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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

05 AUGUST 2025

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05_08_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. **Jharkhand's ex-CM and tribal leader Shibu Soren dies**
   झारखंड के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री और आदिवासी नेता शिबू सोरेन का निधन

2. Stalin inaugurates VinFast's first EV plant in country
स्टालिन ने देश में विनफास्ट के पहले ईवी प्लांट का उद्घाटन किया

3. Actor Urvashi raises doubts over best actress criterion
अभिनेत्री उर्वशी ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेत्री की श्रेणी पर सवाल उठाए

4. Foreign divers assist in MSC Elsa cleanup
MSC एल्सा की सफाई में विदेशी गोताखोरों की मदद

5. Modi to inaugurate new Kartavya Bhavan tomorrow
मोदी कल नए कर्तव्य भवन का उद्घाटन करेंगे

6. Independence Day invites
स्वतंत्रता दिवस निमंत्रण

7. Sudan paramilitaries kill 14 civilians fleeing besieged city
सूडान अर्धसैनिक बलों ने घिरे शहर से भाग रहे 14 नागरिकों की हत्या की

Jharkhand's ex-CM and tribal leader Shibu Soren dies

PCS

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) co-founder Shibu Soren passed away in Delhi on Monday. He was 81.

Mr. Soren had been undergoing treatment for kidney-related problems at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi for more than a month. His son, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, announced the death in a post on social media platform X.

"Respected Dishom Guruji has left us all... I have become *shunya* [zero] today," Mr. Hemant said.

Accompanied by his wife Kalpana Soren, Mr. Hemant broke down as party workers raised slogans hailing his father, who played a key role in the creation of Jharkhand.

Talking to presspersons in Delhi, Mr. Hemant described his father as a "great man".

"He was like a protective shade for Jharkhand and the tribals. That shade has left us today. We will always remember him," the Chief Minister said, adding that Mr. Soren's legacy would live on.

Mr. Soren was born on January 11, 1944 in Nemra village of undivided Bihar, which now comes under Ramgarh district of Jharkhand.

He co-founded the JMM along with A.K. Roy and Binod Bihari Mahto in 1973. The JMM soon became the primary political voice for the demand for a separate tribal State and got support across the Chotanagpur

**SHIBU SOREN
(1944-2025)**

and Santhal Pargana regions.

He served as Chief Minister of Jharkhand three times, but never completed a full term. He was elected several times to the Lok Sabha from Dumka. As a key figure in the United Progressive Alliance government, he also served as Union Coal Minister.

Leaders cutting across party lines paid tribute to Mr. Soren. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge visited the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and paid tributes to the veteran tribal leader.

Ms. Murmu said his demise was a big loss in the space of social justice. "He championed the cause of tribal identity and formation of the State of Jharkhand," she said on X.

Condoling the death, Mr. Modi said in a post: "Shri Shibu Soren Ji was a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication to the people. He was particularly passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden."

"A strong voice of the tribal society, Soren*ji* fought for their rights and interests throughout his life. His role in the creation of Jharkhand will always be remembered," Mr. Gandhi said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma condoled the death.

Paying tribute to Mr. Soren, Jharkhand's first Chief Minister and the current Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Babulal Marandi said his journey was filled with struggle. " He was a social reformer and BJP always respected him," Mr. Marandi said.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad and his son Tejashwi Yadav, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, said his demise would be an irreparable loss for politics in Jharkhand. "We have been friends and worked together," Mr. Prasad said.

The Jharkhand government has declared three-day State mourning from August 4 to 6.

His last rites would be performed in his native village Nemra on Tuesday. Mr. Soren is survived by wife Rupi Soren, sons Hemant Soren and Basant Soren, and daughter Anjali Soren.

REFORMER TO ICON
» PAGE 6

Jharkhand's ex-CM and tribal leader Shibu Soren dies
झारखंड के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री और आदिवासी नेता शिबू सोरेन का निधन

- Former **Jharkhand Chief Minister** and **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) co-founder Shibu Soren** passed away in **Delhi** on **Monday**.

झारखंड के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री और झारखंड मुक्ति मोर्चा (JMM) के सह-संस्थापक शिबू सोरेन का सोमवार को दिल्ली में निधन हो गया।

- He was **81**.
  वे **81 वर्ष** के थे।
- Mr. Soren had been undergoing treatment for **kidney-related problems** at the **Sir Ganga Ram Hospital** in Delhi for more than a **month**.
  श्री सोरेन **दिल्ली के सर गंगा राम अस्पताल** में **गुर्दे से संबंधित समस्याओं** के इलाज के लिए **एक महीने से अधिक समय** से भर्ती थे।
- His son, **Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren**, announced the death in a post on **social media platform X**.
  उनके पुत्र, **झारखंड के मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन** ने उनके निधन की सूचना **सोशल मीडिया मंच X** पर पोस्ट करके दी।
- "Respected **Dishom Guruji** has left us all... I have become **shunya [zero] today,**" Mr. Hemant said.
  श्री हेमंत ने कहा, "**आदरणीय दिशोम गुरुजी** हमें छोड़कर चले गए... आज मैं **शून्य** हो गया हूं।"
- Accompanied by his wife **Kalpana Soren**, Mr. Hemant broke down as **party workers raised slogans** hailing his father, who played a **key role in the creation of Jharkhand**.
  अपनी पत्नी **कल्पना सोरेन** के साथ मौजूद श्री हेमंत भावुक हो गए, जब **पार्टी कार्यकर्ताओं ने उनके पिता के समर्थन में नारे लगाए**, जिन्होंने **झारखंड के निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई** थी।
- Talking to presspersons in Delhi, Mr. Hemant described his father as a "**great man**".
  दिल्ली में पत्रकारों से बात करते हुए श्री हेमंत ने अपने पिता को "**महान व्यक्ति**" बताया।
- "He was like a **protective shade for Jharkhand and the tribals**. That shade has left us today. We will always remember him," the Chief Minister said, adding that **Mr. Soren's legacy would live on**.
  "वे **झारखंड और आदिवासियों के लिए एक सुरक्षात्मक छाया** की तरह थे। आज वह छाया हमें छोड़ गई। हम उन्हें हमेशा याद करेंगे," मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, और जोड़ा कि **श्री सोरेन की विरासत जीवित रहेगी।**

Political Journey and Contributions
राजनीतिक यात्रा और योगदान

- Mr. Soren was born on **January 11, 1944** in **Nemra village** of undivided Bihar, which now comes under **Ramgarh district** of Jharkhand.
  श्री सोरेन का जन्म **11 जनवरी 1944** को **अविभाजित बिहार के नेमरा गांव** में हुआ था, जो अब **झारखंड के रामगढ़ जिले** में आता है।
- He **co-founded the JMM** along with **A.K. Roy and Binod Bihari Mahto** in **1973**.
  उन्होंने **1973** में **ए.के. रॉय और बिनोद बिहारी महतो** के साथ मिलकर **JMM की स्थापना की** थी।
- The **JMM soon became the primary political voice** for the **demand for a separate tribal State** and got **support across the Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana regions**.
  JMM जल्द ही एक अलग आदिवासी राज्य की मांग की **मुख्य राजनीतिक आवाज** बन गया और उसे **छोटानागपुर और संथाल परगना क्षेत्रों में समर्थन** मिला।
  He **served as Chief Minister of Jharkhand three times**, but **never completed a full term**.
  उन्होंने **तीन बार झारखंड के मुख्यमंत्री** के रूप में कार्य किया, लेकिन **कभी भी पूर्ण कार्यकाल पूरा नहीं किया।**
- He was **elected several times to the Lok Sabha from Dumka**.
  वे **दुमका से कई बार लोकसभा** के लिए निर्वाचित हुए।
- As a **key figure in the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government**, he also served as **Union Coal Minister**.

वे **संयुक्त प्रगतिशील गठबंधन (UPA) सरकार के एक प्रमुख नेता** रहे और **केंद्रीय कोयला मंत्री** के रूप में भी कार्य किया।

Tributes and Condolences
श्रद्धांजलियाँ और शोक संदेश

- **Leaders cutting across party lines** paid tribute to Mr. Soren.
  विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के नेताओं ने श्री सोरेन को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।

- **President Droupadi Murmu**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, **Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi**, and **Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge** visited **Sir Ganga Ram Hospital** and paid tributes to the **veteran tribal leader**.
  राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू, **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी**, **लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी** और **कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे** ने **सर गंगा राम अस्पताल** जाकर इस **वरिष्ठ आदिवासी नेता** को श्रद्धांजलि दी।

- Ms. Murmu said his demise was a **big loss in the space of social justice**. "He championed the cause of **tribal identity and formation of the State of Jharkhand**," she said on X.
  श्रीमती मुर्मू ने कहा कि उनका निधन **सामाजिक न्याय के क्षेत्र में एक बड़ी क्षति** है। "उन्होंने **आदिवासी पहचान और झारखंड राज्य के गठन** की भावना का नेतृत्व किया," उन्होंने X पर कहा।

- Condoling the death, Mr. Modi said in a post: "**Shri Shibu Soren Ji was a grassroots leader** who rose through the ranks of public life with **unwavering dedication** to the people. He was particularly **passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden**."
  शोक व्यक्त करते हुए श्री मोदी ने पोस्ट में कहा: "**श्री शिबू सोरेन जी एक जमीनी नेता** थे जिन्होंने **जनसेवा के प्रति अटूट समर्पण** के साथ सार्वजनिक जीवन में ऊँचाइयाँ प्राप्त कीं। वे विशेष रूप से **आदिवासी समुदायों, गरीबों और वंचितों को सशक्त करने** के लिए समर्पित थे।"

- "A **strong voice of the tribal society**, Sorenji fought for their rights and interests throughout his life. His role in the **creation of Jharkhand will always be remembered**," Mr. Gandhi said.
  श्री गांधी ने कहा, "**आदिवासी समाज की एक मजबूत आवाज**, सोरेनजी ने जीवन भर उनके अधिकारों और हितों के लिए संघर्ष किया। झारखंड के निर्माण में उनकी भूमिका को हमेशा याद किया जाएगा।"

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**, **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**, **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar**, and **Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma** condoled the death.
  केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह, **तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन**, **केरल के मुख्यमंत्री पिनाराई विजयन**, **बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार**, और **मेघालय के मुख्यमंत्री कोनराड के. संगमा** ने शोक व्यक्त किया।

- Paying tribute to Mr. Soren, **Jharkhand's first Chief Minister and current Leader of the Opposition Babulal Marandi** said his journey was **filled with struggle**. "He was a **social reformer** and **BJP always respected him**," Mr. Marandi said.
  श्री सोरेन को श्रद्धांजलि देते हुए **झारखंड के पहले मुख्यमंत्री और वर्तमान विपक्ष के नेता बाबूलाल मरांडी** ने कहा कि उनकी यात्रा **संघर्षों से भरी** रही। "वे एक **सामाजिक सुधारक** थे और **भाजपा ने हमेशा उनका सम्मान किया**," श्री मरांडी ने कहा।

- **Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad** and his son **Tejashwi Yadav**, **Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly**, said his demise would be an **irreparable loss for politics in Jharkhand**. "We have been friends and worked together," Mr. Prasad said.
  राष्ट्रीय जनता दल (RJD) प्रमुख लालू प्रसाद और उनके पुत्र **तेजस्वी यादव**, जो कि **बिहार**

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विधानसभा में विपक्ष के नेता हैं, ने कहा कि उनका निधन **झारखंड की राजनीति के लिए अपूरणीय क्षति** है। "हम मित्र रहे हैं और साथ काम किया है," श्री प्रसाद ने कहा।

State Mourning and Funeral
राजकीय शोक और अंतिम संस्कार

- The **Jharkhand government has declared three-day State mourning from August 4 to 6**.
  झारखंड सरकार ने 4 से 6 अगस्त तक तीन दिवसीय राजकीय शोक की घोषणा की है।
- His **last rites would be performed in his native village Nemra on Tuesday**.
  उनका **अंतिम संस्कार मंगलवार को उनके पैतृक गांव नेमरा में किया जाएगा**।
- Mr. Soren is **survived by wife Rupi Soren**, sons **Hemant Soren and Basant Soren**, and daughter **Anjali Soren**.
  श्री सोरेन के परिवार में **पत्नी रूपी सोरेन**, पुत्र **हेमंत सोरेन और बसंत सोरेन**, तथा पुत्री **अंजलि सोरेन** हैं।

Santhal Rebellion

The **Santhal Rebellion** took place in the **Damin-i-Koh region**, part of present-day **Jharkhand and nearby West Bengal**, historically under **Bengal Presidency**, spanning the **Rajmahal hills** (today's Santhal Parganas region)

- The revolt began on **30 June 1855** and was suppressed by **3 January 1856**, spanning about **six months**.

Causes

British Land Policy and Migration

- In the **1830s**, the British demarcated the **Damin-i-Koh area**, inviting Santals to settle, offering them land leases. The population grew sharply—from ~3,000 in 1838 to ~83,000 by 1851.

Exploitation by 'Dikus'

- Moneylenders, zamindars, and colonial officials (referred to as **"dikus"**) exploited Santhals through high-interest loans, land dispossession, bonded labour and inflated revenue demands—widely documented causes behind the revolt.

Railway Construction & Outsider Encroachment

- Infrastructure expansion—especially the construction of railways—facilitated influx of outsiders into Santhal lands, disrupting traditional livelihoods and intensifying alienation.

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Leadership & Mobilisation

Core Leadership

- The rebellion was led by **Sidhu (Sido) Murmu and Kanhu Murmu**, joined by siblings **Chand and Bhairav Murmu**, along with their sisters **Phulo Murmu and Jhano Murmu** who also played crucial roles and became martyrs in the cause.

Declaration of Rebel Swaraj

- On **30 June 1855**, at **Bhognadih**, over 10,000 Santals gathered and declared their own autonomy. They formed an indigenous leadership structure with titles like **Suba** and **Thakur**, aimed at recycling wealth among villagers, contrasting the oppressive zamindari system.

Nature and Aim of Rebellion

- The rebellion was a **restorative tribal uprising**—aiming to **liberate their homeland (often referred to as *father-land*)** and restore traditional life.
- It was directed against a **"trinity" of oppression**: the British colonial administration, zamindars, and mahajans (moneylenders).

Scale of Uprising & British Suppression

Initial Gains

- The rebels successfully attacked zamindars, moneylenders, and colonial officials across Rajmahal, Bhagalpur, and surrounding regions, capturing towns and disrupting colonial authority.

Brutal Repression

- The British responded by declaring **martial law** (from November 10, 1855 to January 1856), deploying troops and engaging in mass counter-attacks.
- Estimated **casualties**: **15,000–20,000 Santals killed**, tens of thousands displaced, and more than **10,000 villages destroyed**.

Outcome & British Reforms

Administrative Reorganisation

- In **late 1855**, the British enacted **the Sonthal Parganas Act (Act 37 of 1855)**, creating the **Santal Parganas district** as a separate non-regulation area under Dumka administration to address tribal concerns.

Land Tenancy Protection

- In **1876**, the **Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act** was passed to **safeguard tribal land rights**, banning land transfers to non-tribals without formal approval and protecting Santhals from eviction.

Significance & Legacy

Restorative Ethos

- The rebellion is considered **a restorative struggle**, aiming to reclaim **Santal Swaraj (self-rule)** rather than pursue ideological nationalism. It was aimed at reasserting tribal autonomy and identity.

First Mass Tribal Uprising

- Predating the **1857 Revolt**, it was **one of the earliest organized tribal rebellions** against British authority and oppression. It inspired future tribal resistance across India.

Cultural Reverence

- The rebellion is remembered as a defining moment for **Santal identity and pride**, commemorated annually in parts of Jharkhand and Bengal.

Stalin inaugurates VinFast's first EV plant in country
स्टालिन ने देश में विनफास्ट के पहले ईवी प्लांट का उद्घाटन किया

M.K. Stalin signs on a VF7 model to mark the roll-out of cars from VinFast's plant at Thoothukudi on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** on **Monday** inaugurated **Vietnamese electric vehicle (EV) maker VinFast's** first manufacturing plant in **India** at **Thoothukudi**.
 तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने सोमवार को वियतनामी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ईवी) निर्माता विनफास्ट के भारत में पहले निर्माण संयंत्र का उद्घाटन थूथुकुडी में किया।

- Spread across **408 acres** at the **SIPCOT industrial complex** in **Sillanatham** in **Thoothukudi district**, the plant is expected to generate over **3,500 jobs** in the next **five years**.
 यह संयंत्र थूथुकुडी जिले के सिल्लनाथम स्थित सिप्कॉट औद्योगिक परिसर में 408 एकड़ में फैला है और अगले पांच वर्षों में 3,500 से अधिक नौकरियाँ प्रदान करने की उम्मीद है।

- It is part of a **₹16,000-crore investment pact** inked between **VinFast** and the **State government** during the **Global Investors Meet-2024**.
 यह संयंत्र ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर्स मीट-2024 के दौरान विनफास्ट और राज्य सरकार के बीच हुए ₹16,000 करोड़ निवेश समझौते का हिस्सा है।

- The plant will initially have a **production capacity of 50,000 vehicles a year**, with the potential to reach **1,50,000** to meet future demand.
 संयंत्र की प्रारंभिक उत्पादन क्षमता 50,000 वाहन प्रति वर्ष होगी, जिसे भविष्य की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए 1,50,000 तक बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

- Speaking after inaugurating the plant, Mr. Stalin said the facility was built in **record time — within 17 months** of the signing of the MoU.
 संयंत्र का उद्घाटन करने के बाद श्री स्टालिन ने कहा कि यह सुविधा रिकॉर्ड समय — एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर के 17 महीनों के भीतर बनाई गई है।

- This, he said, demonstrated the **ease of doing business in Tamil Nadu**.
 उन्होंने कहा कि यह तमिलनाडु में व्यापार करने में आसानी को दर्शाता है।
 Highlighting the State's reputation as a **manufacturing powerhouse**, he said, **"Chennai is India's Detroit."**
 राज्य की उत्पादन शक्ति के रूप में प्रतिष्ठा को उजागर करते हुए उन्होंने कहा, "चेन्नई भारत का डेट्रॉइट है।"

- He added that **40% of all electric vehicles sold in India** were manufactured in **Tamil Nadu**.
 उन्होंने जोड़ा कि भारत में बिकने वाले सभी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों में से 40% तमिलनाडु में निर्मित होते हैं।

- Pointing out that **VinFast had provided jobs** to hundreds of local youth under the **Naan Mudhalvan initiative**, he said its investments would drive growth and development not only in **Thoothukudi** but also in other **southern districts**.
 यह बताते हुए कि विनफास्ट ने नान मुदलवन पहल के तहत सैकड़ों स्थानीय युवाओं को रोजगार प्रदान किया, उन्होंने कहा कि इसका निवेश केवल थूथुकुडी में ही नहीं बल्कि अन्य दक्षिणी जिलों में भी विकास और प्रगति को गति देगा।

Stalin inaugurates VinFast's first EV plant in country

Anirudh Parthasarathy
THOOTHUKUDI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday inaugurated Vietnamese electric vehicle (EV) maker VinFast's first manufacturing plant in India at Thoothukudi.

Spread across 408 acres at the SIPCOT industrial complex in Sillanatham in Thoothukudi district, the plant is expected to generate over 3,500 jobs in the next five years. It is part of a ₹16,000-crore investment pact inked between VinFast and the State government during the Global Investors Meet-2024.

The plant will initially have a production capacity of 50,000 vehicles a year, with the potential to reach 1,50,000 to meet the future demand.

Speaking after inaugurating the plant, Mr. Stalin said the facility was built in record time – within 17 months of the signing of the MoU. This, he said, demonstrated the ease of doing business in Tamil Nadu. Highlighting the State's reputation as a manufacturing powerhouse, he said, "Chennai is India's Detroit."

He added that 40% of all electric vehicles sold in India were manufactured in Tamil Nadu.

Pointing out that VinFast had provided jobs to hundreds of local youth under the Naan Mudhalvan initiative, he said its investments would drive growth and development not only in Thoothukudi but also in other southern districts.

Noting that VinFast's parent company Vingroup also had other business interests, including education, healthcare, and technology, he invited the Vietnamese conglomerate to make more long-term investments in Tamil Nadu, adding that the government would provide the necessary support.

The Chief Minister signed on the bonnet of a VF7 model to launch the roll-out of cars from the shop floor.

- Noting that **VinFast's parent company Vingroup** also had business interests in **education, healthcare, and technology**, he invited the **Vietnamese conglomerate** to make **more long-term investments** in Tamil Nadu.
  यह उल्लेख करते हुए कि **विनफास्ट की मूल कंपनी विंग्रुप** की **शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल और प्रौद्योगिकी** में भी व्यापारिक रुचि है, उन्होंने **वियतनामी समूह** को तमिलनाडु में **अधिक दीर्घकालिक निवेश** करने का निमंत्रण दिया।

- He added that the government would provide the **necessary support**.
  उन्होंने जोड़ा कि सरकार आवश्यक **सहायता प्रदान करेगी**।

- The **Chief Minister signed** on the **bonnet of a VF7 model** to launch the **roll-out of cars** from the shop floor.
  मुख्यमंत्री ने VF7 मॉडल की बोनट पर हस्ताक्षर कर **कारों के निर्माण की शुरुआत** की घोषणा की।

Actor Urvashi raises doubts over best actress criterion

अभिनेत्री उर्वशी ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेत्री की श्रेणी पर सवाल उठाए

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The National Film Award jury's decision to award Malayalam actors Urvashi and Vijayaraghavan in the supporting actor categories despite them playing lead roles in *Ullozhukku* and *Pookkaalam* respectively had raised eyebrows when the awards were announced last week.

Now, actor Urvashi has raised questions about the criterion on which their performances were considered in the supporting category and not in the main category.

Seeks clarity
Speaking to *The Hindu* on Monday, Ms. Urvashi said she is not questioning the awards given to any other actor, but wanted clarity on how her performance was considered under the best supporting actress category.

"I don't know if the old rules have changed over there. Earlier, actors who played lead roles were considered only for the best actor awards," Ms. Urvashi said.

"I am raising this question not for myself, but for the younger generation of actors and for the future generations," she said.

Questioning the repeated instances of actors and films from the South being overlooked, she said her performance in *J Baby* was also recommended by the regional jury, but is unsure of whether the main jury watched it as there was not even a mention of it.

"My questions are to the award jury, not the government. I will certainly accept the award because it is a recognition for the entire team of *Ullozhukku*," she said

- The **National Film Award jury's decision** to award **Malayalam actors Urvashi and Vijayaraghavan** in the **supporting actor categories** despite them playing **lead roles** in *Ullozhukku* and *Pookkaalam* respectively had raised eyebrows when the **awards were announced last week**.
  राष्ट्रीय फिल्म पुरस्कार जूरी का निर्णय कि मलयालम अभिनेता उर्वशी और विजयराघवन को *उल्लोझुक्कु* और *पुक्कालम* में **मुख्य भूमिकाएं निभाने के बावजूद सहायक अभिनेता की श्रेणी** में सम्मानित किया गया, ने **पिछले सप्ताह पुरस्कारों की घोषणा के समय** कई सवाल खड़े कर दिए।

- Now, actor **Urvashi** has raised questions about the **criterion** on which their performances were considered in the **supporting category** and not in the **main category**.
  अब अभिनेत्री **उर्वशी** ने इस **मापदंड** पर सवाल उठाए हैं कि उनकी भूमिकाओं को **मुख्य श्रेणी** के बजाय **सहायक श्रेणी** में क्यों रखा गया।

- **Seeks clarity**
  स्पष्टता की मांग

- Speaking to *The Hindu* on **Monday**, **Ms. Urvashi** said she is not questioning the awards given to any other actor, but wanted **clarity** on how her performance was considered under the **best supporting actress category**.
  सोमवार को *द हिंदू* से बात करते हुए **सुश्री उर्वशी** ने कहा कि वह किसी अन्य अभिनेता को दिए गए पुरस्कारों पर सवाल नहीं उठा रही हैं, बल्कि वह यह जानना चाहती हैं कि उनकी भूमिका को **सर्वश्रेष्ठ सहायक अभिनेत्री श्रेणी** में कैसे माना गया।

- "I don't know if the **old rules have changed** over there. Earlier, actors who played **lead roles** were considered only for the **best actor awards**," Ms. Urvashi said.

सुश्री उर्वशी ने कहा, "मुझे नहीं पता कि वहां **पुराने नियम बदल गए हैं या नहीं।** पहले **मुख्य भूमिकाएं निभाने वाले अभिनेता** केवल **सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेता पुरस्कार** के लिए ही योग्य माने जाते थे।"

- "I am raising this question not for myself, but for the **younger generation of actors** and for the **future generations**," she said.

  उन्होंने कहा, "मैं यह सवाल अपने लिए नहीं, बल्कि **नवोदित कलाकारों और आने वाली पीढ़ियों** के लिए उठा रही हूं।"

- Questioning the **repeated instances** of actors and films from the **South being overlooked**, she said her performance in *J Baby* was also **recommended by the regional jury**, but is unsure whether the **main jury watched it** as there was not even a mention of it.

  दक्षिण भारत के कलाकारों और फिल्मों की बार-बार उपेक्षा पर सवाल उठाते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि उनकी *जे बेबी* में भूमिका को भी **क्षेत्रीय जूरी** ने अनुशंसा की थी, लेकिन उन्हें यह यकीन नहीं है कि **मुख्य जूरी ने उसे देखा भी था या नहीं**, क्योंकि उसका **कोई उल्लेख तक नहीं हुआ।**

- "My questions are to the **award jury**, not the **government**. I will certainly accept the award because it is a **recognition for the entire team** of *Ullozhukku*," she said.

  उन्होंने कहा, "मेरे सवाल **पुरस्कार जूरी** से हैं, **सरकार से नहीं।** मैं यह पुरस्कार **निश्चित रूप से स्वीकार करूंगी** क्योंकि यह *उल्लोझुक्कु* की **पूरी टीम की मान्यता है।"**

Foreign divers assist in *MSC Elsa* cleanup

PCS

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Over two-and-a-half months after the capsizing of the Liberian-flagged container ship *MSC Elsa* off the coast of Kerala, foreign technicians and divers have arrived at the Kollam port to assist in containing, and extracting oil and other hazardous materials from the ship. The immigration officials posted at Kollam issued the passes for the technicians who were transported to the site from the Kollam port using offshore support vessels.

Oil slicks from the ship were spotted again on Monday, although it was not clear whether the underwater divers had started working on the leakage from the ship. According to State government officials, the Coast Guard team that had been patrolling in the area where oil slicks were spotted.

There were around 640 containers onboard when the ship capsized on its way from Vizhinjam to Kochi on May 24. Among the containers, 13 were classified as hazardous, and 12 contained calcium carbide. The ship also had 84.44 tonnes of diesel and 367.1 tonnes of furnace oil, raising serious environmental concerns.

Currently, Kollam port has been selected as the logistic hub for the diving operation.

Foreign divers assist in MSC Elsa cleanup
MSC एल्सा की सफाई में विदेशी गोताखोरों की मदद

- Over **two-and-a-half months** after the **capsizing** of the **Liberian-flagged container ship MSC Elsa** off the **coast of Kerala**, **foreign technicians and divers** have arrived at the **Kollam port** to assist in **containing and extracting oil** and other **hazardous materials** from the ship.

  केरल तट पर **लाइबेरियन झंडा लगी कंटेनर जहाज MSC एल्सा** के **डूबने के ढाई महीने से अधिक** समय बाद, **विदेशी तकनीशियन और गोताखोर कोल्लम बंदरगाह** पर पहुंचे हैं ताकि जहाज से **तेल और अन्य खतरनाक पदार्थों** को निकालने और रोकने में मदद की जा सके।

- The **immigration officials** posted at Kollam issued the **passes** for the technicians who were **transported to the site** from the Kollam port using **offshore support vessels**.

  कोल्लम में तैनात **आव्रजन अधिकारियों** ने तकनीशियनों के लिए **पास जारी किए**, जिन्हें **कोल्लम बंदरगाह से साइट तक ऑफशोर सपोर्ट जहाजों** के माध्यम से ले जाया गया।

- **Oil slicks** from the ship were **spotted again on Monday**, although it was not clear whether the **underwater divers** had started working on the **leakage** from the ship.

  जहाज से **तेल का रिसाव सोमवार को फिर से देखा गया**, हालांकि यह स्पष्ट नहीं था कि **पानी के नीचे गोताखोरों** ने **रिसाव पर काम शुरू किया** था या नहीं।

- According to **State government officials**, the **Coast Guard team** had been **patrolling** in the area where oil slicks were spotted.

  राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, **कोस्ट गार्ड टीम** उस क्षेत्र में **गश्त कर रही थी** जहां तेल के धब्बे देखे गए थे।

- There were around **640 containers** onboard when the ship **capsized** on its way from **Vizhinjam to Kochi** on **May 24**.

जहाज में जब वह **24 मई** को **विझिंजम से कोच्चि** की ओर जा रहा था और **डूब गया**, तब उस पर लगभग **640 कंटेनर** थे।

- Among the containers, **13** were classified as **hazardous**, and **12** contained **calcium carbide**.

 इन कंटेनरों में से **13** को **खतरनाक** श्रेणी में रखा गया था और **12** में **कैल्शियम कार्बाइड** था।

- The ship also had **84.44 tonnes of diesel** and **367.1 tonnes of furnace oil**, raising **serious environmental concerns**.

 जहाज में **84.44 टन डीजल** और **367.1 टन फर्नेस ऑयल** भी था, जिससे **गंभीर पर्यावरणीय चिंताएं** उत्पन्न हुई हैं।

- Currently, **Kollam port** has been selected as the **logistic hub** for the **diving operation**.

 वर्तमान में, **कोल्लम बंदरगाह** को **गोताखोरी अभियान** के लिए **लॉजिस्टिक हब** के रूप में चुना गया है।

INBRIEF

:PCS

Modi to inaugurate new Kartavya Bhavan tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on August 6 inaugurate the new Kartavya Bhavan in the national capital. The inauguration will be followed by an address at a public programme on Kartavya Path. Kartavya Bhavan-03 is part of the broader transformation of the Central Vista. It is the first of several upcoming Common Central Secretariat buildings, which aim to streamline administrative processes and enable agile governance. The project embodies the government's broader administrative reform agenda. Kartavya Bhavan-03 has been designed to foster efficiency, innovation, and collaboration by bringing together various Ministries and Departments that are currently scattered across the national capital.

Modi to inaugurate new Kartavya Bhavan tomorrow
मोदी कल नए कर्तव्य भवन का उद्घाटन करेंगे

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will on **August 6** inaugurate the **new Kartavya Bhavan** in the **national capital**.

 प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी 6 अगस्त** को **राष्ट्रीय राजधानी** में **नए कर्तव्य भवन** का उद्घाटन करेंगे।

- The inauguration will be followed by an **address at a public programme** on **Kartavya Path**.

 उद्घाटन के बाद **कर्तव्य पथ** पर एक **सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रम में संबोधन** होगा।

- **Kartavya Bhavan-03** is part of the broader transformation of the **Central Vista**.

 कर्तव्य भवन-03 सेंट्रल विस्टा के व्यापक परिवर्तन का हिस्सा है।

- It is the **first** of several upcoming **Common Central Secretariat buildings**, which aim to **streamline administrative processes** and enable **agile governance**.

 यह कई आगामी **सामान्य केंद्रीय सचिवालय भवनों** में से **पहला** है, जिसका उद्देश्य **प्रशासनिक प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करना** और **चुस्त शासन प्रणाली को सक्षम बनाना** है।

- The project embodies the government's broader **administrative reform agenda**.

 यह परियोजना सरकार के व्यापक **प्रशासनिक सुधार एजेंडे** का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है।

- **Kartavya Bhavan-03** has been designed to foster **efficiency, innovation, and collaboration** by bringing together various **Ministries and Departments** that are currently **scattered across the national capital**.

  कर्तव्य भवन-03 को विभिन्न **मंत्रालयों और विभागों** को, जो वर्तमान में **राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में बिखरे हुए हैं**, एक साथ लाकर **कुशलता, नवाचार और सहयोग** को बढ़ावा देने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।

Independence Day invites this year to feature Chenab bridge, Operation Sindoor

Independence Day invites
स्वतंत्रता दिवस निमंत्रण

PCS

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Independence Day invites from the Defence Ministry for this year's Independence Day celebrations will have Operation Sindoor as the central theme, an official said on Monday.

In another change, the Central Vista image embossed on the cards will be replaced by a sketch of the world's highest railway bridge that spans the Chenab river which was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Posters and banners around the venue will also mention Operation Sindoor. Operation Sindoor was launched by India on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack in which 25 Indians and one

The bridge across the Chenab river is the world's highest railway bridge. IMRAN NISSAR

Nepali citizen were murdered.

Security briefing
A high-level meeting was held at the Red Fort on the Independence Day celebrations.

Security agencies have recommended bulletproof glass around the Prime Minister's dais, but the final

decision is yet to be taken.

This year, more guests will be invited to attend the celebration. To accommodate them, more tiered seating structures have been prepared.

Anti-drone measures
"Installation of anti-drone measures, a radar near the Red Fort, and the threat posed by unmanned devices were discussed in detail with the Army. The Defence Ministry will be deploying an anti-drone system to prevent any aerial breach, and the Indian Air Force will be on high alert. Drones are among our key security concerns. We have also instructed vendors responsible for installing CCTVs around the venue not to use any Chinese equipment for surveillance purposes," an official said.

- Independence Day invites from the **Defence Ministry** for this year's Independence Day celebrations will have **Operation Sindoor** as the **central theme**, an official said on Monday.

  इस साल के **स्वतंत्रता दिवस समारोह** के लिए **रक्षा मंत्रालय** की ओर से भेजे जाने वाले निमंत्रणों में **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** को **मुख्य विषय** बनाया गया है, एक अधिकारी ने सोमवार को बताया।

- In another change, the **Central Vista image** embossed on the cards will be replaced by a **sketch of the world's highest railway bridge** that spans the **Chenab river** which was recently **inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

  एक और बदलाव के तहत, कार्ड पर उकेरी गई **सेंट्रल विस्टा की छवि** की जगह **चिनाब नदी पर बने विश्व के सबसे ऊंचे रेलवे पुल** की एक **स्केच** होगी, जिसे हाल ही में **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने **उद्घाटित** किया है।

- Posters and banners around the venue will also mention **Operation Sindoor**.

  समारोह स्थल के आसपास के पोस्टर और बैनरों में भी **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** का उल्लेख होगा।

- **Operation Sindoor** was launched by India on **May 7** in response to the **Pahalgam terror attack** in which **25 Indians** and **one Nepali citizen** were murdered.

  ऑपरेशन सिंदूर भारत द्वारा **7 मई** को **पहलगाम आतंकी हमले** के जवाब में शुरू किया गया था, जिसमें **25 भारतीय नागरिकों** और **एक नेपाली नागरिक** की हत्या कर दी गई थी।

Security briefing
सुरक्षा ब्रीफिंग

- A **high-level meeting** was held at the **Red Fort** on the Independence Day celebrations.
  स्वतंत्रता दिवस समारोह को लेकर **लाल किला** पर एक **उच्च स्तरीय बैठक** आयोजित की गई।
- Security agencies have recommended **bulletproof glass** around the **Prime Minister's dais**, but the **final decision** is yet to be taken.
  सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने **प्रधानमंत्री के मंच** के चारों ओर **बुलेटप्रूफ ग्लास** लगाने की सिफारिश की है, लेकिन इस पर **अंतिम निर्णय** अभी लिया जाना बाकी है।
- This year, **more guests** will be invited to attend the celebration. To accommodate them, **more tiered seating structures** have been prepared.
  इस वर्ष, समारोह में **अधिक मेहमानों** को आमंत्रित किया जाएगा। उनके बैठने के लिए **अधिक स्तरीय बैठने की संरचनाएँ** तैयार की गई हैं।

Anti-drone measures
एंटी-ड्रोन उपाय

- "Installation of **anti-drone measures**, a **radar near the Red Fort**, and the threat posed by **unmanned devices** were discussed in detail with the **Army**.
  "**एंटी-ड्रोन उपायों**, **लाल किले के पास रडार** की स्थापना और **मानवरहित उपकरणों** से उत्पन्न खतरे पर **सेना** के साथ विस्तार से चर्चा की गई।
- The **Defence Ministry** will be deploying an **anti-drone system** to prevent any **aerial breach**, and the **Indian Air Force** will be on **high alert**.
  रक्षा मंत्रालय किसी भी **हवाई उल्लंघन** को रोकने के लिए एक **एंटी-ड्रोन सिस्टम** तैनात करेगा, और **भारतीय वायुसेना हाई अलर्ट** पर रहेगी।
- **Drones** are among our **key security concerns**.
  ड्रोन हमारे **मुख्य सुरक्षा चिंताओं** में शामिल हैं।
- We have also instructed vendors responsible for installing **CCTVs** around the venue not to use any **Chinese equipment** for surveillance purposes," an official said.
  एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि हमने समारोह स्थल पर **CCTV** लगाने वाले विक्रेताओं को यह निर्देश भी दिया है कि **निगरानी उद्देश्यों** के लिए **कोई भी चीनी उपकरण** उपयोग न किया जाए।

Chenab Bridge

• The **Chenab Bridge** is the **world's highest railway bridge**, constructed over the **Chenab River** in the **Reasi district** of **Jammu and Kashmir**, India.
• It is a part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project**, one of the most challenging railway projects undertaken by Indian Railways.

Key Features and Specifications

Feature	Details
Total Length	**1,315 metres (4,314 feet)**
Main Arch Span	**467 metres** – among the longest for a railway arch bridge
Height above River Bed	**359 metres (1,178 feet)** – higher than the Eiffel Tower (324 m)
Bridge Type	**Steel Arch Bridge**
Location	Between **Bakkal (Katra side)** and **Kauri (Srinagar side)**
River	Chenab River (a tributary of the Indus)
Zone	**Northern Railway Zone** of Indian Railways
Designed For	To withstand **high wind speeds** (up to 266 km/h) and seismic activity
Material Used	Over **30,000 tonnes of steel**
Inauguration (Trial Run)	**March 2024** (train ran for the first time over the bridge)

Construction Milestones

• **Foundation Laid:** 2004
• **Main Arch Closure Completed:** August 2022
• **Track Laying Completed:** 2023
• **First Train Trial Run: March 2024**, completed successfully
• **Expected Operational Date for Passengers: Before December 2024**, as part of the full Katra–Banihal line

Strategic and Engineering Significance

Strategic Importance

• Located in a **highly sensitive region**, the Chenab Bridge is strategically vital for connecting the **Kashmir Valley** with the rest of India by rail.

• It will enable **all-weather connectivity**, boost tourism, facilitate troop movement, and integrate remote regions into the mainstream.

Engineering Marvel

• It is an engineering challenge due to the **rugged Himalayan terrain**, deep gorges, and seismic activity in the region.
• Use of **incremental launching technique**, cable crane assembly, and **blast-resistant technology** make it a one-of-a-kind bridge in Indian rail history.

Comparison with Other Notable Structures

Structure	Height (m)	Country
Chenab Bridge	**359**	**India**
Eiffel Tower	324	France
Millau Viaduct	343	France
Beipanjiang Bridge	275	China

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

1. **Consent of women employees must for night shift in Odisha**
   ओडिशा में नाइट शिफ्ट के लिए महिला कर्मचारियों की सहमति आवश्यक

2. **Telangana Cabinet examines Kaleshwaram probe report** तेलंगाना कैबिनेट ने कालेश्वरम जांच रिपोर्ट की समीक्षा की

3. **Women's inclusion in armed forces a priority, says Rajnath**
   सशस्त्र बलों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी प्राथमिकता

4. **Shibu Soren: tribal leader and former CM of Jharkhand who came to national limelight**
   शिबू सोरेन: राष्ट्रीय सुर्खियों में आए झारखंड के आदिवासी नेता और पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री

5. **Colombian former President Alvaro Uribe seeks lifting of house arrest in his appeal**

Consent of women employees must for night shift in Odisha

SG I: Society

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Cornered and concerned over women safety, the Odisha government issued a notification on Monday outlining measures to create a safer workplace environment for them, including a ban on employing adolescents during night shifts.

The notification by Labour and Employee's State Insurance Department stated that consent of women employees willing to work at night would have to be taken in writing.

GPS tracking
Other steps are adequate transportation facilities with GPS tracking system, bio-data and police verification of each driver for night shift, and whether driver is employed directly or through service provider. "The employer will provide washroom and drinking water facilities near the workplace where such women employees are employed, with provisions of closed-circuit television surveillance and proper lighting, including the passages towards conveniences," the notification said.

Helpline numbers
Dedicated telephone numbers of the establishment along with government toll-free helpline number for women (181) and Labour and ESI Department Helpline number 1800-3456-703 will have to be displayed prominently at the establishment and inside vehicles used for transportation of workers, it said. "The employer will ensure that there will not be less than eight consecutive hours of rest between the last shift and the night shift," the notification further elaborated.

Consent of women employees must for night shift in Odisha
ओडिशा में नाइट शिफ्ट के लिए महिला कर्मचारियों की सहमति आवश्यक

- Cornered and concerned over **women safety**, the **Odisha government** issued a **notification** on **Monday** outlining measures to create a safer workplace environment for them, including a **ban on employing adolescents during night shifts**.
 महिला सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंतित ओडिशा सरकार ने **सोमवार** को एक **अधिसूचना** जारी की, जिसमें उनके लिए **रात्रि पाली के दौरान किशोरों को नियोजित करने पर प्रतिबंध** सहित कार्यस्थल को सुरक्षित बनाने के उपाय बताए गए।

- The notification by the Labour **and Employee's State Insurance Department** stated that **consent of women employees** willing to work at night would have to be taken **in writing**.
 श्रम एवं राज्य कर्मचारी बीमा विभाग की इस अधिसूचना में कहा गया कि जो महिला कर्मचारी **रात्रि पाली में काम करना चाहती हैं**, उनकी **लिखित सहमति** लेनी होगी।

GPS tracking
जीपीएस ट्रैकिंग

- Other steps are **adequate transportation facilities** with **GPS tracking system**, **bio-data** and **police verification** of each driver for night shift, and whether the driver is employed **directly or through a service provider**.
 अन्य उपायों में **जीपीएस ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम** के साथ **पर्याप्त परिवहन सुविधाएं**, प्रत्येक ड्राइवर का **बायोडाटा** और **पुलिस सत्यापन**, तथा ड्राइवर **सीधे नियोजित है या सेवा प्रदाता के माध्यम से**, यह शामिल होगा।

- "The employer will provide **washroom** and **drinking water facilities** near the workplace where such women employees are employed, with provisions of **closed-circuit television surveillance** and **proper lighting**, including the **passages towards conveniences**," the notification said.
 अधिसूचना में कहा गया है कि "जहां ऐसी महिला कर्मचारी कार्यरत हैं, वहां नियोक्ता को **शौचालय** और **पीने के पानी की सुविधाएं** उपलब्ध करानी होंगी, साथ ही **सीसीटीवी निगरानी** और **उचित प्रकाश व्यवस्था**, जिसमें **सुविधाओं की ओर जाने वाले मार्ग** भी शामिल हैं, की व्यवस्था करनी होगी।"

Helpline numbers
हेल्पलाइन नंबर

- **Dedicated telephone numbers** of the establishment along with **government toll-free helpline number for women (181)** and **Labour and ESI Department Helpline number 1800-3456-703** will have to be displayed **prominently** at the establishment

and inside vehicles used for transportation of workers, it said.

इसमें कहा गया है कि संस्थान के **निर्धारित टेलीफोन नंबर**, साथ ही **महिलाओं के लिए सरकारी टोल-फ्री हेल्पलाइन नंबर (181)** और **श्रम एवं ईएसआई विभाग का हेल्पलाइन नंबर 1800-3456-703** को संस्थान और श्रमिकों के परिवहन में उपयोग किए गए वाहनों में **स्पष्ट रूप से प्रदर्शित** करना होगा।

- "The employer will ensure that there will not be **less than eight consecutive hours of rest** between the **last shift and the night shift**," the notification further elaborated.

अधिसूचना में आगे कहा गया कि "नियोक्ता को यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि **पिछली शिफ्ट और नाइट शिफ्ट के बीच कम से कम आठ घंटे का लगातार आराम** अवश्य मिले।"

Telangana Cabinet examines Kaleshwaram probe report

Ex-CM's involvement led to irregularities and issues with the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages, says the one-man commission's report; the project lacked Cabinet consent, it adds

GS I: Geography

Rajeev M.
HYDERABAD

The Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose Commission has said the former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was "directly and vicariously" accountable for the irregularities and the illegalities in the planning, construction, completion, operation and maintenance of the three barrages at Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla forming part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP).

"His involvement and directions minutely... is the cause and result of irregularities and the cause of distress to these three barrages," the commission said in its 665-page report which was examined by the State Council of Ministers on Monday. The commission said it could be categorically held that there was rank irregularity from the stage of conceptualisation of the project till the issuance of administrative approvals on March 1, 2016 for construction of the three barrages.

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy explained the highlights of the report. He recalled how Mr. Chandrashekhar Rao claimed in the Assembly that a team of retired engineers was constituted to study the project. But, the report which recommended against construction of the project at Medigadda and other sites had been deliberately suppressed by him and other officials. Moreover, the construction did not receive the consent of the Cabinet.

"Mr. Chandrashekhar has mortgaged the people of Telangana borrowing high interest, low tenure funds from non banking financial institutions," Mr. Uttam Kumar said.

In addition, KCR ensured that the works were commenced before the formal detailed project report was prepared.

The executing agencies L&T, Afcons, and Navayuga "acted hand in glove" with the project authorities. "They should be made liable for repairing the defects at their own cost the Commission recommended," Mr. Uttam Kumar said.

Crucial find: The commission submitting the report to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Friday. ANI

Telangana Cabinet examines Kaleshwaram probe report
तेलंगाना कैबिनेट ने कालेश्वरम जांच रिपोर्ट की समीक्षा की

Ex-CM's involvement led to irregularities and issues with the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages, says the one-man commission's report.
पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री की भागीदारी ने मेडिगड्डा, अन्नारम और सुंदिल्ला बैराजों में अनियमितताओं और समस्याओं को जन्म दिया, ऐसा एकल सदस्यीय आयोग की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है।

- **The project lacked Cabinet consent, it adds**.
  रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया है कि परियोजना को **कैबिनेट की मंजूरी नहीं मिली थी।**

- The **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose Commission** has said that **former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao** was **"directly and vicariously" accountable** for the **irregularities and illegalities** in the **planning, construction, completion, operation and maintenance** of the three barrages.
  न्यायमूर्ति पिनाकी चंद्र घोष आयोग ने कहा कि **पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री के. चंद्रशेखर राव "प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से जिम्मेदार"** हैं **योजना, निर्माण, पूर्णता, संचालन और रखरखाव** में हुई **अनियमितताओं और गैरकानूनी गतिविधियों** के लिए।

- "His involvement and directions minutely... is the cause and result of irregularities and the cause of distress to these three barrages," the commission said in its **665-page report** examined by the **State Council of Ministers** on **Monday**.
  आयोग ने अपनी **665-पृष्ठों की रिपोर्ट** में कहा, जिसे **सोमवार** को **राज्य मंत्रिपरिषद** ने देखा, कि **"उनकी भागीदारी और निर्देशों"** ने इन तीन बैराजों में **अनियमितताओं का कारण और परिणाम** उत्पन्न किया।

- The commission said it could be **categorically held** that there was **rank irregularity from the stage of conceptualisation** of the project till the **issuance of administrative approvals** on **March 1, 2016**, for construction of the three barrages.
  आयोग ने स्पष्ट कहा कि **परियोजना की संकल्पना से लेकर 1 मार्च 2016 को तीन बैराजों के निर्माण के लिए प्रशासनिक स्वीकृति मिलने तक** पूरी प्रक्रिया में **गंभीर अनियमितताएं** थीं।

- **Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy** explained the **highlights** of the report.
  सिंचाई मंत्री एन. उत्तम कुमार रेड्डी ने रिपोर्ट के **मुख्य बिंदुओं** को समझाया।

- He recalled how **Mr. Chandrashekhar Rao** claimed in the Assembly that a **team of retired engineers** was constituted to study the project.
  उन्होंने याद दिलाया कि **श्री चंद्रशेखर राव** ने विधानसभा में दावा किया था कि परियोजना का अध्ययन करने के लिए **सेवानिवृत्त इंजीनियरों की एक टीम** बनाई गई थी।

- But, the **report which recommended against construction** of the project at Medigadda and other sites had been **deliberately suppressed** by him and other officials.
  लेकिन, **मेडिगड्डा और अन्य स्थानों पर निर्माण के खिलाफ सिफारिश करने वाली रिपोर्ट** को उन्होंने और अन्य अधिकारियों ने **जानबूझकर दबा दिया।**

- Moreover, the construction **did not receive the consent of the Cabinet**.
  इसके अलावा, निर्माण को **कैबिनेट की मंजूरी नहीं मिली थी।**

- "Mr. Chandrashekhar has **mortgaged the people of Telangana by borrowing high interest, low tenure funds** from **non-banking financial institutions**," Mr. Uttam Kumar said.
  श्री उत्तम कुमार ने कहा कि **"श्री चंद्रशेखर ने तेलंगाना की जनता को गिरवी रखकर"** उच्च ब्याज और कम अवधि वाले फंड गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय संस्थानों से उधार लिए।

- In addition, **KCR ensured that the works were commenced before the formal detailed project report** was prepared.
  इसके अलावा, **केसीआर ने सुनिश्चित किया कि औपचारिक विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट तैयार होने से पहले ही कार्य शुरू कर दिया जाए।**

- The executing agencies **L&T, Afcons, and Navayuga** "**acted hand in glove**" with the project authorities.
  कार्यान्वयन एजेंसियां **एलएंडटी, अफकॉन और नवायुग** ने परियोजना अधिकारियों के साथ **मिलीभगत** से कार्य किया।

- "They should be made liable for **repairing the defects at their own cost**, the Commission recommended," Mr. Uttam Kumar said.
  श्री उत्तम कुमार ने कहा कि आयोग ने सिफारिश की कि उन्हें **अपने खर्च पर खामियों की मरम्मत के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया जाना चाहिए।**

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)
• The **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)** is **India's largest lift irrigation project** and **one of the largest in the world**.
• It is located on the **Godavari River** in the **Jayashankar Bhupalpally district** of **Telangana**.
• The project aims to provide **irrigation, drinking water, and industrial water** to the drought-prone areas of Telangana.

Historical Background
• Earlier known as the **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Project**, it was redesigned and renamed KLIP in **2014** after the formation of Telangana.
• Named after the **Kaleshwaram temple** (dedicated to Lord Shiva) located near the confluence of the **Godavari and Pranahita rivers**.

Key Features of KLIP

Feature	Details
Location	Kaleshwaram (near Medigadda Barrage), Telangana
River	**Godavari River**
Tributary Confluence	**Pranahita (a tributary of Godavari)**
States Involved	Primarily Telangana; water-sharing link with Maharashtra
Launched	Foundation laid in **2016**; inaugurated in **June 2019**
Project Cost	Estimated at **₹80,000 crore+** (as per CAG, final cost pending audit)
Lift Irrigation Stages	**Three major lifts** – each with multi-stage pumping
Peak Water Lifting	Lifting water up to **510 meters above sea level**
Irrigation Target	**~45 lakh acres (18 lakh hectares)** of agricultural land
Water Storage Capacity	**147 TMC** (Thousand Million Cubic feet)
Pump Houses	Massive underground pump houses like **Lakshmi, Gayatri, Saraswati**

Major Components
1. Medigadda (Lakshmi) Barrage
• First entry point of water from Godavari River.
• Located near Kaleshwaram town.
• Built across the Godavari for water diversion and storage.
2. Annaram and Sundilla Barrages
• Constructed downstream for staged storage and lifting.
• Work in coordination with Medigadda to regulate flow.
3. Massive Underground Pump Houses
• **Lakshmi (Medigadda)**, **Gayatri (Nandimedaram)**, **Saraswati (Annaram)** — among the **largest lift irrigation pump houses in the world**.
• House pumps with individual capacity up to **139 MW**.
• Use advanced SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems.

Purpose and Objectives
Irrigation

• Stabilizing and irrigating **dry and drought-prone districts** such as **Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Nalgonda, and Khammam**.

Drinking Water

• Supplies **safe drinking water** to **70% of Telangana's population**, including Hyderabad.

Industrial Use

• Supports water-intensive industries in Hyderabad, Siddipet, and other industrial corridors.

Technological and Engineering Marvel

• Recognized as an **engineering feat**, with:
- Use of **giant motors and pumps** from global companies (e.g., BHEL, ABB)
- Construction of **India's longest tunnel for water flow** (approximately 21 km)
- **Real-time monitoring system** to regulate water flow and pump operations.

Godavari River Tributaries – Left Bank vs Right Bank

Left Bank Tributaries	Right Bank Tributaries
Purna	**Pranhita** *(largest tributary)*
Darna	**Indravati** *(most important right-bank tributary)*
Kadva	**Sabari**
Shivana	**Manjira**
Sindphana	**Taliperu**
Bindusara	**Maner**
Dudhana	**Wainganga** *(forms Pranhita with Penganga)*
Waghur	**Penganga** *(joins Wainganga to form Pranhita)*
Saraswati	
Moosi (also called Musi)	

🧠 **Tricks to Remember**
- **Left Bank:** Smaller, mostly in Maharashtra.
- **Right Bank:** Major contributors like **Pranhita**, **Indravati**, **Sabari**.
- **Pranhita = Wainganga + Penganga + Wardha**.

🌊 **Godavari River Quick Facts**

Feature	Details
Origin	Trimbak Plateau, Nashik District, Maharashtra
Length	~1,465 km
Empties into	Bay of Bengal near Antarvedi, Andhra Pradesh
States Flowing Through	Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha
Other Name	*Dakshina Ganga* (Ganga of the South)

Women's inclusion in armed forces a priority, says Rajnath

Officials highlight expanding opportunities for women across all three armed services; as per data, women make up 13.4% of IAF, 6.85% of Army, 6% of Navy, with numbers rising steadily since 2005

GS I: Society

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The parliamentary consultative committee on Defence, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was briefed on the representation of women in the armed forces.

Mr. Singh spoke on the government's commitment to provide maximum representation to women in the forces.

As per the data from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), women form 13.4% of the Indian Air force workforce – the highest among all three services – while they make up 6.85% of the Army's workforce and 6% of the Navy's.

In 2024, there were a total of 1,735 women in the Army, 1,614 in the Air Force, and 674 in the Navy.

According to data, 13.4% women constitute the Indian Air force workforce, the highest among all three services. EMMANUAL YOGINI

In 2005, the figures were 767, 574, and 154, respectively.

Twelve branches in the Army are open to women officers, including combat. In the Navy, all branches are open for women officers except submarines. All branches of the Air Force are open for women officers.

More to come
Asked about women's representation in the armed forces, a senior Defence Ministry official said that

they were opening more and more branches for women for all categories. Women are eligible for various roles, including technical and non-technical positions, and can join through different entry schemes. Most of the defence training institutes and academies have been opened for women.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi of the Indian Army, who led the Operation Sindoor briefing along with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh of the Air Force, have become an inspiration for women aiming to join the armed forces.

Another senior defence officer said that women in the armed forces are doing remarkably well and their number is only going to increase in the future as the forces adopt a more gender-neutral approach.

Women's inclusion in armed forces a priority, says Rajnath
सशस्त्र बलों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी प्राथमिकता: राजनाथ

- **Officials highlight expanding opportunities for women across all three armed services; as per data, women make up 13.4% of IAF, 6.85% of Army, 6% of Navy, with numbers rising steadily since 2005.**
  अधिकारियों ने बताया कि **तीनों सशस्त्र सेवाओं** में महिलाओं के लिए अवसर बढ़ रहे हैं; आंकड़ों के अनुसार महिलाएं **वायुसेना में 13.4%**, थल सेना में **6.85%**, और **नौसेना में 6%** हिस्सा ले रही हैं, और यह संख्या **2005 से लगातार बढ़ रही है।**

- The **parliamentary consultative committee on Defence**, headed by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, was briefed on the **representation of women** in the armed forces.
  रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह की अध्यक्षता में गठित **रक्षा पर संसदीय सलाहकार समिति** को **सशस्त्र बलों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी** पर जानकारी दी गई।

- Mr. Singh spoke of the government's **commitment to provide maximum representation to women** in the forces.
  श्री सिंह ने बलों में महिलाओं को **अधिकतम प्रतिनिधित्व देने की सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता** पर बात की।

- As per **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** data, women form **13.4% of the Indian Air Force**, **6.85% of the Army**, and **6% of the Navy**.
  रक्षा मंत्रालय (MoD) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, महिलाएं **भारतीय वायुसेना में 13.4%**, थल सेना में **6.85%**, और **नौसेना में 6%** हैं।

- In **2024**, there were **1,735 women in the Army**, **1,614 in the Air Force**, and **674 in the Navy**.
  2024 में, थल सेना में **1,735**, वायुसेना में **1,614**, और नौसेना में **674 महिलाएं** कार्यरत थीं।

- In **2005**, the figures were **767 (Army)**, **574 (Air Force)**, and **154 (Navy)** respectively.
  2005 में ये आंकड़े क्रमशः **767 (थल सेना)**, **574 (वायुसेना)**, और **154 (नौसेना)** थे।

- **Twelve branches** in the Army are open to **women officers**, including **combat**.
  थल सेना की **12 शाखाएं** महिलाओं के लिए खुली हैं, जिनमें **कॉम्बैट शाखाएं** भी शामिल हैं।

- In the **Navy**, all branches are open for **women officers** except **submarines**.
  नौसेना में, पनडुब्बियों को छोड़कर सभी शाखाएं महिलाओं के लिए खुली हैं।
  All branches of the **Air Force** are open for **women officers**.
  वायुसेना की सभी शाखाएं महिला अधिकारियों के लिए खुली हैं।

More to come
और भी प्रगति होगी

- Asked about **women's representation**, a **senior Defence Ministry official** said that more branches are being opened for **all categories**.
  महिलाओं की भागीदारी को लेकर पूछे जाने पर, **रक्षा मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी** ने कहा कि **सभी श्रेणियों** में और अधिक शाखाएं महिलाओं के लिए खोली जा रही हैं।

- Women are eligible for **technical and non-technical roles** and can join through **different entry schemes**.
  महिलाएं **तकनीकी और गैर-तकनीकी पदों** के लिए पात्र हैं और वे **विभिन्न प्रवेश योजनाओं** के माध्यम से शामिल हो सकती हैं।

- Most **defence training institutes and academies** have been **opened for women**.
  अधिकांश **रक्षा प्रशिक्षण संस्थान और अकादमियां** अब **महिलाओं के लिए खोली जा चुकी हैं।**

- **Colonel Sofiya Qureshi** (Indian Army) and **Wing Commander Vyomika Singh** (Air Force), who led **Operation Sindoor briefing**, have become **inspirations for women** aiming to join the armed forces.
  कर्नल सोफिया कुरैशी (भारतीय सेना) और **विंग कमांडर व्योमिका सिंह** (वायुसेना), जिन्होंने **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर ब्रीफिंग** का नेतृत्व किया, वे **सशस्त्र बलों में शामिल होने की चाह रखने वाली महिलाओं के लिए प्रेरणा बन गई हैं।**

- Another **senior defence officer** said that women in the armed forces are doing **remarkably well**, and their numbers will **continue to grow** as the forces adopt a **more gender-neutral approach**.
  एक अन्य **वरिष्ठ रक्षा अधिकारी** ने कहा कि **महिलाएं सशस्त्र बलों में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन** कर रही हैं और जैसे-जैसे बलों में **लिंग-तटस्थ दृष्टिकोण** अपनाया जाएगा, उनकी **संख्या और बढ़ेगी।**

Shibu Soren: tribal leader and former CM of Jharkhand who came to national limelight

GS I: Santhals

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Before Shibu Soren started his political journey, he was a social reformer. Later, as a political leader, he fought for a separate Jharkhand State, earning the respect of all parties.

The former Jharkhand Chief Minister was born on January 11, 1944, at Nemra village in undivided Bihar, currently in Ramgarh district of Jharkhand. As a tribal leader, he challenged the social structure at that time. From 1962, he had fought against the moneylending system which, at its peak, deprived borrowers of all but one-third of their produce in the tribal areas.

Describing his fight against the money lenders, Tanuj Khatri, spokesperson and central committee member of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), told

Grassroots leader: Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren with his son Hemant Soren at an event. ANI

The Hindu that Soren had started a campaign to cut paddy on lands occupied by the moneylenders in lieu of loans.

Tribal women would harvest paddy, and men with bows and arrows would keep a watch.

Hailing from the Santhal tribal group, Soren got the sobriquet Guruji because he used to organise night schools for children who could not afford to go to school.

'Revolutionary spirit'
Dr. Khatri said *Dishom Guru* was not just a political leader but a revolutionary spirit who united fragmented struggles. He brought together diverse communities, bonded by a shared pain and common cause, to fight exploitation, social injustice, and land alienation. He had his influence in neighbouring Odisha and West Bengal as well. "He was a pioneer of grassroots mobilisation, inspiring an entire generation to rise against feudal structures, and exploitative systems. From the forests to the Legislative Assembly, he gave voice to the voiceless," he said.

Soren played a crucial role in the creation of separate State of Jharkhand, turning a long-standing dream into reality.

The book *Jharkhand Andolan Ka Dastavej: Soshan, Sangharsh Aur Sahadat*, written by Anuj Kumar Sinha, says A.K. Rai, Vinod Bihari Mahato, and Soren were running movements under different banners. On February 4, 1972, the three sat together and decided to merge the different banners to form the JMM. Vinod Bihari Mahato became its first president, and Shibu Soren the general secretary. After the death of Nirmal Mahato, the party's president in 1987, the command of the JMM came into the hands of Shibu Soren.

He became the Chief Minister of Jharkhand thrice. However, he could not complete his term neither as a Union Minister nor as a Chief Minister. Every time he had to resign in the middle of his term. He served at the party's top post till April 2025. With health failing, his son Hemant Soren was elected JMM chief.

He was associated with many controversies and serious allegations; despite that, he remained the tallest tribal leader in Jharkhand. Soren and other JMM MPs were charged with accepting bribes to save the P.V. Narasimha Rao government in the infamous JMM bribery case of 1993.

Shibu Soren: tribal leader and former CM of Jharkhand who came to national limelight
शिबू सोरेन: राष्ट्रीय सुर्खियों में आए झारखंड के आदिवासी नेता और पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री

- Before **Shibu Soren** started his political journey, he was a **social reformer**.
  शिबू सोरेन ने अपना राजनीतिक सफर शुरू करने से पहले एक **सामाजिक सुधारक** के रूप में काम किया।
- Later, as a political leader, he fought for a **separate Jharkhand State**, earning the **respect of all parties**.
  बाद में एक राजनीतिक नेता के रूप में उन्होंने **अलग झारखंड राज्य** के लिए संघर्ष किया और **सभी दलों का सम्मान** प्राप्त किया।
- The former **Jharkhand Chief Minister** was born on **January 11, 1944**, at **Nemra village** in **undivided Bihar**, currently in **Ramgarh district** of Jharkhand.
  झारखंड के पूर्व **मुख्यमंत्री** का जन्म **11 जनवरी 1944** को **अविभाजित बिहार** के **नेमरा गांव** में हुआ था, जो अब झारखंड के **रामगढ़ जिले** में स्थित है।
- As a **tribal leader**, he challenged the **social structure** at that time.
  एक **आदिवासी नेता** के रूप में उन्होंने उस समय की **सामाजिक संरचना** को चुनौती दी।
- From **1962**, he had fought against the **moneylending system** which, at its peak, deprived borrowers of all but **one-third of their produce** in the tribal areas.
  1962 से उन्होंने **सूदखोरी प्रथा** के खिलाफ संघर्ष किया, जो अपने चरम पर आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में कर्जदारों से **दो-तिहाई उपज** छीन लेती थी।
- Describing his fight against the moneylenders, **Tanuj Khatri**, spokesperson and central committee member of the **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)**, told *The Hindu* that **Soren** had started a **campaign to cut paddy** on lands occupied by the

moneylenders in lieu of loans.

सूदखोरों के खिलाफ उनके संघर्ष का वर्णन करते हुए **झारखंड मुक्ति मोर्चा (JMM)** के प्रवक्ता और केंद्रीय समिति सदस्य **तनुज खत्री** ने *द हिंदू* को बताया कि **सोरेन** ने कर्ज के बदले **सूदखोरों द्वारा कब्जा की गई जमीनों पर धान काटने का अभियान** शुरू किया था।

- **Tribal women** would harvest paddy, and **men with bows and arrows** would keep a watch.
   आदिवासी महिलाएं धान की कटाई करती थीं और **पुरुष धनुष-बाण लेकर पहरा देते** थे।

- Hailing from the **Santhal tribal group**, Soren got the **sobriquet Guruji** because he used to organise **night schools for children** who could not afford to go to school.
   संताल जनजाति से आने वाले सोरेन को **'गुरुजी'** की उपाधि मिली क्योंकि वे **स्कूल नहीं जा पाने वाले बच्चों के लिए रात में स्कूल चलाते** थे।

'Revolutionary spirit'
'क्रांतिकारी भावना'

- Dr. Khatri said **Dishom Guru** was not just a political leader but a **revolutionary spirit** who **united fragmented struggles**.
   डॉ. खत्री ने कहा कि **दिशोम गुरु** केवल एक राजनीतिक नेता नहीं, बल्कि एक **क्रांतिकारी आत्मा** थे जिन्होंने **बिखरे हुए आंदोलनों को एकजुट** किया।

- He brought together **diverse communities**, bonded by a **shared pain** and **common cause**, to fight **exploitation**, **social injustice**, and **land alienation**.
   उन्होंने **विभिन्न समुदायों** को जोड़ा, जिन्हें **साझा पीड़ा** और **समान उद्देश्य** ने जोड़ा था, ताकि वे **शोषण**, **सामाजिक अन्याय**, और **भूमि से बेदखली** के खिलाफ लड़ सकें।

- He had his influence in **neighbouring Odisha** and **West Bengal** as well.
   उनका प्रभाव **पड़ोसी ओडिशा** और **पश्चिम बंगाल** में भी था।

- "He was a **pioneer of grassroots mobilisation**, inspiring an entire generation to rise against **feudal structures** and **exploitative systems**.
   "वे **जमीनी स्तर पर आंदोलन खड़ा करने वाले अग्रदूत** थे, जिन्होंने पूरी पीढ़ी को **सामंती ढांचे** और **शोषणकारी व्यवस्था** के खिलाफ खड़ा होने की प्रेरणा दी।

- From the **forests to the Legislative Assembly**, he gave **voice to the voiceless**," he said.
   जंगलों से लेकर विधान सभा तक, उन्होंने **अवाजविहीन लोगों को आवाज** दी," उन्होंने कहा।

- Soren played a **crucial role** in the creation of a separate **State of Jharkhand**, turning a **long-standing dream** into reality.
   सोरेन ने **अलग झारखंड राज्य** के निर्माण में **महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका** निभाई और एक **लंबे समय से चले आ रहे सपने** को हकीकत में बदला।

- The book *Jharkhand Andolan Ka Dastavej: Soshan, Sangharsh Aur Sahadat*, written by **Anuj Kumar Sinha**, says **A.K. Rai**, **Vinod Bihari Mahato**, and **Soren** were running movements under **different banners**.
   अनुज कुमार सिन्हा द्वारा लिखित पुस्तक *झारखंड आंदोलन का दस्तावेज़: शोषण, संघर्ष और शहादत* में कहा गया है कि **ए.के. राय**, **विनोद बिहारी महतो**, और **सोरेन** अलग-अलग झंडों के तहत आंदोलन चला रहे थे।

- On **February 4, 1972**, the three sat together and decided to **merge the different banners** to form the JMM.
   4 फरवरी 1972 को तीनों ने मिलकर **विभिन्न झंडों को मिलाकर JMM** बनाने का फैसला लिया।

- **Vinod Bihari Mahato** became its **first president**, and **Shibu Soren** the **general secretary**.
   विनोद बिहारी महतो इसके **पहले अध्यक्ष** बने और **शिबू सोरेन महासचिव** बने।

- After the death of **Nirmal Mahato**, the party's president in **1987**, the **command of the JMM** came into the hands of **Shibu Soren**.

1987 में पार्टी अध्यक्ष **निर्मल महतो** की मृत्यु के बाद **JMM की कमान शिबू सोरेन** के हाथ में आ गई।

- He became the **Chief Minister of Jharkhand thrice**.
  वे **तीन बार झारखंड के मुख्यमंत्री** बने।
- However, he could **not complete his term** neither as a **Union Minister** nor as a **Chief Minister**.
  हालांकि, वे न तो **केंद्रीय मंत्री** और न ही **मुख्यमंत्री** के रूप में **अपना कार्यकाल पूरा कर सके**।
- Every time he had to **resign in the middle** of his term.
  हर बार उन्हें **मध्यम अवधि में इस्तीफा देना पड़ा**।
- He served at the **party's top post** till **April 2025**.
  उन्होंने **अप्रैल 2025** तक **पार्टी के शीर्ष पद** पर सेवा की।
- With **health failing**, his son **Hemant Soren** was elected **JMM chief**.
  स्वास्थ्य बिगड़ने के कारण उनके बेटे **हेमंत सोरेन** को **JMM प्रमुख** चुना गय
- He was associated with many **controversies** and **serious allegations**; despite that, he remained the **tallest tribal leader** in Jharkhand.
  वे कई **विवादों** और **गंभीर आरोपों** से जुड़े रहे; इसके बावजूद वे झारखंड के **सबसे बड़े आदिवासी नेता** बने रहे।
- Soren and other JMM MPs were charged with **accepting bribes** to save the **P.V. Narasimha Rao** government in the infamous **JMM bribery case of 1993**.
  सोरेन और अन्य **JMM सांसदों** पर **1993** के कुख्यात **JMM रिश्वत कांड** में पी.वी. नरसिम्हा राव सरकार को बचाने के लिए **रिश्वत लेने का आरोप** लगा था।

KHARTOUM

Sudan paramilitaries kill 14 civilians fleeing besieged city

GS I: Mapping
Sudanese paramilitary fighters killed 14 civilians trying to flee a besieged city in Darfur, a rights group said on Monday. The attack in a village on the outskirts of El-Fasher came two days after the administration — installed by the paramilitary RSF — asked civilians to evacuate the besieged city and promised they would be safe. AFP

Sudan paramilitaries kill 14 civilians fleeing besieged city
सूडान अर्धसैनिक बलों ने घिरे शहर से भाग रहे 14 नागरिकों की हत्या की

- Sudanese paramilitary fighters **killed 14 civilians** trying to **flee a besieged city in Darfur**, a rights group said on **Monday**.
  एक अधिकार समूह ने **सोमवार** को बताया कि सूडानी अर्धसैनिक बलों ने **दारफुर** में **घिरे शहर से भागने की कोशिश कर रहे 14 नागरिकों की हत्या** कर दी।
- The **attack** in a **village on the outskirts of El-Fasher** came **two days after** the administration — installed by the paramilitary **RSF** — **asked civilians to evacuate** the besieged city and **promised they would be safe**.
  एल-फाशर के बाहरी इलाके के एक गांव में यह हमला उस **दो दिन बाद** हुआ जब अर्धसैनिक बल **RSF** द्वारा स्थापित प्रशासन ने **नागरिकों से घिरे शहर को खाली करने को कहा** और **उन्हें सुरक्षित रहने का वादा किया** था।

Colombian former President Alvaro Uribe seeks lifting of house arrest in his appeal

Colombian former President Alvaro Uribe, the country's first former leader to be convicted of a crime, asked the Supreme Court on Monday to grant him his freedom while appealing his sentence of 12 years' house arrest.

Mr. Uribe's conviction, and his sentencing on last Friday, capped the long career of one of Colombia's most divisive politicians.

The 73-year-old, who remains highly popular and influential among conservatives, led a relentless military campaign against drug cartels and the FARC guerrilla Army as President from 2002 to 2010.

Mr. Uribe was convicted of interfering with witnesses in a separate investigation into his alleged links with right-wing paramilitaries responsible for atrocities while fighting leftist rebels.

He was also convicted of obstructing justice.

At his sentencing, the trial court judge declared him to be a flight risk and ordered him to be placed under house arrest at his home in the town of Rionegro, near Colombia's second city of Medellin.

Mr. Uribe's lawyers petitioned the Supreme Court on Monday to set him free, assuring he had no intention of leaving his homeland.

A law-and-order hardliner, Mr. Uribe was a close ally of the U.S. and retains ties to the American right.

He claims his conviction is a political witch hunt by the administration of leftwing President Gustavo Petro. He has until August 13 to appeal his conviction.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has decried the case against Mr. Uribe, saying it represented "the weaponisation of Colombia's judicial branch by radical judges."

Colombian former President Alvaro Uribe seeks lifting of house arrest in his appeal

कोलंबिया के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति अल्वारो उरीबे ने अपील में घर में नजरबंदी हटाने की मांग की

- Colombian former President **Alvaro Uribe**, the country's **first former leader to be convicted of a crime**, asked the **Supreme Court on Monday** to grant him his freedom while appealing his sentence of **12 years' house arrest**.
कोलंबिया के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति **अल्वारो उरीबे**, जो देश के **पहले ऐसे पूर्व नेता हैं जिन्हें किसी अपराध का दोषी ठहराया गया**, ने **सोमवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट** से **12 साल की घर में नजरबंदी** की सजा के खिलाफ अपील करते हुए **रिहाई की मांग की।**

- Mr. Uribe's **conviction**, and his **sentencing on last Friday**, capped the long career of one of Colombia's **most divisive politicians**.
श्री उरीबे की **दोषसिद्धि** और **पिछले शुक्रवार को हुई सजा** ने कोलंबिया के **सबसे विभाजनकारी नेताओं में से एक** के लंबे राजनीतिक करियर को समाप्त कर दिया।

- The **73-year-old**, who remains **highly popular** and **influential among conservatives**, led a **relentless military campaign** against **drug cartels** and the **FARC guerrilla Army** as President from **2002 to 2010**.
73 वर्षीय उरीबे, जो अब भी **रूढ़िवादियों के बीच अत्यधिक लोकप्रिय और प्रभावशाली** हैं, ने **2002 से 2010** तक राष्ट्रपति रहते हुए **ड्रग कार्टेलों** और **FARC गुरिल्ला सेना** के खिलाफ **निर्दयी सैन्य अभियान** का नेतृत्व किया।

- Mr. Uribe was **convicted of interfering with witnesses** in a separate investigation into his **alleged links with right-wing paramilitaries** responsible for **atrocities** while fighting **leftist rebels**.
श्री उरीबे को एक अलग जांच में **गवाहों के साथ छेड़छाड़** करने का **दोषी ठहराया गया**, जिसमें उनके **दक्षिणपंथी अर्धसैनिक बलों से कथित संबंधों** की जांच हो रही थी जो **वामपंथी विद्रोहियों** से लड़ते समय **अत्याचारों के लिए जिम्मेदार** थे।

- He was also **convicted of obstructing justice**.
उन्हें **न्याय में बाधा डालने** का भी **दोषी ठहराया गया।**

- At his **sentencing**, the trial court judge declared him to be a **flight risk** and ordered him to be placed under **house arrest** at his home in the town of **Rionegro**, near Colombia's **second city Medellin**.
उनकी **सजा सुनाए जाने के समय**, ट्रायल कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश ने उन्हें **फरार होने का जोखिम** बताया और उन्हें कोलंबिया के **दूसरे सबसे बड़े शहर मेडेलिन** के पास स्थित **रियोनेग्रो** में उनके घर पर **नजरबंद** करने का आदेश दिया।

- Mr. Uribe's **lawyers petitioned the Supreme Court on Monday** to **set him free**, assuring he had **no intention of leaving his homeland**.

श्री उरीबे के **वकीलों ने सोमवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में याचिका दायर की** और उन्हें **रिहा करने की मांग की**, यह आश्वासन देते हुए कि उन्हें **अपने देश छोड़ने का कोई इरादा नहीं है।**

- A **law-and-order hardliner**, Mr. Uribe was a **close ally of the U.S.** and retains **ties to the American right**.
  कानून और व्यवस्था के सख्त समर्थक, श्री उरीबे अमेरिका के करीबी सहयोगी थे और आज भी **अमेरिकी दक्षिणपंथी धड़े से जुड़े हुए** हैं।

- He claims his **conviction is a political witch hunt** by the administration of **left-wing President Gustavo Petro**. He has until **August 13** to appeal his conviction.
  उनका कहना है कि उनकी **दोषसिद्धि एक राजनीतिक साजिश है**, जिसे **वामपंथी राष्ट्रपति गुस्तावो पेत्रो** की सरकार द्वारा चलाया गया। उन्हें अपनी दोषसिद्धि के खिलाफ अपील करने के लिए **13 अगस्त तक** का समय मिला है।

- **U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio** has **decried the case against Mr. Uribe**, saying it represented "the **weaponisation of Colombia's judicial branch** by **radical judges**."
  अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो ने श्री उरीबे के खिलाफ मामले की **निंदा की** और कहा कि यह **कोलंबिया की न्यायपालिका की 'कट्टरपंथी न्यायाधीशों' द्वारा की गई राजनीति में इस्तेमाल** को दर्शाता है।

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

1. **India hits back as Trump steps up tariff war**
   भारत ने जवाबी कार्रवाई की, ट्रम्प ने शुल्क युद्ध तेज किया

2. **Despite HC order, rural employment guarantee scheme remains stalled in Bengal**
   हाईकोर्ट के आदेश के बावजूद पश्चिम बंगाल में ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना अब भी ठप

3. **Operation Sindoor unprecedented in scale: Army chief**
   ऑपरेशन सिंदूर का पैमाना अभूतपूर्व: थलसेनाध्यक्ष

4. **Abhishek to lead Trinamool in LS; chief whip Kalyan Banerjee resigns**
   अभिषेक लोकसभा में तृणमूल का नेतृत्व करेंगे; मुख्य सचेतक कल्याण बनर्जी ने दिया इस्तीफा

5. **Study shows clerical errors in documents 'fatal' for citizenship**
   अध्ययन से पता चला कि दस्तावेज़ों में लिपिकीय त्रुटियाँ नागरिकता के लिए 'घातक' होती हैं

6. **IAF's unending fighter conundrum**
   भारतीय वायु सेना की अंतहीन लड़ाकू विमान पहेली

7. **Why a progressive Indian policy on Myanmar is more than plausible**
   क्यों म्यांमार पर एक प्रगतिशील भारतीय नीति न केवल संभव है बल्कि व्यावहारिक भी है

8. **Strategic autonomy is alive; neoliberalism is dead: India's takeaways from Trump era**
   रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता जीवित है; नवउदारवाद समाप्त: ट्रंप युग से भारत की सीख

India hits back as Trump steps up tariff war

Tariffs 'paid by India' will be substantially raised as it keeps profiting from Russian oil: U.S. President

MEA says U.S. 'actively encouraged' Russian imports since war in Ukraine, points at EU's trade with Russia

It adds that Russian oil imports are to ensure 'affordable energy costs' for Indian consumer

GS II: India-US

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Less than a week after he announced a 25% tariff on imports from India "plus a penalty", U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday once again raised the issue of India buying oil from Russia and profiting from it. He stated that he would be "substantially" raising the tariff "paid by India to the USA".

It is important to note that such tariffs are paid by importers in the U.S., rather than the country on which the tariffs are levied.

The Indian government hit back at Mr. Trump's statements and also criticism from European countries on India's trade with Russia, saying that such "targeting of India" was "unjustified and unreasonable". In a statement, the government pointed out that not only did the U.S.

encourage such trade previously, both the European Union and the U.S. continue to actively trade with Russia at levels significantly higher than India's."

Trump's remarks

"India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits," Mr. Trump posted on the social network Truth Social. "They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA. [sic]"

The Ministry of External Affairs responded to the statement, saying that the U.S. had previously "actively encouraged" the import of Russian oil.

"India has been targeted by the United States and the European Union for

importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine conflict," the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said. "In fact, India began importing from Russia because traditional supplies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict. The United States at that time actively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability."

The MEA's statement added that India's oil imports from Russia are meant to ensure "predictable and affordable energy costs" for the Indian consumer.

"They are a necessity compelled by the global market situation," it said. "However, it is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia. Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion."
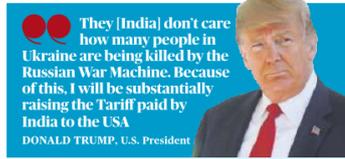
> They [India] don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA
> **DONALD TRUMP, U.S. President**

> It is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia. Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion
> **MEA STATEMENT**

The MEA said that the European Union in 2024 had a bilateral trade of €67.5 billion in goods with Russia, in addition to a trade in services estimated at €17.2 billion in 2023.

The U.S. President had on July 31 signed an executive order that authorised a 25% tariff on imports from India.

A day earlier, he had posted on Truth Social that he would be imposing this

tariff plus a penalty "because their [India's] tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers of any country".

Apart from this, he also cited India's energy and military equipment purchases from Russia as an irritant.

Following this announcement, Union Minister of

Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal had informed both Houses of Parliament that the government was "studying the implications" of Mr. Trump's announcement, consulting all the relevant domestic stakeholders, and would "take all steps necessary to secure our national interest".

Trade with Russia

"This is significantly more than India's total trade with Russia that year or subsequently," the MEA added. "European imports of LNG [liquefied natural gas] in 2024, in fact, reached a record 16.5 mn tonnes, surpassing the last record of 15.21 mn tonnes in 2022."

Europe's trade with Russia includes not just energy, but also fertilizers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel and machinery and transport equipment, the statement said.

"Where the United States is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV [electric vehicle] industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals," the MEA noted.

"In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable," it added. "Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security."

The 25% tariff places India at a relative disadvantage compared to some of its competitors such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Philippines. Mr. Trump's new tariffs are expected to take effect from August 7.

India hits back as Trump steps up tariff war
भारत ने जवाबी कार्रवाई की, ट्रम्प ने शुल्क युद्ध तेज किया

Less than a week after he announced a 25% tariff on imports from India "plus a penalty", U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday once again raised the issue of India buying oil from Russia and profiting from it.

भारत से आयात पर 25% शुल्क "प्लस पेनल्टी" की घोषणा के एक सप्ताह से भी कम समय में, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने सोमवार को एक बार फिर रूस से तेल खरीद और उससे लाभ अर्जित करने के मुद्दे को उठाया।

- He stated that he would be "**substantially**" raising the **tariff "paid by India to the USA"**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि वह **"भारत द्वारा अमेरिका को दिए जाने वाले शुल्क"** को "**काफी हद तक**" बढ़ाएंगे।

- It is important to note that such **tariffs are paid by importers in the U.S.**, rather than the country on which the tariffs are levied.
  यह ध्यान देना महत्वपूर्ण है कि ऐसे **शुल्क अमेरिका में आयातकों द्वारा चुकाए जाते हैं**, न कि उस देश द्वारा जिस पर शुल्क लगाया गया है।

- The **Indian government** hit back at Mr. Trump's statements and also criticism from **European countries** on India's trade with Russia, saying that such "**targeting of India**" was "**unjustified and unreasonable**".
  भारतीय सरकार ने ट्रम्प के बयानों और **यूरोपीय देशों** द्वारा भारत के रूस के साथ व्यापार पर की गई आलोचना का जवाब देते हुए कहा कि भारत को इस तरह से "**लक्ष्य बनाना**" "**अनुचित और अयथोचित**" है।

- In a statement, the government pointed out that not only did the **U.S. encourage such trade previously**, both the **European Union and the U.S.** continue to actively

trade with Russia at levels **significantly higher than India's**.

एक बयान में सरकार ने कहा कि **अमेरिका ने पहले इस तरह के व्यापार को प्रोत्साहित किया था**, और **यूरोपीय संघ व अमेरिका** अब भी रूस के साथ **भारत से कहीं अधिक स्तर पर** सक्रिय रूप से व्यापार कर रहे हैं।

Trump's remarks
ट्रम्प की टिप्पणियाँ

- "India is not only buying **massive amounts** of **Russian Oil**, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, **selling it on the Open Market** for **big profits**," Mr. Trump posted on the social network **Truth Social**.
  "भारत सिर्फ **रूस से भारी मात्रा में तेल** खरीद ही नहीं रहा, बल्कि उसमें से काफी **तेल को खुले बाज़ार में बड़े मुनाफे** के लिए बेच भी रहा है," श्री ट्रम्प ने सोशल नेटवर्क **ट्रुथ सोशल** पर पोस्ट किया।
- "They don't care how many people in **Ukraine are being killed** by the **Russian War Machine**. Because of this, I will be **substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA**. [sic]"
  "उन्हें इस बात की परवाह नहीं कि **रूस की युद्ध मशीन** द्वारा **यूक्रेन में कितने लोग मारे जा रहे हैं**। इसी कारण से, मैं **भारत द्वारा अमेरिका को दिए जाने वाले शुल्क को काफी बढ़ा दूंगा**।"

Response from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) की प्रतिक्रिया

- The **Ministry of External Affairs** responded to the statement, saying that the **U.S. had previously "actively encouraged"** the import of **Russian oil**.
  विदेश मंत्रालय ने इस बयान का जवाब देते हुए कहा कि **अमेरिका ने पहले "सक्रिय रूप से प्रोत्साहित किया था"** रूस से **तेल के आयात** को।
- "India has been targeted by the **United States and the European Union** for importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the **Ukraine conflict**," the official spokesperson of the MEA said.
  "**यूक्रेन संघर्ष** शुरू होने के बाद रूस से तेल आयात करने पर **भारत को अमेरिका और यूरोपीय संघ** द्वारा लक्षित किया गया है," **MEA के आधिकारिक प्रवक्ता** ने कहा।
- "In fact, India began importing from Russia because **traditional supplies were diverted to Europe** after the outbreak of the conflict.
  "वास्तव में, भारत ने रूस से आयात इसलिए शुरू किया क्योंकि **संघर्ष के बाद पारंपरिक आपूर्ति यूरोप की ओर मोड़ दी गई**।"
- The **United States at that time actively encouraged such imports by India** for strengthening **global energy markets stability**."
  उस समय **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने भारत द्वारा ऐसे आयात को सक्रिय रूप से प्रोत्साहित किया** ताकि **वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजारों की स्थिरता** को मजबूत किया जा सके।"
- The MEA's statement added that **India's oil imports from Russia** are meant to ensure "**predictable and affordable energy costs**" for the **Indian consumer**.
  MEA के बयान में यह भी जोड़ा गया कि **भारत का रूस से तेल आयात** "**पूर्वानुमान योग्य और सस्ती ऊर्जा लागत**" सुनिश्चित करने के लिए है, जो **भारतीय उपभोक्ता** के हित में है।
- "They are a **necessity compelled by the global market situation**," it said.
  "यह **वैश्विक बाजार की परिस्थितियों से विवश होकर आवश्यक** बन गया है," ऐसा कहा गया।
- "However, it is revealing that the very nations **criticizing India** are themselves indulging in **trade with Russia**.
  "हालाँकि, यह उल्लेखनीय है कि वही देश जो **भारत की आलोचना** कर रहे हैं, वे खुद भी **रूस के साथ व्यापार** कर रहे हैं।"
- Unlike our case, such trade is **not even a vital national compulsion**."
  हमारे मामले के विपरीत, उनका यह व्यापार तो **कोई अनिवार्य राष्ट्रीय आवश्यकता** भी नहीं है।"

Trade Dispute Between India and the U.S.
भारत और अमेरिका के बीच व्यापार विवाद

- The **MEA said** that the **European Union in 2024** had a **bilateral trade of €67.5 billion in goods** with **Russia**, in addition to a **trade in services** estimated at **€17.2 billion in 2023**.

  विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि **2024** में यूरोपीय संघ ने रूस के साथ वस्तुओं का द्विपक्षीय व्यापार **€67.5 अरब** किया, इसके अलावा **2023** में सेवाओं का व्यापार **€17.2 अरब** आंका गया।

- The **U.S. President** had on **July 31** signed an **executive order** that authorised a **25% tariff** on **imports from India**.

  31 जुलाई को **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति** ने एक **कार्यकारी आदेश** पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे **भारत से आयात पर 25% शुल्क** को अनुमति दी गई।

- A day earlier, he had posted on **Truth Social** that he would be imposing this **tariff plus a penalty** "because their [India's] tariffs are **far too high**, among the **highest in the world**, and they have the **most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers** of any country".

  एक दिन पहले, उन्होंने **ट्रूथ सोशल** पर पोस्ट किया कि वह यह **शुल्क और जुर्माना** इसलिए लगा रहे हैं क्योंकि भारत के **शुल्क अत्यधिक ऊँचे हैं**, जो दुनिया में **सबसे ऊँचे** में से हैं, और वहां **सबसे कठोर और आपत्तिजनक गैर-राजकोषीय व्यापार बाधाएँ** हैं।

- Apart from this, he also cited **India's energy and military equipment purchases from Russia** as an **irritant**.

  इसके अलावा, उन्होंने **भारत द्वारा रूस से ऊर्जा और सैन्य उपकरणों की खरीद** को भी एक **परेशानी** के रूप में बताया।

India's Response and Parliament Statement
भारत की प्रतिक्रिया और संसद में बयान

- Following this announcement, **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal** had informed **both Houses of Parliament** that the government was "**studying the implications**" of Mr. Trump's announcement, consulting all the relevant domestic stakeholders, and would "**take all steps necessary to secure our national interest**".

  इस घोषणा के बाद, **केंद्रीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल** ने संसद के दोनों सदनों को सूचित किया कि सरकार **ट्रम्प की घोषणा** के प्रभावों का अध्ययन कर रही है, सभी **घरेलू हितधारकों से परामर्श** कर रही है और **राष्ट्रीय हितों की सुरक्षा के लिए सभी आवश्यक कदम** उठाएगी।

Trade with Russia
रूस के साथ व्यापार

- "This is **significantly more than India's total trade** with Russia that year or subsequently," the **MEA** added.

  MEA ने जोड़ा, "यह **भारत के रूस के साथ उस वर्ष या उसके बाद के कुल व्यापार** से कहीं अधिक है।"

- "**European imports of LNG** [liquefied natural gas] in **2024**, in fact, reached a **record 16.5 million tonnes**, surpassing the **last record of 15.21 million tonnes in 2022**."

  "**2024** में यूरोप का LNG (तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस) आयात **16.5 मिलियन टन** तक पहुंच गया, जो कि **2022** के पिछले रिकॉर्ड **15.21 मिलियन टन** से अधिक है।"

- **Europe's trade** with Russia includes not just **energy**, but also **fertilizers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel**, and **machinery and transport equipment**, the statement said.

  बयान में कहा गया कि **यूरोप का रूस के साथ व्यापार** केवल **ऊर्जा** तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि

इसमें **उर्वरक, खनन उत्पाद, रसायन, लोहा और इस्पात**, और **मशीनरी तथा परिवहन उपकरण** भी शामिल हैं।

- "Where the **United States** is concerned, it continues to import from Russia **uranium hexafluoride** for its **nuclear industry**, **palladium** for its **EV industry**, **fertilizers** as well as **chemicals**," the MEA noted.

   MEA ने बताया, "जहाँ तक **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** की बात है, वह रूस से **परमाणु उद्योग के लिए यूरेनियम हेक्साफ्लोराइड**, **EV उद्योग के लिए पैलेडियम**, **उर्वरक** और **रसायन** आयात करता रहता है।"

- "In this background, the **targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable**," it added.

   "इस पृष्ठभूमि में, **भारत को निशाना बनाना अनुचित और अयथोचित है**," उन्होंने जोड़ा।

- "Like any major economy, **India will take all necessary measures** to **safeguard its national interests and economic security**."

   "किसी भी बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था की तरह, **भारत अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों और आर्थिक सुरक्षा की रक्षा के लिए सभी आवश्यक उपाय करेगा।**"

Tariff Disadvantage and Implementation
शुल्क असमानता और लागू करने की तिथि

- The **25% tariff** places India at a **relative disadvantage** compared to some of its **competitors** such as **Vietnam, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Philippines**.

   यह **25% शुल्क**, भारत को **वियतनाम, इंडोनेशिया, मैक्सिको और फिलीपींस** जैसे **प्रतिद्वंद्वियों की तुलना में असमान स्थिति** में डालता है।

- **Mr. Trump's new tariffs** are expected to **take effect from August 7**.

   श्री ट्रम्प के नए शुल्क 7 अगस्त से लागू होने की संभावना है।

Despite HC order, rural employment guarantee scheme remains stalled in Bengal

GS II: Govt. Scheme

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

While directing the resumption of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal, a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court, led by Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, on June 18, spoke about drawing a line between past actions and future steps to be taken to implement the scheme. The Division Bench, while resolving the three-year imbroglio, pointed out that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) "does not envisage a situation where the scheme will be put into cold storage for eternity".

Despite the High Court order to resume the scheme from August 1, 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households has yet to start, and it seems that neither the Centre nor the State is keen to resume it.

The funds have been stalled since March 2022, over allegations of corruption in the implementation of the scheme. The Centre invoked Section 27 of the MGNREGA, 2005, which allows for stoppage of funds for violation of rules in implementation of the scheme by the State. The suspension of MGNREGS has dominated politics of the State for three years.

Before the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Trinamool Congress leaders paraded MGNREGS beneficiaries in New Delhi and highlighted that the Centre was depriving the workers of the State of their rightful dues. However, after the High Court's June 18 direction, the response of the ruling party has been lukewarm.

In several public gatherings between June 18 and August 1, West Bengal Chief Minister gave no hints on the resumption of the 100-day work. Instead, Ms. Banerjee spoke about Karmashree Prakalpa, a scheme aimed at providing at least 50 days of wage employment to each job card holder in every household in a financial year.

After the court's direction, Trinamool cannot use the "Centre's deprivation" card any more. However, it continues to highlight that the Centre owes ₹3,000 crore to the State under the scheme. The pending funds are related to past work and has nothing to do with the resumption of work under the scheme. Once work begins, payment receipts will be generated and the Centre will have to directly pay the workers. Several States have pending payments under MGNREGS, and pending wages is not a hindrance in starting new work under the Act.

The State government, however, is not accepting applications from individuals seeking work. In the past six weeks, thousands of people have approached the authorities expressing their willingness to work under the scheme but there seems to be no clarity on whether MGNREGS will resume or not.

The Centre, on the other hand, has not also shown any willingness to comply with the High Court order and continues to hide behind Section 27

Workers at Tuima village in West Bengal's Purulia district standing near an unfinished pond. The Centre had stopped the release of MGNREGS funds to the State from March 2022. FILE PHOTO

of the MGNREGS, blocking the release of funds, and thereby systematically depriving workers of their legal right to employment.

The West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, who have publicly opposed the resumption of the scheme, do not want the State government to get any allocation under the scheme before the Assembly polls.

Looming migrant crisis
Both Central and State governments are unwilling to resume the scheme even when West Bengal is facing a huge migrant crisis, with millions leaving the State in search of work.

While the fate of the scheme and workers hangs in balance, West Bengal is heading for Assembly polls in 2026. The resumption of the scheme could have provided succour to millions of workers in the State but may no longer serve the political interests of the Trinamool and the BJP.

It was the Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS), a union of agricultural workers that approached the High Court seeking resumption of MGNREGS. The union put up a legal fight for three years to ensure that work under the scheme can start again.

The PBKMS blames "wilful inaction by both the governments" for not resuming the work. Demanding immediate implementation of MGNREGS in West Bengal, the PBKMS says that non-resumption of work is a "blatant non-compliance of a High Court order, and is illegal, unjust, and unacceptable".

Despite HC order, rural employment guarantee scheme remains stalled in Bengal
हाईकोर्ट के आदेश के बावजूद पश्चिम बंगाल में ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना अब भी ठप

- While directing the resumption of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** in **West Bengal**, a **Division Bench** of the **Calcutta High Court**, led by **Justice T.S. Sivagnanam**, on **June 18**, spoke about drawing a line between past actions and future steps to be taken to implement the scheme.

  18 जून को **न्यायमूर्ति टी.एस. शिवगणनम** की अध्यक्षता वाली **कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट की एक खंडपीठ** ने **पश्चिम बंगाल में मनरेगा योजना की बहाली** का निर्देश देते हुए, **बीते घटनाक्रम और भविष्य की कार्यवाही** के बीच रेखा खींचने की बात कही।

- The Division Bench, while resolving the **three-year imbroglio**, pointed out that the **MGNREGA Act** "does not envisage a situation where the scheme will be put into cold storage for eternity".

  तीन साल के गतिरोध को सुलझाते हुए खंडपीठ ने कहा कि **मनरेगा अधिनियम** "ऐसी स्थिति की कल्पना नहीं करता जहां इस योजना को हमेशा के लिए ठंडे बस्ते में डाल दिया जाए।"

- Despite the High Court order to resume the scheme from **August 1**, **100 days of guaranteed wage employment** to rural households has **yet to start**, and it seems that neither the **Centre** nor the **State** is keen to resume it.

  1 अगस्त से योजना शुरू करने के हाईकोर्ट के आदेश के बावजूद **गांवों में 100 दिन का गारंटीड रोजगार** अब तक **शुरू नहीं हुआ है**, और ऐसा लगता है कि **केंद्र** और **राज्य** दोनों ही इसे फिर से शुरू करने को लेकर इच्छुक नहीं हैं।

- The **funds have been stalled since March 2022**, over allegations of **corruption** in the implementation of the scheme.

  योजना के क्रियान्वयन में **भ्रष्टाचार** के आरोपों के कारण **मार्च 2022 से फंड** रोके गए हैं।

- The Centre invoked **Section 27 of the MGNREGA, 2005**, which allows for **stoppage of funds** for violation of rules by the State.

  केंद्र ने **मनरेगा 2005 की धारा 27** का हवाला दिया, जो राज्य द्वारा नियमों के उल्लंघन पर **फंड रोकने की अनुमति देता है**।

- The suspension of **MGNREGS** has dominated **politics of the State for three years**.

  मनरेगा की निलंबन स्थिति ने **पिछले तीन वर्षों से राज्य की राजनीति** को प्रभावित किया है।

- Before the **2024 Lok Sabha election**, **Trinamool Congress** leaders paraded **MGNREGS beneficiaries** in **New Delhi**, highlighting that the **Centre was depriving workers** of their rightful dues.

  2024 के लोकसभा चुनाव से पहले **तृणमूल कांग्रेस** नेताओं ने **दिल्ली में मनरेगा लाभार्थियों** को लेकर मार्च निकाला और कहा कि **केंद्र सरकार मजदूरों को उनका हक नहीं दे रही है**।

- However, after the High Court's **June 18** direction, the response of the **ruling party** has been **lukewarm**.

  हालांकि **18 जून** के हाईकोर्ट के निर्देश के बाद **सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी की प्रतिक्रिया ठंडी** रही।

- In several public gatherings between **June 18 and August 1**, **West Bengal Chief Minister** gave **no hints** on the resumption of the 100-day work.

  18 जून से 1 अगस्त के बीच कई जनसभाओं में **मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी** ने **100 दिनों के काम की बहाली पर कोई संकेत नहीं दिया**।

- Instead, Ms. Banerjee spoke about **Karmashree Prakalpa**, a scheme aimed at providing **at least 50 days of wage employment** to each job card holder in every household in a financial year.

  इसके बजाय ममता बनर्जी ने **कर्मश्री प्रकल्प** की बात की, जो प्रत्येक जॉब कार्ड धारक को हर साल **कम से कम 50 दिन का रोजगार** देने की योजना है।

- After the court's direction, **Trinamool** cannot use the **"Centre's deprivation"** card anymore. However, it continues to highlight that the **Centre owes ₹3,000 crore** to the State under the scheme.

  अदालत के आदेश के बाद **तृणमूल कांग्रेस अब "केंद्र द्वारा वंचित किए जाने" का मुद्दा नहीं उठा सकती**, लेकिन वह अभी भी यह बता रही है कि केंद्र सरकार के ऊपर **₹3,000 करोड़** बकाया है।

- The pending funds are related to **past work** and have **nothing to do with the resumption** of work under the scheme.
  लंबित फंड **पिछले कार्यों से संबंधित** हैं और **योजना की बहाली से कोई लेना-देना नहीं** है।

- Once work begins, **payment receipts will be generated** and the **Centre will have to directly pay the workers**.
  जैसे ही काम शुरू होगा, **भुगतान की रसीदें तैयार की जाएंगी** और **केंद्र को सीधे मजदूरों को भुगतान करना होगा**।

- Several States have **pending payments** under MGNREGS, and **pending wages** is **not a hindrance** in starting **new work** under the Act.
  कई राज्यों में **मनरेगा के तहत भुगतान लंबित** है, लेकिन **लंबित मजदूरी नए कार्य शुरू करने में बाधा नहीं है**।

- The State government, however, is **not accepting applications** from individuals seeking work.
  लेकिन राज्य सरकार **काम के लिए इच्छुक व्यक्तियों से आवेदन स्वीकार नहीं कर रही** है।

- In the past **six weeks**, **thousands of people** have approached authorities expressing willingness to work, but there seems to be **no clarity** on resumption.
  पिछले **छह सप्ताह** में **हज़ारों लोगों** ने काम के लिए अधिकारियों से संपर्क किया है, लेकिन **स्पष्टता का अभाव** है।

  The **Centre**, on the other hand, has **not shown any willingness** to comply with the High Court order and continues to **hide behind Section 27**, **blocking funds** and depriving workers of **legal employment rights**.
  दूसरी ओर **केंद्र सरकार** ने **हाईकोर्ट के आदेश का पालन करने की कोई इच्छा नहीं दिखाई** है और वह लगातार **धारा 27 का सहारा लेकर फंड रोक रही है** तथा मजदूरों को **कानूनी रोजगार अधिकारों से वंचित कर रही** है।

- The **West Bengal BJP** leaders, who have **publicly opposed** resumption, do **not want the State government to** get any allocation under the scheme before the **Assembly polls**.
  पश्चिम बंगाल भाजपा के नेताओं ने **योजना की बहाली का सार्वजनिक रूप से विरोध किया** है और वे नहीं चाहते कि **विधानसभा चुनावों** से पहले **राज्य सरकार को कोई फंड मिले**।

Looming migrant crisis
बढ़ता प्रवासी संकट

- Both **Central and State governments** are **unwilling to resume** the scheme even when **West Bengal** is facing a **huge migrant crisis**, with **millions leaving** the State in search of work.
  केंद्र और राज्य सरकारें, दोनों ही **योजना को फिर से शुरू करने को तैयार नहीं हैं**, जबकि **पश्चिम बंगाल भारी प्रवासी संकट** का सामना कर रहा है और **लाखों लोग काम की तलाश में राज्य छोड़ रहे हैं**।

- While the **fate of the scheme and workers** hangs in balance, West Bengal is heading for **Assembly polls in 2026**.
  जब तक **योजना और मजदूरों का भविष्य अधर में लटका हुआ है**, पश्चिम बंगाल 2026 के **विधानसभा चुनावों** की ओर बढ़ रहा है।

- The **resumption of the scheme** could have provided **succour to millions**, but may no longer serve the **political interests** of **Trinamool and BJP**.
  योजना की **बहाली से लाखों लोगों को राहत मिल सकती थी**, लेकिन यह अब शायद **तृणमूल और भाजपा के राजनीतिक हितों** के अनुकूल नहीं है।

- It was the **Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS)**, a **union of agricultural workers**, that approached the High Court seeking resumption.

यह **पश्चिम बंग खेत मज़दूर समिति (PBKMS)**, जो कि **कृषि श्रमिकों का संगठन** है, उसने योजना की बहाली के लिए हाईकोर्ट का रुख किया था।

- The union put up a **legal fight for three years** to ensure work under the scheme can start again.
  संगठन ने यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **तीन साल तक कानूनी लड़ाई लड़ी** कि योजना के तहत काम फिर से शुरू हो सके।

- The **PBKMS** blames **"wilful inaction by both governments"** for not resuming the work.
  PBKMS ने **"दोनों सरकारों की जानबूझकर निष्क्रियता"** को काम फिर से शुरू न होने का कारण बताया है।

- Demanding **immediate implementation**, the PBKMS says **non-resumption** of work is a **"blatant non-compliance of a High Court order"**, and is illegal, unjust, and unacceptable.
  तत्काल कार्यान्वयन की मांग करते हुए **PBKMS** ने कहा कि काम शुरू न होना **"हाईकोर्ट के आदेश का खुला उल्लंघन"** है, जो कि **गैरकानूनी, अन्यायपूर्ण और अस्वीकार्य** है।

Abhishek to lead Trinamool in LS; chief whip Kalyan Banerjee resigns

GS II: Legislature
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress named its national general secretary, Abhishek Banerjee, as the party's new leader in the Lok Sabha, replacing Sudip Bandopadhyay who has been unwell for months.

Kalyan Banerjee resigned as chief whip of the party.

These changes were announced after a virtual meeting chaired by Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with the party MPs. Without naming any individual, she expressed disappointment over poor coordination among Trinamool's Lok Sabha members.

Mr. Kalyan's resignation comes after a public spat with his colleague Mahua Moitra in April, during a visit to the Election Commission in Delhi. Mr. Kalyan said that he was being blamed unfairly for lack of coordination among MPs even as some barely attend Parliament.

"I have quit as the party's chief whip in Lok Sabha as 'Didi' (Mamata Banerjee) said during the virtual meeting that there is a lack of coordination among party MPs. So the blame is on me. Hence, I have decided to step down," Mr. Kalyan told a news channel.

The MP, who is a senior advocate, said he felt humiliated that the party was not holding those responsible for indiscipline and poor attendance to account, but instead making him the fall guy.

At the meeting, Ms. Banerjee, as per sources, who spoke for nearly 20 minutes, said that while the Rajya Sabha team was working well, the performance of Lok Sabha members had been below expectations. She acknowledged that two of its senior-most MPs, Sudip Bandopadhyay and Saugata Roy, were not well. "In the absence of senior leaders, coordination has collapsed," Ms. Banerjee is learnt to have said.

She then went on to announce as per sources, that her nephew Mr. Abhishek will lead the Lok Sabha team. "Abhishek will lead the party in the Lok Sabha until Sudip Bandopadhyay recovers fully," she reportedly said. His appointment signals the elevation of Mr. Abhishek as the party's Delhi point person.

New roles: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee during a rally in Kolkata. ANI

Abhishek to lead Trinamool in LS; chief whip Kalyan Banerjee resigns
अभिषेक लोकसभा में तृणमूल का नेतृत्व करेंगे; मुख्य सचेतक कल्याण बनर्जी ने दिया इस्तीफा

- The **Trinamool Congress** named its **national general secretary**, **Abhishek Banerjee**, as the party's new **leader in the Lok Sabha**, replacing **Sudip Bandopadhyay** who has been **unwell for months**.
  तृणमूल कांग्रेस ने अपने **राष्ट्रीय महासचिव अभिषेक बनर्जी** को पार्टी का नया **लोकसभा नेता** नियुक्त किया है, जो **पिछले कई महीनों से अस्वस्थ** चल रहे **सुदीप बंद्योपाध्याय** का स्थान लेंगे।

- **Kalyan Banerjee** resigned as **chief whip** of the party.
  कल्याण बनर्जी ने पार्टी के **मुख्य सचेतक** पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया।

- These changes were announced after a **virtual meeting** chaired by **Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** with the party MPs.
  इन बदलावों की घोषणा **तृणमूल कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष और पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी** द्वारा पार्टी सांसदों के साथ की गई **वर्चुअल बैठक** के बाद की गई।

- Without naming any individual, she expressed **disappointment** over **poor coordination** among **Trinamool's Lok Sabha members**.
  बिना किसी का नाम लिए, उन्होंने **तृणमूल के लोकसभा सदस्यों** के बीच **खराब समन्वय** पर **निराशा** जताई।

- **Mr. Kalyan's resignation** comes after a **public spat** with his colleague **Mahua Moitra** in **April**, during a visit to the **Election Commission in Delhi**.
  श्री कल्याण का इस्तीफा अप्रैल में दिल्ली में चुनाव आयोग की यात्रा के दौरान अपनी सहयोगी महुआ मोइत्रा के साथ सार्वजनिक विवाद के बाद आया है।

- **Mr. Kalyan** said that he was being **blamed unfairly** for **lack of coordination** among MPs even as some **barely attend Parliament**.
  श्री कल्याण ने कहा कि कुछ सांसद संसद में मुश्किल से उपस्थित होते हैं, फिर भी खराब समन्वय के लिए उन्हें अनुचित रूप से दोषी ठहराया जा रहा है।

- "I have quit as the party's **chief whip in Lok Sabha** as 'Didi' (**Mamata Banerjee**) said during the virtual meeting that there is a **lack of coordination among party MPs**. So the **blame is on me**. Hence, I have decided to **step down**," **Mr. Kalyan** told a news channel.
  "मैंने पार्टी के लोकसभा में मुख्य सचेतक पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया है क्योंकि 'दीदी' (ममता बनर्जी) ने वर्चुअल मीटिंग में कहा कि पार्टी सांसदों के बीच समन्वय की कमी है। इसलिए दोष मुझ पर है। इसी कारण मैंने पद छोड़ने का निर्णय लिया है," श्री कल्याण ने एक समाचार चैनल को बताया।

- The MP, who is a **senior advocate**, said he felt **humiliated** that the party was not holding those responsible for **indiscipline and poor attendance** to account, but instead **making him the fall guy**.
  यह सांसद जो एक वरिष्ठ वकील हैं, ने कहा कि उन्हें अपमानित महसूस हुआ क्योंकि पार्टी अनुशासनहीनता और कम उपस्थिति के लिए जिम्मेदार लोगों को जवाबदेह नहीं ठहरा रही है, बल्कि उन्हें बलि का बकरा बना रही है।

- At the meeting, **Ms. Banerjee**, as per sources, who spoke for nearly **20 minutes**, said that while the **Rajya Sabha team** was working well, the performance of **Lok Sabha members** had been **below expectations**.
  सूत्रों के अनुसार, बैठक में सुश्री बनर्जी ने लगभग 20 मिनट तक बात करते हुए कहा कि जहां राज्यसभा टीम अच्छा प्रदर्शन कर रही है, वहीं लोकसभा सदस्यों का प्रदर्शन उम्मीदों से कम रहा है।

- She acknowledged that two of its **senior-most MPs**, **Sudip Bandopadhyay** and **Saugata Roy**, were **not well**.
  उन्होंने स्वीकार किया कि पार्टी के दो वरिष्ठतम सांसद, सुदीप बंद्योपाध्याय और सौगत रॉय, अस्वस्थ हैं।

- "In the **absence of senior leaders, coordination has collapsed**," **Ms. Banerjee** is learnt to have said.
  सुश्री बनर्जी ने कहा, "वरिष्ठ नेताओं की अनुपस्थिति में समन्वय पूरी तरह बिगड़ गया है।"

- She then went on to announce, as per sources, that her **nephew Mr. Abhishek** will lead the **Lok Sabha team**.
  फिर उन्होंने, सूत्रों के अनुसार, घोषणा की कि उनके भतीजे श्री अभिषेक लोकसभा टीम का नेतृत्व करेंगे।

- "**Abhishek** will lead the party in the **Lok Sabha** until **Sudip Bandopadhyay** recovers fully," she reportedly said.
  उन्होंने कथित तौर पर कहा, "सुदीप बंद्योपाध्याय के पूरी तरह ठीक होने तक अभिषेक पार्टी का लोकसभा में नेतृत्व करेंगे।"

- His appointment signals the **elevation of Mr. Abhishek** as the party's **Delhi point person**.
  उनकी नियुक्ति श्री अभिषेक की पदोन्नति को दर्शाती है, जो पार्टी के दिल्ली संपर्क प्रमुख के रूप में कार्य करेंगे।

Study shows clerical errors in documents 'fatal' for citizenship

GS II: Citizenship

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

An 'f' ruined Rahman Ali's chances to prove his citizenship in the Gauhati High Court in 2013.

He failed to establish that his father Khurshed Ali, recorded in the electoral rolls in 1989, 1997, and 2010, was the same person as Furshed Ali, enlisted in the 1965 and 1970 rolls in Assam.

In 2010, the court noted "discrepancy" in the name of the father of Rajendra Das, enlisted in 1970 as Radha Charan and Radhacharan Das in 1966. And in 2019, Ibrahim Ali Mir was unable to establish that 'Late Nurul', listed as his father in the 1989 rolls, was the same person as Nurul Islam in the 1965 and 1970 lists of electors.

These are among several instances of inconsistencies in documents that have been "fatal" for the citizenship of many in Assam, driven by a "pervasive culture of suspicion", a study titled "Unmaking citizens: The architecture of rights violations and exclusion in India's citizenship trials" revealed.

The report by the Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University and the Queen Mary University of London, released on July 27, called for an urgent, fundamental rethinking of the legal structures governing citizenship in India, given the possibility of an Assam-like exercise to update the National Register of Citizens across the country. Mohsin Alam Bhat, Arushi Gupta and Shardul Gopujkar are the authors of the study.

The study elaborates on systematic violations of natural justice leading up to status determination, such as denying access to inquiry reports and shielding of officers, and systematic violations during the citizenship determination process by improper cross-questioning and evidence not read as a whole.

It further said the procedural defects are not corrected and are often reinforced by the court's jurisprudence.

The study calls for an urgent rethinking of legal structures governing citizenship in India.

Study shows clerical errors in documents 'fatal' for citizenship

अध्ययन से पता चला कि दस्तावेज़ों में लिपिकीय त्रुटियाँ नागरिकता के लिए 'घातक' होती हैं

- An **'f' ruined Rahman Ali's** chances to prove his **citizenship** in the **Gauhati High Court in 2013**.

'f' ने **2013 में गुवाहाटी उच्च न्यायालय** में रहमान अली की **नागरिकता साबित करने की संभावनाओं** को बर्बाद कर दिया।

- He failed to establish that his father **Khurshed Ali**, recorded in the electoral rolls in **1989, 1997, and 2010**, was the same person as **Furshed Ali**, enlisted in the **1965 and 1970** rolls in Assam.

वह यह **साबित करने में असफल रहे** कि उनके पिता **खुर्शेद अली**, जिनका नाम **1989, 1997 और 2010** की मतदाता सूची में दर्ज था, वही व्यक्ति हैं जो **1965 और 1970** की असम की सूची में **फुर्शेद अली** के रूप में दर्ज थे।

In **2010**, the court noted **"discrepancy"** in the name of the father of **Rajendra Das**, enlisted in **1970 as Radha Charan** and **Radhacharan Das** in **1966**.

2010 में, अदालत ने **राजेंद्र दास** के पिता के नाम में **"भिन्नता"** नोट की, जिनका नाम **1970 में राधा चरण** और **1966 में राधाचरण दास** के रूप में दर्ज था।

- In **2019**, **Ibrahim Ali Mir** was unable to establish that **'Late Nurul'**, listed as his father in the **1989 rolls**, was the same person as **Nurul Islam** in the **1965 and 1970** lists of electors.

2019 में, **इब्राहिम अली मीर** यह साबित करने में विफल रहे कि **1989 की मतदाता सूची** में उनके पिता के रूप में दर्ज **'स्वर्गीय नुरुल'** वही व्यक्ति हैं जो **1965 और 1970** की सूचियों में **नुरुल इस्लाम** के नाम से दर्ज थे।

- These are among several instances of **inconsistencies** in documents that have been **"fatal" for the citizenship** of many in **Assam**, driven by a **"pervasive culture of suspicion"**, a study titled **"Unmaking**

citizens: The architecture of rights violations and exclusion in India's citizenship trials" revealed.

ये ऐसे कई उदाहरणों में शामिल हैं, जहाँ **दस्तावेजों में विसंगतियाँ असम में कई लोगों की नागरिकता के लिए "घातक"** साबित हुईं, जो **"संदेह की व्यापक संस्कृति"** से प्रेरित थीं, जैसा कि **"Unmaking citizens: The architecture of rights violations and exclusion in India's citizenship trials"** नामक अध्ययन में सामने आया।

The report by the **Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University** and the **Queen Mary University of London**, released on **July 27**, called for an **urgent, fundamental rethinking** of the **legal structures governing citizenship** in India, given the possibility of an **Assam-like exercise** to update the **National Register of Citizens** across the country.

बेंगलुरु स्थित नेशनल लॉ स्कूल ऑफ इंडिया यूनिवर्सिटी और **लंदन की क्वीन मैरी यूनिवर्सिटी** की यह रिपोर्ट, जो **27 जुलाई** को जारी हुई, ने भारत में **नागरिकता से संबंधित कानूनी ढांचे** पर **तत्काल और मौलिक पुनर्विचार** का आह्वान किया, क्योंकि पूरे देश में **असम जैसी NRC प्रक्रिया** की संभावना जताई गई है।

- **Mohsin Alam Bhat, Arushi Gupta and Shardul Gopujkar** are the **authors** of the study.

 मोहसिन आलम भट, अरुषि गुप्ता और शार्दुल गोपूजकर इस अध्ययन के **लेखक** हैं।

- The study elaborates on **systematic violations of natural justice** leading up to **status determination**, such as **denying access to inquiry reports** and **shielding of officers**, and systematic violations during the **citizenship determination process** by **improper cross-questioning** and **evidence not read as a whole**.

 अध्ययन में **स्थिति निर्धारण** की प्रक्रिया में **प्राकृतिक न्याय के व्यवस्थित उल्लंघनों** को विस्तार से बताया गया है, जैसे कि **जांच रिपोर्टों तक पहुँच से इनकार करना** और **अधिकारियों की रक्षा करना**, तथा **नागरिकता निर्धारण प्रक्रिया** के दौरान **गलत पूछताछ** और **सबूतों को समग्र रूप से न पढ़ना**।

- It further said the **procedural defects** are **not corrected** and are often **reinforced by the court's jurisprudence**.

 इसमें आगे कहा गया कि **प्रक्रियात्मक खामियाँ सुधारी नहीं जातीं**, बल्कि अक्सर **अदालत की न्यायिक प्रवृत्ति द्वारा और मज़बूत** कर दी जाती हैं।

IAF's unending fighter conundrum

Why have the MiG-21 fighter jets been called 'flying coffins'? Why has the induction of Mk-1A jets been delayed? How many jets does the Indian Air Force intend to induct in the next two decades? Are the engines for India's fifth generation fighter aircraft going to be indigenously developed?

GS II: Defence

EXPLAINER

Dinakar Peri

The story so far:

After over six decades in service, the MiG-21 fighter jets are set to be retired from the Indian Air Force (IAF) in September this year. The formal ceremony is scheduled to be held at Chandigarh where the jets were first inducted in 1963. With this the fighter strength of the IAF will dip from 31 to 29 squadrons, against the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons. A fighter squadron typically has 16-18 jets. The IAF is awaiting deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A, which is expected to begin in the next few months after repeated delays. All this at a time when the Chinese Air Force and Navy have fielded around 1,900 fighters including more than 1,300 fourth-generation aircraft, not including trainers, as per a 2024 U.S. Department of Defence report. China has also deployed two Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA), recently unveiled two more advanced jets, and is likely to supply 40 J-35s stealth jets to Pakistan.

What has been the legacy of MiG-21s?

Contracted from the erstwhile Soviet Union after the 1962 war with China, the MiG-21s heralded the onset of supersonic aviation in the IAF and was also its first non-western fighter. A total of 872 MiG-21 aircraft have been inducted in the IAF, a bulk of them licence-manufactured by the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The MiG-21s remained the mainstay of the IAF for several decades and a spate of accidents in the early 2000s earned them the name 'flying coffins'. Over the six decades, there were over 450 accidents involving the jet.

The jets played a key role in the 1965, 1971 wars, the 1999 Kargil conflict, and more recently in the aerial dual with Pakistan on February 27, 2019, a day after the Balakot air strike. During the attack, Group Captain (then Wg Cdr) Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG-21 was shot down and fell in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir after he shot down a Pakistani F-16, according to the IAF.

In fact, in the absence of an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT), before the Hawks were inducted in 2008, the MiG-21s were used for stage III training of young pilots for a long time as it was the "most suitable" fighter even though it was considered "sub-optimal" as a trainer.

The MiG-21 is also among the most successful fighter jets globally with over 6,000 jets of 12 types flown by over three dozen countries. Currently, there are two MiG-21 Bison squadrons in service – the No. 23 'Panthers' and the No. 3 'Cobras'. Incidentally, the No. 3 Squadron has the distinction of being the first to get the upgraded MiG-21 Bisons still in service and will now be the first to get the LCA-Mk1A. With the MiG-29s out, the MiG-29s are the last of the MiG series in service which together with the SU-30MKI remain the last of Russian-origin fighters.

What is the current status of the IAF?

Besides the MiG-21s, a majority of the current inventory, that is the early variants of the Jaguars, Mirage-2000s and Mig-29s, will start going out by the end of the decade. This leaves the SU-30MKI in service, the LCA variants planned to be inducted, and the Medium Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) while the indigenous FGFA, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is under development.

The IAF currently operates two squadrons of the LCA-Mk1, which undertook maiden flight in January 2001 and was inducted in 2016. A more capable variant, the Mk-1A, which is to be inducted in large numbers, had been delayed initially due to development issues and later due to non-delivery of engines by General Electric (GE) Aerospace citing supply chain difficulties.

How did it get delayed?

The Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000 crore contract with HAL for 83 MK1A jets, and deliveries were to start in March 2024 with at least 16 planes to be delivered to the IAF every year. However, not a single Tejas Mark-1A has been delivered so far. In August 2021, the HAL placed an order for 99 F-404 engines with GE Aerospace at a cost of ₹5,375 crore for the 83 Mk1A jets. The first engine arrived in India only in April this year after a delay of one and half years and the second engine was delivered early this month. Additionally, a deal for 97 additional jets, estimated to ₹67,000

Long legacy: Technicians preparing a MiG-21 fighter for a test flight at the Base Repair Depot at Ozhar, Maharashtra on July 24, 1982. HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

crore, is expected to be concluded in the next few months. HAL has assured to scale up production to 24 jets a year.

Amid these delays, an Empowered Committee for Capability Enhancement of the IAF headed by the Defence Secretary R. K. Singh identified key thrust areas and made recommendations for medium- and long-term measures in the report submitted to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in March.

As per the IAF, the LCA Mk2, larger and more capable than the Mk1 variants, is meant to replace the Mirage 2000, MiG-29 and Jaguars. It is expected to take first flight in 2026. In February 2025, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said that they need to add 35-40 jets every year to make up for the shortage in numbers. Both these programmes, LCA-Mk1A and Mk2, are extremely critical to shore up fighter numbers of the IAF over the next 10-15 years. In an interview to *PTI* in June, HAL Chairman and Managing Director D. K. Sunil said that GE Aerospace is expected to supply 12 engines in the current fiscal and that the jets would be delivered to the IAF.

Moreover, India has procured 272 Su-30MKIs from Russia of which around 260 remain in service. Last December, the Ministry of Defence signed a ₹13,500 crore deal with HAL for 12 Sukhois to replace those lost in crashes. A major upgrade programme for the Sukhoi's has been lined up to be undertaken by HAL. The upgrade of 84 jets in the first batch has already been approved. Meanwhile, by early 2040s, some of the earlier batch of SU-30MKIs will go out.

What is the way forward?

The IAF has drawn up an ambitious plan to induct more than 600 jets over the next two decades, a large number of them being LCA variants. This includes 180 LCA-Mk1A, over 120 LCA-Mk2, 114 MRFA and at least 120 AMCA. A Twin-Engine Deck Based Fighter for the Navy's aircraft carriers is also on the drawing board. However, all this hinges on timely

production and deliveries.

Mr. Singh said in an interview recently that they are talking to partners for the likely import of a small number of fifth gen fighters as an interim measure while the AMCA development continues. The option is between the Russian SU-57 and American F-35. These are sensitive negotiations, Mr. Singh said adding, "When it reaches a tangible stage, whether it is an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), a Request For Proposal or ultimately through a contract that is when the media will come to know."

Ultimately, it is the fifth gen AMCA that is the way forward while the LCA variants and MRFA fill numbers and add strength in the medium term. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) that is developing the aircraft has floated an AoN inviting private sector participation for the production. Even HAL has to bid for it, unlike the nomination in the past. "I imagine it will take 3-6 months to reach the contract award stage", Mr. Singh said. "Thereafter the project itself of development and an AMCA prototype to actually take to the skies, it would be a 10-year program, I would imagine."

On the engine front, the F414 engine to power the LCA-Mk2 is to be licence manufactured by HAL for which commercial negotiations with GE are underway. The AMCA development is envisaged in two phases – MK1 development and couple of squadrons with the GE414 engine, and AMCA-Mk2 with a more powerful 110KN engine that is to be co-developed with a foreign partner for which talks are underway.

All this leaves the MRFA deal, for which the Request For Information was issued to global aircraft manufacturers in April 2019, but there has been no progress since. Given the huge cost involved, the long timelines and various other programmes already in the pipeline, it has to be seen how it can be taken forward.

Dinakar Peri is Fellow, Security Studies at Carnegie India.

India's fighter jet strength

IAF CURRENT SQUADRONS		THE PLANNED LINE-UP	
SU-30MKI	13	LCA-MK1A	180 (83, 97)
Jaguar	6	LCA-Mk2	120+
Mirage 2000	3	MRFA	114
MIG-29UPG	3	AMCA	120+
Rafale	2		
LCA	2	IAF LCA Tejas during the Aero India 2023 air show at Yelahanka air base in Bengaluru.	
MiG-21	2		
Total sqns	**31**		

THE GIST

▾ Contracted from the erstwhile Soviet Union after the 1962 war with China, the MiG-21s heralded the onset of supersonic aviation in the IAF and was also its first non-western fighter.

▾ The IAF has drawn up an ambitious plan to induct more than 600 jets over the next two decades, a large number of them being LCA variants.

▾ The Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000 crore contract with HAL for 83 MK1A jets, and deliveries were to start in March 2024 with at least 16 planes to be delivered to the IAF every year. However, not a single Tejas Mark-1A has been delivered so far.

IAF's unending fighter conundrum
भारतीय वायु सेना की अंतहीन लड़ाकू विमान पहेली

- Why have the **MiG-21 fighter jets** been called **'flying coffins'**?
  मिग-21 लड़ाकू विमानों को **'उड़ता ताबूत'** क्यों कहा गया है?

- Why has the induction of **Mk-1A jets** been delayed?
  एमके-1ए जेट्स के शामिल होने में देरी क्यों हुई है?
- How many jets does the **Indian Air Force** intend to induct in the next **two decades**?
  भारतीय वायु सेना अगले **दो दशकों** में कितने जेट शामिल करना चाहती है?
- Are the engines for India's **fifth generation fighter aircraft** going to be **indigenously developed**?
  क्या भारत के **पांचवीं पीढ़ी के लड़ाकू विमान** के इंजन **स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित** किए जाएंगे

Retirement of MiG-21 Fighter Jets
मिग-21 लड़ाकू विमानों का सेवानिवृत्त होना

- After over **six decades** in service, the **MiG-21 fighter jets** are set to be retired from the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** in **September this year**.
  सेवा में **छह से अधिक दशकों** के बाद, **मिग-21 लड़ाकू विमान** इस वर्ष **सितंबर** में **भारतीय वायुसेना (IAF)** से सेवानिवृत्त होने जा रहे हैं।
- The formal ceremony is scheduled to be held at **Chandigarh** where the jets were first inducted in **1963**.
  औपचारिक समारोह **चंडीगढ़** में आयोजित होने वाला है, जहां इन विमानों को पहली बार **1963** में शामिल किया गया था।
- With this, the **fighter strength** of the IAF will dip from **31** to **29 squadrons**, against the sanctioned strength of **42 squadrons**.
  इसके साथ, IAF की **लड़ाकू क्षमता 31** से घटकर **29 स्काड्रन** रह जाएगी, जबकि स्वीकृत क्षमता **42 स्काड्रन** है।
- A fighter squadron typically has **16-18 jets**.
  एक लड़ाकू स्काड्रन में सामान्यतः **16-18 विमान** होते हैं।
- The IAF is awaiting deliveries of the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A**, which is expected to begin in the next few months after repeated delays.
  IAF को **लाइट कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट (LCA)-Mk1A** की आपूर्ति का इंतजार है, जिसकी डिलीवरी बार-बार की देरी के बाद आने वाले कुछ महीनों में शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।
- All this comes at a time when the **Chinese Air Force and Navy** have fielded around **1,900 fighters**, including more than **1,300 fourth-generation aircraft**, as per a **2024 U.S. Department of Defence report**.
  यह सब ऐसे समय हो रहा है जब **चीनी वायुसेना और नौसेना** ने लगभग **1,900 लड़ाकू विमान** तैनात किए हैं, जिनमें **1,300 से अधिक चौथी पीढ़ी के विमान** शामिल हैं, जैसा कि **2024 अमेरिकी रक्षा विभाग की रिपोर्ट** में बताया गया है।
- **China** has also deployed **two Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA)**, unveiled two more advanced jets, and is likely to supply **40 J-35 stealth jets** to **Pakistan**.
  चीन ने **दो पांचवीं पीढ़ी के लड़ाकू विमान (FGFA)** भी तैनात किए हैं, दो और उन्नत विमान पेश किए हैं, और **पाकिस्तान** को **40 J-35 स्टेल्थ जेट** देने की संभावना है

Legacy of MiG-21s
मिग-21 की विरासत

- Contracted from the **erstwhile Soviet Union** after the **1962 war with China**, the MiG-21s heralded the onset of **supersonic aviation** in the IAF and were its first **non-western fighter**.
  1962 के चीन युद्ध के बाद **पूर्व सोवियत संघ** से खरीदे गए मिग-21 ने IAF में **सुपरसोनिक विमानन** की शुरुआत की और यह इसका पहला **गैर-पश्चिमी लड़ाकू विमान** था।
- A total of **872 MiG-21 aircraft** have been inducted in the IAF, a bulk of them licence-manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

कुल **872 मिग-21 विमान** IAF में शामिल किए गए, जिनमें से अधिकांश का निर्माण **हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL)** द्वारा लाइसेंस के तहत किया गया।

- The MiG-21s remained the **mainstay** of the IAF for several decades, but a spate of accidents in the early **2000s** earned them the name **'flying coffins'**.
  मिग-21 कई दशकों तक IAF की **रीढ़** बने रहे, लेकिन **2000 के दशक की शुरुआत** में हुई कई दुर्घटनाओं ने इन्हें **'उड़ते ताबूत'** का नाम दिया दिया।

- Over six decades, there were **over 450 accidents** involving the jet.
  छह दशकों में इस विमान से जुड़े **450 से अधिक हादसे** हुए।

- The jets played a **key role** in the **1965**, **1971 wars**, the **1999 Kargil conflict**, and the **2019 aerial duel with Pakistan** after the Balakot air strike.
  इन विमानों ने **1965**, **1971 के युद्ध**, **1999 कारगिल संघर्ष** और **2019 में बालाकोट हवाई हमले** के बाद पाकिस्तान के साथ **हवाई टकराव में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका** निभाई।

- During the **2019 attack**, Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG-21 was shot down in **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir** after he shot down a **Pakistani F-16**.
  2019 के हमले के दौरान, **अभिनंदन वर्धमान का मिग-21 पाकिस्तान अधिकृत कश्मीर** में गिरा, जब उन्होंने एक **पाकिस्तानी F-16** को मार गिराया।

- Before the **Hawk AJTs** were inducted in **2008**, the MiG-21s were used for **stage III training** of young pilots for a long time.
  2008 में **हॉक AJT** आने से पहले, मिग-21 को लंबे समय तक युवा पायलटों के **स्टेज III प्रशिक्षण** के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाता था।

- The MiG-21 is among the most **successful fighters globally** with **over 6,000 jets of 12 types** flown by **over three dozen countries**.
  मिग-21 दुनिया के सबसे **सफल लड़ाकू विमानों** में से एक है, जिसके **12 प्रकार के 6,000 से अधिक विमान तीन दर्जन से अधिक देशों** द्वारा उड़ाए गए हैं।

- Currently, there are **two MiG-21 Bison squadrons** in service — **No. 23 'Panthers'** and **No. 3 'Cobras'**.
  वर्तमान में, **दो मिग-21 बाइसन स्क्वाड्रन** सेवा में हैं — **नंबर 23 'पैंथर्स'** और **नंबर 3 'कोब्राज़'**।

- The **No. 3 Squadron** will now be the first to get the **LCA-Mk1A**.
  नंबर 3 स्क्वाड्रन अब **LCA-Mk1A** पाने वाला पहला होगा।

- With the MiG-21s out, the **MiG-29s** are the last of the **MiG series** in service, along with the **SU-30MKI** as the last of **Russian-origin fighters**.
  मिग-21 के जाने के बाद, **मिग-29** सेवा में बचे **मिग श्रृंखला** के अंतिम विमान हैं, और **एसयू-30एमकेआई** आखिरी **रूसी मूल** के लड़ाकू विमान हैं।

Current Status of the IAF
IAF की वर्तमान स्थिति

- Besides the MiG-21s, a majority of the current inventory — early **Jaguars**, **Mirage-2000s** and **MiG-29s** — will start going out by the **end of the decade**.
  मिग-21 के अलावा, वर्तमान बेड़े का एक बड़ा हिस्सा — शुरुआती **जगुआर**, **मिराज-2000** और **मिग-29** — **दशक के अंत** तक सेवा से बाहर हो जाएगा।

- This leaves the **SU-30MKI**, the planned **LCA variants**, and the **Medium Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA)**, while the indigenous **FGFA** — the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** — is under development.
  इसके बाद केवल **एसयू-30एमकेआई**, नियोजित **LCA वैरिएंट** और **मीडियम रोल फाइटर एयरक्राफ्ट (MRFA)** रह जाएंगे, जबकि स्वदेशी **FGFA** — एडवांस्ड मीडियम कॉम्बैट एयरक्राफ्ट **(AMCA)** — विकासाधीन है।

- The IAF currently operates **two squadrons** of the **LCA-Mk1**, which undertook maiden flight in **January 2001** and was inducted in **2016**.
  IAF वर्तमान में **LCA-Mk1** के **दो स्क्वाड्रन** संचालित करता है, जिसने पहली उड़ान **जनवरी 2001** में भरी थी और **2016** में शामिल किया गया था।

- A more capable variant, the **Mk-1A**, to be inducted in large numbers, had been delayed initially due to **development issues** and later due to **non-delivery of engines** by **General Electric (GE) Aerospace** citing **supply chain difficulties**.
  एक अधिक सक्षम संस्करण, **Mk-1A**, जिसे बड़ी संख्या में शामिल किया जाना है, पहले **विकास संबंधी समस्याओं** और बाद में **जनरल इलेक्ट्रिक (GE) एयरोस्पेस** द्वारा **आपूर्ति श्रृंखला की कठिनाइयों** का हवाला देकर **इंजन की आपूर्ति न होने** के कारण विलंबित हुआ।

How did it get delayed?
यह कैसे विलंबित हुआ?

- The **Defence Ministry** had signed a **₹48,000 crore** contract with **HAL** for **83 MK1A jets**, and deliveries were to start in **March 2024** with at least **16 planes** to be delivered to the IAF every year. However, not a single **Tejas Mark-1A** has been delivered so far.
  रक्षा मंत्रालय ने एचएएल के साथ **₹48,000 करोड़** का अनुबंध **83 एमके1ए जेट्स** के लिए किया था और डिलीवरी **मार्च 2024** से शुरू होनी थी, जिसमें हर साल कम से कम **16 विमान** भारतीय वायु सेना को दिए जाने थे। हालांकि, अब तक एक भी **तेजस मार्क-1ए** नहीं दिया गया है।

- In **August 2021**, the HAL placed an order for **99 F-404 engines** with **GE Aerospace** at a cost of **₹5,375 crore** for the 83 Mk1A jets. The first engine arrived in India only in **April this year** after a delay of **one and half years** and the second engine was delivered early **this month**.
  अगस्त 2021 में, एचएएल ने **जीई एयरोस्पेस** से **83 एमके1ए जेट्स** के लिए **99 एफ-404 इंजन** का ऑर्डर **₹5,375 करोड़** में दिया था। पहला इंजन भारत में **इस साल अप्रैल** में **डेढ़ साल की देरी** के बाद आया और दूसरा इंजन **इस महीने की शुरुआत** में दिया गया।

- Additionally, a deal for **97 additional jets**, estimated to **₹67,000 crore**, is expected to be concluded in the next few months. **HAL** has assured to scale up production to **24 jets a year**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, **97 अतिरिक्त जेट्स** के लिए लगभग **₹67,000 करोड़** का सौदा अगले कुछ महीनों में पूरा होने की उम्मीद है। **एचएएल** ने उत्पादन को **सालाना 24 जेट्स** तक बढ़ाने का आश्वासन दिया है।

- Amid these delays, an **Empowered Committee for Capability Enhancement of the IAF** headed by **Defence Secretary R. K. Singh** identified key thrust areas and made recommendations for medium- and long-term measures in the report submitted to **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** in **March**.
  इन देरी के बीच, **रक्षा सचिव आर. के. सिंह** की अध्यक्षता वाली **भारतीय वायु सेना की क्षमता वृद्धि के लिए सशक्त समिति** ने प्रमुख प्राथमिकता क्षेत्रों की पहचान की और **मार्च** में **रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह** को प्रस्तुत रिपोर्ट में मध्यम और दीर्घकालिक उपायों के लिए सिफारिशें कीं।

- As per the IAF, the **LCA Mk2**, larger and more capable than the Mk1 variants, is meant to replace the **Mirage 2000, MiG-29 and Jaguars**. It is expected to take first flight in **2026**.
  भारतीय वायु सेना के अनुसार, **एलसीए एमके2**, जो एमके1 वेरिएंट से बड़ा और अधिक सक्षम है, **मिराज 2000, मिग-29 और जैगुआर** की जगह लेने के लिए है। इसकी पहली उड़ान **2026** में होने की उम्मीद है।

- In **February 2025**, IAF Chief **Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh** said that they need to add **35-40 jets every year** to make up for the shortage in numbers.
  फरवरी 2025 में, वायु सेना प्रमुख **एयर चीफ मार्शल ए. पी. सिंह** ने कहा कि संख्या की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए हर साल **35-40 जेट्स** जोड़ने की जरूरत है।

- Both these programmes, **LCA-Mk1A and Mk2**, are extremely critical to shore up fighter numbers of the IAF over the next **10-15 years**.
  ये दोनों कार्यक्रम, **एलसीए-एमके1ए और एमके2**, अगले **10-15 वर्षों** में भारतीय वायु सेना के लड़ाकू विमानों की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- In **June**, **HAL Chairman and Managing Director D. K. Sunil** said that **GE Aerospace** is expected to supply **12 engines** in the current fiscal and that the jets would be delivered to the IAF.

  जून में, **एचएएल के अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक डी. के. सुनील** ने कहा कि **जीई एयरोस्पेस** से उम्मीद है कि वह वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष में **12 इंजन** देगा और जेट्स भारतीय वायु सेना को सौंपे जाएंगे।

- Moreover, India has procured **272 Su-30MKIs** from Russia of which around **260 remain in service**. Last **December**, the Ministry of Defence signed a **₹13,500 crore** deal with HAL for **12 Sukhois** to replace those lost in crashes.

  इसके अलावा, भारत ने रूस से **272 एसयू-30एमकेआई** खरीदे हैं, जिनमें से लगभग **260 सेवा में हैं**। पिछले **दिसंबर** में, रक्षा मंत्रालय ने दुर्घटनाओं में खोए विमानों को बदलने के लिए **12 सुखोई** के लिए एचएएल के साथ **₹13,500 करोड़** का सौदा किया।

- A major upgrade programme for the **Sukhoi's** has been lined up to be undertaken by **HAL**. The upgrade of **84 jets** in the first batch has already been approved. Meanwhile, by early **2040s**, some of the earlier batch of SU-30MKIs will go out.

  सुखोई के लिए एक बड़े अपग्रेड कार्यक्रम को **एचएएल** द्वारा किए जाने की योजना है। पहले बैच में **84 जेट्स** के उन्नयन को पहले ही मंजूरी मिल चुकी है। इस बीच, **2040 के दशक की शुरुआत** तक, एसयू-30एमकेआई के कुछ शुरुआती बैच बाहर हो जाएंगे।

What is the way forward?
आगे का रास्ता क्या है?

- The IAF has drawn up an ambitious plan to induct **more than 600 jets** over the next **two decades**, a large number of them being **LCA variants**.

  भारतीय वायु सेना ने अगले **दो दशकों** में **600 से अधिक जेट्स** शामिल करने की महत्वाकांक्षी योजना बनाई है, जिनमें से बड़ी संख्या **एलसीए वेरिएंट्स** की होगी।

- This includes **180 LCA-Mk1A**, over **120 LCA-Mk2**, **114 MRFA** and at least **120 AMCA**. A **Twin-Engine Deck Based Fighter** for the Navy's aircraft carriers is also on the drawing board.

  इसमें **180 एलसीए-एमके1ए**, **120 से अधिक एलसीए-एमके2**, **114 एमआरएफए** और कम से कम **120 एएमसीए** शामिल हैं। नौसेना के विमान वाहकों के लिए एक **ट्विन-इंजन डेक बेस्ड फाइटर** भी योजना में है।

- However, all this hinges on **timely production and deliveries**.

  हालांकि, यह सब **समय पर उत्पादन और डिलीवरी** पर निर्भर करता है।

- Mr. Singh said they are talking to partners for the likely **import of a small number of fifth gen fighters** as an interim measure while the AMCA development continues.

  श्री सिंह ने कहा कि वे एएमसीए विकास जारी रहने के दौरान अंतरिम उपाय के रूप में **पांचवीं पीढ़ी के कुछ लड़ाकू विमानों के आयात** के लिए भागीदारों से बात कर रहे हैं।

- The option is between the **Russian SU-57** and **American F-35**. These are **sensitive negotiations**.

  विकल्प **रूसी एसयू-57** और **अमेरिकी एफ-35** के बीच है। ये **संवेदनशील वार्ताएं** हैं।

- Ultimately, it is the **fifth gen AMCA** that is the way forward while the **LCA variants and MRFA** fill numbers and add strength in the medium term.

  अंततः, **पांचवीं पीढ़ी का एएमसीए** ही आगे का रास्ता है, जबकि **एलसीए वेरिएंट्स और एमआरएफए** मध्यम अवधि में संख्या पूरी करते हैं और ताकत बढ़ाते हैं।

- The **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** has floated an **AoN** inviting **private sector participation** for AMCA production. Even **HAL** has to bid for it, unlike the nomination in the past.

  एयरोनॉटिकल डेवलपमेंट एजेंसी (एडीए) ने एएमसीए उत्पादन के लिए **निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी** के लिए **एओएन** जारी किया है। यहां तक कि **एचएएल** को भी इसमें बोली लगानी होगी, जो पहले नामांकन द्वारा होती थी।

- "It will take **3-6 months** to reach the contract award stage", Mr. Singh said. "Thereafter the project itself of development and an **AMCA prototype** to take to the skies would be a **10-year program**."

  श्री सिंह ने कहा, "अनुबंध पुरस्कार चरण तक पहुंचने में **3-6 महीने** लगेंगे। इसके बाद विकास और **एएमसीए प्रोटोटाइप** को उड़ान भराने का प्रोजेक्ट **10 साल का कार्यक्रम** होगा।"

- On the engine front, the **F414 engine** to power the LCA-Mk2 is to be **licence manufactured** by **HAL** for which commercial negotiations with **GE** are underway.

  इंजन के मोर्चे पर, **एलसीए-एमके2** के लिए **एफ414 इंजन** को **एचएएल** द्वारा **लाइसेंस निर्माण** किया जाएगा, जिसके लिए **जीई** के साथ व्यावसायिक वार्ताएं चल रही हैं।

- The **AMCA development** is envisaged in two phases — **MK1** with the **GE414 engine**, and **AMCA-Mk2** with a more powerful **110KN engine** co-developed with a foreign partner.

  एएमसीए विकास को दो चरणों में योजना बनाई गई है — **एमके1** के साथ **जीई414 इंजन**, और **एएमसीए-एमके2** के साथ एक अधिक शक्तिशाली **110केएन इंजन**, जिसे एक विदेशी साझेदार के साथ सह-विकसित किया जाएगा।

- The **MRFA deal** — Request For Information was issued in **April 2019**, but there has been **no progress** since.

  एमआरएफए सौदे — के लिए सूचना का अनुरोध **अप्रैल 2019** में जारी किया गया था, लेकिन तब से **कोई प्रगति नहीं** हुई है।

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Ongoing war: Students' bags are kept in front of a school building damaged in a bombardment by Myanmar's military at the Ohe Htein Twin village, Sagaing Region, on May 12. AFP

Why a progressive Indian policy on Myanmar is more than plausible

New Delhi has long defined its 'interests' in the Southeast Asian country in narrow strategic terms. However, it is possible for India to put in place a more progressive, values-driven Myanmar policy that works in favour, and not against, its national interests

GS II: India's Neighbours

Angshuman Choudhury

Late last month, the Myanmar junta ended the country's state of emergency and called for elections in December, even as the multi-sided civil war rages on. In this article dated June 22, 2024, Angshuman Choudhury outlines how Indian foreign policy towards the Myanmar junta should change in order to establish influence with its neighbour.

Three years on, the military in Myanmar, which overthrew the elected civilian government in February 2021, continues to kill, maim and displace its own people. India has steadfastly maintained formal relations with this regime, which has so far murdered more than 5,000 people and displaced some 2.5 million people. In its second tenure, the Narendra Modi government did very little to engage with the pro-democracy resistance, which now has both political and military wings. Indian foreign policy scholars and practitioners have doggedly defended this policy by arguing that India needs to work with the junta if it has to protect its "interests" in Myanmar and not get swayed by an idealistic preoccupation with "values".

How India can step out of China's shadow

But, in foreign policy, there is no clear line between "values" and "interests" simply because neither has a standard definition. It all depends on how a country defines these terms. This is also the case with India's Myanmar policy. New Delhi has long defined its "interests" in the Southeast Asian country in narrow strategic terms. But now, it needs to leverage a unique set of "values" to better defend its interests. It is possible for India to put in place a more progressive, values-driven Myanmar policy that works in favour, and not against, its national interests.

This new policy should have two key pivots, namely, democracy and human security. The new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, therefore, needs to take four interlocking steps immediately.

First, India needs to use its credentials as the largest federal democracy in the region to sharpen its influence in Myanmar. For long, Myanmar's pro-democracy political elites and civil society have looked up to India as a model of a federal democratic union with a well-oiled power-sharing arrangement between the centre and various subnational units. This is even more relevant today as the democratic resistance in Myanmar, which is led by the National Unity Government (NUG), dozens of ethnic revolutionary organisations, civil society organisations, and trade unions, strives to replace the military-drafted 2008 constitution with a federal constitution. By helping this vibrant opposition achieve its aim through capacity-building and knowledge exchange programmes, India can distinguish itself from China, its primary regional competitor in Myanmar. Both Beijing and New Delhi can sell military hardware to Myanmar, but only India can sell the spirit of federal cooperation. Here is a chance for the new Indian government to outmanoeuvre the Chinese in their own 'backyard'.

Weapons sales and humanitarian outreach

Second, India needs to immediately halt all weapon sales to the Myanmar military. According to the advocacy group, Justice For Myanmar (JFM), Indian state-owned military hardware manufacturers have sold a range of non-lethal and semi-lethal equipment to the junta since the 2021 coup. In its most recent report, published on March 27, the group claimed that on January 2, the Indian Air Force transferred a package which had 52 items, including navigation and communication parts, to its Myanmar counterpart. Another recent investigation by Frontier Myanmar claims that India sold more than $1.5 million worth of navy-grade diesel to junta-linked entities since the coup. New Delhi needs to immediately put a stop to these, as the Myanmar military continues to use all its three services – the army, air force, and navy – to attack non-combatant civilians using imprecise lethal tactics.

Third, India needs to immediately open cross-border humanitarian corridors to help civilians affected by the conflict along three border provinces – Sagaing Region, Chin State and northern Rakhine State. According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) data, Sagaing Region has seen the largest quantum of internal displacement in all of Myanmar since the coup (as of March 25, 2024). Rakhine comes next, while Chin State sits tenth in the list. Continuing air strikes by the junta and clashes between armed groups in these areas have only pushed more civilians across the borders. New Delhi needs to first revoke its plans to fence the India-Myanmar border and reinstate the Free Movement Regime, or the FMR, which the Union Home Ministry suspended in February 2024. Then, it should engage existing humanitarian aid networks along the India-Myanmar border to send emergency relief assistance including medicines, food and tarpaulin to the other side. Mizoram, where a multi-layered aid and aid ecosystem is already operational, is a good starting point. India should also collaborate with local and international non-governmental organisations with experience in the field. Best practices from Thailand, which recently started cross-border aid deliveries into Myanmar, should also be adopted.

New Delhi should use its clout to ensure that the aid is not distributed by the junta, which not only has a disastrous track record in this field, but is also not even in control of large areas along the India-Myanmar border. It is also possible to run cross-border aid corridors without allowing contraband to pass through, with stringent checks and pre-delivery vetting.

Detention of asylum seekers

Fourth, the Narendra Modi government should immediately halt the detention and deportation of asylum seekers from Myanmar. This is especially so in the case of Manipur, where the BJP-led government has so far deported 115 asylum seekers to Myanmar – the latest round was on June 11. These are people who entered India not because they wanted to or with mal-intent, but because they were forced to. Regardless of the fact that India has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, it is incumbent upon the government to treat them as refugees in need of humanitarian assistance and protection rather than as "illegal immigrants". Both the Indian Constitution and international law allow the Indian state to do so. In fact, the customary international legal principle of non-refoulement discourages India from deporting refugees back to a home country where they face a threat of persecution or death. The Centre should also urge the BJP-led Assam government to release the 27 Chin refugees detained in the State and house them in a humane refugee shelter.

India, the "Vishwabandhu", routinely claims to stand with the people of Myanmar. It should now walk the talk.

Angshuman Choudhury is a New Delhi-based researcher and writer from Assam, and formerly an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research.

Why a progressive Indian policy on Myanmar is more than plausible

क्यों म्यांमार पर एक प्रगतिशील भारतीय नीति न केवल संभव है बल्कि व्यावहारिक भी है

- New Delhi has long defined its **'interests'** in the **Southeast Asian country** in **narrow strategic terms**.
  नई दिल्ली ने लंबे समय से **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई देश** में अपने **'हितों'** को **संकीर्ण रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण** से परिभाषित किया है।
- However, it is possible for **India** to put in place a **more progressive, values-driven Myanmar policy** that works **in favour**, and not **against**, its **national interests**.
  हालांकि, **भारत** के लिए एक **अधिक प्रगतिशील और मूल्यों-आधारित म्यांमार नीति** लागू करना संभव है, जो उसके **राष्ट्रीय हितों** के **विरुद्ध नहीं बल्कि पक्ष में** काम करे।

Why a progressive Indian policy on Myanmar is more than plausible
म्यांमार पर एक प्रगतिशील भारतीय नीति क्यों संभव से भी अधिक है

- Late last month, the **Myanmar junta** ended the country's **state of emergency** and called for **elections in December**, even as the multi-sided **civil war** rages on.
  पिछले महीने के अंत में, **म्यांमार की जुंटा** ने देश में **आपातकाल की स्थिति** समाप्त कर दी और **दिसंबर में चुनाव** कराने की घोषणा की, जबकि बहुपक्षीय **गृहयुद्ध** जारी है।
- In this article dated **June 22, 2024**, Angshuman Choudhury outlines how **Indian foreign policy** towards the **Myanmar junta** should change in order to establish influence with its neighbour.
  22 जून 2024 की इस लेख में, **अंगशुमन चौधरी** ने बताया है कि अपने पड़ोसी पर प्रभाव स्थापित करने के लिए **म्यांमार की जुंटा** के प्रति **भारतीय विदेश नीति** को कैसे बदलना चाहिए।
- Three years on, the **military in Myanmar**, which overthrew the **elected civilian government** in **February 2021**, continues to kill, maim and displace its own people.
  तीन साल बाद भी, **म्यांमार की सेना**, जिसने **फरवरी 2021** में **निर्वाचित नागरिक सरकार** को अपदस्थ किया था, अपने ही लोगों को मारना, घायल करना और विस्थापित करना जारी रखे हुए है।
- India has steadfastly maintained **formal relations** with this regime, which has so far murdered more than **5,000 people** and displaced some **2.5 million people**.
  भारत ने इस शासन के साथ लगातार **औपचारिक संबंध** बनाए रखे हैं, जिसने अब तक **5,000 से अधिक लोगों** की हत्या की है और लगभग **25 लाख लोगों** को विस्थापित किया है।
- In its second tenure, the **Narendra Modi government** did very little to engage with the **pro-democracy resistance**, which now has both **political and military wings**.
  अपने दूसरे कार्यकाल में, **नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार** ने **लोकतंत्र समर्थक प्रतिरोध** से जुड़ने के लिए बहुत कम प्रयास किए, जिसके अब **राजनीतिक और सैन्य दोनों विंग** हैं।
- **Indian foreign policy scholars** and practitioners have defended this policy by arguing that India needs to work with the **junta** if it has to protect its **"interests"** in Myanmar and not get swayed by an idealistic preoccupation with **"values"**.
  भारतीय विदेश नीति के विद्वान और विशेषज्ञ इस नीति का बचाव करते हैं, यह तर्क देकर कि म्यांमार में अपने **"हितों"** की रक्षा के लिए भारत को **जुंटा** के साथ काम करना होगा और **"मूल्यों"** के आदर्शवादी आग्रह में नहीं बहना चाहिए।

How India can step out of China's shadow
भारत कैसे चीन की छाया से बाहर निकल सकता है

- In foreign policy, there is no clear line between "**values**" and "**interests**" because neither has a standard definition; it depends on how a country defines these terms.
  विदेश नीति में "**मूल्य**" और "**हित**" के बीच कोई स्पष्ट रेखा नहीं होती, क्योंकि दोनों की कोई मानक परिभाषा नहीं होती; यह इस पर निर्भर करता है कि कोई देश इन शब्दों को कैसे परिभाषित करता है।

- **New Delhi** has long defined its "**interests**" in Myanmar in **narrow strategic terms**. But now, it needs to leverage a unique set of "**values**" to better defend its interests.
  नई दिल्ली ने लंबे समय से म्यांमार में अपने "**हितों**" को **संकीर्ण सामरिक दृष्टिकोण** से परिभाषित किया है। लेकिन अब, उसे अपने हितों की बेहतर रक्षा के लिए "**मूल्यों**" के एक अनोखे सेट का उपयोग करना चाहिए।

- It is possible for India to put in place a **progressive, values-driven Myanmar policy** that works in favour, and not against, its **national interests**.
  भारत एक **प्रगतिशील, मूल्य-आधारित म्यांमार नीति** लागू कर सकता है, जो उसके **राष्ट्रीय हितों** के पक्ष में काम करे, न कि उनके खिलाफ।

- This new policy should have two key pivots — **democracy** and **human security**.
  इस नई नीति के दो प्रमुख स्तंभ होने चाहिए — **लोकतंत्र** और **मानव सुरक्षा**।

- The new **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** government needs to take **four interlocking steps** immediately.
  नई **राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन (एनडीए)** सरकार को तुरंत **चार परस्पर जुड़े कदम** उठाने चाहिए।

- First, India needs to use its credentials as the **largest federal democracy** in the region to sharpen its influence in Myanmar.
  पहला, भारत को क्षेत्र में **सबसे बड़ा संघीय लोकतंत्र** होने के अपने प्रमाण-पत्र का उपयोग म्यांमार में अपना प्रभाव बढ़ाने के लिए करना चाहिए।

- For long, Myanmar's **pro-democracy political elites** and **civil society** have looked up to India as a model of a **federal democratic union** with a well-oiled **power-sharing arrangement** between the **centre** and various **subnational units**.
  लंबे समय से, म्यांमार के **लोकतंत्र समर्थक राजनीतिक अभिजात वर्ग** और **नागरिक समाज** ने भारत को एक **संघीय लोकतांत्रिक संघ** के मॉडल के रूप में देखा है, जिसमें **केंद्र** और विभिन्न **उप-राष्ट्रीय इकाइयों** के बीच सुव्यवस्थित **सत्ता-साझाकरण व्यवस्था** है।

- This is even more relevant today as the **democratic resistance** in Myanmar, led by the **National Unity Government (NUG)**, dozens of **ethnic revolutionary organisations**, **civil society organisations**, and **trade unions**, strives to replace the **military-drafted 2008 constitution** with a **federal constitution**.
  यह आज और भी प्रासंगिक है क्योंकि म्यांमार में **लोकतांत्रिक प्रतिरोध**, जिसका नेतृत्व **नेशनल यूनिटी गवर्नमेंट (एनयूजी)**, दर्जनों **जातीय क्रांतिकारी संगठनों**, **नागरिक समाज संगठनों** और **ट्रेड यूनियनों** द्वारा किया जा रहा है, **सैन्य द्वारा तैयार 2008 के संविधान** को **संघीय संविधान** से बदलने का प्रयास कर रहा है।

- By helping this vibrant **opposition** achieve its aim through **capacity-building** and **knowledge exchange programmes**, India can distinguish itself from **China**, its primary **regional competitor** in Myanmar.
  इस सशक्त **विपक्ष** को **क्षमता निर्माण** और **ज्ञान विनिमय कार्यक्रमों** के माध्यम से अपना लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने में मदद करके, भारत म्यांमार में अपने प्राथमिक **क्षेत्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धी चीन** से खुद को अलग कर सकता है।

- Both **Beijing** and **New Delhi** can sell **military hardware** to Myanmar, but only India can sell the **spirit of federal cooperation**.
  बीजिंग और **नई दिल्ली** दोनों म्यांमार को **सैन्य हार्डवेयर** बेच सकते हैं, लेकिन केवल भारत **संघीय सहयोग की भावना** बेच सकता है।

- Here is a chance for the new **Indian government** to **outmanoeuvre China** in their own '**backyard**'.
  यह **नई भारतीय सरकार** के लिए अपने ही '**पिछवाड़े**' में **चीन को मात देने** का एक अवसर है।

Weapons sales and humanitarian outreach
हथियार बिक्री और मानवीय पहुंच

- Second, India needs to immediately halt all **weapon sales** to the **Myanmar military**.
  दूसरा, भारत को **म्यांमार की सेना** को सभी **हथियारों की बिक्री** तुरंत रोकनी चाहिए।
- According to the advocacy group, **Justice For Myanmar (JFM)**, Indian state-owned military hardware manufacturers have sold a range of **non-lethal** and **semi-lethal equipment** to the junta since the **2021 coup**.
  एडवोकेसी समूह **जस्टिस फॉर म्यांमार (JFM)** के अनुसार, भारतीय राज्य-स्वामित्व वाले सैन्य हार्डवेयर निर्माताओं ने **2021 के तख्तापलट** के बाद से जुंटा को कई प्रकार के **गैर-घातक** और **अर्ध-घातक उपकरण** बेचे हैं।
- In its most recent report, published on **March 27**, the group claimed that on **January 2**, the **Indian Air Force** transferred a package which had **52 items**, including navigation and communication parts, to its Myanmar counterpart.
  अपनी हालिया रिपोर्ट में, जो **27 मार्च** को प्रकाशित हुई, समूह ने दावा किया कि **2 जनवरी** को **भारतीय वायु सेना** ने **52 वस्तुओं** वाला एक पैकेज, जिसमें नेविगेशन और संचार के पुर्जे शामिल थे, म्यांमार के समकक्ष को सौंपा।
- Another recent investigation by **Frontier Myanmar** claims that India sold more than **$1.5 million** worth of **navy-grade diesel** to junta-linked entities since the coup.
  फ्रंटियर म्यांमार की एक अन्य हालिया जांच में दावा किया गया है कि भारत ने तख्तापलट के बाद से जुंटा से जुड़े संगठनों को **$1.5 मिलियन** से अधिक मूल्य का **नेवी-ग्रेड डीजल** बेचा।
- New Delhi needs to immediately put a stop to these, as the **Myanmar military** continues to use all its three services — the **army**, **air force**, and **navy** — to attack **non-combatant civilians** using imprecise lethal tactics.
  नई दिल्ली को इन्हें तुरंत रोकना चाहिए, क्योंकि **म्यांमार सेना** अपने तीनों अंगों — **थल सेना**, **वायु सेना**, और **नौसेना** — का उपयोग **गैर-युद्धरत नागरिकों** पर गलत और घातक तरीकों से हमला करने में कर रही है।

Humanitarian corridors and aid
मानवीय गलियारे और सहायता

- Third, India needs to immediately open **cross-border humanitarian corridors** to help civilians affected by the conflict along three border provinces — **Sagaing Region, Chin State** and **northern Rakhine State**.
  तीसरा, भारत को तुरंत **सीमा-पार मानवीय गलियारे** खोलने चाहिए ताकि **सगाइंग क्षेत्र**, **चिन राज्य** और **उत्तरी रखाइन राज्य** जैसे तीन सीमा प्रांतों में संघर्ष से प्रभावित नागरिकों की मदद की जा सके।
- According to **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)** data, **Sagaing Region** has seen the largest internal displacement in all of Myanmar since the coup (**as of March 25, 2024**).
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवीय मामलों के समन्वय कार्यालय (UNOCHA) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **25 मार्च 2024** तक, **सगाइंग क्षेत्र** ने तख्तापलट के बाद से पूरे म्यांमार में सबसे अधिक आंतरिक विस्थापन देखा है।
- **Rakhine** comes next, while **Chin State** sits tenth in the list.
  रखाइन इसके बाद आता है, जबकि **चिन राज्य** सूची में दसवें स्थान पर है।
- Continuing air strikes by the junta and clashes between armed groups in these areas have only pushed more civilians across the borders.

इन क्षेत्रों में जुंटा के लगातार हवाई हमले और सशस्त्र समूहों के बीच झड़पों ने केवल अधिक नागरिकों को सीमाओं के पार धकेला है।

- New Delhi needs to first revoke its plans to **fence the India-Myanmar border** and reinstate the **Free Movement Regime (FMR)**, which the Union Home Ministry suspended in **February 2024**.
  नई दिल्ली को पहले **भारत-म्यांमार सीमा पर बाड़ लगाने** की अपनी योजना को रद्द करना चाहिए और **फ्री मूवमेंट रिजीम (FMR)** को बहाल करना चाहिए, जिसे केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने **फरवरी 2024** में निलंबित कर दिया था।

- Then, it should engage existing humanitarian aid networks along the India-Myanmar border to send emergency relief assistance including **medicines**, **food** and **tarpaulin** to the other side.
  फिर, उसे भारत-म्यांमार सीमा के साथ मौजूदा मानवीय सहायता नेटवर्क को शामिल करना चाहिए ताकि **दवाएं**, **खाद्य सामग्री** और **तिरपाल** जैसी आपातकालीन राहत सामग्री दूसरी तरफ भेजी जा सके।

- **Mizoram**, where a multi-layered asylum and aid ecosystem is already operational, is a good starting point.
  मिजोरम, जहां एक बहु-स्तरीय शरण और सहायता तंत्र पहले से ही काम कर रहा है, एक अच्छा शुरुआती बिंदु है।

- India should also collaborate with **local and international NGOs** with experience in the field.
  भारत को इस क्षेत्र में अनुभव रखने वाले **स्थानीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय एनजीओ** के साथ भी सहयोग करना चाहिए।

- Best practices from **Thailand**, which recently started cross-border aid deliveries into Myanmar, should also be adopted.
  थाईलैंड से सीखे गए सर्वोत्तम तरीकों को, जिसने हाल ही में म्यांमार में सीमा-पार सहायता आपूर्ति शुरू की है, भी अपनाया जाना चाहिए।

- New Delhi should use its clout to ensure that the aid is **not distributed by the junta**, which has a disastrous track record in this field, and is **not even in control of large areas** along the India-Myanmar border.
  नई दिल्ली को अपने प्रभाव का उपयोग करना चाहिए ताकि यह सुनिश्चित हो सके कि सहायता **जुंटा द्वारा वितरित न की जाए**, जिसका इस क्षेत्र में विनाशकारी रिकॉर्ड है और जो भारत-म्यांमार सीमा के बड़े क्षेत्रों पर **कंट्रोल में भी नहीं है।**

- It is also possible to run **cross-border aid corridors** without allowing contraband to pass through, with **stringent checks** and **pre-delivery vetting**.
  यह भी संभव है कि **कड़ी जांच** और **डिलीवरी से पहले सत्यापन** के साथ **सीमा-पार सहायता गलियारे** चलाए जाएं, बिना अवैध सामान को पार करने की अनुमति दिए।

Detention of asylum seekers
शरणार्थियों की हिरासत

- Fourth, the **Narendra Modi government** should immediately halt the **detention** and **deportation** of asylum seekers from Myanmar.
  चौथा, **नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार** को म्यांमार से आने वाले शरणार्थियों की **हिरासत** और **निर्वासन** को तुरंत रोकना चाहिए।

- This is especially so in the case of **Manipur**, where the **BJP-led government** has so far deported **115 asylum seekers** to Myanmar — the latest round was on **June 11**.
  यह विशेष रूप से **मणिपुर** के मामले में है, जहां **भाजपा-नेतृत्व वाली सरकार** अब तक **115 शरणार्थियों** को म्यांमार निर्वासित कर चुकी है — नवीनतम दौर **11 जून** को था।

- These are people who entered India not because they wanted to or with mal-intent, but because they were forced to.
  ये वे लोग हैं जो भारत में अपनी इच्छा से या बुरी नीयत से नहीं, बल्कि मजबूरी में आए हैं।

- Regardless of the fact that India has not ratified the **1951 Refugee Convention**, it is incumbent upon the government to treat them as **refugees** in need of humanitarian assistance and protection rather than as **"illegal immigrants"**.

  इस तथ्य के बावजूद कि भारत ने **1951 शरणार्थी सम्मेलन** की पुष्टि नहीं की है, सरकार का दायित्व है कि उन्हें **मानवीय सहायता और सुरक्षा** की आवश्यकता वाले **शरणार्थी** के रूप में देखे, न कि **"अवैध प्रवासी"** के रूप में।

- Both the **Indian Constitution** and **international law** allow the Indian state to do so.

  भारतीय संविधान और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून** दोनों भारतीय राज्य को ऐसा करने की अनुमति देते हैं।

- In fact, the **customary international legal principle of non-refoulement** discourages India from deporting refugees back to a home country where they face a threat of persecution or death.

  वास्तव में, **गैर-प्रत्यावर्तन के प्रथागत अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनी सिद्धांत** भारत को उन शरणार्थियों को वापस भेजने से हतोत्साहित करता है जिनके अपने देश में उत्पीड़न या मौत का खतरा है।

- The Centre should also urge the **BJP-led Assam government** to release the **27 Chin refugees** detained in the State and house them in a humane **refugee shelter**.

  केंद्र को **भाजपा-नेतृत्व वाली असम सरकार** से यह भी आग्रह करना चाहिए कि राज्य में हिरासत में लिए गए **27 चिन शरणार्थियों** को रिहा करे और उन्हें एक मानवीय **शरणार्थी शिविर** में रखा जाए।

Strategic autonomy is alive; neoliberalism is dead: India's takeaways from Trump era

GS II: Indian

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

Donald J. Trump can be brutally forthright and publicly so. It is partly innate and partly a strategy to throw his interlocutors off balance. In a 1989 interview on *CNN*'s *Larry King Live*, Mr. Trump was asked by the host about his strategies for gaining an edge in negotiations. Mr. Trump responded not with a direct answer, but with a startling personal comment: "Can I move my chair? Because your breath is very bad. It really is... Has this ever been told to you before?" Years later, Mr. Trump explained that it was a demonstration of his negotiation tactics.

Mr. Trump's outspokenness can be unsettling, but it can also be helpful. There are a few valuable lessons that Indian strategy could learn, thanks to the manner in which Mr. Trump conducts U.S. diplomacy.

Key elements of his worldview have largely remained consistent for decades. Even before he made an entry into politics, Mr. Trump was anti-trade, anti-war, cognisant of the economic and social challenges within the American society. He is trying to turn all those beliefs into policies. All countries are scurrying to reposition themselves.

The idea that India's hesitation to go into a complete strategic lock-in with the U.S. and to completely open its market is hindering progress in bilateral ties is commonplace be-

cause its proponents are influential. India, whether under Jawaharlal Nehru or Narendra Modi, has been reluctant to do either of these, and strategic autonomy has held the country in good stead. For one, alliances are not insulated from shifts in U.S. priorities over time, Trump or not. To cite one example, when Joe Biden was President, Australia scrapped a $90 billion deal with France to build conventional diesel-electric submarines. Instead, it entered the AUKUS pact with the U.S. and the U.K. to acquire nuclear-powered submarines using the U.S. technology.

All within the family, but hanging France out to dry. Mr. Trump, who is often portrayed as hostile to U.S. allies, is saying it all too loud.

India's choice

Amid Mr. Trump's rhetoric, India could be further incentivised to reinforce the idea of strategic autonomy, which remains the most viable framework for sustaining a robust relationship with the U.S. The Modi government has, in practice, followed the path of strategic autonomy. Both strategic autonomy and strategic subservience

carry costs. India appears increasingly prepared to bear the cost of autonomy – rather than of subservience. Turning into a frontline of any U.S. strategy for containment of another country or expansion of its own interest can be fatal – ask Ukraine. If there was any doubt about strategic autonomy, the Trump moment has clarified it.

Mr. Trump wants to restore manufacturing and jobs in the U.S. and has, in the process, unsettled global trade. Access to its market has been a lever of American power for long, and Mr. Trump is just blunt about it. A trade deal may resolve some immediate issues, but India cannot ignore the reality that in a world where every country has turned protectionist, export-driven growth is a narrow and difficult path.

Ties with the U.S.

The Trump moment tells India two things – strategic autonomy is alive; and neoliberalism is dead. India has to navigate the path ahead, and the U.S. remains a key partner in that. It is reasonable to assume that the U.S. will remain the most powerful state for several decades to come. Ties with the U.S. will continue to be a major determinant of India's capacity to realise its ambitions. Neither obsequiousness nor confrontation can advance India's relations with the U.S. India should also learn that soft power is supposed to be soft, not loud and screeching. As the yoga teacher would say, pranayama practice should not make any sound.

- Years later, Mr. Trump explained that it was a demonstration of his **negotiation tactics**.
  वर्षों बाद, ट्रंप ने बताया कि यह उनकी **मोलभाव रणनीति** का एक प्रदर्शन था।

- Mr. Trump's outspokenness can be **unsettling**, but it can also be **helpful**.
  ट्रंप की स्पष्टवादिता **असहज** कर सकती है, लेकिन यह **फायदेमंद** भी हो सकती है।

- There are a few valuable lessons that Indian strategy could learn, thanks to the manner in which Mr. Trump conducts **U.S. diplomacy**.
  भारत की रणनीति कुछ **महत्वपूर्ण सबक** ले सकती है, खासकर जिस तरीके से ट्रंप ने **अमेरिकी कूटनीति** को संचालित किया।

- Key elements of his worldview have largely remained **consistent for decades**.
  उनके दृष्टिकोण के प्रमुख तत्व **दशकों से लगभग स्थिर** रहे हैं।

- Even before he made an entry into politics, Mr. Trump was **anti-trade**, **anti-war**, cognisant of the **economic and social challenges** within American society.
  राजनीति में आने से पहले ही ट्रंप **विरोधी व्यापार**, **विरोधी युद्ध** और अमेरिकी समाज के **आर्थिक व सामाजिक संकटों** के प्रति सजग थे।

- He is trying to turn all those **beliefs into policies**.
  वह उन सभी **विश्वासों को नीतियों में बदलने** की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

- All countries are scurrying to **reposition themselves**.
  सभी देश खुद को **नई स्थिति में ढालने** में लगे हुए हैं।

- The idea that India's hesitation to go into a complete **strategic lock-in with the U.S.** and to completely **open its market** is hindering progress in bilateral ties is commonplace because its proponents are influential.
  यह धारणा कि भारत की **अमेरिका के साथ पूरी तरह रणनीतिक गठजोड़** और बाजार को **पूर्ण रूप से खोलने** में हिचकिचाहट से द्विपक्षीय संबंधों की प्रगति बाधित हो रही है, आम है क्योंकि इसके समर्थक **प्रभावशाली** हैं।

- India, whether under **Jawaharlal Nehru or Narendra Modi**, has been reluctant to do either of these, and **strategic autonomy** has held the country in **good stead**.
  भारत, चाहे **जवाहरलाल नेहरू हों या नरेंद्र मोदी**, दोनों ही मामलों में अनिच्छुक रहा है और **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** ने देश को **मजबूत स्थिति** में रखा है।

- For one, **alliances** are not insulated from shifts in **U.S. priorities** over time, **Trump or not**.
  एक कारण यह है कि **गठबंधन** समय के साथ **अमेरिकी प्राथमिकताओं** में बदलाव से सुरक्षित नहीं होते, **ट्रंप हों या कोई और**।

- To cite one example, when **Joe Biden** was President, **Australia** scrapped a **$90 billion deal** with **France** to build conventional diesel-electric submarines.
  एक उदाहरण के लिए, जब **जो बाइडन** राष्ट्रपति थे, तब **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** ने **फ्रांस** के साथ **90 अरब डॉलर** की पारंपरिक डीजल-इलेक्ट्रिक पनडुब्बियों की डील रद्द कर दी।

- Instead, it entered the **AUKUS pact** with the U.S. and the U.K. to acquire **nuclear-powered submarines** using the **U.S. technology**.
  इसके बजाय, उसने **अमेरिका** और **ब्रिटेन** के साथ **AUKUS समझौते** में प्रवेश किया, जिसके तहत **अमेरिकी तकनीक** से **परमाणु-संचालित पनडुब्बियाँ** हासिल करनी हैं।

- All within the family, but **hanging France out to dry**.
  सब कुछ साझेदारों के बीच में ही, लेकिन **फ्रांस को धोखा** दे दिया गया।

- Mr. Trump, who is often portrayed as **hostile to U.S. allies**, is saying it all **too loud**.
  ट्रंप, जिन्हें अक्सर **अमेरिकी सहयोगियों के विरोधी** के रूप में चित्रित किया जाता है, इसे **बहुत स्पष्ट रूप से** कह रहे हैं।

- **India's choice**
  भारत की पसंद
- Amid Mr. Trump's rhetoric, India could be further incentivised to reinforce the idea of **strategic autonomy**, which remains the most **viable framework** for sustaining a **robust relationship** with the U.S.
  ट्रंप की बयानबाज़ी के बीच, भारत को **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** की अवधारणा को मजबूत करने के लिए और अधिक प्रोत्साहन मिल सकता है, जो अमेरिका के साथ **मजबूत संबंध बनाए रखने** का सबसे **उपयुक्त ढांचा** है।
- The Modi government has, in practice, followed the path of **strategic autonomy**.
  मोदी सरकार ने व्यवहार में **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** के मार्ग का अनुसरण किया है।
- Both **strategic autonomy** and **strategic subservience** carry **costs**.
  रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता और **रणनीतिक अधीनता** दोनों की अपनी **लागतें** हैं।
- India appears increasingly prepared to bear the **cost of autonomy** — rather than of subservience.
  भारत अब **स्वायत्तता की कीमत** चुकाने के लिए तैयार दिखाई देता है — **अधीनता** के बजाय।
- Turning into a **frontline of any U.S. strategy** for containment of another country or expansion of its own interest can be **fatal** — ask **Ukraine**.
  किसी अन्य देश को रोकने या अपने हितों को बढ़ाने के लिए किसी **अमेरिकी रणनीति की अग्रिम पंक्ति** में तब्दील होना **खतरनाक** हो सकता है — **यूक्रेन** से पूछिए।
- If there was any doubt about **strategic autonomy**, the **Trump moment** has clarified it.
  यदि **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** को लेकर कोई संदेह था, तो **ट्रंप युग** ने उसे स्पष्ट कर दिया है।
- Mr. Trump wants to restore **manufacturing and jobs** in the U.S. and has, in the process, **unsettled global trade**.
  ट्रंप अमेरिका में **उत्पादन और नौकरियों** को पुनर्स्थापित करना चाहते हैं और इस प्रक्रिया में उन्होंने **वैश्विक व्यापार को अस्थिर** कर दिया है।
- Access to its **market** has been a **lever of American power** for long, and Mr. Trump is just **blunt** about it.
  अपने **बाजार तक पहुंच** लंबे समय से **अमेरिकी शक्ति का एक साधन** रहा है, और ट्रंप बस इसे लेकर **सीधे-सपाट** हैं।
- A trade deal may resolve some **immediate issues**, but India cannot ignore the reality that in a world where every country has turned **protectionist**, **export-driven growth** is a **narrow and difficult path**.
  एक **व्यापार समझौता** कुछ **तत्काल समस्याओं** को हल कर सकता है, लेकिन भारत इस सच्चाई को नजरअंदाज नहीं कर सकता कि एक ऐसी दुनिया में जहां हर देश **संरक्षणवादी** हो गया है, **निर्यात-आधारित विकास** एक **संकरी और कठिन राह** है।
- **Ties with the U.S.**
  अमेरिका के साथ संबंध
- The Trump moment tells India two things — **strategic autonomy is alive**; and **neoliberalism is dead**.
  ट्रंप युग भारत को दो बातें बताता है — **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता जीवित है**; और **नवउदारवाद समाप्त हो चुका है।**
- India has to **navigate the path ahead**, and the U.S. remains a **key partner** in that.
  भारत को आगे का रास्ता **सावधानी से तय** करना है, और अमेरिका इसमें एक **मुख्य साझेदार** बना रहेगा।
- It is reasonable to assume that the U.S. will remain the **most powerful state** for several **decades** to come.

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यह मानना तर्कसंगत है कि अमेरिका आने वाले कई **दशकों** तक दुनिया का सबसे **शक्तिशाली राष्ट्र** बना रहेगा।

- Ties with the U.S. will continue to be a **major determinant** of India's capacity to **realise its ambitions**.
  अमेरिका के साथ संबंध भारत की अपनी **महत्वाकांक्षाओं को साकार करने** की क्षमता का एक **महत्वपूर्ण निर्धारक** बने रहेंगे।
- Neither **obsequiousness** nor **confrontation** can advance India's relations with the U.S.
  चापलूसी और **टकराव** दोनों ही भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों को आगे नहीं बढ़ा सकते।
- India should also learn that **soft power** is supposed to be **soft**, not **loud and screeching**.
  भारत को यह भी सीखना चाहिए कि **सॉफ्ट पावर** को **मुलायम** होना चाहिए, **शोरगुल** नहीं।
- As the yoga teacher would say, **pranayama practice** should not make any **sound**.
  जैसा कि योग शिक्षक कहते हैं, **प्राणायाम अभ्यास** में कोई **ध्वनि नहीं होनी चाहिए**।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Polity, Governance,And International Relations)

1. **Review pact with U.K and reject threats by Trump: trade unions**
   यू.के. के साथ समझौते की समीक्षा करें और ट्रंप की धमकियों को खारिज करें: ट्रेड यूनियनें

2. **Pollution Control Boards have power to impose restitutionary damages: SC**
   प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों को पुनर्स्थापनात्मक क्षतिपूर्ति लगाने का अधिकार: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

3. **Random Number Generator using Quantum Physics and Blockchain**
   क्वांटम भौतिकी और ब्लॉकचेन का उपयोग करने वाला रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर

4. **Old trees, ageing farmers worsen outlook for palm oil exporters**
   पुराने पेड़, वृद्ध किसान पाम ऑयल निर्यातकों के लिए संभावनाएं खराब करते हैं

5. **Ethanol blending: govt. downplays mileage drop, 'corrosion a concern'**
   एथेनॉल मिश्रण: सरकार ने माइलेज में गिरावट को कम बताया, 'जंग एक चिंता'

6. Why India's heat action plans aren't cooling cities
भारत की हीट एक्शन योजनाएं शहरों को ठंडा क्यों नहीं कर पा रहीं

Review pact with U.K. and reject threats by Trump: trade unions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A joint statement by 10 Central trade unions (CTUs) and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Monday has demanded a parliamentary review of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) signed recently with the U.K. The organisations asked the Union government to reject U.S. President Donald Trump's "tariff threats" and assert India's sovereign right to trade with all nations, including Russia.

"All negotiations for a U.S.-India trade deal must be halted to prevent further corporate exploitation. No more secret trade agreements – all future deals must undergo full parliamentary scrutiny and public consultation," the joint statement added.

Alleging that the Centre has surrendered to these threats, the SKM and CTUs said it was further evident in the recently signed CETA, which according to them is a deal that sacrifices the interests of India's farmers, workers, and economic independence.

"Instead of firmly rejecting this intimidation, the Central government has responded with silence, signalling its willingness to compromise India's strategic autonomy in favour of the U.S.A. This capitulation paves the way for an even more exploitative India-U.S. trade deal, which would grant American agribusiness corporations like Cargill unrestricted access to India's dairy sector, agriculture, resulting in collapsing prices and destroying the farming community, along with endangering the food security of the nation. It would also trigger de-industrialisation in India and skyrocketing unemployment," it said.

Review pact with U.K and reject threats by Trump: trade unions
यू.के. के साथ समझौते की समीक्षा करें और ट्रंप की धमकियों को खारिज करें: ट्रेड यूनियनें

- A **joint statement** by **10 Central trade unions (CTUs)** and the **Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM)** on **Monday** has demanded a **parliamentary review** of the **Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA)** signed recently with the **U.K.**

 10 **केंद्रीय ट्रेड यूनियनों (CTUs)** और **संयुक्त किसान मोर्चा (SKM)** द्वारा **सोमवार** को जारी एक **संयुक्त बयान** में **यू.के.** के साथ हाल ही में हस्ताक्षरित **व्यापक आर्थिक व्यापार समझौते (CETA)** की **संसदीय समीक्षा** की मांग की गई है।

- The organisations asked the **Union government** to **reject the U.S. President Donald Trump's "tariff threats"** and assert **India's sovereign right** to trade with all nations, including **Russia**.

 संगठनों ने **केंद्र सरकार** से **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की "टैरिफ धमकियों"** को **खारिज करने** और **रूस** सहित सभी देशों के साथ व्यापार करने के **भारत के संप्रभु अधिकार** को **दृढ़ता से स्थापित करने** की मांग की।

- "All negotiations for the U.S.-**India trade deal** must be **halted** to prevent further **corporate exploitation**.

 "**भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार समझौते** के लिए सभी **वार्ताओं को रोका जाना चाहिए** ताकि आगे की **कॉर्पोरेट शोषण** को रोका जा सके।"

- No more **secret trade agreements** — all **future deals** must undergo **full parliamentary scrutiny** and **public consultation**," the joint statement added.

 अब और **गुप्त व्यापार समझौतों** की आवश्यकता नहीं — सभी **भविष्य के समझौतों** को **पूर्ण संसदीय जांच** और **जनता की सलाह** से गुजरना चाहिए," संयुक्त बयान में कहा गया।

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- Alleging that the **Centre has surrendered** to these threats, the **SKM and CTUs** said it was further evident in the recently signed **CETA**, which according to them is a deal that **sacrifices the interests** of India's **farmers, workers**, and **economic independence**.

  SKM और CTUs ने आरोप लगाया कि **केंद्र सरकार ने इन धमकियों के सामने आत्मसमर्पण** कर दिया है, और यह हाल ही में हस्ताक्षरित **CETA** में और अधिक स्पष्ट है, जो उनके अनुसार **भारत के किसानों, श्रमिकों और आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता** के **हितों की बलि** देता है।

- "Instead of **firmly rejecting this intimidation**, the **Central government** has responded with **silence**, signalling its **willingness to compromise** India's **strategic autonomy** in favour of the **U.S.A.**

  "**इस धमकी को दृढ़ता से खारिज** करने के बजाय, **केंद्र सरकार ने चुप्पी** साध ली है, जिससे यह संकेत मिलता है कि वह **भारत की रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता को अमेरिका के पक्ष में समझौते के लिए तैयार** है।"

- This **capitulation** paves the way for an even more **exploitative India-U.S. trade deal**, which would grant **American agribusiness corporations like Cargill unrestricted access** to India's **dairy sector**, agriculture.

  यह **समर्पण** एक और अधिक **शोषणकारी भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार समझौते** का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है, जो **कारगिल जैसी अमेरिकी कृषि कंपनियों** को भारत के **डेयरी क्षेत्र** और कृषि में **असीमित पहुंच** प्रदान करेगा।

- Resulting in **collapsing prices** and **destroying the farming community**, along with **endangering the food security** of the nation.

  जिससे **कीमतें गिरेंगी, किसान समुदाय तबाह** होगा, और देश की **खाद्य सुरक्षा खतरे में पड़** जाएगी।

- It would also trigger **de-industrialisation** in India and **skyrocketing unemployment**, it said.

  यह **भारत में औद्योगीकरण को खत्म** कर देगा और **बेरोजगारी को आसमान तक पहुंचा देगा**, ऐसा बयान में कहा गया।

Pollution Control Boards have power to impose restitutionary damages: SC

GS III: Environment

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave Pollution Control Boards more teeth by declaring their power to impose and collect restitutionary damages to completely restore polluted air and waterbodies back to their original, pristine selves in an ecosystem.

"We direct that Pollution Control Boards can impose and collect as restitutionary and compensatory damages fixed sums of monies or require furnishing bank guarantees as an ex-ante measure towards potential environmental damage in exercise of powers under Sections 33A and 31A of the Water and Air Acts," Justice P.S. Narasimha, who authored the judgment, held.

The judgment came on an appeal filed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee against a Delhi High Court decision that it was not empowered to levy compensatory damages in exercise of powers under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

The Bench, including Justice Manoj Misra, further directed that the power should be enforced only after issuing the necessary subordinate legislation in the form of rules and regulations under both statutes. The rules must incorporate the basic principles of natural justice.

"According to the polluter pays principle, the responsibility for repairing the damage is that of the offending industry... The focus has to be on restoration of the ecosystem as close and similar as possible to the specific one that was damaged," Justice Narasimha observed.

The Bench directed that the power should be enforced only after issuing the necessary subordinate legislation. N. RAJESH

Justice Narasimha held that the Pollution Control Boards had expansive powers and "enormous responsibilities" under the Water Act and the Air Act. They had a broad statutory mandate to prevent, control and abate water and air pollution.

The provisions under these statutes bestowed the Boards with the power to direct closure, prohibition or regulation of any industry, operation or process. Further, this power extended to directing the stoppage or regulation of supply of electricity, water or any other service. The laws allow the Boards significant flexibility in deciding the nature of directions.

Pollution Control Boards have power to impose

restitutionary damages: SC
प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों को पुनर्स्थापनात्मक क्षतिपूर्ति लगाने का अधिकार: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

- The **Supreme Court** on **Monday** gave **Pollution Control Boards** more teeth by declaring their power to impose and collect **restitutionary damages** to completely **restore polluted air and waterbodies** back to their original, **pristine selves in an ecosystem**.
  सोमवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों को और अधिकार देते हुए उनके प्रदूषित वायु और जल निकायों को उनकी मूल, शुद्ध स्थिति में पुनर्स्थापित करने के लिए पुनर्स्थापनात्मक क्षतिपूर्ति लगाने और वसूलने की शक्ति को मान्यता दी।

- "We direct that Pollution Control Boards can impose and collect as **restitutionary and compensatory damages** fixed sums of monies or require furnishing **bank guarantees** as an **ex-ante measure** towards potential **environmental damage** in exercise of powers under **Sections 33A and 31A** of the **Water and Air Acts**," **Justice P.S. Narasimha**, who authored the judgment, held.
  न्यायमूर्ति पी.एस. नरसिंह, जिन्होंने यह निर्णय लिखा, ने कहा, "हम निर्देश देते हैं कि प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड जल और वायु अधिनियमों की धाराओं 33A और 31A के तहत संभावित पर्यावरणीय क्षति के लिए पूर्व उपाय के रूप में नियत राशि या बैंक गारंटी की मांग कर सकते हैं तथा पुनर्स्थापनात्मक और क्षतिपूर्ति संबंधी हर्जाना वसूल सकते हैं।"

- The judgment came on an **appeal filed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee** against a **Delhi High Court** decision that it was **not empowered** to levy compensatory damages in exercise of powers under **Section 33A of the Water Act, 1974** and **Section 31A of the Air Act, 1981**.
  यह निर्णय दिल्ली प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति द्वारा दायर अपील पर आया, जो दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के उस फैसले के खिलाफ थी जिसमें कहा गया था कि जल अधिनियम, 1974 की धारा 33A और वायु अधिनियम, 1981 की धारा 31A के तहत क्षतिपूर्ति लगाने का अधिकार नहीं है।

- The **Bench**, including **Justice Manoj Misra**, further directed that the power should be enforced **only after issuing** the necessary **subordinate legislation** in the form of **rules and regulations** under both statutes.
  न्यायमूर्ति मनोज मिश्रा सहित पीठ ने आगे निर्देश दिया कि यह शक्ति तभी लागू हो सकती है जब दोनों अधिनियमों के तहत नियम और विनियमों के रूप में आवश्यक अधीनस्थ विधि बनाई जाए।

- The **rules must incorporate** the basic principles of **natural justice**.
  इन नियमों में प्राकृतिक न्याय के मूल सिद्धांतों को शामिल करना आवश्यक होगा।

- "According to the **polluter pays principle**, the responsibility for **repairing the damage** is that of the **offending industry**… The focus has to be on **restoration of the ecosystem** as close and similar as possible to the specific one that was damaged," **Justice Narasimha** observed.
  न्यायमूर्ति नरसिंह ने कहा, "प्रदूषक भुगतान सिद्धांत के अनुसार, हानि की मरम्मत की जिम्मेदारी संबंधित उद्योग की होती है… ध्यान पर्यावरण तंत्र की उस विशेष क्षतिग्रस्त स्थिति के समान पुनर्स्थापन पर होना चाहिए।"

- **Justice Narasimha** held that the **Pollution Control Boards** had **expansive powers** and **enormous responsibilities** under the **Water Act and the Air Act**.
  न्यायमूर्ति नरसिंह ने माना कि प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों के पास जल अधिनियम और वायु अधिनियम के तहत विस्तृत शक्तियाँ और बड़ी ज़िम्मेदारियाँ हैं।
  They had a **broad statutory mandate** to **prevent, control and abate** water and air pollution.
  उनके पास जल और वायु प्रदूषण को रोकने, नियंत्रित करने और घटाने का व्यापक वैधानिक दायित्व है।

- The provisions under these statutes bestowed the Boards with the power to **direct closure, prohibition or regulation** of any **industry, operation or process**.
  इन अधिनियमों के प्रावधानों के तहत बोर्डों को किसी भी **उद्योग, संचालन या प्रक्रिया को बंद करने, रोकने या विनियमित करने** की **शक्ति प्रदान की गई है।**

- Further, this power extended to **directing the stoppage or regulation of supply** of **electricity, water or any other service**.
  इसके अलावा, यह शक्ति **बिजली, पानी या किसी अन्य सेवा की आपूर्ति को रोकने या विनियमित करने** तक भी विस्तारित होती है।

- The laws allow the Boards **significant flexibility** in deciding the **nature of directions**.
  यह कानून बोर्डों को **निर्देशों की प्रकृति तय करने में पर्याप्त लचीलापन** प्रदान करते हैं।

Operation Sindoor unprecedented in scale: Army chief

GS III: IS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi has lauded Operation Sindoor as a pivotal, intelligence-driven mission that redefined India's counter-terrorism approach, showcasing the armed forces' capability to address evolving warfare challenges and readiness for fifth-generation conflicts.

He was inaugurating a research facility, Agnishodh, a joint project of the Indian Army Research Cell (IARC) and the IIT, Madras on the campus of the latter on Monday for self-reliance in defence technology.

Addressing a gathering at the IIT on the theme "Operation Sindoor - A new chapter in India's fight against terrorism", General Dwivedi described the operation as a landmark, intelligence-driven res-

General Upendra Dwivedi

ponse that redefined India's counter-terrorism doctrine.

He noted that the 88-hour operation was unprecedented in scale, range, depth, and strategic impact, and was executed across the DIME spectrum. Highlighting the evolving nature of warfare, he underscored that the Indian armed forces are prepared for fifth-generation conflicts driven by non-contact warfare, strategic tempo, and psychological dominance.

Operation Sindoor unprecedented in scale: Army chief
ऑपरेशन सिंदूर का पैमाना अभूतपूर्व: थलसेनाध्यक्ष

- **Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi** has **lauded Operation Sindoor** as a pivotal, **intelligence-driven mission** that redefined India's counter-terrorism approach, showcasing the armed forces' capability to address **evolving warfare challenges** and **readiness for fifth-generation conflicts**.
  थलसेनाध्यक्ष जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी ने ऑपरेशन सिंदूर को एक **महत्वपूर्ण, खुफिया-आधारित मिशन** बताया, जिसने **भारत की आतंकवाद-रोधी रणनीति को पुनर्परिभाषित** किया, और बदलते **युद्ध की चुनौतियों** से निपटने तथा **पांचवीं पीढ़ी के संघर्षों** के लिए **सशस्त्र बलों की तत्परता** को प्रदर्शित किया।

- He was **inaugurating a research facility**, Agnishodh, a joint project of the **Indian Army Research Cell (IARC)** and **IIT Madras**, on the **campus of IIT** on **Monday**, for **self-reliance in defence technology**.
  वे **सोमवार** को **आईआईटी मद्रास परिसर** में **भारतीय सेना अनुसंधान प्रकोष्ठ (IARC)** और **आईआईटी मद्रास** की संयुक्त परियोजना **"अग्निशोध"** के **रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी में आत्मनिर्भरता** हेतु **अनुसंधान केंद्र** का उद्घाटन कर रहे थे।

- Addressing a gathering at **IIT** on the theme **"Operation Sindoor – A new chapter in India's fight against terrorism"**, **General Dwivedi** described the operation as a **landmark, intelligence-driven response** that **redefined India's counter-terrorism doctrine**.
  आईआईटी में "ऑपरेशन सिंदूर – भारत की आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई में एक नया

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अध्याय" विषय पर **सभा को संबोधित करते हुए**, **जनरल द्विवेदी** ने इस ऑपरेशन को एक **ऐतिहासिक, खुफिया-आधारित प्रतिक्रिया** बताया, जिसने **भारत की आतंकवाद-रोधी नीति को पुनर्परिभाषित किया**।

- He noted that the **88-hour operation** was **unprecedented in scale, range, depth, and strategic impact**, and was **executed across the DIME spectrum**.

  उन्होंने बताया कि यह **88 घंटे का ऑपरेशन**, पैमाने, विस्तार, गहराई और रणनीतिक प्रभाव के मामले में **अभूतपूर्व** था, और इसे **DIME स्पेक्ट्रम** के तहत **अंजाम दिया गया**।

- Highlighting the **evolving nature of warfare**, he underscored that the **Indian armed forces** are prepared for **fifth-generation conflicts** driven by **non-contact warfare, strategic tempo, and psychological dominance**.

  युद्ध की बदलती प्रकृति पर प्रकाश डालते हुए उन्होंने बताया कि **भारतीय सशस्त्र बल गैर-संपर्क युद्ध, रणनीतिक गति**, और **मनोवैज्ञानिक वर्चस्व** द्वारा संचालित **पांचवीं पीढ़ी के संघर्षों** के लिए **पूरी तरह तैयार हैं**।

A random number generator using quantum physics and a blockchain

While a new study isn't the first to describe how quantum phenomena can be used to generate random numbers, the technique also incorporates blockchains. As a result, the technique is fully traceable and certifiable by independent parties, making it the first of its kind

GS III: S&T

Sayantan Datta

In September 2013, whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed that American and British intelligence agencies had successfully cracked much of the online encryption internet users used to keep their personal data private. Snowden's solution appeared ironic to many: to adopt end-to-end encryption *en masse*, rendering mass surveillance prohibitively expensive and cumbersome.

In end-to-end encryption, an algorithm converts readable data (plaintext) to an unreadable form (ciphertext) using a string of numbers and letters called a key. A user with the key can feed it into a decryption algorithm, which will use it to turn ciphertext to plaintext. The success of any encryption method thus hinges on the secrecy of the key.

To prevent an unauthorised person from guessing the key, it has to be sufficiently random, i.e., lacking predictable patterns.

How does one get a sufficiently random key? For cybersecurity company Cloudflare, the answer lay in a funky 1963 invention: the lava lamp.

A lava lamp comprises a glass container with blobs of wax suspended in water and placed over an incandescent bulb. The heat from the bulb melts the wax and causes droplets to rise up. As the droplets reach the top of the container, they cool down and fall back to the bottom, starting the cycle once again. The rising droplets in a lava lamp don't take the same shape twice. That is, the shapes are "consistently random."

At Cloudflare's headquarters in San Francisco in the US, the company has arranged a hundred lava lamps on one of its walls. A camera takes pictures of the wall periodically, and computers convert each pixel in the image into a numerical value. Thus, each picture generates a string of numbers (called the seed) that is then input to an algorithm to generate an encryption key.

There are two problems, however. One, even the "consistently random" movements of the lava lamp are determined in theory by the laws of thermodynamics, the branch of physics that deals with how heat moves in a system (e.g., the glass container with water and wax) and how that affects the properties of matter it contains. At least on paper, this makes the seed predictable.

Second, even if the seed is practically random, the algorithm used to generate the key is deterministic, i.e., not random. In other words, if a person gets hold of the seed, they can generate the exact same key using the algorithm. This is why such algorithms, which are commonplace in most encryption systems today, are called pseudorandom number generators.

True randomness has been elusive – but scientists have known for some time where they could best hope to find it: quantum mechanics, where randomness abounds.

Quantum randomness

Quantum mechanics is the study of how matter and light behave in the atomic and subatomic realms. At those scales, the theories of physics are no longer able to make predictions with certainty. As Gautam A. Kavuri, a quantum communication researcher at the University of Colorado, Boulder (CUB) in the US, put it, the "outcome of a measurement [in the quantum realm] cannot be known before a measurement is made."

Consider the case of a photon, the particle of light. Each photon has an oscillating electromagnetic field. The direction in which the field oscillates is called the photon's polarisation. According to the laws of quantum mechanics, the polarisation of a photon can be both horizontal and vertical (or left and right) until it is measured — just like a coin tossed in the air is both 'heads' and 'tails' until it lands. It is only at the time of measurement that the polarisation becomes one of the two, and this choice is random.

In a paper published in *Nature* in June, Kavuri along with a team of researchers from the CUB and the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST) in the same city have reported using this as a source to generate truly random numbers.

Once generated, the team broadcasts the numbers publicly via the CU Randomness Beacon (CURBy): this is a public service where receivers can pick up the numbers and use them in their applications.

While Kavuri et al. isn't the first team to

True randomness has been elusive — but scientists have known for some time where they could best hope to find it: quantum mechanics, where randomness abounds. IVONA ROŽ/UNSPLASH

press quantum phenomena in the service of generating random numbers, the technique incorporates a cryptographic tool called blockchains in their protocol. This makes the technique fully traceable and certifiable by independent parties – making it the first of its kind.

Calling the work "innovative," quantum information theory researcher and University of New Orleans associate professor Peter Bierhorst said "every step in the process, from harvesting the raw data (which is only somewhat random) to processing it down to a near-perfect (uniform) string of random bits, can be audited and verified."

Bierhorst has worked in the past with some of the authors of the 2025 *Nature* paper but wasn't associated with the new study.

Numbers from photons

The protocol in the test by Kavuri et al. begins at the NIST, where a process called spontaneous parametric down-conversion is used to generate a pair of quantum entangled photons.

The process uses a special material called a non-linear crystal to convert a photon with higher energy to a pair of photons of lower energy. These photons are entangled, meaning that even at vast distances, their properties are correlated.

Once the entangled photons are generated, they are sent in two different directions to two laboratories at opposite ends of a hall at NIST. There, the polarisation of these photons is measured. This process is repeated 15 million times in about one minute, and the polarisation state in each case is truly random. This data is passed to the CUB, where the next step unfolds.

Almost 2 km away, at the CUB, a computer programme converts the data to a bit string, a series of zeroes and ones. At this stage, the string, while truly random, is also biased: the frequency with which zeroes and ones occur is not equal. This random-but-biased bit string is then processed through a mathematical

A shelf of lava lamps. DEAN HOCHMAN (CC BY)

> It is not possible to change the fingerprint at one step without changing the fingerprints of all the subsequent steps

SANJIT CHATTERJEE
INFORMATION SECURITY RESEARCHER AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BENGALURU

function called a randomness extractor. This function uses an independent random seed, obtained from a different random number generator called DRAND and extracts from the biased bit string a uniformly unbiased random string of 512 bits.

DRAND is run by a confederation of many independent parties around the world, including Cloudflare, Ethereum Foundation, and the Swiss Federal Technology Institute of Lausanne in Switzerland.

Building trust

Impressive as the protocol is, its novelty lies elsewhere.

For random number generators that are used to encrypt and decrypt data, trust has always been an issue. Sanjit Chatterjee, an information security researcher and associate professor at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, explained: "Suppose I claim I have a random number generator. How do you verify or get a certificate stating that its output is truly random? Or that the protocol has not been tampered with?"

To surmount this issue, the team led by Kavuri integrated a blockchain in their protocol. In blockchain technologies, data from different steps of a process is stored in blocks that are linked to each other using the output of a mathematical algorithm called a hash.

The hash algorithm converts a long string of data to a string of fixed length called the fingerprint. The fingerprint is

uniquely linked to the input data; any tampering with the input data leads to a substantially different fingerprint, which a verifying party can easily check and call out.

According to Chatterjee, "It is not possible to change the fingerprint at one step without changing the fingerprints of all the subsequent steps."

Thus, by linking different blocks of data using different fingerprints, researchers are able to ensure that any tampering in one step of the process will be reflected in the fingerprints of all the subsequent steps.

Kavuri and colleagues developed a blockchain protocol they called 'twine' to "create a traceable ... cryptographic contract between three parties" responsible for a part of the random number generation process, they wrote in their paper.

The first party, NIST, provided the raw bit string. The second party, CUB, ran the randomness extractor. The third party, DRAND, provided the independent seed to the extractor.

Each step of the process was marked with a hash fingerprint, and the fingerprints could be used by one of the three parties or any user to verify the integrity of the process.

"As long as all the parties are not compromised, we can be sure that the analysis and extraction is carried out correctly," Kavuri said.

'Challenging proposition'

According to Chatterjee, the researchers have provided a "prototype" that shows generating traceable random numbers "is possible in practice".

"But if you think about the amount of random numbers generated in everyday operations, then this is nowhere near that stage," he added.

Kavuri et al. stated in their paper that they could generate 7,434 random numbers over a 40-day period.

Bierhorst, the University of New Orleans quantum information theorist, added that the protocol requires "an intricate apparatus employing state-of-the-art optical components to create and manipulate the entangled photons" – which would be the starting step for the protocol.

"Deploying this commercially is a challenging proposition," he said. He added that he expects it will take another few years before the protocol can be deployed widely.

Kavuri, meanwhile, said he was looking forward to bringing more parties under the ambit of their twine protocol. "This will further decentralise trust in the random number generation process," he said.

(Sayantan Datta is a faculty member at Krea University and an independent science journalist. The author thanks Apoorva Patel and Shayan Srinivasa Garani for inputs. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)

Blockchain
क्वांटम भौतिकी और ब्लॉकचेन का उपयोग करने वाला रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर

- A random number generator using **quantum physics** and a **blockchain**
  क्वांटम भौतिकी और **ब्लॉकचेन** का उपयोग करने वाला एक रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर
- While a new study isn't the **first** to describe how **quantum phenomena** can be used to generate random numbers, the technique also incorporates **blockchains**.
  जबकि एक नया अध्ययन यह बताने वाला **पहला** नहीं है कि **क्वांटम घटनाओं** का उपयोग रैंडम नंबर उत्पन्न करने के लिए कैसे किया जा सकता है, यह तकनीक **ब्लॉकचेन** को भी शामिल करती है।
- As a result, the technique is **fully traceable** and **certifiable** by independent parties, making it the **first** of its kind.
  नतीजतन, यह तकनीक **पूरी तरह से ट्रेस करने योग्य** और स्वतंत्र पक्षों द्वारा **प्रमाणित** की जा सकती है, जिससे यह अपनी तरह की **पहली** बन जाती है।

Snowden, Encryption, and Randomness
स्नोडन, एन्क्रिप्शन और रैंडमनेस

- In **September 2013**, whistleblower **Edward Snowden** revealed that **American and British intelligence agencies** had successfully cracked much of the **online encryption** internet users used to keep their **personal data private**.
  सितंबर 2013 में व्हिसलब्लोअर **एडवर्ड स्नोडन** ने खुलासा किया कि **अमेरिकी और ब्रिटिश खुफिया एजेंसियों** ने इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा **निजी डेटा को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए उपयोग की जाने वाली अधिकांश ऑनलाइन एन्क्रिप्शन** को सफलतापूर्वक क्रैक कर लिया था।
- Snowden's solution appeared ironic to many: to adopt **end-to-end encryption en masse**, rendering **mass surveillance** prohibitively **expensive and cumbersome**.
  स्नोडन का समाधान कई लोगों को विडंबनापूर्ण लगा: बड़े पैमाने पर **एंड-टू-एंड एन्क्रिप्शन** अपनाना, जिससे **जन निगरानी बेहद महंगी और कठिन** हो जाए।

How does end-to-end encryption work?
एंड-टू-एंड एन्क्रिप्शन कैसे कार्य करता है?

- In **end-to-end encryption**, an algorithm converts **readable data (plaintext)** to an **unreadable form (ciphertext)** using a string of **numbers and letters called a key**.
  एंड-टू-एंड एन्क्रिप्शन में एक एल्गोरिदम **पठनीय डेटा (प्लेनटेक्स्ट)** को **अपठनीय रूप (साइफरटेक्स्ट)** में बदलता है, जिसमें **संख्या और अक्षरों की एक स्ट्रिंग को कुंजी (key)** कहा जाता है।
- A user with the **key** can feed it into a **decryption algorithm** to turn **ciphertext to plaintext**.
  कुंजी वाला उपयोगकर्ता इसे **डिक्रिप्शन एल्गोरिदम** में डालकर **साइफरटेक्स्ट को प्लेनटेक्स्ट** में बदल सकता है।
- The success of any encryption method **hinges on the secrecy of the key**.
  किसी भी एन्क्रिप्शन विधि की सफलता **कुंजी की गोपनीयता** पर निर्भर करती है।

Why randomness matters in encryption
एन्क्रिप्शन में रैंडमनेस क्यों ज़रूरी है

- To prevent an **unauthorised person** from guessing the key, it has to be **sufficiently random**, i.e., **lacking predictable patterns**.

किसी **अनधिकृत व्यक्ति** को कुंजी का अनुमान लगाने से रोकने के लिए, कुंजी को **पर्याप्त रूप से रैंडम** होना चाहिए, यानी उसमें **कोई पूर्वानुमान योग्य पैटर्न नहीं** होना चाहिए।

Cloudflare and the lava lamp trick
क्लाउडफ्लेयर और लावा लैंप की तकनीक

- For cybersecurity company **Cloudflare**, the answer lay in a funky **1963 invention**: the **lava lamp**.
  साइबर सुरक्षा कंपनी **क्लाउडफ्लेयर** के लिए समाधान था एक अनोखा **1963 का आविष्कार**: **लावा लैंप**।
- A **lava lamp** has a glass container with **blobs of wax** in water, heated by a bulb.
  एक **लावा लैंप** में पानी में **मोम के गोले** एक कांच के कंटेनर में होते हैं, जो एक बल्ब द्वारा गर्म किए जाते हैं।
- The rising droplets **never take the same shape twice** — they are "**consistently random**."
  उठते हुए मोम के कण **कभी भी एक जैसे आकार नहीं लेते** — वे "**लगातार रैंडम**" होते हैं।
- At **Cloudflare's San Francisco** office, **100 lava lamps** are arranged on a wall.
  क्लाउडफ्लेयर के सैन फ्रांसिस्को कार्यालय में, **100 लावा लैंप** एक दीवार पर लगाए गए हैं।
- A camera takes pictures periodically; each pixel is converted into a **numerical value**, forming a **seed** for generating an encryption key.
  एक कैमरा समय-समय पर तस्वीरें लेता है; प्रत्येक पिक्सेल को **संख्यात्मक मान** में बदला जाता है, जिससे **सीड** बनता है जो एन्क्रिप्शन कुंजी बनाने में उपयोग होता है।

Problems with the lava lamp method
लावा लैंप विधि की समस्याएँ

- One issue: even the **"consistently random"** movement follows **thermodynamic laws**, making it **theoretically predictable**.
  एक समस्या: यहां तक कि "**लगातार रैंडम**" मूवमेंट भी **ऊष्मागतिकी के नियमों** का पालन करता है, जिससे यह **सैद्धांतिक रूप से पूर्वानुमेय** बन जाता है।
- Second issue: the algorithm to generate the key is **deterministic**; if one gets the **seed**, they can recreate the same key.
  दूसरी समस्या: कुंजी बनाने वाला एल्गोरिदम **निर्धारित (डिटर्मिनिस्टिक)** होता है; यदि किसी के पास **सीड** है, तो वह वही कुंजी फिर से बना सकता है।
- Such algorithms are called **pseudorandom number generators**.
  ऐसे एल्गोरिदम को **स्यूडो-रैंडम नंबर जेनरेटर** कहा जाता है।

Quantum randomness
क्वांटम रैंडमनेस

- True randomness has been elusive — but scientists know it can be found in **quantum mechanics**.
  सच्ची रैंडमनेस अब तक मुश्किल रही है — लेकिन वैज्ञानिक जानते हैं कि यह **क्वांटम यांत्रिकी** में पाई जा सकती है।
- **Quantum mechanics** studies the behaviour of **matter and light at atomic/subatomic levels**, where outcomes **can't be predicted with certainty**.
  क्वांटम यांत्रिकी में परमाणु और उपपरमाणु स्तर पर **पदार्थ और प्रकाश के व्यवहार** का अध्ययन किया जाता है, जहां परिणामों की **सटीक भविष्यवाणी नहीं की जा सकती**।
- For instance, a **photon's polarisation** (direction of oscillation) can be both horizontal and vertical **until measured**.

- उदाहरण के लिए, एक **फोटॉन का ध्रुवीकरण** (ऑस्सिलेशन की दिशा) **मापे जाने तक** क्षैतिज और ऊर्ध्वाधर दोनों हो सकता है।

- Only at the moment of measurement does it become **one of the two**, and this choice is **random**.
केवल माप के क्षण में यह **दो में से कोई एक** बनता है, और यह चयन **रैंडम** होता है।

The CURBy project
CURBy परियोजना

- In a **June publication in Nature**, researchers from **University of Colorado Boulder (CUB)** and **NIST** reported using quantum polarisation to generate **truly random numbers**.
जून में नेचर में प्रकाशित एक शोध में **कोलोराडो विश्वविद्यालय, बोल्डर (CUB)** और **NIST** के शोधकर्ताओं ने **फोटॉन पोलराइजेशन** से **वास्तविक रैंडम नंबर** बनाने की रिपोर्ट दी।

- They broadcast the numbers via **CU Randomness Beacon (CURBy)**, a **public service** for users to access and apply.
वे इन नंबरों को **CU रैंडमनेस बीकन (CURBy)** के माध्यम से प्रसारित करते हैं, जो उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए एक **सार्वजनिक सेवा** है।

What makes this method unique?
यह विधि विशेष क्यों है?

- The technique uses a **cryptographic tool called blockchains**, making the randomness **traceable and certifiable**.
यह तकनीक एक **क्रिप्टोग्राफिक टूल "ब्लॉकचेन"** का उपयोग करती है, जिससे रैंडमनेस **ट्रेस करने योग्य और प्रमाणित करने योग्य** बन जाती है।

- **Peter Bierhorst**, quantum information theory expert at the **University of New Orleans**, called the method **"innovative"**.
यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ न्यू ऑरलियन्स के **कांटम सूचना सिद्धांत विशेषज्ञ पीटर बियरहॉर्स्ट** ने इस विधि को **"नवोन्मेषी"** कहा।

- He noted that **every step**, from **raw data harvesting** to **processing into near-perfect random bits**, can be **audited and verified**.
उन्होंने कहा कि **कच्चे डेटा से लेकर उसे लगभग पूर्ण रैंडम बिट्स में प्रोसेस करने** तक **हर चरण की ऑडिट और सत्यापन** किया जा सकता है।

- Though Bierhorst worked with some authors of the **2025 Nature paper**, he **wasn't involved** in this new work.
हालांकि बियरहॉर्स्ट ने **2025 की नेचर पेपर** के कुछ लेखकों के साथ पहले काम किया था, लेकिन वह **इस नए शोध में शामिल नहीं** थे

Numbers from photons
फोटॉनों से संख्या

- The protocol in the test by **Kavuri et al.** begins at the **NIST**, where a process called **spontaneous parametric down-conversion** is used to generate a pair of **quantum entangled photons**.
कवुरी और सहयोगियों द्वारा किए गए परीक्षण में प्रोटोकॉल **NIST** से शुरू होता है, जहां **स्पॉन्टेनियस पैरामीट्रिक डाउन-कन्वर्ज़न** नामक प्रक्रिया का उपयोग **कांटम एंटैंगल्ड फोटॉनों** की एक जोड़ी उत्पन्न करने के लिए किया जाता है।

- The process uses a special material called a **non-linear crystal** to convert a photon with higher energy to a pair of photons of lower energy. These photons are **entangled**, meaning that even at great distances, their properties are correlated.
इस प्रक्रिया में **नॉन-लीनियर क्रिस्टल** नामक विशेष सामग्री का उपयोग किया जाता है जो अधिक

ऊर्जा वाले फोटॉन को कम ऊर्जा वाले दो फोटॉनों में परिवर्तित करती है। ये फोटॉन **एंटैंगल्ड** होते हैं, यानी बड़ी दूरी पर भी उनकी विशेषताएँ आपस में जुड़ी रहती हैं।

- Once the entangled photons are generated, they are sent in two different directions to two laboratories at opposite ends of a hall at **NIST**. There, the **polarisation** of these photons is measured.
  जब एंटैंगल्ड फोटॉन उत्पन्न हो जाते हैं, तो उन्हें **NIST** के एक हॉल के विपरीत सिरों पर स्थित दो प्रयोगशालाओं में अलग-अलग दिशाओं में भेजा जाता है। वहां इन फोटॉनों की **पोलराइज़ेशन** मापी जाती है।

- This process is repeated **15 million times** in about **one minute**, and the polarisation state in each case is truly random. This data is passed to the **CUB**, where the next step unfolds.
  यह प्रक्रिया लगभग **एक मिनट** में **1.5 करोड़ बार** दोहराई जाती है, और प्रत्येक मामले में पोलराइज़ेशन की स्थिति वास्तव में रैंडम होती है। यह डेटा **CUB** को भेजा जाता है, जहां अगला चरण शुरू होता है।

- Almost **2 km** away, at the **CUB**, a computer programme converts the data to a **bit string**, a series of zeroes and ones.
  लगभग **2 किमी** दूर, **CUB** में, एक कंप्यूटर प्रोग्राम डेटा को **बिट स्ट्रिंग** (शून्य और एक की श्रृंखला) में परिवर्तित करता है।

- At this stage, the string, while truly random, is also **biased**: the frequency with which zeroes and ones occur is not equal.
  इस चरण में, स्ट्रिंग वास्तव में रैंडम होते हुए भी **बायस्ड** होती है: शून्य और एक की आवृत्ति समान नहीं होती।

- This random-but-biased bit string is then processed through a mathematical function called a **randomness extractor**.
  इस रैंडम-लेकिन-बायस्ड बिट स्ट्रिंग को फिर **रैंडमनेस एक्सट्रैक्टर** नामक एक गणितीय फ़ंक्शन के माध्यम से प्रोसेस किया जाता है।

- This function uses an **independent random seed**, obtained from a different random number generator called **DRAND** and extracts from the biased bit string a uniformly unbiased random string of **512 bits**.
  यह फ़ंक्शन **स्वतंत्र रैंडम सीड** का उपयोग करता है, जो **DRAND** नामक एक अलग रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर से प्राप्त किया जाता है, और बायस्ड बिट स्ट्रिंग से **512 बिट्स** की एक समान रूप से अनबायस्ड रैंडम स्ट्रिंग निकालता है।

- **DRAND** is run by a confederation of many independent parties around the world, including **Cloudflare**, **Ethereum Foundation**, and the **Swiss Federal Technology Institute of Lausanne** in Switzerland.
  DRAND का संचालन दुनिया भर के कई स्वतंत्र संगठनों के एक संघ द्वारा किया जाता है, जिसमें **क्लाउडफ्लेयर**, **एथेरियम फाउंडेशन** और स्विट्ज़रलैंड का **स्विस फेडरल टेक्नोलॉजी इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ लॉज़ेन** शामिल हैं।

Building trust
विश्वास का निर्माण

- Impressive as the protocol is, its novelty lies elsewhere.
  प्रोटोकॉल जितना प्रभावशाली है, इसकी नवीनता कहीं और निहित है।

- For random number generators that are used to **encrypt** and **decrypt** data, trust has always been an issue.
  डेटा को **एन्क्रिप्ट** और **डिक्रिप्ट** करने में उपयोग किए जाने वाले रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर के लिए विश्वास हमेशा एक मुद्दा रहा है।

- Sanjit Chatterjee, an **information security researcher** and associate professor at the **Indian Institute of Science**, Bengaluru, explained: "Suppose I claim I have a random number generator. How do you verify or get a certificate stating that its

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output is truly random? Or that the protocol has not been tampered with?"

संजीत चटर्जी, **सूचना सुरक्षा शोधकर्ता** और **भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान**, बेंगलुरु में सहयोगी प्रोफेसर, ने समझाया: "मान लीजिए कि मैं दावा करता हूं कि मेरे पास एक रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर है। आप कैसे सत्यापित करेंगे या प्रमाणपत्र प्राप्त करेंगे कि इसका आउटपुट वास्तव में रैंडम है? या यह कि प्रोटोकॉल से छेड़छाड़ नहीं की गई है?"

- To surmount this issue, the team led by **Kavuri** integrated a **blockchain** in their protocol.

  इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए, **कवुरी** के नेतृत्व वाली टीम ने अपने प्रोटोकॉल में **ब्लॉकचेन** को शामिल किया।

- In **blockchain technologies**, data from different steps of a process is stored in **blocks** that are linked to each other using the output of a mathematical algorithm called a **hash**.

  ब्लॉकचेन तकनीकों में, किसी प्रक्रिया के विभिन्न चरणों से डेटा **ब्लॉकों** में संग्रहीत किया जाता है, जो **हैश** नामक एक गणितीय एल्गोरिदम के आउटपुट का उपयोग करके एक-दूसरे से जुड़े होते हैं।

- The **hash algorithm** converts a long string of data to a string of fixed length called the **fingerprint**.

  हैश एल्गोरिदम डेटा की लंबी स्ट्रिंग को एक निश्चित लंबाई की स्ट्रिंग में बदल देता है जिसे **फिंगरप्रिंट** कहा जाता है।

- The fingerprint is uniquely linked to the input data; any tampering with the input data leads to a substantially different fingerprint, which a verifying party can easily check and call out.

  फिंगरप्रिंट इनपुट डेटा से अद्वितीय रूप से जुड़ा होता है; इनपुट डेटा से किसी भी तरह की छेड़छाड़ से एक बिल्कुल अलग फिंगरप्रिंट बनता है, जिसे सत्यापित करने वाला पक्ष आसानी से जांच सकता है और पहचान सकता है।

- According to **Chatterjee**, "It is not possible to change the fingerprint at one step without changing the fingerprints of all the subsequent steps."

  चटर्जी के अनुसार, "एक चरण में फिंगरप्रिंट को बदले बिना सभी अगले चरणों के फिंगरप्रिंट को बदले बिना यह संभव नहीं है।"

- Thus, by linking different blocks of data using different fingerprints, researchers are able to ensure that any tampering in one step of the process will be reflected in the fingerprints of all the subsequent processes.

  इस प्रकार, अलग-अलग फिंगरप्रिंट का उपयोग करके डेटा के विभिन्न ब्लॉकों को जोड़कर, शोधकर्ता यह सुनिश्चित कर सकते हैं कि प्रक्रिया के एक चरण में कोई भी छेड़छाड़ सभी अगले चरणों के फिंगरप्रिंट में परिलक्षित होगी।

- Kavuri and colleagues developed a blockchain protocol they called **'twine'** to "create a traceable … cryptographic contract between three parties" responsible for a part of the random number generation process, they wrote in their paper.

  कवुरी और सहयोगियों ने एक ब्लॉकचेन प्रोटोकॉल विकसित किया जिसे उन्होंने **'ट्वाइन'** कहा, ताकि "रैंडम नंबर जनरेशन प्रक्रिया के एक हिस्से के लिए जिम्मेदार तीन पक्षों के बीच एक ट्रैसेबल … क्रिप्टोग्राफिक अनुबंध बनाया जा सके", जैसा कि उन्होंने अपने पेपर में लिखा।

- The first party, **NIST**, provided the raw bit string. The second party, **CUB**, ran the randomness extractor. The third party, **DRAND**, provided the independent seed to the extractor.

  पहला पक्ष, **NIST**, ने रॉ बिट स्ट्रिंग प्रदान की। दूसरा पक्ष, **CUB**, ने रैंडमनेस एक्सट्रैक्टर चलाया। तीसरा पक्ष, **DRAND**, ने एक्सट्रैक्टर को स्वतंत्र सीड प्रदान किया।

- Each step of the process was marked with a **hash fingerprint**, and the fingerprints could be used by one of the three parties or any user to verify the integrity of the process.

  प्रक्रिया के प्रत्येक चरण को **हैश फिंगरप्रिंट** के साथ चिह्नित किया गया था, और फिंगरप्रिंट का उपयोग तीनों पक्षों में से किसी एक या किसी भी उपयोगकर्ता द्वारा प्रक्रिया की अखंडता को सत्यापित करने के लिए किया जा सकता था।

- "As long as all the parties are not compromised, we can be sure that the analysis and extraction is carried out correctly," **Kavuri** said.

 कवुरी ने कहा, "जब तक सभी पक्ष समझौता नहीं करते, हम सुनिश्चित हो सकते हैं कि विश्लेषण और एक्सट्रैक्शन सही ढंग से किया गया है।"

'**Challenging proposition**'
'**चुनौतीपूर्ण प्रस्ताव**'

- According to **Chatterjee**, the researchers have provided a **"prototype"** that shows generating traceable random numbers "is possible in practice".

 चटर्जी के अनुसार, शोधकर्ताओं ने एक **"प्रोटोटाइप"** प्रदान किया है जो दिखाता है कि ट्रेसेबल रैंडम नंबर उत्पन्न करना "व्यवहार में संभव है"।

- "But if you think about the amount of random numbers generated in everyday operations, then this is nowhere near that stage," he added.

 उन्होंने आगे कहा, "लेकिन अगर आप रोज़मर्रा के कार्यों में उत्पन्न रैंडम नंबरों की मात्रा के बारे में सोचें, तो यह अभी उस स्तर के करीब भी नहीं है।"

- Kavuri et al. stated in their paper that they could generate **7,434 random numbers** over a **40-day** period.

 कवुरी और सहयोगियों ने अपने पेपर में कहा कि वे **40 दिनों** की अवधि में **7,434 रैंडम नंबर** उत्पन्न कर सकते थे।

- **Bierhorst**, the **University of New Orleans** quantum information theorist, added that the protocol requires "an intricate apparatus employing state-of-the-art optical components to create and manipulate the entangled photons" — which would be the starting step for the protocol.

 बियरहॉर्स्ट, **यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ न्यू ऑरलियन्स** के क्वांटम सूचना सिद्धांतकार, ने कहा कि इस प्रोटोकॉल के लिए "एंटैंगल्ड फोटॉनों को बनाने और संचालित करने के लिए अत्याधुनिक ऑप्टिकल घटकों का उपयोग करने वाले एक जटिल उपकरण" की आवश्यकता होती है — जो प्रोटोकॉल का शुरुआती कदम होगा।

- "Deploying this commercially is a challenging proposition," he said. He added that he expects it will take another few years before the protocol can be deployed widely.

 उन्होंने कहा, "इसे व्यावसायिक रूप से लागू करना एक चुनौतीपूर्ण प्रस्ताव है।" उन्होंने आगे कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि इस प्रोटोकॉल को व्यापक रूप से लागू करने में कुछ और साल लगेंगे।

- **Kavuri**, meanwhile, said he was looking forward to bringing more parties under the ambit of their **twine** protocol. "This will further decentralise trust in the random number generation process," he said.

 इस बीच, **कवुरी** ने कहा कि वह अपने **ट्वाइन** प्रोटोकॉल के तहत अधिक पक्षों को लाने के इच्छुक हैं। "यह रैंडम नंबर जनरेशन प्रक्रिया में विश्वास को और अधिक विकेंद्रीकृत करेगा," उन्होंने कहा।

An oil palm plantation in Ijok, Malaysia. REUTERS

Old trees, ageing farmers worsen outlook for palm oil exporters

Reuters

GS III: Environment

Malaysian farmer Suratmen Mosman faces a dilemma that threatens to sap supply from the world's top palm oil exporters and drive up prices of the vegetable oil essential to billions of consumers worldwide in the next five years.

The ageing trees on his plantation 300 km south of Kuala Lumpur are bearing less fruit, but the 85-year-old is holding off replacing them as he doesn't want to lose income while waiting the three to five years it takes for new trees to start yielding a crop. Government subsidies to encourage replanting are not as high as they once were and he needs to support his family.

Used mostly as cooking oil, but also to make cakes, cosmetics, and cleaning products, palm oil makes up more than half of the world's vegetable oil supply and 85% of the crude product comes from Malaysia and Indonesia.

But after decades of soaring output, the market is now at a tipping point as combined exports from the two producers are set to slow sharply, the result of stagnating production and efforts by Indonesia to divert more palm oil into the production of biodiesel.

While financial markets have factored in the slowdown, there is growing evidence that plantations run by smallholders like Suratmen may be in worse condition than previously thought as ageing and lower-yielding trees are not replaced, which will add to the decline. Smallholders make up 40% of the plantations across Malaysia and Indonesia, so they play a vital role in the supply chain.

Supplies to global markets from Indonesia and Malaysia could fall as much as 20% over the next five years, according to calculations based on government and industry projections, some previously

Small plantations may be in worse condition than previously thought, as owners fail to replace ageing trees. Smallholders make up 40% of the plantations across Malaysia and Indonesia

unpublished.

Future output from smallholders may well be over-estimated because the condition of trees and the rate of planting new trees is worse than estimates by the governments in Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, according to veteran industry figures Dorab Mistry and M.R. Chandran.

Other previously unpublished data also shows the acreage of plantations where trees are older than 20 years, a point at which they are considered beyond their peak, is growing fast.

Exports from the world's top two producing countries are set to fall further on replanting delays, rising local demand because of higher biodiesel blending mandates

Mistry, a director of Indian consumer goods firm Godrej International and a long-term palm oil analyst who has been in the industry for more than 40 years, and Chandran, the former head of the Malaysian Palm Oil Association, estimated that more than half of the trees on Malaysian smallholder plantations are well past peak production.

The estimate is significantly higher than Malaysian government data, which shows 37% of smallholder plantations are past their peak yielding phase.

In Indonesia, just 10% of a 2016 government target to replant 2.5 million ha by 2025 had been met as of October 2024, publicly available government data showed.

Thus, calculations based on Malaysian and Indonesia palm oil body estimates suggest combined exports are likely to drop by 20% by 2030 over 2024 levels.

Old trees, ageing farmers worsen outlook for palm oil exporters
पुराने पेड़, वृद्ध किसान पाम ऑयल निर्यातकों के लिए संभावनाएं खराब करते हैं

Malaysian Palm Oil Production Challenges
मलेशियाई पाम ऑयल उत्पादन की चुनौतियाँ

- Malaysian farmer **Suratmen Mosman** faces a dilemma that threatens to sap supply from the world's **top palm oil exporters** and drive up prices of the vegetable oil essential to billions of consumers worldwide in the next **five years**.
मलेशियाई किसान **सुरातमेन मॉसमन** एक ऐसे संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं जो दुनिया के **सबसे बड़े पाम ऑयल निर्यातकों** की आपूर्ति को कम करने और अगले **पांच वर्षों** में अरबों उपभोक्ताओं के लिए आवश्यक वनस्पति तेल की कीमतें बढ़ाने की धमकी देता है।

- The ageing trees on his plantation **300 km south of Kuala Lumpur** are bearing less fruit, but the **85-year-old** is holding off replacing them as he doesn't want to lose income while waiting the **three to five years** it takes for new trees to start yielding a crop.
कुआला लंपुर के **300 किमी दक्षिण** में स्थित उनके बागान में पुराने पेड़ अब कम फल दे रहे हैं, लेकिन **85 वर्षीय** किसान उन्हें बदलने से बच रहे हैं क्योंकि वह नए पेड़ों को फसल देने में लगने वाले **तीन से पांच साल** इंतजार के दौरान आय नहीं खोना चाहते।

- Government subsidies to encourage replanting are not as high as they once were and he needs to support his family.
पुनः रोपण को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सरकारी सब्सिडी अब पहले जितनी अधिक नहीं है और उन्हें अपने परिवार का भरण-पोषण करना है।

- Used mostly as cooking oil, but also to make cakes, cosmetics, and cleaning products, **palm oil** makes up **more than half** of the world's vegetable oil supply and **85%** of the crude product comes from **Malaysia and Indonesia**.

  मुख्य रूप से खाना पकाने के तेल के रूप में उपयोग किया जाने वाला, लेकिन केक, कॉस्मेटिक्स और सफाई उत्पाद बनाने में भी इस्तेमाल होने वाला **पाम ऑयल** दुनिया की वनस्पति तेल आपूर्ति का **आधा से अधिक** हिस्सा है और इसके **85%** कच्चे उत्पाद का स्रोत **मलेशिया और इंडोनेशिया** हैं।

- But after decades of soaring output, the market is now at a tipping point as combined exports from the two producers are set to slow sharply, the result of **stagnating production** and efforts by Indonesia to divert more palm oil into the production of biodiesel.

  लेकिन दशकों तक तेजी से बढ़ते उत्पादन के बाद, बाजार अब एक निर्णायक मोड़ पर है क्योंकि दोनों उत्पादकों के संयुक्त निर्यात में तेजी से गिरावट आने वाली है, जिसका कारण **उत्पादन में ठहराव** और इंडोनेशिया द्वारा अधिक पाम ऑयल को **बायोडीज़ल** उत्पादन की ओर मोड़ने के प्रयास हैं।

- While financial markets have factored in the slowdown, there is growing evidence that plantations run by **smallholders** like Suratmen may be in worse condition than previously thought as ageing and lower-yielding trees are not replaced, which will add to the decline.

  जबकि वित्तीय बाजारों ने इस मंदी को ध्यान में रखा है, ऐसे सबूत बढ़ रहे हैं कि **सुरातमेन** जैसे **छोटे किसानों** द्वारा संचालित बागान पहले से अधिक खराब स्थिति में हो सकते हैं क्योंकि पुराने और कम उत्पादन वाले पेड़ों को नहीं बदला जा रहा, जिससे गिरावट और बढ़ेगी।

- Smallholders make up **40%** of the plantations across Malaysia and Indonesia, so they play a vital role in the supply chain.

  छोटे किसान मलेशिया और इंडोनेशिया के कुल बागानों का **40%** हिस्सा बनाते हैं, इसलिए वे आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

- Supplies to global markets from Indonesia and Malaysia could fall as much as **20%** over the next five years, according to calculations based on government and industry projections, some previously unpublished.

  सरकारी और उद्योग के अनुमानों (जिनमें से कुछ पहले प्रकाशित नहीं हुए) के आधार पर की गई गणनाओं के अनुसार, इंडोनेशिया और मलेशिया से वैश्विक बाजारों में आपूर्ति अगले पांच वर्षों में **20%** तक गिर सकती है।

- Future output from smallholders may well be over-estimated because the condition of trees and the rate of planting new trees is worse than estimates by the governments in **Kuala Lumpur** and **Jakarta**, according to veteran industry figures **Dorab Mistry** and **M.R. Chandran**.

  उद्योग के वरिष्ठ विशेषज्ञ **दोराब मिस्त्री** और **एम.आर. चंद्रन** के अनुसार, छोटे किसानों से भविष्य का उत्पादन अधिक आंका जा सकता है क्योंकि **कुआला लंपुर** और **जकार्ता** की सरकारों के अनुमानों की तुलना में पेड़ों की स्थिति और नए पेड़ों के रोपण की दर खराब है।

- Other previously unpublished data also shows the acreage of plantations where trees are older than **20 years**, a point at which they are considered beyond their peak, is growing fast.

  अन्य पहले अप्रकाशित आंकड़े यह भी दिखाते हैं कि **20 वर्ष** से अधिक पुराने पेड़ों वाले बागानों का क्षेत्र, जिसे उनकी उत्पादन क्षमता के चरम से आगे माना जाता है, तेजी से बढ़ रहा है।

- Exports from the world's top two producing countries are set to fall further on replanting delays, rising local demand because of higher **biodiesel blending mandates**.

  पुनः रोपण में देरी और उच्च **बायोडीज़ल मिश्रण अनिवार्यता** के कारण बढ़ती स्थानीय मांग के चलते दुनिया के शीर्ष दो उत्पादक देशों से निर्यात में और गिरावट आने वाली है।

- **Mistry**, a director of Indian consumer goods firm **Godrej International** and a long-term palm oil analyst who has been in the industry for more than **40 years**, and **Chandran**, the former head of the Malaysian Palm Oil Association, estimated that more than **half** of the trees on Malaysian smallholder plantations are well past peak

production.

मिस्त्री, जो भारतीय उपभोक्ता वस्तु कंपनी **गोडरेज इंटरनेशनल** के निदेशक और **40 वर्षों** से अधिक समय से उद्योग में कार्यरत पाम ऑयल विश्लेषक हैं, और **चंद्रन**, जो मलेशियाई पाम ऑयल एसोसिएशन के पूर्व प्रमुख हैं, का अनुमान है कि मलेशियाई छोटे किसानों के बागानों में आधे से अधिक पेड़ उत्पादन के चरम से काफी आगे निकल चुके हैं।

- The estimate is significantly higher than Malaysian government data, which shows **37%** of smallholder plantations are past their peak yielding phase.

  यह अनुमान मलेशियाई सरकारी आंकड़ों से काफी अधिक है, जो दिखाता है कि **37%** छोटे किसानों के बागान अपनी चरम उत्पादन अवस्था से आगे हैं।

- In Indonesia, just **10%** of a 2016 government target to replant **2.5 million ha** by **2025** had been met as of **October 2024**, publicly available government data showed.

  इंडोनेशिया में, **अक्टूबर 2024** तक सार्वजनिक सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **2016** में तय किए गए **2025** तक **25 लाख हेक्टेयर** पुनः रोपण के लक्ष्य का केवल **10%** ही पूरा हुआ था।

- Thus, calculations based on Malaysian and Indonesia palm oil body estimates suggest combined exports are likely to drop by **20%** by **2030** over **2024** levels.

  इस प्रकार, मलेशियाई और इंडोनेशियाई पाम ऑयल संगठनों के अनुमानों पर आधारित गणनाएं बताती हैं कि संयुक्त निर्यात **2024** के स्तर की तुलना में **2030** तक **20%** तक गिर सकता है।

Ethanol blending: govt. downplays mileage drop, 'corrosion a concern'

Little things: Oil Ministry asserted ethanol, being lower in energy density than petrol, results only in a marginal decrease in mileage.

On a day Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) clarified the "marginal" decrease in vehicle mileage by ethanol-blending can be minimised through engine tuning, industry experts said petrol blended with 20% ethanol (E20 fuel) is decidedly corrosive and a staggering of two- and four-wheelers would require retrofitment for minimising the damage to these vehicles.

In the wake of a campaign on social media about the negative impact of ethanol-blended petrol in vehicles, the Ministry asserted ethanol, being lower in energy density than petrol, results in a marginal decrease in mileage, estimated at 1-2% for four-wheelers designed for E10 and calibrated for E20, and around 3-6% in others.

"This marginal drop in efficiency can be further minimised through improved engine tuning and use of E20-compatible materials, which leading automobile manufacturers have already adopted," the Oil Ministry said on X.

It added material corrosion in older vehicles can be checked by replacing some rubber parts/ gaskets which are inexpensive and easily done.

An automobile industry leader, however, pointed out old vehicles are at the risk of facing serious complications with components and damage if they are not modified by manufacturers. "There could be problems with the engines of vehicles also," he said. Experts said ethanol was "corrosive" for vehicles.

'Serious issues'
"E20 fuel (20% ethanol, 80% petrol) can cause serious issues in vehicles not designed for it. Ethanol absorbs moisture, leading to phase separation and corrosion in metal components like the fuel tank, pipes, injectors, engine, and exhaust. It also degrades rubber and plastic parts such as seals, gaskets, and fuel hoses, which aren't ethanol-resistant. Additionally, ethanol alters the air-fuel ratio, and if the ECU or PGM-FI system isn't calibrated for E20, it can result in poor combustion, knocking, reduced performance, and hard cold starts," said Anurag Singh, advisor, Primus Partners.

Leading two-wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp said on its website vehicles, manufactured before April 2023, may require modifications in the Engine-Fuel system for it to be tuned to run efficiently on E20 fuel.

"Certain rubber, elastomers and plastic components (like gasket, O-rings, Fuel Tube, etc.) may need to be replaced for prolonged usage with new parts made with E20 compatible material," it added.

TVS Motor too mentioned on its website that ethanol is corrosive to several materials.

(The writers are with The Hindu businessline)

- On a day **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)** clarified the **"marginal" decrease** in vehicle mileage by ethanol-blending can be minimised through **engine tuning**, industry experts said petrol blended with **20% ethanol (E20 fuel)** is **decidedly corrosive** and a staggering of two- and four-wheelers would require **retrofitting** for minimising the damage to these vehicles.

  जिस दिन **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय (MoPNG)** ने एथेनॉल मिश्रण से वाहन के माइलेज में **"मामूली" गिरावट** को **इंजन ट्यूनिंग** के जरिए कम करने की बात कही, उसी दिन उद्योग विशेषज्ञों ने कहा कि **20% एथेनॉल (E20 ईंधन)** मिश्रित पेट्रोल **निश्चित रूप से संक्षारक (corrosive)** है और दोपहिया और चारपहिया वाहनों को नुकसान से बचाने के लिए **रीट्रोफिटिंग** की आवश्यकता होगी।

- In the wake of a campaign on **social media** about the **negative impact** of ethanol-blended petrol in vehicles, the Ministry asserted ethanol, being **lower in energy density** than petrol, results in a **marginal decrease in mileage**, estimated at **1–2%** for four-wheelers designed for **E10** and calibrated for **E20**, and around **3–6%** in others.

  सोशल मीडिया पर वाहनों में एथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल के **नकारात्मक प्रभाव** को लेकर चल रहे अभियान के बीच, मंत्रालय ने कहा कि एथेनॉल की **ऊर्जा घनता पेट्रोल से कम** होने के कारण माइलेज में **मामूली गिरावट** आती है, जो कि **E10** के लिए डिज़ाइन किए गए और **E20** के

लिए **कैलिब्रेटेड चार पहिया वाहनों** में **1–2%** और अन्य वाहनों में लगभग **3–6%** तक हो सकती है।

- "This marginal drop in efficiency can be further minimised through **improved engine tuning** and use of **E20-compatible materials**, which leading **automobile manufacturers** have already adopted," the Oil Ministry said on X.
  "इस मामूली गिरावट को **बेहतर इंजन ट्यूनिंग** और **E20-अनुकूल सामग्री** के उपयोग से और कम किया जा सकता है, जिसे प्रमुख **ऑटोमोबाइल निर्माता** पहले ही अपना चुके हैं," तेल मंत्रालय ने X पर कहा।

- It added **material corrosion** in older vehicles can be checked by replacing some **rubber parts/ gaskets** which are **inexpensive** and **easily done**.
  इसमें जोड़ा गया कि पुराने वाहनों में **सामग्री संक्षारण (corrosion)** को कुछ **रबर के पुर्जों/गैस्केट** को बदलकर रोका जा सकता है, जो **सस्ते** और **आसानी से बदले जा सकते हैं**।

- An **automobile industry leader**, however, pointed out **old vehicles** are at the risk of facing **serious complications** with components and damage if they are not modified by manufacturers. "There could be problems with the **engines** of vehicles also," he said.
  हालांकि, एक **ऑटोमोबाइल उद्योग नेता** ने बताया कि यदि **पुराने वाहनों** को निर्माताओं द्वारा संशोधित नहीं किया गया, तो उनके **कलपुर्जों में गंभीर जटिलताएं** और नुकसान हो सकता है। "वाहनों के **इंजन** में भी समस्याएं हो सकती हैं," उन्होंने कहा।

- Experts said **ethanol** was **"corrosive"** for vehicles.
  विशेषज्ञों ने कहा कि **एथेनॉल** वाहनों के लिए **"संक्षारक (corrosive)"** होता है।

'Serious issues'
'गंभीर समस्याएं'

- "**E20 fuel** (20% ethanol, 80% petrol) can cause **serious issues** in vehicles **not designed for it**. Ethanol **absorbs moisture**, leading to **phase separation** and **corrosion** in **metal components** like the **fuel tank, pipes, injectors, engine, and exhaust**.
  "**E20 ईंधन** (20% एथेनॉल, 80% पेट्रोल) उन वाहनों में **गंभीर समस्याएं** उत्पन्न कर सकता है जो इसके लिए **डिज़ाइन नहीं किए गए हैं**। एथेनॉल **नमी अवशोषित करता है**, जिससे **फेज सेपरेशन** और **धातु घटकों** जैसे कि **फ्यूल टैंक, पाइप, इंजेक्टर, इंजन और एग्जॉस्ट** में **जंग (corrosion)** होती है।

- It also **degrades rubber and plastic parts** such as **seals, gaskets, and fuel hoses**, which **aren't ethanol-resistant**.
  यह **रबर और प्लास्टिक के हिस्सों** जैसे कि **सील, गैस्केट और फ्यूल होज़** को भी **खराब कर देता है**, जो **एथेनॉल-प्रतिरोधी नहीं** होते।

- Additionally, **ethanol alters the air-fuel ratio**, and if the **ECU or PGM-FI system** isn't calibrated for E20, it can result in **poor combustion, knocking, reduced performance, and hard cold starts**," said Anurag Singh, advisor, Primus Partners.
  इसके अलावा, **एथेनॉल वायु-ईंधन अनुपात को बदल देता है**, और यदि **ECU या PGM-FI सिस्टम** E20 के लिए कैलिब्रेटेड नहीं है, तो यह **कम दहन, नॉकिंग, प्रदर्शन में गिरावट, और ठंडे मौसम में स्टार्ट में कठिनाई** का कारण बन सकता है," ऐसा कहा **अनुराग सिंह, सलाहकार, प्राइमस पार्टनर्स** ने।

- Leading two-wheeler manufacturer **Hero MotoCorp** said on its website vehicles manufactured **before April 2023**, may require **modifications** in the **Engine-Fuel**

system for it to be tuned to run efficiently on E20 fuel.

प्रमुख दोपहिया निर्माता **हीरो मोटोकॉर्प** ने अपनी वेबसाइट पर कहा कि **अप्रैल 2023 से पहले निर्मित वाहनों** को **E20 ईंधन पर कुशलता से चलाने के लिए इंजन-ईंधन प्रणाली** में **संशोधन** की आवश्यकता हो सकती है।

- "Certain **rubber, elastomers and plastic components** (like **gasket, O-rings, Fuel Tube**, etc.) may need to be replaced for **prolonged usage** with new parts made with **E20 compatible material**," it added.

"**रबर, इलास्टोमर्स और प्लास्टिक घटकों** (जैसे **गैस्केट, ओ-रिंग्स, फ्यूल ट्यूब** आदि) को **लंबे समय तक उपयोग** के लिए **E20-अनुकूल सामग्री** से बने नए पुर्जों से बदलने की आवश्यकता हो सकती है," ऐसा उसने जोड़ा।

- **TVS Motor** too mentioned on its website that **ethanol is corrosive to several materials**.

टीवीएस मोटर ने भी अपनी वेबसाइट पर उल्लेख किया कि **एथेनॉल कई सामग्रियों के लिए संक्षारक** (corrosive) है।

Why India's heat action plans aren't cooling cities

GS III: Environment

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's punishingly hot summer has cast a harsh light on its efforts to contend with extreme heat, with researchers and campaigners worried local governments are failing to grapple with the scale and complexity of rising temperatures.

Summer, which usually lasts from March to June in India, began early this year with an unprecedented heatwave in February, followed by above-normal temperatures in March and April, before an early monsoon season and heavy rainfall brought temporary relief.

Heat Action Plans

High risk: More than half of Indian urban and rural districts are now at high or very high risk from extreme heat. PTI

(HAPs), first introduced in 2013, are India's primary policy response to hotter temperatures that pose threats to public health, food security and outdoor workers.

But a pair of recent studies showed that most Indian cities are still relying on low-cost fixes, while long-term measures remain underfunded, uncoordinated or entirely absent.

Local "governments are acknowledging heat as a problem," said Aditya Valiathan Pillai, co-author of an analysis of cities' responses to extreme heat published by Sustainable Futures Collaborative (SFC) think tank in March.

"But they have no imagination of what long-term climate resilience even looks like."

No transformation

More than half of Indian urban and rural districts, which are home to more than 76% of the population, or more than 1 billion people, are now at high or very high risk from extreme heat, according to a May study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a New Delhi-based think-tank.

The Central government has encouraged local governments to adopt HAPs, with more than 250 cities and districts in 23 heat-prone States devising the plans, although it is not mandatory.

Nine-high risk cities, including New Delhi, Bhopal, Kolkata and Varanasi, that were surveyed by SFC reported 150 heat-related measures between 2018 and 2023, but most were seasonal or after heatwaves had struck, including setting up water stations, changing school schedules and issuing advisories.

Redesigning built environments and other long-term solutions were rare and were focused on healthcare, like training hospital staff or tracking heat deaths, SFC found.

Transformative steps such as erecting climate-sensitive housing were largely absent, the study said.

India's densest and poorest areas are often excluded from cooling efforts tree-planting or water-body restoration because of land ownership and infrastructure challenges, said Mr. Pillai. "You end up with greenery on the outskirts, not where it's needed," he said.

Selomi Garnaik, a campaigner with Greenpeace India, said many HAPs "lack targeted investments or meaningful shifts in infrastructure and governance." The plans were often created top-down with little community input, and heat is still viewed as mainly a health issue "when it actually intersects with labour rights, housing and urban planning."

The National Disaster Management Authority, as well as the agencies responsible for HAPs in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra states, did not respond to requests for comment.

Why India's heat action plans aren't cooling cities

भारत की हीट एक्शन योजनाएं शहरों को ठंडा क्यों नहीं कर पा रहीं

- India's **punishingly hot summer** has cast a **harsh light** on its efforts to contend with **extreme heat**, with researchers and campaigners worried **local governments** are failing to grapple with the **scale and complexity of rising temperatures**.

भारत की **कड़ी गर्मी वाली गर्मियों** ने **तीव्र गर्मी** से निपटने के उसके प्रयासों को **कटघरे में खड़ा कर दिया है**, क्योंकि शोधकर्ता और अभियानकर्ता चिंतित हैं कि **स्थानीय सरकारें बढ़ते तापमान की जटिलता और व्यापकता** से निपटने में विफल हो रही हैं।

- **Summer**, which usually lasts from **March to June** in India, began **early this year** with an **unprecedented heatwave in February**, followed by **above-normal temperatures** in **March and April**, before an **early monsoon season** and **heavy rainfall** brought **temporary relief**.

भारत में **गर्मी**, जो आमतौर पर **मार्च से जून** तक रहती है, इस वर्ष **जल्दी शुरू हो गई** जब **फरवरी में अभूतपूर्व हीटवेव** आई, इसके बाद **मार्च और अप्रैल में सामान्य से अधिक तापमान** रहा, फिर **जल्दी मॉनसून** और **तेज़ बारिश** ने **अस्थायी राहत** दी।

- **Heat Action Plans (HAPs)**, first introduced in **2013**, are India's **primary policy response** to **hotter temperatures** that pose threats to **public health, food security and outdoor workers**.
  हीट एक्शन प्लान (HAPs), जो पहली बार **2013** में शुरू हुए थे, भारत की **मुख्य नीति प्रतिक्रिया** हैं **बढ़ते तापमान** के लिए, जो **जनस्वास्थ्य, खाद्य सुरक्षा और बाहरी श्रमिकों** के लिए खतरा पैदा करते हैं।

- But a pair of **recent studies** showed that **most Indian cities** are still relying on **low-cost fixes**, while **long-term measures** remain **underfunded, uncoordinated or entirely absent**.
  लेकिन हाल की **दो स्टडीज़** से पता चला कि **अधिकांश भारतीय शहर** अभी भी **कम लागत वाले समाधानों** पर निर्भर हैं, जबकि **दीर्घकालिक उपाय अपर्याप्त रूप से वित्तपोषित, असंगठित या पूरी तरह से अनुपस्थित** हैं।

- Local **"governments are acknowledging heat as a problem,"** said **Aditya Valiathan Pillai**, co-author of an analysis of cities' responses to extreme heat published by **Sustainable Futures Collaborative (SFC)** think tank in **March**.
  स्थानीय **"सरकारें गर्मी को एक समस्या के रूप में पहचान रही हैं,"** ऐसा कहना है **आदित्य वलियाथन पिल्लई** का, जो कि **मार्च** में **सस्टेनेबल फ्यूचर्स कोलैबोरेटिव (SFC)** थिंक टैंक द्वारा प्रकाशित **शहरों की हीट प्रतिक्रिया** पर विश्लेषण के सह-लेखक हैं।

- "But they have **no imagination** of what **long-term climate resilience** even looks like."
  "लेकिन उनके पास इस बात की **कोई कल्पना नहीं** है कि **दीर्घकालिक जलवायु लचीलापन** कैसा दिखता है।"

No transformation
कोई रूपांतरण नहीं

- More than half of **Indian urban and rural districts**, which are home to more than **76% of the population** (or over **1 billion people**), are now at **high or very high risk from extreme heat**, according to a **May study** by the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**.
  भारतीय शहरी और ग्रामीण ज़िलों में से आधे से अधिक, जो कि **जनसंख्या का 76% से अधिक** (या **1 अरब से अधिक लोग**) को आश्रय देते हैं, अब **तीव्र गर्मी के उच्च या अत्यधिक उच्च जोखिम** में हैं, ऐसा **मई में काउंसिल ऑन एनर्जी, एनवायरनमेंट एंड वाटर (CEEW)** की एक स्टडी बताती है।

- The **Central government** has encouraged **local governments** to adopt **HAPs**, with **more than 250 cities and districts** in **23 heat-prone States** devising the plans, although it is **not mandatory**.
  केंद्र सरकार ने **स्थानीय सरकारों** को **HAPs अपनाने** के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया है, और **23 हीट-प्रवण राज्यों** में **250 से अधिक शहरों और ज़िलों** ने ये योजनाएं बनाई हैं, हालांकि यह **अनिवार्य नहीं** है।

- **Nine high-risk cities**, including **New Delhi, Bhopal, Kolkata and Varanasi**, that were surveyed by **SFC** reported **150 heat-related measures** between **2018 and 2023**, but **most were seasonal** or **after heatwaves had struck**, including **setting up water stations**, **changing school schedules**, and **issuing advisories**.
  SFC द्वारा सर्वेक्षण किए गए **नौ उच्च जोखिम वाले शहरों**—जैसे **नई दिल्ली, भोपाल, कोलकाता और वाराणसी**—ने **2018 से 2023** के बीच **150 हीट संबंधित उपायों** की सूचना

दी, लेकिन **अधिकांश मौसमी** थे या **हीटवेव के बाद लागू किए गए**, जैसे **पानी के स्टेशन लगाना**, **स्कूल के समय में बदलाव करना**, और **सलाह जारी करना।**

- **Redesigning built environments** and other **long-term solutions** were **rare** and were focused on **healthcare**, like **training hospital staff** or **tracking heat deaths**, **SFC** found.
  निर्मित वातावरणों के पुन: डिज़ाइन और अन्य **दीर्घकालिक समाधानों** की **कमी** थी और वे केवल **स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** पर केंद्रित थे, जैसे कि **अस्पताल के कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण देना** या **हीट से होने वाली मौतों को ट्रैक करना**, ऐसा **SFC** ने पाया।

- **Transformative steps** such as **erecting climate-sensitive housing** were **largely absent**, the study said.
  अध्ययन में कहा गया कि **जलवायु-संवेदनशील आवास का निर्माण** जैसे **परिवर्तनकारी कदम** लगभग पूरी तरह अनुपस्थित थे।

- India's **densest and poorest areas** are often **excluded** from cooling efforts like **tree-planting** or **water-body restoration** because of **land ownership** and **infrastructure challenges**, said Mr. Pillai.
  श्री पिल्लई ने कहा कि भारत के **सबसे घने और गरीब क्षेत्र** अक्सर **पौधारोपण** या **जल निकायों के पुनर्स्थापन** जैसे **शीतकरण प्रयासों** से **बाहर रह जाते हैं**, क्योंकि वहां **भूमि स्वामित्व** और **बुनियादी ढांचे की चुनौतियां** होती हैं।

- "You end up with **greenery on the outskirts**, not where it's **needed**," he said.
  "आपके पास **हरियाली बाहरी इलाकों में** होती है, **जहां ज़रूरत है वहां नहीं**," उन्होंने कहा।

- **Selomi Garnaik**, a campaigner with **Greenpeace India**, said many **HAPs** "lack **targeted investments** or **meaningful shifts** in **infrastructure and governance**."
  ग्रीनपीस इंडिया की अभियानकर्ता **सेलोमी गरनाइक** ने कहा कि कई **HAPs** में **लक्षित निवेश** या **बुनियादी ढांचे और शासन में सार्थक बदलाव** की **कमी** है।

- The plans were often **created top-down** with **little community input**, and heat is still viewed as mainly a **health issue** "when it actually **intersects with labour rights, housing and urban planning**."
  ये योजनाएं अक्सर **ऊपर से नीचे** बनाई जाती हैं, जिनमें **सामुदायिक भागीदारी बहुत कम** होती है, और गर्मी को अब भी केवल **स्वास्थ्य मुद्दा** माना जाता है, "जबकि वास्तव में यह **श्रम अधिकारों, आवास और शहरी योजना** से भी जुड़ा है।"

- The **National Disaster Management Authority**, as well as the **agencies** responsible for **HAPs** in **Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**, did not **respond to requests for comment**.
  राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण और **उत्तर प्रदेश और महाराष्ट्र** में **HAPs** के लिए जिम्मेदार एजेंसियों ने टिप्पणी के अनुरोधों पर कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी।