deep

concern that Saeed had been released from house arrest in Pakistan. "LeT is a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation responsible for the death of hundreds of innocent civilians in terrorist attacks, including a number of American citizens. The Pakistani government should make sure that he is arrested and charged for his crimes," the U.S. said. In May 2008, the U.S. Department of the Treasury named Saeed an SDGT.

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen has had its headquarters in Muzaffarabad, PoJK, and was founded in 1989 by Muhammad Ahsan Dar. Its current chief is Syed Salahuddin.

It mainly operates in J&K and was very active in the 1990s. Its "commander" Burhan Wani was killed in south Kashmir during an encounter with the security forces in 2016. Muzaffarabad, besides the other locations where the defence forces have struck, acts as a "launching pad" for terrorists against India, according to Indian probe agencies.

Terror Sites Targeted by Indian Forces

भारतीय बलों द्वारा निशाना बनाए गए आतंकवादी ठिकाने

• The terrorist bases targeted by the Indian armed forces at nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) are linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

• भारत की सशस्त्र सेनाओं द्वारा पाकिस्तान और पाक-अधिकृत जम्मू-कश्मीर (PoJK) में 9 स्थानों पर जो आतंकी ठिकाने निशाना बनाए गए हैं, वे लश्कर-ए-तैयबा (LeT), जैश-ए-मोहम्मद (JeM) और हिज्बुल मुजाहिदीन से जुड़े हैं।

• JeM's recruitment and training base in Bahawalpur, Pakistan was established soon after its formation in March 2000 by Masood Azhar, following his release after the IC-814 hijacking



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in December 1999.

- बहावलपुर, पाकिस्तान में जेईएम का भर्ती और प्रशिक्षण केंद्र मार्च 2000 में मसूद अजहर द्वारा संगठन की स्थापना के तुरंत बाद बनाया गया था, जब उसे दिसंबर 1999 में IC-814 विमान अपहरण के बाद रिहा किया गया था।

- JeM has masterminded major terror attacks including the **J&K Assembly blast (October 2001)**, the **Parliament attack (13 December 2001)**, the **Pathankot airbase attack (January 2016)**, and the **Pulwama suicide bombing (14 February 2019)** that killed at least **40 CRPF personnel**.

- जेईएम ने जम्मू-कश्मीर विधानसभा विस्फोट (अक्टूबर 2001), संसद हमला (13 दिसंबर 2001), पठानकोट एयरबेस हमला (जनवरी 2016) और पुलवामा आत्मघाती हमला (14 फरवरी 2019) सहित कई बड़े हमलों की साजिश रची, जिसमें कम से कम 40 सीआरपीएफ जवान शहीद हुए थे।

- The **Balakot air strike** was carried out by Indian forces **12 days** after the Pulwama attack.

- पुलवामा हमले के 12 दिन बाद, भारतीय बलों ने बालाकोट एयर स्ट्राइक की थी।

- The **UNSC 1267 Committee** listed **Masood Azhar** in **May 2019**; JeM was **sanctioned in 2001**.

- संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC) 1267 समिति ने मई 2019 में मसूद अजहर को सूचीबद्ध किया; जबकि जेईएम को 2001 में प्रतिबंधित किया गया था।

- The **U.S. Department of State** welcomed the listing, calling Azhar a **serious threat to regional stability and peace in South Asia**.

- अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग ने इस सूचीबद्धता का स्वागत करते हुए अजहर को दक्षिण एशिया में क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता और शांति के लिए गंभीर खतरा बताया।

- JeM was designated a **Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO)** and **Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT)** by the U.S. in **2001**, and Azhar was listed as **SDGT** in **2010**.

- जेईएम को अमेरिका द्वारा 2001 में विदेशी आतंकवादी संगठन (FTO) और विशेष रूप से नामित वैश्विक आतंकवादी (SDGT) घोषित किया गया था, और अजहर को 2010 में SDGT घोषित किया गया।

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

लश्कर-ए-तैयबा (LeT)

- LeT was **co-founded** in **1987–88** by **Hafiz Saeed**, and is headquartered in **Muridke near Lahore**.

- लश्कर-ए-तैयबा की स्थापना 1987–88 में हाफिज सईद द्वारा की गई थी, और इसका मुख्यालय लाहौर के पास मुरिदके में स्थित है।

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- Its parent body is **Markaz al-Dawatul-Wal-Irshad**, later renamed **Jamaat-ud-Dawa**.
- इसकी मूल संस्था **मरकज़ अल-दावत-वल-इर्शाद** है, जिसे बाद में **जमात-उद-दावा** नाम दिया गया।
- LeT was involved in several major attacks: **Parliament attack (2001)**, **Delhi blasts (October 2005)** killing **60+ people**, **Mumbai train blasts (July 2006)** killing **200+**, and **26/11 Mumbai attacks (November 2008)** killing **166**.
- लश्कर ने कई बड़े हमलों को अंजाम दिया: **संसद हमला (2001)**, **दिल्ली धमाके (अक्टूबर 2005)** जिसमें **60+** लोग मारे गए, **मुंबई ट्रेन धमाके (जुलाई 2006)** जिसमें **200+** लोग मारे गए, और **26/11 मुंबई हमला (नवंबर 2008)** जिसमें **166** लोग मारे गए।
- LeT also carried out the **Uri Army base attack (September 2016)** killing **19 soldiers**.
- लश्कर ने उरी सेना शिविर पर हमला (सितंबर 2016) भी किया, जिसमें **19 सैनिक** शहीद हुए।
- In response, India conducted **surgical strikes** across the **Line of Control (LoC)**.
- इसके जवाब में भारत ने **नियंत्रण रेखा (LoC)** के पार **सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक** की।
- The **UNSC 1267 Committee** sanctioned LeT in **May 2005** for its links with **ISIS, Al-Qaeda**, and affiliates.
- **UNSC 1267 समिति** ने **मई 2005** में लश्कर को **ISIS, अल-कायदा** और उससे जुड़े संगठनों से संबंध के आधार पर प्रतिबंधित किया।
- **Hafiz Saeed** was listed by the UNSC on **10 December 2008** along with other LeT leaders.
- **हाफिज सईद** को **10 दिसंबर 2008** को अन्य लश्कर नेताओं के साथ **UNSC** द्वारा सूचीबद्ध किया गया था।
- On **24 November 2017**, the U.S. criticized Pakistan for releasing Saeed from **house arrest**, stating that LeT was responsible for killing **hundreds of civilians**, including **Americans**.
- **24 नवंबर 2017** को अमेरिका ने **हाउस अरेस्ट से सईद की रिहाई** पर पाकिस्तान की आलोचना की और कहा कि लश्कर **सैकड़ों नागरिकों**, जिनमें **अमेरिकी भी शामिल हैं**, की हत्या का जिम्मेदार है।
- The **U.S. Department of the Treasury** designated Saeed as an **SDGT** in **May 2008**.
- **अमेरिकी ट्रेजरी विभाग** ने **मई 2008** में सईद को **SDGT** घोषित किया।

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

हिज्बुल मुजाहिदीन

- Hizb-ul-Mujahideen was founded in **1989** by **Muhammad Ahsan Dar** and is headquartered in **Muzaffarabad, PoJK**.
- हिज्बुल मुजाहिदीन की स्थापना **1989** में **मोहम्मद अहसान डार** ने की थी और इसका मुख्यालय **Muzaffarabad, PoJK** में है।

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- Its current chief is **Syed Salahuddin**.
- इसका वर्तमान प्रमुख सैयद सलाउद्दीन है।
- It mainly operates in **Jammu & Kashmir**, and was very active in the **1990s**.
- यह मुख्य रूप से जम्मू-कश्मीर में सक्रिय है और 1990 के दशक में बहुत सक्रिय रहा।
- Its **commander, Burhan Wani**, was killed by Indian security forces in **2016** in **South Kashmir**.
- इसके कमांडर, **बुरहान वानी**, को 2016 में दक्षिण कश्मीर में भारतीय सुरक्षा बलों ने मार गिराया।
- **Muzaffarabad**, along with other sites targeted by Indian forces, acts as a “**launching pad**” for terrorists, as per Indian probe agencies.
- भारतीय जांच एजेंसियों के अनुसार, **Muzaffarabad** और अन्य लक्ष्य स्थान आतंकवादियों के “**लॉन्चिंग पैड**” के रूप में काम करते हैं।

PMLA ruling review: SC seeks issues for consideration

GS Paper III: IS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave petitioners seeking a review of its **July 27, 2022 judgment** that upheld amendments to the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**, the liberty to propose issues in consultation with the Centre's top law officers, who raised objections.

The 2022 verdict gave the Enforcement Directorate (ED) broad powers of arrest, summons, and search. It also placed the burden of proving innocence on the accused, rather than the prosecution.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N. Kotiswar Singh, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said the review must be limited to two issues – the right of the accused to a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and the reversal of the burden of proof. The court had earlier restricted the review to these points, and the Centre filed an affidavit confirming this, which the petitioners did not oppose.

However, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the petitioners including Karti

The 2022 verdict gave the agency extensive powers of arrest, summons, and search

Chidambaram, pointed out a conflicting judgment by a coordinate Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka, which ruled ECIR copies must be shared with the accused.

Conflicting judgment

Mr. Sibal said the review, in the light of Justice Oka's conflicting judgment, must go to a Constitution Bench for an authoritative pronouncement.

Justice Kant remarked that Mr. Sibal's submissions suggested a complete recall of the 2022 judgment. The Bench asked him to instead broadly suggest issues in consultation with Mr. Mehta and Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju and place it before the court first for its consideration. The court fixed the case for firming up the issues on July 16. It then scheduled the case for final hearing of arguments on August 6, and if necessary, on August 7.

The petitioners argue the 2022 judgment violates basic rights of the accused.

PMLA Ruling Review: SC Seeks Issues for Consideration

PMLA निर्णय की समीक्षा: सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने विचारार्थ बिंदुओं की मांग की

• The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave petitioners the liberty to propose issues for review of its July 27, 2022 judgment upholding amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

• बुधवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने याचिकाकर्ताओं को 27 जुलाई 2022 के अपने निर्णय की समीक्षा हेतु मुद्दे प्रस्तावित करने की स्वतंत्रता दी, जिसमें धन शोधन निवारण अधिनियम (PMLA), 2002 में संशोधनों को बरकरार रखा गया था।

• The petitioners were allowed to consult with the Centre's top law officers, who had raised objections.

• याचिकाकर्ताओं को केंद्र के शीर्ष कानूनी अधिकारियों से परामर्श की अनुमति दी गई, जिन्होंने आपत्तियाँ जताई थीं।

• The 2022 verdict granted broad powers to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) such as arrest, summons, and search.

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- 2022 के निर्णय ने प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ED) को गिरफ्तारी, समन और तलाशी जैसे व्यापक अधिकार प्रदान किए।
- It also placed the **burden of proving innocence on the accused**, instead of the prosecution.
- इसमें निर्दोष सिद्ध करने का भार अभियोजन की बजाय आरोपी पर डाला गया।
- The **three-judge Bench** included Justices **Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan, and N. Kotiswar Singh**.
- तीन-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ में न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत, उज्ज्वल भुयान, और एन. कोटिश्वर सिंह शामिल थे।
- **Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta**, representing the Centre, said the **review** must be limited to two issues:
 - The **right of the accused** to a copy of the **Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR)**.
 - The **reversal of the burden of proof**.
 - केंद्र की ओर से पेश हुए सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने कहा कि समीक्षा केवल दो मुद्दों तक सीमित रहनी चाहिए:
 - आरोपी का अधिकार कि उसे **ECIR (प्रवर्तन प्रकरण सूचना रिपोर्ट)** की प्रति दी जाए।
 - प्रमाण का भार उलटने का मुद्दा।
- The **court had earlier restricted** the review to these points and the Centre filed an **affidavit** confirming this, which the petitioners did not oppose.
 - कोर्ट ने पहले ही समीक्षा को इन बिंदुओं तक सीमित कर दिया था और केंद्र ने एक **हलफनामा** दायर कर इसकी पुष्टि की, जिसका याचिकाकर्ताओं ने विरोध नहीं किया।
- However, **senior advocate Kapil Sibal**, representing petitioners including **Karti Chidambaram**, referred to a **conflicting judgment** by a **coordinate Bench** led by **Justice A.S. Oka**.
 - हालांकि, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता कपिल सिब्बल, जो कार्ति चिदंबरम सहित याचिकाकर्ताओं का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे, ने न्यायमूर्ति ए.एस. ओका के नेतृत्व वाली समान पीठ द्वारा दिए गए **विरोधाभासी निर्णय** का उल्लेख किया।
- That Bench ruled that **ECIR copies** must be shared with the accused.
 - उस पीठ ने निर्णय दिया कि **ECIR की प्रतियां** आरोपियों को दी जानी चाहिए।
- Mr. Sibal argued that due to this **conflicting judgment**, the review must go to a **Constitution Bench** for an **authoritative pronouncement**.
 - श्री सिब्बल ने तर्क दिया कि इस **विरोधाभासी निर्णय** के कारण, समीक्षा को **संवैधानिक पीठ** के पास भेजा जाना चाहिए ताकि कोई **प्रामाणिक निर्णय** आ सके।



- Justice Surya Kant remarked that Mr. Sibal's submission appeared to suggest a **complete recall** of the 2022 judgment.
- न्यायमूर्ति सूर्यकांत ने टिप्पणी की कि श्री सिब्बल की दलीलें 2022 के निर्णय की पूरी तरह से वापसी का संकेत देती हैं।
- The Bench asked Mr. Sibal to **broadly suggest issues** in consultation with Mr. Mehta and **Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju**, and place it before the court first.
- पीठ ने श्री सिब्बल से कहा कि वह श्री मेहता और अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल एस.वी. राजू से परामर्श कर मुख्य बिंदुओं का प्रस्ताव रखें और पहले उन्हें अदालत में प्रस्तुत करें।
- The court scheduled **July 16** for **finalising the issues**.
- अदालत ने 16 जुलाई को मुद्दों को अंतिम रूप देने की तारीख तय की।
- The court set the case for **final hearing of arguments** on **August 6**, and **if necessary**, on **August 7**.
- अदालत ने इस मामले की अंतिम सुनवाई के लिए 6 अगस्त, और आवश्यक होने पर 7 अगस्त की तारीख तय की।
- The petitioners claim that the **2022 judgment** violates the **basic rights** of the **accused**.
- याचिकाकर्ताओं का कहना है कि 2022 का निर्णय आरोपियों के मूल अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करता है।

The Hindu Huddle to shine the light on rising tide of non-communicable diseases in India

SS Paper III: S&T



The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Let us look at some sobering facts: India has the highest number of people living with diabetes in the world, with an estimated 212 million cases in 2022.

According to the World Health Organization, there are an estimated 77 million people in India above the age of 18 who are suffering from diabetes (type 2) and nearly 25 million are pre-diabetic (at a higher risk of developing diabetes in near future). That is probably the largest part of the non-communicable diseases (NCD) pie. Add to this the number of people with hypertension, stroke, cancer, cardiovascular disease and chronic lung disease and the actual position is truly staggering.

NCDs occur because of a combination of factors – primarily changing lifestyles, environmental fac-

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tors, and genetics – and have grown to a huge proportion in the country. The messaging, therefore, is that interventions have to be immediate, and effective, both in terms of launching treatment as well as prevention strategies.

A session at *The Hindu Huddle*, which will be held in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10, titled "Non-communicable diseases: Trojan horse of India's health", seeks to

discuss the multiple dimensions of India's NCD 'epidemic' and evaluate strategies that may be deployed by the public and private health sectors to ensure that the tide is stemmed and that all those who already have NCDs have access to treatment and affordable healthcare. On the panel are three key experts from India who stand at various points of the care paradigm. They will share real-time exper-

iences, and possible solutions for the way forward.

While Preetha Reddy, executive vice-chairperson, Apollo Hospitals, comes armed with the experience of being at the head of cutting-edge private care in the country, Anoop Mishra, chairman, Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, brings to the table avant-garde research in the sector and experiences from close patient interactions. Chandrakanth Lahariya wears many hats, but will participate as someone who keenly watches the health systems of the country and a sagacious policy adviser. The session will be moderated by Ramya Kannan, Health Editor and Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu, *The Hindu*.

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

The Hindu Huddle to shine the light on rising tide of non-communicable diseases in India

भारत में बढ़ती गैर-संचारी बीमारियों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेगा द हिंदू हडल

• India has the highest number of



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people living with diabetes in the world, with an estimated 212 million cases in 2022.

• भारत में दुनिया में सबसे अधिक मधुमेह से पीड़ित लोग हैं, जिनकी संख्या 2022 में अनुमानित 212 मिलियन थी।

• According to the **World Health Organization**, around **77 million people in India above the age of 18** are suffering from **type 2 diabetes**.

• विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के अनुसार, भारत में 18 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के लगभग 77 मिलियन लोग टाइप 2 मधुमेह से पीड़ित हैं।

• Nearly **25 million people** are **pre-diabetic**, meaning they are at a **higher risk** of developing diabetes in the near future.

• लगभग 25 मिलियन लोग पूर्व-मधुमेह की स्थिति में हैं, यानी निकट भविष्य में मधुमेह होने का उच्च जोखिम है।

• Diabetes forms the **largest part** of the **non-communicable diseases (NCD)** segment in India.

• मधुमेह भारत में गैर-संचारी रोगों (NCD) के क्षेत्र का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा बनाता है।

• When combined with **hypertension, stroke, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and chronic lung diseases**, the overall NCD burden becomes **truly staggering**.

• जब इसमें हाई ब्लड प्रेशर, स्ट्रोक, कैंसर, हृदय रोग, और दीर्घकालिक फेफड़ों की बीमारियों को जोड़ा जाता है, तो गैर-संचारी रोगों का कुल बोझ वास्तव में चौंकाने वाला हो जाता है।

Causes and Concerns

कारण और चिंताएं

• NCDs are caused due to a mix of **changing lifestyles, environmental factors, and genetic predispositions**.

• गैर-संचारी रोगों का कारण बदलती जीवनशैली, पर्यावरणीय कारक, और आनुवंशिक प्रवृत्तियाँ होती हैं।

• These diseases have expanded to a **huge scale** in India.

• ये बीमारियाँ भारत में बहुत बड़े स्तर पर फैल चुकी हैं।

• Therefore, **immediate and effective interventions** are required for both **treatment and prevention**.

• इसलिए, इन बीमारियों के लिए तत्काल और प्रभावी हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता है, इलाज और रोकथाम दोनों के लिए।

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The Hindu Huddle Session

द हिंदू हडल सत्र

- A session titled “**Non-communicable diseases: Trojan horse of India’s health**” will be held at **The Hindu Huddle in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10.**
- "गैर-संचारी रोग: भारत के स्वास्थ्य के लिए ट्रोजन हॉर्स" नामक एक सत्र 9 और 10 मई को बेंगलुरु में द हिंदू हडल में आयोजित किया जाएगा।
- The session will explore various **dimensions of India’s NCD crisis** and assess **strategies** by both **public and private sectors** to address the problem.
- यह सत्र भारत के गैर-संचारी रोग संकट के विभिन्न पहलुओं की जांच करेगा और सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों द्वारा अपनाई जा सकने वाली रणनीतियों का मूल्यांकन करेगा।
- The goal is to **stem the tide** of NCDs and ensure **affordable treatment and healthcare** for all affected.
- इसका उद्देश्य गैर-संचारी रोगों की बाढ़ को रोकना और सभी प्रभावितों को सस्ती चिकित्सा और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान करना है।

Panel of Experts

विशेषज्ञों का पैनल

- **Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice-Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals**, brings in expertise from the **private healthcare sector.**
- प्रीता रेड्डी, अपोलो हॉस्पिटल्स की कार्यकारी उपाध्यक्ष, निजी स्वास्थ्य सेवा क्षेत्र से अनुभव लेकर आ रही हैं।
- **Anoop Mishra, Chairman of Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences**, contributes **cutting-edge research** and insights from **patient interactions.**
- अनूप मिश्रा, फोर्टिस सी-डॉक हॉस्पिटल फॉर डायबिटीज एंड एलाइड साइंसेज के चेयरमैन, आधुनिक अनुसंधान और रोगियों के साथ बातचीत से प्राप्त अनुभव साझा करेंगे।
- **Chandrakanth Lahariya**, a noted **health systems expert and policy adviser**, will offer perspectives on **health system strategies and governance.**
- चंद्रकांत लहरिया, एक प्रतिष्ठित स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली विशेषज्ञ और नीति सलाहकार, स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली की रणनीतियों और शासन पर अपने विचार रखेंगे।
- The session will be **moderated by Ramya Kannan, Health Editor and Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu, The Hindu.**
- इस सत्र का संचालन द हिंदू की स्वास्थ्य संपादक और तमिलनाडु ब्यूरो प्रमुख, रम्या कन्नन द्वारा किया जाएगा।

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Climate change is disrupting the human gut in a new path to illness

Research has already found that high atmospheric carbon dioxide levels can diminish the quantity of plant micronutrients like phosphorus, potassium, zinc, and iron, along with protein concentrations in vital crops; these effects add to the complexities that affect the gut microbiota

GS Paper III: S&T
 Sharmila Vaidyanathan

Climate-driven food shortage and undernourishment could affect the composition of the human gut microbiota, exacerbating the effects of climate change on human health, according to a new review article published in *The Lancet Planetary Health*.

The article comes on the heels of a growing number of studies that highlight the key role food and nutrition play in maintaining a healthy microbial population in the human gut, leading to better metabolic and intestinal health.

Diversity disrupted

According to the review, climate-induced changes in the yield and nutritional quality of plants, seafood, meat, and dairy could disrupt this microbial diversity, tipping the balance towards microbial strains associated with malnutrition and particular diseases.

The review also warns that these effects will be more pronounced in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) since these regions face the brunt of climate stressors, including higher temperature and atmospheric carbon dioxide, which affect their agricultural output and increase render deficiencies in these areas more common.

Indigenous communities that depend more than other demographic groups on local food sources and that have been shown to have greater gut microbial diversity may also be more susceptible to climate-related changes, the review reads.

Research has already found that high atmospheric carbon dioxide levels can diminish the quantity of plant micronutrients like phosphorus, potassium, zinc, and iron, along with protein concentrations in vital crops such as wheat, maize, and rice. These effects add to the complexities that affect the gut microbiota. While the effects of food and nutrition are direct, the review also examined the role of changes in water, soil, and other environmental microbiota as a result of climate change.

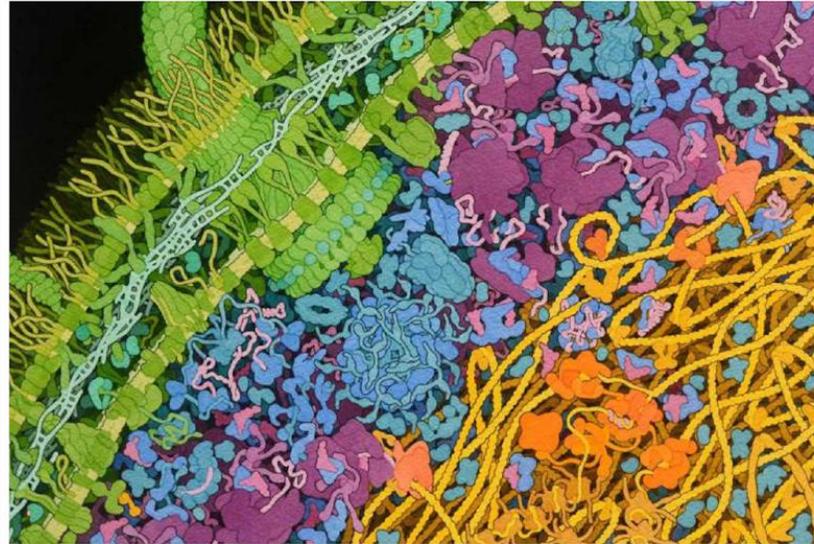
A fine balance

In another recent review, published in *Dialogues in Health*, researchers from the Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, analysed the impact of heat on human and animal health in India. They found that reports of foodborne and waterborne infectious diseases and malnutrition increase with heat.

Although these findings mirror common knowledge about food and water-related illnesses in warmer weather, the resulting implications for gut dysbiosis – the imbalance in gut microbial populations – also need to be considered for future heat-related mitigation efforts, *The Lancet* review said.

“While we know and research various effects of climate change on human health, one aspect remains understudied – the effects of changing climate on the microbial communities in the human gut,” Elena Litchman, author of the review in *The Lancet* and the MSU Foundation professor of aquatic ecology at Michigan State University, said. “This, in part, could be explained by the fact that researchers studying human microbiota do not necessarily think about it in a climate change context.”

The human gut is home to about 100 trillion bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and



This painting shows a cross-section through an *Escherichia coli* cell. *E. coli* is an anaerobic bacterium commonly found in the lower intestine of humans.
 DAVID S. GOODSELL, RCSB PROTEIN DATA BANK (CC BY)

viruses. Bacteria are this group's predominant members. The microbes' overall diversity in the gut influences several aspects of human well-being, including immunity, maintaining glucose levels, and metabolism.

According to a 2018 analysis in *The BMJ*, lower bacterial diversity has been observed in atopic eczema, types I and II diabetes, and inflammatory bowel disease, among other conditions. Researchers are also exploring how gut dysbiosis changes the central nervous system and leads to neurological disorders.

More research attention

The gut microbiome – the collective genome of the microbes in the gut – has far more genes than the human genome, producing thousands of metabolites that affect the individual's health and development.

“Our understanding of the gut microbiota's role in human health is still evolving. While climate change is a growing concern in this context, establishing cause and effect is difficult as there are many confounding factors,” Sachit Anand, a paediatric urologist and assistant professor at AIIMS, New Delhi, said. In his research, Mr. Anand examines the role of gut microbiota in congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract.

He added that understanding the interactions between the microbiota, the host, and the environment is now gaining more research attention, especially when evaluating an individual's susceptibility to specific diseases. As climate change becomes a key influencing factor in this ‘triad,’ its impact cannot be ignored moving forward, he said.

It may be tempting to examine these interdependencies in a linear manner: i.e., that climate-induced changes in crops affect the diet and thus the gut microbiota, or that climate-induced



What we need right now is to generate more data to understand how the so-called good bacteria interact with each other and benefit the host. Data generation must go hand-in-hand with connecting this information to climate change, so we know what is happening,” Ghosh said.

increases in temperatures make enteric infections more prevalent, ultimately disrupting the gut's microbial population. But both Ms. Litchman and Tarini Shankar Ghosh, assistant professor at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi, warned that many of these stressors are often playing out simultaneously.

As a computational biologist, Mr. Ghosh is interested in patterns in data about the human gut microbiome.

“If you take the example of low-income groups residing in urban environments, you are looking at the impacts of temperature, pollution, lack of quality food, and water supply,” he explained. “There are multiple factors that are disrupting the gut microbiota at the same time.”

A new science

Mr. Ghosh also said dysbiosis has been found to be a diagnostic signature in many disease states. According to him, this means it is not just the tipping of the balance towards unfavourable microbial populations that is concerning; dysbiosis also signals a loss of interdependence between “normal” microbial strains, leading to a loss of several metabolic functions in the host.

“What we need right now is to generate more data to understand how the so-called good bacteria interact with each

other and benefit the host. Data generation must go hand-in-hand with connecting this information to climate change, so we know what is happening,” Ghosh said.

Thus, Ms. Litchman said, a multidisciplinary approach with researchers from disparate fields coming together is vital to understand the effects of climate change on human gut microbiota. But along with a lack of awareness of climate change's effects, a paucity of funding programmes to enable such interdisciplinary and international research is a major impediment to future research in this nature, she added.

On the flip side, with advances in computational biology and metagenomics – analyses of the genetic makeup of microorganisms in a given environment – researchers are inching closer to unearthing some of the gut microbiota's secrets. For example at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, professor Vineet Kumar Sharma has developed an open-access database named GutBugBD. It provides information about how the gut microbiome can interact with and alter specific nutraceuticals and drugs, paving the way for therapeutic approaches to modulate gut microbiota in response to various changes.

This is just the start, according to Mr. Sharma: “At the moment, we are merely doing broader surveys of the gut microbiota to understand what is there and how they are functioning. Even if we introduce healthy microbiota through, say, probiotics, we cannot know if the response will be the same between two individuals. Each person's gut microbiota is unique, and understanding this uniqueness is important for the way forward.”

(Sharmila Vaidyanathan is an independent writer from Bengaluru. sharmila.vaidyanathan@gmail.com)



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Climate change is disrupting the human gut in a new path to illness

जलवायु परिवर्तन मानव आंत को एक नई बीमारी की ओर ले जा रहा है

• High atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have been found to reduce the quantity of plant micronutrients such as phosphorus, potassium, zinc, iron, and also decrease protein levels in vital crops.

• उच्च वायुमंडलीय कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड स्तर से यह पाया गया है कि यह फॉस्फोरस, पोटेशियम, जिंक, आयरन जैसे पौधों के सूक्ष्म पोषक तत्वों की मात्रा और महत्वपूर्ण फसलों में प्रोटीन स्तर को कम कर देता है।

• These nutrient changes contribute to **complications** in the human **gut microbiota**.

• ये पोषक तत्वों में बदलाव मानव आंत में मौजूद माइक्रोबायोटा में जटिलताओं का कारण बनते हैं।

Climate-induced food shortage and undernourishment

जलवायु-जनित खाद्य संकट और कुपोषण

• Climate-driven food shortages and undernourishment may affect the **composition** of the human gut microbiota, worsening the **health impacts** of climate change.

• जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण उत्पन्न खाद्य संकट और कुपोषण, मानव आंत माइक्रोबायोटा की संरचना को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं और स्वास्थ्य पर जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों को और बढ़ा सकते हैं।

• A recent **review article** in **The Lancet Planetary Health** highlights how **food and nutrition** play a **vital role** in maintaining a **healthy microbial population** in the gut.

• हाल ही में प्रकाशित **The Lancet Planetary Health** की **समीक्षा रिपोर्ट** यह बताती है कि **खाद्य और पोषण**, आंत में **स्वस्थ सूक्ष्मजीव समुदाय बनाए रखने** में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

Disruption in Microbial Diversity

सूक्ष्मजीव विविधता में विघटन

• Climate-induced changes in the **yield and nutritional value** of **plants, seafood, meat, and dairy** can **disrupt gut microbial diversity**.

• जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण **पौधों, समुद्री खाद्य, मांस, और दुग्ध उत्पादों** की **उपज और पोषण गुणवत्ता** में बदलाव आंत की **सूक्ष्मजीव विविधता** को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।

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• These disruptions may lead to a shift toward **microbial strains associated with malnutrition and disease.**

• ये परिवर्तन कुपोषण और बीमारियों से जुड़े सूक्ष्मजीवों की वृद्धि की ओर झुकाव ला सकते हैं।

• **Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)** will be more affected due to their **exposure to extreme climate stressors and high agricultural vulnerability.**

• **निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देश (LMICs)** इस प्रभाव से अधिक प्रभावित होंगे क्योंकि वे तीव्र जलवायु तनावों और कृषि असुरक्षा के अधिक शिकार हैं।

Impact on Indigenous Communities

आदिवासी समुदायों पर प्रभाव

• **Indigenous communities**, which rely heavily on **local food systems** and have **higher gut microbial diversity**, may be more **vulnerable** to climate-induced dietary changes.

• आदिवासी समुदाय, जो स्थानीय खाद्य स्रोतों पर अधिक निर्भर हैं और जिनकी आंत की सूक्ष्मजीव विविधता अधिक होती है, वे जलवायु जनित खाद्य बदलावों के लिए अधिक संवेदनशील हो सकते हैं।

Loss of Micronutrients from Crops

फसलों से सूक्ष्म पोषक तत्वों की कमी

• High **CO₂ levels** reduce **phosphorus, potassium, zinc, iron, and protein** content in key crops like **wheat, maize, and rice.**

• उच्च **CO₂ स्तर**, गेहूं, मक्का और चावल जैसी मुख्य फसलों में **फॉस्फोरस, पोटेशियम, जिंक, आयरन, और प्रोटीन** की मात्रा को घटा देते हैं।

• These changes add complexity to the **gut microbiota composition.**

• ये परिवर्तन आंत के **माइक्रोबायोटा की संरचना** को और अधिक **जटिल** बना देते हैं।

Environmental Changes Beyond Food

खाद्य से परे पर्यावरणीय बदलाव

• The review also analyzed how **climate-related changes in water, soil, and environmental microbiota** influence human gut health.

• समीक्षा में यह भी देखा गया कि **पानी, मिट्टी, और पर्यावरणीय सूक्ष्मजीवों में जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण होने वाले बदलाव मानव आंत स्वास्थ्य को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं।**

Impact of Heat on Human and Animal Health

मानव और पशु स्वास्थ्य पर गर्मी का प्रभाव



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• A separate review by **Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar** found that **heat** increases the **incidence of foodborne and waterborne diseases** and **malnutrition**.

• भारतीय लोक स्वास्थ्य संस्थान, गांधीनगर द्वारा की गई एक अन्य समीक्षा में पाया गया कि गर्मी से खाद्य और जल जनित बीमारियों और कुपोषण की घटनाएं बढ़ जाती हैं।

• The **Lancet review** stresses the need to factor in **gut dysbiosis** while planning **heat-mitigation strategies**.

• The **Lancet** की समीक्षा में यह जोर दिया गया है कि गर्मी से बचाव की रणनीतियों में आंत के असंतुलन (गट डिस्बायोसिस) को भी शामिल करना जरूरी है।

Neglected Link Between Climate and Microbiota

जलवायु और माइक्रोबायोटा के बीच उपेक्षित संबंध

• According to **Elena Litchman**, author of the review, researchers often overlook how **climate change** impacts **gut microbial communities**.

• समीक्षा की लेखिका एलेना लिचमैन के अनुसार, शोधकर्ता अक्सर **जलवायु परिवर्तन के आंत के सूक्ष्मजीव समुदायों पर प्रभाव को नज़रअंदाज़ कर देते हैं।**

• This is partly because **microbiota researchers** may not see their work in a **climate change context**.

• इसका एक कारण यह भी है कि **माइक्रोबायोटा पर शोध करने वाले वैज्ञानिक** अपने कार्य को **जलवायु परिवर्तन के परिप्रेक्ष्य में नहीं देखते।**

Importance of Gut Microbial Diversity

आंत की सूक्ष्मजीव विविधता का महत्व

• The **human gut** contains around **100 trillion microbes**, mainly **bacteria**, along with **fungi, protozoa, and viruses**.

• **मानव आंत में लगभग 100 ट्रिलियन सूक्ष्मजीव होते हैं, जिनमें मुख्यतः बैक्टीरिया, और साथ ही फंगस, प्रोटोज़ोआ और वायरस शामिल हैं।**

• This microbial diversity affects **immunity, glucose control, and metabolism**.

• यह सूक्ष्मजीव विविधता **प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली, ग्लूकोज नियंत्रण, और चयापचय** को प्रभावित करती है।

• According to a **2018 BMJ analysis**, reduced gut diversity has been linked to **eczema, Type I and II diabetes, and inflammatory bowel disease**.

• **2018 की BMJ विश्लेषण के अनुसार, कम आंत सूक्ष्मजीव विविधता का संबंध एक्जिमा, टाइप I और II मधुमेह, और सूजन आंत्र रोग से पाया गया है।**



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• Researchers are also investigating how **gut dysbiosis** could influence the **central nervous system** and cause **neurological disorders**.

• शोधकर्ता यह भी अध्ययन कर रहे हैं कि कैसे गट डिस्बायोसिस केंद्रीय तंत्रिका तंत्र को प्रभावित कर सकता है और तंत्रिका विकार उत्पन्न कर सकता है।

More Research Attention on Gut Microbiota and Climate Change आंत माइक्रोबायोटा और जलवायु परिवर्तन पर और अधिक अनुसंधान का ध्यान

• The **gut microbiome** — the collective genome of microbes in the gut — has **far more genes than the human genome**, and produces **thousands of metabolites** that affect human **health and development**.

• गट माइक्रोबायोम — आंत में मौजूद सूक्ष्मजीवों का समष्टिगत जीनोम — में **मानव जीनोम की तुलना में कहीं अधिक जीन** होते हैं, और यह **हजारों चयापचयी तत्व (metabolites)** का निर्माण करता है जो मानव के **स्वास्थ्य और विकास** को प्रभावित करते हैं।

• Our understanding of the **gut microbiota's role** in human health is still evolving.

• मानव स्वास्थ्य में गट माइक्रोबायोटा की भूमिका को लेकर हमारी समझ अभी भी विकसित हो रही है।

• **Climate change** is a growing concern, but establishing **cause and effect** is difficult due to **confounding factors**.

• जलवायु परिवर्तन एक बढ़ती हुई चिंता है, लेकिन कारण और प्रभाव को स्थापित करना **विभिन्न भ्रमित करने वाले कारकों** के कारण कठिन है।

• Sachit Anand, a **paediatric urologist** and assistant professor at **AIIMS, New Delhi**, is studying the gut microbiota's role in **congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract**.

• सचिit आनंद, जो **AIIMS, नई दिल्ली** में एक **बाल मूत्र रोग विशेषज्ञ** और सहायक प्रोफेसर हैं, **गुर्दा और मूत्र मार्ग की जन्मजात असामान्यताओं** में गट माइक्रोबायोटा की भूमिका का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं।

• He stated that the interactions between the **microbiota, host, and environment** are getting more research attention, especially in understanding **disease susceptibility**.

• उन्होंने कहा कि **माइक्रोबायोटा, मेज़बान और पर्यावरण** के बीच की अंतःक्रियाएं अब अधिक शोध का विषय बन रही हैं, विशेष रूप से **रोगों की संवेदनशीलता** को समझने में।

• As **climate change** becomes an influencing factor in this **triad**, its impact cannot be ignored.

• जब **जलवायु परिवर्तन** इस त्रयी में एक प्रभावशाली कारक बनता जा रहा है, तो इसके प्रभाव को नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जा सकता।

Complex Interdependencies, Not Linear Cause-Effect

जटिल पारस्परिक निर्भरताएं, न कि सरल कारण-प्रभाव

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- It may seem easy to think **climate-induced crop changes** affect **diet**, which in turn affects the **gut microbiota**, or that rising temperatures lead to **enteric infections**, disrupting the gut.
- यह मान लेना आसान हो सकता है कि **जलवायु परिवर्तन से फसलों में बदलाव** के कारण **आहार** प्रभावित होता है और वह **गट माइक्रोबायोटा** को प्रभावित करता है, या कि **तापमान में वृद्धि से आंत संक्रमण** बढ़ते हैं जो आंत के माइक्रोबायोटा को प्रभावित करते हैं।
- However, researchers like **Ms. Litchman** and **Tarini Shankar Ghosh** caution that **multiple stressors** often operate **simultaneously**.
- हालांकि, शोधकर्ता जैसे कि **सुश्री लिचमैन और तारिणी शंकर घोष** चेतावनी देते हैं कि **कई प्रकार के तनाव** अक्सर **एक साथ** काम करते हैं।
- Mr. Ghosh, a **computational biologist** at **IIIT Delhi**, studies patterns in **gut microbiome data**.
- श्री घोष, जो **IIIT दिल्ली** में **गणनात्मक जीवविज्ञानी** हैं, **गट माइक्रोबायोम डेटा** में पैटर्न का अध्ययन करते हैं।
- He points out that **urban low-income groups** face **temperature, pollution, poor food, and water quality** — all of which disrupt the microbiota.
- वह बताते हैं कि **शहरी निम्न-आय समूहों** को **तापमान, प्रदूषण, खराब भोजन और जल गुणवत्ता** जैसे कई समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है — जो सभी **गट माइक्रोबायोटा** को बाधित करते हैं।

Dysbiosis as a Disease Indicator

रोग संकेतक के रूप में डिसबायोटिस

- Mr. Ghosh says **dysbiosis** is now identified as a **diagnostic signature** in many diseases.
- श्री घोष का कहना है कि **डिसबायोटिस** अब कई बीमारियों में एक **नैदानिक पहचान** के रूप में चिन्हित की गई है।
- It is not just about **unfavourable microbial populations**, but also the **loss of interdependence** among normal strains, which affects **metabolic functions**.
- यह केवल **हानिकारक सूक्ष्मजीवों की वृद्धि** की बात नहीं है, बल्कि सामान्य सूक्ष्मजीवों के बीच की **परस्पर निर्भरता की हानि** भी है, जिससे **मेज़बान के चयापचयी कार्य** प्रभावित होते हैं।
- He emphasizes the need for **more data** on how **beneficial bacteria** interact with each other and support the **host**.
- वे इस बात पर ज़ोर देते हैं कि हमें और अधिक **डेटा** की आवश्यकता है जिससे पता चले कि **लाभकारी बैक्टीरिया** आपस में कैसे **संवाद** करते हैं और **मेज़बान** को कैसे लाभ पहुंचाते हैं।
- Such data must be connected with **climate change** to understand evolving impacts.
- इस तरह के डेटा को **जलवायु परिवर्तन** से जोड़ना आवश्यक है ताकि **प्रभावों की बदलती प्रकृति** को समझा जा सके।



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Need for Multidisciplinary Research

बहुविषयी शोध की आवश्यकता

- Ms. Litchman says we need researchers from **diverse disciplines** to collaborate on studying **climate change and gut microbiota**.
- सुश्री लिचमैन कहती हैं कि **विभिन्न क्षेत्रों** के शोधकर्ताओं को **जलवायु परिवर्तन और गट माइक्रोबायोटा** पर मिलकर काम करने की आवश्यकता है।
- She highlights the **lack of awareness** and **insufficient funding programmes** for such **international and interdisciplinary studies**.
- वह इस तरह के **अंतरराष्ट्रीय और बहुविषयी अध्ययनों** के लिए **जागरूकता की कमी और पर्याप्त फंडिंग प्रोग्राम** न होने को एक बड़ी बाधा बताती हैं।

Technological Progress and New Tools

तकनीकी प्रगति और नए उपकरण

- Advances in **computational biology** and **metagenomics** are helping researchers uncover secrets of the **gut microbiota**.
- **गणनात्मक जीवविज्ञान और मेटाजीनोमिक्स** में प्रगति से शोधकर्ता **गट माइक्रोबायोटा** के रहस्यों को उजागर करने में सक्षम हो रहे हैं।
- At **IISER Bhopal**, Prof. **Vineet Kumar Sharma** has created an **open-access database**, GutBugBD.
- **IISER भोपाल** में प्रोफेसर **विनीत कुमार शर्मा** ने एक **ओपन-एक्सेस डाटाबेस**, GutBugBD विकसित किया है।
- This database shows how **gut microbes** interact with and **modify nutraceuticals and drugs**, enabling **therapeutic interventions**.
- यह डाटाबेस दिखाता है कि कैसे **गट सूक्ष्मजीव पोषक दवाओं और औषधियों** के साथ अंतःक्रिया कर उन्हें **परिवर्तित करते हैं**, जिससे **उपचारात्मक हस्तक्षेप संभव हो पाता है**।

Understanding Individual Uniqueness

व्यक्तिगत विशिष्टता को समझना

- Prof. Sharma says current research is mainly **broad surveys** of **what microbes exist** and **what they do**.
- प्रो. शर्मा कहते हैं कि वर्तमान में अधिकांश शोध केवल यह पता लगाने तक सीमित है कि **कौन-कौन से सूक्ष्मजीव मौजूद हैं** और वे **क्या कार्य करते हैं**।
- Even if **healthy microbiota** are introduced through **probiotics**, responses vary across individuals.

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• भले ही प्रोबायोटिक्स के माध्यम से स्वस्थ माइक्रोबायोटा को शरीर में डाला जाए, फिर भी प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की प्रतिक्रिया अलग होती है।

• Understanding this individual variation in gut microbiota is essential for future medical strategies.

• गट माइक्रोबायोटा में व्यक्तिगत भिन्नता को समझना भविष्य की चिकित्सा रणनीतियों के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

GS Paper III: Development

A step up

As India climbs up HDI rankings, rising inequality poses challenges

Amid a disturbing rate of deceleration in global development and a growing divide between the rich and the poor, India has inched up on the Human Development Index. In the 2025 Human Development Report, 'A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI', released on Tuesday, India ranks 130 out of 193 countries, from 133 in 2022. It registered an HDI value increase to 0.685 in 2023 from 0.676 in 2022. Coming on the back of two debilitating pandemic years, it can be said that India's recovery has been strong in the three fields HDI measures: "a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living". India's life expectancy, at 72 years in 2023, is the highest level it has reached since the inception of the index in 1990 (58.6 years). Children, the report noted, are expected to stay in school for 13 years on average, up from 8.2 years in 1990; and Gross National Income per capita has risen from \$2,167.22 in 1990 to \$9046.76 in 2023. It gave a shout out to programmes such as MGNREGA, the Right to Education Act, the National Rural Health Mission and other initiatives for the improved status, but also sounded a word of caution about rising inequality, particularly significant income and gender disparities.

The female labour participation rate may have risen to 41.7% in 2023-24, as the Economic Survey of 2024-25 pointed out, but a stronger ecosystem needs to be built to ensure women join the workforce and are able to retain their jobs. There is a lag in political representation of women as well with no indication yet when the constitutional amendments reserving one-third of legislative seats for women will come into force. Underprivileged girls and boys still struggle to get an education, and until this anomaly is corrected, India's HDI value will not rise. Though the report highlights that 13.5 crore (of India's population of 144 crore) "escaped multidimensional poverty" between 2015-16 and 2019-21, income and gender inequalities have pulled down India's HDI by 30.7%, "one of the highest losses in the region." The thrust of the HDR this year was on AI and how human beings may benefit from it on development parameters. India, it said, has been able to retain 20% of AI researchers, up from nearly zero in 2019. Going forward, India must leverage AI to deliver on many fronts from agriculture to health care, education to public service delivery. But it is imperative that proper policy and safeguards are in place to thwart the risk that AI may deepen existing inequalities.

A Step Up: On India and the 2025 Human Development Report

एक कदम ऊपर: भारत और 2025 मानव विकास रिपोर्ट

India's Rise in Human Development Index (HDI)

भारत की मानव विकास सूचकांक (HDI) में प्रगति

• India has moved up in the **Human Development Index**, ranking **130 out of 193 countries** in the **2025 Human Development Report**, compared to **133** in 2022.

• भारत ने **मानव विकास सूचकांक (HDI)** में प्रगति की है, और **2025 मानव विकास रिपोर्ट** में यह **193 देशों में 130वें स्थान पर** है, जबकि **2022 में 133वां स्थान** था।

• The **HDI value** of India increased to **0.685** in 2023, from **0.676** in 2022.

• भारत का **HDI मूल्य 2023 में 0.685** हो गया है, जो **2022 में 0.676** था।

• This improvement follows two **pandemic years**, showing strong recovery in the three HDI dimensions: **health, education, and standard of living**.

• यह सुधार **दो महामारी वर्षों के बाद** आया है, जो **स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, और जीवन स्तर** के क्षेत्रों में मजबूत सुधार को दर्शाता है।

Improved Life Expectancy and Education

जीवन प्रत्याशा और शिक्षा में सुधार

• **Life expectancy** in India reached **72 years** in 2023, the highest since the index began in 1990, when it was **58.6 years**.

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• भारत में 2023 में जीवन प्रत्याशा 72 वर्ष तक पहुँच गई, जो कि 1990 में 58.6 वर्ष थी और अब तक की सबसे अधिक है।

• The average number of years children stay in school is now 13 years, compared to 8.2 years in 1990.

• बच्चे अब औसतन 13 साल स्कूल में रहते हैं, जो कि 1990 में 8.2 साल था।

• Gross National Income (GNI) per capita rose from \$2,167.22 in 1990 to \$9046.76 in 2023.

• प्रति व्यक्ति सकल राष्ट्रीय आय (GNI) 1990 में \$2,167.22 से बढ़कर 2023 में \$9046.76 हो गई है।

Contribution of Welfare Schemes

कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का योगदान

• The report credited schemes such as MGNREGA, Right to Education Act, and the National Rural Health Mission for these improvements.

• रिपोर्ट ने मनरेगा, शिक्षा का अधिकार अधिनियम, और राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन जैसी योजनाओं को इस प्रगति के लिए श्रेय दिया है।

• However, the report also warned about rising inequality, especially income and gender disparities.

• हालांकि, रिपोर्ट ने बढ़ती असमानता, विशेष रूप से आय और लिंग असमानता, को लेकर भी चेतावनी दी है।

Gender Disparities and Women's Participation

लैंगिक असमानता और महिलाओं की भागीदारी

• Female labour force participation rose to 41.7% in 2023–24, according to the Economic Survey 2024–25.

• आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण 2024–25 के अनुसार, महिला श्रम भागीदारी 2023–24 में 41.7% तक पहुँच गई है।

• Still, a stronger ecosystem is needed to ensure women can enter and remain in the workforce.

• फिर भी, यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक मजबूत प्रणाली की आवश्यकता है कि महिलाएँ कामकाजी क्षेत्र में प्रवेश कर सकें और उसमें बनी रहें।

• There is still a lag in political representation of women, and the constitutional amendments for one-third reservation in legislatures are yet to be implemented.

• महिलाओं की राजनीतिक भागीदारी में अब भी पिछड़ापन है, और विधानसभाओं में एक-तिहाई आरक्षण के लिए संविधान संशोधन अभी लागू नहीं हुए हैं।



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Challenges in Education Access for the Poor

गरीब बच्चों की शिक्षा तक पहुंच की चुनौतियाँ

- **Underprivileged girls and boys** still struggle to access **quality education**, which remains a barrier to improving HDI.
- वंचित लड़कियाँ और लड़के अब भी गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा पाने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं, जो HDI सुधार में बाधा है।

Inequality Loss in HDI

HDI में असमानता के कारण हानि

- The report noted that **13.5 crore Indians** escaped **multidimensional poverty** between **2015–16 and 2019–21**.
- रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 2015–16 से 2019–21 के बीच 13.5 करोड़ भारतीयों ने बहुआयामी गरीबी से मुक्ति पाई।
- Despite this, **income and gender inequality** caused a **30.7% drop in India's HDI**, one of the **highest in the region**.
- इसके बावजूद, आय और लिंग असमानता ने भारत के HDI में 30.7% की गिरावट की, जो क्षेत्र में सबसे अधिक में से एक है।

Focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) पर ध्यान केंद्रित

- The 2025 HDR focuses on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and its potential to benefit human development.
- 2025 की HDR रिपोर्ट ने कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) और इसके मानवीय विकास में योगदान की संभावना पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है।
- India now **retains 20% of global AI researchers**, up from **nearly 0% in 2019**.
- भारत अब वैश्विक AI शोधकर्ताओं का 20% बनाए रखता है, जो 2019 में लगभग 0% था।
- India must **leverage AI** across sectors such as **agriculture, health care, education, and public service delivery**.
- भारत को कृषि, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, शिक्षा, और सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण जैसे क्षेत्रों में AI का लाभ उठाना चाहिए।
- Proper **policies and safeguards** must be in place to prevent AI from **exacerbating inequalities**.
- AI द्वारा असमानता को और गहरा करने से रोकने के लिए उचित नीतियाँ और सुरक्षा उपाय होने चाहिए।



Amount India is expected to save on its import bill

GS Paper III: Import

1.8 In ₹ lakh crore. India, which meets over 85% of its crude oil needs through imports, spent \$242.4 billion buying crude from overseas in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025. With domestic production meeting roughly half of the demand, it also spent \$15.2 billion on the import of LNG. PTI

- भारत अपनी कच्चे तेल की जरूरतों का 85% से अधिक हिस्सा आयात के माध्यम से पूरा करता है।
- In the fiscal year ending **March 31, 2025**, India spent **\$242.4 billion** on **crude oil imports** from overseas.
- **31 मार्च 2025** को समाप्त वित्तीय वर्ष में भारत ने **\$242.4 अरब** की राशि विदेशों से कच्चा तेल आयात करने में खर्च की।
- With **domestic production** meeting **roughly half of the demand**, India still had to spend **\$15.2 billion** on the **import of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)**.
- घरेलू उत्पादन से यदि लगभग **आधी मांग** पूरी भी हो जाती है, फिर भी भारत को **\$15.2 अरब** की राशि तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (LNG) के आयात पर खर्च करनी पड़ी।

People arrested in the fentanyl drug bust operation in the U.S.

GS Paper III: S&T

16 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents seized 11.5 kilograms (25.3 pounds) of **fentanyl**, including three million pills, 35 kilograms of **methamphetamine**, 7.5 kilos of cocaine and 4.5 kilos of heroin in what U.S. officials said was one of the largest ever drug busts in the U.S. AFP

People Arrested in the Fentanyl Drug Bust Operation in the U.S

अमेरिका में फेंटानिल ड्रग बरामदगी अभियान में गिरफ्तार लोग

- A total of **16 people** were **arrested** in connection with a **fentanyl drug bust operation** in the **United States**.



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• संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में फेंटानिल ड्रग बरामदगी अभियान के सिलसिले में कुल 16 लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया।

• **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)** agents conducted the operation.

• यह अभियान ड्रग एनफोर्समेंट एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (DEA) के एजेंटों द्वारा चलाया गया।

• The DEA agents **seized 11.5 kilograms (25.3 pounds) of fentanyl**, including **three million pills**.

• DEA एजेंटों ने 11.5 किलोग्राम (25.3 पाउंड) फेंटानिल जब्त किया, जिसमें 30 लाख गोलियाँ शामिल थीं।

• They also confiscated **35 kilograms of methamphetamine, 7.5 kilograms of cocaine, and 4.5 kilograms of heroin**.

• इसके साथ ही उन्होंने 35 किलोग्राम मेथएम्फेटामाइन, 7.5 किलोग्राम कोकीन, और 4.5 किलोग्राम हेरोइन भी जब्त की।

• U.S. officials described it as one of the **largest ever drug busts** in the **history of the United States**.

• अमेरिकी अधिकारियों ने इसे संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के इतिहास की सबसे बड़ी ड्रग बरामदगियों में से एक बताया।



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Pakistan's complex web of terror networks

Pakistan's terror infrastructure has survived for decades within its security establishment, which views these forces as strategic assets. Pakistan has been placed on and off the Financial Action Task Force 'grey list' since 2008 for failing to dismantle terror financing networks

CS Paper III: Terrorism

FULL CONTEXT

Brijesh Singh

The Soviet-Afghan War of 1979 was the inflection point when Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), backed by U.S. funding, systematically cultivated jihad infrastructure that evolved into today's sophisticated terror network. This deliberate cultivation created fighters with diverse objectives – Kashmir-focused aggression, control in Afghanistan, sectarian violence, and ideological warfare. Recent data has confirmed a resurgence of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism across the region. This analysis examines Pakistan's entrenched terror ecosystem through OSINT, declassified records, and academic research.

Terrorist outfits which are said to have Pakistan support

A key outfit is the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The LeT emerged in the 1990s as Pakistan's premier proxy organisation against India; it operates under Hafiz Muhammad Saeed – a designated terrorist operating in Pakistan despite international sanctions. Its rigid command structure includes Zafar Iqbal, Muhammad Yahya Mujahid, and Zakir Rehman Lakvi who was one of the masterminds of the Mumbai attacks in 2008 (he was 'arrested' but protected within Pakistan's judicial system).

LeT's infrastructure centres around its 200-acre headquarters complex, the Markaz-e-Taiba, near Lahore, with additional bases strategically positioned across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and around urban centres including Lahore, Peshawar, and Karachi. Ideologically, the outfit adheres to the virulent Ahl-e-Hadith doctrine (a conservative faction with a strict adherence to the Koran) specifically targeting India, which it propagates through its network of 300+ madrassas across Pakistan. Intelligence confirms at least 16 documented training camps of the LeT across Pakistan and occupied territories. The group's operational sophistication is demonstrated through attacks such as the 2008 Mumbai attacks where 166 people were killed; the 2006 Mumbai train bombings (209 killed); and an indirect hand in the 2010 German Bakery bombing in Pune (17 killed), orchestrated by the Indian Mujahideen (SIMD). LeT maintains transnational reach with recruitment networks identified in 21 countries, with dedicated cells both in Bangladesh and Nepal facilitating operations against India. Its financial architecture combines direct ISI funding, estimated to be around \$25-50 million annually; Gulf-based private donors from Saudi Arabia and the UAE; Pakistani diaspora contributions through Islamic charitable fronts; and business operations including commodity trading and real estate.

Then there is the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Established in 2000 by Masood Azhar following his 'release' during the IC-814 hijacking, the JeM represents Pakistan's suicide terrorism capability. Azhar maintains direct control over the outfit along with his brother, Abdul Rauf Asghar, by handling operations through specialised wings – the *Askari* (military) wing for direct operations; *Dawati* (missionary) wing for recruitment and radicalisation; and the intelligence wing for reconnaissance.

JeM's infrastructure centres around its fortified headquarters in Bahawalpur, Punjab, with satellite facilities. It also has



Breaking point: A building that was hit by an Indian missile, near Bahawalpur, Pakistan on May 7, 2019.

seven major training camps in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, four in PoK, and has recently re-established camps in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The Balakot training complex, targeted by Indian airstrikes in 2019 but subsequently rebuilt, specialises in suicide attack training. Its ideology combines Deobandi fundamentalism (a movement within Sunni Islam) with an apocalyptic worldview glorifying martyrdom operations.

JeM's operational history includes the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing where 40 security personnel were killed. The group pioneered *fidayeen* (suicide) attacks in Kashmir and have demonstrated sophisticated capabilities with respect to vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and military installation infiltration.

JeM's financing includes the Al-Rehmat Trust front charity, which collects \$10-15 million annually; trading companies and commodity businesses; protection rackets in Bahawalpur and surrounding areas; documented ISI funding through intermediaries; and real estate holdings valued over \$30 million.

Supporting players and state support

Some of the less mainstream players in Pakistan's terror network include the Haqqani Network which operates as a semi-autonomous ISI extension along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Led by Sirajuddin Haqqani – now Afghanistan's interior minister despite a \$10 million U.S. bounty – the network serves as both an ISI proxy in Afghanistan and a facilitator for anti-India operations.

Then there is the Islamic State-Khorasan (ISIS-K), which emerged from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) defectors, with operational bases in eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal areas. Though ideologically opposed to Pakistani objectives, evidence suggests elements within Pakistan's security establishment tacitly allow certain ISIS-K

operations.

The Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM) also functions as a specialised recruitment pipeline for Pakistani proxy groups, maintaining extensive networks within Pakistan's religious seminary system, with over 60% of recruits channelled to LeT and JeM operations.

Therein, Pakistan's relationship with terrorist organisations transcends allegations – it is documented through concrete evidence, defector testimonies, international intelligence assessments, and financial tracking. The ISI has operationalised terrorism as state policy through a three-tiered system – strategic direction and funding through specialised "S-Wing" units; operational support via retired military personnel; and by providing material assistance such as weapons, training infrastructure, and intelligence. Despite officially joining the "War on Terror" post the 9/11 tragedy in the U.S., Pakistan has maintained a calculated policy distinguishing between 'good terrorists' (serving Pakistani interests) and 'bad terrorists' (targeting Pakistani assets). The consequences have been devastating – over 45,000 lives lost due to Pakistani hand in terrorism since 1990.

Pakistan's persistent appearance on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) "grey list" (2008-2010, 2012-2015, 2018-2022) is international recognition of its systemic failure to dismantle terror financing networks. The most damning evidence comes from Pakistan itself – former President Pervez Musharraf openly admitted to training terrorists for Kashmir operations, while former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif confirmed state support for terrorist groups. Recently, the current Pakistani minister for foreign affairs said that they have been doing the "dirty work" for Western powers for a long time. A similar statement was also recently made by Bilawal Bhutto.

Funding and radicalisation

The funds sustaining this infrastructure

operate through sophisticated mechanisms designed for plausible deniability. Religious charities serve as the primary collection points, with 40+ identified front organisations raising \$150-200 million annually. Other sources include state funding through classified budget allocations (estimated \$100-125 million annually); money laundering operations through *hawala* networks, with major hubs in Dubai, Karachi, and Peshawar; narcotics trafficking along the Afghanistan-Pakistan-India corridor generating an estimated \$75 million annually; and cryptocurrency, with inputs indicating \$15+ million moved through crypto channels in 2023.

Despite FATF pressure forcing some regulatory changes, Pakistan has preserved these financial pipelines by simply renaming organisations while maintaining core networks.

Apart from the financial infrastructure, Pakistan's terror network also relies on a sophisticated radicalisation apparatus. Pakistan has over 30,000 madrassas, with 10-15% of them directly linked to extremist organisations. Other modes through which terrorism is encouraged include curriculum in religious schools which often promote violent jihad, particularly against India; publications, websites, and social media channels disseminating extremist ideology; and a targeted recruitment of vulnerable youth from economically disadvantaged regions. This creates a self-sustaining radicalisation pipeline continuously replenishing terrorist ranks.

Evolution of the network

Pakistan's terror infrastructure demonstrates remarkable adaptability. It first made its appearance in the 1990s through direct insurgency in Kashmir through the LeT and HUM. Then by the early 2000s, the JeM had also emerged as a specialised suicide attack outfit.

However, post-9/11, operations of such terror groups became more sophisticated with greater plausible deniability; they started integrating cyber capabilities and information warfare. The Taliban's 2021 return to power in Afghanistan significantly emboldened this infrastructure. There has been a re-establishment of training facilities in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan; an increase in infiltration attempts along the Line of Control (2022-2024); and enhanced operational coordination between LeT, JeM, and Taliban-affiliated groups.

Thus, Pakistan's terror infrastructure represents a deliberate, state-supported system that has survived for decades through deep institutional support within Pakistan's security establishment, which views these proxy forces as strategic assets rather than terrorist threats. The April 2025 Pahalgam attack, killing 26 civilians and forensically linked to LeT operatives trained in Pakistan, demonstrates the enduring threat.

Such an infrastructure poses immediate danger to regional stability, particularly to India, which continues bearing the human cost of Pakistan's proxy warfare. This is not merely a bilateral issue but a global challenge which threatens the rules-based international order. Effectively addressing this threat requires unwavering international pressure on Pakistan to permanently dismantle – not merely rebrand or temporarily restrain – these terrorist organisations and the state apparatus that sustains them.

Brijesh Singh is a senior IPS officer and author of 'The Cloud Chariot'. Views are personal.

THE GIST

▼ The LeT emerged in the 1990s as Pakistan's premier proxy organisation against India; it operates under Hafiz Muhammad Saeed – a designated terrorist operating in Pakistan despite international sanctions.

▼ The Jaish-e-Mohammed's operational history includes the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing where 40 security personnel were killed. The group pioneered *fidayeen* (suicide) attacks in Kashmir and have demonstrated sophisticated capabilities.

▼ The April 2025 Pahalgam attack, killing 26 civilians and forensically linked to LeT operatives trained in Pakistan, demonstrates the enduring threat.

Pakistan's Complex Web of Terror Networks



पाकिस्तान का आतंकवादी नेटवर्कों का जटिल जाल

• Pakistan's terror infrastructure has survived for decades within its security establishment, which views these forces as strategic assets.

• पाकिस्तान का आतंकवादी ढांचा दशकों से उसकी सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के भीतर जीवित है, जो इन ताकतों को "रणनीतिक संपत्ति" के रूप में देखती है।

• Pakistan has been placed on and off the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 'grey list' since 2008** for failing to dismantle terror financing networks.**

** पाकिस्तान को **2008_** से टेरर फाइनेंसिंग नेटवर्क को समाप्त करने में विफल रहने के कारण FATF की 'ग्रे लिस्ट' में रखा गया है और हटाया भी गया है।**

Historical Origin and Development

ऐतिहासिक उत्पत्ति और विकास

• The **1979 Soviet-Afghan War** was the inflection point when Pakistan's **Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)**, backed by **U.S. funding**, began cultivating jihadist infrastructure.

• 1979 के सोवियत-अफगान युद्ध के दौरान पाकिस्तान की इंटर-सर्विसेज इंटेलिजेंस (ISI) ने अमेरिकी वित्तपोषण के समर्थन से जिहादी ढांचे को विकसित करना शुरू किया।

• This led to the creation of fighters with diverse goals — **Kashmir aggression, Afghan control, sectarian violence, and ideological warfare.**

• इससे विभिन्न उद्देश्यों वाले लड़ाकों का निर्माण हुआ — कश्मीर पर आक्रामकता, अफगान नियंत्रण, सांप्रदायिक हिंसा और वैचारिक युद्ध।

• Recent data confirms a **resurgence of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism** across the region.

• हाल के आंकड़े क्षेत्र में पाकिस्तान प्रायोजित आतंकवाद के पुनरुत्थान की पुष्टि करते हैं।

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

लश्कर-ए-तैयबा (LeT)

• LeT emerged in the **1990s** as Pakistan's premier proxy against India, led by **Hafiz Muhammad Saeed**, a **UN-designated terrorist** operating openly in Pakistan.

• LeT **1990 के दशक** में भारत के खिलाफ पाकिस्तान की मुख्य प्रॉक्सी के रूप में उभरा, जिसके नेता **हाफिज़ मुहम्मद सईद** हैं, जो एक संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा घोषित आतंकवादी हैं और पाकिस्तान में खुलेआम काम कर रहे हैं।

• LeT's leadership includes **Zafar Iqbal, Muhammad Yahya Mujahid, and Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi** (2008 Mumbai attacks mastermind), who was 'arrested' but shielded within Pakistan's judicial system.

• LeT के प्रमुखों में **ज़फ़र इक़बाल, मुहम्मद याहया मुजाहिद और ज़किउर रहमान लखवी** (2008 मुंबई हमलों का



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मास्टरमाइंड) शामिल हैं, जिन्हें 'गिरफ्तार' किया गया था लेकिन पाकिस्तान की न्याय प्रणाली में संरक्षित किया गया।

- Its infrastructure is centred around the **200-acre Markaz-e-Taiba** complex near **Lahore**, with additional bases in **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)** and cities like **Peshawar and Karachi**.
- इसका ढांचा **लाहौर** के पास स्थित **200 एकड़ के मार्कज़-ए-तैयबा परिसर** के चारों ओर है, जिसकी अतिरिक्त शाखाएँ **पाक-अधिकृत कश्मीर (PoK)** और **पेशावर व कराची** जैसे शहरों में हैं।
- The group follows the **Ahl-e-Hadith** ideology and spreads it through over **300 madrassas** across Pakistan.
- यह संगठन **अहल-ए-हदीस** विचारधारा का पालन करता है और इसे पूरे पाकिस्तान में **300 से अधिक मदरसों** के माध्यम से फैलाता है।
- Intelligence confirms at least **16 training camps** across Pakistan and PoK.
- खुफिया जानकारी के अनुसार पाकिस्तान और PoK में कम से कम **16 प्रशिक्षण शिविर** मौजूद हैं।
- Notable attacks include the **2008 Mumbai attacks (166 killed)**, **2006 Mumbai train bombings (209 killed)**, and the **2010 German Bakery bombing in Pune (17 killed)**.
- प्रमुख हमलों में शामिल हैं — **2008 मुंबई हमला (166 मृत)**, **2006 मुंबई ट्रेन बम धमाके (209 मृत)** और **2010 पुणे जर्मन बेकरी बम धमाका (17 मृत)**।
- LeT operates in **21 countries**, with active cells in **Bangladesh and Nepal** aiding operations against India.
- LeT **21 देशों** में सक्रिय है, जिसमें **बांग्लादेश और नेपाल** में इसके सेल भारत के खिलाफ संचालन में सहायता करते हैं।
- Funding sources include **ISI support (\$25–50 million/year)**, **Gulf donors (Saudi Arabia and UAE)**, **Pakistani diaspora charities**, and **business operations** like real estate and commodity trading.
- इसके फंडिंग स्रोतों में शामिल हैं — **ISI से सहायता (\$25–50 मिलियन प्रति वर्ष)**, **गल्फ देशों (सऊदी अरब, UAE) से दानदाता**, **पाकिस्तानी प्रवासी चैरिटी संस्थाएँ**, और **व्यवसाय जैसे रियल एस्टेट और वस्तु व्यापार**।

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)

जैश-ए-मोहम्मद (JeM)

- JeM was founded in **2000** by **Masood Azhar** after his release during the **IC-814 hijacking** and is focused on **suicide terrorism**.
- JeM की स्थापना **2000** में **IC-814 विमान अपहरण** के दौरान **मसूद अज़हर** की रिहाई के बाद हुई थी और यह **आत्मघाती आतंकवाद** पर केंद्रित है।

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- Azhar and his brother **Abdul Rauf Asghar** control operations via the **Askari (military), Dawati (missionary), and intelligence** wings.
- अज़हर और उनके भाई **अब्दुल रऊफ असगर** तीन प्रमुख शाखाओं के ज़रिए संचालन करते हैं — **असकरी (सैन्य), दावती (प्रचारक) और इंटेलिजेंस (खुफिया)**।
- Headquarters is in **Bahawalpur, Punjab**, with training camps in **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), PoK, and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan**.
- इसका मुख्यालय **बहावलपुर, पंजाब** में है, और प्रशिक्षण शिविर **KPK, PoK और तालिबान नियंत्रित अफगानिस्तान** में स्थित हैं।
- The **Balakot training complex**, hit by **Indian airstrikes in 2019**, was later rebuilt and specializes in **suicide attack training**.
- **2019 में भारतीय एयरस्ट्राइक** द्वारा निशाना बनाया गया **बालाकोट प्रशिक्षण केंद्र**, बाद में फिर से बनाया गया और यह **आत्मघाती हमले के प्रशिक्षण** में विशेषज्ञ है।
- The group follows **Deobandi fundamentalism** and promotes an **apocalyptic ideology** glorifying martyrdom.
- यह संगठन **देवबंदी कट्टरपंथ** का पालन करता है और **अंत समय की विचारधारा** के तहत शहादत का महिमामंडन करता है।
- Key attacks include the **2001 Indian Parliament attack** and the **2019 Pulwama suicide bombing (40 security personnel killed)**.
- इसके प्रमुख हमलों में शामिल हैं — **2001 का भारतीय संसद हमला और 2019 पुलवामा आत्मघाती बम हमला (40 सुरक्षाकर्मी शहीद)**।
- JeM pioneered **fidayeen (suicide) attacks** in Kashmir using **VBIEDs (vehicle-borne IEDs) and military base infiltrations**.
- JeM ने कश्मीर में **फिदायीन (आत्मघाती) हमलों** की शुरुआत की और इसमें **वाहन आधारित IED और सैन्य ठिकानों में घुसपैठ** शामिल रही।
- Funding includes the **Al-Rehmat Trust** collecting **\$10–15 million/year**, trading companies, protection rackets, ISI intermediaries, and real estate valued over **\$30 million**.
- इसकी फंडिंग में शामिल हैं — **अल-रहमत ट्रस्ट** जो हर साल **\$10–15 मिलियन** इकट्ठा करता है, व्यापारिक कंपनियाँ, सुरक्षा वसूली रैकेट, ISI के बिचौलिए, और **\$30 मिलियन से अधिक मूल्य की रियल एस्टेट संपत्तियाँ**।

Supporting Players and State Support

सहायक खिलाड़ी और राज्य समर्थन

- The **Haqqani Network** operates as a **semi-autonomous extension of ISI** along the **Afghanistan-Pakistan border**.
- **हक्कानी नेटवर्क** अफगानिस्तान-पाकिस्तान सीमा पर **ISI का अर्ध-स्वायत्त विस्तार** के रूप में कार्य करता है।

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- It is led by **Sirajuddin Haqqani**, who is now **Afghanistan's interior minister**, despite a **\$10 million U.S. bounty**.
- इसे सिराजुद्दीन हक्कानी नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं, जो अब अफगानिस्तान के गृह मंत्री हैं, जबकि उन पर अमेरिका द्वारा \$10 मिलियन का इनाम घोषित है।
- The network serves as both an **ISI proxy in Afghanistan** and a **facilitator for anti-India operations**.
- यह नेटवर्क अफगानिस्तान में ISI का प्रतिनिधि और भारत विरोधी अभियानों का सहायक दोनों के रूप में कार्य करता है।
- **ISIS-K (Islamic State-Khorasan)** emerged from **Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) defectors**, operating in **eastern Afghanistan** and **Pakistan's tribal areas**.
- इस्लामिक स्टेट-खुरासान (ISIS-K) की उत्पत्ति तहरीक-ए-तालिबान पाकिस्तान (TTP) के भटके हुए सदस्यों से हुई, जो पूर्वी अफगानिस्तान और पाकिस्तान के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में सक्रिय है।
- Although **ideologically opposed to Pakistani objectives**, **Pakistan's security establishment** is believed to **tacitly allow** some ISIS-K operations.
- हालांकि यह पाकिस्तानी उद्देश्यों के वैचारिक रूप से विरोध में है, फिर भी पाकिस्तान की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था कुछ ISIS-K अभियानों की चुपचाप अनुमति देती प्रतीत होती है।
- **Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)** operates as a **specialised recruitment channel** for Pakistani proxies and has **deep links with religious seminaries**.
- हरकत उल-मुजाहिदीन (HUM) एक विशेषीकृत भर्ती चैनल के रूप में कार्य करता है और इसका पाकिस्तानी मदरसों से गहरा संबंध है।
- Over **60% of HUM recruits** are funneled into **LeT and JeM** operations.
- HUM के 60% से अधिक भर्ती युवाओं को लश्कर-ए-तैयबा (LeT) और जैश-ए-मोहम्मद (JeM) के अभियानों में लगाया जाता है।
- Pakistan's connection with these groups is **not just an allegation**, but **supported by evidence**, including **defector testimonies**, **global intelligence**, and **financial tracking**.
- पाकिस्तान का इन संगठनों से संबंध केवल आरोप नहीं है, बल्कि यह गवाहियों, अंतरराष्ट्रीय खुफिया रिपोर्टों और वित्तीय ट्रैकिंग के जरिए सिद्ध है।
- ISI has **institutionalised terrorism as state policy** through a **three-tiered system**:
- ISI ने आतंकवाद को राज्य नीति के रूप में संस्थागत किया है, जो तीन-स्तरीय प्रणाली के तहत संचालित होता है:
- **Strategic direction and funding** via specialised "**S-Wing**" units
- विशेष "S-विंग" इकाइयों के माध्यम से रणनीतिक दिशा और फंडिंग

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- **Operational support by retired military personnel**
- सेवानिवृत्त सैन्य कर्मियों के माध्यम से परिचालन समर्थन
- **Material assistance, including weapons, training, and intelligence**
- हथियार, प्रशिक्षण, और खुफिया जानकारी जैसी सामग्री सहायता

- Despite **officially joining the 'War on Terror'** post 9/11, Pakistan has followed a **dual strategy**: supporting “good terrorists” while opposing “bad terrorists”.
- 9/11 के बाद 'आतंक के खिलाफ युद्ध' में आधिकारिक रूप से शामिल होने के बावजूद, पाकिस्तान ने "अच्छे आतंकवादियों" का समर्थन और "बुरे आतंकवादियों" का विरोध करने की दोहरी रणनीति अपनाई।

- Over **45,000 lives** have been lost due to **Pakistan's involvement in terrorism since 1990**.
- 1990 से पाकिस्तान की आतंकवाद में भूमिका के कारण अब तक 45,000 से अधिक लोगों की जान जा चुकी है।

- Pakistan's repeated listing on the **FATF Grey List (2008-2010, 2012-2015, 2018-2022)** confirms its **failure to dismantle terror financing**.
- पाकिस्तान का बार-बार **FATF ग्रे सूची** में आना (2008-2010, 2012-2015, 2018-2022) इस बात का प्रमाण है कि वह आतंकी वित्तपोषण को खत्म करने में असफल रहा है।

- Former **President Pervez Musharraf** admitted to **training terrorists for Kashmir**, while **Nawaz Sharif** also acknowledged **state support for terrorism**.
- पूर्व राष्ट्रपति परवेज मुशर्रफ ने कश्मीर के लिए आतंकियों को प्रशिक्षित करने की बात स्वीकार की थी, जबकि नवाज़ शरीफ ने भी आतंकी संगठनों को राज्य समर्थन देने की बात मानी थी।

- Recently, **Pakistan's foreign minister** and **Bilawal Bhutto** both said they had been doing “dirty work” for the West.
- हाल ही में, पाकिस्तान के विदेश मंत्री और बिलावल भुट्टो ने कहा कि वे लंबे समय से पश्चिमी देशों का "गंदा काम" कर रहे हैं।

Funding and Radicalisation

वित्तपोषण और कट्टरपंथीकरण

- Terror infrastructure is funded through **sophisticated networks** that offer **plausible deniability**.
- आतंक का ढांचा **जटिल नेटवर्कों** से वित्तपोषित होता है जो **स्पष्टीकरण की संभावना बनाए रखते** हैं।

- **Religious charities** act as main collection hubs, with **40+ front organisations** raising **\$150-200 million annually**.
- धार्मिक चैरिटीज मुख्य संग्रह केंद्र के रूप में कार्य करती हैं, और **40 से अधिक मुखौटा संगठन** प्रति वर्ष **\$150-200 मिलियन** इकट्ठा करते हैं।

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- **State funding** through **classified budget allocations** is estimated at **\$100-125 million annually**.
- गोपनीय बजटीय आवंटनों के माध्यम से राज्य वित्तपोषण की अनुमानित राशि **\$100-125 मिलियन प्रति वर्ष** है।
- **Money laundering** via **hawala networks** (with hubs in **Dubai, Karachi, and Peshawar**) and **narcotics trafficking** on the **Afghanistan-Pakistan-India corridor** generate an additional **\$75 million annually**.
- हवाला नेटवर्क (मुख्य रूप से दुबई, कराची और पेशावर) के माध्यम से मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग और अफगानिस्तान-पाकिस्तान-भारत मार्ग पर नशीले पदार्थों की तस्करी से **\$75 मिलियन वार्षिक आय** होती है।
- **Cryptocurrency** was used to transfer **\$15+ million in 2023**.
- क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी के माध्यम से **2023 में \$15 मिलियन से अधिक** की रकम स्थानांतरित की गई।
- Under **FATF pressure**, some reforms were made, but **terror-financing organisations were only renamed**, not dismantled.
- **FATF** के दबाव में कुछ सुधार हुए, लेकिन आतंकी वित्तपोषण संगठनों के केवल नाम बदले गए, उन्हें समाप्त नहीं किया गया।
- Pakistan hosts **over 30,000 madrassas**, with **10–15% directly linked to extremist groups**.
- पाकिस्तान में **30,000 से अधिक मदरसे** हैं, जिनमें से **10–15% सीधे चरमपंथी संगठनों से जुड़े** हैं।
- These promote **violent jihad against India**, and use **media, social networks, and school curriculum** for radicalisation.
- ये भारत के खिलाफ हिंसक जिहाद को बढ़ावा देते हैं और इसके लिए **मीडिया, सोशल नेटवर्क, और शैक्षणिक पाठ्यक्रम** का उपयोग करते हैं।
- They also target **economically vulnerable youth** from **disadvantaged regions**, creating a **self-sustaining recruitment pipeline**.
- यह आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर क्षेत्रों के युवाओं को लक्षित करते हैं और एक **स्व-चालित भर्ती प्रणाली** विकसित करते हैं।

Evolution of the Network

नेटवर्क का विकास

- The terror network began in the **1990s** with **insurgency in Kashmir** via **LeT and HUM**.
- यह आतंक नेटवर्क **1990 के दशक में कश्मीर में उग्रवाद** के जरिए, **LeT और HUM** के माध्यम से शुरू हुआ।
- By the **early 2000s**, **JeM** emerged as a group **specialising in suicide attacks**.
- **2000 के दशक की शुरुआत तक**, **JeM** एक **फिदायीन हमलों में विशेषज्ञ संगठन** के रूप में उभरा।

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• Post-9/11, these groups became **more sophisticated**, using **cyber and information warfare** for **plausible deniability**.

• 9/11 के बाद, ये समूह अधिक परिष्कृत हो गए और स्पष्टीकरण योग्य तरीके से साइबर व सूचना युद्ध का उपयोग करने लगे।

• **Taliban's return in 2021** boosted this infrastructure — training camps were **re-established in Afghanistan**, infiltration attempts in **2023–24** increased, and coordination between **LeT, JeM, and Taliban-linked groups** intensified.

• 2021 में तालिबान की वापसी ने इस ढांचे को और मज़बूत किया — अफगानिस्तान में प्रशिक्षण शिविर दोबारा शुरू हुए, 2023–24 में घुसपैठ की कोशिशें बढ़ीं, और LeT, JeM और तालिबान से जुड़े समूहों के बीच समन्वय मजबूत हुआ।

• This is a **state-supported system** with **deep roots in Pakistan's security establishment**, which sees terror groups as **strategic assets**.

• यह एक राज्य-समर्थित प्रणाली है, जो पाकिस्तान की सुरक्षा संस्थाओं में गहराई तक जुड़ी है और आतंकवादी समूहों को रणनीतिक संपत्ति के रूप में देखती है।

• The **April 2025 Pahalgam attack**, in which **26 civilians** were killed and traced to **LeT operatives trained in Pakistan**, is the latest proof of this threat.

• अप्रैल 2025 का पहलगाम हमला, जिसमें 26 नागरिक मारे गए और इसे पाकिस्तान में प्रशिक्षित LeT आतंकियों से जोड़ा गया, इस खतरे का ताजा प्रमाण है।

• This infrastructure poses a **serious threat to regional stability**, especially to **India**, and demands **global action**.

• यह ढांचा क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता के लिए गंभीर खतरा है, विशेषकर भारत के लिए, और इसके लिए वैश्विक कार्रवाई की आवश्यकता है।

• The solution lies in **unwavering international pressure** on Pakistan to **permanently dismantle** — not just **rename or restrain** — these terrorist networks.

• इसका समाधान पाकिस्तान पर दृढ़ अंतरराष्ट्रीय दबाव डालकर, इन आतंकी नेटवर्कों को केवल नाम बदलने या अस्थायी रूप से रोकने के बजाय स्थायी रूप से खत्म करने में है।



India-U.K. goods trade surged 60% in eight years; imports nearly doubled

Electrical machinery, N-reactors, boilers & machinery, mineral fuels & oils, pearls, precious & semi-precious stones, pharma make up nearly half of what India exports to the U.K.; machinery, engineering goods to see strong growth with FTA in place

GS Paper III: External Sector

TCA Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

India's total merchandise trade with the U.K. has grown steadily over the years, touching \$19.3 billion in 2024-25 up to January 2025. However, import growth has outpaced that of exports by a significant margin.

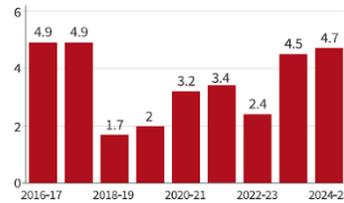
Notably, trade in both directions is highly concentrated in just a few sectors, data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows.

An analysis by *The Hindu* shows that just five product categories – electrical machinery (15.3%), nuclear reactors, boilers & machinery (11.6%), mineral fuels and oils (9.1%), pearls, precious & semi-precious stones (7%), and pharma

Trade geometry

India's total trade with the U.K. at \$19.3 billion in 2024-25 till January 2025 is nearly 60% higher than the \$12.2 billion in 2016-17

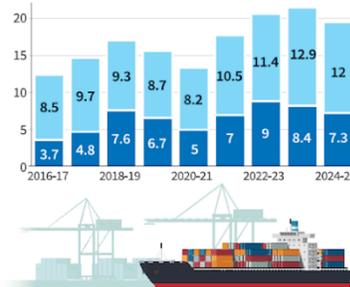
India's trade surplus with the U.K. (In \$ billion)



Note: Data for 2024-25 is up to January 2025

India's trade with the U.K. (In \$ billion)

■ Import ■ Export



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

products (5.4%) – together make up nearly half of what India exports to the U.K. The largest category in this, machinery and engineering goods, is likely to see strong growth following implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the U.K. an-

nounced on Tuesday, according to industry participants.

“With the FTA in place, engineering exports to the U.K. are projected to nearly double over the next five years, reaching around \$7.55 billion by 2029-30,” said Pankaj Chadha, chair-

man of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India. “The U.K. is currently India's sixth largest engineering export destination.” The import situation is even more concentrated. The top five product categories – pearls, precious & semi-

precious stones (30.5%), nuclear reactors, boilers & machinery (17.4%), electrical machinery (7.2%), iron and steel (5%), and aluminium and its articles (4.5%) – together make up 65% of India's imports from the U.K. India's total trade with the U.K. stood at \$12.2 billion in 2016-17, the earliest year for which the ministry provides data. Of this, India's exports stood at \$8.5 billion and imports were \$3.7 billion.

This has grown significantly over the years. Total trade, at \$19.3 billion in 2024-25 up to January 2025, is nearly 60% higher than its level in 2016-17. Exports have grown 41% to \$12 billion.

However, over this period, imports grew nearly 100% to \$7.3 billion.

India-U.K. Goods Trade Surged 60% in Eight Years

भारत-यू.के. वस्तु व्यापार आठ वर्षों में 60% बढ़ा

• India's total merchandise trade with the U.K. reached \$19.3 billion in 2024-25 (up to January 2025).

• भारत का यू.के. के साथ कुल माल व्यापार 2024-25 (जनवरी 2025 तक) में \$19.3

बिलियन तक पहुँच गया।

• However, imports have grown at a significantly faster rate compared to exports.

• हालांकि, आयात की वृद्धि दर निर्यात की तुलना में काफी तेज़ रही है।

• Trade in both directions is highly concentrated in just a few sectors, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

• वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, दोनों दिशाओं में व्यापार कुछ गिने-चुने क्षेत्रों में ही केंद्रित है।



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Major Export Categories to U.K.

यू.के. को भारत के प्रमुख निर्यात श्रेणियाँ

• Five product categories make up **nearly 50%** of India's exports to the U.K.:

• यू.के. को भारत के लगभग **50%** निर्यात इन पाँच श्रेणियों में हैं:

- **Electrical machinery (15.3%)**
- इलेक्ट्रिकल मशीनरी (15.3%)
- **Nuclear reactors, boilers & machinery (11.6%)**
- न्यूक्लियर रिएक्टर्स, बॉयलर और मशीनरी (11.6%)
- **Mineral fuels and oils (9.1%)**
- खनिज ईंधन और तेल (9.1%)
- **Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones (7%)**
- मोती, कीमती और अर्ध-कीमती पत्थर (7%)
- **Pharmaceutical products (5.4%)**
- फार्मास्युटिकल उत्पाद (5.4%)

• The largest among these is **machinery and engineering goods**, which is expected to see **strong growth** after the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** with the U.K.

• इनमें सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा मशीनरी और इंजीनियरिंग वस्तुओं का है, जो यू.के. के साथ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) के बाद तेज़ी से बढ़ने की उम्मीद है।

Projected Growth in Engineering Exports

इंजीनियरिंग निर्यात में अनुमानित वृद्धि

• According to **Pankaj Chadha**, chairman of the **Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India**, engineering exports to the U.K. are projected to **nearly double** in the next **five years**, reaching around **\$7.55 billion by 2029-30**.

• इंजीनियरिंग एक्सपोर्ट्स प्रमोशन काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया के अध्यक्ष पंकज चड्ढा के अनुसार, अगले पाँच वर्षों में यू.के. को इंजीनियरिंग निर्यात लगभग दोगुना होकर **2029-30 तक \$7.55 बिलियन तक पहुँच सकता है।**

• The U.K. is currently **India's sixth largest** destination for engineering exports.

• यू.के. इस समय भारत का छठा सबसे बड़ा इंजीनियरिंग निर्यात गंतव्य है।

Major Import Categories from U.K.

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- Top five import categories together make up 65% of India's imports from the U.K.:
- यू.के. से भारत के 65% आयात पाँच श्रेणियों से आते हैं:

- Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones (30.5%)
- मोती, कीमती और अर्ध-कीमती पत्थर (30.5%)
- Nuclear reactors, boilers & machinery (17.4%)
- न्यूक्लियर रिएक्टर्स, बॉयलर और मशीनरी (17.4%)
- Electrical machinery (7.2%)
- इलेक्ट्रिकल मशीनरी (7.2%)
- Iron and steel (5%)
- लोहा और इस्पात (5%)
- Aluminium and its articles (4.5%)
- एल्युमिनियम और इसके उत्पाद (4.5%)

Trade Growth Over the Years

वर्षों में व्यापार में वृद्धि

- In 2016-17, India's total trade with the U.K. was \$12.2 billion — \$8.5 billion exports and \$3.7 billion imports.
- 2016-17 में भारत का यू.के. के साथ कुल व्यापार \$12.2 बिलियन था — जिसमें \$8.5 बिलियन निर्यात और \$3.7 बिलियन आयात थे।
- By 2024-25 (up to January), trade rose to \$19.3 billion, a 60% increase from 2016-17 levels.
- 2024-25 (जनवरी तक) में यह व्यापार बढ़कर \$19.3 बिलियन हो गया, जो 2016-17 की तुलना में 60% अधिक है।
- Exports rose by 41% to \$12 billion during this period.
- इस अवधि में निर्यात 41% बढ़कर \$12 बिलियन हो गया।
- However, imports almost doubled, rising by 100% to \$7.3 billion.
- वहीं, आयात लगभग दोगुना होकर \$7.3 बिलियन हो गया, जो 100% की वृद्धि है।



TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Senior Cardinal Urges Conclave Voters to Select a Pope Who Will Seek Unity

वरिष्ठ कार्डिनल ने समकक्षों से एकता चाहने वाले पोप को चुनने का आग्रह किया

2. The Hindu Made of Chennai wins laurels at WAN-IFRA World Media Awards 2025

द हिंदू मेड ऑफ़ चेन्नई को WAN-IFRA वर्ल्ड मीडिया अवॉर्ड्स 2025 में सम्मान मिला

Senior cardinal urges conclave voters to select a Pope who will seek unity

PCS

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY

With all the pomp, drama and solemnity that the Catholic Church can muster, 133 cardinals on Wednesday began centuries-old rituals to elect a successor to Pope Francis, celebrating a morning Mass before opening the most geographically diverse conclave in the faith's 2,000-year history.

Airwaves jammed

The dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, presided over the service, urging the voters to set aside all personal interests and find a Pope who prizes unity.

From the altar of St. Peter's



Future course: Cardinals attend the Holy Mass presided over by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re in the Vatican on Wednesday. REUTERS

ter's Basilica, Mr. Re prayed that the cardinals can agree "on the Pope that our time needs," as he offered a final set of marching orders before they enter the Sistine Chapel later on Wednesday to begin the

secret voting.

Hailing from 70 countries, the cardinals are being sequestered from the outside world, their cell-phones surrendered and airwaves around the Vatican jammed to prevent all

communications until they find a new leader for the 1.4 billion-member church.

Francis named 108 of the 133 "princes of the church," choosing many pastors in his image from far-flung countries such as Mongolia, Sweden and Tonga that had never had a cardinal before.

His decision to surpass the usual limit of 120 cardinal electors and include younger ones from the "global south" has injected an unusual degree of uncertainty in a process that is always full of mystery and suspense.

Many cardinals hadn't met one another until last week and lamented they needed more time to get to know each other.

Senior Cardinal Urges Conclave Voters to Select a Pope Who Will Seek Unity

वरिष्ठ कार्डिनल ने समकक्षों से एकता चाहने वाले पोप को चुनने का आग्रह किया

• With all the pomp, drama, and solemnity

that the Catholic Church can muster, **133 cardinals** on **Wednesday** began centuries-old rituals to elect a successor to **Pope Francis**, celebrating a **morning Mass** before opening the most **geographically diverse conclave** in the faith's **2,000-year** history.



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• कैथोलिक चर्च द्वारा उपलब्ध कराए जा सकने वाले पूरे धूमधाम, नाटक और गंभीरता के साथ, 133 कार्डिनलों ने बुधवार को पोप फ्रांसिस के उत्तराधिकारी को चुनने की सदियों पुरानी प्रक्रिया शुरू की, और सुबह की प्रार्थना सभा (Mass) के साथ सबसे भौगोलिक रूप से विविध सम्मेलन की शुरुआत की गई जो इस धर्म के 2,000 वर्षों के इतिहास में पहली बार हो रहा है।

• Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, the dean of the College of Cardinals, presided over the service, urging the voters to set aside all personal interests and find a Pope who prizes unity.

• कार्डिनल जियोवानी बतिस्ता रे, जो कॉलेज ऑफ कार्डिनल्स के डीन हैं, ने इस प्रार्थना सभा का नेतृत्व किया और मतदाताओं से अपने सभी व्यक्तिगत हितों को त्यागने और ऐसे पोप को चुनने का आग्रह किया जो एकता को प्राथमिकता दे।

• From the altar of St. Peter's Basilica, Mr. Re prayed that the cardinals can agree "on the Pope that our time needs," offering a final set of marching orders before they enter the Sistine Chapel later on Wednesday to begin the secret voting.

• सेंट पीटर्स बैसिलिका की वेदी से श्री रे ने प्रार्थना की कि कार्डिनल "हमारे समय को जिस पोप की आवश्यकता है" उस पर सहमत हों, और गुप्त मतदान शुरू करने के लिए वे बुधवार को बाद में सिस्टीन चैपल में प्रवेश करने से पहले अंतिम निर्देश दिए गए।

• Hailing from 70 countries, the cardinals are being sequestered from the outside world, their cellphones surrendered, and airwaves around the Vatican jammed to prevent all communications until they find a new leader for the 1.4 billion-member church.

• 70 देशों से आए कार्डिनलों को बाहरी दुनिया से अलग रखा गया है, उनके मोबाइल फोन जमा कर लिए गए हैं, और वेटिकन के आसपास की सभी संचार तरंगों को जाम कर दिया गया है, ताकि जब तक वे 1.4 अरब सदस्यों वाले चर्च के नए नेता का चुनाव न कर लें, कोई संपर्क न हो सके।

• Pope Francis named 108 of the 133 "princes of the church," choosing many pastors in his image from far-flung countries such as Mongolia, Sweden, and Tonga, which had never had a cardinal before.

• पोप फ्रांसिस ने 133 में से 108 "चर्च के राजकुमारों" की नियुक्ति की, और अपने जैसे कई पादरियों को मंगोलिया, स्वीडन, और टोंगा जैसे दूरदराज के देशों से चुना, जिनमें से कई देशों में इससे पहले कभी कोई कार्डिनल नहीं हुआ था।

• His decision to surpass the usual limit of 120 cardinal electors and include younger ones from the "global south" has injected an unusual degree of uncertainty in a process that is always full of mystery and suspense.

• उन्होंने 120 कार्डिनल निर्वाचकों की परंपरागत सीमा को पार करते हुए "ग्लोबल साउथ" से युवाओं को शामिल करने का निर्णय लिया, जिससे पहले से ही रहस्य और रोमांच से भरी इस प्रक्रिया में असामान्य अनिश्चितता आ गई है।

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- Many cardinals hadn't met one another until last week and lamented they needed more time to get to know each other.
- कई कार्डिनल पिछले सप्ताह तक एक-दूसरे से नहीं मिले थे, और उन्होंने यह अफसोस जताया कि उन्हें एक-दूसरे को जानने के लिए और समय की आवश्यकता थी।

The Hindu Made of Chennai wins laurels at WAN-IFRA World Media Awards 2025

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu has been honoured with the "World Winner" award under the "Best in Digital Advertising Product or Initiative" category at the WAN-IFRA World Media Awards, 2025, recently held in Krakow, Poland.

The accolade was for The Hindu Made of Chennai (MoC) campaign, which brought Chennai's stories and spirit to the forefront during the city's 385th birthday. This marks the second consecutive year that the campaign has received international recognition.

In its second edition, the MoC transformed Madras Day (August 22) into Madras Month, with 40 days of celebration. The campaign brought live con-



A crowd gathers during the 'Moonlight Cinema' screening along the beach as part of the 'Made of Chennai' initiative. FILE PHOTO

certs, art exhibitions, quizzes, photography contests, and social impact programmes to the city. The "Namma Marina, Namma Pride" beach clean-up and "Zero Accidents" road safety drive, conducted in partnership with the Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Police, were initiatives that made MoC unique.

Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer, The

Hindu Group, said, "This global recognition by WAN-IFRA is a celebration of Chennai itself – its people, its stories, and its resilience. 'Made of Chennai' was conceptualised to reflect the essence of our city in a way that connects deeply and meaningfully. We are proud that a campaign born from love for Chennai has been honoured on the world stage."

The Hindu Made of Chennai wins laurels at WAN-IFRA World Media Awards 2025

द हिंदू मेड ऑफ़ चेन्नई को WAN-IFRA वर्ल्ड मीडिया अवॉर्ड्स 2025 में सम्मान मिला

• The Hindu has been honoured with the "World Winner" award under the "Best in Digital Advertising Product or Initiative" category at the WAN-IFRA World Media Awards 2025, held recently in Krakow, Poland.

- द हिंदू को हाल ही में क्राको, पोलैंड में आयोजित WAN-IFRA वर्ल्ड मीडिया अवॉर्ड्स 2025 में "डिजिटल विज्ञापन उत्पाद या पहल में सर्वश्रेष्ठ" श्रेणी में "वर्ल्ड विनर" अवॉर्ड से सम्मानित किया गया।



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• The accolade was for **The Hindu's "Made of Chennai (MoC)" campaign**, which highlighted **Chennai's stories and spirit** during the city's **385th birthday**.

• यह पुरस्कार द हिंदू की "मेड ऑफ़ चेन्नई (MoC)" अभियान के लिए था, जिसने चेन्नई की कहानियों और आत्मा को शहर के 385वें जन्मदिन के दौरान प्रमुखता दी।

• This marks the **second consecutive year** that the campaign has received **international recognition**.

• यह लगातार दूसरा वर्ष है जब इस अभियान को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त हुई है।

Campaign Details

अभियान का विवरण

• In its **second edition**, the MoC campaign **extended Madras Day (August 22)** into a **40-day Madras Month** celebration.

• अपने दूसरे संस्करण में, MoC अभियान ने 22 अगस्त (मद्रास डे) को 40 दिनों के मद्रास मंथ में बदल दिया।

• The campaign featured **live concerts, art exhibitions, quizzes, photography contests, and social impact programmes**.

• इस अभियान में लाइव कॉन्सर्ट, कला प्रदर्शनियां, क्विज़, फोटोग्राफी प्रतियोगिताएं, और सामाजिक प्रभाव वाले कार्यक्रम शामिल थे।

• The **"Namma Marina, Namma Pride" beach clean-up** and the **"Zero Accidents" road safety drive**, conducted with **Greater Chennai Corporation** and **Chennai Police**, were key highlights.

• "नम्मा मरीना, नम्मा प्राइड" बीच क्लीन-अप और "ज़ीरो एक्सीडेंट्स" रोड सेफ्टी ड्राइव, जो ग्रेटर चेन्नई कॉर्पोरेशन और चेन्नई पुलिस के साथ मिलकर आयोजित की गईं, प्रमुख विशेषताएं थीं।

Statement by The Hindu Group

द हिंदू ग्रुप का बयान

• **Suresh Balakrishna**, Chief Revenue Officer of The Hindu Group, said that this **global recognition by WAN-IFRA** is a **celebration of Chennai — its people, stories, and resilience**.

• द हिंदू ग्रुप के चीफ़ रेवेन्यू ऑफिसर सुरेश बालकृष्णा ने कहा कि WAN-IFRA द्वारा मिला यह वैश्विक सम्मान चेन्नई — इसके लोगों, कहानियों, और संघर्षशीलता — का उत्सव है।

• He said **"Made of Chennai was conceptualised to reflect the essence of the city in a deep and meaningful way."**

• उन्होंने कहा, "मेड ऑफ़ चेन्नई को इस तरह से कल्पना की गई थी कि यह शहर के सार को गहराई और अर्थपूर्ण तरीके से दर्शाए।"

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- He added that they are **proud** that a campaign **born from love for Chennai** has been **honoured on the world stage**.
- उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि वे गर्वित हैं कि चेन्नई के प्रेम से जन्मा यह अभियान वैश्विक मंच पर सम्मानित हुआ है।

PATRIOTIC IAS