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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

21 MAY 2025

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21_05_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

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More good news than bad in Delhi's fertility rate dip

GS Paper I: SCociety

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Delhi has not only recorded the lowest Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the average number of children per woman, but also the highest decline in the TFR in recent years. The Sample Registration System (SRS) report by the Registrar General of India for 2021, released on May 7, stated that Delhi's TFR was 1.4 in 2021 against 1.9 in 2011, a 26.3% decline.

At 3.0, Bihar registered the highest TRF against the national average of 2.0.

Academics and reproductive health specialists have cited inflation, more women in the workforce, independent decision-making, better maternal and infant health, and infertility as possible reasons for Delhi's lowest TFR.

"Earlier, the maternal or paternal family took the fa-

mily planning decision. But as women are now more empowered and independent, they are able to take decisions independently," pointed out Praveen K. Pathak, Professor at JNU's Centre for the Study of Regional Development, who specialises in population health and demographic changes.

Dr. Rashmi Gera, head of the family planning unit at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, also noted similar trends. "Cultural and social change, such as women getting better education and participating more in the workforce, is leading to changes in family planning," she said.

Social change

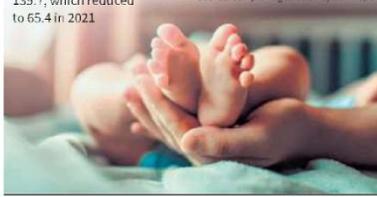
Dr. Gera said another reason couples are preferring fewer children is that most of them have migrated to Delhi and find it difficult to raise a child without grand-

Changes in fertility patterns

In 2011, Delhi's Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR), the number of women per 1,000 giving birth, in the age group of 20-24 was 139.7, which reduced to 65.4 in 2021.

IN 2011		IN 2021	
Age group	ASFR	Age group	ASFR
15-19	9.2	15-19	2.7
20-24	139.7	20-24	65.4
25-29	130.3	25-29	95.2
30-34	60.8	30-34	72.8
35-39	15.7	35-39	25.1
40-44	4.2	40-44	14.0
45-49	0.3	45-49	4.0

Source: Sample Registration System report



Getty Images/Stockphoto

parents or relatives.

According to the SRS report, over the years, the city has seen a shift in the fertility cycle with an increase in fertility in the

middle age group (30-44) and a decrease in lower age groups (15-29).

In 2011, Delhi's Age Specific Fertility Rate, the number of women per

1,000 giving birth, in the age group of 20-24 was 139.7, which reduced to 65.4 in 2021.

Niharka Tripathi, an Assistant Professor of Sociology at a Delhi University college whose research focuses on gender and population, cited women's priority to careers in their twenties and family planning after becoming financially independent as possible reasons for the shift in the fertility cycle.

"Additionally, inflation, nannies or childcare professionals' fees, and education expenses keep couples away from having more children," said Ms. Tripathi.

Anju Sharma, an Accredited Social Health Activist in east Delhi, said she had observed that couples prefer one child due to limited earnings. "Several women in my locality say that they have one child as they

want to give the best care, rather than having two or three children and struggling with expenses," said Ms. Sharma.

However, Dr. Shama Batra, a gynaecologist at Patel Hospital in Laxmi Nagar, cited infertility due to a sedentary lifestyle as a reason for the low TRF. "Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), infertility due to sedentary lifestyle, long working hours and a higher intake of junk food are now common in cities," said Dr. Batra.

Another gynaecologist, Dr. Surbhi Singh, who works in a private clinic, noted that stress and pollution, common in cities like Delhi, are also a cause for PCOS. "In recent years, I have noticed many young couples aspiring towards the trend of having no kids primarily due to inflation or infertility," Dr. Surbhi added.

More good news than bad in Delhi's fertility rate dip

दिल्ली की प्रजनन दर में गिरावट में अच्छी खबरें ज्यादा, बुरी कम

Delhi has not only recorded the lowest Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the average number of children per woman, but also the highest decline in the TFR in recent years.

दिल्ली ने न केवल सबसे कम कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR) दर्ज की है, बल्कि हाल के वर्षों में TFR में सबसे अधिक गिरावट भी देखी गई है।

- The **Sample Registration System (SRS) report by the Registrar General of India for 2021**, released on **May 7**, stated that Delhi's TFR was **1.4** in 2021 against **1.9** in 2011, a **26.3% decline**.

भारत के महापंजीयक द्वारा जारी **2021** की सैंपल रजिस्ट्रेशन सिस्टम (SRS) रिपोर्ट, जो **7 मई** को प्रकाशित हुई, में कहा गया कि दिल्ली की TFR **2021** में **1.4** थी, जबकि **2011** में **1.9** थी, जो **26.3%** की गिरावट है।

- At **3.0**, Bihar registered the **highest TFR** against the **national average of 2.0**.
बिहार की TFR **3.0** रही, जो **राष्ट्रीय औसत 2.0** से काफी अधिक है और **सबसे अधिक** है।
- Academics and reproductive health specialists have cited **inflation, more women in the workforce, independent decision-making, better maternal and infant health, and infertility** as possible reasons for Delhi's lowest TFR.



शिक्षाविदों और प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों ने मुद्रास्फीति, महिलाओं की कार्यबल में बढ़ती भागीदारी, स्वतंत्र निर्णय लेना, बेहतर मातृ और शिशु स्वास्थ्य, और बांझपन को दिल्ली की सबसे कम TFR के संभावित कारणों के रूप में बताया है।

- “Earlier, the maternal or paternal family took the family planning decision. But as **women are now more empowered and independent**, they are able to take decisions independently,” pointed out **Praveen K. Pathak**, Professor at JNU’s Centre for the Study of Regional Development.

“पहले परिवार नियोजन का निर्णय माता या पिता पक्ष के परिवार द्वारा लिया जाता था। लेकिन अब महिलाएं अधिक सशक्त और स्वतंत्र हो गई हैं, इसलिए वे अपने फैसले खुद ले रही हैं,” यह कहा प्रवीण के. पाठक, जेएनयू के क्षेत्रीय विकास अध्ययन केंद्र के प्रोफेसर ने।

- **Dr. Rashmi Gera**, head of the family planning unit at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, also noted similar trends.

डॉ. रश्मि गेरा, गुरु तेग बहादुर अस्पताल के परिवार नियोजन इकाई की प्रमुख, ने भी ऐसे ही रुझान देखे हैं।

- “**Cultural and social change**, such as **women getting better education and participating more in the workforce**, is leading to changes in family planning,” she said.

उन्होंने कहा, “सांस्कृतिक और सामाजिक परिवर्तन, जैसे कि महिलाओं की बेहतर शिक्षा और कार्यस्थल में अधिक भागीदारी, परिवार नियोजन में बदलाव ला रहे हैं।”

Social change

सामाजिक परिवर्तन

- Dr. Gera said another reason couples are **preferring fewer children is that most of them have migrated to Delhi and find it difficult to raise a child without grandparents or relatives**.

डॉ. गेरा ने कहा कि कम संतान की प्राथमिकता का एक और कारण यह है कि अधिकांश जोड़े दिल्ली में प्रवासित हैं और दादा-दादी या रिश्तेदारों की मदद के बिना बच्चे को पालना कठिन पाते हैं।

- According to the SRS report, over the years, the **city has seen a shift in the fertility cycle with an increase in fertility in the middle age group (30–44) and a decrease in lower age groups (15–29)**.

SRS रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वर्षों के दौरान शहर में प्रजनन चक्र में बदलाव देखा गया है, जहां मध्यम आयु वर्ग (30–44) में प्रजनन में वृद्धि और निचले आयु वर्ग (15–29) में गिरावट आई है।

- In 2011, Delhi’s **Age Specific Fertility Rate** in the age group of 20–24 was 139.7, which reduced to 65.4 in 2021.

2011 में दिल्ली की आयु विशिष्ट प्रजनन दर 20–24 आयु वर्ग में 139.7 थी, जो 2021 में घटकर 65.4 हो गई।

- **Niharka Tripathi**, an Assistant Professor of Sociology at a Delhi University college, cited **women’s career priorities in their twenties and family planning after financial**



independence as reasons for the shift in the fertility cycle.

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के एक कॉलेज की समाजशास्त्र की सहायक प्रोफेसर निहारिका त्रिपाठी ने कहा कि महिलाओं की बीस की उम्र में करियर को प्राथमिकता देना और वित्तीय स्वतंत्रता के बाद परिवार नियोजन प्रजनन चक्र में बदलाव के कारण हैं।

- “Additionally, **inflation, nannies or childcare professionals’ fees, and education expenses** keep couples away from having more children,” said Ms. Tripathi.

“इसके अलावा, महंगाई, नैनी या बाल देखभाल विशेषज्ञों की फीस, और शिक्षा खर्च के कारण दंपति अधिक बच्चे नहीं चाहते,” त्रिपाठी ने कहा।

- **Anju Sharma**, an Accredited Social Health Activist in **east Delhi**, said she had observed that couples prefer **one child due to limited earnings**.

अनु शर्मा, पूर्वी दिल्ली की एक मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता ने कहा कि उन्होंने देखा है कि सीमित आय के कारण दंपति एक ही बच्चा रखना पसंद करते हैं।

- “Several women in my locality say that they have **one child** as they want to give the **best care**, rather than having **two or three children** and struggling with **expenses**,” said Ms. Sharma.

“मेरे इलाके की कई महिलाएं कहती हैं कि वे एक ही बच्चा इसलिए रखती हैं क्योंकि वे उसे सबसे अच्छी देखभाल देना चाहती हैं, बजाय इसके कि दो या तीन बच्चे हों और खर्चों से जूझना पड़े,” शर्मा ने कहा।

- However, **Dr. Shama Batra**, a gynaecologist at Patel Hospital in **Laxmi Nagar**, cited **infertility due to a sedentary lifestyle** as a reason for the low TFR.

हालांकि, डॉ. शमा बत्रा, लक्ष्मी नगर स्थित पटेल अस्पताल की स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ, ने बैठे रहने की जीवनशैली के कारण बांझपन को कम TFR का कारण बताया।

- “**Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)**, infertility due to **sedentary lifestyle, long working hours and higher intake of junk food** are now common in cities,” said Dr. Batra.

डॉ. बत्रा ने कहा, “**पॉलीसिस्टिक ओवरी सिंड्रोम (PCOS)**, बैठे रहने की जीवनशैली, लंबे कार्य घंटे और जंक फूड के अधिक सेवन से होने वाला बांझपन अब शहरों में आम हो गया है।”

- Another gynaecologist, **Dr. Surbhi Singh**, who works in a private clinic, noted that **stress and pollution, common in cities like Delhi, are also a cause for PCOS**.

एक अन्य स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ, डॉ. सुरभि सिंह, जो एक निजी क्लिनिक में कार्यरत हैं, ने कहा कि दिल्ली जैसे शहरों में आम तनाव और प्रदूषण भी PCOS के कारण हैं।

- “In recent years, I have noticed many young couples aspiring towards the trend of **having no kids** primarily due to **inflation or infertility**,” Dr. Surbhi added.

“हाल के वर्षों में मैंने देखा है कि कई युवा दंपति बच्चे नहीं रखने की प्रवृत्ति की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं, मुख्यतः मुद्रास्फीति या बांझपन के कारण,” डॉ. सुरभि ने जोड़ा।



Kaleshwaram commission summons KCR, ex-Ministers

They have been asked to appear before the inquiry commission in the first and second week of June; panel, whose term was extended seven times, is expected to submit its report in July

GS Paper I: Geography

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

The Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose Commission of Inquiry has sent notices to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and former Ministers T. Harish Rao and Eatala Rajender.

The commission was instituted by the Telangana government for inquiring into alleged irregularities in the construction of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram project.

According to sources, the former Chief Minister and the former Ministers were asked to appear before the commission on June 5, 6 and 9, respective-



Under scrutiny: Irregularities have been alleged in the construction of barrages of the Kaleshwaram project. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ly, for their examination over the decisions pertaining to the construction of the three barrages.

Mr. Chandrashekhar Rao was in charge of the Irrigation portfolio from December 2018 to November

2023, while Mr. Harish Rao was Minister for Irrigation from June 2014 to December 2018. Similarly, Mr. Rajender, now the BJP MP for Malkajigiri, was the Finance Minister from June 2014 to December 2018.

Mr. Harish Rao also held the Finance portfolio from September 2019 to November 2023.

As the in-charge of the Finance portfolio, Mr. Rajender and Mr. Harish Rao cleared the expenditure bills pertaining to the Kaleshwaram project. Mr. Chandrashekhar Rao too was responsible for clearing some expenditure bills pertaining to the project as the Finance portfolio in-charge.

Report by July

The term of the commission was extended seven times from its initial term till June 30, 2024.

It is expected to submit the report in the last week of July.

Kaleshwaram Commission summons KCR, ex-Ministers

कालेश्वरम आयोग ने केसीआर और पूर्व मंत्रियों को तलब किया

The Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose Commission of Inquiry, which was set up by the Telangana government to investigate irregularities in the construction of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram project, has issued notices to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, and former Ministers T. Harish Rao and Eatala Rajender.

तेलंगाना सरकार द्वारा कालेश्वरम परियोजना के तहत मेदीगड्डा, अन्नारम और



सुंदरिल्ला बैराजों के निर्माण में अनियमितताओं की जांच के लिए गठित न्यायमूर्ति पिनाकी चंद्र घोष जांच आयोग ने पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री के. चंद्रशेखर राव और पूर्व मंत्री टी. हरीश राव व ईटाला राजेंद्र को नोटिस जारी किए हैं।

- As per sources, the commission has summoned these former leaders to appear on **June 5, 6, and 9**, respectively. They will be examined for decisions taken during the construction of the three barrages.

सूत्रों के अनुसार, आयोग ने इन पूर्व नेताओं को **5, 6 और 9 जून** को क्रमशः उपस्थित होने के लिए तलब किया है। यह पूछताछ **तीनों बैराजों के निर्माण** से संबंधित लिए गए निर्णयों को लेकर होगी।

- K. Chandrashekhara Rao** held the **Irrigation portfolio** from **December 2018 to November 2023**, while **Harish Rao** was the **Irrigation Minister** from **June 2014 to December 2018**. Similarly, **Eatala Rajender**, who is now a **BJP MP from Malkajgiri**, served as the **Finance Minister** during **June 2014 to December 2018**.

के. चंद्रशेखर राव ने **दिसंबर 2018 से नवंबर 2023 तक सिंचाई विभाग** का प्रभार संभाला, जबकि **हरीश राव जून 2014 से दिसंबर 2018 तक सिंचाई मंत्री** थे। इसी तरह, **ईटाला राजेंद्र**, जो अब **मल्काजगिरी से भाजपा सांसद** हैं, ने **जून 2014 से दिसंबर 2018 तक वित्त मंत्री** के रूप में कार्य किया।

- Later, **Harish Rao** also held the **Finance Ministry** from **September 2019 to November 2023**. As Finance Ministers, both **Rajender and Harish Rao** had approved expenditure bills for the **Kaleshwaram project**.

बाद में, **हरीश राव** ने भी **सितंबर 2019 से नवंबर 2023 तक वित्त मंत्रालय** संभाला। **राजेंद्र और हरीश राव**, दोनों ने **कालेश्वरम परियोजना** से संबंधित **व्यय बिलों** को मंजूरी दी थी।

- Additionally, **Chandrashekhara Rao**, while in charge of the **Finance portfolio**, also cleared some expenditure bills related to the project.

इसके अलावा, **चंद्रशेखर राव** ने जब **वित्त विभाग** का भी प्रभार संभाला था, तब उन्होंने भी इस परियोजना से जुड़े **कुछ व्यय बिलों** को मंजूरी दी थी।

- The term of the commission, which was extended **seven times**, is now valid until **June 30, 2024**. The final report is expected in the last week of July.

आयोग का कार्यकाल **सात बार बढ़ाया गया**, और अब यह **30 जून 2024 तक मान्य** है। इसकी अंतिम रिपोर्ट **जुलाई के अंतिम सप्ताह में आने की संभावना** है।

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)

कालेश्वरम लिफ्ट सिंचाई परियोजना (KLIP)

- The **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)** is one of the **largest and most ambitious multi-purpose irrigation projects in India**.

कालेश्वरम लिफ्ट सिंचाई परियोजना (KLIP) भारत की सबसे बड़ी और सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी बहुउद्देशीय सिंचाई परियोजनाओं में से एक है।



- It is located in the state of **Telangana** and aims to address **water scarcity**, boost **irrigation**, provide **drinking water**, and support **industrial needs**.

यह तेलंगाना राज्य में स्थित है और इसका उद्देश्य जल संकट को दूर करना, सिंचाई को बढ़ावा देना, पीने के पानी की आपूर्ति करना और औद्योगिक आवश्यकताओं को समर्थन देना है।

Basic Information

मूल जानकारी

- **Project Name:** Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)
परियोजना का नाम: कालेश्वरम लिफ्ट सिंचाई परियोजना (KLIP)
- **State:** Telangana
राज्य: तेलंगाना

River Involved: Godavari River

संबंधित नदी: गोदावरी नदी

- **Starting Point:** Medigadda (in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district)
प्रारंभिक बिंदु: मेडिगड्डा (जयशंकर भूपालपल्ली जिले में)
- **Project Type:** Lift Irrigation & Multi-purpose
परियोजना का प्रकार: लिफ्ट सिंचाई और बहुउद्देशीय
- **Approved Year:** 2016 (revised form)
स्वीकृति वर्ष: 2016 (संशोधित रूप में)
- **Inauguration:** June 2019
उद्घाटन: जून 2019
- **Estimated Cost:** ₹80,000 crore+
अनुमानित लागत: ₹80,000 करोड़+
- **Command Area:** Over 18 lakh acres of farmland
कमान क्षेत्र: 18 लाख एकड़ से अधिक कृषि भूमि
- **States Benefited:** Primarily Telangana
लाभान्वित राज्य: मुख्य रूप से तेलंगाना

Purpose and Objectives

उद्देश्य और लक्ष्य

- **Irrigation:** To irrigate over 18 lakh acres in 13 districts of Telangana.
सिंचाई: तेलंगाना के 13 जिलों में 18 लाख एकड़ से अधिक भूमि की सिंचाई करना।
- **Drinking Water Supply:** To provide drinking water to Hyderabad and other towns.
पीने के पानी की आपूर्ति: हैदराबाद और अन्य शहरों को पीने का पानी उपलब्ध कराना।
- **Industrial Use:** Water supply for industrial corridors.
औद्योगिक उपयोग: औद्योगिक कॉरिडोर के लिए जल आपूर्ति।
- **Rejuvenation:** Groundwater recharge and filling of tanks/lakes.
पुनर्जीवन: भूजल पुनर्भरण और टैंकों/झीलों को भरना।
- **Drought-proofing:** To reduce dependence on monsoons.
सूखा-प्रतिरोध: मानसून पर निर्भरता को कम करना।



Key Features

मुख्य विशेषताएँ

- **Lift irrigation system:** Since much of Telangana is at a higher elevation, water is lifted in stages using **giant pumps**.
लिफ्ट सिंचाई प्रणाली: चूंकि तेलंगाना का अधिकांश भाग ऊँचाई पर है, इसलिए विशाल पंपों की सहायता से जल को चरणों में ऊपर उठाया जाता है।
- **Pumps and Power:** Some of the **largest pump houses in Asia** are used. Example: **Gayatri Pump House (Package 8)**.
पंप और बिजली: एशिया के सबसे बड़े पंप हाउसों में से कुछ का उपयोग किया गया है। उदाहरण: गायत्री पंप हाउस (पैकेज 8)।

Reservoirs and Barrages:

जलाशय और बैराज:

- **Medigadda Barrage**
मेडिगड्डा बैराज
- **Annaram Barrage**
अन्नाराम बैराज
- **Sundilla Barrage**
सुंदिल्ला बैराज
- **Storage Reservoirs:** Multiple reservoirs like **Mallanna Sagar, Kondapochamma Sagar**, etc.

भंडारण जलाशय: मल्लन्ना सागर, कोंडापोचम्मा सागर आदि जैसे कई जलाशय।



Fingerprint data of the dead will not be shared, says UIDAI

GS Paper I: Aadhaar Identity

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

It is impossible to compare the fingerprints of a deceased with the Aadhaar database and provide demographic information to the police for the purpose of ascertaining the identity of a body, the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has told the Madras High Court.

In a counter-affidavit filed before Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan, the UIDAI said the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016** imposes severe restrictions on sharing information. Further, there were **technological constraints in culling out information about the dead**, it added.

The submissions were made in response to a criminal writ petition filed by the State of Tamil Nadu, represented by a Deputy Superintendent of Police of Tindivanam sub-division in Villupuram district, seeking a direction to the UIDAI to provide the demographic details of an unidentified body using its fingerprints.

Union government senior panel counsel K. Srinivasamurthy said the UIDAI was a statutory body functioning under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). The objective of the 2016 Aadhaar Act, as amended in 2019, was to empower residents of India with a unique identity proof.

The UIDAI issues a 12-di-



The UIDAI says there are technological constraints in culling out information about the dead using fingerprints. AFP

git Aadhaar number after a person undergoes enrolment by submitting demographic as well as biometric information. The prime object of the Aadhaar Act was to ensure targeted delivery of government subsidies, benefits and services to the beneficiaries, the counsel said.

Strict confidentiality

He also submitted a counter-affidavit signed by UIDAI Deputy Director Priya Sreekumar, who asserted that "Aadhaar number is not used to track other activities of the resident", and that Chapter VI of the Aadhaar Act requires the UIDAI to maintain strict confidentiality with respect to individual records.

Ms. Sreekumar pointed out that Section 29(1) of the Act categorically states that no core biometric information, collected or created under the Act, should be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever; or used for any purpose other than generation of Aadhaar numbers and authentication under the Act.

Fingerprint data of the dead will not be shared, says UIDAI

UIDAI का कहना है कि मृतकों के फिंगरप्रिंट डेटा साझा नहीं किया जाएगा

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has informed the **Madras High Court** that it is impossible to compare the fingerprints of a deceased person with the Aadhaar database to retrieve demographic information for the purpose of identifying the body.

- **भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण (UIDAI)** ने **मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय** को बताया है कि किसी मृत व्यक्ति के फिंगरप्रिंट की आधार डाटाबेस से तुलना करना और जनसांख्यिकीय जानकारी प्राप्त करना असंभव है ताकि शव की पहचान की जा सके।

- This statement was made in a **counter-affidavit** submitted before **Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan**, where UIDAI explained that the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016** imposes **strict restrictions** on information sharing.

यह बयान **न्यायमूर्ति जी.के. इलंथिरैयन** के समक्ष दायर एक **जवाबी हलफनामे** में दिया गया, जिसमें UIDAI ने स्पष्ट किया कि **आधार अधिनियम, 2016** (वित्तीय और अन्य सब्सिडी, लाभ और सेवाओं की लक्षित डिलीवरी) **जानकारी साझा करने पर कड़े प्रतिबंध** लगाता है।

- UIDAI also mentioned that there are **technological limitations** which make it difficult to extract any information related to **deceased persons**.

UIDAI ने यह भी बताया कि **मृत व्यक्तियों** से संबंधित कोई भी जानकारी निकालने में **प्रौद्योगिकीय सीमाएं** हैं।

- These submissions were in response to a **criminal writ petition** filed by the **State of Tamil Nadu**, represented by a **Deputy Superintendent of Police** of the **Tindivanam sub-division in Villupuram district**, seeking an order from the court to direct UIDAI to provide **demographic details of an unidentified body using its fingerprints**.

ये दलीलें **तमिलनाडु राज्य** द्वारा दायर एक **आपराधिक रिट याचिका** के जवाब में दी गई थीं, जिसमें **विलुप्पुरम जिले के तिंडिवनम उप-मंडल** के



पुलिस उपाधीक्षक ने अदालत से अनुरोध किया था कि UIDAI को फिंगरप्रिंट के माध्यम से एक अज्ञात शव की जनसांख्यिकीय जानकारी प्रदान करने का निर्देश दिया जाए।

- According to **K. Srinivasamurthy**, senior panel counsel for the **Union government**, **UIDAI is a statutory authority operating under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**.
- He added that the purpose of the **2016 Aadhaar Act**, which was amended in **2019**, is to provide **Indian residents** with a **unique identification number**.
- केंद्र सरकार के वरिष्ठ पैनल अधिवक्ता के. श्रीनिवासमूर्ति के अनुसार UIDAI एक वैधानिक प्राधिकरण है जो इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MEITY) के अंतर्गत कार्य करता है।
- उन्होंने बताया कि **2016 का आधार अधिनियम**, जिसे **2019 में संशोधित** किया गया था, का उद्देश्य **भारतीय निवासियों को एक विशिष्ट पहचान संख्या प्रदान करना है।**
- UIDAI provides a **12-digit Aadhaar number** after collecting both **demographic and biometric data from the applicant during enrolment**.
- The main purpose of Aadhaar is to ensure the **targeted delivery of government subsidies, benefits, and services to eligible beneficiaries**.
- UIDAI नामांकन के दौरान आवेदनकर्ता से **जनसांख्यिकीय और बायोमेट्रिक डेटा** प्राप्त करने के बाद एक **12-अंकों की आधार संख्या** प्रदान करता है।
- आधार का मुख्य उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि **सरकारी सब्सिडी, लाभ और सेवाएं उपयुक्त लाभार्थियों तक लक्षित रूप से पहुँचें।**
- In a counter-affidavit signed by **UIDAI Deputy Director Priya Sreekumar**, it was emphasized that the **Aadhaar number is not used to track other activities of the resident**.
- She pointed out that **Chapter VI of the Aadhaar Act obliges UIDAI to maintain strict confidentiality of personal records**.
UIDAI की उप निदेशक प्रिया श्रीकुमार द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित जवाबी हलफनामे में यह स्पष्ट किया गया कि निवासी की अन्य गतिविधियों को ट्रैक करने के लिए आधार संख्या का उपयोग नहीं किया जाता।
- उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि **आधार अधिनियम का अध्याय VI UIDAI को व्यक्तिगत रिकॉर्ड की कड़ी गोपनीयता बनाए रखने के लिए बाध्य करता है।**
- She further noted that **Section 29(1) of the Aadhaar Act categorically states that core biometric information, once collected or generated under the Act, shall not be shared with anyone for any reason**, nor shall it be used for any purpose other than the **generation of Aadhaar numbers and authentication**.
उन्होंने आगे बताया कि **आधार अधिनियम की धारा 29(1)** में यह स्पष्ट रूप से कहा गया है कि अधिनियम के अंतर्गत एकत्र या निर्मित की गई **मूल जैवमेट्रिक जानकारी** किसी भी कारण से किसी के साथ साझा नहीं की जा सकती, और इसका उपयोग केवल **आधार संख्या उत्पन्न करने और प्रमाणीकरण** के लिए ही किया जा सकता है।



A tragedy recorded for posterity: inscription near temple in Karnataka lists drought deaths in 1539

GS Paper I: A&C

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

A sculptural inscription discovered near the Chandrashekara temple at Guttala in Haveri district of Karnataka has documented the death of 6,307 people due to drought in the local area, making it the first such historical record of a humanitarian disaster caused by a natural calamity in India.

The discovery has been hailed as a significant addition to India's epigraphic heritage. The inscription is dated Saka 1461, Vikari, Bhadrapada su.5, which corresponds to August 18, 1539 CE, according to K. Munirathnam Reddy, Di-

rector, Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

In Kannada language

He said the inscription is in the Kannada language and script, and it solemnly records the tragedy, marking it as one of the large-scale natural calamities documented epigraphically in Indian history.

The text, inscribed on a stone slab, states that 6,307 people had perished due to *bara* or drought. It notes that their bodies were buried by Marulaih Odeya, son of Nanideva Odeya of Guttavalala, by carrying them in baskets for the merit of Timmarasa Svami, the ruler of the

seeme (a territorial division), after paying obeisance to the feet of god Basaveshwara.

The inscription is accompanied by a sculpture depicting a person – ostensibly Marulaih Odeya – carrying a basket containing two or three bodies on his head.

Mr. Munirathnam described the findings as a landmark, as the inscription is rare and explicitly documents the human toll of drought. Inscriptions such as the one at Guttala provide an insight into the socio-economic conditions that prevailed during historical periods, and these are often absent in literary texts. Through comparative studies, it may even be



The 16th century sculptural inscription found in Karnataka. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

possible to understand how communities coped with such calamities, he said.

A broader study of simi-

lar inscriptions across regions and periods can deepen our understanding of the historical impact of natural calamities and the responses they evoked, according to Mr. Munirathnam.

He said it could also help researchers trace climatic patterns, while scholars might uncover details of administrative action or demographic changes based on such records.

The epigraphy branch of the ASI, discovered and copied over 1,000 inscriptions from the length and breadth of India, including in deep jungles during 2024-25. This year, more than 100 inscriptions have been discovered so far.

A tragedy recorded for posterity: inscription near temple in Karnataka lists drought deaths in 1539

भविष्य के लिए दर्ज की गई एक त्रासदी: कर्नाटक के मंदिर के पास के शिलालेख में 1539 में सूखे से हुई मौतों का उल्लेख

- A sculptural inscription discovered near the Chandrashekara temple at Guttala in Haveri district of Karnataka has documented the death of 6,307 people due to drought in the local area, making it the first such historical record of a humanitarian disaster caused by a natural calamity in India.
- The discovery has been hailed as a significant addition to **India's epigraphic heritage**.
- The inscription is dated Saka 1461, Vikari, Bhadrapada su.5, which corresponds to August 18, 1539 CE, according to K. Munirathnam Reddy, Director, Epigraphy, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- कर्नाटक के हावेरी जिले के गुट्टला में स्थित चंद्रशेखर मंदिर के पास एक शिल्पयुक्त शिलालेख खोजा गया है, जिसमें स्थानीय क्षेत्र में सूखे के कारण 6,307 लोगों की मृत्यु दर्ज है।



- यह भारत में किसी प्राकृतिक आपदा से हुई मानव त्रासदी का पहला ऐसा ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज माना जा रहा है।
- इस खोज को भारत की अभिलेखीय धरोहर में एक महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के रूप में देखा जा रहा है। यह शिलालेख शक 1461, विकारी, भाद्रपद शुक्ल पंचमी को अंकित है, जो 18 अगस्त 1539 ईस्वी के अनुरूप है, जैसा कि भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (ASI) के अभिलेख निदेशक के. मुनीरथनम रेड्डी ने बताया।
- He said the inscription is in the **Kannada language and script**, and **it solemnly records the tragedy, marking it as one of the large-scale natural calamities documented epigraphically in Indian history.**
- The text, inscribed on a **stone slab**, states that **6,307 people had perished due to bara or drought**. It notes that their bodies were buried by **Marulaih Odeya**, son of **Nanideva Odeya** of **Guttavalala**, by carrying them in **baskets** for the merit of **Timmarasa Svami**, the ruler of the **seeme** (a territorial division), after paying **obeisance to the feet of god Basaveshwara**.
- उन्होंने कहा कि यह शिलालेख **कन्नड़ भाषा और लिपि** में है और इसमें इस त्रासदी को गंभीर रूप से दर्ज किया गया है, जिससे यह भारतीय इतिहास में **शिलालेखों के माध्यम से दर्ज की गई सबसे बड़ी प्राकृतिक आपदाओं** में से एक बन जाता है।
- **पत्थर की पट्टिका** पर खुदे इस लेख में उल्लेख है कि **6,307 लोग बारा या सूखा** के कारण मर गए थे। इन शवों को **गुट्टवलाला के ननिदेवा ओडेया** के पुत्र **मरुलैह ओडेया** ने **टीम्मरसा स्वामी** (जो उस **सीमे** क्षेत्र के शासक थे) के पुण्य के लिए **टोकरीयों** में लादकर दफनाया, और इससे पहले उन्होंने **भगवान बसवेश्वर** के चरणों में श्रद्धा अर्पित की।
- The inscription is accompanied by a **sculpture** depicting a person — presumably **Marulaih Odeya** — carrying a **basket** containing **two or three bodies** on his head.
- Mr. Munirathnam described the findings as a **landmark**, as the inscription is **rare** and explicitly documents the **human toll of drought**.
- Inscriptions such as the one at **Guttala provide valuable insight into the socio-economic conditions** that prevailed during historical periods, and these are often **absent in literary texts**.
- इस शिलालेख के साथ एक **मूर्ति** भी है, जिसमें एक व्यक्ति — संभवतः **मरुलैह ओडेया** — को अपने सिर पर **दो या तीन शवों से भरी टोकरी** उठाए हुए दिखाया गया है।
- श्री मुनीरथनम ने इस खोज को एक **ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि** बताया, क्योंकि यह शिलालेख **दुर्लभ** है और इसमें **सूखे से हुई मानवीय क्षति** का स्पष्ट उल्लेख है।
- गुट्टला जैसे शिलालेख हमें उस समय की **सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थितियों** की जानकारी देते हैं, जो अक्सर **साहित्यिक ग्रंथों** में नहीं मिलती।
- Through **comparative studies**, it may even be possible to understand how **communities coped** with such **calamities**, he said.
- A broader study of similar inscriptions across regions and periods can deepen our understanding of the **historical impact of natural calamities** and the **responses they evoked**.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- He said it could also help researchers trace **climatic patterns**, while scholars might uncover details of **administrative action** or **demographic changes** based on such records.
- उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि **तुलनात्मक अध्ययन** के माध्यम से यह समझना संभव हो सकता है कि उस समय की **जनजातियाँ** या **समुदाय** ऐसी **आपदाओं** से कैसे निपटती थीं।
- विभिन्न क्षेत्रों और कालखंडों में ऐसे शिलालेखों का **व्यापक अध्ययन** करने से हमें **प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के ऐतिहासिक प्रभाव** और उन पर हुई **प्रतिक्रियाओं** की गहराई से समझ मिल सकती है।
- यह शोधकर्ताओं को **जलवायु पैटर्न** का पता लगाने में मदद कर सकता है, और विद्वानों को इन दस्तावेजों के आधार पर **प्रशासनिक कार्यवाहियों** या **जनसंख्या परिवर्तनों** के बारे में जानकारी मिल सकती है।
- The **epigraphy branch** of the ASI discovered and copied over **1,000 inscriptions** from across India, including in **deep jungles**, during the year **2024–25**. This year, more than **100 inscriptions** have been discovered so far.
- **ASI की अभिलेख शाखा** ने वर्ष **2024–25** में पूरे भारत से, यहां तक कि **घने जंगलों** से भी **1,000 से अधिक शिलालेखों** की खोज और प्रतिलिपि तैयार की है। इस वर्ष अब तक **100 से अधिक शिलालेख** खोजे जा चुके हैं।

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

1. Diplomatic Outreach Visits Begin Today

राजनयिक संपर्क यात्राएं आज से शुरू

2. New Waqf Law 'Creeping Acquisition' of Property, Petitioners Argue in SC

नया वक्फ कानून संपत्ति की 'धीमी अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया' है,

याचिकाकर्ताओं ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में तर्क दिया

3. Pakistan Govt. promotes Army chief General Munir to Field Marshal for 'defeating enemy

भारत के खिलाफ 'शत्रु को हराने' पर पाकिस्तान सरकार ने सेना प्रमुख

जनरल मुनीर को फील्ड मार्शल के पद पर पदोन्नत किया

4. Kerala moves top court against Waqf Act amendments

वक्फ अधिनियम संशोधनों के खिलाफ केरल ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का

रुख किया

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

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



5. HC seeks MP's view in defamation case

मानहानि मामले में हाई कोर्ट ने सांसद से जवाब मांगा

6. SC makes three years' legal practice mandatory to apply for judicial service

न्यायिक सेवा के लिए आवेदन में तीन वर्षों की कानूनी प्रैक्टिस

अनिवार्य: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

7. How the Trump administration aims to contain China's AI industry

ट्रंप प्रशासन चीन की एआई उद्योग को नियंत्रित करने का कैसे प्रयास कर रहा है

8. Trade Diplomacy: On India-Bangladesh Trade-Related Tensions

व्यापार कूटनीति: भारत-बांग्लादेश व्यापार संबंधी तनाव

9. Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir promoted as Field Marshal

पाकिस्तान सेना प्रमुख जनरल आसिम मुनिर को फील्ड मार्शल के पद पर पदोन्नत किया गया

10. Sudan Army begins operation to oust RSF from outskirts of capital

सूडान सेना ने राजधानी के बाहरी इलाके से आरएसएफ को निकालने के लिए अभियान शुरू किया



Diplomatic Outreach Visits Begin Today

Diplomatic outreach visits begin today

Three multi-party delegations will start their journey today and tomorrow, says Ministry

GS Paper II: Diplomacy

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The first three multi-party delegations to international capitals to brief global community about Operation Sindoor will start their journey on Wednesday and Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

"The delegations, over the next fortnight, will highlight that cross-border terrorism from Pakistan continues to be a major disruptor for India while presenting the Indian doctrine of zero tolerance of terror, according to veteran diplomat Syed Akbaruddin, who is part of the diplomatic outreach effort.

"In various countries of

the world, the salience of terrorism over the past two decades has gone down as they are prioritising other issues. For example, for some countries, T stands for tariff but for us in India, T also stands for terrorism because over several decades now, cross-border terrorism from Pakistan has been a challenge to our social harmony and developmental goals," said Mr. Akbaruddin, who will visit Egypt, Qatar, Ethiopia, and South Africa between May 24 and June 1, along with eight MPs in a delegation led by Supriya Sule of the NCP (SCP).

The first three teams that will leave during Wednesday and Thursday were briefed by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Tues-

They will highlight cross-border terror from Pakistan while presenting India's doctrine of zero tolerance

The teams will visit countries such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, DRC, and the UAE

A united front

The multi-party delegations are expected to meet government functionaries, including Ministers, think-tanks and media during their visits to foreign capitals



• The group led by Janata Dal (United) leader Sanjay Jha will visit Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Japan, and Singapore



• The team headed by Shrikant Shinde of Shiv Sena will visit UAE, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone



• The delegation led by DMK leader Kanimozhi is set to visit Russia, Spain, Greece, Slovenia, and Latvia

day. These three teams will also visit Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Russia, Slovenia, Greece, Latvia, and Spain. The other four teams will start their journey during May 23 to 25.

BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi said that apart from the members of the UN Security Council, five other countries have been selected that will become members of the UNSC in the coming days. "So, representatives are going to over 25 nations...This is our message that India stands united

Trinamool, Sena (UBT) relent

The Hindu Bureau
DELHI/KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) have changed their stance on nomination of their MPs to the diplomatic teams after Union Minister Kiren Rijiju reached out to

the party leaders on Tuesday. The Trinamool has named Abhishek Banerjee in place of Yusuf Pathan, while the Sena has endorsed Priyanka Chaturvedi.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 5

proceed to visit the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, ending with Malaysia.

Speaking to the media, Mr. Jha said the focus of their campaign would be on the involvement of the Pakistan state and military in the terror attacks against India. "Pakistan State and Pakistan Army are both involved in this. This was done like a proxy war against India," said Mr. Jha.

The government had constituted seven groups consisting of 51 MPs from various political parties to project a united national front before the world community while briefing them about Operation Sindoor that targeted nine terror hubs in Pakistan in response to Pahalgam attack.

against terrorism," said Ms. Sarangi.

'Proxy war'
"We will be interacting with a cross-section of people there like the principal state actors, ministers, members of Parliament, academicians. These would be general meetings

set on the general background of Indo-Pak issues and the terror being exported to India from Pakistan," said CPI(M) MP John Brittas, who will be part of the delegation being led by Sanjay Kumar Jha of the Janata Dal (United). This delegation will start its tour in Japan on May 22 and then

राजनयिक संपर्क यात्राएं आज से शुरू

Three multi-party delegations will begin their journey on Wednesday and Thursday, as announced by the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

तीन बहुदलीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल अपनी यात्रा बुधवार और गुरुवार को शुरू करेंगे, जैसा कि विदेश मंत्रालय ने घोषणा की है।

- These delegations are part of a diplomatic campaign to brief the global community about **Operation Sindoor**.
ये प्रतिनिधिमंडल ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बारे में वैश्विक समुदाय को जानकारी देने के लिए एक राजनयिक अभियान का हिस्सा हैं।
- Over the next **fortnight**, they will highlight the issue of **cross-border terrorism from Pakistan and present India's doctrine of zero tolerance to terrorism**.
अगले पंद्रह दिनों में, ये पाकिस्तान से होने वाले सीमा पार आतंकवाद का मुद्दा उजागर करेंगे और भारत का शून्य सहिष्णुता का सिद्धांत प्रस्तुत करेंगे।
- Veteran diplomat **Syed Akbaruddin**, part of this outreach effort, stressed that in many countries terrorism is no longer a top concern, but for India it remains a **critical issue**.



इस संपर्क अभियान का हिस्सा वरिष्ठ राजनयिक **सैयद अकबरुद्दीन** ने जोर देकर कहा कि कई देशों में अब आतंकवाद प्रमुख चिंता नहीं रहा है, लेकिन भारत के लिए यह अभी भी एक **गंभीर मुद्दा** है।

- He said for some countries "T" stands for **tariff**, but for India it also stands for **terrorism**, which has long **affected India's social harmony and developmental goals**.

उन्होंने कहा कि कुछ देशों के लिए "T" का अर्थ **टैरिफ** होता है, लेकिन भारत के लिए इसका मतलब **आतंकवाद** भी होता है, जिसने लंबे समय से भारत की **सामाजिक समरसता** और **विकासात्मक लक्ष्यों** को प्रभावित किया है।

- Mr. Akbaruddin will visit **Egypt, Qatar, Ethiopia, and South Africa** between **May 24 and June 1**, along with eight MPs led by **Supriya Sule** of the **NCP (SCP)**.

श्री अकबरुद्दीन **24 मई से 1 जून** के बीच **मिस्र, कतर, इथियोपिया और दक्षिण अफ्रीका** का दौरा करेंगे, उनके साथ **एनसीपी (एससीपी)** की **सुप्रिया सुले** के नेतृत्व में आठ सांसद भी होंगे।

First Delegations and Travel Schedule

प्रथम प्रतिनिधिमंडल और यात्रा कार्यक्रम

- The first three delegations leaving on **Wednesday and Thursday** were briefed by **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** on **Tuesday**.
मंगलवार को विदेश सचिव **विक्रम मिस्री** ने **बुधवार और गुरुवार** को रवाना होने वाले पहले तीन प्रतिनिधिमंडलों को जानकारी दी।
- These delegations will visit countries including **Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, UAE, DRC, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Russia, Slovenia, Greece, Latvia, and Spain**.
ये प्रतिनिधिमंडल **जापान, दक्षिण कोरिया, सिंगापुर, इंडोनेशिया, मलेशिया, यूएई, डीआरसी, सिएरा लियोन, लाइबेरिया, रूस, स्लोवेनिया, ग्रीस, लातविया और स्पेन** जैसे देशों का दौरा करेंगे।
- The remaining **four teams** will begin their journey between **May 23 and 25**.
शेष चार टीमों अपनी यात्रा **23 मई से 25 मई** के बीच शुरू करेंगी।

UNSC Membership and Global Engagement

संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद सदस्यता और वैश्विक संपर्क

- **BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi** said that apart from the current members of the **UN Security Council**, **five more countries** which will soon become members have also been selected.
भाजपा सांसद अपराजिता सारंगी ने कहा कि **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद** के वर्तमान सदस्यों के अलावा, **पांच अन्य देश**, जो जल्द ही सदस्य बनने वाले हैं, भी चयनित किए गए हैं।
- Representatives are visiting **more than 25 nations**, delivering a united message that **India stands against terrorism**.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



प्रतिनिधि 25 से अधिक देशों में जा रहे हैं और यह संयुक्त संदेश दे रहे हैं कि भारत आतंकवाद के खिलाफ एकजुट है।

Focus on Pakistan's Role in Terrorism

आतंकवाद में पाकिस्तान की भूमिका पर केंद्रित

- **CPI(M) MP John Brittas**, part of the delegation led by **JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha**, said they will interact with a range of stakeholders including **ministers, MPs, academicians**.
सीपीआई(एम) सांसद जॉन ब्रिट्टास, जो जेडीयू सांसद संजय कुमार झा के नेतृत्व वाले प्रतिनिधिमंडल में हैं, ने कहा कि वे मंत्रियों, सांसदों और शिक्षाविदों सहित विभिन्न हितधारकों से बातचीत करेंगे।
- The discussions will focus on **Indo-Pak issues and terrorism exported to India from Pakistan**.
चर्चाएं भारत-पाक मुद्दों और पाकिस्तान से भारत में भेजे जा रहे आतंकवाद पर केंद्रित होंगी।
- Mr. Jha emphasized that **both the Pakistan State and Army are involved in the terror attacks against India, describing it as a form of proxy war**.
श्री झा ने जोर देकर कहा कि पाकिस्तानी राज्य और सेना दोनों भारत पर आतंकी हमलों में शामिल हैं, और इसे प्रॉक्सी युद्ध का रूप बताया।

Operation Sindoor and National Unity

ऑपरेशन सिंदूर और राष्ट्रीय एकता

- The government has constituted **seven groups comprising 51 MPs from various political parties** to present a **united national front** before the world.
सरकार ने विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के 51 सांसदों को मिलाकर सात समूहों का गठन किया है, ताकि दुनिया के सामने एक एकजुट राष्ट्रीय स्वरूप पेश किया जा सके।
- The delegations will brief foreign countries about **Operation Sindoor**, which targeted **nine terror hubs in Pakistan** in response to the **Pahalgam attack**.
ये प्रतिनिधिमंडल विदेशों को ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बारे में जानकारी देंगे, जिसमें पहलगाम हमले के जवाब में पाकिस्तान के नौ आतंकवादी ठिकानों को निशाना बनाया गया था।



New Waqf law 'creeping acquisition' of property, petitioners argue in SC

GS Paper II: Waqf Law

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

Countering the Supreme Court's observation that a parliamentary statute like the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 enjoys a presumption of constitutionality, petitioners on Tuesday termed the new law a "creeping acquisition" of Waqf properties owned by the Muslim community, the largest religious minority group in India.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih heard petitioners for a full day on their plea for an interim order to stay the implementation of the 2025 Act, which came into force on April 8. "Today, you [petitioners] are only arguing for interim relief. You have to make a strong case for interim relief. The presumption in favour of a parliamentary law is that of constitutionality," Chief Justice Gavai said, addressing senior advocate Kapil Sibal, the lead counsel for the petitioners.

Mr. Sibal said a presumption of constitutionality could be rebutted if a *prima facie* breach was shown. The court could intervene and stay the law in public interest if its execution caused irreparable injury, he said.

'Ruse for acquisition'

"The 2025 amendments are a ruse to capture Waqfs. Property can be acquired by the government through a legislative diktat, that too without payment of compensation, which is usual in cases of acquisition. These amendments directly encroach on a minority community's rights under Article 25 [freedom of religion]," Mr. Sibal submitted.

The senior lawyer noted

You have to make a strong case for interim relief. The presumption in favour of a parliamentary law is that of constitutionality

B.R. GAVAI
Chief Justice of India



The 2025 amendments... directly encroach on a minority community's rights under Article 25 [freedom of religion]

KAPIL SIBAL
Advocate for petitioners



how Section 3C of the 2025 Act gave free rein to any encroacher to start a dispute.

The inquiry into the dispute would be conducted by a designated officer, who is a government servant or an "agent of the government".

There is no timeline or procedure prescribed for the inquiry in the Act. A dispute over even a fragment of the land would freeze the Waqf status of the entire property, Mr. Sibal noted.

"This means existing uses of the property, whether it be for schools, hospitals, burial, community centres etc., would have to immediately cease. There is also no restriction on demolition or on the government creating irreversible third-party rights in such properties during the inquiry period. The government can unilaterally deem a property as non-Waqf," Mr. Sibal submitted.

He referred to the "subordination" of Muslim members in Waqf administrative bodies by including non-Muslims in them. He pointed out that no other religious endowments, Hindu or Sikh, allowed room for people of other faiths to run their temples or gurdwaras.

Mr. Sibal pointed out that a Waqf property, once declared a protected mon-

ument or area under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 or the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, would become void as a Waqf under Section 3D of the 2025 Act.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi argued that this "super-imposing" of ancient monument laws on religious Waqfs would have a ripple effect on the protection given to them under the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

Unregistered Waqfs

He submitted that half of the country's eight lakh Waqfs are unregistered Waqfs-by-user, which have been effectively invalidated by the 2025 Act as they have been barred from approaching court. Many of these age-old Waqfs have no documents or deeds to support their identity, though they have been used for charitable and religious purposes for centuries, he said.

Mr. Singhvi alleged that the government's claim of a 116% "explosion" in Waqf properties from 2013 to 2024 was intended to prejudice the court.

The Centre is expected to begin its counter-arguments today.

KERALA MOVES SC

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New



Waqf Law 'Creeping Acquisition' of Property, Petitioners Argue in SC नया वक्फ कानून संपत्ति की 'धीमी अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया' है, याचिकाकर्ताओं ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में तर्क दिया

- In the Supreme Court, petitioners have challenged the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**, calling it a form of **"creeping acquisition"** of Waqf properties, which are predominantly owned by the **Muslim community, the largest religious minority in India**.
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट में याचिकाकर्ताओं ने वक्फ (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2025 को चुनौती दी है, जिसे उन्होंने वक्फ संपत्तियों का "धीमा अधिग्रहण" करार दिया है, जो मुख्यतः मुस्लिम समुदाय, जो भारत का सबसे बड़ा धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यक है, के स्वामित्व में हैं।
- The court noted that a **parliamentary law** is presumed to be **constitutional**, and the **Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai**, along with **Justice Augustine George Masih**, heard the matter on a petition for **interim relief** on **Tuesday**.
- कोर्ट ने कहा कि संसदीय कानून को संवैधानिक माना जाता है। इस मामले की सुनवाई मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई और न्यायमूर्ति ऑगस्टिन जॉर्ज मसीह ने मंगलवार को अंतरिम राहत की याचिका पर की।
- **Senior advocate Kapil Sibal**, appearing for the petitioners, argued that this presumption can be challenged if there is **prima facie evidence** of constitutional violation. He said the court can **stay the law** if its enforcement causes **irreparable harm** to public interest.
- वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता कपिल सिब्बल, जो याचिकाकर्ताओं की ओर से पेश हुए, ने तर्क दिया कि यदि संवैधानिक उल्लंघन का प्रथम दृष्टया प्रमाण हो तो इस अनुमान को चुनौती दी जा सकती है। उन्होंने कहा कि यदि कानून के कार्यान्वयन से अपूरणीय क्षति होती है, तो अदालत इसे निलंबित कर सकती है।
- Mr. Sibal called the **2025 amendments** a mere **pretext for the government to take over Waqf properties without any compensation, which violates the minority community's rights under Article 25** of the Constitution, ensuring **freedom of religion**.
श्री सिब्बल ने कहा कि 2025 के संशोधन केवल वक्फ संपत्तियों को बिना मुआवज़ा दिए कब्ज़ा करने का बहाना हैं, जो संविधान के अनुच्छेद 25 के तहत धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार का उल्लंघन करता है।
- He pointed out that **Section 3C of the new law allows any encroacher to raise a dispute, which will then be investigated by a government officer or government agent, without any time limit or fixed procedure. A dispute on even a small part of the land can result in the entire property losing its Waqf status.**
उन्होंने बताया कि नए कानून की धारा 3C किसी भी कब्ज़ाधारी को विवाद उठाने की अनुमति देती है, जिसकी जांच एक सरकारी अधिकारी या सरकारी एजेंट द्वारा की जाएगी, और इसमें कोई समयसीमा या निश्चित प्रक्रिया नहीं है। भूमि के छोटे से हिस्से पर विवाद होने से भी पूरी संपत्ति का वक्फ दर्जा समाप्त हो सकता है।
- This would mean that schools, hospitals, burial grounds, or community centers operating on Waqf land would have to **shut down immediately**. There are no safeguards against



demolition, and the government can create **irreversible third-party rights** during the inquiry.

इसका मतलब होगा कि वक्फ संपत्ति पर संचालित स्कूल, अस्पताल, कब्रिस्तान या सामुदायिक केंद्रों को तत्काल बंद करना होगा। तोड़फोड़ के खिलाफ कोई सुरक्षा नहीं है, और सरकार जांच के दौरान अपरिवर्तनीय तृतीय-पक्ष अधिकार बना सकती है।

- Mr. Sibal also criticized the **inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf boards**, arguing that **Hindu and Sikh religious bodies do not allow outsiders in the management of their temples or gurdwaras**.

श्री सिब्बल ने वक्फ बोर्डों में गैर-मुस्लिमों को शामिल करने की आलोचना की, यह कहते हुए कि हिंदू और सिख धार्मिक संस्थाएं अपने मंदिरों या गुरुद्वारों के प्रबंधन में अन्य धर्मों के लोगों को शामिल नहीं करतीं।

- He also raised the issue of **Section 3D**, under which any Waqf property that is declared a **protected monument** under the **Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904** or the **1958 Act**, would **lose its Waqf identity**.

उन्होंने धारा 3D का भी उल्लेख किया, जिसके तहत यदि किसी वक्फ संपत्ति को प्राचीन स्मारक संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1904 या 1958 अधिनियम के तहत संरक्षित स्मारक घोषित कर दिया जाए, तो वह वक्फ संपत्ति नहीं मानी जाएगी।

- **Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi** said that applying these monument laws to Waqf lands could undermine their protection under the **Places of Worship Act, 1991**.

वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता ए.एम. सिंघवी ने कहा कि इन स्मारक कानूनों को वक्फ भूमि पर लागू करने से पूजा स्थलों अधिनियम, 1991 के तहत उन्हें मिलने वाली संरक्षा कमजोर हो सकती है।

- Mr. Singhvi added that **around 4 lakh out of 8 lakh Waqfs in India are unregistered Waqfs-by-user**, which have been **excluded** from the court's protection under the **2025 Act**. Many such Waqfs have **no documentation**, though they have been in **religious use for centuries**.

श्री सिंघवी ने कहा कि भारत में लगभग 8 लाख वक्फ में से 4 लाख वक्फ ऐसे हैं जो उपयोग के आधार पर बिना पंजीकरण के वक्फ हैं, जिन्हें 2025 अधिनियम के तहत अदालत की सुरक्षा से वंचित कर दिया गया है। इनमें से कई वक्फ के पास कोई दस्तावेज नहीं हैं, लेकिन वे सदियों से धार्मिक उपयोग में हैं।

- He also alleged that the government's claim of a **116% rise** in Waqf properties from **2013 to 2024** was being used to **influence the court**.

उन्होंने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि सरकार का 2013 से 2024 के बीच वक्फ संपत्तियों में 116% की वृद्धि का दावा अदालत को प्रभावित करने के लिए किया गया है।

- The **Centre** is expected to present its **counter-arguments** in the next hearing. **केंद्र सरकार** अगली सुनवाई में अपने जवाबी तर्क पेश करेगी।



Pakistan govt. promotes Army chief General Munir to Field Marshal for 'defeating enemy'

GS Paper II: India-Pakistan

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government on Tuesday decided to promote Army chief General Asim Munir to the rank of Field Marshal for his role in the recent conflict with India, making him the second top military officer in the country's history to be elevated to the position.

The decision to promote Gen. Munir was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to an official statement.

Gen. Munir is the first Army General since General Ayub Khan to be elevated to the highest military rank in Pakistan.

General Khan was conferred the rank of Field Marshal in 1959.

"The Government of Pakistan has approved the



Highest rank: Asim Munir coordinated the war strategy and efforts of the armed forces in a comprehensive manner, says the PMO. AFP

promotion of Gen Asim Munir (Nishan-e-Imtiaz Military) to the rank of Field Marshal for ensuring the security of the country and defeating the enemy based on the high strategy and courageous leadership," the Prime Minister's office said.

Gen. Munir's promotion to the largely ceremonial

rank came over a week-and-a-half after the Indian and Pakistani militaries reached an understanding on cessation of military actions after four days of intense hostilities.

Clashes with India

The Indian military has been maintaining that Pakistan pleaded for stopping

the military actions after India hit eight military installations in Pakistan on early May 10 in response to Pakistan's attempts to target Indian military bases.

The PMO said in the statement that Gen. Munir led the Army "with exemplary courage and determination and coordinated the war strategy and efforts of the armed forces in a comprehensive manner".

In recognition of his "outstanding" military leadership, the Cabinet approved the Prime Minister's proposal to promote Gen. Munir to the rank of Field Marshal, the statement said.

The statement added that Prime Minister Shehbaz met President Asif Ali Zardari and took him into confidence regarding this decision.

It also said the govern-

ment unanimously decided to continue the services of Air Chief Marshal Zahar Ahmed Babar Sidhu after his term ends.

"This is not a personal achievement, but a tribute to the armed forces and the people of Pakistan," Gen. Munir said in a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

He extended thanks to the Pakistan's President, Prime Minister, and the federal cabinet for their trust in him, emphasising that the honour is a national trust that demands the highest sacrifice.

General Munir, who headed both powerful spy agencies - the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Military Intelligence (MI) - assumed charge as the Army chief in November 2022.

Pakistan Govt. promotes Army chief General Munir to Field Marshal for 'defeating enemy'

भारत के खिलाफ 'शत्रु को हराने' पर पाकिस्तान सरकार ने सेना प्रमुख जनरल मुनीर को फील्ड मार्शल के पद पर पदोन्नत किया

• The Pakistan government on Tuesday decided to promote Army chief General Asim Munir to the rank of Field Marshal for his role in the recent conflict with India, **making him the second top military officer in the country's history to be elevated to the position.**

• पाकिस्तान सरकार ने मंगलवार को जनरल असीम मुनीर को हाल ही में भारत के साथ



संघर्ष में उनकी भूमिका के लिए फील्ड मार्शल के पद पर पदोन्नत करने का निर्णय लिया, जिससे वे देश के इतिहास में इस पद तक पहुंचने वाले दूसरे शीर्ष सैन्य अधिकारी बन गए।

- The decision to promote Gen. Munir was taken at a **Cabinet meeting** chaired by **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif**, according to an official statement.
- आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, यह निर्णय प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज़ शरीफ की अध्यक्षता में हुई कैबिनेट बैठक में लिया गया।
- Gen. Munir is the **first Army General since General Ayub Khan** to be elevated to the highest military rank in Pakistan.
- जनरल मुनीर जनरल अयूब खान के बाद पहले सेना प्रमुख हैं जिन्हें पाकिस्तान में सर्वोच्च सैन्य पद पर पदोन्नत किया गया है।
- General Khan was conferred the rank of **Field Marshal in 1959**.
- जनरल अयूब खान को 1959 में फील्ड मार्शल का दर्जा दिया गया था।
- “The Government of Pakistan has approved the promotion of Gen Asim Munir (**Nishan-e-Imtiaz Military**) to the rank of **Field Marshal** for ensuring the **security** of the country and **defeating the enemy** based on the high strategy and courageous leadership,” the Prime Minister’s office said.
- प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय ने कहा, “पाकिस्तान सरकार ने देश की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने और दुश्मन को हराने के लिए उच्च रणनीति और साहसी नेतृत्व के आधार पर जनरल असीम मुनीर (निशान-ए-इम्तियाज़ मिलिट्री) को फील्ड मार्शल के पद पर पदोन्नत करने को मंजूरी दी है।”
- Gen. Munir’s promotion to the **largely ceremonial rank** came over a **week-and-half** after the Indian and Pakistani militaries reached an understanding on **cessation of military actions** after **four days of intense hostilities**.
- जनरल मुनीर की यह प्रमुखतः औपचारिक पद पर पदोन्नति साढ़े एक हफ्ते बाद आई जब भारत और पाकिस्तान की सेनाओं ने चार दिनों की तीव्र झड़पों के बाद सैन्य कार्रवाई बंद करने पर सहमति बनाई।

Clashes with India

भारत के साथ संघर्ष

- The **Indian military** has been maintaining that **Pakistan pleaded** for stopping the military actions after **India hit eight military installations** in Pakistan on early **May 10** in response to Pakistan’s attempts to target Indian military bases.
- भारतीय सेना का कहना है कि पाकिस्तान ने भारतीय सैन्य ठिकानों को निशाना बनाने की कोशिशों के बाद जब भारत ने 10 मई की सुबह पाकिस्तान के आठ सैन्य ठिकानों पर हमला किया, तो पाकिस्तान ने सैन्य कार्रवाई रोकने की गुहार लगाई।



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- The PMO said in the statement that Gen. Munir led the Army “with **exemplary courage** and **determination** and coordinated the **war strategy** and efforts of the armed forces in a **comprehensive manner**”.
- प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय ने बयान में कहा कि जनरल मुनीर ने **उदाहरणात्मक साहस** और **दृढ़ संकल्प** के साथ सेना का नेतृत्व किया और **समग्र तरीके से** सशस्त्र बलों की **युद्ध रणनीति** और प्रयासों का समन्वय किया।
- In recognition of his “**outstanding**” **military leadership**, the Cabinet approved the Prime Minister’s proposal to promote Gen. Munir to the rank of **Field Marshal**, the statement said.
- उनके “**उत्कृष्ट**” **सैन्य नेतृत्व** की मान्यता में कैबिनेट ने जनरल मुनीर को **फील्ड मार्शल** के पद पर पदोन्नत करने के प्रधानमंत्री के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी, बयान में कहा गया।
- The statement added that **Prime Minister Shehbaz** met **President Asif Ali Zardari** and took him into confidence regarding this decision.
- बयान में कहा गया कि **प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज़** ने **राष्ट्रपति आसिफ अली ज़रदारी** से मुलाकात की और इस निर्णय पर उन्हें विश्वास में लिया।
- It also said the **government unanimously decided to continue the services of Air Chief Marshal Zahar Ahmed Babar Sidhu** after his term ends.
- इसमें यह भी कहा गया कि सरकार ने सर्वसम्मति से निर्णय लिया कि **एयर चीफ मार्शल ज़हिर अहमद बाबर सिद्दू** की सेवाएं **कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद भी जारी** रहेंगी।
- “This is not a **personal achievement**, but a **tribute to the armed forces and the people of Pakistan**,” Gen. Munir said in a statement released by the **Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)**.
- जनरल मुनीर ने **इंटर-सर्विसेज पब्लिक रिलेशंस (ISPR)** द्वारा जारी एक बयान में कहा, “यह कोई **व्यक्तिगत उपलब्धि** नहीं है, बल्कि यह **पाकिस्तान की सशस्त्र सेनाओं और जनता को समर्पित** है।”
- He extended thanks to the **Pakistan’s President, Prime Minister, and the federal cabinet** for their trust in him, emphasising that the honour is a **national trust** that demands the **highest sacrifice**.
- उन्होंने **पाकिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति, प्रधानमंत्री और संघीय कैबिनेट** का उन पर विश्वास जताने के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया और कहा कि यह **सम्मान राष्ट्रीय विश्वास** है जो **सर्वोच्च बलिदान** की मांग करता है।
- General Munir, who headed both powerful spy agencies - the **Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)** and the **Military Intelligence (MI)** - assumed charge as the **Army chief in November 2022**.
- जनरल मुनीर, जिन्होंने **इंटर-सर्विसेज इंटेलिजेंस (ISI)** और **मिलिट्री इंटेलिजेंस (MI)** जैसे दोनों प्रमुख खुफिया एजेंसियों का नेतृत्व किया था, ने **नवंबर 2022** में **सेना प्रमुख** का कार्यभार संभाला था।



Kerala moves top court against Waqf Act amendments

GS Paper II: FR 25 to 28

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kerala has moved the Supreme Court to protect the fundamental right of "quite a large percentage of Muslims" in the State to manage their own religious affairs while challenging the provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act of 2025.

The State said the Muslim population of Kerala was wary of the consequences of the 2025 Act on their Waqfs and Waqf properties.

"They have got genuine apprehension that implementation of the present amendment Act would deny them their fundamental rights under the Constitution including Article 25; and that the implementation would negate or alter the nature and status of Waqf and Waqf properties. The State feels that the apprehension of the Muslim minority in Kerala that they are discriminated against in the matter of right to manage religious affairs, the waqf and waqf properties is genuine," advocate C.K. Sasi submitted.

The State said it found many of the provisions of the amendment Act "highly unjust and their constitutional validity doubtful".

Kerala said it wanted to intervene in the Waqf challenge and sought its day in court against the 2025 Act.

"The State is very much interested in the outcome of the case. The State has



A protest rally against the Waqf Act in Kozhikode. K. RAGESH

got valid legal and constitutional submissions to be made before this court," the application said.

Kerala argued that once a property becomes Waqf, it would always be a Waqf. "Nobody, including the Waqf or his heirs, can alter the nature of the properties involved in a Waqf after its creation. The new provision would definitely make the status of the existing waqf uncertain/or alter the nature of Waqf," the State noted.

"The main grievance put forth by the Kerala State Waqf Board is that the Joint Parliamentary Committee did not visit the State... The Kerala Waqf Board is one of the best working Boards in the country as reported by the JPC in 2013," A. Haseeb, the Chief Executive Officer (in-charge) of the State's Waqf Board, noted.

Over a 100 petitions were initially filed leading the SC to convert the case into a *suo motu* one.

Kerala moves top court against Waqf Act amendments

वक्फ अधिनियम संशोधनों के खिलाफ केरल ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का रुख किया

- Kerala has approached the Supreme Court to safeguard the fundamental rights of a "large percentage of Muslims" in the State to manage their own religious affairs, while challenging certain provisions of the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**.
- The State expressed concern that the Muslim population of Kerala fears the implications of the 2025 Act on their **Waqfs and Waqf properties**.

केरल ने राज्य में "काफी बड़ी संख्या में मुसलमानों" के अपने धार्मिक मामलों का प्रबंधन करने के मौलिक अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का रुख किया है और **2025 के वक्फ (संशोधन) अधिनियम** की कुछ धाराओं को चुनौती दी है।

राज्य ने यह चिंता जताई कि केरल की मुस्लिम आबादी को इस 2025 अधिनियम के उनके वक्फ और वक्फ संपत्तियों पर प्रभाव को लेकर भय है।

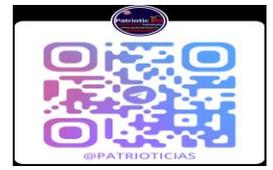
- According to the State, there is a **genuine apprehension** that implementation of the new law would violate constitutional protections, especially those under **Article 25**, and potentially alter the **status and nature of existing Waqf properties**.

Advocate **C.K. Sasi** submitted that these fears of **discrimination** against the Muslim community in religious administration are legitimate.

राज्य के अनुसार, यह वास्तविक आशंका है कि नए कानून का कार्यान्वयन संविधान विशेषकर **अनुच्छेद 25** के तहत मिलने वाले **संवैधानिक संरक्षणों** का उल्लंघन करेगा और मौजूदा **वक्फ संपत्तियों की स्थिति और प्रकृति** को बदल सकता है।



- अधिवक्ता सी. के. ससी ने कहा कि धार्मिक प्रशासन के अधिकारों में मुस्लिम समुदाय के साथ भेदभाव की आशंकाएं वाजिब हैं।
- The State argued that several provisions of the amended Act are **unjust** and their **constitutional validity** is in doubt.
- Kerala formally requested to be allowed to intervene in the ongoing case, stating that it has **important legal and constitutional arguments** to present before the Court.
- राज्य ने यह तर्क दिया कि संशोधित अधिनियम की कई धाराएं **अन्यायपूर्ण** हैं और उनकी **संवैधानिक वैधता** संदेह में है।
- केरल ने इस चल रहे मामले में हस्तक्षेप करने की अनुमति मांगी है, यह कहते हुए कि उसके पास **महत्वपूर्ण कानूनी और संवैधानिक तर्क** हैं जिन्हें वह अदालत में प्रस्तुत करना चाहता है।
- The State emphasized that once a property is declared as **Waqf**, it remains **Waqf forever**. Neither the **Waqif (creator of the waqf)** nor their **heirs** can change the character of such property.
- Kerala raised concerns that the **new amendments** could lead to the **uncertainty or alteration** of existing **Waqf status**.
- राज्य ने यह ज़ोर दिया कि एक बार किसी संपत्ति को **वक्फ** घोषित कर दिया जाए, तो वह हमेशा **वक्फ** ही रहती है।
- न तो **वक्फदाता** और न ही उनके **उत्तराधिकारी** उस संपत्ति की प्रकृति को बदल सकते हैं।
- केरल ने यह चिंता जताई कि **नए संशोधन** मौजूदा **वक्फ की स्थिति** को **अनिश्चित** बना सकते हैं या उसमें **परिवर्तन** कर सकते हैं।
- A key grievance of the **Kerala State Waqf Board** was that the **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** did not even visit the State before proposing the amendments.
- **A. Haseeb**, the **CEO (in-charge)** of the Waqf Board, stated that the **Kerala Waqf Board** was among the **best-performing boards** in the country, as acknowledged by the **JPC in 2013**.
- **केरल राज्य वक्फ बोर्ड** की एक मुख्य शिकायत यह थी कि **संयुक्त संसदीय समिति (JPC)** ने संशोधन प्रस्तावों से पहले राज्य का दौरा तक नहीं किया।
- वक्फ बोर्ड के **कार्यवाहक मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी ए. हसीब** ने कहा कि **2013 में JPC** द्वारा रिपोर्ट में केरल वक्फ बोर्ड को देश के **सर्वश्रेष्ठ कार्यशील बोर्डों** में से एक माना गया था।
- Initially, more than **100 petitions** were filed in court challenging the amendments, prompting the **Supreme Court** to convert the matter into a **suo motu** case.
- प्रारंभ में, संशोधनों को चुनौती देने वाली **100 से अधिक याचिकाएं** दायर की गई थीं, जिसके बाद **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने इस मामले को **स्वतः संज्ञान (suo motu)** में बदल दिया।



HC seeks MP's view in defamation case

GS Paper II: Defamation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the response of Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on a defamation plea filed against him by Bharatiya Janata Party leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

The court issued the direction on a revision petition filed by Mr. Chandrasekhar challenging a local court's order that dismissed his criminal defamation complaint against Mr. Tharoor.

"Issue notice to the respondent. Let the trial court record in digital form with bookmarking be requisitioned," the court said, adding that the "matter required consideration".

Mr. Chandrasekhar filed

the complaint last September. He alleged that Mr. Tharoor defamed him by making false statements during an interview to a news channel, wherein he accused the **BJP leader of bribing voters in Thiruvananthapuram constituency during the Lok Sabha election in 2024.**

The BJP leader contended that Mr. Tharoor made the allegations "with the intent to lower his reputation and to impact the result of the last general elections while knowing fully well that the statements were false". His counsel argued that the trial court overlooked evidence while ruling that no case of defamation was established.

The High Court is scheduled to hear the case again on September 16.

"requires consideration."

अदालत ने कहा, "प्रतिवादी को नोटिस जारी किया जाए। निचली अदालत का रिकॉर्ड बुकमार्किंग सहित डिजिटल रूप में मंगवाया जाए," और यह भी कहा कि यह मामला "विचार योग्य है।"

- Chandrasekhar had filed the complaint in **September 2024**, accusing Tharoor of making **false statements** during an **interview to a news channel**, where he alleged that the **BJP leader bribed voters** in the **Thiruvananthapuram constituency** during the **2024 Lok Sabha elections**.

सितंबर 2024 में चंद्रशेखर ने यह शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी, जिसमें उन्होंने थरूर पर एक न्यूज़ चैनल को दिए इंटरव्यू में झूठे बयान देने का आरोप लगाया था, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 के दौरान तिरुवनंतपुरम निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में भाजपा नेता ने मतदाताओं को रिश्वत दी।

HC seeks MP's view in defamation case

मानहानि मामले में हाई कोर्ट ने

सांसद से जवाब मांगा

- The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked for a response from Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on a defamation plea filed against him by BJP leader **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**.
- The court passed this direction while hearing a revision petition submitted by Chandrasekhar, who challenged a lower court's order that had dismissed his criminal defamation complaint against Tharoor.

• दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को कांग्रेस नेता शशि थरूर से भाजपा नेता राजीव चंद्रशेखर द्वारा दायर मानहानि याचिका पर जवाब मांगा।

• यह निर्देश अदालत ने चंद्रशेखर द्वारा दायर पुनरीक्षण याचिका की सुनवाई करते हुए दिया, जिसमें उन्होंने निचली अदालत के उस आदेश को चुनौती दी थी जिसमें थरूर के खिलाफ आपराधिक मानहानि की शिकायत को खारिज कर दिया गया था।

• The court said, "**Issue notice to the respondent. Let the trial court record be summoned in digital form with bookmarking,**" adding that the matter



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- According to Chandrasekhar, the statements were made “**knowingly**” and with the “**intent to damage his reputation**” and “**influence the election results**”.
- His lawyer also argued that the **trial court ignored key evidence** and wrongfully concluded that **no defamation case was made out**.
चंद्रशेखर का कहना था कि ये बयान जानबूझकर दिए गए थे ताकि उनकी छवि को नुकसान पहुंचे और चुनाव परिणामों को प्रभावित किया जा सके।
- उनके वकील ने यह भी तर्क दिया कि **निचली अदालत ने महत्वपूर्ण साक्ष्यों की अनदेखी की और गलत रूप से यह निष्कर्ष निकाला कि मानहानि का मामला नहीं बनता।**
- The matter will now be heard again by the **Delhi High Court on September 16, 2025**.
अब इस मामले की अगली सुनवाई दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट में 16 सितंबर 2025 को होगी।

SC makes three years' legal practice mandatory to apply for judicial service

GS Paper II: Judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday restored a minimum three years of legal practice as a mandatory condition to apply for entry-level judicial service.

“All the High Courts and the State governments in the country shall amend the relevant service rules to the effect that candidates desirous of appearing in the examination for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) must have practised for a minimum period of three years to be eligible for the said examination,” a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai directed in a

Awareness

Infusion of fresh law graduates with zero litigation experience was found to be detrimental, says CJI

judgment. The court concluded that infusion of fresh law graduates with zero experience in litigation was found to be detrimental.

“From the affidavits of almost all the High Courts, it is seen that for the last 20 years during which the recruitment of fresh law graduates as judicial officers without a single day of practice at the Bar has been permitted, the said endeavour has not been a

successful experience. The appointment of such fresh law graduates has led to many problems,” Chief Justice Gavai, who authored the judgment, observed.

Neither knowledge based on law books nor pre-service training could be an adequate substitute to the first-hand experience, he observed.

The requirement for minimum years of practice would not be applicable in cases in which a High Court has already initiated the selection process for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) prior to the date of this judgment.

SETBACK TO ASPIRANTS

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SC makes three years' legal practice mandatory to apply for judicial service

न्यायिक सेवा के लिए आवेदन में तीन वर्षों की कानूनी प्रैक्टिस अनिवार्य:
सुप्रीम कोर्ट

The Supreme Court has ruled that candidates must now have a minimum of three years of legal practice before they can apply for judicial service examinations across the country. This decision was taken with the aim of improving the quality of judges entering the subordinate judiciary. The Court stated that practical experience in the legal field is essential and cannot be substituted by academic qualifications alone.

- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यह फैसला सुनाया है कि अब उम्मीदवारों को देशभर में न्यायिक सेवा परीक्षाओं में आवेदन करने से पहले कम से कम तीन वर्षों की कानूनी प्रैक्टिस करनी होगी। यह निर्णय अधीनस्थ न्यायपालिका में प्रवेश करने वाले न्यायाधीशों की गुणवत्ता को सुधारने के उद्देश्य से लिया गया है। अदालत ने कहा कि केवल शैक्षणिक योग्यताएं पर्याप्त नहीं हैं, कानूनी क्षेत्र में व्यावहारिक अनुभव आवश्यक है।
- This guideline was issued by a **Constitution Bench** led by **Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul**, and it applies **uniformly** across all **States and Union Territories**. The Court emphasized that this rule will now be a **nationwide standard**, and states cannot relax or bypass it through local provisions or exceptions.
- यह निर्देश न्यायमूर्ति संजय किशन कौल की अध्यक्षता वाली संवैधानिक पीठ द्वारा जारी किया गया था, और यह सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में समान रूप से लागू होगा। अदालत ने ज़ोर देकर कहा कि अब यह नियम देशव्यापी मानक होगा और राज्य इसे स्थानीय नियमों या अपवादों के जरिए दरकिनार नहीं कर सकते।
- The decision came in response to **multiple petitions** filed before the Court, which challenged **existing eligibility norms** for judicial recruitment in various states. The petitioners argued that fresh law graduates were being allowed to appear for judicial exams without any real-world experience, which affects the quality and competence of judges.
- यह निर्णय अदालत में दायर कई याचिकाओं के जवाब में आया, जिनमें विभिन्न राज्यों में न्यायिक भर्ती की वर्तमान पात्रता शर्तों को चुनौती दी गई थी। याचिकाकर्ताओं ने तर्क दिया था कि बिना किसी वास्तविक अनुभव के नए कानून स्नातकों को न्यायिक परीक्षाओं में बैठने की अनुमति दी जा रही थी, जिससे न्यायाधीशों की गुणवत्ता और दक्षता प्रभावित हो रही है।
- The Court clarified that the **three-year legal practice rule** will come into effect **prospectively**, meaning it will not impact candidates already in the process of recruitment or those who have already cleared earlier stages. This ruling, being a



landmark decision, is expected to strengthen the **judicial system** from the ground level by ensuring that those who join the bench are better prepared for the complexities of the legal system.

- अदालत ने स्पष्ट किया कि **तीन वर्षों की कानूनी प्रैक्टिस का यह नियम भविष्य के लिए लागू होगा**, यानी यह उन उम्मीदवारों पर लागू नहीं होगा जो पहले से ही भर्ती प्रक्रिया में हैं या जिन्होंने पहले के चरणों को पार कर लिया है। यह फैसला एक **ऐतिहासिक निर्णय** माना जा रहा है, जो **न्यायिक प्रणाली को जमीनी स्तर से सशक्त बनाएगा** और यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि न्यायिक पद पर नियुक्त होने वाले लोग **कानूनी प्रणाली की जटिलताओं के लिए बेहतर ढंग से तैयार हों**।

WHO adopts Pandemic Agreement to strengthen global health preparedness

GS Paper II: Internal Agreements

Press Trust of India

GENEVA

In a move to bolster global collaboration and ensure a stronger and more equitable response to future pandemics, the World Health Organization (WHO) member states on Tuesday unanimously adopted the world's first Pandemic Agreement, marking the culmination of over three years of negotiations initiated in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Governments adopted the WHO Pandemic Agreement in a plenary session of the World Health Assembly, the global health organisation's peak decision-making body.

'World is safer today'

The adoption followed Monday's approval of the Agreement by vote (124 in favour, 0 objections, 11 abstentions) in Committee by member state delegations, the WHO said in a press re-



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

lease. "The world is safer today thanks to the leadership, collaboration and commitment of our Member States to adopt the historic WHO Pandemic Agreement," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"The Agreement is a victory for public health, science and multilateral action. It will ensure we, collectively, can better protect the world from future pandemic threats. It is also a recognition by the international community that our

citizens, societies and economies must not be left vulnerable to again suffer losses like those endured during COVID-19," he said.

The landmark decision by the 78th World Health Assembly is the culmination of more than three years of intensive negotiations launched by governments in response to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and driven by the goal of making the world safer from – and more equitable in response to – future pandemics, the release said.

The agreement sets out the principles, approaches and tools for better international coordination across a range of areas, in order to strengthen the global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. This includes through the equitable and timely access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

WHO adopts Pandemic Agreement to strengthen global health preparedness

वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य तैयारी

को मजबूत करने के लिए

WHO ने महामारी

समझौते को अपनाया

In a historic move to enhance global cooperation and ensure a strong and fair response to future

pandemics, the World Health Organization

(WHO) member states on Tuesday

unanimously adopted

the world's first-ever Pandemic Agreement.

This decision is the result of more than three



years of negotiations that began in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

- भविष्य की महामारियों के लिए मजबूत और न्यायपूर्ण प्रतिक्रिया सुनिश्चित करने और वैश्विक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) के सदस्य देशों ने मंगलवार को सर्वसम्मति से दुनिया का पहला महामारी समझौता अपनाया।
- यह निर्णय COVID-19 संकट के बाद शुरू हुई तीन वर्षों से अधिक की बातचीत का परिणाम है।
- The agreement was formally adopted during a **plenary session** of the **World Health Assembly**, which is WHO's **highest decision-making body**. According to a WHO press release, the adoption followed a **committee vote on Monday** where **124 countries voted in favor, none opposed, and 11 abstained**.
- यह समझौता विश्व स्वास्थ्य सभा, जो WHO की शीर्ष निर्णय लेने वाली संस्था है, के पूर्ण सत्र के दौरान औपचारिक रूप से अपनाया गया।
- WHO की एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, यह निर्णय सोमवार को हुए समिति के मतदान के बाद आया, जिसमें 124 देशों ने पक्ष में मतदान किया, किसी ने विरोध नहीं किया, और 11 देशों ने मतदान से दूरी बनाई।
- **WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** said, “The world is **safer today** because of the **leadership, cooperation, and dedication** shown by our member states in adopting this historic agreement.”
- He further said that the agreement is a **victory for public health, science, and multilateral cooperation**, and it will help protect the world from **future pandemic threats**.
- It also reflects the understanding of the **international community that our citizens, societies, and economies** must never again face the kind of losses seen during **COVID-19**.
- **WHO के महानिदेशक टेड्रोस अधानोम घेब्रेयेसस** ने कहा, “हमारे सदस्य देशों द्वारा दिखाए गए नेतृत्व, सहयोग और समर्पण के कारण दुनिया आज ज्यादा सुरक्षित है।”
- उन्होंने आगे कहा कि यह समझौता सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य, विज्ञान और बहुपक्षीय सहयोग की जीत है और यह हमें भविष्य की महामारी की चुनौतियों से बचाने में मदद करेगा।
- यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय द्वारा यह समझने का प्रतीक भी है कि हमारे नागरिकों, समाजों और अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को **COVID-19** जैसी हानियों का फिर से सामना नहीं करना चाहिए।
- This **landmark decision, taken by the 78th World Health Assembly**, marks a major step in global pandemic preparedness.
- The agreement sets out various **principles, strategies, and tools** to improve **international coordination** in key areas.
- Its main aim is to build a **stronger global health system** that is capable of better **pandemic prevention, preparation, and response**.
- **78वीं विश्व स्वास्थ्य सभा** द्वारा लिया गया यह ऐतिहासिक निर्णय वैश्विक महामारी तैयारी की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।



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- यह समझौता प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में अंतरराष्ट्रीय समन्वय को बेहतर बनाने के लिए विभिन्न सिद्धांतों, रणनीतियों और उपकरणों को निर्धारित करता है।
- इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य एक मजबूत वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली का निर्माण करना है जो महामारी की रोकथाम, तैयारी और प्रतिक्रिया में सक्षम हो।
- It also promises **equitable and timely access** to essential tools such as **vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics**, ensuring that no country or community is left behind when a pandemic strikes.
- यह समझौता यह भी सुनिश्चित करता है कि आवश्यक टीकों, उपचारों और परीक्षण उपकरणों तक समान और समय पर पहुंच हो, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि जब महामारी आए, तो कोई भी देश या समुदाय पीछे न छूटे।

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3-year rule: a setback to judiciary aspirants

The Supreme Court's hope is that three years' of practice may help future judges in addressing courtroom decorum, complex procedural cases and in understanding the perspectives of all stakeholders of the judicial system

SS Paper II, Judiciary

LETTER & SPIRIT

Faizan Mustafa
Shrey Shalin

There has been growing anxiety for months around the anticipation of a verdict from the Supreme Court (SC) that would bring back a rule wherein an advocate would need three years of practice in order to become eligible to write the judicial services examinations. And now, on May 20, a three-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavi, which also included Justices A.G. Masih and K.V. Chandran, has made practical experience of three years a pre-requisite to appear for the subordinate judicial services exam. The judgment has substantiated the hypothesis that the SC has been consistently inconsistent on this issue. No empirical evidence was presented to the court about the 'lower quality' of fresh graduates (para 57), and neither was the number of fresh graduates who qualified for judicial services within a year of their graduation given in the judgment. The court simply went back to the three-year rule because majority of the High Courts advocated for it.

History of the rule

This matter has taken multiple twists since it was addressed in the 14th Law Commission of India (LCI) report in 1958, chaired by M.C. Setalvad. The Commission contended that persons with experience ranging from three to five years shall be eligible to compete in the examinations for lower subordinate judge in every State. This exam was to have questions of practical aspect and would not depend upon rote memorisation alone. Ability to draft pleadings, appreciate evidence and write judgments were also to be tested. Unfortunately, current question papers of most judicial services exams continue to test rote memory only.

For higher judiciary, an All India Judicial Services (AIJS), a centralised recruitment system for judges, was proposed. The Commission report was to the opinion that it was necessary to tap brilliant university graduates at the right time to judicial services. Therefore, the AIJS required no practical experience. Anyone holding a law degree, ranging from 21-25 years of age would be eligible, and practical experience was to be developed through a 'carefully devised scheme of training' which includes practical working in the courts. The exam was to be conducted at the National level. That is, the report contended for two different sets of eligibility criteria for recruitment at the State-level (lower subordinate judge exams) and at the national level (AIJS).

In the *All India Judges' Association versus Union of India, 1992*, the question of 'uniformity' in service conditions of judges across India was taken up. The judgment endorsed the LCI Report and its provisions on AIJS including the recommendation to allow fresh law graduates to compete in the exam. The top court issued directions to the Union of India to set up the AIJS. However, a review petition of the *Judges' Association* case, filed in 1993, held that a minimum legal practice of three years was essential to qualify for the subordinate judicial services examination.

The court in *All India Judges' Assn. (II) versus Union of India, (1993)* held 'in most of the States, the minimum qualifications for being eligible to the post of the Civil



GETTY IMAGES

Judge-cum-Magistrate First Class/Magistrate is minimum three years' practice as a lawyer in addition to the degree in law. In some States, however, the requirement of practice is altogether dispensed with and judicial officers are recruited with only a degree in law to their credit. The recruitment of raw graduates as judicial officers without any training or background of lawyering has not proved to be a successful experiment. Considering the fact that from the first day of his assuming office, the Judge has to decide, among others, questions of life, liberty, property and reputation of the litigants, to induct graduates fresh from the Universities to occupy seats of such vital powers is neither prudent nor desirable."

The court went on to observe, "the experience as a lawyer is, therefore, essential to enable the Judge to discharge his duties and functions efficiently..."

The court thus gave a strong order, "We, therefore, direct that all States shall take immediate steps to prescribe three years' practice as a lawyer as one of the essential qualifications for recruitment as the judicial officer at the lowest rung."

Attracting talent

The Justice Shetty Commission, set up in 1996, found that while almost all States had complied with the three-year rule, some States had gone beyond and prescribed more than three years as minimum qualification. The report also stated that advocates with 4-7 years of experience were getting selected only at the age of 27 to 30. Therefore, in the *All India Judges' Association versus Union of India (2002)*, the Supreme Court accepted the recommendation of the Shetty Commission that the three-year rule had failed to attract the best talent to judicial services, and scrapped the rule. "with the passage of time, experience has shown that the best talent which is available is not attracted to the Judicial Service. A bright young law graduate after 3 years of practice finds the Judicial Service not attractive enough. It has been recommended by the Shetty Commission after taking into consideration the views expressed before it by various authorities, that the need for an applicant to have been an Advocate for at least 3 years

should be done away with..."

Now, the Supreme Court has again gone back to the three year rule, as the crucial question of how to balance attracting the best talent along with the necessary skills is still valid.

For that one must understand ground realities. No one can deny that the best law students today are in National Law Universities. Most of these students get lucrative corporate placements with huge pay packages. Many of them also need to repay education loans as almost all law universities' five-year fee ranges between ₹12-15 lakh. Reputed private law schools charge even more, between ₹20-₹40 lakh.

The SC yet again hopes that three years' of practice may help future judges in addressing courtroom decorum, complex procedural cases and in understanding the perspectives of all stakeholders of the judicial system. Young candidates are said to lack maturity, empathy and patience. The reality is, however, that most candidates wishing to practice don't see judicial services as a career option, while those who wish to enter judicial services rarely see practice as a career option. Most States find it difficult to fill vacancies of the higher judicial services due to the poor performance of candidates in the written examinations. Recently, Rajasthan notified that not a single candidate was found suitable.

The fact of the matter is that the mandatory three-years of practice rule will significantly discourage brighter minds from joining the judicial services. Economically backward and SC/ST/OBC candidates would be the worst hit, as they cannot afford to wait. It becomes necessary for them to start earning. These candidates would be keen to write examinations to enter civil services, public sector undertakings (PSUs), or even join academia.

Various challenges

The Bar Council of India has encouraged senior advocates and firms to pay a minimum of ₹15,000 in rural areas and ₹20,000 in urban centres to junior lawyers. This bare minimum stipend is not enough for a law student having no connections in the field. Non-matriculants in Delhi are paid ₹20,371 a month for clerical work or supervisory work in scheduled employment. An unskilled

worker is paid ₹18,456 a month as per the minimum Wages Act. Only financially sound candidates would have the luxury to appear for judicial services if the three year condition is brought back.

Additionally, as per the India Justice Report, women account for 38% of the judges in district judiciary. Nine out of the top 10 candidates from the recently held Bihar judicial services exam were female candidates. Now, if the three-year rule is implemented, a number of these women, going through career breaks or maternity leaves, will suffer a setback.

Another problem is with regard to age. To appear for the civil services examinations, the minimum eligibility criteria is to be a final year student of a three-year degree programme. But for the judicial services examination, five-six years of education together with three years of experience would make them highly financially vulnerable as well as older compared to their counterparts in the civil services. This classification would neither be based on intelligible differentia nor achieve the rational object of attracting the best minds. Moreover, unlike the civil services, the judicial services exam in most States is not held at regular intervals. Even if a candidate has fulfilled the three year criteria, he/she has to wait for another few years for the exam to be advertised.

What can be done?

The solution is to catch young talent and enhance the training period to two years or more and use the best of academic and practical skills to enhance efficiency of the lower rung of the judiciary. Trainee officers may be required to serve as probationers to serving District and Sessions Judge or Justices of the High Court to enhance their understanding of the courtroom. For six months, they may be attached to senior lawyers as well. We must also reform the examination and come up with innovative questions. The examination should be based on scenario-based questions, and judgment writing should carry more weightage. Excluding fresh talent may do more harm than good to our judicial system.

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THE GIST

On May 20, a three-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavi, which also included Justices A.G. Masih and K.V. Chandran, has made practical experience of three years a pre-requisite to appear for the subordinate judicial services exam.

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3-year rule: a setback to judiciary aspirants



तीन साल का नियम: न्यायिक उम्मीदवारों के लिए एक setback

- The Supreme Court's hope is that **three years of practice may help future judges in addressing courtroom decorum, complex procedural cases, and in understanding the perspectives** of all stakeholders of the judicial system.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट की उम्मीद है कि तीन साल का अभ्यास भविष्य के न्यायाधीशों को कोर्टरूम के व्यवहार, जटिल प्रक्रियात्मक मामलों से निपटने और न्यायिक प्रणाली के सभी हितधारकों के दृष्टिकोण को समझने में मदद कर सकता है।
- There has been growing anxiety for months around the anticipation of a verdict from the Supreme Court (SC) that would bring back a rule wherein **an advocate would need three years of practice to become eligible to write the judicial services examinations**. And now, on **May 20**, a three-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai, which also included **Justices A.G. Masih and K.V. Chandran**, has made **practical experience of three years a pre-requisite to appear for the subordinate judicial services exam**.
कई महीनों से सुप्रीम कोर्ट (एससी) के एक फैसले के इंतजार में चिंता बढ़ रही थी, जिसमें एक नियम को वापस लाया जाएगा जिसके तहत एक अधिवक्ता को न्यायिक सेवा परीक्षा देने के लिए पात्र बनने के लिए **तीन साल का अभ्यास** आवश्यक होगा।
- और अब, **20 मई** को, भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) बी.आर. गवाई की अध्यक्षता में तीन-न्यायाधीशीय पीठ, जिसमें न्यायमूर्ति ए.जी. मसीह और के.वी. चंद्रन भी शामिल थे, ने अधीनस्थ न्यायिक सेवा परीक्षा में उपस्थित होने के लिए **तीन साल का व्यावहारिक अनुभव** आवश्यक कर दिया है।
- The judgment has substantiated the hypothesis that the SC has been consistently inconsistent on this issue.
- No empirical evidence was presented to the court about the 'lower quality' of fresh graduates (para 57), and neither was the number of fresh graduates who qualified for judicial services within a year of their graduation given in the judgment.
- The court simply went back to the **three-year rule** because the **majority of the High Courts advocated for it**.
फैसले ने इस बात की पुष्टि की कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट इस मुद्दे पर लगातार असंगत रही है।
- अदालत के समक्ष 'ताजगी से ग्रेजुएट हुए उम्मीदवारों की गुणवत्ता कम होने' का कोई अनुभवजन्य सबूत प्रस्तुत नहीं किया गया (धारा 57), और यह भी नहीं बताया गया कि कितने नए स्नातकों ने अपनी डिग्री के एक साल के भीतर न्यायिक सेवा के लिए क्वालीफाई किया।
- अदालत ने बस **तीन साल के नियम** पर वापस लौटना चुना क्योंकि अधिकांश उच्च न्यायालयों ने इसके पक्ष में तर्क दिया था।
- This matter has taken multiple twists since it was addressed in the **14th Law Commission of India (LCI) report in 1958**, chaired by M.C. Setalvad. The Commission contended that persons with experience ranging from **three to five years** shall be eligible to compete in the examinations for lower subordinate judge in every State.



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- This exam was to have questions of practical aspect and would not depend upon rote memorisation alone.
- Ability to draft pleadings, appreciate evidence, and write judgments were also to be tested.
- Unfortunately, current question papers of most judicial services exams continue to test rote memory only.

यह मामला कई बार बदल चुका है जब से इसे 1958 के 14वें भारतीय विधि आयोग (LCI) रिपोर्ट में संबोधित किया गया था, जिसकी अध्यक्षता एम.सी. सेटलवाड ने की थी। आयोग ने कहा था कि जिनके पास तीन से पांच साल का अनुभव है, वे हर राज्य में निचले अधीनस्थ न्यायाधीश की परीक्षा में शामिल हो सकते हैं। इस परीक्षा में व्यावहारिक पहलुओं पर सवाल होंगे और यह केवल याददाश्त पर निर्भर नहीं होगी। वाद-विवाद तैयार करने, सबूतों को समझने और फैसले लिखने की क्षमता भी परखी जानी थी। दुर्भाग्यवश, अधिकांश न्यायिक सेवा परीक्षाओं के वर्तमान प्रश्न पत्र अब भी केवल रट लगाने पर आधारित हैं।

- For higher judiciary, an **All India Judicial Services (AIJS)**, a centralised recruitment system for judges, was proposed.
- The Commission report was of the opinion that it was necessary to tap brilliant university graduates at the right time for judicial services.
- Therefore, the AIJS required no practical experience.
- Anyone holding a law degree, ranging from **21-25 years of age** would be eligible, and practical experience was to be developed through a 'carefully devised scheme of training' which includes practical working in the courts.
- The exam was to be conducted at the national level.

उच्च न्यायपालिका के लिए, एक **ऑल इंडिया न्यायिक सेवा (AIJS)**, जो न्यायाधीशों के लिए एक केंद्रीकृत भर्ती प्रणाली है, प्रस्तावित की गई थी। आयोग की रिपोर्ट का मानना था कि न्यायिक सेवाओं के लिए उत्कृष्ट विश्वविद्यालय स्नातकों को सही समय पर लेना जरूरी है। इसलिए, AIJS के लिए व्यावहारिक अनुभव की आवश्यकता नहीं थी। किसी भी व्यक्ति के पास कानून की डिग्री हो और वह **21-25 वर्ष** के बीच हो, वह पात्र होगा, और व्यावहारिक अनुभव 'ध्यान से बनाए गए प्रशिक्षण योजना' के तहत विकसित किया जाना था, जिसमें कोर्ट में व्यावहारिक काम भी शामिल था। परीक्षा राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर आयोजित की जानी थी।

- The report contended for two different sets of eligibility criteria for recruitment at the **State-level (lower subordinate judge exams)** and at the **national level (AIJS)**. रिपोर्ट ने राज्य स्तर (निचले अधीनस्थ न्यायाधीश परीक्षा) और राष्ट्रीय स्तर (AIJS) पर भर्ती के लिए दो अलग-अलग पात्रता मानदंडों की वकालत की।
- In the **All India Judges' Association versus Union of India, 1992**, the question of 'uniformity' in service conditions of judges across India was taken up.
- The judgment endorsed the LCI Report and its provisions on AIJS including the recommendation to allow fresh law graduates to compete in the exam.
- The top court issued directions to the Union of India to set up the AIJS.
- However, a review petition of the Judges' Association case, filed in 1993, held that a minimum legal practice of **three years** was essential to qualify for the subordinate judicial services examination.



ऑल इंडिया जजेस एसोसिएशन बनाम भारत संघ, 1992 में, भारत भर में न्यायाधीशों के सेवा परिस्थितियों में 'समानता' का सवाल उठा। इस फैसले ने LCI रिपोर्ट और AIJS के प्रावधानों को स्वीकार किया, जिसमें नए कानून स्नातकों को परीक्षा में शामिल होने की अनुमति देने की सिफारिश भी थी। शीर्ष अदालत ने भारत संघ को AIJS स्थापित करने का निर्देश दिया। हालांकि, जजेस एसोसिएशन केस की समीक्षा याचिका, जो 1993 में दाखिल की गई थी, ने कहा कि अधीनस्थ न्यायिक सेवा परीक्षा के लिए क्वालीफाई करने के लिए न्यूनतम **तीन साल** का कानूनी अभ्यास आवश्यक है।

- The court in **All India Judges' Assn. (II) versus Union of India, (1993)** held that in most States, the minimum qualifications for the post of **Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate First Class/Magistrate First Class/Munsiff Magistrate** is minimum **three years' practice as a lawyer** in addition to the degree in law.
- In some States, however, the requirement of practice is altogether dispensed with and judicial officers are recruited with only a law degree to their credit.
- The recruitment of raw graduates as judicial officers without any training or background of lawyering has not proved to be a successful experiment.
- Considering the fact that from the first day of his assuming office, the Judge has to decide, among others, questions of life, liberty, property and reputation of the litigants, to induct graduates fresh from the Universities to occupy seats of such vital powers is neither prudent nor desirable.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने ऑल इंडिया जजेस एसोसिएशन (II) बनाम भारत संघ, (1993) में यह माना कि अधिकांश राज्यों में सिविल जज-कम-मैजिस्ट्रेट प्रथम श्रेणी/मैजिस्ट्रेट प्रथम श्रेणी/मुनिसिफ मैजिस्ट्रेट के पद के लिए न्यूनतम योग्यता में कानून की डिग्री के साथ न्यूनतम **तीन साल का वकालत अभ्यास** शामिल है। कुछ राज्यों में, अभ्यास की आवश्यकता पूरी तरह हटा दी गई है और न्यायिक अधिकारियों की भर्ती केवल कानून की डिग्री के आधार पर की जाती है। बिना किसी प्रशिक्षण या वकालत के पृष्ठभूमि के कच्चे स्नातकों की न्यायिक अधिकारियों के रूप में भर्ती सफल साबित नहीं हुई है। यह ध्यान में रखते हुए कि न्यायाधीश को अपने पद ग्रहण के पहले दिन से ही जीवन, स्वतंत्रता, संपत्ति और मुकदमेबाजों की प्रतिष्ठा जैसे मामलों का निर्णय लेना होता है, विश्वविद्यालय से ताजगी से स्नातक हुए उम्मीदवारों को ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण पदों पर बैठाना उचित या वांछनीय नहीं है।

- The court went on to observe that the experience as a lawyer is therefore essential to enable the Judge to discharge his duties and functions efficiently. The court thus gave a strong order: "We, therefore, direct that all States shall take immediate steps

Attracting talent

प्रतिभा आकर्षित करना

- The **Justice Shetty Commission**, set up in **1996**, found that while almost all States had complied with the **three-year rule**, some States had gone beyond and prescribed **more than three years** as minimum qualification.

न्यायाधीश शेट्टी आयोग, जो 1996 में गठित हुआ था, ने पाया कि लगभग सभी राज्यों ने **तीन साल** के



नियम का पालन किया था, लेकिन कुछ राज्यों ने इसे बढ़ाकर तीन साल से अधिक न्यूनतम योग्यता निर्धारित की थी।

- The report also stated that advocates with **4-7 years of experience** were getting selected only at the age of **27 to 30**.

रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया कि जिन वकीलों के पास **4-7 साल का अनुभव** था, उन्हें केवल **27 से 30 वर्ष** की उम्र में चुना जा रहा था।

- Therefore, in the **All India Judges' Association versus Union of India (2002)** case, the **Supreme Court** accepted the recommendation of the Shetty Commission that the **three-year rule** had failed to attract the **best talent** to judicial services, and **scrapped the rule**.

इसलिए, **ऑल इंडिया जजेस एसोसिएशन बनाम भारत संघ (2002)** मामले में, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने शेट्टी आयोग की सिफारिश को स्वीकार किया कि **तीन साल का नियम** न्यायिक सेवा में **सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रतिभा** को आकर्षित करने में विफल रहा है, और इस नियम को **रद्द कर दिया**।

- The court was candid in admitting that, "with the passage of time, experience has shown that the best talent which is available is not attracted to the Judicial Service. A bright young law graduate after 3 years of practice finds the Judicial Service not attractive enough. It has been recommended by the Shetty Commission after taking into consideration the views expressed before it by various authorities, that the need for an applicant to have been an Advocate for at least 3 years should be done away with..."

कोर्ट ने ईमानदारी से स्वीकार किया कि, "समय के साथ अनुभव से पता चला है कि उपलब्ध **सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रतिभा** न्यायिक सेवा की ओर आकर्षित नहीं होती। एक प्रतिभाशाली युवा विधि स्नातक 3 साल अभ्यास के बाद न्यायिक सेवा को पर्याप्त आकर्षक नहीं पाता। शेट्टी आयोग ने विभिन्न अधिकारियों की राय लेकर यह सिफारिश की है कि आवेदक के लिए कम से कम 3 साल वकील होना जरूरी नहीं होना चाहिए..."

- Now, the Supreme Court has again gone back to the **three-year rule**, as the crucial question of how to balance attracting the **best talent** along with the necessary skills is still valid.

अब, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फिर से **तीन साल के नियम** पर लौट आया है, क्योंकि यह सवाल कि कैसे **सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रतिभा** को आवश्यक कौशल के साथ संतुलित किया जाए, अभी भी प्रासंगिक है।

- For that one must understand ground realities. No one can deny that the **best law students today** are in **National Law Universities**. Most of these students get **lucrative corporate placements** with huge pay packages. Many of them also need to repay education loans as almost all law universities' **five-year fee ranges between ₹12-₹15 lakh**. Reputed private law schools charge even more, between **₹20-₹40 lakh**.

इसके लिए ज़मीनी हकीकतों को समझना जरूरी है। कोई नहीं नकार सकता कि आज के **सर्वश्रेष्ठ विधि छात्र राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालयों** में हैं। इनमें से अधिकांश छात्र **भव्य कॉर्पोरेट प्लेसमेंट** पाते हैं जिनमें भारी वेतन होता है। इनमें से कई को शिक्षा ऋण भी चुकाना पड़ता है क्योंकि लगभग सभी विधि विश्वविद्यालयों की **पांच साल की फीस ₹12-₹15 लाख** के बीच होती है। प्रसिद्ध निजी विधि स्कूल इससे भी ज्यादा **₹20-₹40 लाख** शुल्क लेते हैं।



- The Supreme Court yet again hopes that **three years' of practice** may help future judges in addressing **courtroom decorum**, complex procedural cases and in understanding the perspectives of all stakeholders of the judicial system. Young candidates are said to lack **maturity, empathy and patience**.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट फिर से उम्मीद करता है कि **तीन साल का अभ्यास** भविष्य के न्यायाधीशों को **अदालत के शिष्टाचार**, जटिल प्रक्रियात्मक मामलों को संभालने और न्यायिक प्रणाली के सभी हितधारकों के दृष्टिकोण को समझने में मदद करेगा। कहा जाता है कि युवा उम्मीदवारों में **परिपक्वता, सहानुभूति और धैर्य** की कमी होती है।
- **The reality is, however, that most candidates wishing to practice don't see judicial services as a career option, while those who wish to enter judicial services rarely see practice as a career option.**
- Most States find it difficult to fill vacancies of the higher judicial services due to the poor performance of candidates in the written examinations.
- Recently, Rajasthan notified that not a single candidate was found suitable.
- हालांकि वास्तविकता यह है कि अधिकांश उम्मीदवार जो प्रैक्टिस करना चाहते हैं, वे न्यायिक सेवा को करियर विकल्प के रूप में नहीं देखते, जबकि जो न्यायिक सेवा में जाना चाहते हैं वे प्रैक्टिस को करियर विकल्प के रूप में कम ही देखते हैं।
- अधिकांश राज्यों को उच्च न्यायिक सेवा की रिक्तियां भरने में मुश्किल होती है क्योंकि लिखित परीक्षा में उम्मीदवारों का प्रदर्शन खराब होता है।
- हाल ही में, राजस्थान ने बताया कि एक भी उम्मीदवार उपयुक्त नहीं पाया गया।
- **The fact of the matter is that the mandatory three-years of practice rule will significantly discourage brighter minds from joining the judicial services.**
- Economically backward and **SC/ST/OBC candidates** would be the worst hit, as they cannot afford to wait.
- It becomes necessary for them to start earning.
- These candidates would be keen to write examinations to enter **civil services, public sector undertakings (PSUs)**, or even join academia.
- असल में, **तीन साल के अभ्यास का अनिवार्य नियम** न्यायिक सेवा में **प्रतिभाशाली दिमागों** को शामिल होने से काफी हतोत्साहित करेगा।
- आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर और **अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति/अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग के उम्मीदवार** सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होंगे क्योंकि वे इंतजार नहीं कर सकते।
- उनके लिए कमाना शुरू करना आवश्यक हो जाता है।
- ये उम्मीदवार **सिविल सेवा, सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रम (PSUs)** या शैक्षणिक क्षेत्र में शामिल होने के लिए परीक्षा देना चाहेंगे।

Various challenges

विभिन्न चुनौतियाँ



- The **Bar Council of India** has encouraged senior advocates and firms to pay a minimum of **₹15,000** in rural areas and **₹20,000** in urban centres to junior lawyers.
- This bare minimum stipend is not enough for a law student having no connections in the field.
बार काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया ने वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ताओं और फर्मों को ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में न्यूनतम **₹15,000** और शहरी केंद्रों में **₹20,000** जूनियर वकीलों को देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया है।
- यह न्यूनतम भत्ता उन विधि छात्रों के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है जिनके पास क्षेत्र में कोई कनेक्शन नहीं है।
- Non-matriculants in Delhi are paid **₹20,371** a month for clerical work or supervisory work in scheduled employment.
- An unskilled worker is paid **₹18,456** a month as per the **Minimum Wages Act**.
- Only **financially sound candidates would have the luxury to appear for judicial services if the three year condition is brought back**.
दिल्ली में गैर-मैट्रिकुलेट को नियोजित रोजगार में क्लर्क या पर्यवेक्षण के लिए महीने का **₹20,371** मिलता है। एक अनस्किल्ड श्रमिक को **न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम** के तहत महीने का **₹18,456** मिलता है। यदि तीन साल का नियम वापस आता है तो केवल आर्थिक रूप से मजबूत उम्मीदवार ही न्यायिक सेवा की परीक्षा देने की स्थिति में होंगे।
- Additionally, as per the **India Justice Report**, women account for **38%** of the judges in district judiciary.
- **Nine out of the top 10 candidates from the recently held Bihar judicial services exam were female candidates.**
- Now, if the three-year rule is implemented, a number of these women, going through career breaks or maternity leaves, will suffer a setback.
इसके अलावा, **इंडिया जस्टिस रिपोर्ट** के अनुसार, जिला न्यायपालिका में **38%** न्यायाधीश महिलाएं हैं। हाल ही में हुए बिहार न्यायिक सेवा परीक्षा के शीर्ष 10 में से 9 उम्मीदवार महिलाएं थीं। अब, यदि तीन साल का नियम लागू होता है, तो करियर ब्रेक या मातृत्व अवकाश में चल रही इन महिलाओं को setback का सामना करना पड़ेगा।
- Another problem is with regard to **age**.
- To appear for the **civil services examinations**, the minimum eligibility criteria is to be a **final year student of a three-year degree programme**.
- But for the judicial services examination, **five-six years of education together with three years of experience** would make them highly financially vulnerable as well as older compared to their counterparts in the civil services.
एक और समस्या **आयु** से जुड़ी है। **सिविल सेवा परीक्षा** के लिए न्यूनतम योग्यता है कि उम्मीदवार **तीन साल की डिग्री प्रोग्राम का अंतिम वर्ष** का छात्र हो। लेकिन न्यायिक सेवा परीक्षा के लिए, **पाँच-छह साल की शिक्षा के साथ तीन साल का अनुभव** उम्मीदवारों को आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर और सिविल सेवा के समान उम्र के उम्मीदवारों की तुलना में वृद्ध बना देगा।
- This classification would neither be based on **intelligible differentiation** nor achieve the rational object of attracting the best minds.



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- Moreover, unlike the civil services, the judicial services exam in most States is not held at regular intervals.
- Even if a candidate has fulfilled the three year criteria, he/she has to wait for another few years for the exam to be advertised.
- यह वर्गीकरण न तो समझदारी पर आधारित होगा और न ही सर्वश्रेष्ठ दिमागों को आकर्षित करने के तर्कसंगत उद्देश्य को पूरा करेगा।
- इसके अलावा, सिविल सेवा के विपरीत, अधिकांश राज्यों में न्यायिक सेवा परीक्षा नियमित अंतराल पर नहीं होती। भले ही उम्मीदवार ने तीन साल का मानदंड पूरा किया हो, फिर भी उसे परीक्षा के विज्ञापन के लिए कुछ साल और इंतजार करना पड़ता है।

What can be done?

क्या किया जा सकता है?

- The solution is to **catch young talent and enhance the training period to two years or more and use the best of academic and practical skills to enhance efficiency of the lower rung of the judiciary.**
समाधान यह है कि युवा प्रतिभा को पकड़ना और प्रशिक्षण अवधि को **दो साल या उससे अधिक** बढ़ाना और अकादमिक और व्यावहारिक कौशल का उपयोग करके न्यायपालिका के निचले स्तर की दक्षता बढ़ाना।
- Trainee officers may be required to **serve as probationers to serving District and Sessions Judge or Justices of the High Court to enhance their understanding of the courtroom.**
- For six months, they may be attached to senior lawyers as well.
प्रशिक्षु अधिकारियों को अदालत के व्यवहार को समझने के लिए जिला और सत्र न्यायाधीश या उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के अधीन प्रशिक्षु के रूप में सेवा करनी पड़ सकती है। छह महीने के लिए उन्हें वरिष्ठ वकीलों के साथ भी जोड़ा जा सकता है।
- We must also reform the examination and come up with innovative questions.
- The examination should be based on **scenario-based questions**, and **judgment writing** should carry more weightage.
हमें परीक्षा में सुधार करना होगा और नवाचारी प्रश्न लाने होंगे। परीक्षा **परिदृश्य-आधारित प्रश्नों** पर आधारित होनी चाहिए और **फैसला लिखने** को अधिक महत्व दिया जाना चाहिए।
- Excluding fresh talent may do more harm than good to our judicial system.
नई प्रतिभा को बाहर रखना हमारी न्यायिक प्रणाली के लिए हानिकारक हो सकता है।



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How the Trump administration aims to contain China's AI industry

The now-axed 'Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule', introduced under former President Joe Biden, was a complex attempt to manage the global proliferation of advanced AI chips. However, the Trump administration seems to be gearing up for a more aggressive and transactional engagement

GS Paper II: Global World Order

John Xavier

Arificial Intelligence (AI) and tariffs have become pivotal battlegrounds in the escalating rivalry between the United States and China. Last week, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) redrew a significant line of engagement by formally rescinding the Biden administration's 'Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule', mere days before its May 15 effective date. The rescission signals a strategic pivot in how the U.S. intends to wage this high-stakes tech war.

This manoeuvre, set against the persistent drumbeat of the U.S.-China tariff disputes, casts a long shadow of uncertainty and opportunity over tech companies and global supply chains desperately trying to navigate the fight for AI supremacy.

Direct intervention

The now-axed 'Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule', introduced under former President Joe Biden in January, was a complex attempt to manage the global proliferation of advanced AI chips and, by extension, AI capabilities.

The stated aim, according to a White House press release, was to "provide clarity to allied and partner nations" and streamline chip licensing. Critically, however, it established new, widespread restrictions on exporting U.S.-made AI chips.

Mr. Biden's framework was essentially a global triage system. Closest allies like Japan and South Korea were largely spared. Adversaries, notably China and Russia, already under tight restrictions for advanced AI chips, faced even tougher limitations, especially concerning sophisticated "closed" AI models. The most significant impact was on a vast third tier of nations like Israel and Mexico. These nations would have faced caps on AI chip imports (reportedly around 50,000 GPUs each, with avenues for increase), a measure explicitly designed to prevent China and Russia from sourcing critical technology through them. Industry giants like Nvidia voiced strong opposition, calling the proposed rules "unprecedented and misguided"

and warning they would "derail" global innovation. This regulatory structure was intended to build on previous guidance from October 2022 and October 2023.

The Trump administration has decisively swept this tiered system aside. The DOC's announcement of the revocation included plans for a "replacement rule in the future, likely focusing on direct negotiations with countries as opposed to blanket restrictions," according to a *Bloomberg* report. This reflects a different philosophy of engagement as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, Jeffrey Kessler, declared, "The Trump Administration will pursue a bold, inclusive strategy to American AI technology with trusted foreign countries around the world, while keeping the technology out of the hands of our adversaries." He didn't mince words, labelling Mr. Biden's approach an "ill-conceived and counterproductive" imposition.

Instead of Mr. Biden's broad rulebook, the DOC issued immediate, pointed guidance: a stark reminder that using Huawei's Ascend AI chips anywhere globally violates U.S. export rules; a caution about the dire consequences of allowing U.S. AI chips to be used in training AI models within China; and recommendations for fortifying chip supply chains against diversion tactics. This indicates a preference for direct, forceful interventions and targeting specific entities and practices rather than implementing a complex, universal regulatory scheme.

New battle tactics

This shift in AI export control is more a change in battlefield tactics than a retreat from strategic objectives. Both administrations share the core goal: cementing U.S. dominance in AI and critically, preventing China from leveraging advanced technology to surpass U.S. military and economic power. Mr. Biden's strategy aimed to manage AI diffusion through a systematic, if cumbersome, international framework. The Trump administration seems to be gearing up for a more flexible, arguably more aggressive and transactional

engagement, relying on bespoke agreements and sharp, punitive actions against those, like Huawei, deemed central to the adversary's capabilities. The explicit condemnation of using U.S. AI chips to train models in China underscores this direct confrontational stance.

The rhetoric of a "bold, inclusive strategy with trusted foreign countries" hints at a different approach to alliance-building in this tech conflict, but the unwavering focus on keeping advanced tech from "adversaries" shows that underlying contest with China remains paramount.

The economic front in the AI war

This recalibration of AI export controls cannot be viewed in isolation. It is intrinsically linked to the ongoing tariff war, another major front in the U.S.-China battle. Significant tariffs, initiated under the previous Trump administration and largely continued by Mr. Biden, were already a defining feature of the economic landscape.

U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods, and retaliatory Chinese tariffs on U.S. products, have directly impacted the tech sector by increasing the cost of components, servers, and finished goods essential for AI development and infrastructure.

In the current term, Mr. Trump has further solidified the hard line on China, deploying tariffs as a coercive tool in trade and technology negotiations. Apart from tariffs, the current administration has increased compliance on chipmakers. Most recently, Nvidia was required to go through a licensing route to ship its H20 GPUs to China. The AI chip was a dumbed-down version of the powerful H100 and H200 GPUs that were tailor-made for China.

This type of policy shift creates a dual pressure point for the tech industry: restricted access to and movement of AI technology, compounded by the increased financial burden of tariffs. Tech companies are, in essence, navigating a minefield where both AI know-how and the hardware it runs on are subject to intense geopolitical manoeuvring and economic warfare.

Navigating the new battleground

For tech companies and their global supply chains, this integrated battlefield of AI controls and tariffs signal continued, if not amplified, turbulence.

In the near term, adapting to ambiguity will be important as geopolitics moves from a defined set of rules to a future that is based on direct negotiations. While some may find new avenues through bespoke agreements, the lack of a clear, universal framework makes strategic planning challenging.

Secondly, countries previously in Mr. Biden's "third tier" might perceive an opening, but they will also likely face intensified diplomatic and economic pressure as the U.S. prosecutes its "trusted partner" strategy in the shadow of the overarching U.S.-China rivalry.

Looking to the long term, the intertwined forces of AI export controls and tariffs will likely compel companies to de-risk and diversify their supply chains. "Friend-shoring" and regionalisation efforts will intensify as businesses seek to insulate themselves from the fallout of this battle. This could lead to increasingly separate tech ecosystems and a more splintered technological world.

As these ecosystems evolve, China will only accelerate its already massive investment in domestic AI capabilities – from semiconductor design and manufacturing to foundational AI models. U.S. trade policies are acting as a catalyst for China's self-reliance drive, even as a U.S. foreign policy increasingly built on direct deals for technology access will likely trigger a more dynamic and competitive scramble among nations to align themselves strategically, caught between the technological gravity of Washington and Beijing.

This shift in U.S. AI export policy is not a standalone event but a tactical adjustment on this sprawling battlefield. While the objective of ensuring U.S. AI leadership and containing China's technological advance remains unchanged, for the global tech industry, this means bracing for continued geopolitical turbulence where innovation, market access, and supply chain integrity are all caught in the crosshairs of this superpower contest.



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How the Trump administration aims to contain China's AI industry

ट्रंप प्रशासन चीन की एआई उद्योग को नियंत्रित करने का कैसे प्रयास कर रहा है

• The now-axed '**Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule**', introduced under former President Joe Biden, was a complex attempt to manage the global proliferation of advanced AI chips.

However, the Trump administration seems to be gearing up for a **more aggressive and transactional engagement**.

• अब रद्द किया गया 'आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस डिफ्यूजन रूल', जिसे पूर्व राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन के तहत पेश किया गया था, उन्नत एआई चिप्स के वैश्विक प्रसार को नियंत्रित करने का एक जटिल प्रयास था।

हालांकि, ट्रंप प्रशासन अधिक आक्रामक और लेनदेन आधारित रुख अपनाने की तैयारी करता दिख रहा है।

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and tariffs** have become pivotal battlegrounds in the escalating rivalry between the **United States and China**.

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) और टैरिफ अब संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और चीन के बीच बढ़ती प्रतिस्पर्धा के प्रमुख युद्धक्षेत्र बन गए हैं।

- Last week, the **U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)** redrew a significant line of engagement by formally rescinding the **Biden administration's Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule**, mere days before its **May 15 effective date**.

पिछले सप्ताह, अमेरिकी वाणिज्य विभाग (DOC) ने बाइडन प्रशासन के आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस डिफ्यूजन रूल को इसकी 15 मई की प्रभावी तिथि से कुछ दिन पहले ही औपचारिक रूप से रद्द कर एक महत्वपूर्ण नीति रेखा को फिर से परिभाषित कर दिया।

- The **rescission signals a strategic pivot** in how the U.S. intends to wage this **high-stakes tech war**.

यह रद्दीकरण इस उच्च दांव वाली तकनीकी लड़ाई को अमेरिका द्वारा लड़ने के रणनीतिक रुख में बदलाव का संकेत है।

- This manoeuvre, set against the persistent drumbeat of the **U.S.-China tariff disputes**, casts a long shadow of **uncertainty and opportunity** over tech companies and **global supply chains** desperately trying to navigate the fight for **AI supremacy**.



अमेरिका-चीन टैरिफ विवादों की निरंतर पृष्ठभूमि में यह कदम, एआई वर्चस्व की लड़ाई से जुड़ा रही तकनीकी कंपनियों और वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं पर अनिश्चितता और अवसर की लंबी छाया डालता है।

Direct intervention

सीधा हस्तक्षेप

- The now-axed Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule, introduced under **Joe Biden in January**, was a complex attempt to **manage the global proliferation of advanced AI chips and, by extension, AI capabilities**.
अब रद्द किया गया आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस डिफ्यूजन रूल, **जनवरी में जो बाइडन** के तहत पेश किया गया था, उन्नत एआई चिप्स और एआई क्षमताओं के वैश्विक प्रसार को नियंत्रित करने का एक जटिल प्रयास था।
- The stated aim, according to a **White House press release**, was to **“provide clarity to allied and partner nations” and streamline chip licensing**.
व्हाइट हाउस प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, इसका घोषित उद्देश्य “मित्र और साझेदार देशों को स्पष्टता प्रदान करना” और चिप लाइसेंसिंग को सुव्यवस्थित करना था।
- Critically, however, it established **new, widespread restrictions on exporting U.S.-made AI chips**.
हालांकि सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह थी कि इसने **अमेरिकी निर्मित एआई चिप्स** के निर्यात पर **नई और व्यापक प्रतिबंध** लगाए।
- Mr. Biden’s framework was essentially a **global triage system**. Closest allies like **Japan and South Korea** were largely spared.
श्री बाइडन की योजना मूलतः एक **वैश्विक प्राथमिकता प्रणाली** थी। **जापान और दक्षिण कोरिया** जैसे सबसे करीबी सहयोगी देश काफी हद तक इससे अछूते रहे।
- Adversaries, notably **China and Russia**, already under tight restrictions for advanced AI chips, faced even tougher limitations, especially concerning sophisticated “closed” AI models.
प्रतिद्वंद्वी देशों, विशेष रूप से **चीन और रूस**, जो पहले से ही उन्नत एआई चिप्स पर कड़े प्रतिबंधों का सामना कर रहे थे, उन्हें और अधिक कठोर सीमाओं का सामना करना पड़ा, खासकर परिष्कृत “क्लोज्ड” एआई मॉडलों के संदर्भ में।
- The most significant impact was on a vast **third tier of nations** like **Israel and Mexico**. These nations would have faced caps on AI chip imports (reportedly around **50,000 GPUs each**) with avenues for increase.
सबसे बड़ा प्रभाव **इज़राइल और मैक्सिको** जैसे तीसरे स्तर के देशों पर पड़ा। इन देशों को एआई चिप्स के आयात पर सीमा (प्रत्येक के लिए लगभग **50,000 GPUs**) का सामना करना पड़ता, हालांकि उसमें बढ़ोतरी की संभावना थी।
- A measure explicitly designed to prevent **China and Russia** from sourcing critical technology through them.



यह एक ऐसा उपाय था जिसे विशेष रूप से चीन और रूस को इन देशों के माध्यम से महत्वपूर्ण तकनीक प्राप्त करने से रोकने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया था।

- Industry giants like **Nvidia** voiced strong opposition, calling the proposed rules “unprecedented and misguided” and warning they would “derail global innovation.”
Nvidia जैसे उद्योग दिग्गजों ने इसका कड़ा विरोध किया और प्रस्तावित नियमों को “अभूतपूर्व और भ्रामक” बताया तथा चेतावनी दी कि ये “वैश्विक नवाचार को पटरी से उतार सकते हैं।”
- This regulatory structure was intended to build on previous guidance from **October 2022** and **October 2023**.

यह नियामक ढांचा अक्टूबर 2022 और अक्टूबर 2023 की पिछली दिशानिर्देशों पर आधारित था।

- The Trump administration has **decisively swept** this tiered system aside.
• ट्रंप प्रशासन ने इस स्तरीकृत प्रणाली को निर्णायक रूप से समाप्त कर दिया है।
- The DOC’s announcement of the revocation included plans for a “**replacement rule in the future**,” likely focusing on **direct negotiations with countries** as opposed to **blanket restrictions**.
 - DOC की रद्दीकरण की घोषणा में “भविष्य में एक प्रतिस्थापन नियम” की योजना शामिल थी, जो संभवतः किसी देश के साथ प्रत्यक्ष वार्ता पर केंद्रित होगी न कि व्यापक प्रतिबंधों पर।
- U.S. Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security **Jeffrey Kessler** declared, “The Trump Administration will pursue a bold, inclusive strategy to American AI technology with **trusted foreign countries**, while keeping the technology out of the hands of our **adversaries**.”

अमेरिकी उद्योग और सुरक्षा वाणिज्य सचिव **जेफ्री केसलर** ने कहा, “ट्रंप प्रशासन विश्वसनीय विदेशी देशों के साथ अमेरिकी एआई तकनीक के लिए एक साहसी, समावेशी रणनीति अपनाएगा, जबकि इसे हमारे विरोधियों के हाथों से दूर रखेगा।”

- He labelled Mr. Biden’s approach an “**ill-conceived and counterproductive**” imposition.
 - उन्होंने श्री बाइडन की नीति को “गलत सोच पर आधारित और प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डालने वाली” करार दिया।
- Instead of Mr. Biden’s broad rulebook, the DOC issued **immediate, pointed guidance**.
 - श्री बाइडन के व्यापक नियमों की जगह, DOC ने तत्काल और लक्षित दिशानिर्देश जारी किए।
- A stark reminder that using **Huawei’s Ascend AI chips** anywhere globally violates **U.S. export rules**.
 - यह स्पष्ट चेतावनी थी कि **हुआवे की Ascend AI चिप्स** का दुनिया में कहीं भी उपयोग अमेरिकी निर्यात नियमों का उल्लंघन करता है।
- A caution about the dire consequences of allowing **U.S. AI chips** to be used in training AI models **within China**.
 - अमेरिकी एआई चिप्स को चीन में एआई मॉडल को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए उपयोग करने की अनुमति देने के गंभीर परिणामों के बारे में चेतावनी।
- Recommendations for **fortifying chip supply chains** against **diversion tactics**.
 - विकर्षण रणनीतियों के विरुद्ध चिप आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को मजबूत करने की सिफारिशें।



New battle tactics

नई युद्ध रणनीतियाँ

- This shift in AI export control is more a change in **battlefield tactics** than a retreat from **strategic objectives**.
 - एआई निर्यात नियंत्रण में यह बदलाव **रणनीतिक लक्ष्यों** से पीछे हटने के बजाय **युद्ध रणनीति में बदलाव** है।
- Both administrations share the **core goal**: cementing **U.S. dominance in AI** and preventing **China** from leveraging advanced technology to surpass **U.S. military and economic power**.
 - दोनों प्रशासन का **मुख्य लक्ष्य** समान है: **एआई में अमेरिकी प्रभुत्व** को मजबूत करना और **चीन** को उन्नत तकनीक का उपयोग करके **अमेरिकी सैन्य और आर्थिक शक्ति** को पार करने से रोकना।
- Mr. Biden's strategy aimed to manage AI diffusion through a **systematic, if cumbersome, international framework**.
 - श्री बाइडन की रणनीति ने एआई प्रसार को **एक व्यवस्थित, हालांकि जटिल, अंतरराष्ट्रीय ढांचे** के माध्यम से नियंत्रित करने का लक्ष्य रखा।
- The Trump administration seems to be gearing up for a **more flexible, arguably more aggressive and transactional engagement**, relying on **bespoke agreements** and **punitive actions** against entities like **Huawei**.
 - ट्रंप प्रशासन ऐसा लगता है कि **अधिक लचीला, संभवतः अधिक आक्रामक और लेनदेन आधारित दृष्टिकोण** अपना रहा है, जो **हुआवे** जैसे संस्थानों के खिलाफ **विशिष्ट समझौतों और दंडात्मक कार्रवाइयों** पर निर्भर करता है।
- The explicit condemnation of using **U.S. AI chips** to train models in **China** underscores this **direct confrontational stance**.
 - **चीन में एआई मॉडल** को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए **अमेरिकी एआई चिप्स** के उपयोग की स्पष्ट निंदा इस **सीधे टकराव वाले दृष्टिकोण** को उजागर करती है।
- The rhetoric of a **“bold, inclusive strategy with trusted foreign countries”** hints at a different approach to **alliance-building** in this **tech conflict**.
 - **“विश्वसनीय विदेशी देशों के साथ एक साहसी, समावेशी रणनीति”** की भाषा इस तकनीकी संघर्ष में **सहयोग निर्माण** के एक अलग दृष्टिकोण का संकेत देती है।
- The unwavering focus on keeping **advanced tech from adversaries** shows that the underlying contest with **China** remains paramount.
 - **विरोधियों से उन्नत तकनीक को दूर रखने** पर दृढ़ ध्यान इस बात को दर्शाता है कि **चीन के साथ मूल संघर्ष** अभी भी सर्वोपरि बना हुआ है।

The economic front in the AI war

AI युद्ध में आर्थिक मोर्चा



- This recalibration of **AI export controls** cannot be viewed in isolation.
AI निर्यात नियंत्रणों के इस पुनःसमायोजन को अलग-थलग नहीं देखा जा सकता।
- It is intrinsically linked to the ongoing **tariff war**, another major front in the **U.S.-China** battle.
यह जारी **टैरिफ युद्ध** से गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है, जो **अमेरिका-चीन** संघर्ष का एक और प्रमुख मोर्चा है।
- Significant **tariffs**, initiated under the previous **Trump administration** and largely continued by **Mr. Biden**, were already a defining feature of the economic landscape.
पहले की **ट्रंप सरकार** द्वारा शुरू किए गए और बड़े पैमाने पर **बाइडेन** द्वारा जारी रखे गए महत्वपूर्ण **टैरिफ** पहले से ही आर्थिक परिदृश्य की एक प्रमुख विशेषता रहे हैं।
- **U.S. tariffs** on Chinese goods, and retaliatory **Chinese tariffs** on U.S. products, have directly impacted the **tech sector** by increasing the cost of components, servers, and finished goods essential for **AI development and infrastructure**.
चीनी वस्तुओं पर **अमेरिकी टैरिफ** और अमेरिकी उत्पादों पर **चीन के प्रतिशोधात्मक टैरिफ** ने **तकनीकी क्षेत्र** को सीधे प्रभावित किया है, जिससे **AI विकास और अवसंरचना** के लिए आवश्यक पुर्जों, सर्वरों और तैयार वस्तुओं की लागत बढ़ गई है।
- In the current term, **Mr. Trump** has further solidified the **hard line on China**, deploying tariffs as a coercive tool in **trade and technology negotiations**.
वर्तमान कार्यकाल में, **श्री ट्रंप** ने **चीन पर कड़ा रुख** और सख्त कर लिया है, और **व्यापार और प्रौद्योगिकी वार्ताओं** में दबाव डालने के लिए **टैरिफ** को हथियार के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया है।
- Apart from tariffs, the current administration has increased **compliance** on **chipmakers**.
टैरिफ के अलावा, मौजूदा सरकार ने **चिप निर्माताओं** पर **अनुपालन** की शर्तें कड़ी कर दी हैं।
- Most recently, **Nvidia** was required to go through a **licensing route** to ship its **H20 GPUs** to China.
हाल ही में, **Nvidia** को अपने **H20 GPU** को चीन भेजने के लिए **लाइसेंसिंग प्रक्रिया** से गुजरना पड़ा।
- The AI chip was a **dumbed-down version** of the powerful **H100 and H200 GPUs** that were tailor-made for China.
यह AI चिप शक्तिशाली **H100 और H200 GPU** का एक **सरल संस्करण** था जिसे विशेष रूप से चीन के लिए तैयार किया गया था।
- This type of policy shift creates a **dual pressure point** for the **tech industry**: restricted access to and movement of **AI technology**, compounded by the increased **financial burden of tariffs**.
इस तरह की नीति में बदलाव से **तकनीकी उद्योग** पर **दोहरी दबाव** की स्थिति बन जाती है: **AI तकनीक** तक पहुंच और उसके प्रसार पर प्रतिबंध, और इसके साथ ही **टैरिफ का आर्थिक बोझ** भी बढ़ जाता है।
- Tech companies are, in essence, navigating a **minefield** where both **AI know-how** and the **hardware** it runs on are subject to intense **geopolitical manoeuvring and economic warfare**.
तकनीकी कंपनियां मूलतः एक **खतरनाक क्षेत्र** में काम कर रही हैं, जहां **AI विशेषज्ञता** और उस पर चलने वाला **हार्डवेयर**, दोनों ही तीव्र **भू-राजनीतिक रणनीति और आर्थिक युद्ध** का हिस्सा बन चुके हैं।



Navigating the new battleground

नए युद्धक्षेत्र में दिशा ढूँढ़ना

- For **tech companies** and their **global supply chains**, this integrated battlefront of **AI controls and tariffs** signals continued, if not amplified, **turbulence**.
तकनीकी कंपनियों और उनकी वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं के लिए, **AI नियंत्रण और टैरिफ** का यह संयुक्त मोर्चा जारी **अस्थिरता** को, और संभवतः उसकी वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।
- In the near term, adapting to **ambiguity** will be important as **geopolitics** moves from a defined set of rules to a future based on **direct negotiations**.
निकट भविष्य में, **अनिश्चितता** के अनुकूल ढलना आवश्यक होगा क्योंकि **भू-राजनीति** एक परिभाषित नियम प्रणाली से हटकर **सीधी बातचीत** पर आधारित भविष्य की ओर बढ़ रही है।
- While some may find new avenues through **bespoke agreements**, the lack of a clear, **universal framework** makes **strategic planning** challenging.
कुछ को **विशेष समझौतों** के माध्यम से नए अवसर मिल सकते हैं, लेकिन एक स्पष्ट और **सार्वभौमिक ढांचे** की कमी **रणनीतिक योजना** को कठिन बना देती है।
- Secondly, countries previously in **Mr. Biden's "third tier"** might perceive an opening, but they will also likely face intensified **diplomatic and economic pressure** as the U.S. prosecutes its **"trusted partner" strategy** in the shadow of the overarching **U.S.-China rivalry**.
दूसरे, जो देश पहले **श्री बाइडेन की "तीसरी श्रेणी"** में माने जाते थे, वे इस स्थिति को अवसर के रूप में देख सकते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें **कूटनीतिक और आर्थिक दबाव** का भी सामना करना पड़ सकता है क्योंकि अमेरिका **"विश्वसनीय साझेदार"** रणनीति को **अमेरिका-चीन प्रतिद्वंद्विता** की छाया में लागू कर रहा है।
- Looking to the **long term**, the intertwined forces of **AI export controls and tariffs** will likely compel companies to **de-risk** and **diversify** their **supply chains**.
दीर्घकालिक दृष्टिकोण से देखें तो, **AI निर्यात नियंत्रण और टैरिफ** की संयुक्त ताकतें कंपनियों को अपनी **आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** को **जोखिम मुक्त और विविध** बनाने के लिए मजबूर करेंगी।
- **"Friend-shoring"** and **regionalisation** efforts will intensify as businesses seek to **insulate** themselves from the fallout of this battle.
इस संघर्ष के प्रभाव से बचने के लिए कंपनियां **"फ्रेंड-शोरिंग"** और **क्षेत्रीयकरण** प्रयासों को तेज़ करेंगी।
- This could lead to increasingly **separate tech ecosystems** and a more **splintered technological world**.
इससे और अधिक **विभाजित तकनीकी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** और एक **टुकड़ों में बंटी तकनीकी दुनिया** बन सकती है।
- As these ecosystems evolve, **China** will only accelerate its already massive investment in **domestic AI capabilities** — from **semiconductor design and manufacturing** to **foundational AI models**.
जैसे-जैसे ये पारिस्थितिक तंत्र विकसित होंगे, **चीन** अपने **घरेलू AI क्षमताओं** में पहले से ही हो रहे **बड़े निवेश** को — **सेमीकंडक्टर डिज़ाइन और निर्माण** से लेकर **मूलभूत AI मॉडल्स** तक — और तेज़ी से बढ़ाएगा।



- **U.S. trade policies** are acting as a **catalyst** for **China's self-reliance drive**, even as a U.S. foreign policy increasingly built on **direct deals for technology access** will likely trigger a more **dynamic and competitive scramble** among nations to align themselves strategically, caught between the technological gravity of **Washington and Beijing**.
अमेरिकी व्यापार नीतियाँ, चीन की आत्मनिर्भरता की मुहिम को एक प्रेरक के रूप में काम कर रही हैं, जबकि अमेरिका की प्रौद्योगिकी तक सीधी पहुंच के सौदों पर आधारित विदेश नीति अन्य देशों में रणनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा और हलचल को और तेज़ कर सकती है, जो वाशिंगटन और बीजिंग के तकनीकी प्रभाव क्षेत्र के बीच फंसे हैं।
- This shift in **U.S. AI export policy** is not a standalone event but a **tactical adjustment** on this sprawling battlefield.
अमेरिका की AI निर्यात नीति में यह बदलाव कोई एकल घटना नहीं है, बल्कि इस व्यापक युद्धक्षेत्र में एक रणनीतिक समायोजन है।
- While the objective of ensuring **U.S. AI leadership** and containing **China's technological advance** remains unchanged, for the **global tech industry**, this means bracing for continued **geopolitical turbulence** where **innovation, market access, and supply chain integrity** are all caught in the **crosshairs** of this superpower contest.
अमेरिका की AI नेतृत्व सुनिश्चित करने और चीन की तकनीकी प्रगति को सीमित करने का उद्देश्य यथावत है, लेकिन वैश्विक तकनीकी उद्योग के लिए इसका अर्थ है लगातार जारी रहने वाली भू-राजनीतिक अस्थिरता, जिसमें नवाचार, बाज़ार पहुंच और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला की अखंडता, सब कुछ इस महाशक्ति संघर्ष के निशाने पर है।



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GS Paper III: India-Bangladesh

Trade diplomacy

Trade restrictions against Bangladesh will not have much coercive value

In an escalation of bilateral trade-related tensions, India recently announced restrictions on readymade garments and other specified commodities from Bangladesh. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade's announcement targeting Bangladesh's vital apparel sector sent an unmistakable signal that deteriorating political relations have now spilled over into economic ties. By specifically denying Bangladeshi goods access to India's northeast market, New Delhi has delivered a pointed message to Mohammed Yunus, Bangladesh's interim leader, who during his visit to China in March 2025 had invited Chinese access to India's northeast through Bangladesh, describing the northeast as landlocked. While India's discomfiture about Bangladesh-China discussions regarding India's northeast is understandable, this trade restriction may hurt Bangladeshi businesses, largely dependent on garment export, but will do little to aid New Delhi's strategic interests. Bangladesh's recent political turmoil stems from protests against its former elected government, and the interim leadership – struggling with resistant bureaucracy and ongoing instability – has blamed New Delhi due to its perceived close ties with the previous administration led by Sheikh Hasina. The Yunus-led administration's warming up to Pakistan, and its ban on the Awami League – actions that go against its promises to the international community – have worsened relations. The imperative for New Delhi must be to come up with a deft outreach to other political parties in Bangladesh as they prepare for elections. While Mr. Yunus had announced that elections will be held later this year, there is still no clarity on the date.

New Delhi must, in consonance with the rest of the international community, advise the regime to conduct elections quickly. A political gesture of this nature while engaging with multiple stakeholders in Bangladesh's polity is more appropriate than using restrictive moves related to trade, as this would only heighten the anti-India sentiment being fanned by some elements in Bangladesh after the Awami League government's exit. Such radical elements, many of whom have little investment in the restoration of democratic processes, could also create fresh law and order problems that could lead to security issues in the northeast. India should carefully lay out its response keeping in mind that while it has to communicate its displeasure to the Yunus government, it also has to maintain working relations with this administration till a popularly elected government takes charge in Dhaka.

Trade Diplomacy: On India-Bangladesh Trade-Related Tensions

व्यापार कूटनीति: भारत-बांग्लादेश व्यापार संबंधी तनाव

• India recently imposed trade restrictions on readymade garments and other goods from Bangladesh.

भारत ने हाल ही में बांग्लादेश से आने वाले तैयार वस्त्रों और अन्य वस्तुओं पर व्यापार प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं।

• The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued the notification targeting Bangladesh's important apparel sector.

यह अधिसूचना विदेश व्यापार महानिदेशालय (DGFT) ने जारी की, जो बांग्लादेश के महत्वपूर्ण वस्त्र क्षेत्र को निशाना बनाती है।

• This move shows that worsening political relations are affecting economic ties between the two countries.

यह कदम दर्शाता है कि बिगड़ती हुई राजनीतिक संबंध अब दोनों देशों के आर्थिक संबंधों को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं।

• India has specifically denied Bangladeshi goods access to its northeast market.

भारत ने विशेष रूप से अपने पूर्वोत्तर बाजार में बांग्लादेशी सामान के प्रवेश को रोका है।

• This was meant as a message to Mohammed Yunus, Bangladesh's interim leader, who during his March 2025 visit to China invited Chinese access to India's northeast through Bangladesh.

यह संदेश था बांग्लादेश के अंतरिम नेता मोहम्मद यूनस को, जिन्होंने मार्च 2025 में चीन की यात्रा के दौरान चीन को भारत के पूर्वोत्तर तक पहुंचने के लिए बांग्लादेश मार्ग की पेशकश की थी।

• Yunus described India's northeast region as landlocked during his visit.

यूनस ने अपनी यात्रा के दौरान भारत के पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र को स्थल-आवृत (लैंडलॉकड) बताया।

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- India's concern over Bangladesh-China talks about the northeast region is understandable.
भारत की उस बात पर चिंता वाजिब है कि बांग्लादेश-चीन की पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के बारे में बातचीत हो रही है।
- The trade restrictions may hurt **Bangladeshi businesses**, especially those dependent on **garment exports**, but will not help India's **strategic interests**.
ये व्यापार प्रतिबंध **बांग्लादेशी व्यवसायों**, खासकर **वस्त्र निर्यात** पर निर्भर व्यवसायों को नुकसान पहुंचा सकते हैं, लेकिन भारत के **रणनीतिक हितों** में मदद नहीं करेंगे।
- Bangladesh's current political turmoil is due to protests against the **former elected government**.
बांग्लादेश में वर्तमान राजनीतिक अशांति **पूर्व चुनी हुई सरकार** के खिलाफ विरोध के कारण है।
- The **interim government** blames India because of its perceived close ties with the previous administration led by **Sheikh Hasina**.
अंतरिम सरकार भारत को दोष देती है क्योंकि माना जाता है कि भारत का **शेख हसीना** के नेतृत्व वाली पूर्व सरकार के साथ करीबी संबंध है।
- The Yunus administration has warmed relations with **Pakistan** and banned the **Awami League**, breaking promises made to the **international community**.
यूनस प्रशासन ने **पाकिस्तान** के साथ संबंध बढ़ाए हैं और **आवामी लीग** पर प्रतिबंध लगाया है, जो **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय** के प्रति किए गए वादों के विपरीत है।
- India should initiate a careful **outreach** to other political parties in Bangladesh ahead of elections.
भारत को चुनाव से पहले बांग्लादेश के अन्य राजनीतिक दलों से सावधानीपूर्वक **संपर्क** शुरू करना चाहिए।
- Yunus has announced elections will be held **later in 2025**, but the exact **date is not yet clear**.
यूनस ने घोषणा की है कि चुनाव **2025 के अंत में** होंगे, लेकिन **ठीक तारीख अभी स्पष्ट नहीं है**।
- India, along with the **international community**, should advise **Bangladesh's interim regime to hold elections quickly**.
भारत को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय** के साथ मिलकर बांग्लादेश की अंतरिम सरकार को चुनाव जल्द कराने की सलाह देनी चाहिए।
- Political gestures engaging multiple stakeholders are better than **trade restrictions**, which may increase **anti-India sentiment** in Bangladesh.
राजनीतिक संकेत जो कई हितधारकों को शामिल करें, वे **व्यापार प्रतिबंधों** से बेहतर हैं, क्योंकि प्रतिबंध से बांग्लादेश में **भारत-विरोधी भावना** बढ़ सकती है।
- Some radical elements in Bangladesh, uninterested in democracy, could cause **law and order problems** and threaten **security** in India's northeast.
बांग्लादेश के कुछ कट्टरपंथी तत्व, जो लोकतंत्र में रुचि नहीं रखते, वे **कानून-व्यवस्था** की समस्याएं पैदा कर सकते हैं और भारत के पूर्वोत्तर की **सुरक्षा** के लिए खतरा बन सकते हैं।
- India must balance communicating its displeasure to the Yunus government while maintaining working relations until a **popularly elected government** takes office in Dhaka.
भारत को यूनस सरकार को अपनी नाराजगी जाहिर करते हुए भी तब तक कामकाजी संबंध बनाए रखने



होंगे जब तक कि ढाका में लोकप्रिय रूप से चुनी हुई सरकार सत्ता में नहीं आती।

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir promoted as Field Marshal



AFP

GS Paper II: IR

Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir was on Tuesday promoted as the **Field Marshal** for “successfully” leading the armed forces in the recent conflict with India. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The decision was taken for his “exemplary role” in the conflict with India. PTI

Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir promoted as Field Marshal

पाकिस्तान सेना प्रमुख जनरल आसिम मुनिर को फील्ड मार्शल के पद पर पदोन्नत किया गया

• Pakistan Army chief **General Asim Munir** was on Tuesday promoted as the **Field Marshal** for “successfully” leading the armed forces in the recent conflict with India.

पाकिस्तान सेना प्रमुख जनरल आसिम मुनिर को मंगलवार को भारत के साथ हाल के संघर्ष में सेना का सफल नेतृत्व करने के लिए **फील्ड मार्शल** के पद पर पदोन्नत किया गया।

- The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif**.
यह निर्णय प्रधानमंत्री **शहबाज शरीफ** की अध्यक्षता में हुई कैबिनेट बैठक में लिया गया।
- The decision was taken for his “exemplary role” in the conflict with India.
यह निर्णय भारत के साथ संघर्ष में उनके “उत्कृष्ट भूमिका” के कारण लिया गया।



KHARTOUM

Sudan Army begins operation to oust **RSF** from outskirts of capital



GS Paper II: IR

REUTERS

Clashes erupted on Tuesday on the outskirts of Sudan's capital as the Army launched a "large-scale" offensive to dislodge the paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces** from its last positions in the area. The Army said it began the push on Monday to retake the holdouts, where health authorities reported a deadly **cholera outbreak**. AFP

Sudan Army begins operation to oust RSF from outskirts of capital

सूडान सेना ने राजधानी के बाहरी इलाके से आरएसएफ को निकालने के लिए अभियान शुरू किया

• Clashes erupted on Tuesday on the outskirts of Sudan's capital as the Army launched a "large-scale" offensive to dislodge the paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** from its last positions in the area.

मंगलवार को सूडान की राजधानी के बाहरी इलाके में झड़पें भड़क गईं, जब सेना ने क्षेत्र में पैरामिलिट्री **रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्स (आरएसएफ)** को उसके अंतिम ठिकानों से हटाने के लिए "व्यापक" हमला शुरू किया।

The Army said it began the push on Monday to retake the holdouts, where health authorities reported a deadly **cholera outbreak**.

सेना ने कहा कि उसने सोमवार को कब्जे में रहने वाले इलाकों को वापस लेने के लिए अभियान शुरू किया, जहां स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी एक घातक **हैजा** महामारी की रिपोर्ट कर चुके थे।



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

1. Axiom-4 mission: ISRO, NASA to hold outreach activities

एक्सओम-4 मिशन: इसरो और नासा द्वारा जागरूकता गतिविधियाँ आयोजित की जाएंगी

2. BSF to resume public retreat ceremony on Punjab border

पंजाब सीमा पर बीएसएफ द्वारा सार्वजनिक रिट्रीट समारोह फिर से शुरू किया जाएगा

3. Jayant Narlikar, Indian astrophysicist who challenged Big Bang theory, passes away

जयंत नार्लीकर, भारतीय खगोल भौतिकविद् जिन्होंने बिग बैंग सिद्धांत को चुनौती दी, का निधन

4. India poised to emerge as world's top potato producer

भारत दुनिया का शीर्ष आलू उत्पादक बनने की ओर अग्रसर

5. M.R. Srinivasan, a key architect of India's nuclear programme, no more

भारत के परमाणु कार्यक्रम के प्रमुख वास्तुकार एम.आर. श्रीनिवासन नहीं रहे

6. Kurma Mela: The Science of the Mass Nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles

कूर्म मेला: ऑलिव रिडली कछुओं के सामूहिक घोंसला बनाने की वैज्ञानिक प्रक्रिया

7. Jarosite: a natural clock on Mars

जारोसाइट: मंगल ग्रह पर एक प्राकृतिक घड़ी

8. Stitch in Time: On Judiciary and Environment Ministry Notifications

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समय पर सुधार: न्यायपालिका और पर्यावरण मंत्रालय की
अधिसूचनाओं पर

9. India's 'new normal' deconstructed

भारत का 'नया सामान्य' विश्लेषण

10. Progress should not just be fast but future-proof

प्रगति केवल तेज़ नहीं बल्कि भविष्य-सबूत भी होनी चाहिए

11. Trade Diplomacy: On India-Bangladesh Trade-Related Tensions

व्यापार कूटनीति: भारत-बांग्लादेश व्यापार संबंधी तनाव

12. The role of the Internet in spreading misinformation

इंटरनेट की भूमिका गलत सूचना फैलाने में

PATRIOTIC IAS



Axiom-4 mission: ISRO, NASA to hold outreach activities

GS Paper III: S&T

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the U.S.'s National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will conduct two outreach activities as part of Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4) to the International Space Station (ISS) which is scheduled to be launched on June 8 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Dana Weigel, manager, International Space Station Program, NASA, in a virtual mission overview press conference for the upcoming mission said, "As part of this mission NASA is partnering with the ISRO to host a joint public downlink event to showcase the strength of the international collaboration and our show of commitment to expanding access to space NASA and ISRO will also conduct five joint science investigation in addition to two outreach activities."

Further elaborating on the outreach activities, Sudeesh Balan, project director, ISRO, said the space agency is planning two student events in which the astronaut would be interacting directly with the student community.

"One activity is a student event where the astronaut would be interacting directly with the student community... We are planning two such events across the country.



Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's mission to the ISS is scheduled on June 8.

The two space agencies will also conduct experiments on human research programmes

Apart from that there is an amateur radio link which is an existing tradition in the ISS. There will be an amateur radio contact with the student community... we have identified the students and these activities are currently in progress. We have located two places in India where this will be happening," he said.

ISRO has already shortlisted seven microgravity research experiments proposed by Indian Principal Investigators (PIs) from various national R&D laboratories and academic institutions for implementation on the ISS.

ISRO and NASA will also be conducting five more experiments which will mainly be on human research programmes which Group Captain Shukla will be participating in.

Axiom-4 mission: ISRO, NASA to hold outreach activities

एक्सओम-4 मिशन: इसरो और नासा द्वारा जागरूकता गतिविधियाँ आयोजित की जाएंगी

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the U.S.'s National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will conduct two outreach activities as part of Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4) to the International Space Station (ISS).

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) और अमेरिका की नेशनल एरोनॉटिक्स एंड स्पेस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन (नासा), भारतीय अंतरिक्ष यात्री ग्रुप कैप्टन शुभांशु शुकला के एक्सओम-4 मिशन (Ax-4) के तहत दो जागरूकता गतिविधियाँ आयोजित करेंगे।

• The mission is scheduled to launch on **June 8** from **NASA's Kennedy Space Center** in Florida.

यह मिशन 8 जून को नासा के केंनेडी स्पेस सेंटर, फ्लोरिडा से लॉन्च किया जाएगा।

• Dana Weigel, manager of the **International Space Station Program**, said that NASA is partnering with ISRO to host a **joint public downlink event**.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन कार्यक्रम की प्रबंधक डाना वेगेल ने कहा कि नासा इसरो के साथ मिलकर एक संयुक्त सार्वजनिक डाउनलिन कार्यक्रम आयोजित करेगा।

• The event aims to showcase **international collaboration** and commitment to **expanding access to space**.

यह कार्यक्रम अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग और अंतरिक्ष तक पहुंच बढ़ाने की प्रतिबद्धता को प्रदर्शित करेगा।

• In addition to outreach, **five joint science investigations** will be conducted.

इन जागरूकता गतिविधियों के अलावा, पाँच संयुक्त वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान किए जाएंगे।



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- ISRO's project director **Sudeesh Balan** said that two **student events** are being planned across India.
इसरो के परियोजना निदेशक **सुदीश बालन** ने कहा कि भारत में दो छात्र कार्यक्रमों की योजना बनाई जा रही है।
- In these events, the astronaut will **interact directly** with the student community.
इन कार्यक्रमों में अंतरिक्ष यात्री छात्रों से **सीधे संवाद** करेंगे।
- There will also be an **amateur radio link**, a tradition in the **ISS**, for student interaction.
इसके अलावा छात्रों के संवाद के लिए **अमैच्योर रेडियो लिंक** भी होगा, जो **ISS** की एक परंपरा है।
- Students have already been identified, and the activities are currently **in progress**.
छात्रों की पहले ही पहचान कर ली गई है और गतिविधियाँ इस समय **प्रगति में** हैं।
- **Two locations in India** have been selected for these outreach events.
इन जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों के लिए भारत में दो स्थानों का चयन किया गया है।
- ISRO has shortlisted **seven microgravity research experiments** proposed by Indian researchers from national **R&D labs and academic institutions**.
इसरो ने राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान प्रयोगशालाओं और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा प्रस्तावित **7 माइक्रोग्रैविटी अनुसंधान प्रयोगों** को चयनित किया है।
- These experiments will be implemented on the **ISS**.
ये प्रयोग **ISS** पर लागू किए जाएंगे।
- ISRO and NASA will also conduct **five additional experiments** focused on **human research programmes**.
इसरो और नासा **मानव अनुसंधान कार्यक्रमों** पर केंद्रित **पाँच अतिरिक्त प्रयोग** भी करेंगे।
- **Group Captain Shukla** will participate in these human research activities.
इन मानव अनुसंधान गतिविधियों में **ग्रुप कैप्टन शुक्ला** भाग लेंगे।



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

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

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BSF to resume public retreat ceremony on Punjab border

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Press Trust of India
AMRITSAR

The **Border Security Force (BSF)** has said the public flag-lowering retreat ceremony at Attari, Hussainiwala and Sadki in Punjab along the Pakistan frontier will begin on Wednesday.

It was stopped after Operation Sindoor.

The ceremony, however, will be curtailed as BSF troops will not shake hands with Pakistan Rangers, and the gates will not be opened during the flag-lowering process as declared earlier, officials had said on Monday.

BSF to resume public retreat ceremony on Punjab border

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸੀਮਾ ਪਰ ਭੀਏਸਏਫ ਦੁਵਾਰਾ ਸਾਰਵਜਨਿਕ ਰਿਟ੍ਰੀਟ ਸਮਾਰੋਹ ਫਿਰ ਸੇ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਿਆ ਜਾਏਗਾ

The **Border Security Force (BSF)** has announced that the public flag-lowering retreat ceremony at Attari, Hussainiwala, and Sadki in Punjab, located along the Pakistan frontier, will resume on Wednesday.

ਸੀਮਾ ਸੁਰਕਸ਼ਾ ਬਲ (ਭੀਏਸਏਫ) ਨੇ ਘੋਸ਼ਣਾ ਕੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ ਸੀਮਾ ਸੇ ਸਟੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਕੇ ਅਟਾਰੀ, ਹੁਸੈਨੀਵਾਲਾ ਔਰ ਸਦਕੀ ਮੇਂ ਸਾਰਵਜਨਿਕ ਢਵਜ ਅਵਰੋਹਣ ਰਿਟ੍ਰੀਟ ਸਮਾਰੋਹ ਬੁਢਵਾਰ ਸੇ ਫਿਰ ਸੇ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਿਆ ਜਾਏਗਾ।

The ceremony had earlier been stopped after Operation Sindoor, which was a security operation.

ਯਹ ਸਮਾਰੋਹ ਪਹਲੇ ਔਪਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਸਿੰਦੂਰ ਕੇ ਬਾਦ ਰੋਕ ਦਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਥਾ, ਜੋ ਏਕ ਸੁਰਕਸ਼ਾ ਅਭਿਆਨ ਥਾ।

- However, the ceremony will now be held in a **curtailed format**. As per officials, **BSF troops will not shake hands with Pakistan Rangers**, and the **gates between the two countries will not be opened** during the flag-lowering process, unlike the usual practice.

ਹਾਲਾਂਕਿ ਅਬ ਯਹ ਸਮਾਰੋਹ ਸੰਕੁਚਿਤ ਰੂਪ ਮੇਂ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕਿਆ ਜਾਏਗਾ। ਅਧਿਕਾਰਿਯੋਂ ਕੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ, ਭੀਏਸਏਫ ਜਵਾਨ ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ ਰੇਂਜਰਸ ਸੇ ਹਾਥ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਾਏਂਗੇ, ਔਰ ਢਵਜ ਅਵਰੋਹਣ ਪਰਕ੍ਰਿਯਾ ਕੇ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਦੋਨੋਂ ਦੇਸ਼ੋਂ ਕੇ ਭੀਚ ਕੇ ਗੇਟ ਨਹੀਂ ਖੋਲੇ ਜਾਏਂਗੇ, ਜੈਸਾ ਕਿ ਸਾਮਾਨ੍ਯ ਰੂਪ ਸੇ ਹੋਤਾ ਥਾ।



Jayant Narlikar, Indian astrophysicist who challenged Big Bang theory, passes away

He first gained international recognition when, alongside the British astronomer Fred Hoyle, he proposed the 'steady state' model of the universe; a prolific writer, Narlikar explored themes ranging from alien encounters to the moral quandaries arising from the rapid technological progress

GS Paper III: S&T

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Jayant Narlikar, one of India's most distinguished astrophysicists who combined profound theoretical insight into cosmology with a lifelong commitment to science communication, passed away at his residence in Pune on Tuesday. He was 86.

Describing what made Dr. Narlikar one of the "greats", Tarun Souradeep, Director of the Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, told *The Hindu* that it was his "sense of justice and equality" and his "unwavering commitment" to popularising science and combating "non-science-based superstition and astrology" that set him apart.

As a gifted institution-builder, Dr. Narlikar played a pioneering role in establishing the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, where he served as Founder-Director. Under

his stewardship, IUCAA emerged as a globally recognised centre for theoretical physics, cosmology, and astrophysics.

"He spawned a number of leading scientists who set new directions and schools: Thanu Padmanabhan (cosmology, gravitation, and quantum gravity); Sanjeev Dhurandhar (gravitational waves); Ajit Kembhavi (data-driven observational astronomy), to name a few," Dr. Souradeep, who completed his doctoral research under Dr. Narlikar's guidance, said.

'Science populariser'

A prolific writer and science populariser, Dr. Narlikar once recalled, in a blog post, "playing table tennis with Stephen Hawking (prior to his muscular atrophy)" when they were both students at the University of Cambridge.

Dr. Narlikar first gained international recognition when, alongside the British astronomer Fred Hoyle, he proposed the "steady



JAYANT NARLIKAR (1938-2025)

state" model of the universe – a theory positing a timeless cosmos in which matter is continuously created.

This stood in contrast to the dominant Big Bang model, a term ironically coined by Sir Fred to disparage it, which posits that the universe began at a single point in time.

Vocal critic

Although subsequent observational evidence has since firmly supported the

Big Bang theory, Dr. Narlikar remained a persistent and vocal critic of it, adapting and refining the steady state view throughout his career.

"He wore his remarkable learning in various disciplines very lightly and he combined to an unusual degree formidable scholarship with humility. He was well and truly a most luminous star of Indian science, who reflected the noblest of our civilisational traditions," Congress communi-

cations in-charge and Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh tweeted. He shared an excerpt from the 1964 edition of *Yojana* – a Planning Commission publication – which debated whether India should lure the young Narlikar back from Cambridge.

In a rare feat, Dr. Narlikar was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1965, even before formally beginning his career in India at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. He later received the Padma Vibhushan in 2004.

Among his many accolades were the UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the popularisation of science in 1996 and the prestigious Prix Jules Janssen from the French Astronomical Society in 2004.

Literary contributions

Dr. Narlikar was also widely admired for his literary contributions. His science-fiction story *Dhoomaketu (The Comet)* was adapted into a film, while his auto-

biography *Chaar Nagarantale Maze Vishwa (My Tale of Four Cities)* was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Prize. His writing – marked by clarity, an avoidance of jargon, and philosophical depth – explored themes ranging from alien encounters to the moral quandaries arising from the rapid technological progress.

His key influences

He was frequently featured in science programmes on television in the 1990s and credited Carl Sagan's outreach work, as well as the fiction of Sir Fred, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, and Ray Bradbury, as key influences in his approach to communicating science.

Born to eminent parents – Vishnu Vasudev Narlikar, a mathematician at Banaras Hindu University (now IIT-BHU), and Sumati Narlikar, a Sanskrit scholar – Dr. Narlikar received his early education in Varanasi before moving to the University of Cambridge, where he completed his Ph.D. under Sir Fred's mentorship.

Jayant Narlikar, Indian astrophysicist who challenged Big Bang theory, passes away

जयंत नार्लीकर, भारतीय खगोल भौतिकविद् जिन्होंने बिग बैंग सिद्धांत को चुनौती दी, का निधन

Jayant Narlikar, one of India's most distinguished astrophysicists, who combined profound theoretical insight into cosmology with a lifelong commitment to science communication, passed away at his residence in Pune on Tuesday. He was 86.

जयंत नार्लीकर, भारत के प्रमुख खगोल भौतिकविदों में से एक, जिन्होंने ब्रह्मांड विज्ञान



में गहरी सैद्धांतिक समझ को विज्ञान संचार के प्रति आजीवन प्रतिबद्धता के साथ जोड़ा, का मंगलवार को पुणे में अपने निवास पर निधन हो गया। वे 86 वर्ष के थे।

- He first gained **international recognition** when, alongside **British astronomer Fred Hoyle**, he proposed the '**steady state**' model of the universe.
उन्हें पहली बार अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहचान तब मिली जब उन्होंने ब्रिटिश खगोलशास्त्री फ्रेड हॉयल के साथ मिलकर ब्रह्मांड का 'स्थिर अवस्था' मॉडल प्रस्तुत किया।
- A **prolific writer**, Narlikar explored themes ranging from **alien encounters** to the **moral quandaries** arising from **rapid technological progress**.
एक उत्पादक लेखक के रूप में नार्लीकर ने एलियंस से मुलाकात से लेकर तेज़ तकनीकी प्रगति से उत्पन्न नैतिक संकटों तक के विषयों की पड़ताल की।
- Tarun Souradeep, **Director of the Raman Research Institute (RRI)**, Bengaluru, said it was Dr. Narlikar's "**sense of justice and equality**" and his "**unwavering commitment**" to **popularising science** and opposing "**non-science-based superstition and astrology**" that set him apart.
तारुण सौरदीप, रमन रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (आरआरआई), बंगलुरु के निदेशक, ने कहा कि डॉ. नार्लीकर को विशिष्ट बनाता था उनका "न्याय और समानता का भाव" और विज्ञान के प्रसार तथा "अवैज्ञानिक अंधविश्वास और ज्योतिष" के विरोध में उनकी "अटल प्रतिबद्धता"।
- As a **gifted institution-builder**, he played a **pioneering role** in establishing the **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)**, Pune, where he served as **Founder-Director**.
एक प्रतिभाशाली संस्था-निर्माता के रूप में उन्होंने पुणे में इंटर-यूनिवर्सिटी सेंटर फॉर एस्ट्रोनॉमी एंड एस्ट्रोफिजिक्स (IUCAA) की स्थापना में अग्रणी भूमिका निभाई और इसके संस्थापक निदेशक रहे।
- Under his leadership, **IUCAA** became a **globally recognised centre** for **theoretical physics, cosmology, and astrophysics**.
उनके नेतृत्व में IUCAA ने सैद्धांतिक भौतिकी, ब्रह्मांड विज्ञान और खगोल भौतिकी के लिए एक वैश्विक स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त केंद्र का दर्जा प्राप्त किया।
- He mentored many renowned scientists like **Thanu Padmanabhan (cosmology, gravitation, quantum gravity)**, **Sanjeev Dhurandhar (gravitational waves)**, and **Ajit Kembhavi (data-driven observational astronomy)**.
उन्होंने थानु पद्मनाभन (ब्रह्मांड विज्ञान, गुरुत्वाकर्षण, क्वांटम ग्रेविटी), संजीव धुरंधर (गुरुत्वीय तरंगों), और अजीत केंभावी (डेटा आधारित प्रेक्षणीय खगोलशास्त्र) जैसे कई प्रसिद्ध वैज्ञानिकों को मार्गदर्शन दिया।
- In a blog post, Dr. Narlikar once recalled **playing table tennis with Stephen Hawking**, before Hawking's **muscular atrophy** progressed, during their **student days at Cambridge**.
एक ब्लॉग पोस्ट में डॉ. नार्लीकर ने याद किया था कि उन्होंने कैम्ब्रिज में पढ़ाई के दौरान स्टीफन हॉकिंग के साथ टेबल टेनिस खेली थी, जब उनकी मांसपेशीय दुर्बलता आगे नहीं बढ़ी थी।



- He proposed the **steady state theory**, which postulates a **timeless universe** where **matter is continuously created**, in contrast to the **Big Bang theory**, which posits a **universe beginning from a single point in time**.
उन्होंने **स्थिर अवस्था सिद्धांत** प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें एक **कालातीत ब्रह्मांड** की परिकल्पना की गई है जिसमें **सामग्री निरंतर उत्पन्न होती रहती है**, जो कि **बिग बैंग सिद्धांत** से विपरीत है, जिसमें **ब्रह्मांड की एक बिंदु से शुरुआत मानी जाती है**।
- Despite **observational evidence** favoring the **Big Bang**, Dr. Narlikar remained a **persistent and vocal critic**, refining the **steady state view** throughout his career.
भले ही **प्रेक्षणीय साक्ष्य बिग बैंग सिद्धांत** का समर्थन करते हैं, डॉ. नार्लीकर ने पूरे अपने करियर में **स्थिर अवस्था दृष्टिकोण को निरंतर संशोधित किया और इसके निरंतर आलोचक बने रहे**।
- **Jairam Ramesh**, Congress MP, tweeted that Dr. Narlikar “**wore his remarkable learning with humility**” and reflected “**the noblest of Indian civilisational traditions**”.
कांग्रेस सांसद जयराम रमेश ने ट्वीट किया कि डॉ. नार्लीकर ने “**अपने अद्वितीय ज्ञान को विनम्रता के साथ धारण किया**” और “**भारतीय सभ्यता की महानतम परंपराओं**” को प्रतिबिंबित किया।
- In **1965**, even before starting his formal career in India, he was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, and later the **Padma Vibhushan** in **2004**.
उन्होंने भारत में अपने औपचारिक करियर की शुरुआत से पहले ही **1965** में **पद्म भूषण** प्राप्त किया, और बाद में **2004** में **पद्म विभूषण** से सम्मानित किए गए।
- He also received the **UNESCO Kalinga Prize** in **1996** for science popularisation and the **Prix Jules Janssen** from the **French Astronomical Society** in **2004**.
उन्हें **1996** में विज्ञान प्रसार के लिए **यूनेस्को कलिंगा पुरस्कार** और **2004** में **फ्रांसीसी खगोलशास्त्रीय सोसाइटी** से **प्रिक्स जूलस जैन्सन पुरस्कार** भी मिला।
- His **science-fiction story**, *Dhoomaketu (The Comet)*, was adapted into a **film**, and his **autobiography** *Chaar Nagarantale Maze Vishwa (My Tale of Four Cities)* received the **Sahitya Akademi Prize**.
उनकी **विज्ञान-कथा कहानी धूमकेतु** पर **फिल्म** बनी, और उनकी **आत्मकथा चार नगरांतले माझं विश्व** को **साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार** से सम्मानित किया गया।
- His writings were admired for their **clarity, philosophical depth**, and avoidance of **jargon**, covering subjects from **aliens to ethical questions of tech progress**.
उनकी लेखनी को **स्पष्टता, दार्शनिक गहराई और जटिल शब्दावली से बचाव** के लिए सराहा गया, जिसमें **एलियंस से लेकर तकनीकी प्रगति से उत्पन्न नैतिक सवालों तक** शामिल थे।
- He credited **Carl Sagan, Fred Hoyle, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, and Ray Bradbury** as key influences in **science communication**.
उन्होंने **कार्ल सेगन, फ्रेड हॉयल, आइज़ैक असिमोव, आर्थर सी. क्लार्क, और रे ब्रेडबरी** को **विज्ञान संचार** में अपनी प्रेरणाओं के रूप में माना।
- Born to **Vishnu Vasudev Narlikar**, a mathematician at **Banaras Hindu University (now IIT-BHU)**, and **Sumati Narlikar**, a **Sanskrit scholar**, he had his **early education in Varanasi** before moving to **Cambridge** for his **Ph.D. under Sir Fred Hoyle**.
वे **विष्णु वासुदेव नार्लीकर**, जो **बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय (अब आईआईटी-बीएचयू)** में **गणितज्ञ** थे,



और सुमति नार्लीकर, जो एक संस्कृत विद्वान थीं, के पुत्र थे। उन्होंने वाराणसी में प्रारंभिक शिक्षा प्राप्त की और बाद में सर फ्रेड हॉयल के मार्गदर्शन में पीएचडी के लिए कैम्ब्रिज चले गए।



India poised to emerge as world's top potato producer

GS Paper III: Agriculture

India is on track to becoming the world's top potato producer, overtaking China, according to scientists from the Peru-based International Potato Center (Centro Internacional de la Papa - CIP). Speaking at a symposium on "Root and Tuber Crops Research and Development in India and South Asia", experts projected that India's annual potato production could rise to 100 million tonnes by 2050. Addressing the seminar, the chairperson of the CIP Board, Helen Hambly Odame, said the institution's 50-year partnership with India has been instrumental in it becoming the second largest potato producer globally.

- Speaking at a symposium on "Root and Tuber Crops Research and Development in India and South Asia", experts projected that India's annual potato production could rise to 100 million tonnes by 2050.

India poised to emerge as world's top potato producer

भारत दुनिया का शीर्ष आलू उत्पादक बनने की ओर अग्रसर

– India is on track to becoming the world's top potato producer, overtaking China, according to scientists from the Peru-based International Potato Center (Centro Internacional de la Papa – CIP).

– पेरू-आधारित इंटरनेशनल पोटैटो सेंटर (CIP) के वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार, भारत चीन को पीछे छोड़ते हुए दुनिया का शीर्ष आलू उत्पादक बनने की दिशा में अग्रसर है।



– "भारत और दक्षिण एशिया में कंद और जड़ फसलों पर अनुसंधान और विकास" विषयक संगोष्ठी में बोलते हुए विशेषज्ञों ने अनुमान जताया कि भारत का वार्षिक आलू उत्पादन 2050 तक 10 करोड़ टन तक पहुंच सकता है।

- Addressing the seminar, the chairperson of the CIP Board, **Helen Hambly Odame**, said the institution's **50-year partnership with India** has been instrumental in it becoming the **second largest potato producer globally**.
 - संगोष्ठी को संबोधित करते हुए **CIP बोर्ड की अध्यक्ष हेलेन हैम्बली ओडेमे** ने कहा कि संस्था की भारत के साथ 50 वर्षों की साझेदारी ने इसे वैश्विक स्तर पर दूसरा सबसे बड़ा आलू उत्पादक बनने में मदद की है।

M.R. Srinivasan, a key architect of India's nuclear programme, no more

GS Paper III: S&T

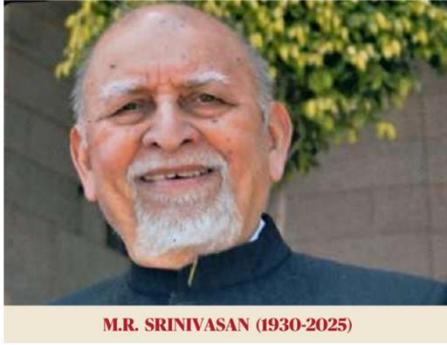
The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

M.R. Srinivasan, former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy, passed away in Udhagamandalam on Tuesday. He was 95.

Dr. Srinivasan joined the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in September 1955 and began his distinguished career working alongside Dr. Homi J. Bhabha on the construction of India's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, which achieved criticality in August 1956.

In August 1959, he was appointed Principal Project Engineer for the construction of India's first atomic power station. His leadership continued to shape the nation's nuclear programme when, in 1967, he took charge as Chief Project Engineer of the Madras Atomic Power Station.

Dr. Srinivasan held several key positions of na-



M.R. SRINIVASAN (1930-2025)

tional importance. In 1974, he became Director of the Power Projects Engineering Division, DAE, and in 1984, Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board. In these roles, he oversaw the planning, execution, and operation of all nuclear power projects across the country.

In 1987, he was appointed Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy. That same year, he became

the Founder-Chairman of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL). Under his leadership, 18 nuclear power units were developed – seven of which were operational, seven under construction, and four in the planning stage.

His contributions to India's nuclear energy landscape will be remembered for generations to come, his daughter Sharada Srinivasan said in a statement released by the family. In

He began his career working alongside Homi Bhabha on the construction of India's first nuclear research reactor

recognition of his contributions to India's nuclear energy programme, Dr. Srinivasan was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2015. "India will always be grateful to him for advancing scientific progress and mentoring many young scientists," Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on social media platform X.

"It has been my good fortune to have known him for a long time and he is someone who has left a deep and lasting impression on me by the strength of his commitments, his deep appreciation of the larger social functions of science, and his profound understanding of India's rich cultural traditions," Congress MP Jairam Ramesh wrote on X.

M.R. Srinivasan, a key architect of India's nuclear programme, no more

भारत के परमाणु कार्यक्रम

के प्रमुख वास्तुकार

एम.आर. श्रीनिवासन नहीं

रहे

M.R. Srinivasan, former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy, passed away in Udhagamandalam on Tuesday. He was 95.

परमाणु ऊर्जा आयोग के पूर्व अध्यक्ष और परमाणु ऊर्जा

विभाग के सचिव एम.आर. श्रीनिवासन का मंगलवार को उधगमंडलम में निधन हो गया। वे 95 वर्ष के थे।



- – Dr. Srinivasan joined the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** in **September 1955** and began his distinguished career working alongside **Dr. Homi J. Bhabha** on the construction of India's **first nuclear research reactor, Apsara**, which achieved criticality in **August 1956**.
 - डॉ. श्रीनिवासन ने सितंबर 1955 में परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग (DAE) में शामिल होकर डॉ. होमी जे. भाभा के साथ भारत के पहले परमाणु अनुसंधान रिएक्टर 'अप्सरा' के निर्माण में काम करना शुरू किया, जो अगस्त 1956 में क्रिटिकलिटी तक पहुंचा।
- – In **August 1959**, he was appointed **Principal Project Engineer** for the construction of India's **first atomic power station**.
 - अगस्त 1959 में उन्हें भारत के पहले परमाणु ऊर्जा स्टेशन के निर्माण के लिए प्रधान परियोजना अभियंता नियुक्त किया गया।
- – His leadership continued to shape the nation's nuclear programme when, in **1967**, he took charge as **Chief Project Engineer** of the **Madras Atomic Power Station**.
 - 1967 में उन्होंने मद्रास परमाणु ऊर्जा स्टेशन के मुख्य परियोजना अभियंता का कार्यभार संभाला और उनकी नेतृत्व क्षमता ने भारत के परमाणु कार्यक्रम को आगे आकार दिया।
- – Dr. Srinivasan held several key positions of national importance. In **1974**, he became **Director** of the **Power Projects Engineering Division, DAE**, and in **1984**, **Chairman** of the **Nuclear Power Board**.
 - डॉ. श्रीनिवासन ने कई महत्वपूर्ण राष्ट्रीय पदों पर कार्य किया। 1974 में वे परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग के पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स इंजीनियरिंग डिवीजन के निदेशक बने और 1984 में न्यूक्लियर पावर बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष बने।
- – In these roles, he oversaw the **planning, execution, and operation** of **all nuclear power projects** across the country.
 - इन पदों पर रहते हुए उन्होंने देश भर में सभी परमाणु ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं की योजना, क्रियान्वयन और संचालन की निगरानी की।
- – In **1987**, he was appointed **Chairman** of the **Atomic Energy Commission** and **Secretary** of the **Department of Atomic Energy**.
 - 1987 में उन्हें परमाणु ऊर्जा आयोग के अध्यक्ष और परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग के सचिव नियुक्त किया गया।
- – That same year, he became the **Founder-Chairman** of the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL)**.
 - उसी वर्ष वे न्यूक्लियर पावर कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (NPCIL) के संस्थापक अध्यक्ष बने।
- – Under his leadership, **18 nuclear power units** were developed — **seven** of which were **operational**, **seven** under **construction**, and **four** in the **planning stage**.
 - उनके नेतृत्व में 18 परमाणु ऊर्जा इकाइयाँ विकसित की गईं — जिनमें से 7 चालू, 7 निर्माणाधीन और 4 योजना चरण में थीं।
- – His contributions to India's nuclear energy landscape will be remembered for **generations to come**, his daughter **Sharada Srinivasan** said in a statement released by the family.



– उनकी बेटी शारदा श्रीनिवासन ने परिवार द्वारा जारी एक बयान में कहा कि भारत की परमाणु ऊर्जा प्रणाली में उनका योगदान आने वाली पीढ़ियों तक याद किया जाएगा।

- – In recognition of his contributions to India's nuclear energy programme, Dr. Srinivasan was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2015.
 - भारत के परमाणु ऊर्जा कार्यक्रम में उनके योगदान के लिए डॉ. श्रीनिवासन को 2015 में पद्म विभूषण से सम्मानित किया गया।
- – “India will always be grateful to him for advancing **scientific progress** and mentoring many **young scientists**,” **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** wrote on social media platform X.
 - प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने सोशल मीडिया मंच X पर लिखा, “वैज्ञानिक प्रगति को आगे बढ़ाने और कई युवा वैज्ञानिकों का मार्गदर्शन करने के लिए भारत हमेशा उनका आभारी रहेगा।”
- – “It has been my good fortune to have known him for a long time and he is someone who has left a **deep and lasting impression** on me by the strength of his **commitments**, his deep appreciation of the **larger social functions of science**, and his profound understanding of **India's rich cultural traditions**,” **Congress MP Jairam Ramesh** wrote on X.
 - कांग्रेस सांसद जयराम रमेश ने X पर लिखा, “उन्हें लंबे समय तक जानना मेरे लिए सौभाग्य रहा है और उन्होंने अपने प्रतिबद्धताओं की दृढ़ता, विज्ञान की सामाजिक भूमिका की गहरी समझ और भारत की समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं की गहरी सराहना के माध्यम से मुझ पर गहरा और स्थायी प्रभाव डाला है।”



Kurma mela: the science of the mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles

Olive Ridley turtles have endured mass extinctions, shifting continents, and rising seas; their resilience is remarkable but not limitless; regardless of whether turtles continue to return to nesting sites, our ethical responsibility is to safeguard the ecological balance that keeps turtles going and permit them, in this age of intrusiveness, some privacy

GS Paper III: Environment

Devatima Ghosh

The Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), a vulnerable sea turtle species, made headlines earlier this year: a record-breaking seven lakh turtles had nested at Odisha's Rushikulya beach alone in March.

These turtles are renowned for their synchronised mass nesting events called *arribada*, a Spanish word that means "arrival." For many people, the Rushikulya *arribada* signalled hope – but for conservation biologists, it raised critical questions about the future of these vulnerable animals and whether human interventions, even well-meaning ones, could change the course of nature itself.

While some localised populations of Olive Ridley turtles have expanded, the IUCN Red List has estimated that the number of Olive Ridges worldwide has dropped by 30-50% since 1960. The Olive Ridges' primary nesting sites are along the Pacific coasts of Mexico and Central America, although Odisha is also a particularly critical location.

The State's 480-km-long coastline hosts three major nesting beaches: Gahirmatha, between the Brahmani and Baitarani river mouths; Devi, 100 km south of Gahirmatha; and Rushikulya, 320 km further south.

The where of it

Research has found that Olive Ridley turtles that hatch at a nesting site are "imprinted" with a map of the local magnetic field. Decades later they return with remarkable precision to the site by following this map. The phenomenon is called *philopatry*: a blend of memory, environmental factors, and the earth's geomagnetic cues. *Philopatry* is reinforced by a multiplier effect: as females with strong *philopatric* tendencies increase in number, they reinforce site fidelity across generations.

There are other ecological factors too. Studies on the loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) have also revealed that their nesting zones are near free swirls of cold water in the seas – called cold-core eddies – that move nutrients up from the deep sea to the surface, including those rich in chlorophyll. Other factors that affect their choice of nesting sites include salinity, land slope, risk of predation, and rainfall.

Nesting sites are considered more suitable if more turtles have nested there before – but as turtle populations swell whereas the size of the most favourable nesting grounds doesn't, beaches often become battlegrounds. A population that



An Olive Ridley turtle laying eggs at the Rushikulya river mouth beach, Ganjam, Odisha. BISWANJAN ROU

arrives after another has already nested at a beach might dig up existing nests – female turtles are guided by olfactory cues and female urine – and break the eggs. This happened earlier this year during the second mass-nesting event at Rushikulya.

Eggs that are broken and displaced attract predators. Experts previously believed predators used visual cues to detect turtle nests. More recent research has found that olfactory cues, especially the scent of disturbed soil and broken eggs, are more significant. Thus, a species' most successful survival strategy may also sow the seeds of its decline.

In sea turtles, temperature determines the sex of hatchlings. Studies of loggerhead turtles have found that their populations are more female when they nest on warmer beaches. Researchers are still collecting similar data pertaining to Olive Ridley turtles. With rising temperatures shifting the sex ratio more towards females, the multiplier effect is expected to get reinforced as more females return to mass-nesting beaches in the coming years.

How mass nesting begins

For their first *arribadas*, female sea turtles pick their nesting sites without any discernible pattern and use them irregularly. If a female turtle reaches the reproductive stage of its life before it is able to reach the beach where it hatched, it may establish a new nesting site closer to its foraging grounds. Its hatchlings will be imprinted with this location, and they will attempt to return to it later.

Olive Ridley turtles that hatch at a nesting site are imprinted with a map of the local magnetic field. Decades later they return with remarkable precision to the site by following this map. The phenomenon is called philopatry: a blend of memory, environmental factors, and the earth's geomagnetic cues

Put another way, for a sea turtle population to thrive, it needs strays and wanderers like these turtles, which establish new places for the *arribada*. If they had been forced to stick to one site over millions of years, they would likely have become extinct due to overcrowding in the mass nesting beaches.

Modern conservation has helped boost turtle populations, especially by artificially incubating eggs and protecting beaches. The question naturally arises: could these measures be too successful? Because if weaker individuals that would have perished in the wild are now able to survive and reproduce, the population's genetic resilience will drop.

People, turtles, popularity

No conservation story is complete without acknowledging the role of local communities. In Odisha, fisherfolk and villagers are vital allies: they guard nests, curb egg poaching, and guide conservationists. But not all human interactions are benign.

Turtle tourism has surged in recent years. The influx of visitors creates opportunities to raise awareness, but it also stresses these gentle creatures. Crowds gather to watch nesting turtles at night, using bright lights, clicking selfies, and – in some disturbing cases – scooping sand out of the ground to watch the egg-laying or even sitting on turtles for photographs.

Such acts disturb nesting behaviour and may have a lasting impact on the turtles' memory, discouraging them from returning to the site.

Scientists are also just beginning to understand the cognitive and emotional inner lives of turtles. It's entirely possible that what we think of as harmlessly marvelling at them could be disrupting the ancient rhythms of these mariners.

In other words, it's no longer about numbers or rescue operations. The priority is to ensure the longevity of these nesting beaches and to balance tourism with ethical responsibility.

Olive Ridley turtles have endured mass extinctions, shifting continents, and rising seas. Their resilience is remarkable – but not limitless. Regardless of whether turtles continue to return to nesting sites despite these disturbances, humans' ethical responsibility is clear: to safeguard the ecological balance that keeps sea turtles going.

(Devatima Ghosh is an assistant professor at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Biodiversity, Evolution and Climate Change, JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru.)

THE GIST

The IUCN Red List estimates that the number of Olive Ridges has dropped by 30-50% since 1960. The primary nesting sites are along the Pacific coasts of Mexico and Central America; Odisha is also a particularly critical location

As populations swell, beaches become battlegrounds. A population that arrives after a previous nesting might dig up existing nests. Eggs that are broken attract predators. Thus, a species' successful survival strategy may also sow the seeds of its decline

For the turtles to thrive, they need wanderers who establish new, less crowded nesting grounds. Modern conservation has also insulated turtles from selection; weaker individuals that would have perished are now able to survive, damaging the population's genetic resilience

Kurma Mela: The Science of the Mass Nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles

कूर्म मेला: ऑलिव रिडली कछुओं के सामूहिक घोंसला बनाने की वैज्ञानिक प्रक्रिया



The Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), a vulnerable sea turtle species, made headlines earlier this year: a record-breaking seven lakh turtles had nested at Odisha's Rushikulya beach alone in March.

ऑलिव रिडली कछुआ (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), जो एक असुरक्षित समुद्री कछुआ प्रजाति है, ने इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में सुर्खियाँ बटोरीं: केवल मार्च में ओडिशा के रुशिकुल्या समुद्र तट पर रिकॉर्ड सात लाख कछुओं ने घोंसले बनाए।

- These turtles are renowned for their synchronised **mass nesting events** called **arribada**, a **Spanish** word that means "arrival."
ये कछुए अपने **सामूहिक घोंसला निर्माण कार्यक्रमों** के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं, जिन्हें **स्पेनिश** शब्द "arribada" कहा जाता है, जिसका अर्थ है "आगमन"।
- For many people, the **Rushikulya arribada** signalled **hope** — but for **conservation biologists**, it raised **critical questions** about the future of these vulnerable animals and whether human interventions, even well-meaning ones, could change the course of nature itself.
कई लोगों के लिए **रुशिकुल्या arribada** ने **आशा** का संकेत दिया — लेकिन **संरक्षण जीवविज्ञानियों** के लिए, इसने इन **असुरक्षित जानवरों** के भविष्य और इस बात पर **महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न** उठाए कि क्या इंसानी हस्तक्षेप, चाहे वे अच्छे इरादों से ही क्यों न हों, प्रकृति की दिशा को बदल सकते हैं।
- While some localised populations of Olive Ridley turtles have expanded, the **IUCN Red List** has estimated that the number of Olive Ridelys worldwide has **dropped by 30-50% since 1960**.
जबकि कुछ स्थानीय ऑलिव रिडली कछुओं की आबादी में वृद्धि हुई है, **IUCN रेड लिस्ट** के अनुसार, **1960 से वैश्विक स्तर पर इनकी संख्या 30-50% तक घट गई है**।
- The Olive Ridelys' **primary nesting sites** are along the **Pacific coasts of Mexico and Central America**, although **Odisha** is also a particularly **critical location**.
ऑलिव रिडली के **मुख्य घोंसला स्थल मेक्सिको और मध्य अमेरिका के प्रशांत तटों पर हैं**, हालांकि **ओडिशा भी एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है**।
- The State's **480-km-long coastline** hosts three major nesting beaches: **Gahirmatha**, between the **Brahmani and Baitarani river mouths**; **Devi**, **100 km south** of Gahirmatha; and **Rushikulya**, **320 km further south**.
राज्य की **480 किलोमीटर लंबी समुद्री सीमा** में तीन प्रमुख घोंसला स्थल शामिल हैं: **गहीरमाथा**, जो **ब्राहमणी और बैतरणी नदी के मुहानों के बीच स्थित है**; **देवी**, जो गहीरमाथा से **100 किमी दक्षिण** में है; और **रुशिकुल्या**, जो वहां से **320 किमी और दक्षिण** में स्थित है।

The Where of It

यह कैसे और कहाँ होता है



- Research has found that Olive Ridley turtles that hatch at a nesting site are “imprinted” with a map of the local magnetic field.
अनुसंधान से पता चला है कि जो ऑलिव रिडली कछुए किसी घोंसले वाले स्थल पर जन्म लेते हैं, वे स्थानीय चुंबकीय क्षेत्र के नक्शे से “इंप्रिंट” हो जाते हैं।
- Decades later they return with remarkable precision to the site by following this map.
दशकों बाद वे उसी नक्शे का अनुसरण करके उसी स्थल पर सटीकता के साथ लौटते हैं।
- The phenomenon is called **philopatry**: a blend of **memory**, **environmental factors**, and the **earth’s geomagnetic cues**.
इस प्रक्रिया को फिलोपैट्री कहा जाता है: जो स्मृति, पर्यावरणीय कारकों और पृथ्वी के भू-चुंबकीय संकेतों का एक मिश्रण है।
- Philopatry is reinforced by a **multiplier effect**: as females with strong philopatric tendencies increase in number, they reinforce **site fidelity across generations**.
फिलोपैट्री को मल्टीप्लायर प्रभाव से मजबूत किया जाता है: जैसे-जैसे मजबूत फिलोपैट्री प्रवृत्ति वाली मादाएं बढ़ती हैं, वे पीढ़ियों तक स्थान के प्रति निष्ठा को मजबूत करती हैं।
- Studies on **loggerhead sea turtles (Caretta caretta)** have revealed that their nesting zones are near **cold-core eddies** — **free swirls of cold water** that move **nutrients** up from the deep sea to the surface.
लॉगरहेड समुद्री कछुओं (Caretta caretta) पर किए गए अध्ययनों से पता चला है कि उनके घोंसला क्षेत्र **कोल्ड-कोर एडीज़** — यानी ठंडे पानी के मुक्त भंवर, जो गहरे समुद्र से पोषक तत्वों को ऊपर लाते हैं — के पास होते हैं।
- These nutrients include those rich in **chlorophyll**.
इन पोषक तत्वों में **क्लोरोफिल युक्त तत्व** शामिल होते हैं।
- Other factors that affect their choice of nesting sites include **salinity**, **land slope**, **risk of predation**, and **rainfall**.
घोंसला स्थान के चयन को प्रभावित करने वाले अन्य कारकों में **लवणता**, **भूमि की ढलान**, **शिकार का खतरा**, और **वर्षा** शामिल हैं।
- Nesting sites are considered more suitable if more turtles have nested there before — but as **turtle populations swell** whereas the size of the most favourable nesting grounds doesn’t, **beaches often become battlegrounds**.
घोंसला स्थान तब अधिक उपयुक्त माना जाता है जब पहले वहां अधिक कछुए घोंसले बना चुके हों — लेकिन जैसे-जैसे **कछुओं की संख्या बढ़ती है** और उपयुक्त स्थान का आकार नहीं बदलता, **समुद्र तट युद्धभूमि बन जाते हैं**।
- A population that arrives after another has already nested at a beach might **dig up existing nests** — **female turtles** are guided by **olfactory cues** and **female urine** — and **break the eggs**.
यदि एक झुंड पहले से ही किसी समुद्र तट पर घोंसला बना चुका हो और दूसरा झुंड आए, तो वह पहले के घोंसलों को खोद सकता है — **मादा कछुए घ्राण संकेतों और मादा मूत्र से मार्गदर्शन लेते हैं** — और **अंडों को तोड़ देते हैं**।



- This happened earlier this year during the **second mass-nesting event at Rushikulya**.
ऐसा इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में रुशिकुल्या में दूसरी सामूहिक घोंसला घटना के दौरान हुआ था।
- **Eggs** that are broken and displaced **attract predators**.
जो अंडे टूटते या स्थानांतरित हो जाते हैं, वे शिकारियों को आकर्षित करते हैं।
- Experts previously believed predators used **visual cues** to detect turtle nests.
पहले विशेषज्ञों का मानना था कि शिकारी दृश्य संकेतों से कछुओं के घोंसलों को पहचानते हैं।
- More recent research has found that **olfactory cues**, especially the scent of **disturbed soil** and **broken eggs**, are more significant.
हालिया शोध से पता चला है कि घ्राण संकेत, विशेष रूप से उलटी-पलटी मिट्टी और टूटे अंडों की गंध, ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण होती है।
- Thus, a species' **most successful survival strategy** may also **sow the seeds of its decline**.
इसलिए, किसी प्रजाति की सबसे सफल अस्तित्व रणनीति ही उसकी गिरावट के बीज भी बो सकती है।
- In sea turtles, **temperature determines the sex** of hatchlings.
समुद्री कछुओं में, तापमान नवजातों का लिंग निर्धारित करता है।
- Studies of **loggerhead turtles** have found that their populations are **more female** when they nest on **warmer beaches**.
लॉगरहेड कछुओं पर किए गए अध्ययनों में पाया गया है कि गरम समुद्र तटों पर घोंसला बनाने से उनकी मादा जनसंख्या अधिक होती है।
- Researchers are still collecting similar data pertaining to **Olive Ridley turtles**.
शोधकर्ता अभी भी ऑलिव रिडली कछुओं से संबंधित इसी तरह के आंकड़े एकत्र कर रहे हैं।
- With **rising temperatures** shifting the **sex ratio more towards females**, the **multiplier effect** is expected to get reinforced as more **females return to mass-nesting beaches** in the coming years.
जैसे-जैसे तापमान बढ़ रहा है और लिंग अनुपात मादाओं की ओर झुक रहा है, यह मल्टीप्लायर प्रभाव और मजबूत होगा क्योंकि आने वाले वर्षों में अधिक मादाएं सामूहिक घोंसला स्थलों पर लौटेंगी।

How mass nesting begins

सामूहिक घोंसला बनना कैसे शुरू होता है

- For their **first arribadas**, female sea turtles pick their **nesting sites** without any discernible pattern and use them irregularly.
अपनी पहली **arribadas** के लिए, मादा समुद्री कछुए बिना किसी स्पष्ट पैटर्न के अपने घोंसले की जगह चुनती हैं और अनियमित रूप से उनका उपयोग करती हैं।
- If a female turtle reaches the **reproductive stage** of its life before it is able to reach the **beach where it hatched**, it may establish a **new nesting site** closer to its **foraging grounds**.
यदि कोई मादा कछुआ अपने जीवन के प्रजनन चरण तक पहुँच जाती है लेकिन वह उस समुद्र तट तक



नहीं पहुँच पाती जहाँ से वह निकली थी, तो वह अपने **भोजन के निकट एक नया घोंसला** स्थापित कर सकती है।

- Its hatchlings will be **imprinted** with this location, and they will attempt to return to it later.

इसके बच्चे इस स्थान के साथ **छाप (imprint)** बनाते हैं, और वे बाद में वहाँ लौटने की कोशिश करेंगे।

- For a sea turtle population to thrive, it needs **strays and wanderers** like these turtles, which establish new places for the **arribada**.

समुद्री कछुओं की आबादी को बढ़ाने के लिए ऐसे **भटकने वाले** और घूमने वाले कछुओं की जरूरत होती है, जो **arribada** के लिए नए स्थान बनाते हैं।

- If they had been forced to stick to one site over **millions of years**, they would likely have become **extinct** due to **overcrowding** in the **mass nesting beaches**.

यदि उन्हें लाखों वर्षों तक केवल एक ही स्थान पर टिकना पड़ता, तो वे संभवतः **अत्यधिक भीड़** के कारण **विलुप्त** हो जाते।

- Modern conservation has helped boost turtle populations, especially by **artificially incubating eggs** and **protecting beaches**.

आधुनिक संरक्षण ने कछुओं की आबादी बढ़ाने में मदद की है, खासकर **कृत्रिम रूप से अंडों को सेने** और **समुद्र तटों की सुरक्षा** करके।

- The question naturally arises: could these measures be **too successful**?

स्वाभाविक रूप से यह सवाल उठता है: क्या ये उपाय बहुत **सफल** हो सकते हैं?

- Because if **weaker individuals** that would have perished in the wild are now able to survive and reproduce, the population's **genetic resilience** will drop.

क्योंकि अगर **कमज़ोर कछुए** जो जंगल में मर जाते, अब जीवित रहकर प्रजनन कर रहे हैं, तो आबादी की **आनुवंशिक सहनशीलता** कम हो सकती है।

People, turtles, popularity

लोग, कछुए, लोकप्रियता

- No conservation story is complete without acknowledging the role of **local communities**.

स्थानीय समुदायों की भूमिका को स्वीकार किए बिना कोई भी संरक्षण कहानी पूरी नहीं होती।

- In Odisha, **fisherfolk and villagers** are vital allies: they **guard nests**, curb **egg poaching**, and guide conservationists.

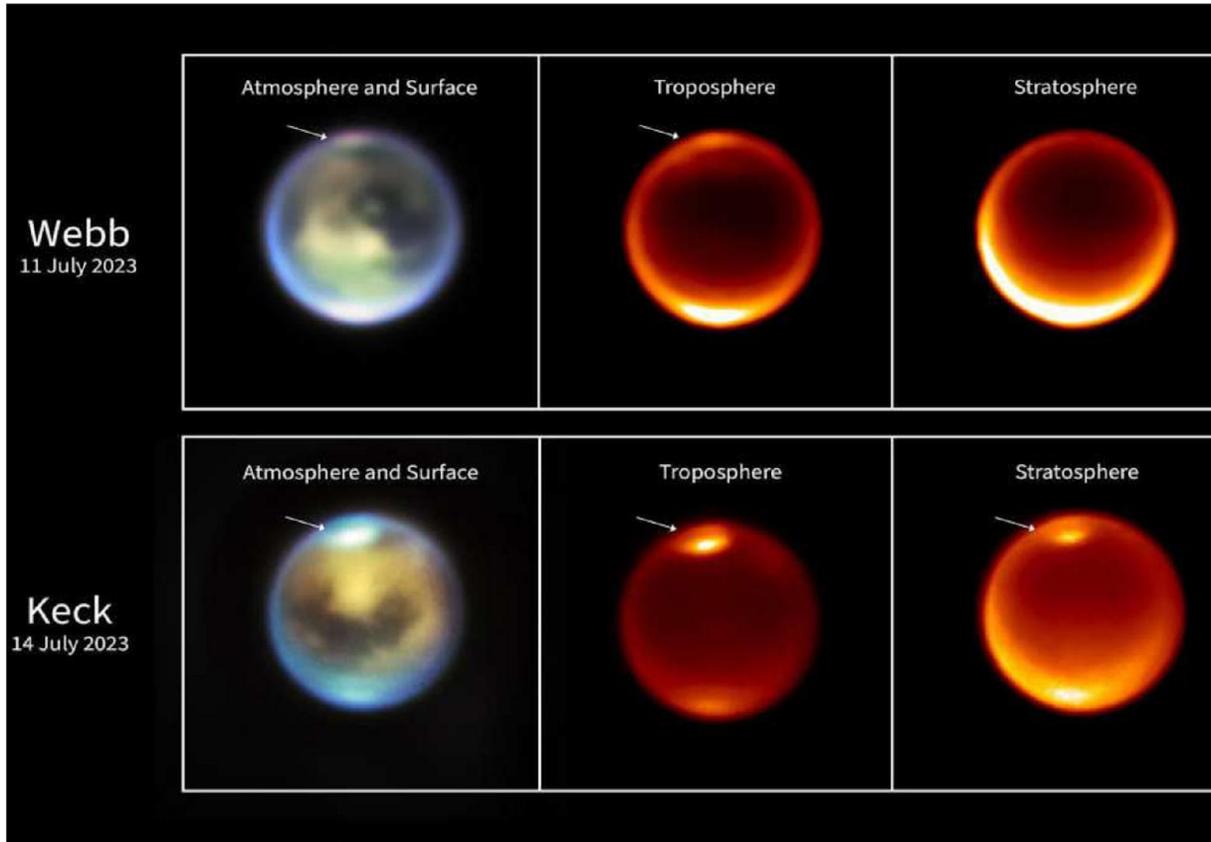
ओडिशा में **मछुआरे और गाँव वाले** महत्वपूर्ण सहयोगी हैं: वे **घोंसलों की सुरक्षा** करते हैं, **अंडा चोरी** को रोकते हैं, और संरक्षण कार्यकर्ताओं का मार्गदर्शन करते हैं।

- But not all human interactions are **benign**.

लेकिन सभी मानव गतिविधियाँ **शुभ** नहीं होतीं।



- **Turtle tourism** has surged in recent years.
हाल के वर्षों में कछुआ पर्यटन में तेज़ी आई है।
- The influx of visitors creates opportunities to raise awareness, but it also **stresses these gentle creatures**.
आगंतुकों की बढ़ती संख्या जागरूकता बढ़ाने का अवसर देती है, लेकिन यह इन कोमल जीवों पर दबाव भी डालती है।
- Crowds gather to watch nesting turtles at night, using **bright lights**, clicking **selfies**, and — in some disturbing cases — **scooping sand** out of the ground to watch the egg-laying or even **sitting on turtles for photographs**.
लोग रात में घोंसला बनाने वाले कछुओं को देखने के लिए जमा होते हैं, तेज़ रोशनी का इस्तेमाल करते हैं, सेल्फी क्लिक करते हैं, और कुछ परेशान करने वाले मामलों में अंडे रखने के लिए मिट्टी निकालते हैं या तस्वीरें लेने के लिए कछुओं पर बैठते भी हैं।
- Such acts disturb **nesting behaviour** and may have a lasting impact on the turtles' **memory**, discouraging them from returning to the site.
इस तरह के कार्य घोंसला बनाने के व्यवहार को परेशान करते हैं और कछुओं की याददाश्त पर स्थायी प्रभाव डाल सकते हैं, जिससे वे उस स्थान पर लौटने से हिचकिचा सकते हैं।
- Scientists are also just beginning to understand the **cognitive and emotional inner lives** of turtles.
वैज्ञानिक अभी कछुओं के संज्ञानात्मक और भावनात्मक आंतरिक जीवन को समझना शुरू कर रहे हैं।
- It's entirely possible that what we think of as harmlessly marvelling at them could be disrupting the **ancient rhythms** of these mariners.
यह पूरी तरह संभव है कि हम जो उन्हें देखकर मासूमियत समझते हैं, वह इन समुद्री यात्रियों की प्राचीन लय को बाधित कर रहा हो।
- It's no longer about numbers or rescue operations. The priority is to ensure the **longevity of these nesting beaches** and to balance **tourism with ethical responsibility**.
अब बात केवल संख्या या बचाव अभियानों की नहीं है। प्राथमिकता है इन घोंसला बनाने वाली समुद्र तटों की दीर्घायु सुनिश्चित करना और पर्यटन को नैतिक जिम्मेदारी के साथ संतुलित करना।
- Olive Ridley turtles have endured **mass extinctions, shifting continents, and rising seas**.
ऑलिव रिडली कछुए ने बड़े पैमाने पर विलुप्त होने, महाद्वीपों के स्थानांतरण, और समुद्र स्तर बढ़ने को सहा है।
- Their **resilience** is remarkable — but not limitless.
उनकी सहनशीलता अद्भुत है — लेकिन असीमित नहीं।
- Humans' **ethical responsibility** is clear: to safeguard the **ecological balance** that keeps sea turtles going.
मानव की नैतिक जिम्मेदारी स्पष्ट है: समुद्री कछुओं को जीवित रखने वाला पारिस्थितिक संतुलन सुरक्षित रखना।



GS Paper III: S&T

NASA scientists observed Saturn's moon Titan in November 2022 and July 2023 using both the **Webb telescope** and one of the **Keck Observatories**. They found clouds in the mid- and high northern latitudes that seemed to rise to higher altitudes over time. This is the first time evidence for such convection has been seen in the north, which is also where most of **Titan's seas** are located. NASA

PATK



Jarosite: a natural clock on Mars

GS Paper III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau

Jarosite is a yellow-brown mineral that contains potassium, iron, and sulphate — and researchers have found it could serve as a natural geological clock on Mars.

Recently, a team of researchers from around India sampled six jarosite veins from Kachchh in Gujarat, whose arid, salty terrain is similar to that of Mars. In the lab, the team analysed how much light the mineral emitted due to the energy it had stored from natural radiation, a phenomenon called luminescence.

First, they washed the grains in weak acid to roughly double their brightness, then zapped them with radiation, heated them, cooled them, and repeated the cycle many times.

This way, they revealed four clear emissions at about 100° C, 150° C, 300° C, and 350° C, even after baking the grains to 450° C.

This meant jarosite could survive being heated by a rover's drill without losing its ability to luminesce.

When the team measured how the glow grew with extra radiation, they found the



Jarosite crystals from Sierra Peña Blanca in Mexico. ROBERT M. LAVINSKY (CC BY-SA)

grains became saturated between 590 and 2,600 gray (the SI unit of absorbed radiation dose). On Mars, natural radiation is roughly 65 milligray/year, so jarosite can record events that happened within the last 25,000 years.

Because jarosite is common on Mars, tough, and easy to read with small heaters and LEDs, the researchers have suggested future rovers could use it to date dust storms, ancient flood deposits, and volcanic ash.

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Jarosite: a natural clock on Mars

जारोसाइट: मंगल ग्रह पर एक प्राकृतिक घड़ी

Jarosite is a yellow-brown mineral that contains potassium, iron, and sulphate — and researchers have found it could serve as a natural geological clock on Mars.

जारोसाइट एक पीले-भूरे रंग का खनिज है जिसमें पोटैशियम, लोहा और सल्फेट होते हैं — और शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया है कि यह मंगल ग्रह पर एक प्राकृतिक भूवैज्ञानिक घड़ी के रूप में काम कर सकता है।

Recently, a team of researchers from around **India** sampled six **jarosite veins** from **Kachchh in Gujarat**, whose **arid, salty terrain** is similar to that of Mars.

हाल ही में, **भारत** के शोधकर्ताओं की एक टीम ने **गुजरात के कच्छ** से **जारोसाइट** की **छह नसों** के नमूने लिए, जहां का **शुष्क और नमकीन भू-भाग** मंगल जैसा है।

- In the lab, the team analysed how much **light** the mineral emitted due to the energy it had stored from **natural radiation**, a phenomenon called **luminescence**.
प्रयोगशाला में, टीम ने यह विश्लेषण किया कि खनिज ने **प्राकृतिक विकिरण** से जमा की गई ऊर्जा के कारण कितनी **प्रकाश उत्सर्जित** की, इस प्रक्रिया को **ल्यूमिनेसेंस** कहा जाता है।
- First, they washed the grains in **weak acid** to roughly **double their brightness**, then zapped them with **radiation**, heated them, cooled them, and repeated the cycle many times.

सबसे पहले, उन्होंने कणों को **कमजोर अम्ल** में धोकर उनकी **चमक लगभग दोगुनी** कर दी, फिर उन्हें **विकिरण** से प्रभावित किया, गर्म किया, ठंडा किया और यह चक्र कई बार दोहराया।



- This way, they revealed **four clear emissions** at about **100°C, 150°C, 300°C, and 350°C**, even after baking the grains to **450°C**.
इस तरह, उन्होंने **450 डिग्री सेल्सियस** तक गर्म करने के बाद भी **100°C, 150°C, 300°C, और 350°C** पर **चार स्पष्ट उत्सर्जन** देखे।
- This meant **jarosite** could survive being heated by a rover's drill without losing its ability to **luminesce**.
इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि **जारोसाइट** रोवर की ड्रिल से गर्म किए जाने पर भी अपनी **चमकने की क्षमता** नहीं खोता।
- When the team measured how the glow grew with extra radiation, they found the grains became **saturated between 590 and 2,600 gray** (the **SI unit** of absorbed radiation dose).
जब टीम ने यह मापा कि अतिरिक्त विकिरण से चमक कैसे बढ़ती है, तो उन्होंने पाया कि कणों ने **590 से 2,600 ग्रे** (शोषित विकिरण खुराक की **एसआई इकाई**) के बीच संतृप्ति प्राप्त की।
- On Mars, **natural radiation** is roughly **65 milligray/year**, so jarosite can record events that happened within the last **25,000 years**.
मंगल पर, **प्राकृतिक विकिरण** लगभग **65 मिलीग्रे/वर्ष** होता है, इसलिए जारोसाइट **पिछले 25,000 वर्षों** के भीतर हुई घटनाओं को दर्ज कर सकता है।
- Because **jarosite** is **common on Mars, tough, and easy to read** with small heaters and LEDs, the researchers have suggested future **rovers** could use it to date **dust storms, ancient flood deposits, and volcanic ash**.
चूंकि **जारोसाइट** मंगल पर **सामान्य, मजबूत, और छोटे हीटरों और एलईडी के जरिए पढ़ने में आसान** है, शोधकर्ताओं ने सुझाव दिया है कि भविष्य के **रोवर** इसका उपयोग **धूल भरे तूफानों, प्राचीन बाढ़ जमावों, और ज्वालामुखीय राख** की तारीख तय करने के लिए कर सकते हैं।



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GS Paper III: Environment

Stitch in time

Making illegal units pay heavy fines might have limited deterrent effect

Last week, the Supreme Court of India finally struck down as “illegal” two notifications by the Union Environment Ministry that allowed industrial units to set up, expand operations or change their manufacturing practices without following the due process of taking government permission beforehand. Taking ‘prior’ approval is a sacrosanct principle at the heart of the Environment Impact Assessment (Notification) of 2006. On the surface it appeared that the Centre, or the Union Environment Ministry, had instituted a system that made a mockery of this principle, but there was a rationale, even if it was flawed to some extent. In March 2017, the body issued a notification providing a “one-time” six-month window for industries that did not have the right environmental clearances, to apply for one. In 2021, it instituted a ‘standard operating procedure’ that in effect allowed projects in violation of the laws, but which could not avail of the six-month window, to apply – albeit at the cost of heavy fines – for regularisation. Moreover, all these significant changes were being issued through executive orders, rather than any attempt at amending the underlying Environment Protection Act (EIA), 2006, through Parliament.

The Centre’s reasoning was three-fold. First, the process for regularising projects had already been initiated by the United Progressive Alliance government in 2012 and 2013. These were, however, struck down by the Jharkhand High Court and the National Green Tribunal on procedural grounds, and not that these projects were irredeemably violative. Second, demolishing functioning plants that were contributing to the economy and employment could exacerbate pollution and be disruptive. The Centre cited examples of various disputes involving copper mines to pharmaceutical companies where the courts had agreed that a “balanced” approach was necessary in cases involving violations. Finally, it argued that it had put in place a system whereby the industrial units seeking to be regularised would have to pay fines for the period that they had functioned in violation. The Court in its final verdict has rightly, as previous courts have, emphasised the principle of “prior” clearance, though its action may be a little late as it has clarified that companies that had regularised themselves under the 2017 and 2021 orders would be “unaffected” by the judgment. That thriving industrial units in violation of the laws mushroomed is a testament to the collective failure of regional environmental boards to enforce laws. So it stands to reason that making these illegal units pay, under the purported new procedure, would have been a fruitless exercise. The judgment should ideally nip any “crafty” attempts by future governments to condone violations in the name of the economy though it must also trigger on-ground enforcement.

Stitch in Time: On Judiciary and Environment Ministry Notifications

समय पर सुधार: न्यायपालिका और पर्यावरण मंत्रालय की अधिसूचनाओं पर

- The **Supreme Court of India** recently struck down as “**illegal**” two notifications by the **Union Environment Ministry** that allowed industrial units to operate or expand without prior permission.
- भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने हाल ही में केंद्रीय पर्यावरण मंत्रालय की दो अधिसूचनाओं को “अवैध” करार दिया, जो औद्योगिक इकाइयों को बिना पूर्व अनुमति के कार्य करने या विस्तार की अनुमति देती थीं।
- Taking **prior approval** is a core principle under the **Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), 2006**.
- पूर्व अनुमति लेना पर्यावरण प्रभाव आकलन (EIA), 2006 का एक मूल सिद्धांत है।
- Though it seemed like a mockery of the law, there was a **rationale**, albeit flawed.
- यद्यपि यह कानून का मज़ाक प्रतीत होता था, फिर भी इसके पीछे एक तर्क था, हालांकि वह त्रुटिपूर्ण था।
- In **March 2017**, a notification gave a “**one-time**” **six-month window** to industries without clearances to apply for one.
- मार्च 2017 में, एक अधिसूचना के तहत उद्योगों को “एक बार के लिए” छह महीने की अवधि दी गई थी, जिससे वे आवश्यक मंजूरी के लिए आवेदन कर सकें।
- In **2021**, a **standard operating procedure (SOP)** allowed other violating projects to apply for regularisation after paying **heavy fines**.
- 2021 में, एक मानक कार्यप्रणाली (SOP) के तहत कानून का उल्लंघन करने वाली परियोजनाओं को भारी जुर्माना देकर वैधता के लिए आवेदन करने की अनुमति दी गई।
- These major changes were made through **executive orders**, not by amending the **Environment Protection Act (EIA), 2006** through **Parliament**.
- ये महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव कार्यकारी आदेशों के माध्यम से किए गए थे, न कि संसद में पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम (EIA), 2006 को संशोधित कर।
- First, such regularisation was initiated earlier in **2012 and 2013** under the **UPA government**.



- पहला, इस तरह की वैधता की प्रक्रिया पहले 2012 और 2013 में UPA सरकार के दौरान शुरू की गई थी।
- Second, demolishing operational plants may lead to **pollution and disruption** in the economy and employment.
- दूसरा, कार्यरत संयंत्रों को ध्वस्त करना **प्रदूषण** और **आर्थिक एवं रोजगार संबंधी व्यवधान** पैदा कर सकता है।
- Third, a system was introduced where violating industries paid **penalties** for the period of violation.
- तीसरा, एक प्रणाली लाई गई थी जिसके तहत उल्लंघन करने वाले उद्योगों को उल्लंघन की अवधि के लिए **जुर्माना** देना पड़ता था।
- The Court rightly reasserted the **principle of "prior" clearance**, though it clarified that companies regularised under **2017 and 2021** orders would be **unaffected**.
- न्यायालय ने "पूर्व मंजूरी" के सिद्धांत को सही रूप से दोहराया, हालांकि उसने स्पष्ट किया कि **2017 और 2021** की अधिसूचनाओं के तहत वैध किए गए उद्योग **प्रभावित नहीं होंगे**।
- The rise of violating units shows a **collective failure** of **regional environmental boards** to enforce laws.
- अवैध इकाइयों की वृद्धि यह दर्शाती है कि **क्षेत्रीय पर्यावरण बोर्डों** द्वारा कानून लागू करने में **सामूहिक विफलता** हुई है।
- Making illegal units pay fines under new procedures would have had **limited deterrent effect**.
- नई प्रक्रिया के तहत अवैध इकाइयों से **जुर्माना वसूलना** केवल **सीमित रोकथाम प्रभाव** डाल सकता था।
- The judgment should ideally **prevent future governments** from condoning violations in the name of the **economy**.
- यह निर्णय भविष्य की सरकारों को **आर्थिक हितों** के नाम पर उल्लंघनों को मान्यता देने से **रोकना** चाहिए।
- It must also lead to better **on-ground enforcement of environmental laws**.
- यह निर्णय **स्थानीय स्तर पर पर्यावरण कानूनों के बेहतर क्रियान्वयन** को भी प्रेरित करना चाहिए।



India's 'new normal' deconstructed

GS Paper III: Terrorism

On April 24, addressing a public gathering in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "India will identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers. We will pursue them to the ends of the earth..." Known to speak in Hindi to domestic audiences, it was noteworthy that the Prime Minister switched to English to say these lines. Clearly, the Prime Minister intended the message to be heard not only in Pakistan but across global capitals in an unambiguous manner that it would be firm in its resolve to take action against the particularly heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22.

On the night of May 6-7, a fortnight after the Pahalgam attack, India responded with the launch of 'Operation Sindoor', striking nine different terrorist targets in Pakistan that housed United Nations proscribed entities such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and the Hizbul Mujahiddin (HIM). Five of these were in Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK), while four locations were in Pakistan's heartland, Punjab province. On May 7, India clarified that its response was "focused", "measured" and "non-escalatory" and that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted. However, any attack on military targets in India would invite a suitable response.

In subsequent days, in response to Pakistan's escalation, India foiled drone and missile attacks and delivered a fitting response to intense artillery shelling from Pakistani positions. As Pakistan escalated the attacks, India responded with precision strikes on Pakistan's air defence systems. On May 10, India targeted II Pakistani military bases across the length of the country from Skardu in the north to Bholari and Malir in southern Pakistan. Within hours of these strikes, Pakistan interceded with a "ceasefire" plea that India acceded to.

A change from the traditional response

On May 12, addressing the nation, the Prime Minister laid down India's new doctrine to fight terrorism. The message also irrevocably underlined a 'new normal' in India-Pakistan relations. To understand this 'new normal', one has to recall the traditional Indian response to major terrorist attacks. India's toolkit consisted of halting dialogue, suspending people-to-people contacts, and trying to sensitise the international community of Pakistan's use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy towards India and its aim to bleed India with a thousand cuts. Influential countries paid little heed to India's troubles and preferred to deal with Pakistan for their own benefit. Responding to Pakistan's rhetoric on the threat of nuclear escalation – a policy Pakistan seemed to have perfected following every terrorist attack – the international community would immediately pressure India to show restraint. India itself would be hesitant and never probing deep enough to call Pakistan's nuclear bluff.

A distinct change in the Indian approach



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became apparent after the terrorist attack in 2016, on the army camp in Uri; India launched cross-Line of Control (LoC) surgical strikes to hit terrorist camps in POJK. Pakistan should have taken heed of this but unfortunately it did not. Following the Pulwama attack in February 2019, India retaliated with a strike on terrorist group JeM's training camp in Balakot, Pakistan. This was another message – that India would raise the costs for Pakistan if it targeted India. Pakistan did heed this, but not for long.

A definite enunciation

The two previous instances cited above are important as they gave insights into, what many may consider, a brand new strategy. I would like to think that the Prime Minister's message of a 'new normal' in India-Pakistan relations has been evolving for a while but has now been crystallised and enunciated in no uncertain terms for Pakistan and the international community to understand.

For one, the Prime Minister has made it clear that no terrorist act in India will go unpunished. There will be a cost for Pakistan to bear if it persists in using terrorism as an instrument of state policy against India. The cost inflicted will be on India's terms and conditions – no place in Pakistan will be treated as sacrosanct and left untouched. Terrorists will be pursued to their safe hideouts and targeted.

For another, India's response to terrorism emanating from Pakistan will not be inhibited or circumscribed by Pakistan's calls to the international community to pressure India given the danger of escalation to nuclear exchanges. During 'Operation Sindoor', the targets were carefully chosen and hit with precision. Satellite imagery has corroborated that there was little to zero collateral damage. The Prime Minister has called Pakistan's nuclear bluff. His carefully calibrated actions and clear strategic direction have delinked the conventional escalation ladder from the nuclear ladder.

Third, India will not let Pakistan take cover under the excuse that "non state" or "third parties" beyond Pakistani state control were responsible for a terrorist strike against India. In the past, this has allowed Pakistan to get away with impunity. No longer will India allow Pakistan to draw this distinction between the Pakistani state and terrorist groups operating from its soil. As long as terrorists are nurtured on Pakistani soil, India will hold Pakistan's rulers as much responsible for attacks against India as the terrorists they support.

In his address on May 12, the Prime Minister highlighted the fact that senior officers of the Pakistani armed forces were present in uniform at funerals of terrorists killed in the Indian strike in Muridke. Footage broadcast by Pakistani television channels showed coffins of the dead draped in the Pakistani national flag – an undisputable linkage between the Pakistani state and the terrorists. The fact that the Pakistani state and its military viewed India's action against

terrorist training camps as attacks on Pakistan itself, proves the point India has been making ad nauseam – the Pakistani state supports terrorists to fight a proxy war against India.

The Pakistan Army's presence at the funeral of the terrorists also reinforces the point that valuable tax-payer money and resources from international institutions, borrowed in times of economic crises, goes toward building terrorist training infrastructure. Another element of the 'new normal' is that India will not gather and furnish evidence of terrorist attacks in India to Pakistan and the international community. The burden of proof will not lie with India – as long as India has credible evidence of attacks being planned from Pakistani soil, it will strike at the source of terrorism.

The defence strategy

The 'new normal' also encompasses the change in war-fighting strategy. Enhanced Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, precision weaponry, and drones and loitering munitions have defined how India retaliated to the terrorist attack from Pakistan. Going forward, the strategies that India employs to deter terrorism emanating from Pakistan will have a new-age component to it – allowing precise targeting to minimise collateral damage. 'Made in India' weapons have proven themselves during 'Operation Sindoor'. There must be much greater synergy and cooperation between industry and the armed forces to enable industry to deliver on the needs of the forces.

From this comes the next point. India's war against terrorism is its own. We need to depend on ourselves to defeat this scourge; support from outside will wax and wane depending on the global situation. We have to steel ourselves to take on this challenge as a nation, united.

For all those advocating better trade, dialogue and people-to-people relations to solve the problems between India and Pakistan, the message is clear.

India's cooperation on matters of water sharing and trade will be subject to Pakistan abjuring terrorism. Sharing of river water and terrorism cannot go together, just like trade cannot flourish in an environment where terrorism is raising threats. Any dialogue will rest upon Pakistan abjuring terrorism against India and the return of POJK to India. Nothing else. This too, is a key element of the 'new normal'.

The "New India", under the Prime Minister, is free from self-doubt and inhibitions. The enunciation of a 'new normal' in strategy indicates a paradigm shift in how India deals with terrorism, and is a message to both Pakistan and the world. India will not compromise on its unity and security and will respond to terrorism as it deems fit, with or without global support.

The Prime Minister's resolute leadership at this difficult time conveys another unequivocal message. India will take its rightful place in a multipolar, and sometimes, anarchic world order. It has what it takes to get there.

Operation Sindoor has made it clear – India will now respond to terrorism as it deems fit, with or without global support

India's 'new normal' deconstructed

भारत का 'नया सामान्य' विश्लेषण

- On April 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist and their backers.



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24 अप्रैल को, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि भारत हर आतंकवादी और उनके समर्थकों की पहचान करेगा, उनका पता लगाएगा और उन्हें दंडित करेगा।

- **He switched to English to send a clear message to Pakistan and global capitals** about India's firm resolve after the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

उन्होंने अंग्रेज़ी में कहा ताकि पाकिस्तान और विश्व की राजधानियों को यह स्पष्ट संदेश मिले कि भारत इस हमले के बाद दृढ़ है।

Operation Sindoor and India's Initial Response

ऑपरेशन सिंदूर और भारत की प्रारंभिक प्रतिक्रिया

- On the night of May 6-7, India launched Operation Sindoor targeting nine terrorist locations in Pakistan linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahiddin.
6-7 मई की रात को भारत ने ऑपरेशन सिंदूर शुरू किया, जिसमें पाकिस्तान में लश्कर-ए-तैबा, जैश-ए-मोहम्मद और हिज्बुल मुजाहिद्दीन से जुड़े नौ आतंकवादी ठिकानों को निशाना बनाया गया।
- **Five targets were in Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK), and four were in Punjab province, Pakistan.**
पांच लक्ष्य पाकिस्तान अधिकृत जम्मू-कश्मीर (POJK) में और चार पाकिस्तान के पंजाब प्रांत में थे।
- On May 7, India said the response was **focused, measured, and non-escalatory, and Pakistani military establishments** were not targeted.
7 मई को भारत ने कहा कि प्रतिक्रिया केंद्रित, मापित और वृद्धि न करने वाली थी, और पाकिस्तानी सैन्य प्रतिष्ठान निशाना नहीं बने।
- India warned that any attack on Indian military targets would receive a suitable response.
भारत ने चेतावनी दी कि उसके सैन्य ठिकानों पर कोई भी हमला उचित जवाब पाएगा।

Pakistan's Escalation and India's Further Response

पाकिस्तान की तीव्रता और भारत की आगे की प्रतिक्रिया

- India foiled drone and missile attacks and responded to intense artillery shelling from Pakistani positions in the following days.
अगले दिनों भारत ने पाकिस्तान के ड्रोन और मिसाइल हमलों को नाकाम किया और तीव्र तोपखाने की गोलाबारी का जवाब दिया।
- India conducted precision strikes on **Pakistan's air defence systems** as Pakistan escalated attacks.
पाकिस्तान के हमलों के बढ़ने पर भारत ने पाकिस्तान के वायु रक्षा तंत्र पर सटीक हमले किए।
- On May 10, India targeted 11 Pakistani military bases across the country, from Skardu in the north to Bholari and Malir in southern Pakistan.



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10 मई को भारत ने देश भर में 11 पाकिस्तानी सैन्य ठिकानों को निशाना बनाया, जो उत्तर में स्काई से लेकर दक्षिण में भोलेरी और मलीर तक फैले थे।

- Pakistan requested a ceasefire within hours, which India accepted.

कुछ ही घंटों में पाकिस्तान ने संघर्ष विराम की मांग की, जिसे भारत ने स्वीकार कर लिया।

- On **May 12**, the **Prime Minister** addressed the nation with a new **doctrine** to fight **terrorism**.

12 मई को, प्रधानमंत्री ने राष्ट्र को आतंकवाद से लड़ने के लिए नई नीति बताई।

- This announced a '**new normal**' in **India-Pakistan relations**.

इसने भारत-पाकिस्तान संबंधों में एक नई सामान्यता घोषित की।

- Earlier, India responded to terrorist attacks by **halting dialogue** and **suspending people-to-people contacts**.

पहले भारत आतंकवादी हमलों पर संवाद रोकता और जनसंपर्क बंद करता था।

- India also appealed to the **international community** about Pakistan's use of terrorism as **state policy**.

भारत अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय से पाकिस्तान की आतंकवाद को राज्य नीति के रूप में इस्तेमाल करने के खिलाफ अपील करता था।

- Influential countries mostly ignored India's concerns, preferring ties with Pakistan.

प्रभावशाली देशों ने भारत की चिंताओं को नजरअंदाज कर पाकिस्तान के साथ संबंध बनाए।

- International pressure often asked India to show **restraint** due to Pakistan's **nuclear threats**.

पाकिस्तान की परमाणु धमकी के कारण अंतरराष्ट्रीय दबाव भारत पर संयम दिखाने का था।

- After the **2016 Uri attack**, India launched **cross-LoC surgical strikes** on **terrorist camps** in **POJK**.

2016 के उरी हमले के बाद भारत ने पाकिस्तान अधिकृत कश्मीर (पीओजेके) में आतंकवादी शिविरों पर सर्जिकल स्ट्राइक की।

- After the **2019 Pulwama attack**, India struck **JeM's training camp** in **Balakot, Pakistan**.

2019 के पुलवामा हमले के बाद भारत ने बलाकोट, पाकिस्तान में जैश-ए-मोहम्मद के प्रशिक्षण शिविर पर हमला किया।

- These actions sent a clear message that India would **raise costs** for Pakistan's terrorism.

इस कदम से स्पष्ट संदेश मिला कि भारत पाकिस्तान को आतंकवाद का कीमत चुकाने पर मजबूर करेगा।

- The **Prime Minister's 'new normal'** message is now clearly stated for Pakistan and the world.

प्रधानमंत्री का 'नई सामान्यता' का संदेश अब पाकिस्तान और विश्व के लिए स्पष्ट है।

- No terrorist attack in India will go **unpunished**.

भारत में कोई भी आतंकवादी हमला बिना सजा के नहीं रहेगा।

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- India will impose costs on its own terms, with **no place in Pakistan sacrosanct**.
भारत अपने नियमों से कार्रवाई करेगा, पाकिस्तान के किसी भी हिस्से को **अछूता नहीं छोड़ेगा**।
- Terrorists will be pursued to their **safe hideouts** and targeted.
आतंकवादियों का पीछा उनके **छिपने के स्थानों तक** किया जाएगा।
- India will not be deterred by Pakistan's **nuclear escalation** threats.
भारत पाकिस्तान की परमाणु बढ़ावा धमकियों से नहीं रुकेगा।
- In **Operation Sindoor**, targets were hit with **precision** and **minimal collateral damage**.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर में लक्ष्य को **सटीकता** से और कम नुकसान के साथ निशाना बनाया गया।
- The Prime Minister has challenged Pakistan's **nuclear bluff** and separated **conventional** and **nuclear escalation**.
प्रधानमंत्री ने पाकिस्तान की परमाणु धमकी को चुनौती दी और परंपरागत और परमाणु बढ़ावे को अलग किया।
- **India rejects Pakistan's claim that non-state actors or third parties are responsible for terrorist attacks**.
भारत पाकिस्तान के दावे को स्वीकार नहीं करता कि आतंकवादी हमलों के लिए **गैर-राज्य या तीसरे पक्ष जिम्मेदार** हैं।
- Pakistan will be held **equally responsible** for terrorist acts from its soil.
पाकिस्तान को अपने देश से आतंकवादी हमलों के लिए **जिम्मेदार** माना जाएगा।
- **Senior Pakistani military officers attended funerals of terrorists killed in Indian strikes, showing state involvement**.
पाकिस्तानी सेना के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी आतंकवादियों के अंतिम संस्कार में शामिल थे, जो **राज्य की भागीदारी** दिखाता है।
- Pakistan uses taxpayer money and borrowed funds to build terrorist training infrastructure.
पाकिस्तान आतंकवादी प्रशिक्षण के लिए करदाताओं का पैसा और उधार लिया धन इस्तेमाल करता है।
- India will no longer provide evidence to Pakistan or the international community; the **burden of proof will not lie with India**.
भारत अब पाकिस्तान या अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय को सबूत नहीं देगा; **सबूत भारत पर नहीं होगा**।
- The 'new normal' includes changes in **war-fighting strategy with improved Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)**.
नई सामान्यता में युद्ध रणनीति में सुधार और बेहतर **खुफिया, निगरानी, और पता लगाने** की क्षमता शामिल है।
- Use of **precision weapons, drones, and loitering munitions** was key in retaliation.
प्रत्युत्तर में **सटीक हथियार, ड्रोन और घातक गोला-बारूद** का उपयोग महत्वपूर्ण था।



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- **'Made in India'** weapons were effective in **Operation Sindoor**.
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर में **मेड इन इंडिया** हथियार प्रभावी थे।
- Stronger cooperation between **industry and armed forces** is necessary.
उद्योग और सेना के बीच मजबूत सहयोग जरूरी है।
- India's fight against terrorism is its own; outside support will **wax and wane**.
आतंकवाद के खिलाफ भारत की लड़ाई अपनी है; बाहरी समर्थन कभी बढ़ेगा कभी कम होगा।
- India must **unite and strengthen** itself to face this challenge.
भारत को इस चुनौती का सामना करने के लिए **एकजुट और मजबूत** होना होगा।
- India's cooperation on **water sharing and trade** depends on Pakistan **ending terrorism**.
भारत का पानी बांटने और व्यापार सहयोग पाकिस्तान के आतंकवाद छोड़ने पर निर्भर करेगा।
- Trade and dialogue cannot flourish amid terrorism threats.
आतंकवाद के खतरे में व्यापार और संवाद सफल नहीं हो सकते।
- Dialogue requires Pakistan to end terrorism and return **POJK** to India.
संवाद की शर्त है पाकिस्तान का आतंकवाद छोड़ना और **पीओजेके** का भारत को लौटाना।
- The "New India" is free from **self-doubt and hesitation**.
"नई भारत" आत्म-संदेह और संकोच से मुक्त है।
- The 'new normal' represents a **paradigm shift** in how India deals with terrorism.
'नई सामान्यता' आतंकवाद से निपटने में एक बड़ा बदलाव है।
- India will respond to terrorism on its terms, **with or without global support**.
भारत आतंकवाद का जवाब अपने तरीके से देगा, चाहे विश्व समर्थन करे या नहीं।
- The Prime Minister's leadership shows India's readiness to take its **rightful place** in a **multipolar world**.
प्रधानमंत्री का नेतृत्व भारत की बहुध्रुवीय विश्व में अपनी **सही जगह** लेने की तैयारी दिखाता है।



Progress should not just be fast but future-proof

GS Paper III: Environment

India's climate future is not written in the stars – it is written in the rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, and intensifying disasters. The question is: what are we doing about it? The World Bank states that more than 80% of India's population lives in districts at risk of climate-induced disasters. From unrelenting monsoon floods in the north-east to heat-induced crop failures in central India, these events are no longer isolated incidents – they are systemic threats to economic stability, public health, and national security. Yet, despite mounting evidence, India remains vulnerable due to gaps in risk assessment and preparedness. The lack of a comprehensive framework to evaluate and predict climate physical risks (CPRs) means that adaptation strategies are reactive rather than proactive.

Growing climate physical risks

As climate change accelerates, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe. CPRs extend beyond natural disasters, encompassing acute shocks, such as floods and heatwaves, and chronic stresses, such as shifting monsoon patterns and prolonged droughts. While disaster early warning systems and weather forecasts help mitigate immediate losses, CPRs require a long-term approach. Unlike short-term weather forecasts, climate projections analyse long-term trends, enabling policymakers to prepare for evolving climate hazards.

Global climate action is caught between prevention and cure – mitigation, which reduces emissions, and adaptation, which prepares for its inevitable impacts. While adaptation has long been considered a priority for the Global South, wildfires, heatwaves, and cyclones now also test the resilience of the Global North, making it clear that adaptation is a universal necessity. Yet, funding remains skewed towards mitigation, with most



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The lack of a comprehensive framework to evaluate and predict climate physical risks means that adaptation strategies are reactive rather than proactive in India

resources directed towards renewable energy and decarbonisation over adaptation measures like resilient infrastructure. However, investing in adaptation is not just about survival but also economically prudent. The UN Environment Programme estimates that every \$1 invested in adaptation yields a \$4 return through reduced economic losses and lower disaster recovery costs.

CPRs are not just about extreme weather events but also about how exposed and vulnerable communities, businesses, and infrastructure are to them. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides a clear framework: the expected value of CPR is a function of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. Hazards include floods, cyclones, and heatwaves. Exposure determines who and what is at risk. Vulnerability reflects a system's ability to withstand and recover. Together, these define the true scale of climate risk.

To safeguard financial stability, regulatory bodies worldwide are shifting from voluntary climate risk disclosures to mandatory reporting. In India, the Reserve Bank of India is integrating climate risks into its regulatory framework, while the IFRS ISSB S2 sets global standards for disclosing CPRs underscoring that assessing these risks is now central to business continuity, not just environmental responsibility.

Despite the urgency, India's approach to CPR assessments remains fragmented. While countries such as the U.S., U.K., and New Zealand have national frameworks that directly inform policy and finance, India's efforts are dispersed across government agencies, research institutions, and private platforms, each using different methodologies and hazards of focus. Although India has studies such as flood maps from IIT Gandhinagar, vulnerability atlases from the India Meteorological Department, and disaster frameworks from the

National Institute of Disaster Management, there is no unified system to consolidate these insights. Reliable CPR projections are further hindered by the limitations of global climate models such as Representative Concentration Pathways and Shared Socioeconomic Pathways, which fail to capture India's hyper-local climate realities. Without a central repository for standardised climate risk data, businesses and government agencies struggle to make informed decisions.

Steps taken to fill the gaps

Recognising these gaps, India has initiated steps towards factoring in climate hazards in its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in line with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, which mandates all nations to establish NAPs by 2025 and show progress by 2030. To facilitate this, India formulated an Adaptation Communication and submitted its first report in 2023. A more comprehensive NAP report is underway, covering nine thematic sectors with district-level granularity.

While this is a great start, India must go further by building a CPR assessment tool that supports both public and private decision-making. This will enable the public sector to design climate-resilient policies, guide infrastructure planning, and allocate resources effectively. It will also play a crucial role for the private sector in assessing risks across value chains, supporting operational and expansion planning, and meeting growing investor expectations. Therefore, an India-specific tool that combines localised climate modelling, granular risk assessment, a centralised climate risk data hub, and transparent, science-based methods with iterative feedback mechanisms is imperative. As India charts its path towards Viksit Bharat, robust climate risk assessments will ensure that progress isn't just fast, but future-proof.

Progress should not just be fast but future-proof

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प्रगति केवल तेज़ नहीं बल्कि भविष्य-सबूत भी होनी चाहिए

- Progress should be not only fast but also future-proof to sustain long-term benefits.
प्रगति केवल तेज़ नहीं बल्कि दीर्घकालिक लाभ के लिए भविष्य-सबूत भी होनी चाहिए।
- The lack of a comprehensive framework to evaluate and predict climate physical risks means that adaptation strategies are reactive rather than proactive in India.
- भारत में जलवायु भौतिक जोखिमों का मूल्यांकन और पूर्वानुमान करने के लिए व्यापक ढांचे की कमी का मतलब है कि अनुकूलन रणनीतियाँ प्रतिक्रियाशील हैं, न कि सक्रिय।
- India lacks a comprehensive framework to evaluate and predict climate physical risks (CPRs).
- भारत में जलवायु भौतिक जोखिम (CPRs) का मूल्यांकन और पूर्वानुमान करने के लिए कोई व्यापक ढांचा नहीं है।
 - Due to this, India's adaptation strategies are mostly reactive, not proactive.
 - इसके कारण, भारत की अनुकूलन रणनीतियाँ ज्यादातर प्रतिक्रियाशील हैं, न कि सक्रिय।

India's climate future is not written in the stars — it is written in the rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, and intensifying disasters. The question is: what are we doing about it?

भारत का जलवायु भविष्य सितारों में नहीं लिखा है — यह बढ़ते तापमान, अनियमित मानसून, और तीव्र होती आपदाओं में लिखा है। सवाल है: हम इसके बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं?

- India's climate future depends on rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, and intensifying disasters.
- भारत का जलवायु भविष्य बढ़ते तापमान, अनियमित मानसून, और तीव्र होती आपदाओं पर निर्भर है।
- The key question is what actions are being taken to address these challenges.
- मुख्य सवाल यह है कि इन चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं।

The World Bank states that more than 80% of India's population lives in districts at risk of climate-induced disasters.

वर्ल्ड बैंक का कहना है कि भारत की 80% से अधिक जनसंख्या ऐसे जिलों में रहती है जो जलवायु-प्रेरित आपदाओं के जोखिम में हैं।

- Over 80% of India's population lives in districts at risk of climate disasters.
- भारत की 80% से अधिक जनसंख्या ऐसे जिलों में रहती है जो जलवायु आपदाओं के जोखिम में हैं।
 - From unrelenting monsoon floods in the north-east to heat-induced crop failures in central India, these events are no longer isolated incidents — they are systemic threats to economic stability, public health, and national security.
उत्तर-पूर्व में लगातार हो रहे मानसूनी बाढ़ से लेकर मध्य भारत में गर्मी से फसल विफलता तक, ये घटनाएं अब अलग-थलग नहीं हैं — ये आर्थिक स्थिरता, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य, और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए प्रणालीगत खतरे हैं।



- India remains **vulnerable** due to gaps in **risk assessment** and **preparedness**.
- भारत जोखिम मूल्यांकन और तैयारी में कमी के कारण **संवेदनशील** बना हुआ है।
- **The lack of a comprehensive framework to evaluate and predict climate physical risks (CPRs)** means that **adaptation strategies are reactive rather than proactive**.
जलवायु भौतिक जोखिम (CPRs) का मूल्यांकन और पूर्वानुमान करने के लिए व्यापक ढांचे की कमी का मतलब है कि अनुकूलन रणनीतियाँ प्रतिक्रियाशील हैं, सक्रिय नहीं।

Growing climate physical risks

बढ़ते जलवायु भौतिक जोखिम

- Climate change accelerates the frequency and severity of **extreme weather events**.
- जलवायु परिवर्तन से **अत्यधिक मौसम की घटनाओं** की आवृत्ति और तीव्रता बढ़ रही है।
- **CPRs** include acute shocks like **floods** and **heatwaves**, and chronic stresses like shifting **monsoon patterns** and prolonged **droughts**.
- **CPRs** में तीव्र झटके जैसे **बाढ़** और **गर्मी की लहरें**, और दीर्घकालिक तनाव जैसे बदलते **मानसून पैटर्न** और लंबी **सूखा** शामिल हैं।
- Disaster early warning systems help reduce immediate losses, but CPRs need a **long-term approach**.
- आपदा पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणाली तत्काल नुकसान कम करती हैं, लेकिन **CPRs** के लिए **दीर्घकालिक दृष्टिकोण** जरूरी है।
- Climate projections analyse **long-term trends** enabling policymakers to prepare for evolving hazards.
- जलवायु प्रक्षेपण **दीर्घकालिक प्रवृत्तियों** का विश्लेषण करते हैं, जिससे नीति निर्माताओं को विकसित होते खतरे के लिए तैयारी करने में मदद मिलती है।

Global climate action is caught between prevention and cure — mitigation, which reduces emissions, and adaptation, which prepares for its inevitable impacts.

वैश्विक जलवायु कार्रवाई रोकथाम और उपचार के बीच फंसी है — उत्सर्जन कम करने वाली निरोधक कार्रवाई और अनिवार्य प्रभावों के लिए तैयारी करने वाली अनुकूलन।

- Climate action balances **mitigation** (reducing emissions) and **adaptation** (preparing for impacts).
- जलवायु कार्रवाई में **निरोधक** (उत्सर्जन कम करना) और **अनुकूलन** (प्रभावों के लिए तैयारी) संतुलित है।
- Adaptation is a priority for the **Global South** but now also crucial for the **Global North** due to **wildfires, heatwaves, and cyclones**.
- **वैश्विक दक्षिण** के लिए अनुकूलन प्राथमिकता है, लेकिन अब **वैश्विक उत्तर** के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण हो गया है, जैसे आग, गर्मी की लहरें, और चक्रवात।
- Funding is skewed towards **mitigation** (renewable energy, decarbonisation) over adaptation.
- वित्त पोषण अधिकतर **निरोधक** (नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, कार्बन न्यूनीकरण) की ओर केंद्रित है, अनुकूलन की ओर



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नहीं।

- Investing in adaptation is **economically prudent**, yielding a **\$4 return** for every \$1 spent through reduced losses and recovery costs.
- अनुकूलन में निवेश **आर्थिक रूप से समझदारी** है, क्योंकि हर \$1 निवेश पर **\$4 का लाभ** होता है, जिससे नुकसान और पुनर्प्राप्ति लागत कम होती है।

CPRs are not just about extreme weather events but also about how exposed and vulnerable communities, businesses, and infrastructure are to them.

CPRs केवल अत्यधिक मौसम की घटनाओं के बारे में नहीं हैं, बल्कि यह भी देखता है कि समुदाय, व्यवसाय, और अवसंरचना कितना उजागर और कमजोर हैं।

- CPRs involve **hazard, exposure, and vulnerability** according to the IPCC framework.
- CPRs में IPCC के अनुसार **खतरा, उजागरता, और संवेदनशीलता** शामिल है।
- Hazards: floods, cyclones, heatwaves.
- खतरे: बाढ़, चक्रवात, गर्मी की लहरें।
- Exposure: who and what is at risk.
- उजागरता: कौन और क्या जोखिम में है।
- Vulnerability: system's ability to withstand and recover.
- संवेदनशीलता: प्रणाली की सहनशक्ति और पुनर्प्राप्ति क्षमता।
- Together, these define the **true scale of climate risk**.
- ये मिलकर जलवायु जोखिम का **वास्तविक पैमाना** निर्धारित करते हैं।

To safeguard financial stability, regulatory bodies worldwide are shifting from voluntary climate risk disclosures to mandatory reporting.

वित्तीय स्थिरता बनाए रखने के लिए, विश्व भर के नियामक संस्थान स्वैच्छिक जलवायु जोखिम प्रकटीकरण से अनिवार्य रिपोर्टिंग की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं।

- Regulators globally are moving to **mandatory climate risk reporting**.
- वैश्विक नियामक **अनिवार्य जलवायु जोखिम रिपोर्टिंग** की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं।
- In India, the **Reserve Bank of India** is integrating climate risks into its regulatory framework.
- भारत में **भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक** अपने नियामक ढांचे में जलवायु जोखिम शामिल कर रहा है।
- The **IFRS ISSB S2** sets global standards for disclosing CPRs.
- **IFRS ISSB S2** वैश्विक स्तर पर CPR प्रकटीकरण के मानक तय करता है।
- Assessing these risks is central to **business continuity**, not just environmental responsibility.
- इन जोखिमों का मूल्यांकन **व्यापार निरंतरता** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, केवल पर्यावरणीय जिम्मेदारी के लिए नहीं।

Despite the urgency, India's approach to CPR assessments remains fragmented.

आपातकाल के बावजूद, भारत का CPR आकलन दृष्टिकोण विखंडित बना हुआ है।

- **India lacks a unified system**; efforts are spread across agencies and institutions.
- भारत में कोई **एकीकृत प्रणाली** नहीं है; प्रयास विभिन्न एजेंसियों और संस्थानों में बिखरे हुए हैं।
- Different methodologies and hazard focuses are used by various bodies.



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- विभिन्न संस्थान अलग-अलग **पद्धतियाँ** और **खतरे** पर ध्यान देते हैं।
- Examples: **flood maps by IIT Gandhinagar**, **vulnerability atlases by India Meteorological Department**, **disaster frameworks by National Institute of Disaster Management**.
- उदाहरण: IIT गांधीनगर के बाढ़ मानचित्र, भारतीय मौसम विभाग के संवेदनशीलता एटलस, राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन संस्थान के आपदा ढांचे।
- No **central repository** exists to consolidate these insights.
- इन जानकारीयों को एकत्र करने के लिए कोई **केंद्रीय भंडार** नहीं है।
- Global models like **Representative Concentration Pathways and Shared Socioeconomic Pathways do not capture India's hyper-local climate realities** well.
- प्रतिनिधि सांद्रता मार्ग और साझा सामाजिक-आर्थिक मार्ग जैसे वैश्विक मॉडल भारत की **अत्यधिक स्थानीय जलवायु वास्तविकताओं** को ठीक से नहीं पकड़ पाते।
- Without standardized climate risk data, businesses and government struggle to make informed decisions.
- मानकीकृत जलवायु जोखिम डेटा के बिना, व्यवसाय और सरकार सूचित निर्णय लेने में संघर्ष करते हैं।

Steps Taken to Fill the Gaps

कमियों को भरने के लिए उठाए गए कदम

- Recognising these **gaps**, India has initiated steps to factor in **climate hazards** in its **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**, aligned with **Article 7 of the Paris Agreement**.
- इन **कमियों** को पहचानते हुए, भारत ने अपने **राष्ट्रीय अनुकूलन योजना (NAP)** में **जलवायु खतरों** को शामिल करने के कदम उठाए हैं, जो **पेरिस समझौते के अनुच्छेद 7** के अनुरूप है।
- Article 7 mandates all nations to establish **NAPs by 2025** and demonstrate **progress by 2030**.
- अनुच्छेद 7 सभी देशों को **2025 तक NAPs स्थापित करने** और **2030 तक प्रगति दिखाने** का निर्देश देता है।
- To facilitate this, India formulated an **Adaptation Communication** and submitted its **first report in 2023**.
- इसे आसान बनाने के लिए, भारत ने एक **अनुकूलन संचार** तैयार किया और अपना पहला रिपोर्ट **2023** में प्रस्तुत किया।
- A more comprehensive **NAP report** is underway, covering **nine thematic sectors** with **district-level granularity**.
- एक अधिक व्यापक **NAP रिपोर्ट** तैयार की जा रही है, जिसमें **नौ थीमैटिक सेक्टर** और **जिला स्तर की सूक्ष्मता** शामिल है।
- While this is a great start, India must go further by building a **CPR assessment tool** to support both **public and private decision-making**.
- यह एक अच्छा आरंभ है, लेकिन भारत को आगे बढ़कर एक **CPR मूल्यांकन उपकरण** विकसित करना चाहिए जो **सार्वजनिक और निजी निर्णय लेने** दोनों का समर्थन करे।

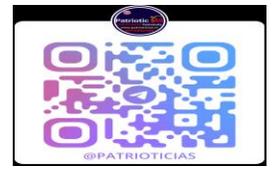
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- This tool will help the **public sector** design **climate-resilient policies**, guide **infrastructure planning**, and allocate **resources effectively**.
 - यह उपकरण सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र को जलवायु-सहनशील नीतियाँ बनाने, बुनियादी ढांचा योजना में मार्गदर्शन करने और संसाधनों का प्रभावी आवंटन करने में मदद करेगा।
- It will also play a crucial role for the **private sector** in assessing **risks across value chains**, supporting **operational and expansion planning**, and meeting growing **investor expectations**.
 - यह निजी क्षेत्र के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण होगा, जो वैल्यू चेन में जोखिमों का मूल्यांकन, संचालन और विस्तार योजना का समर्थन, और बढ़ती हुई निवेशक अपेक्षाओं को पूरा करने में सहायक होगा।
- Therefore, an **India-specific tool** combining **localised climate modelling**, **granular risk assessment**, a **centralised climate risk data hub**, and **transparent, science-based methods** with **iterative feedback mechanisms** is imperative.
 - इसलिए, एक भारत-विशिष्ट उपकरण जरूरी है जो स्थानीयकृत जलवायु मॉडलिंग, सूक्ष्म जोखिम मूल्यांकन, एक केन्द्रीय जलवायु जोखिम डेटा हब, और पारदर्शी, विज्ञान-आधारित विधियों के साथ पुनरावृत्त प्रतिक्रिया तंत्र को जोड़े।
- As India charts its path towards **Viksit Bharat**, robust **climate risk assessments** will ensure that progress is not just **fast** but **future-proof**.
 - जैसे ही भारत विकसित भारत की ओर अपने रास्ते पर बढ़ रहा है, मजबूत जलवायु जोखिम मूल्यांकन यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि प्रगति केवल तेज नहीं बल्कि भविष्य-प्रतिरोधी हो।



Scheme-based workers, the struggle for an identity

GS Paper III: Employment

The central government employs millions of regular and contract workers who are recognised as government employees and are in the pay spectrum of the government. The government also employs several types of workers such as Anganwadi workers or AWWs (13,51,104 workers) and Anganwadi helpers or AWHs (9,22,522), Accredited Social Health Activists or ASHAs (10,52,322 workers), and Mid-Day-Meals workers or MDMWs (25,16,688) under The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme since 1975, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the mid-day meals day scheme. Put together, around 60 million workers work in government schemes.

These schemes are those which carry out social and economic functions by taking care of children and lactating mothers and nutrition aspects. They are also a bridge between the community and the public health system, improving school enrolment and the nutritional health system.

The reality of their existence

Though there has been much recognition of their work (by the Prime Minister and even the World Health Organization), these workers face hardship – they have been denied basic labour market rights such as workers' status, minimum wages and social security. Three basic issues among others have affected scheme-based workers (SBW) – an identity as "workers" just like any government employee, minimum wages and social security. They have adopted three strategies to highlight their plight – strikes, legal action and social dialogue.

Major central trade unions (AITUC, BMS, CITU) have organised the SBWs extensively. Since there are no prescribed wage negotiation timelines, trade unions have gone on frequent strikes over the issue of wage revision at random. State governments are more generous depending more



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on the strength of unions, their proximity with the party in power, and political factors such as elections. In March 2025, Anganwadis in Kerala called off their 13-day indefinite strike. The frequent and large-sized struggles of and by SBWs is a feat of labour mobilisation in modern times as State governments have not always been kind to striking workers. In fact, the Maharashtra government imposed the Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance Act in 2017 to curb the right of Anganwadis in the State to go on strike. In a sense, the government has recognised the "essential" nature of work done by Anganwadis.

The judiciary's approach

At the same time, Anganwadis have been knocking on the doors of the judiciary, with some success after initial setbacks. In *State Of Karnataka & Ors vs Ameerbi & Ors* (2006), the Supreme Court held that as Anganwadis do not carry out any function of the state, and do not hold a post under a statute, it did not consider them as workers. This was a judgment that was a blow against the struggles of these workers. But there was judicial relief.

The Court, in 2022, granted that Anganwadis are eligible for gratuity as they are covered under workers/employees under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 (*Maniben Maganbhai Bhariya vs District Development Officer*, 2022). In 2024, the Gujarat High Court (*Adarsh Gujarat Anganwadi Union & Ors. vs State of Gujarat*) observed that Anganwadis perform onerous duties and responsibilities apart from performing important services under the Right to Education Act (RTE) and the National Food Security Act (NSF). It directed the central and State governments to jointly frame a policy under which the AWWs and AWHs could be regularised as Class III and Class IV grade State employees. Until then, they would be paid minimum wages (Class III and Class IV, respectively).

The central trade unions have been raising the issues concerning the SBWs at the tripartite forum, the Indian Labour Conference (ILC), which is a social dialogue forum created during colonial rule. It is notable that in the 45th ILC, its tripartite Conference Committee made unanimous recommendations to the central government to treat the SBWs as "workers" and not as volunteers or honorary workers, and pay them minimum wages, pension, health insurance and provident fund, among others.

The usual stand

The government is concerned with the huge cost implications as the employment of SBWs as government employees is set to grow as the population grows. On the other hand, the Labour Minister, in 2016, said in the Rajya Sabha, that the recommendations require long-time policy formulation and that there can be no fixed time-line for their implementation. Policy delay and avoidance at best – and outright denial of policy at worst – has been the clever policy of the central government, irrespective of the party in power. The government has been dodging these important issues. On the other hand, there are attempts to privatise the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS). SBW organisations have been waging relentless struggles at all levels to oppose the privatisation of the ICDS and strengthen the labour rights of SBWs. Their struggle, which involves multiple issues, will go on.

It is not "applause" that they seek but "worker" status. It is an existential struggle. It is interesting to note that in both the traditional and modern (gig) sectors, workers are battling for their labour market "identities" as "workers" and earn "wages and not "honorarium". It is not charity that they seek but a legitimate demand for "workers" status by dint of hard work over long hours.

The demand of SBWs, of a labour market identity, is a legitimate one

Scheme-based workers, the struggle for an identity

स्कीम-आधारित कामगार, पहचान के लिए संघर्ष

• The demand of **Scheme-Based Workers (SBWs)** for a labour market identity is a legitimate one.

• स्कीम-आधारित कामगारों (SBWs) की मजदूरी बाजार पहचान की मांग एक वैध मांग है।

• The **central government** employs millions of **regular and contract workers** recognized as **government employees** with government pay.

• केंद्र सरकार लाखों **नियमित और संविदा कर्मियों** को सरकारी कर्मचारियों के रूप में पहचानते हुए सरकार के वेतनमान पर नियुक्त करती है।

• Various types of workers include **Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)** (13,51,104 workers), **Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs)** (9,22,522), **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)** (10,52,322 workers), and **Mid-Day-Meal Workers (MDMWs)** (25,16,688) under schemes like the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**, **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)**,



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and Mid-Day Meals scheme.

• विभिन्न प्रकार के कामगारों में आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता (AWWs) (13,51,104), आंगनवाड़ी सहायिका (AWHs) (9,22,522), अधिकारिक सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (ASHAs) (10,52,322), और मिड-डे मील कार्यकर्ता (MDMWs) (25,16,688) शामिल हैं, जो इंटीग्रेटेड चाइल्ड डेवलपमेंट सर्विसेज (ICDS), राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NRHM) और मिड-डे मील योजना के तहत काम करते हैं।

• Altogether, approximately **60 million workers** work in various government schemes.

• कुल मिलाकर, लगभग **60 मिलियन कामगार** सरकारी योजनाओं में कार्यरत हैं।

• These schemes provide **social and economic functions** by caring for children, lactating mothers, and nutrition.

• ये योजनाएं बच्चों, स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं, और पोषण की देखभाल करके **सामाजिक और आर्थिक कार्य** करती हैं।

• They **act as a bridge between the community and the public health system**, improving **school enrolment and nutritional health**.

• ये समुदाय और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के बीच एक सेतु के रूप में काम करते हैं, जिससे विद्यालय नामांकन और पोषण स्वास्थ्य में सुधार होता है।

The reality of their existence

उनके अस्तित्व की सच्चाई

- Despite recognition by the **Prime Minister** and the **World Health Organization**, these workers face hardships. प्रधानमंत्री और विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन द्वारा मान्यता के बावजूद, ये कामगार कठिनाइयों का सामना करते हैं।
- They are **denied basic labour market rights such as worker status, minimum wages, and social security**.
- उन्हें **मजदूर पहचान, न्यूनतम वेतन, और सामाजिक सुरक्षा** जैसे बुनियादी श्रम बाजार अधिकार से वंचित रखा गया है।
- Three main issues affect SBWs — **identity as workers, minimum wages, and social security**.
- तीन मुख्य मुद्दे SBWs को प्रभावित करते हैं — **मजदूर के रूप में पहचान, न्यूनतम वेतन, और सामाजिक सुरक्षा**।
- SBWs have used **three strategies** to highlight their struggles — **strikes, legal action, and social dialogue**.
- SBWs ने अपने संघर्ष को उजागर करने के लिए **तीन रणनीतियों** का उपयोग किया है — **हड़तालें, कानूनी कार्रवाई, और सामाजिक संवाद**।
- Major central trade unions (AITUC, BMS, CITU) have extensively organised SBWs.

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- प्रमुख केंद्रीय ट्रेड यूनियनों (AITUC, BMS, CITU) ने SBWs का व्यापक रूप से संगठन किया है।
- There are no fixed wage negotiation timelines, leading to frequent **strikes** for wage revision.
- वेतन वार्ता के लिए कोई निश्चित समय सीमा नहीं है, जिसके कारण वेतन संशोधन के लिए बार-बार हड़तालें होती हैं।
- State governments vary in generosity based on union strength, political proximity, and election factors.
 - राज्य सरकारें यूनियन की ताकत, राजनीतिक निकटता, और चुनावी कारकों के आधार पर उदारता दिखाती हैं।
- In March 2025, Anganwadi workers in **Kerala** ended a **13-day indefinite strike**.
 - मार्च 2025 में, केरल के आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं ने **13 दिन की अनिश्चितकालीन हड़ताल** समाप्त की।
- The large, frequent struggles of SBWs are a modern labour mobilisation success despite State government resistance.
 - SBWs के बड़े और बार-बार होने वाले संघर्ष आधुनिक श्रम संगठित करने की सफलता हैं, भले ही राज्य सरकारें विरोध करती रही हों।
- Maharashtra government imposed the **Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance Act** in 2017 to restrict Anganwadi strikes.
 - महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने 2017 में आंगनवाड़ी हड़तालों को रोकने के लिए **महाराष्ट्र आवश्यक सेवा संरक्षण अधिनियम** लागू किया।
- This act acknowledged the "**essential**" nature of Anganwadi work.
 - इस अधिनियम ने आंगनवाड़ी काम के "**आवश्यक**" होने को स्वीकार किया।

The judiciary's approach

न्यायपालिका का दृष्टिकोण

- Anganwadi workers have approached the **judiciary**, achieving some success after initial setbacks.
 - आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता न्यायपालिका के द्वार पर पहुंचे हैं, और प्रारंभिक असफलताओं के बाद कुछ सफलता भी मिली है।
- In **State Of Karnataka & Ors vs Ameerbi & Ors (2006)**, the **Supreme Court** ruled Anganwadi workers are not "workers" as they do not perform a **state function** or hold a **statutory post**.
 - **स्टेट ऑफ कर्नाटक और अन्य बनाम अमीर्बी और अन्य (2006)** में, **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने फैसला दिया कि आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता "मजदूर" नहीं हैं क्योंकि वे **राज्य का कार्य** नहीं करते और न ही कोई **कानूनी पद** धारण करते हैं।

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- This judgment was a setback to the workers' struggle.
- यह निर्णय कामगारों के संघर्ष के लिए एक झटका था।
- However, there was some **judicial relief** afterward.
- हालांकि, बाद में कुछ **न्यायिक राहत** भी मिली।

• Court Judgments and Legal Recognition

अदालत के फैसले और कानूनी मान्यता

- In **2022**, the Court granted that **Anganwadis** are eligible for **gratuity** as they are covered under workers/employees under the **Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972**.
2022 में, अदालत ने यह अधिकार दिया कि आंगनवाड़ी कर्मचारी ग्रेच्युटी के पात्र हैं क्योंकि वे पेमेंट ऑफ ग्रेच्युटी अधिनियम, 1972 के तहत कर्मचारी माने जाते हैं।
- In **2024**, the **Gujarat High Court** observed that Anganwadis perform **onerous duties and important services** under the **Right to Education Act (RTE)** and the **National Food Security Act (NSF)**.
- **2024** में, गुजरात उच्च न्यायालय ने माना कि आंगनवाड़ी कर्मचारी कठिन कर्तव्य और महत्वपूर्ण सेवाएं प्रदान करते हैं, जो शिक्षा का अधिकार अधिनियम (RTE) और राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NSF) के तहत आते हैं।
- The court directed the **central and State governments** to jointly frame a policy to **regularise AWWs and AWHs as Class III and Class IV State employees**.
- अदालत ने केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों को निर्देश दिया कि वे मिलकर एक नीति बनाएं, जिसके तहत आंगनवाड़ी वर्कर्स (AWWs) और हेल्पर्स (AWHs) को क्रमशः क्लास III और क्लास IV राज्य कर्मचारी बनाया जाए।
- Until regularisation, they would be paid **minimum wages** equivalent to Class III and Class IV employees respectively.
- नियमितीकरण तक, उन्हें क्रमशः क्लास III और क्लास IV कर्मचारियों के न्यूनतम वेतन दिए जाएंगे।

Trade Unions and Social Dialogue

ट्रेड यूनियनों और सामाजिक संवाद

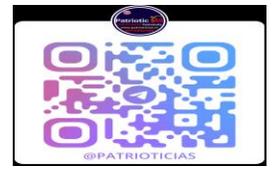
- Central trade unions have been raising SBWs' issues at the **Indian Labour Conference (ILC)**, a **tripartite social dialogue forum** created during colonial rule.
- केंद्र ट्रेड यूनियनों भारतीय श्रम सम्मेलन (ILC) में स्कीम-आधारित श्रमिकों (SBWs) के मुद्दे उठा रही हैं, जो औपनिवेशिक काल में बना एक त्रिपक्षीय सामाजिक संवाद मंच है।
- In the **45th ILC**, the **tripartite Conference Committee** recommended treating SBWs as **"workers"**, not volunteers or honorary workers.
- **45वें ILC** में, त्रिपक्षीय समिति ने SBWs को "कर्मचारी" माना और स्वयंसेवक या मानद कर्मचारी नहीं माना।



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- The committee recommended payment of **minimum wages, pension, health insurance, and provident fund** for SBWs.
- समिति ने SBWs को न्यूनतम वेतन, पेंशन, स्वास्थ्य बीमा, और भविष्य निधि देने की सिफारिश की।

Government's Position and Policy Delays

सरकार का रुख और नीति में देरी

- The **government worries about the high cost implications** as the number of SBWs is **expected to grow with population growth**.
- सरकार **महंगे खर्च** को लेकर चिंतित है क्योंकि जनसंख्या बढ़ने के साथ SBWs की संख्या बढ़ेगी।
- In **2016**, the Labour Minister said in the Rajya Sabha that the recommendations require **long-term policy formulation** and have **no fixed timeline** for implementation.
- **2016** में, श्रम मंत्री ने राज्यसभा में कहा कि इन सिफारिशों के लिए **दीर्घकालिक नीति निर्धारण** जरूरी है और इनका कार्यान्वयन के लिए **कोई निश्चित समय सीमा नहीं है**।
- The government's approach has been **policy delay, avoidance, or outright denial**, regardless of the ruling party.
- सरकार की नीति रही है **नीति में देरी, टालमटोल, या पूरी तरह से इनकार**, चाहे सत्ता में कोई भी पार्टी हो।
- The government has been **dodging these important issues**.
- सरकार इन महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों से बचती रही है।
- There are attempts to **privatise the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)**.
- **समन्वित बाल विकास सेवा योजना (ICDS)** को **निजीकरण** करने के प्रयास हो रहे हैं।
- SBW organisations are continuously struggling to **oppose ICDS privatization** and to **strengthen labour rights** of SBWs.
- SBW संगठन लगातार **ICDS के निजीकरण का विरोध** कर रहे हैं और SBWs के **श्रमिक अधिकार मजबूत** करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।
- Their **multi-issue struggle will continue**.
- उनका यह **बहु-विषयक संघर्ष जारी रहेगा**।

The Core Demand of SBWs

SBWs की मुख्य माँग

- SBWs do not seek “**applause**” but want “**worker**” status.
- SBWs “**ताली**” नहीं, बल्कि “**कर्मचारी**” का दर्जा चाहते हैं।
- It is an **existential struggle** for them.
- यह उनके लिए एक **अस्तित्व की लड़ाई** है।
- Workers in both **traditional and modern (gig) sectors** fight for their **labour market “identities”** as “workers” and to earn “**wages**” rather than “**honorarium**”.
- परंपरागत और आधुनिक (गिग) दोनों क्षेत्रों के श्रमिक अपने श्रम बाजार में “**कर्मचारी**” के रूप में पहचान और “**मानधन**” नहीं, बल्कि “**वेतन**” पाने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।
- They seek not charity but a **legitimate demand** for **worker status** earned through **hard work**



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and long hours.

- वे परोपकार नहीं बल्कि कड़ी मेहनत और लंबे समय तक काम करने के आधार पर एक वैध “कर्मचारी” का दर्जा मांग रहे हैं।

GS Paper III: India-Bangladesh

Trade diplomacy

Trade restrictions against Bangladesh will not have much coercive value

In an escalation of bilateral trade-related tensions, India recently announced restrictions on readymade garments and other specified commodities from Bangladesh. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade's announcement targeting Bangladesh's vital apparel sector sent an unmistakable signal that deteriorating political relations have now spilled over into economic ties. By specifically denying Bangladeshi goods access to India's northeast market, New Delhi has delivered a pointed message to Mohammed Yunus, Bangladesh's interim leader, who during his visit to China in March 2025 had invited Chinese access to India's northeast through Bangladesh, describing the northeast as landlocked. While India's discomfiture about Bangladesh-China discussions regarding India's northeast is understandable, this trade restriction may hurt Bangladeshi businesses, largely dependent on garment export, but will do little to aid New Delhi's strategic interests. Bangladesh's recent political turmoil stems from protests against its former elected government, and the interim leadership – struggling with resistant bureaucracy and ongoing instability – has blamed New Delhi due to its perceived close ties with the previous administration led by Sheikh Hasina. The Yunus-led administration's warming up to Pakistan, and its ban on the Awami League – actions that go against its promises to the international community – have worsened relations. The imperative for New Delhi must be to come up with a deft outreach to other political parties in Bangladesh as they prepare for elections. While Mr. Yunus had announced that elections will be held later this year, there is still no clarity on the date.

New Delhi must, in consonance with the rest of the international community, advise the regime to conduct elections quickly. A political gesture of this nature while engaging with multiple stakeholders in Bangladesh's polity is more appropriate than using restrictive moves related to trade, as this would only heighten the anti-India sentiment being fanned by some elements in Bangladesh after the Awami League government's exit. Such radical elements, many of whom have little investment in the restoration of democratic processes, could also create fresh law and order problems that could lead to security issues in the northeast. India should carefully lay out its response keeping in mind that while it has to communicate its displeasure to the Yunus government, it also has to maintain working relations with this administration till a popularly elected government takes charge in Dhaka.

Trade Diplomacy: On India-Bangladesh Trade-Related Tensions

व्यापार कूटनीति: भारत-बांग्लादेश व्यापार संबंधी तनाव

- India recently imposed trade restrictions on readymade garments and other goods from Bangladesh.

भारत ने हाल ही में बांग्लादेश से आने वाले तैयार वस्त्रों और अन्य वस्तुओं पर व्यापार प्रतिबंध लगाए हैं।

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued the notification targeting Bangladesh's important apparel sector.

यह अधिसूचना विदेश व्यापार महानिदेशालय (DGFT) ने जारी की, जो बांग्लादेश के महत्वपूर्ण वस्त्र क्षेत्र को निशाना बनाती है।

- This move shows that worsening political relations are affecting economic ties between the two countries.

यह कदम दर्शाता है कि बिगड़ती हुई राजनीतिक संबंध अब दोनों देशों के आर्थिक संबंधों को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं।

- India has specifically denied Bangladeshi goods access to its northeast market.

भारत ने विशेष रूप से अपने पूर्वोत्तर बाजार में बांग्लादेशी सामान के प्रवेश को रोका है।

- This was meant as a message to Mohammed Yunus, Bangladesh's interim leader, who during his March 2025 visit to China invited Chinese access to India's northeast through Bangladesh.

यह संदेश था बांग्लादेश के अंतरिम नेता मोहम्मद यूनुस को, जिन्होंने मार्च

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2025 में चीन की यात्रा के दौरान चीन को भारत के पूर्वोत्तर तक पहुंचने के लिए बांग्लादेश मार्ग की पेशकश की थी।

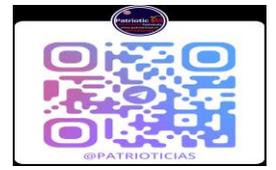
- Yunus described India's northeast region as **landlocked** during his visit.
यूनस ने अपनी यात्रा के दौरान भारत के पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र को **स्थल-आवृत (लैंडलॉक्ड)** बताया।
- India's concern over Bangladesh-China talks about the northeast region is understandable.
भारत की उस बात पर चिंता वाजिब है कि बांग्लादेश-चीन की पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के बारे में बातचीत हो रही है।
- The trade restrictions may hurt **Bangladeshi businesses**, especially those dependent on **garment exports**, but will not help India's **strategic interests**.
ये व्यापार प्रतिबंध **बांग्लादेशी व्यवसायों**, खासकर **वस्त्र निर्यात** पर निर्भर व्यवसायों को नुकसान पहुंचा सकते हैं, लेकिन भारत के **रणनीतिक हितों** में मदद नहीं करेंगे।
- Bangladesh's current political turmoil is due to protests against the **former elected government**.
बांग्लादेश में वर्तमान राजनीतिक अशांति **पूर्व चुनी हुई सरकार** के खिलाफ विरोध के कारण है।
- The **interim government** blames India because of its perceived close ties with the previous administration led by **Sheikh Hasina**.
अंतरिम सरकार भारत को दोष देती है क्योंकि माना जाता है कि भारत का **शेख हसीना** के नेतृत्व वाली पूर्व सरकार के साथ करीबी संबंध है।
- The Yunus administration has warmed relations with **Pakistan** and banned the **Awami League**, breaking promises made to the **international community**.
यूनस प्रशासन ने **पाकिस्तान** के साथ संबंध बढ़ाए हैं और **आवामी लीग** पर प्रतिबंध लगाया है, जो **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय** के प्रति किए गए वादों के विपरीत है।
- India should initiate a careful **outreach** to other political parties in Bangladesh ahead of elections.
भारत को चुनाव से पहले बांग्लादेश के अन्य राजनीतिक दलों से सावधानीपूर्वक **संपर्क** शुरू करना चाहिए।
- Yunus has announced elections will be held **later in 2025**, but the exact **date is not yet clear**.
यूनस ने घोषणा की है कि चुनाव **2025 के अंत में** होंगे, लेकिन **ठीक तारीख अभी स्पष्ट नहीं है**।
- India, along with the **international community**, should advise **Bangladesh's interim regime to hold elections quickly**.
भारत को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय** के साथ मिलकर बांग्लादेश की अंतरिम सरकार को चुनाव जल्द कराने की सलाह देनी चाहिए।
- Political gestures engaging multiple stakeholders are better than **trade restrictions**, which may increase **anti-India sentiment** in Bangladesh.
राजनीतिक संकेत जो कई हितधारकों को शामिल करें, वे **व्यापार प्रतिबंधों** से बेहतर हैं, क्योंकि प्रतिबंध से बांग्लादेश में **भारत-विरोधी भावना** बढ़ सकती है।
- Some radical elements in Bangladesh, uninterested in democracy, could cause **law and order problems** and threaten **security** in India's northeast.



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बांग्लादेश के कुछ कट्टरपंथी तत्व, जो लोकतंत्र में रुचि नहीं रखते, वे कानून-व्यवस्था की समस्याएं पैदा कर सकते हैं और भारत के पूर्वोत्तर की सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा बन सकते हैं।

- India must balance communicating its displeasure to the Yunus government while maintaining working relations until a **popularly elected government** takes office in Dhaka.

भारत को यूनूस सरकार को अपनी नाराजगी जाहिर करते हुए भी तब तक कामकाजी संबंध बनाए रखने होंगे जब तक कि ढाका में लोकप्रिय रूप से चुनी हुई सरकार सत्ता में नहीं आती।

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The role of the Internet in spreading misinformation

A study shows that a substantial share of users on social media platforms reported very little or no trust at all in the news and information they encounter

GS Paper III: Internal Security

DATA POINT

Sanjay Kumar & Krishangi Sinha

During the recent India-Pakistan crisis, misinformation spread like wildfire across social media platforms. Unverified videos claiming to show missile strikes, manipulated images of military action, and false reports of casualties were circulated widely, stoking fear on both sides. Some news channels amplified these claims without verification.

This phenomenon is not new. The data from a survey conducted a couple of years ago by Lokniti-CSDS on 'Media in India: Access, Practices, Concerns and Effects' indicated that misinformation on social media platforms significantly affects public perception, trust, and behaviour. The data revealed widespread concern about the spread of fake news and inaccurate information online.

Table 1 shows the share of respondents who were active Internet users with varying levels of experience of being misled by fake news, while Table 2 shows the experience of social media users in being misled by fake news. Nearly half of all active Internet and social media users said they had encountered false information online at some point.

Most respondents reported that this has occurred either a few times or once or twice. Further, around two-fifths of active Internet users and social media users admitted to having shared/forwarded misinformation at some point of time and realising later that it was inaccurate or fake (Table 3 for active users, Table 4 for social media users).

Table 5 shows the varying levels of concern about receiving fake news or information on the Internet or on social media or on WhatsApp among active Internet users, while Table 6 shows the same for social media users. Table 7 displays overall trends.

There was widespread concern about the spread of fake news and inaccurate information online. According to the data, 21% of active Internet users and 20% of social media users were 'highly concerned' about encountering fake news, while 31% of active Internet users and 32% of social media users were 'somewhat concerned'.

The study further sought to understand people's experiences with fake news. Citizens who were misled by fake news, or shared it unknowingly more often than others, were more likely to be concerned about receiving it on the Internet or on social media. For instance, 88% of social media users who had unknowingly shared fake news expressed high or moderate concern about receiving it.

There was also concern, though to a lesser degree, among those who had never shared (44%) or been misled by fake news (39%). This means that there is growing general consciousness about the threat of misinformation, even among those who may not feel directly affected by it.

A substantial share of users on social media platforms reported very little or no trust at all in the news and information they encounter. Specifically, 21% of X users expressed very little trust, while 12% indicated complete dis-trust (Table 8).

The Reuters Institute's 2024 Digital News Report reveals a significant shift in how Indians access news, with over 70% of respondents preferring online media and nearly half relying on social media platforms such as YouTube (54%) and WhatsApp (48%). This trend underscores the pivotal role that social media platforms play, and the urgent need to promote media literacy, critical thinking, and accountability to help people identify reliable information.

This analysis is based on data collected during a study jointly undertaken by Lokniti-CSDS with financial support from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, India Office

Cause for concern

This analysis is based on data collected during a comprehensive study jointly undertaken by Lokniti-CSDS with financial support from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, India Office.



Table 1: The experience of active Internet users of having been misled by fake news on the Internet or social media (in %)

Type of user	Very often	Few times	Once or twice	Never
Active Internet Users	7	18	21	54

Table 3: The experience of active Internet users of sharing fake news/information unknowingly and realising later that it was false (in %)

Type of user	Very often	Few times	Once or twice	Never
Active internet users	5	13	18	64

Table 5: Level of concern by all Internet users about receiving fake news or information on the Internet or social media or WhatsApp (in %)

Type of user	Highly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned
Active Internet users	21	31	20	28

Table 7: Level of concern about fake news by all Internet users on internet or social media or WhatsApp (in %)

Type of user	Highly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned
All Internet users	16	25	17	42

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor at Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, (CSDS). Krishangi Sinha is a researcher with Lokniti, a research Program of CSDS.

Table 2: The experience of social media users of having been misled by fake news on Internet or social media (in %)

Type of user	Very often	Few Times	Once or twice	Never
Social media user	7	18	22	53

Table 4: The experience of social media users of sharing fake news unknowingly and realising later that it was false (in %)

Type of user	Very often	Few Times	Once or twice	Never
Social media users	5	14	19	62

Table 6: Level of concern by social media users about receiving fake news or information on the Internet or social media or WhatsApp (in %)

Type of user	Highly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned
Social media users	20	32	20	28

Table 8: Trust in information or news received on various social media platforms among active users (in %)

Social media platform	High Trust	Moderate trust	Very little trust	No trust at all	Non-committal
X	17	33	21	12	17
Facebook	14	35	26	14	11
YouTube	14	37	22	13	14
WhatsApp	16	38	21	13	12

The role of the Internet in spreading misinformation

इंटरनेट की भूमिका गलत सूचना फैलाने में

A study shows that a substantial share of users on social media platforms reported very little or no trust at all in the news and information they encounter.

एक अध्ययन से पता चलता है कि सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर उपयोगकर्ताओं



का एक बड़ा हिस्सा उन खबरों और जानकारी पर बहुत कम या बिल्कुल भी भरोसा नहीं करता जो उन्हें मिलती हैं।

- During the recent **India-Pakistan crisis**, misinformation spread like wildfire across **social media platforms**.
हाल की **भारत-पाकिस्तान संकट** के दौरान, गलत सूचना ने **सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म्स** पर आग की तरह फैल गई।
- Unverified videos claiming to show **missile strikes**, manipulated images of military action, and false reports of casualties were circulated widely, stoking fear on both sides.
गैर-पुष्ट वीडियो जिसमें **मिसाइल हमले** दिखाने का दावा किया गया, सैन्य कार्रवाई की **मैनिपुलेटेड तस्वीरें**, और झूठी हताहत रिपोर्ट्स व्यापक रूप से प्रसारित हुईं, जिससे दोनों पक्षों में डर बढ़ा।
- Some news channels amplified these claims without verification.
कुछ समाचार चैनलों ने इन दावों को बिना जांच के बढ़ावा दिया।
- This phenomenon is not new.
यह घटना नई नहीं है।
- The data from a survey conducted a couple of years ago by **Lokniti-CSDS** on 'Media in India: Access, Practices, Concerns and Effects' indicated that **misinformation** on social media platforms significantly affects **public perception, trust, and behaviour**.
लोकनिती-सीएसडीएस द्वारा कुछ साल पहले 'भारत में मीडिया: पहुँच, प्रथाएं, चिंताएं और प्रभाव' पर किए गए सर्वेक्षण के डेटा से पता चला कि **सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म्स पर गलत सूचना** का जनमत, भरोसा और व्यवहार पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव होता है।
- The data revealed widespread concern about the spread of **fake news** and inaccurate information online.
डेटा से यह भी पता चला कि ऑनलाइन **फेक न्यूज़** और गलत जानकारी के फैलाव को लेकर व्यापक चिंता है।
- Table 1 shows the share of respondents who were active Internet users with varying levels of experience of being misled by **fake news**, while Table 2 shows the experience of **social media users** in being misled by fake news.
टेबल 1 में सक्रिय इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ताओं के बीच कितने लोग **फेक न्यूज़** से भटकाए गए, इसके स्तर दिखाए गए हैं, जबकि टेबल 2 में **सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ताओं** के फेक न्यूज़ से भ्रमित होने के अनुभव को दिखाया गया है।
- Nearly half of all active Internet and social media users said they had encountered **false information online** at some point.
लगभग आधे सक्रिय इंटरनेट और सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ताओं ने कहा कि वे किसी न किसी समय ऑनलाइन **गलत जानकारी** से मिले हैं।



- Most respondents reported that this has occurred either a few times or once or twice.
अधिकांश उत्तरदाताओं ने कहा कि यह घटना कुछ बार या एक-दो बार हुई है।
- Around two-fifths of active Internet users and social media users admitted to having **shared/forwarded misinformation** at some point and realizing later that it was **inaccurate or fake** (Table 3 for active users, Table 4 for social media users).
लगभग दो-पांचवें सक्रिय इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता और सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ता ने स्वीकार किया कि उन्होंने कभी-कभी **गलत सूचना साझा/फॉरवर्ड** की और बाद में पता चला कि वह **गलत या नकली** थी (टेबल 3 सक्रिय उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए, टेबल 4 सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए)।
- Table 5 shows varying levels of concern about receiving **fake news or information** on the Internet or social media or WhatsApp among active Internet users, while Table 6 shows the same for social media users.
टेबल 5 में सक्रिय इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ताओं में इंटरनेट, सोशल मीडिया या व्हाट्सएप पर **फेक न्यूज़ या जानकारी** प्राप्त करने को लेकर विभिन्न स्तर की चिंताओं को दिखाया गया है, जबकि टेबल 6 में यही स्थिति सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए है।
- Table 7 displays overall trends.
टेबल 7 में कुल मिलाकर प्रवृत्तियों को दिखाया गया है।
- There was widespread concern about the spread of **fake news** and inaccurate information online.
ऑनलाइन **फेक न्यूज़** और गलत जानकारी के फैलाव को लेकर व्यापक चिंता थी।
- According to the data, **21% of active Internet users** and **20% of social media users** were 'highly concerned' about encountering fake news, while **31% of active Internet users** and **32% of social media users** were 'somewhat concerned'.
आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **21% सक्रिय इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता** और **20% सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ता** फेक न्यूज़ से काफी चिंतित थे, जबकि **31% सक्रिय इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता** और **32% सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ता** थोड़ी चिंता में थे।
- The study further sought to understand people's experiences with fake news.
अध्ययन ने आगे फेक न्यूज़ के साथ लोगों के अनुभवों को समझने की कोशिश की।
- Citizens who were misled by fake news, or shared it unknowingly more often than others, were more likely to be concerned about receiving it on the Internet or on social media.
जो नागरिक फेक न्यूज़ से भ्रमित हुए या इसे अनजाने में दूसरों से अधिक साझा करते थे, वे इंटरनेट या सोशल मीडिया पर इसे प्राप्त करने को लेकर अधिक चिंतित थे।
- For instance, **88% of social media users** who had unknowingly shared fake news expressed **high or moderate concern** about receiving it.
उदाहरण के लिए, जो **88% सोशल मीडिया उपयोगकर्ता** अनजाने में फेक न्यूज़ साझा कर चुके थे, उन्होंने इसे प्राप्त करने को लेकर **उच्च या मध्यम चिंता** व्यक्त की।
- There was also concern, though to a lesser degree, among those who had never shared (44%) or been misled by fake news (39%).



उन लोगों में भी चिंता थी, हालांकि कम, जो कभी फेक न्यूज़ साझा नहीं करते थे (44%) या जिन्हें फेक न्यूज़ ने भ्रमित नहीं किया था (39%)।

- This means there is growing general consciousness about the threat of **misinformation**, even among those who may not feel directly affected by it.

इसका मतलब है कि गलत सूचना के खतरे के प्रति सामान्य जागरूकता बढ़ रही है, यहां तक कि उन लोगों में भी जो सीधे प्रभावित नहीं होते।

- A substantial share of users on social media platforms reported very little or no trust at all in the news and information they encounter.

सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर उपयोगकर्ताओं का एक बड़ा हिस्सा उन खबरों और जानकारी पर बहुत कम या बिल्कुल भी भरोसा नहीं करता जो उन्हें मिलती हैं।

- Specifically, **21% of X users** expressed very little trust, while **12% indicated complete distrust** (Table 8).

विशेष रूप से, **21% X उपयोगकर्ताओं** ने बहुत कम भरोसा व्यक्त किया, जबकि **12% ने पूर्ण अविश्वास** जताया (टेबल 8)।

- The **Reuters Institute's 2024 Digital News Report** reveals a significant shift in how Indians access news, with over **70% of respondents preferring online media** and nearly half relying on social media platforms such as **YouTube (54%)** and **WhatsApp (48%)**.

रायटर्स इंस्टिट्यूट की 2024 डिजिटल न्यूज़ रिपोर्ट में दिखाया गया है कि भारतीयों के समाचार प्राप्त करने के तरीके में बड़ा बदलाव आया है, जिसमें **70% से अधिक उत्तरदाता ऑनलाइन मीडिया पसंद करते हैं** और लगभग आधे लोग **YouTube (54%)** और **WhatsApp (48%)** जैसे सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर निर्भर हैं।

This trend underscores the pivotal role that social media platforms play, and the urgent need to promote **media literacy, critical thinking, and accountability** to help people identify reliable information.

यह प्रवृत्ति सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका को रेखांकित करती है, और लोगों को भरोसेमंद जानकारी पहचानने में मदद करने के लिए **मीडिया साक्षरता, आलोचनात्मक सोच, और जवाबदेही** को बढ़ावा देने की तत्काल आवश्यकता दिखाती है।



TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper IV and Essay)

1. Rats strike again at Bihar govt. hospital, bite patient's foot

बिहार सरकार के अस्पताल में चूहों का फिर हमला, मरीज का पैर काटा

2. Positivity camp for students on May 24 and 25

24 और 25 मई को छात्रों के लिए पॉज़िटिविटी कैंप

Rats strike again at Bihar govt. hospital, bite patient's foot

GS Paper IV: Ethics

Accountability

Amar Nath Tewary

Patna
Halat Desh Ka

A disabled patient at Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH) in Patna has alleged that rats bit his right foot while he was asleep, the latest in a series of bizarre rodent-related incidents in the State.

Awadhesh Kumar, a middle-aged patient, said he noticed bleeding on his right leg fingers on the morning of May 18. "I was shocked to see blood on my foot. Rats have created havoc in the ward," he told reporters.

Dr. Om Prakash, head of NMCH's Orthopaedic Department, confirmed that the matter has been reported to the medical superintendent. "We have ta-

ken note of the incident," he said.

"Action will be taken against those responsible," a senior health official told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav slammed the government, saying the State's health care has been ruined under the BJP Health Minister Mangal Pandey.

"Rats bit a patient in the NMCH again. Recently, rats gnawed the eye of a deceased person in the same hospital," he said, pointing to a November 2024 case.

Other incidents involving rats include saline thefts in 2020, liquor disappearance in 2017, and breaches in embankments in 2017.

Rats strike again at Bihar govt. hospital, bite patient's foot

बिहार सरकार के अस्पताल में चूहों का फिर

हमला, मरीज का पैर काटा

A disabled patient at Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH) in Patna has alleged that rats bit his right foot while he was asleep, the latest in a series of bizarre rodent-related incidents in the State.

पटना के नालंदा मेडिकल कॉलेज और अस्पताल (NMCH) में एक विकलांग मरीज ने आरोप लगाया है कि सोते समय चूहों ने उसका दाहिना पैर काट लिया, जो राज्य में चूहों से जुड़ी अजीब घटनाओं की कड़ी में ताजा मामला है।

- Awadhesh Kumar, a middle-aged patient, said he noticed bleeding on his right leg fingers on the morning of May 18.

मध्यम आयु वर्ग के मरीज अवधेश कुमार ने कहा कि उन्होंने 18 मई की सुबह अपने दाहिने पैर की उंगलियों पर खून बहते देखा।



- “I was shocked to see blood on my foot. Rats have created havoc in the ward,” he told reporters.
“में अपने पैर पर खून देखकर चौंक गया। वार्ड में चूहों ने आतंक मचा रखा है,” उन्होंने पत्रकारों से कहा।
- **Dr. Om Prakash**, head of NMCH’s **Orthopaedic Department**, confirmed that the matter has been reported to the **medical superintendent**.
NMCH के हड्डी रोग विभाग के प्रमुख डॉ. ओम प्रकाश ने पुष्टि की कि मामला चिकित्सा अधीक्षक को रिपोर्ट किया गया है।
- “We have taken note of the incident,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “हमने इस घटना को नोट किया है।”
- “**Action will be taken** against those responsible,” a **senior health official** told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity.
एक वरिष्ठ स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी ने द हिंदू से कहा, “जिम्मेदारों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाएगी,” और गुमनाम रहने की इच्छा जताई।
- **Rashtriya Janata Dal** leader **Tejashwi Yadav** slammed the government, saying the State’s **health care** has been ruined under the **BJP Health Minister Mangal Pandey**.
राष्ट्रीय जनता दल के नेता तेजस्वी यादव ने सरकार की आलोचना करते हुए कहा कि राज्य की स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था भाजपा के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री मंगल पांडे के तहत बर्बाद हो चुकी है।
- “**Rats bit a patient in the NMCH again**. Recently, rats gnawed the eye of a deceased person in the same hospital,” he said, pointing to a **November 2024** case.
उन्होंने कहा, “NMCH में फिर चूहों ने एक मरीज को काटा। हाल ही में, इसी अस्पताल में चूहों ने एक मृत व्यक्ति की आंख को कुतर दिया था,” उन्होंने नवंबर 2024 की घटना की ओर इशारा किया।
- Other incidents involving rats include **saline thefts in 2020**, **liquor disappearance in 2017**, and **breaches in embankments in 2017**.
चूहों से जुड़ी अन्य घटनाओं में 2020 में सलाइन चोरी, 2017 में शराब गायब होना, और 2017 में तटबंधों में संध लगाना शामिल है।



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

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

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Positivity camp for students on May 24 and 25

GS Paper IV: Ethics
Essay

The Hindu In School

CHENNAI

A two-day camp to promote positivity will be conducted by MiTran Global on May 24 and 25, offering teenagers insights on confidence, emotional resilience and a sense of purpose. *The Hindu In School* is the media partner for the programme.

Students of 11-17 years of age are eligible. To register, go to hub.mitranglobal.com/services/ipc or scan the QR code. Students may choose from slots between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. on both days.

The camp fee is ₹1,999.



The camp fee is ₹1,999.

शिविर शुल्क ₹1,999 है।

Positivity camp for students on May 24 and 25

24 और 25 मई को छात्रों के लिए पॉजिटिविटी कैंप

• A two-day camp to promote positivity will be conducted by MiTran Global on May 24 and 25, offering teenagers insights on confidence, emotional resilience, and a sense of purpose.

MiTran Global द्वारा 24 और 25 मई को पॉजिटिविटी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए दो दिवसीय शिविर आयोजित किया जाएगा, जो किशोरों को आत्मविश्वास, भावनात्मक सहनशीलता, और उद्देश्य की भावना पर मार्गदर्शन देगा।

• The Hindu In School is the media partner for the programme.

इस कार्यक्रम के लिए The Hindu In School मीडिया पार्टनर है।

• Students of 11-17 years of age are eligible.

11 से 17 वर्ष की आयु के छात्र पात्र हैं।

• To register, go to hub.mitranglobal.com/services/ipc or scan the QR code.

पंजीकरण के लिए hub.mitranglobal.com/services/ipc पर जाएं या

QR कोड स्कैन करें।

• Students may choose from slots between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. on both days.

छात्र दोनों दिनों में से 10 बजे से 1 बजे तक या 2:30 बजे से 5:30 बजे तक के स्लॉट में से चुन सकते हैं।

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TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

- Justice Somashekar appointed Manipur HC Chief Justice**
न्यायमूर्ति सोमशेखर मणिपुर उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश नियुक्त
- IB chief gets one-year extension in service**
आईबी प्रमुख को सेवा में एक साल का विस्तार मिला
- Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project hits milestone**
मुंबई-अहमदाबाद बुलेट ट्रेन परियोजना ने मील का पत्थर हासिल किया
- Positivity camp for students on May 24 and 25**
24 और 25 मई को छात्रों के लिए पॉजिटिविटी कैंप

Justice Somashekar appointed Manipur HC Chief Justice

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday appointed Justice Kempaiah Somashekar of the Karnataka High Court as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced the appointment on X.

"In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, the President of India, after consultation with Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint Justice Kempaiah Somashekar, Judge of the Karnataka High Court, as Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court," he said.

The appointment fol-



Kempaiah Somashekar

lows a recommendation by a three-member collegium headed by CJI B.R. Gavai, ahead of the retirement of incumbent Chief Justice D. Krishnakumar on May 21.

Justice Somashekar began his legal practice in 1990. He was appointed District and Sessions Judge in 1998, Additional Judge in 2016, and Permanent Judge in 2018.

Justice Somashekar appointed Manipur HC Chief Justice

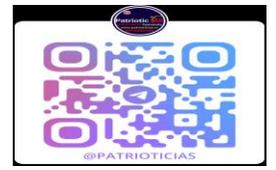
न्यायमूर्ति सोमशेखर मणिपुर उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश नियुक्त

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday appointed Justice Kempaiah Somashekar of the Karnataka High Court as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने मंगलवार को कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायमूर्ति केंपैया सोमशेखर को मणिपुर उच्च न्यायालय का मुख्य न्यायाधीश नियुक्त किया।

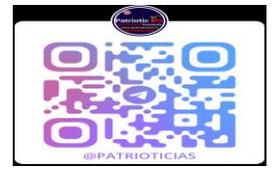
• Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced the appointment on X.

केंद्रीय कानून मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल ने इस नियुक्ति की घोषणा X (पूर्व



ट्विटर) पर की।

- “In exercise of the power conferred by the **Constitution of India**, the **President of India**, after consultation with **Chief Justice of India**, is pleased to appoint **Justice Kempaiah Somashekar**, Judge of the **Karnataka High Court**, as **Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court**,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “**भारतीय संविधान** द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, **भारत के राष्ट्रपति** ने **भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश** से परामर्श के बाद, **कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश केंपैया सोमशेखर** को **मणिपुर उच्च न्यायालय का मुख्य न्यायाधीश** नियुक्त किया है।”
- The appointment follows a recommendation by a **three-member collegium** headed by **CJI B.R. Gavai**, ahead of the **retirement of incumbent Chief Justice D. Krishnakumar on May 21**.
यह नियुक्ति **भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई** की अध्यक्षता वाले **तीन सदस्यीय कॉलेजियम** की सिफारिश के आधार पर की गई है, जो कि **वर्तमान मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी. कृष्णकुमार** के **21 मई** को **सेवानिवृत्त** होने से पहले की गई है।
- **Justice Somashekar** began his legal practice in **1990**.
न्यायमूर्ति सोमशेखर ने अपनी **कानूनी प्रैक्टिस 1990** में शुरू की।
- He was appointed **District and Sessions Judge** in **1998**, **Additional Judge** in **2016**, and **Permanent Judge** in **2018**.
उन्हें **1998** में **जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश**, **2016** में **अतिरिक्त न्यायाधीश**, और **2018** में **स्थायी न्यायाधीश** नियुक्त किया गया।



IB chief gets one-year extension in service

PCS

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday extended the services of Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, as Director of the Intelligence Bureau for another year. Mr. Deka, 62, an officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, was appointed IB chief in 2022. This is the second time his tenure has been extended by a year.

The officer will now remain in office at least until June 30, 2026.

The extension comes in the wake of the evolving security situation following Operation Sindoor. It was based on precise information provided by the IB that the terror camps and in-



Tapan Kumar Deka

frastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) were destroyed on May 7.

“The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Mr. Deka’s extension as the Director, Intelligence Bureau, for a period of one year beyond June 30, 2025,” an order by the Personnel Ministry said.

IB chief gets one-year extension in service

आईबी प्रमुख को सेवा में एक साल का विस्तार मिला

• The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday extended the services of Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, as Director of the Intelligence Bureau for another year.

कैबिनेट की नियुक्ति समिति (एसीसी) ने मंगलवार को 1988 बैच के भारतीय पुलिस सेवा (आईपीएस) अधिकारी तपन कुमार डेका की इंटेलिजेंस ब्यूरो के निदेशक के रूप में सेवा को एक और वर्ष के लिए बढ़ा दिया।

• Mr. Deka, 62, an officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, was appointed IB chief in 2022.

62 वर्षीय श्री डेका, हिमाचल प्रदेश कैडर के अधिकारी हैं, जिन्हें 2022 में आईबी प्रमुख नियुक्त किया गया था।

• This is the second time his tenure has been extended by a year.

यह दूसरी बार है जब उनका कार्यकाल एक वर्ष के लिए बढ़ाया गया है।

• The officer will now remain in office at least until June 30, 2026.

अब यह अधिकारी कम से कम 30 जून 2026 तक पद पर बने रहेंगे।

- The extension comes in the wake of the evolving security situation following Operation Sindoor.

यह विस्तार ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बाद बदलती सुरक्षा स्थिति को देखते हुए किया गया है।



- It was based on precise information provided by the IB that the terror camps and infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) were destroyed on May 7.

आईबी द्वारा दी गई सटीक जानकारी के आधार पर पाकिस्तान और पाकिस्तान अधिकृत कश्मीर (पीओके) में स्थित आतंकी शिविरों और ढांचे को 7 मई को नष्ट किया गया था।

- “The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Mr. Deka’s extension as the Director, Intelligence Bureau, for a period of one year beyond June 30, 2025,” an order by the Personnel Ministry said.

कार्मिक मंत्रालय के एक आदेश में कहा गया, “प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता वाली कैबिनेट की नियुक्ति समिति ने 30 जून 2025 के बाद एक वर्ष की अवधि के लिए आईबी निदेशक के रूप में श्री डेका के कार्यकाल के विस्तार को मंजूरी दी है।”

Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project hits milestone

PCS

The bullet train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad has achieved a significant construction milestone with the completion of 300 km of viaducts, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) said on Tuesday. “This achievement was marked by the launching of a 40-metre-long full-span box girder near Surat, Gujarat,” NHSRCL added. The project has promoted the use of indigenously manufactured equipment, such as straddle carriers, launching gantries, bridge gantries, and girder transporters.

Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project hits milestone

मुंबई-अहमदाबाद बुलेट ट्रेन परियोजना ने मील का पत्थर हासिल किया

The bullet train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad has achieved a significant construction milestone with the completion of 300 km of viaducts, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) said on Tuesday.

नेशनल हाई स्पीड रेल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (NHSRCL) ने मंगलवार को कहा कि मुंबई और अहमदाबाद के बीच की बुलेट ट्रेन कॉरिडोर ने 300 किलोमीटर वायाडक्ट पूरा कर एक महत्वपूर्ण निर्माण मील का पत्थर हासिल किया है।

- “This achievement was marked by the launching of a 40-metre-long full-span box girder near Surat, Gujarat,” NHSRCL added.



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NHSRCL ने बताया कि इस उपलब्धि को गुजरात के सूरत के पास 40 मीटर लंबे फुल-स्पैन बॉक्स गर्डर के लॉन्चिंग द्वारा चिह्नित किया गया।

The project has promoted the use of **indigenously manufactured equipment**, such as **straddle carriers, launching gantries, bridge gantries, and girder transporters.**

इस परियोजना ने स्वदेशी रूप से निर्मित उपकरणों के उपयोग को बढ़ावा दिया है, जैसे कि स्ट्रैडल कैरियर्स, लॉन्चिंग गैंटीज़, ब्रिज गैंटीज़ और गर्डर ट्रांसपोर्टर्स।

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