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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

18 AUGUST 2025

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18_08_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Northeast Frontier Railway shifts to bio-plastic on trains
पूर्वोत्तर सीमांत रेलवे ने ट्रेनों में बायो-प्लास्टिक अपनाया
2. Healthocide: war against healthcare
हेल्थोसाइड: स्वास्थ्य देखभाल के खिलाफ युद्ध



INBRIEF



PCS

Northeast Frontier Railway shifts to bio-plastic on trains

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has become India's first railway zone to shift to compostable bio-plastic on trains. As a pilot initiative, the NFR introduced a biodegradable bag to distribute linen to passengers on Friday, coinciding with the 79th Independence Day. The ISO 17088-compliant bioplastic used as the packaging material was developed at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati. Kapinjal Kishore Sharma, NFR spokesperson, stated the project involves distributing 40,000 bioplastic bags across 25 trains originating from the railway zone's terminals in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Tripura, and West Bengal.

इसे भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, गुवाहाटी में विकसित किया गया।

- **Kapinjal Kishore Sharma, NFR spokesperson**, stated the project involves distributing **40,000 bioplastic bags** across **25 trains** originating from the **railway zone's terminals in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Tripura, and West Bengal**.

कपिजल किशोर शर्मा, एनएफआर प्रवक्ता, ने बताया कि इस परियोजना में रेलवे ज़ोन के टर्मिनलों से निकलने वाली **25 ट्रेनों में 40,000 बायोप्लास्टिक बैग** वितरित करना शामिल है, जो **अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम, बंगाल, बिहार, त्रिपुरा और पश्चिम बंगाल** में स्थित हैं।

Northeast Frontier Railway shifts to bio-plastic on trains पूर्वोत्तर सीमांत रेलवे ने ट्रेनों में बायो-प्लास्टिक अपनाया

The **Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)** has become **India's first railway zone to shift to compostable bio-plastic on trains**.

पूर्वोत्तर सीमांत रेलवे (एनएफआर) भारत का पहला रेलवे ज़ोन बन गया है जिसने ट्रेनों में खाद बनाने योग्य बायो-प्लास्टिक अपनाया है।

- As a pilot initiative, the **NFR** introduced a **biodegradable bag** to distribute linen to passengers on **Friday**, coinciding with the **79th Independence Day**.

एक पायलट पहल के रूप में, **एनएफआर** ने यात्रियों को लिनन वितरित करने के लिए एक **बायोडिग्रेडेबल बैग शुक्रवार** को पेश किया, जो **79वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस** के साथ मेल खाता है।

- The **ISO 17088-compliant bioplastic** used as the packaging material was developed at the **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati**.

आईएसओ 17088-अनुपालन बायोप्लास्टिक, जिसका उपयोग पैकेजिंग सामग्री के रूप में किया गया,



WHAT IS IT?

Healthocide: war against healthcare

PCS

Vasudevan Mukunth

In an article published in the journal **BMJ Global Health** on August 5, researchers from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon coined a new word: **healthocide**. The authors wrote that the word captures a new, extreme pattern of violence against health systems that routine talk of “attacks on healthcare” does not capture. Instead, they continued, today’s deliberate, large-scale destruction of whole health ecosystems in conflict zones such as Gaza needs to be called **healthocide**.

If the word is applied to recent wars, it could include a coordinated strategy to kill clinicians, bomb hospitals, block ambulances, and dismantle supply chains in order to erase a population’s capacity for care. According to the authors, **healthocide** also frames these acts as being akin to genocide, i.e. the intentional destruction of a collective good essential to life and dignity, and thus demands stronger legal protections.

The authors also state that physicians and educators must document violations, push governments to enforce international humanitarian law, and to keep themselves from being complicit in healthocides.



Israeli soldiers exit a tunnel underneath the European Hospital in the Gaza Strip on June 5, 2025. REUTERS

In effect, by naming the phenomenon, the authors have sought to galvanise the medical community against the increasing weaponisation of healthcare.

Not all experts are convinced a new word is necessary. For example, Len Rubenstein, chair of the group Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, told NPR he doesn’t think “it adds [to] what we already understand about the sanctity of health care and war.” On the other hand, University of Greenwich global health expert Amal Elamin said the word “reinforces the fact that the targeted attacks on health care settings and health workers is no longer an isolated precedent.”

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health systems that routine talk of “attacks on healthcare” does not capture.

लेखकों ने लिखा कि यह शब्द स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों के खिलाफ नए, चरम स्तर के हिंसा के पैटर्न को दर्शाता है, जिसे “हेल्थकेयर पर हमले” की सामान्य चर्चा नहीं पकड़ पाती।

- Instead, they continued, today’s deliberate, large-scale destruction of whole health ecosystems in conflict zones such as Gaza needs to be called **healthocide**. इसके बजाय, उन्होंने कहा कि आज के जानबूझकर और बड़े पैमाने पर संघर्ष क्षेत्रों जैसे गाज़ा में पूरे स्वास्थ्य पारिस्थितिक तंत्र का विनाश हेल्थोसाइड कहलाना चाहिए
- If the word is applied to recent wars, it could include a coordinated strategy to kill clinicians, bomb hospitals, block ambulances, and dismantle supply chains in order to erase a population’s capacity for care. यदि इस शब्द को हाल की युद्ध स्थितियों पर लागू किया जाए, तो इसमें लोगों की देखभाल की क्षमता को मिटाने के लिए चिकित्सकों को मारने, अस्पतालों को बमबारी करने, एंबुलेंस को अवरुद्ध करने, और सप्लाई चेन को विघटित करने जैसी योजनाओं को शामिल किया जा सकता है।

Healthocide: war against healthcare

हेल्थोसाइड: स्वास्थ्य देखभाल के खिलाफ युद्ध

Healthocide: A New Term in Global Health

हेल्थोसाइड: वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य में एक नया शब्द

- In an article published in the journal **BMJ Global Health** on August 5, researchers from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon coined a new word: **healthocide**. **BMJ Global Health** पत्रिका में 5 अगस्त को प्रकाशित एक लेख में, लेबनान के अमेरिकन यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ बेरुत के शोधकर्ताओं ने एक नया शब्द गढ़ा: हेल्थोसाइड।
- The authors wrote that the word captures a new, extreme pattern of violence against



- According to the authors, **healthcide** also frames these acts as being akin to **genocide**, i.e., the intentional destruction of a **collective good** essential to **life and dignity**, and thus demands stronger **legal protections**.
लेखकों के अनुसार, **हेल्थोसाइड** इन कार्यों को **जनसंहार** के समान रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है, यानी जीवन और गरिमा के लिए आवश्यक **सामूहिक संसाधन** का जानबूझकर विनाश, और इसलिए मजबूत **कानूनी सुरक्षा** की मांग करता है।
- The authors also state that **physicians** and **educators** must **document violations**, push **governments** to enforce **international humanitarian law**, and keep themselves from being **complicit in healthcides**.
लेखक यह भी कहते हैं कि **चिकित्सक** और **शिक्षक** को **उल्लंघनों का दस्तावेज़ीकरण** करना चाहिए, **सरकारों** को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवतावादी कानून** लागू करने के लिए दबाव डालना चाहिए, और खुद को **हेल्थोसाइड में सहगामी** बनने से रोकना चाहिए।
- In effect, by naming the phenomenon, the authors have sought to **galvanise the medical community** against the increasing **weaponisation of healthcare**.
वास्तविक रूप में, इस घटना का नाम रखकर, लेखकों ने बढ़ती हुई **स्वास्थ्य सेवा के हथियारबंदी** के खिलाफ **चिकित्सा समुदाय** को जागरूक करने का प्रयास किया है।
- Not all experts are convinced a new word is necessary.
सभी विशेषज्ञ इस बात से सहमत नहीं हैं कि नया शब्द आवश्यक है।
- For example, **Len Rubenstein**, chair of the group **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition**, told NPR he doesn't think "it adds [to] what we already understand about the **sanctity of health care and war**."
उदाहरण के लिए, **Len Rubenstein**, जो **साफगार्डिंग हेल्थ इन कॉन्फ्लिक्ट कोएलियशन** के चेयर हैं, ने NPR को बताया कि उन्हें नहीं लगता कि यह शब्द हमारे पहले से समझे गए **स्वास्थ्य देखभाल और युद्ध की पवित्रता** में कोई नया योगदान देता है।
- On the other hand, **University of Greenwich** global health expert **Amal Elamin** said the word "reinforces the fact that the targeted attacks on **health care settings** and **health workers** is no longer an isolated precedent."
दूसरी ओर, **University of Greenwich** के वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञ **Amal Elamin** ने कहा कि यह शब्द यह तथ्य मजबूत करता है कि **स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सेटिंग्स** और **स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों** पर लक्षित हमले अब अलग-अलग उदाहरण नहीं हैं।

18_08_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. **Seven killed in cloudburst, landslide in Kathua**
कठुआ में बादल फटने, भूस्खलन में सात की मौत
2. **A Conservation Manual, Drafted by the Ordinary Citizen**

एक संरक्षण मैनुअल, जिसे आम नागरिक ने तैयार किया

3. **How 'Honour' Killings in India are Reinforced and Legitimised**

भारत में 'सम्मान' हत्या कैसे मजबूत और वैध होती है



4. Serbia's President vows 'strong response' after days of unrest

सर्बिया के राष्ट्रपति ने अशांति के दिनों के बाद 'कड़े जवाब' की कसम खाई

5. Polls open in Bolivia's presidential election dominated by the Right

दक्षिणपंथ के प्रभाव वाली बोलीविया की राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में मतदान शुरू

6. Unification of Syria cannot happen at the cost of blood, says Sharaa as he slams Israel

सीरिया का एकीकरण खून की कीमत पर नहीं हो सकता, शरा ने इज़राइल की निंदा की

Lucky survivor



The fortunate one: An injured child is carried away as troops search a village that was swamped by a cloudburst for survivors in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir, on Sunday. PTI

Seven killed in cloudburst, landslide in Kathua

GS I: Geography
Press Trust of India
JAMMU

Seven people, including five children, were killed in a cloudburst and landslide in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir early on Sunday, officials said. Calamity struck Jodh Ghati village in Rajbagh and Bagra village in Janglote after heavy overnight rain, leading to an increase in the level of waterbodies and the submerging of many low-lying areas, officials said. The cloudburst in Kathua came three days after ash oods triggered by a cloudburst struck Chisoti village.

FULL REPORT
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Seven killed in cloudburst, landslide in Kathua

कठुआ में बादल फटने, भूस्खलन में सात की मौत

Seven people, including five children, were killed in a cloudburst and landslide in Kathua district of

Jammu and Kashmir early on Sunday, officials said.

जम्मू और कश्मीर के कठुआ जिले में रविवार सुबह एक बादल फटने और भूस्खलन में सात लोग, जिनमें पांच बच्चे शामिल हैं, की मौत हो गई, अधिकारियों ने कहा।

- Calamity struck Jodh Ghati village in Rajbagh and Bagra village in Janglote after heavy overnight rain, leading to an increase in the level of waterbodies and the submerging of many low-lying areas, officials said.

अधिकारियों ने कहा कि भारी रातभर की बारिश के बाद राजबाग के जोध घाटी गांव और जंगलोटे के बगरा गांव में आपदा आई, जिससे जलाशयों के स्तर में वृद्धि हुई और कई निचले इलाकों में पानी भर गया।



- The cloudburst in Kathua came three days after ash floods triggered by a cloudburst struck Chisoti village.
कठुआ में यह बादल फटना उस समय हुआ जब तीन दिन पहले एक और बादल फटने से चिसोटी गांव में अचानक बाढ़ आ गई थी।

A conservation manual, drafted by the ordinary citizen

GS I: A&C

In his Independence Day addresses delivered from the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been exhorting fellow citizens to preserve the memory of those who overthrew colonial rule. Even as his reminders have been timely, his tactics – enumerating a few freedom fighters' names and including some of their words in his speeches – are as well-worn as the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) approach to conserving the nation's built heritage. With a few exceptions, the ASI has largely been content with selecting monuments, isolating them, repairing them and occasionally polishing them. Given the enormity and complexity of India's past and the risk of large sections of it fading from our collective consciousness, it is time to articulate a more thoughtful and holistic approach to the conservation of ASI monuments.

Acknowledging that the current frameworks informing conservation are the result of certain historical circumstances is important. Driven by a conviction that edifices, if properly analysed, can unlock histories of communities and thus allow for governing them more effectively, colonial officers located and catalogued pillars, rock-cut caves, stupas, temples, mosques, citadels, water reservoirs, and other edifices, promulgated historical preservation laws, and prescribed procedures for maintaining their structural integrity. John Marshall's *Conservation Manual* (1923) advocated extensive repair of ancient monuments and reshaping their immediate surroundings into gardens.

Marshall's handbook continues to inflect the preservation of about 3,600 ASI sites, along with new laws, amendments, and provisions of international agreements. Notwithstanding these efforts, field surveys, audit reports, and court rulings establish that many protected monuments are falling apart. Recommendations of a conservation policy enunciated in 2014 are being irregularly followed. Not surprisingly, the government has begun to invite corporations to adopt monuments.

A road map for conserving monuments

Studying the writings of modern India builders is one way to begin articulating a new approach to conserving monuments. Consider lessons provided by Sarvodaya, Mahatma Gandhi's transcreation of a collection of essays by John Ruskin, a Victorian art critic. His rendering accentuated the art critic's advocacy of improving the social condition of all individuals irrespective of their backgrounds, discussed the importance of all vocations, and endorsed his admiration of craftspeople and their labour, even as it critiqued Ruskin's valorisation of Britain's imperial ambitions. Might the lessons that Gandhi learned and promoted inspire the ASI's new



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There needs to be a more thoughtful and holistic approach to the conservation of the Archaeological Survey of India's monuments

conservation manual to propose the following: when an edifice is conserved not only is its structural fabric to be tended, but the lives of all those who live around it and visit it are to be improved; and interpretive materials at an edifice should enable visitors to appreciate its builders' sophistication, inventiveness, and resilience.

Conservation is a shared concern of contemporary practitioners of diverse disciplines including translators, health-care professionals, wildlife biologists, mycologists, and economists. By convening dialogues among and between these experts at various venues, listening to how they comprehend terms such as repair, preservation, and restoration and observing how audiences respond to them, the ASI can identify more principles of their new conservation manual.

Translators today are attentive to the style and mood that the authors of source texts have sought to nurture and are grasping how sentences are formed and meanings generated in unalike languages. They are recognising that connotations change over time. Thus, their outputs are intricate works in dialogical relationships with assorted pasts, and not obsequious reproductions of texts initially written in other languages. Can such viewpoints inspire the ASI conservation manual to recommend that archaeologists acknowledge their distance between the deep past and contemporary moment and make their physical interventions of a monument's fabric clearer for visitors to discern? Contemporary translators sophisticated thinking of a particular language aptness to render anew a certain text may also be used to inform a clause in the new manual: that periodic reviews be undertaken of the aptness of preservation materials to ensure that they do not harm historical fabrics.

Varied perspectives are important

Humans preserve themselves by saving memories. Listening to divergent perspectives allows memories to be exercised and sustains their propagation. Such insights should inspire the ASI to study how visitors are using protected monuments today and craft conservation principles thereafter. One way to do so would be to offer visitors opportunities to participate in open-ended conversations about their experiences.

Wildlife biologists are also thinking about protection. They reason that supporting a range of interactions occurring among and between sundry biotic and abiotic elements in an ecosystem and exchanges between networks are more efficacious strategies for restoring waning populations than safeguarding individual animals. Following this line of reasoning, might the ASI conservation manual recommend that

archaeologists pay more attention to linkages between monuments and water bodies, fields, deserts, forests and settlements around them and deliberate whether certain boundary walls may be dismantled.

Mycologists have found that fungi are far from unsettling sights. Fungi are powerful agents that break down organic matter, form mutually beneficial relationships with plants including helping them access nutrients, cause diseases in humans but also provide medicines, and help produce food. Such discernments can stimulate the ASI's manual to encourage the conservation of thousands of small, half-forgotten ancient monuments strewn across the country. Old city walls, cisterns, cenotaphs and dovecotes can have multiple benefits for communities living around them including securing neighbourhoods, recharging ground water aquifers, bringing visitors who might boost local economies, providing habitats and creating public spaces.

Finally, contemporary economists' findings may also be generative. They have shown that value is produced by how things work and not just by their appearance. Following this dictum, the conservation manual may propose that it is more important for archaeologists to restore a *haveli's* natural ventilation systems than to regularly repaint its façade. Emphasising a particular resource's scarcity is another way in which value is created. Thus, further research should be undertaken to advance our knowledge of what makes ASI monuments sites of national significance. The new knowledge be used to justify larger budgets for their protection. The economic concept of creative destruction as an impetus for growth may also be utilised. For example, it can guide the transformation of old temples submerged in the reservoirs of large dams into laboratories for developing and testing technologies to document underwater sites and forge innovative alliances between historians, geologists and marine biologists.

The citizen's role

In a country as diverse as ours, conservation's meaning and value are always going to be positional and contested. Thus, all of us as ordinary citizens can help shape a new conservation manual by becoming more aware of our own locations and actions. We can also assist by further educating ourselves. Learning to read the language of the stones that monuments are built of, will allow us to listen to stories they tell and amplify largely silenced voices. We will also be able to glean builders' biases and use monuments as mirrors to confront our prejudices. Ultimately acquiring such literacy will empower us to discover India as a monument without walls and preserve ourselves as we shape a new future.



A Conservation Manual, Drafted by the Ordinary Citizen एक संरक्षण मैनुअल, जिसे आम नागरिक ने तैयार किया

Independence Day Addresses and ASI Conservation

स्वतंत्रता दिवस के संबोधन और ASI संरक्षण

- In his Independence Day addresses delivered from the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been exhorting fellow citizens to preserve the memory of those who overthrew colonial rule.
लाल किला से दिए गए अपने स्वतंत्रता दिवस के संबोधनों में, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने नागरिकों से आग्रह किया है कि वे उन लोगों की याद को संरक्षित करें जिन्होंने औपनिवेशिक शासन को उखाड़ फेंका।
- Even as his reminders have been timely, his tactics — enumerating a few freedom fighters' names and including some of their words in his speeches — are as well-worn as the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) approach to conserving the nation's built heritage.
यद्यपि उनके स्मरण समय पर हैं, उनकी रणनीतियाँ — कुछ स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के नाम गिनाना और उनके शब्दों को अपने भाषणों में शामिल करना — उतनी ही पुरानी हैं जितनी कि भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (ASI) का राष्ट्रीय निर्मित विरासत को संरक्षित करने का तरीका।
- With a few exceptions, the ASI has largely been content with selecting monuments, isolating them, repairing them and occasionally polishing them.
कुछ अपवादों को छोड़कर, ASI आमतौर पर केवल स्मारकों का चयन करने, उन्हें अलग करने, मरम्मत करने और कभी-कभार पॉलिश करने तक ही संतुष्ट रहा है।
- Given the enormity and complexity of India's past and the risk of large sections of it fading from our collective consciousness, it is time to articulate a more thoughtful and holistic approach to the conservation of ASI monuments.
भारत के अतीत की विशालता और जटिलता तथा इसके बड़े हिस्सों के हमारे सामूहिक चेतना से मिट जाने के जोखिम को देखते हुए, ASI स्मारकों के संरक्षण के लिए एक अधिक विचारशील और समग्र दृष्टिकोण को स्पष्ट करने का समय आ गया है।
- Acknowledging that the current frameworks informing conservation are the result of certain historical circumstances is important.
यह मानना महत्वपूर्ण है कि संरक्षण को प्रभावित करने वाले वर्तमान ढांचे कुछ ऐतिहासिक परिस्थितियों का परिणाम हैं।
- Driven by a conviction that edifices, if properly analysed, can unlock histories of communities and thus allow for governing them more effectively, colonial officers located and catalogued pillars, rock-cut caves, stupas, temples, mosques, citadels, water reservoirs, and other edifices, promulgated historical preservation laws, and prescribed procedures for maintaining their structural integrity.
इस विश्वास से प्रेरित कि यदि भवनों का सही तरीके से विश्लेषण किया जाए तो वे समुदायों के इतिहास को उजागर कर सकते हैं और उन्हें अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से शासित करने की अनुमति दे सकते हैं, औपनिवेशिक अधिकारियों ने स्तंभ, शिला-खुदाई गुफाएं, स्तूप, मंदिर, मस्जिद, किले, जलाशय और अन्य भवनों को खोजा और सूचीबद्ध किया, ऐतिहासिक संरक्षण कानूनों को लागू किया और उनकी संरचनात्मक अखंडता बनाए रखने की प्रक्रियाओं को निर्धारित किया।
- John Marshall's Conservation Manual (1923) advocated extensive repair of ancient monuments and reshaping their immediate surroundings into gardens.



जॉन मार्शल का संरक्षण मैनुअल (1923) प्राचीन स्मारकों की व्यापक मरम्मत और उनके आस-पास के क्षेत्र को उद्यानों में बदलने की वकालत करता था।

- Marshall's handbook continues to inflect the preservation of about **3,600 ASI sites**, along with new laws, amendments, and provisions of international agreements.
मार्शल का हैंडबुक अब भी लगभग **3,600 ASI स्थलों** के संरक्षण को प्रभावित करता है, साथ ही नए कानूनों, संशोधनों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय समझौतों की प्रावधानों के साथ।
- Notwithstanding these efforts, **field surveys, audit reports, and court rulings** establish that many protected monuments are falling apart.
इन प्रयासों के बावजूद, **फील्ड सर्वेक्षण, ऑडिट रिपोर्ट और न्यायालय के निर्णय** यह स्थापित करते हैं कि कई संरक्षित स्मारक टूट रहे हैं।
- Recommendations of a **conservation policy** enunciated in **2014** are being irregularly followed.
2014 में घोषित एक **संरक्षण नीति** की सिफारिशों का अनियमित रूप से पालन किया जा रहा है।
- Not surprisingly, the **government has begun to invite corporations to adopt monuments**.
आश्चर्य की बात नहीं, सरकार ने **स्मारकों को अपनाने के लिए कॉर्पोरेशनों** को आमंत्रित करना शुरू कर दिया है।

A Road Map for Conserving Monuments

स्मारकों के संरक्षण के लिए रोड मैप

- Studying the writings of **modern India builders** is one way to begin articulating a new approach to conserving monuments.
आधुनिक भारत निर्माताओं की रचनाओं का अध्ययन स्मारकों के संरक्षण के लिए नए दृष्टिकोण को स्पष्ट करने का एक तरीका है।
- Consider lessons provided by **Sarvodaya, Mahatma Gandhi's transcreation of a collection of essays by John Ruskin**, a Victorian art critic.
सर्वोदय से मिलने वाले पाठों पर विचार करें, महात्मा गांधी द्वारा **जॉन रसकिन**, एक विक्टोरियन कला समीक्षक के निबंधों के संग्रह का अनुवाद।
- His rendering accentuated the art critic's advocacy of improving the **social condition of all individuals** irrespective of their backgrounds, discussed the importance of all vocations, and endorsed his admiration of **craftspersons** and their labour, even as it critiqued Ruskin's valorisation of **Britain's imperial ambitions**.
उनके अनुवाद ने कला समीक्षक की सभी व्यक्तियों की **सामाजिक स्थिति सुधारने** की वकालत को उजागर किया, सभी व्यवसायों के महत्व पर चर्चा की, और **कारीगरों** और उनके श्रम की उनकी प्रशंसा को स्वीकार किया, जबकि उन्होंने **ब्रिटेन की साम्राज्यवादी महत्वाकांक्षाओं** की आलोचना भी की।
- Might the lessons that Gandhi learned and promoted inspire the **ASI's new conservation manual to propose the following: when an edifice is conserved not only is its structural fabric to be tended, but the lives of all those who live around it and visit it are to be improved; and interpretive materials at an edifice should enable visitors to appreciate its builders' sophistication, inventiveness, and resilience**.
क्या गांधी ने जो पाठ सीखे और प्रचारित किए, वे ASI के नए संरक्षण मैनुअल को यह प्रस्तावित करने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकते हैं: जब कोई भवन संरक्षित किया जाता है, तो केवल उसका **संरचनात्मक ढांचा** ही नहीं बल्कि उसके आसपास रहने और आने वाले सभी लोगों का जीवन सुधारा जाना चाहिए; और भवन पर **व्याख्यात्मक सामग्री** आगंतुकों को इसके निर्माताओं की सूक्ष्मता, नवाचार और लचीलापन समझने में सक्षम बनाना चाहिए।
- Conservation is a shared concern of contemporary practitioners of diverse disciplines including **translators, health-care professionals, wildlife biologists, mycologists, and economists**.



संरक्षण विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के समकालीन विशेषज्ञों की साझा चिंता है, जिसमें **अनुवादक, स्वास्थ्य पेशेवर, वन्यजीव जीवविज्ञानी, कवक वैज्ञानिक, और अर्थशास्त्री** शामिल हैं।

- By convening dialogues among and between these experts at various venues, listening to how they comprehend terms such as **repair, preservation, and restoration** and observing how audiences respond to them, the ASI can identify more principles of their new conservation manual.

विभिन्न स्थलों पर इन विशेषज्ञों के बीच संवाद आयोजित करके, यह सुनना कि वे **मरम्मत, संरक्षण, और पुनर्स्थापन** जैसे शब्दों को कैसे समझते हैं और यह देखना कि दर्शक इन पर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं, ASI अपने नए संरक्षण मैनुअल के और अधिक सिद्धांतों की पहचान कर सकता है।

- Translators today are attentive to the **style and mood** that the authors of source texts have sought to nurture and are grasping how sentences are formed and meanings generated in unlike languages.

आज के अनुवादक उस **शैली और मूड** पर ध्यान देते हैं जिसे स्रोत ग्रंथों के लेखक ने पोषित करने का प्रयास किया है और समझ रहे हैं कि वाक्य कैसे बनाए जाते हैं और विभिन्न भाषाओं में अर्थ कैसे उत्पन्न होते हैं।

- They are recognising that **connotations change over time**. वे यह पहचान रहे हैं कि **अर्थ और भावार्थ समय के साथ बदलते हैं**।
- Thus, their outputs are intricate works in dialogical relationships with assorted pasts, and not obsequious reproductions of texts initially written in other languages. इस प्रकार, उनके उत्पादन विभिन्न अतीतों के साथ संवादात्मक संबंधों में जटिल कार्य हैं, और मूल रूप से अन्य भाषाओं में लिखे गए ग्रंथों के अनुगामी पुनरुत्पादन नहीं हैं।

- Can such viewpoints inspire the ASI conservation manual to recommend that **archaeologists** acknowledge their distance between the **deep past** and contemporary moment and make their physical interventions of a monument's fabric clearer for visitors to discern?

क्या ऐसे दृष्टिकोण ASI संरक्षण मैनुअल को यह सिफारिश करने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकते हैं कि **पुरातत्वविद्** अपने **गहरे अतीत** और समकालीन क्षण के बीच दूरी को स्वीकार करें और स्मारक की संरचना में अपने भौतिक हस्तक्षेप को आगंतुकों के लिए स्पष्ट बनाएं?

- Contemporary translators' sophisticated thinking of a particular **language aptness** to render anew a certain text may also be used to inform a clause in the new manual: that **periodic reviews** be undertaken of the aptness of preservation materials to ensure that they do not harm historical fabrics.

समकालीन अनुवादकों की किसी विशेष **भाषा की उपयुक्तता** के प्रति परिष्कृत सोच किसी निश्चित ग्रंथ को नए सिरे से प्रस्तुत करने के लिए नए मैनुअल में एक प्रावधान सूचित करने के लिए भी उपयोग की जा सकती है: कि **नियमित समीक्षा** की जाए ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि संरक्षण सामग्री ऐतिहासिक संरचनाओं को नुकसान न पहुंचाए।

Varied Perspectives Are Important विविध दृष्टिकोण महत्वपूर्ण हैं

- Humans preserve themselves by saving **memories**. मनुष्य खुद को बचाता है **यादें** सुरक्षित करके।
- Listening to divergent perspectives allows **memories** to be exercised and sustains their propagation. विभिन्न दृष्टिकोणों को सुनने से **यादें** सक्रिय रहती हैं और उनका प्रसार बना रहता है।
- Such insights should inspire the **ASI** to study how visitors are using **protected monuments** today and craft **conservation principles** thereafter. ऐसे अंतर्दृष्टि से **ASI** को प्रेरणा मिलनी चाहिए कि वे अध्ययन करें कि आज **संरक्षित स्मारकों** का उपयोग कैसे हो रहा है और उसके बाद **संरक्षण सिद्धांत** तैयार करें।
- One way to do so would be to offer visitors opportunities to participate in **open-ended conversations** about their experiences.



ऐसा करने का एक तरीका यह हो सकता है कि आगंतुकों को उनके अनुभवों पर **खुली चर्चाओं** में भाग लेने का अवसर दिया जाए।

- Wildlife biologists are also thinking about **protection**.
वन्यजीव जीवविज्ञानी भी **संरक्षण** के बारे में सोच रहे हैं।
- They reason that supporting a range of interactions among and between sundry **biotic and abiotic elements** in an **ecosystem** and exchanges between networks are more efficacious strategies for restoring waning populations than safeguarding individual animals.
उनका तर्क है कि **इकोसिस्टम** में विभिन्न **जीवित** और **अजीवित तत्वों** के बीच होने वाली क्रियाओं और नेटवर्कों के आदान-प्रदान को समर्थन देना, व्यक्तिगत जानवरों की सुरक्षा से अधिक प्रभावी रणनीति है।
- Following this line of reasoning, might the **ASI conservation manual** recommend that archaeologists pay more attention to **linkages between monuments and water bodies, fields, deserts, forests, and settlements** around them and deliberate whether certain **boundary walls** may be dismantled.
इसी तर्क का पालन करते हुए, क्या **ASI संरक्षण मैनुअल** यह सिफारिश कर सकता है कि पुरातत्ववेत्ताओं को **स्मारकों** और उनके आसपास के **जलाशयों, खेतों, रेगिस्तानों, वनों** और **बस्तियों** के बीच संबंधों पर अधिक ध्यान देना चाहिए और यह विचार करना चाहिए कि कुछ **सीमाशिला दीवारें** तोड़ दी जाएँ।
- Mycologists have found that **fungi** are far from unsettling sights.
माइकोलॉजिस्ट्स ने पाया कि **फंगी** परेशान करने वाले दृश्य नहीं हैं।
- **Fungi** are powerful agents that break down **organic matter**, form mutually beneficial relationships with **plants** including helping them access **nutrients**, cause **diseases in humans** but also provide **medicines**, and help produce **food**.
फंगी शक्तिशाली एजेंट हैं जो **जैविक पदार्थ** को तोड़ते हैं, **पौधों** के साथ पारस्परिक लाभकारी संबंध बनाते हैं, उन्हें **पोषक तत्वों** तक पहुँचने में मदद करते हैं, **मानवों** में **बीमारियाँ** उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं लेकिन **दवाएँ** भी प्रदान करते हैं, और **भोजन** उत्पादन में मदद करते हैं।
- Such discernments can stimulate the **ASI's manual** to encourage the **conservation** of thousands of small, half-forgotten **ancient monuments** strewn across the country.
ऐसे अंतर्दृष्टि **ASI के मैनुअल** को प्रेरित कर सकते हैं कि वे देश भर में बिखरे हजारों छोटे, आधे-भूल गए **प्राचीन स्मारकों** के **संरक्षण** को प्रोत्साहित करें।
- Old **city walls, cisterns, cenotaphs, and dovecotes** can have multiple benefits for communities living around them including securing **neighbourhoods**, recharging **groundwater aquifers**, bringing **visitors** who might boost local economies, providing **habitats**, and creating **public spaces**.
पुराने **शहरी दीवारें, टंकियाँ, स्मारक, और कबूतरखाने** उनके आसपास रहने वाले समुदायों के लिए कई लाभ प्रदान कर सकते हैं, जैसे **पड़ोस की सुरक्षा, भूजल जलाशयों** का पुनर्भरण, **आगंतुकों** को आकर्षित करना जो स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा दे सकते हैं, **आवास प्रदान करना, और सार्वजनिक स्थान** बनाना।
- Contemporary economists' findings may also be generative.
समकालीन अर्थशास्त्रियों के निष्कर्ष भी **सृजनात्मक** हो सकते हैं।
- They have shown that **value** is produced by how things **work** and not just by their **appearance**.
उन्होंने दिखाया है कि **मूल्य** इस बात से उत्पन्न होता है कि चीजें कैसे **काम करती हैं** और केवल उनके **दिखावे** से नहीं।
- Following this dictum, the **conservation manual** may propose that it is more important for archaeologists to restore a **haveli's natural ventilation systems** than to regularly repaint its **façade**.
इस सिद्धांत के अनुसार, **संरक्षण मैनुअल** यह प्रस्ताव कर सकता है कि पुरातत्ववेत्ताओं के लिए एक **हवेली की प्राकृतिक वेंटिलेशन प्रणाली** को बहाल करना नियमित रूप से उसके **सामने की रंगाई** करने से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है।



- Emphasising a particular resource's **scarcity** is another way in which **value** is created.
किसी विशेष संसाधन की **कमी** पर जोर देना **मूल्य** उत्पन्न करने का एक और तरीका है।
- Further research should be undertaken to advance knowledge of what makes **ASI monuments** sites of national significance.
आगे अनुसंधान किया जाना चाहिए ताकि यह समझा जा सके कि क्या चीजें **ASI स्मारकों** को राष्ट्रीय महत्व के स्थल बनाती हैं।
- The new knowledge can be used to justify larger **budgets** for their **protection**.
नए ज्ञान का उपयोग उनके **संरक्षण** के लिए बड़े **बजट** को औचित्य प्रदान करने में किया जा सकता है।
- The economic concept of **creative destruction** as an impetus for growth may also be utilised.
सृजनात्मक विनाश की आर्थिक अवधारणा को विकास के उत्प्रेरक के रूप में भी उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- For example, it can guide the transformation of old **temples** submerged in **reservoirs** of large **dams** into **laboratories** for developing and testing technologies to document **underwater sites** and forge innovative alliances between **historians, geologists, and marine biologists**.
उदाहरण के लिए, यह पुराने **मंदिरों** को जो बड़े **बाँधों** के **जलाशयों** में डूबे हैं, उन्हें **प्रयोगशालाओं** में बदलने का मार्गदर्शन कर सकता है, ताकि **जलमग्न स्थलों** को दस्तावेज़ करने के लिए तकनीकें विकसित और परीक्षण की जा सकें और **इतिहासकारों, भूवैज्ञानिकों, और समुद्री जीवविज्ञानी** के बीच नवोन्मेषी गठबंधन बनाए जा सकें।

The Citizen's Role नागरिक की भूमिका

- In a country as diverse as ours, **conservation's meaning and value** are always going to be positional and contested.
हमारे देश जैसे विविध देश में, **संरक्षण का अर्थ और मूल्य** हमेशा स्थिति आधारित और विवादास्पद होंगे।
- All of us as ordinary citizens can help shape a new **conservation manual** by becoming more aware of our own **locations and actions**.
हम सभी आम नागरिक के रूप में अपनी **स्थिति और कार्यों** के प्रति अधिक जागरूक होकर नए **संरक्षण मैनुअल** को आकार देने में मदद कर सकते हैं।
- We can also assist by further educating ourselves.
हम स्वयं को और अधिक शिक्षित करके भी मदद कर सकते हैं।
- Learning to read the **language of the stones** that **monuments** are built of, will allow us to listen to stories they tell and amplify largely silenced voices.
यह सीखना कि जिन **पत्थरों** से **स्मारक** बने हैं उनकी **भाषा** कैसे पढ़ी जाए, हमें उनकी कहानियाँ सुनने और मुख्य रूप से मौन रह गई आवाज़ों को बढ़ाने की अनुमति देगा।
- We will also be able to glean **builders' biases** and use **monuments** as mirrors to confront our **prejudices**.
हम **निर्माताओं की पक्षपातपूर्ण प्रवृत्तियों** को भी समझ पाएंगे और अपने **पूर्वाग्रहों** का सामना करने के लिए **स्मारकों** का उपयोग दर्पण की तरह कर सकते हैं।
- Ultimately, acquiring such **literacy** will empower us to discover **India as a monument without walls** and preserve ourselves as we shape a new **future**.
अंततः, इस प्रकार की **साक्षरता** प्राप्त करना हमें **भारत को बिना दीवार वाला स्मारक** के रूप में खोजने और नए **भविष्य** का निर्माण करते समय खुद को सुरक्षित रखने की शक्ति देगा।



Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the premier organization for archaeological research and conservation of cultural monuments in India.
- Functions under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- Established: **1861** by **Alexander Cunningham** (first Director-General).
- **Pre-1861:** Antiquarian studies by British officials (James Prinsep, etc.).
- **1861:** ASI founded through a resolution of the British Indian Government.
- **1902:** Lord Curzon revived ASI; **John Marshall** appointed as Director-General, who initiated scientific conservation.
- **1947 onwards:** ASI reorganized to suit independent India's needs; expanded role in excavation, preservation, and research.

Functions of ASI

1. **Archaeological Excavation & Exploration**
 - Systematic excavation of ancient sites (Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, etc.).
 - Survey for undiscovered sites and monuments.
2. **Conservation of Monuments**
 - Protects monuments and sites of **national importance**.
 - As of now, around **3,700 monuments and sites** are protected under ASI.
3. **Administration of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR), 1958**
 - Declares monuments as "protected".
 - Regulates construction within a certain radius of heritage sites.
4. **Museum Management**
 - Runs **50+ site museums** near major monuments (e.g., Sarnath, Nalanda, Konark).
5. **Epigraphy & Numismatics**
 - Maintains **Epigraphy Branch** (Nagpur, Mysore).
 - Studies inscriptions, coins, ancient scripts (Brahmi, Kharosthi, etc.).
6. **International Cooperation**
 - Provides technical assistance to **Nepal, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Myanmar** etc., in conservation.
7. **Publication & Research**
 - Publishes *Indian Archaeology – A Review*, annual reports, and excavation reports.

Structure of ASI

- **Director-General:** Head of ASI.
- Divided into **24 Circles** across India (regional offices).
- Specialized branches:
 - Excavation Branch
 - Science Branch (conservation labs)
 - Epigraphy & Numismatics
 - Horticulture Branch (monument landscaping)



Key Legal Framework

- **Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904** (Curzon era).
- **AMASR Act, 1958** – Provides protection & regulation.
- **AMASR Amendment, 2010** – Prohibits construction within 100m of protected monuments (Prohibited Area), regulates within 200m (Regulated Area).

FULL CONTEXT



Cruel intentions: Villagers gather in large numbers in front of the residence of caste killing victim C. Kavin Selvaganesh in Anumugamangalam in Thoothukudi district on August 1. RAJESH N

How 'honour' killings in India are reinforced and legitimised

States like Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Kerala – where Dalit communities have seen relatively greater empowerment – record higher rates of inter-caste marriages. Ironically, these are also the States with increased incidents of honour killings

GS I: Society

Sivabalan Elangovan

Caste in India is not an individual problem – it is a deeply rooted social phenomenon. Caste survives and thrives not just because individuals insist on it, but because families, communities, and entire social structures continue to enforce and legitimise it, knowingly or otherwise.

At the heart of this caste endurance lie social customs passed down and protected within households. Children grow up internalising boundaries – who to talk to, who to marry, who to avoid – long before they can even articulate why. As a result, the caste system remains one of the most resilient social frameworks in India.

'Honour' killings

One of the biggest threats to the rigidity of caste has been social justice interventions. When marginalised communities, particularly Dalits, gain access to quality education and secure meaningful employment, it opens the gates for their integration into mainstream society. With that, a foundational shift begins. No longer confined to the margins, the oppressed now begin to interact with caste-Hindu society on an equal footing – in workplaces, colleges, cities, and most importantly, in relationships. This has created a new frontier of social tension: romantic unions that cross caste lines, especially those involving Dalit men and dominant caste women. These unions represent not just love or rebellion but a direct challenge to centuries-old caste hierarchies. And for many conservative

families, that challenge is intolerable. States like Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Kerala – where Dalit communities have seen relatively greater empowerment – also record higher rates of inter-caste marriages. According to the India Human Development Survey (IHDS-II), the national rate of inter-caste marriages stands at around 5%, but States with empowered Dalit populations show higher numbers. Ironically, these are also the States with increased incidents of honour killings.

This paradox reveals a disturbing truth: honour killings occur not where casteism is strongest, but where it is most threatened. In States where the oppressed still maintain their "status quo," violence is less – not because casteism is absent, but because it remains unchallenged. Thus, caste-based violence is not a sign of persistent hierarchy alone, but of hierarchy under siege.

Tamil Nadu's caste paradox

When caste killings happen, democratic voices among the public are strong in Tamil Nadu as the State boasts a strong and vibrant civil society. At the same time, caste is glorified on social media. Due to the anonymity such platforms offer, some accounts go so far as to defend caste killings.

How do we understand this paradox? Perhaps in Tamil Nadu, while people possess a collective consciousness against casteism, shaped by decades of social justice politics, individual attitudes may not always align in the same way. The State's anti-caste culture is collectively progressive but individually conflicted. In public, caste violence is rejected but in

private conversations, WhatsApp groups, and through anonymous posts, caste continues to dictate social preferences, marriage alliances, and "honourable behaviour."

This paradox does not mean that Tamil Nadu's anti-caste movement is a failure. It means that one is living in a liminal space – between tradition and transformation. What we see on social media is not just caste pride, it's also the fear of losing inherited power and the anxiety of cultural change.

On family and caste

There's a popular belief that the caste system survives mainly because of political parties or caste-based organisations. While these certainly reinforce caste divisions in the public sphere, they are not the roots of the system. Caste survives because it is protected and transmitted within the family. Through everyday customs, rituals, marriage arrangements, social expectations, and inherited prejudices, caste becomes part of a child's consciousness long before they can question it. This is why caste has remained transgenerational, even in the face of rising education, urbanisation and exposure to new ideas.

However, the psychological and cultural importance of the 'family' itself is changing, especially among adolescents. Around the world, particularly in countries like South Korea and Japan, we are seeing dramatic shifts: marriage rates are falling, fertility rates are at historic lows, and the traditional family unit is losing its central place in people's lives. Instead, new models of relationship –

open partnerships, cohabitation, single living, and self-parenting – are emerging.

India's urban youth are slowly reflecting this trend too. Many adolescents today are increasingly prioritising individual growth, emotional well-being, and autonomy over traditional family obligations. As the value of the family unit weakens, so too does the primary mechanism through which caste is enforced and reproduced.

In other words, if the family becomes less central in shaping relationships and social norms, caste may lose its strongest and oldest vehicle of survival. This doesn't mean that caste will disappear overnight. But it suggests that the cultural infrastructure that sustains it is slowly being dismantled – not by revolution, but by changing lifestyles, shifting emotional priorities, and evolution of the self.

Caste in India is at crossroads. On one hand, we see violent reactions and online glorification. On the other, we witness strong democratic voices against honour killings and a new generation slowly withdrawing from social values. Tamil Nadu symbolises this contradiction in its most vivid form – a State where both the loudest resistance to casteism and the quietest internal caste pride coexist. But it also offers hope: if this contradiction is acknowledged, addressed, and challenged, especially through engagement and digital counter-narratives, we may finally move toward a society where caste loses its grip not only on our systems, but on our hearts and minds.

Sivabalan Elangovan is Professor and Head, Dept of Psychiatry, Dr MGR Educational and Research Institute.



How 'Honour' Killings in India are Reinforced and Legitimised

भारत में 'सम्मान' हत्या कैसे मजबूत और वैध होती है

- States like **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Kerala** — where **Dalit communities** have seen relatively greater **empowerment** — record higher rates of **inter-caste marriages**.
तमिलनाडु, तेलंगाना, महाराष्ट्र, और केरल जैसे राज्य — जहाँ दलित समुदायों को अपेक्षाकृत अधिक सशक्तिकरण मिला है — में अंतरजातीय विवाह की दर अधिक दर्ज की जाती है।
- Ironically, these are also the States with increased incidents of **honour killings**.
विडंबना यह है कि ये वही राज्य हैं जहाँ सम्मान हत्या की घटनाएँ बढ़ी हुई हैं।

Caste in India

भारत में जाति

- **Caste in India** is not an individual problem — it is a **deeply rooted social phenomenon**.
भारत में जाति केवल व्यक्तिगत समस्या नहीं है — यह एक गहराई से निहित सामाजिक घटना है।
- Caste survives and thrives not just because individuals insist on it, **but because families, communities, and entire social structures continue to enforce and legitimise it, knowingly or otherwise**.
जाति केवल इसलिए नहीं बनी रहती कि व्यक्ति इसे मानते हैं, बल्कि क्योंकि परिवार, समुदाय और पूरे सामाजिक ढांचे इसे जानबूझकर या अनजाने में लागू और वैध बनाते रहते हैं।
- At the heart of this caste endurance lie **social customs passed down and protected within households**.
इस जाति की मजबूती के मूल में सामाजिक प्रथाएँ हैं, जो घरों में पीढ़ी-दर-पीढ़ी संरक्षित और जारी रहती हैं।
- **Children grow up internalising boundaries — who to talk to, who to marry, who to avoid — long before they can even articulate why**.
बच्चे बड़ी उम्र से ही सीमाओं को आत्मसात कर लेते हैं — किससे बात करनी है, किससे शादी करनी है, किसे टालना है — इससे पहले कि वे कारण समझा सकें।
- As a result, the **caste system** remains one of the **most resilient social frameworks in India**.
परिणामस्वरूप, जाति प्रणाली भारत में सबसे अधिक टिकाऊ सामाजिक ढाँचों में से एक बनी रहती है।

'Honour' Killings

'सम्मान' हत्याएँ

- One of the biggest threats to the rigidity of caste has been **social justice interventions**.
जाति की कठोरता के लिए सबसे बड़ी चुनौतियों में से एक सामाजिक न्याय हस्तक्षेप रहा है।
- **When marginalised communities, particularly Dalits, gain access to quality education and secure meaningful employment, it opens the gates for their integration into mainstream society**.
जब हाशिए पर रहने वाले समुदाय, विशेषकर दलित, गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा और सार्थक रोजगार प्राप्त करते हैं, तो यह उन्हें मुख्यधारा में एकीकरण के लिए अवसर देता है।
- With that, a foundational shift begins. No longer confined to the margins, the **oppressed** begin to interact with **caste-Hindu society** on an **equal footing** — in **workplaces, colleges, cities**, and most importantly, in **relationships**.
इसके साथ ही एक मूलभूत बदलाव शुरू होता है। अब हाशिए पर नहीं, बल्कि पीड़ित समान



भूमिका में जाति-हिंदू समाज के साथ बातचीत शुरू करते हैं — कार्यस्थलों, कॉलेजों, शहरों, और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण, संबंधों में।

- This has created a new frontier of **social tension: romantic unions that cross caste lines**, especially those involving **Dalit men and dominant caste women**.
इसने एक नए प्रकार का **सामाजिक तनाव** पैदा किया है: **जाति सीमाओं को पार करने वाले रोमांटिक संबंध**, विशेषकर **दलित पुरुष और प्रभावशाली जाति की महिलाएं** शामिल हैं।
- These unions represent not just **love or rebellion** but a **direct challenge to centuries-old caste hierarchies**.
ये संबंध केवल **प्रेम या विद्रोह** नहीं बल्कि **सदियों से चली आ रही जाति संरचनाओं** के लिए **सीधा चुनौती** हैं।
- For many conservative families, that challenge is **intolerable**.
कई **संरक्षणवादी परिवारों** के लिए यह चुनौती **असहनीय** है।
- States like **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Kerala** — where **Dalit communities** have seen relatively greater **empowerment** — also record higher rates of **inter-caste marriages**.
ऐसे राज्य जैसे **तमिलनाडु, तेलंगाना, महाराष्ट्र और केरल** — जहाँ **दलित समुदायों** ने अपेक्षाकृत अधिक **सशक्तिकरण** देखा है — वहाँ **अंतरजातीय विवाहों** की दर भी अधिक है।
- According to the **India Human Development Survey (IHDS-II)**, the national rate of **inter-caste marriages** stands at around **5%**, but States with **empowered Dalit populations** show higher numbers.
इंडिया ह्यूमन डेवलपमेंट सर्वे (IHDS-II) के अनुसार, **अंतरजातीय विवाहों** की राष्ट्रीय दर लगभग **5%** है, लेकिन **सशक्त दलित आबादी वाले राज्य** अधिक संख्या दिखाते हैं।
- Ironically, these are also the States with increased incidents of **honour killings**.
विडंबना यह है कि ये राज्य **सम्मान हत्याओं** की बढ़ी हुई घटनाओं वाले भी हैं।
- This paradox reveals a disturbing truth: **honour killings occur not where casteism is strongest, but where it is most threatened**.
यह विरोधाभास एक चिंताजनक सच्चाई को दर्शाता है: **सम्मान हत्याएँ** वहाँ होती हैं जहाँ जातिवाद सबसे मजबूत नहीं है, बल्कि जहाँ यह सबसे अधिक **खतरे में** है।
- In States where the oppressed still maintain their “**status quo**”, violence is less — not because casteism is absent, but because it remains **unchallenged**.
उन राज्यों में जहाँ **पीड़ित** अभी भी अपना “**स्थिति quo**” बनाए रखते हैं, हिंसा कम होती है — यह इसलिए नहीं कि जातिवाद नहीं है, बल्कि इसलिए कि यह **अविचलित** रहता है।
- Thus, **caste-based violence** is not a sign of persistent hierarchy alone, but of **hierarchy under siege**.
इस प्रकार, **जाति-आधारित हिंसा** केवल लगातार रहने वाली पदानुक्रम का संकेत नहीं है, बल्कि यह **पदानुक्रम पर संकट** का संकेत है।

Tamil Nadu's Caste Paradox तमिलनाडु की जाति विरोधाभास

- When **caste killings** happen, **democratic voices** among the public are strong in **Tamil Nadu** as the State boasts a strong and vibrant **civil society**.
जब **जाति हत्या** होती है, तब जनता में **लोकतांत्रिक आवाज़ें** तमिलनाडु में मजबूत होती हैं क्योंकि राज्य में मजबूत और जीवंत **सिविल सोसाइटी** मौजूद है।
- At the same time, **caste** is glorified on **social media**.
उसी समय, **जाति** को **सोशल मीडिया** पर महिमामंडित किया जाता है।
- Due to the anonymity such platforms offer, some accounts go so far as to defend **caste killings**.
ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म की **अनामिता** के कारण, कुछ अकाउंट्स **जाति हत्याओं** का बचाव तक कर देते हैं।
- Perhaps in Tamil Nadu, while people possess a collective consciousness against **casteism**, shaped by decades of **social justice politics**, individual attitudes may not



always align in the same way.

शायद तमिलनाडु में, जब लोग **जातिवाद** के खिलाफ सामूहिक चेतना रखते हैं, जो दशकों के **सामाजिक न्याय राजनीति** से बनी है, व्यक्तिगत दृष्टिकोण हमेशा उसी तरह मेल नहीं खाते।

- The State's **anti-caste culture** is collectively progressive but individually conflicted. राज्य की **जातिविरोधी संस्कृति** सामूहिक रूप से प्रगतिशील है लेकिन व्यक्तिगत रूप से संघर्षरत है।

- In public, **caste violence** is rejected but in private conversations, **WhatsApp groups**, and through anonymous posts, **caste** continues to dictate **social preferences, marriage alliances, and "honourable behaviour."**

सार्वजनिक रूप से, **जाति हिंसा** अस्वीकार की जाती है लेकिन निजी बातचीत, **व्हाट्सएप ग्रुप्स**, और अनाम पोस्ट्स के माध्यम से **जाति** अभी भी **सामाजिक प्राथमिकताओं, विवाह गठबंधनों और "सम्माननीय व्यवहार"** को नियंत्रित करती है।

- This paradox does not mean that **Tamil Nadu's anti-caste movement** is a failure. यह विरोधाभास यह नहीं दर्शाता कि **तमिलनाडु की जातिविरोधी आंदोलन** असफल है।
- It means that one is living in a **liminal space** — between tradition and transformation.

इसका मतलब है कि लोग एक **संक्रमणशील स्थिति (liminal space)** में रह रहे हैं — परंपरा और परिवर्तन के बीच।

- What we see on **social media** is not just **caste pride**, it's also the fear of losing inherited power and the anxiety of **cultural change**.

जो हम **सोशल मीडिया** पर देखते हैं, वह सिर्फ **जाति गर्व** नहीं है, बल्कि यह **वंशानुगत शक्ति खोने का डर** और **सांस्कृतिक परिवर्तन** की चिंता भी है।

On Family and Caste

परिवार और जाति पर

- There's a popular belief that the **caste system** survives mainly because of **political parties or caste-based organisations**.

एक लोकप्रिय विश्वास है कि **जाति व्यवस्था** मुख्य रूप से इसलिए बनी रहती है क्योंकि **राजनीतिक पार्टियाँ** या **जाति आधारित संगठन** इसे बनाए रखते हैं।

- While these certainly reinforce **caste divisions** in the public sphere, they are not the roots of the system.

जबकि ये निश्चित रूप से सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में **जाति विभाजन** को मजबूत करते हैं, ये व्यवस्था की जड़ें नहीं हैं।

- **Caste survives** because it is protected and transmitted within the **family**.

जाति बनी रहती है क्योंकि यह **परिवार** के भीतर सुरक्षित रहती है और हस्तांतरित होती है।

- Through everyday **customs, rituals, marriage arrangements, social expectations, and inherited prejudices**, **caste** becomes part of a child's consciousness long before they can question it.

रोजमर्रा की **परंपराओं, अनुष्ठानों, विवाह व्यवस्था, सामाजिक अपेक्षाओं और विरासत में मिली पूर्वाग्रहों** के माध्यम से, **जाति** बच्चे की चेतना का हिस्सा बन जाती है इससे पहले कि वे इसे सवाल कर सकें।

- This is why **caste has remained transgenerational, even in the face of rising education, urbanisation, and exposure to new ideas**.

यही कारण है कि **जाति अंतरपीढ़ी बनी रहती है**, भले ही **शिक्षा, शहरीकरण और नए विचारों के संपर्क** में वृद्धि हो।

- However, the psychological and cultural importance of the **family** itself is changing, especially among **adolescents**.

हालांकि, **परिवार** का मानसिक और सांस्कृतिक महत्व स्वयं बदल रहा है, खासकर **किशोरों** में।

- Around the world, particularly in countries like **South Korea** and **Japan**, we are seeing dramatic shifts: **marriage rates** are falling, **fertility rates** are at historic lows,



and the traditional **family unit** is losing its central place in people's lives.

दुनिया भर में, विशेषकर **दक्षिण कोरिया** और **जापान** जैसे देशों में, हम नाटकीय बदलाव देख रहे हैं: **विवाह दर** घट रही है, **प्रजनन दर** ऐतिहासिक निम्न स्तर पर है, और पारंपरिक **परिवार इकाई** लोगों के जीवन में अपना केंद्रीय स्थान खो रही है।

- **Instead, new models of relationship — open partnerships, cohabitation, single living, and self-parenting — are emerging.**
इसके बजाय, नए संबंध मॉडल — **खुले साझेदारी, सहवास, एकल जीवन, और आत्म-पोषण** — उभर रहे हैं।
- India's urban youth are slowly reflecting this trend too.
भारत के शहरी युवा भी धीरे-धीरे इस प्रवृत्ति को प्रतिबिंबित कर रहे हैं।
- Many adolescents today are increasingly prioritising **individual growth, emotional well-being, and autonomy** over traditional **family obligations**.
आज के कई किशोर पारंपरिक **परिवारिक जिम्मेदारियों** की तुलना में **व्यक्तिगत विकास, भावनात्मक भलाई और स्वायत्तता** को प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं।
- As the value of the **family unit** weakens, so too does the primary mechanism through which **caste** is enforced and reproduced.
जैसे-जैसे **परिवार इकाई** का महत्व कमजोर होता है, वैसे-वैसे वह मुख्य माध्यम भी कमजोर होता है जिसके माध्यम से **जाति** लागू और पुनरुत्पादित होती है।
- **In other words, if the family becomes less central in shaping relationships and social norms, caste may lose its strongest and oldest vehicle of survival.**
दूसरे शब्दों में, यदि **परिवार संबंधों और सामाजिक मानदंडों** को आकार देने में कम केंद्रीय हो जाता है, तो **जाति** अपना सबसे मजबूत और पुराना अस्तित्व वाहन खो सकती है।
- This doesn't mean that **caste** will disappear overnight.
इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि **जाति** एक रात में गायब हो जाएगी।
- **But it suggests that the cultural infrastructure that sustains it is slowly being dismantled — not by revolution, but by changing lifestyles, shifting emotional priorities, and evolution of the self.**
लेकिन यह संकेत करता है कि इसे बनाए रखने वाला **सांस्कृतिक ढांचा** धीरे-धीरे टूट रहा है — क्रांति द्वारा नहीं, बल्कि **जीवनशैली में बदलाव, भावनात्मक प्राथमिकताओं में बदलाव, और आत्म विकास** द्वारा।
- **Caste in India** is at crossroads.
भारत में जाति एक मोड़ पर है।
- On one hand, we see **violent reactions and online glorification**.
एक तरफ, हम **हिंसक प्रतिक्रियाएँ और ऑनलाइन महिमामंडन** देखते हैं।
- On the other, we witness strong **democratic voices** against **honour killings** and a new generation slowly withdrawing from social values.
दूसरी तरफ, हम **सम्मान हत्याओं** के खिलाफ मजबूत **लोकतांत्रिक आवाज़ें** और नई पीढ़ी को धीरे-धीरे सामाजिक मूल्यों से पीछे हटते हुए देखते हैं।
- **Tamil Nadu** symbolises this contradiction in its most vivid form — a State where both the loudest **resistance to casteism** and the quietest internal **caste pride** coexist.
तमिलनाडु इस विरोधाभास का सबसे जीवंत रूप दर्शाता है — एक ऐसा राज्य जहाँ **जातिवाद के खिलाफ सबसे जोरदार प्रतिरोध** और सबसे शांत आंतरिक **जाति गर्व** सह-अस्तित्व रखते हैं।
- But it also offers hope: if this contradiction is acknowledged, addressed, and challenged, especially through **engagement and digital counter-narratives**, we may finally move toward a society where **caste loses its grip** not only on our systems, but on our **hearts and minds**.
लेकिन यह आशा भी देता है: यदि इस विरोधाभास को स्वीकार किया जाए, संबोधित किया जाए, और चुनौती दी जाए, विशेषकर **सक्रिय भागीदारी और डिजिटल प्रतिकथाओं** के माध्यम से, तो हम अंततः एक ऐसे समाज की ओर बढ़ सकते हैं जहाँ **जाति अपना नियंत्रण** न केवल हमारे सिस्टम पर, बल्कि हमारे **दिल और दिमाग** पर भी खो दे।



BELGRADE

Serbia's President vows 'strong response' after days of unrest



GS I: Mapping

AP

Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic on Sunday vowed a "strong" response to anti-government protests, after nearly a week of clashes involving his supporters, police and demonstrators. Clashes have erupted in the capital, Belgrade, and other cities for five nights in a row, with fireworks, stun grenades and tear gas used. AFP

Serbia's President vows 'strong response' after days of unrest

सर्बिया के राष्ट्रपति ने अशांति के दिनों के बाद 'कड़े जवाब' की कसम खाई

• Serbia's President **Aleksandar Vucic** on **Sunday** vowed a "strong" response to anti-government protests, after nearly a week of clashes involving his supporters, police and demonstrators.

सर्बिया के राष्ट्रपति एलेक्ज़ेंडर वूचिच ने रविवार को

सरकार विरोधी प्रदर्शनों के खिलाफ "कड़े" जवाब की कसम खाई, लगभग एक हफ्ते तक चले टकरावों के बाद जिसमें उनके समर्थक, पुलिस और प्रदर्शनकारी शामिल थे।

- Clashes have erupted in the capital, **Belgrade**, and other cities for **five nights in a row**, with fireworks, stun grenades and tear gas used.

राजधानी बेलग्रेड और अन्य शहरों में लगातार पांच रातों तक झड़पें हुईं, जिनमें आतिशबाज़ी, स्टेन ग्रेनेड और आंसू गैस का इस्तेमाल किया गया।

LA PAZ

Polls open in Bolivia's presidential election dominated by the Right



GS I: Mapping

AFP

Polls opened on Sunday in Bolivia's presidential and congressional elections marked by the absence of former leftist President **Evo Morales** — barred from running. Leading the race are conservatives **Samuel Doria Medina**, a business magnate, and **Jorge Quiroga**, a former President, but neither has more than 30% support. REUTERS

support.

Polls open in Bolivia's presidential election dominated by the Right

दक्षिणपंथ के प्रभाव वाली बोलीविया की राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में मतदान शुरू

• Polls opened on **Sunday** in **Bolivia's presidential and congressional elections** marked by the absence of former leftist President **Evo Morales** — barred from running.

रविवार को बोलीविया के राष्ट्रपति और संसदीय चुनावों में मतदान शुरू हुआ, जो पूर्व वामपंथी राष्ट्रपति **इवो मोरालेस** की अनुपस्थिति से चिह्नित था — जिन्हें चुनाव लड़ने से प्रतिबंधित किया गया था।

• Leading the race are conservatives **Samuel Doria Medina**, a business magnate, and **Jorge Quiroga**, a former President, but neither has more than **30%**



दौड़ में आगे हैं दक्षिणपंथी सैमुअल डोरिया मेदिन, एक उद्योगपति, और जॉर्ज क्यूरोगा, एक पूर्व राष्ट्रपति, लेकिन किसी को भी 30% से अधिक समर्थन नहीं है।

Unification of Syria cannot happen at the cost of blood, says Sharaa as he slams Israel

GS I: Mapping
Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa [Muhammad al-Jolani] has said the battle to unify his country after years of civil war “should not be with blood”, rejecting any partition and accusing Israel of meddling in the south.

His remarks, released by state TV on Sunday, came as hundreds demonstrated in south Syria's Sweida province, denouncing sectarian violence last month and calling for the right to self-determination for the Druze-majority province.



Syria's Sweida province saw clashes in July involving Druze fighters, Sunni Bedouin, government forces and Israeli troops. REUTERS

“We still have another battle ahead of us to unify Syria, and it should not be with blood and military force... it should be

through some kind of understanding because Syria is tired of war,” Sharaa said.

“Some parties seek to

gain power through regional power, Israel or others. This cannot be implemented,” he said.

A week of bloodshed in Sweida began on July 13 with clashes between Druze fighters and Sunni Bedouin, but rapidly escalated, drawing in government forces, with Israel also carrying out strikes. Syrian officials said their forces intervened to stop the clashes, but witnesses, Druze factions and the a rights group have accused them of siding with the Bedouin and committing abuses against the Druze, including summary executions.

Unification of Syria cannot happen at the cost of blood, says Sharaa as he slams Israel

सीरिया का एकीकरण खून की कीमत पर नहीं हो सकता, शरा ने इज़राइल की निंदा की

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa [Muhammad al-Jolani] has said the battle to unify his country after years of civil war “should not be with blood”, rejecting any partition and accusing Israel of meddling in the south.

सीरियाई राष्ट्रपति अहमद अल-शरा [मुहम्मद अल-जोलेनी] ने कहा कि वर्षों के गृहयुद्ध के बाद अपने देश को एकजुट करने की लड़ाई “खून से नहीं होनी चाहिए”, किसी भी विभाजन को खारिज करते हुए और इज़राइल पर दक्षिण में हस्तक्षेप का आरोप लगाया।

- His remarks, released by state TV on Sunday, came as hundreds demonstrated in south Syria's Sweida province, denouncing sectarian violence last month and calling for the right to self-determination for the Druze-majority province.

उनकी टिप्पणियां राज्य टीवी द्वारा रविवार को जारी की गईं, जब दक्षिण सीरिया के स्वेदा प्रांत में सैकड़ों लोगों ने प्रदर्शन किया, पिछले महीने की सांप्रदायिक हिंसा की निंदा की और द्रूज़-बहुल प्रांत के लिए आत्मनिर्णय के अधिकार की मांग की।



- “We still have another battle ahead of us to unify **Syria**, and it should not be with blood and military force... it should be through some kind of understanding because **Syria** is tired of war,” **Sharaa** said.
“हमारे सामने **सीरिया** को एकजुट करने की एक और लड़ाई है, और यह खून और सैन्य बल से नहीं होनी चाहिए... यह किसी प्रकार की समझ के माध्यम से होनी चाहिए क्योंकि **सीरिया** युद्ध से थक चुका है,” **शरा** ने कहा।
- “Some parties seek to gain power through regional power, **Israel** or others. This cannot be implemented,” he said.
“कुछ दल क्षेत्रीय शक्ति, **इज़राइल** या अन्य के माध्यम से सत्ता हासिल करना चाहते हैं। इसे लागू नहीं किया जा सकता,” उन्होंने कहा।
- A week of bloodshed in **Sweida** began on **July 13** with clashes between **Druze fighters** and **Sunni Bedouin**, but rapidly escalated, drawing in government forces, with **Israel** also carrying out strikes.
स्वेदा में एक सप्ताह का रक्तपात **13 जुलाई** को **द्रूज़ लड़ाकों** और **सुन्नी बेदुइनों** के बीच झड़पों से शुरू हुआ, लेकिन तेजी से बढ़ गया, जिसमें सरकारी बल शामिल हो गए और **इज़राइल** ने भी हमले किए।
- Syrian officials said their forces intervened to stop the clashes, but witnesses, **Druze factions** and a rights group have accused them of siding with the **Bedouin** and committing abuses against the **Druze**, including summary executions.
सीरियाई अधिकारियों ने कहा कि उनकी सेनाओं ने झड़पों को रोकने के लिए हस्तक्षेप किया, लेकिन गवाहों, **द्रूज़ गुटों** और एक मानवाधिकार समूह ने उन पर **बेदुइनों** का पक्ष लेने और **द्रूज़** के खिलाफ दुर्व्यवहार करने, जिसमें त्वरित फाँसी भी शामिल है, का आरोप लगाया।

- Emerged in the **11th century CE** in the Middle East as an offshoot of **Ismaili Shia Islam** during the Fatimid Caliphate.
- The movement began in Egypt under **Caliph al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah** and his followers.
- Over time, the Druze faith developed into a distinct religion, separate from Islam, though influenced by Islamic, Greek, and other philosophical traditions.

2. Beliefs and Practices

- **Monotheistic**: Believe in the unity of God.
- **Reincarnation**: Believe in the transmigration of souls.
- **Closed religion**: No conversions are allowed; one must be born into the Druze community.
- **Sacred texts**: Known as **Epistles of Wisdom (Rasa'il al-Hikma)**.
- They keep much of their theology **esoteric (secretive)**, known only to religious initiates (*uqqal*).

3. Population and Geography

- Estimated population: **~1.5–2 million worldwide**.
- Main concentrations:
 - **Lebanon** (largest population; politically influential)
 - **Syria** (notably in Jabal al-Druze/Suwayda)
 - **Israel** (recognized as a distinct religious community; some serve in Israeli Defense Forces)



- Small communities in **Jordan** and the diaspora (Americas, Europe).

18_08_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

- 1. File affidavit in seven days or apologise: EC to Rahul Gandhi**
सात दिनों में शपथपत्र दाखिल करें या माफी मांगें: राहुल गांधी को चुनाव आयोग
- 2. C.P. Radhakrishnan is NDA's V-P candidate**
सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन एनडीए के उपराष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार
- 3. 'Simultaneous polls Bill gives unfettered discretion to EC'**
'समानांतर चुनाव विधेयक EC को असीमित विवेकाधिकार देता है'
- 4. Bill to decriminalise minor offences to be introduced in the Lok Sabha today**
लघु अपराधों को अपराधमुक्त करने वाला विधेयक आज लोकसभा में पेश किया जाएगा
- 5. Roll recall**
रोल रिकॉल
- 6. In Namibia, India Shows a New Way to Engage Africa**
नामिबिया में, भारत अफ्रीका के साथ जुड़ने का नया तरीका दिखाता है
- 7. A Case for Judicial Introspection**
न्यायिक आत्मावलोकन के लिए एक मामला
- 8. 'Putin agreed to U.S., EU security guarantees for Ukraine at summit'**
'पुतिन ने शिखर सम्मेलन में यू.एस., ई.यू. सुरक्षा गारंटी पर सहमति दी'



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



9. In Telangana, corruption cases rarely end careers
तेलंगाना में भ्रष्टाचार के मामले शायद ही करियर खत्म करते हैं

PATRIOTIC IAS



File affidavit in seven days or apologise: EC to Rahul Gandhi

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar refuses to provide machine-readable voter lists and CCTV footage of polling, citing voter privacy concerns; he says if complaints are not filed within 45 days of poll results, parties must file affidavits

GS II: Elections

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Sunday doubled down on its demand that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi submit an affidavit stating his allegations of voter roll manipulations in a Karnataka Assembly constituency.

In his first press conference since assuming office, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar did not name the Congress leader, but issued him an ultimatum to submit the signed affidavit within seven days or apologise to the nation.

The CEC refused the Opposition's demands to publish a machine-readable voter list and to provide CCTV footage of the voting process, claiming that both measures would violate voter privacy.

Combative CEC

This comes 10 days after Mr. Gandhi alleged deliberate, large-scale discrepan-

cies in the voter rolls of the Mahadevapura Assembly segment of the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency, which the BJP won in the 2024 general election. Following his allegations, the Chief Electoral Officers of Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Haryana had asked him to submit his allegations under oath, which he has refused to do.

Asked why the EC has not taken *suo motu* cognisance of the allegations, a combative CEC said: "If accusations are made against 1,50,000 people, then should all these voters be given notices without any evidence?"

"You have to give an affidavit or apologise to the nation. If within 7 days affidavit is not given, then it means allegations are wrong," he said.

'No discrimination'

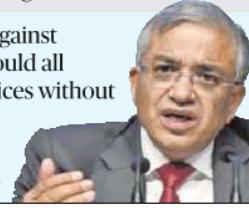
However, Mr. Kumar did not reply to a question on why BJP MP Anurag Thakur – who has made similar allegations of voter roll discrepancies in the Rae



You (Rahul Gandhi) have to give an affidavit or apologise to the nation. If within seven days affidavit is not given, then it means allegations are wrong

If accusations are made against 1,50,000 people, then should all these voters be given notices without any evidence?

GYANESH KUMAR
Chief Election Commissioner



Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency, which is represented by Mr. Gandhi – was not asked to submit an affidavit as well.

To another question on why a complaint filed by the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha about last year's Lok Sabha election had not been probed, Mr. Kumar clarified that the complaint was not made under oath, adding that the 45-day limit for complaints has also passed. He had a similar response to a complaint filed by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

The CEC began the press conference by assert-

ing that the EC cannot discriminate among political parties, insisting that it considers ruling and Opposition parties as equal.

He said that it was an insult to the Constitution if election petitions are not filed within 45 days, but allegations of "vote chori" (vote theft) are later raised.

"According to law, if errors in the voter list are not reported in time, if an election petition is not filed in the High Court within 45 days of a voter choosing their candidate, and then misleading attempts are made to confuse people by using wrong words such as

'vote theft', then what else can this be if not an insult to the Constitution of India?" he asked. "More than one crore employees are engaged in the election exercise. Can 'vote chori' happen in such a transparent process?" he added.

Mr. Kumar sought to dismiss any doubts about the 2024 election. "How can someone steal votes" in such a scenario, he asked, adding that "neither the EC nor any voter is afraid of such baseless accusations".

On accusations made by the Opposition regarding the Maharashtra Assembly election, he said: "When the results came, they remembered that the rolls are wrong? No objection with evidence has been filed against any voter with the Maharashtra CEO. The elections happened eight months ago. Why no election petition was filed?"

VEILED THREATS: CONG.

» PAGE 5

'DELETED NAMES ON SITE'

» PAGE 5

File affidavit in seven days or apologise: EC to Rahul Gandhi

सात दिनों में शपथपत्र दाखिल करें या माफी मांगें: राहुल गांधी को चुनाव आयोग

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar refuses to provide machine-readable voter lists and CCTV footage of polling, citing voter privacy concerns; he says if complaints are not filed within 45 days of poll results, parties must file affidavits

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त जनेश कुमार ने मतदाता गोपनीयता चिंताओं का हवाला देते हुए मशीन-पठनीय मतदाता सूची और मतदान की सीसीटीवी फुटेज देने से इनकार किया; उन्होंने कहा कि यदि चुनाव परिणामों के 45 दिनों के भीतर शिकायतें दर्ज नहीं की जातीं, तो पार्टियों को शपथपत्र दाखिल करना होगा



- The **Election Commission of India** on Sunday doubled down on its demand that Leader of Opposition **Rahul Gandhi** submit an affidavit stating his allegations of voter roll manipulations in a **Karnataka Assembly constituency**.
भारतीय चुनाव आयोग ने रविवार को विपक्ष के नेता **राहुल गांधी** से यह मांग दोहराई कि वह **कर्नाटक विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र** में मतदाता सूची में गड़बड़ी के अपने आरोपों का शपथपत्र दाखिल करें।
- In his first press conference since assuming office, **Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar** did not name the Congress leader, but issued him an ultimatum to submit the signed affidavit within **seven days** or apologise to the nation.
पदभार संभालने के बाद अपनी पहली प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में **मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त जनेश कुमार** ने कांग्रेस नेता का नाम तो नहीं लिया, लेकिन उन्हें **सात दिनों** में हस्ताक्षरित शपथपत्र जमा करने या राष्ट्र से माफी मांगने का अल्टीमेटम दिया।
- The CEC refused the Opposition's demands to publish a **machine-readable voter list** and to provide **CCTV footage** of the voting process, claiming that both measures would violate **voter privacy**.
मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ने विपक्ष की मांगों को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि **मशीन-पठनीय मतदाता सूची** प्रकाशित करना और मतदान प्रक्रिया की **सीसीटीवी फुटेज** देना, दोनों ही **मतदाता गोपनीयता** का उल्लंघन होगा।
- **Combative CEC**
लड़ाकू मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त
- This comes 10 days after Mr. Gandhi alleged deliberate, large-scale discrepancies in the voter rolls of the **Mahadevapura Assembly segment** of the **Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency**, which the **BJP** won in the **2024 general election**.
यह तब आया जब श्री गांधी ने 10 दिन पहले **महादेवपुरा विधानसभा खंड** (जो **बेंगलुरु केंद्रीय लोकसभा क्षेत्र** का हिस्सा है) की मतदाता सूची में जानबूझकर बड़े पैमाने पर गड़बड़ी का आरोप लगाया था, जिसे **भाजपा** ने **2024 आम चुनाव** में जीता था।
- Following his allegations, the **Chief Electoral Officers** of **Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Haryana** had asked him to submit his allegations under oath, which he has refused to do.
उनके आरोपों के बाद **कर्नाटक, महाराष्ट्र और हरियाणा** के **मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारियों** ने उनसे शपथपूर्वक आरोप दर्ज करने को कहा था, जिसे उन्होंने करने से इनकार कर दिया।
- Asked why the EC has not taken **suo motu cognisance** of the allegations, a combative CEC said: "If accusations are made against **1,50,000 people**, then should all these voters be given notices without any evidence?"
जब पूछा गया कि आयोग ने आरोपों का **स्वतः संज्ञान** क्यों नहीं लिया, तो एक लड़ाकू सीईसी ने कहा: "अगर **1,50,000 लोगों** पर आरोप लगाए गए हैं, तो क्या बिना किसी सबूत के इन सभी मतदाताओं को नोटिस भेजे जाने चाहिए?"
- "You have to give an affidavit or apologise to the nation. If within **7 days** affidavit is not given, then it means allegations are wrong," he said.
"आपको शपथपत्र देना होगा या राष्ट्र से माफी मांगनी होगी। यदि **7 दिनों** में शपथपत्र नहीं दिया गया, तो इसका मतलब है कि आरोप गलत हैं," उन्होंने कहा।
- **'No discrimination'**
'कोई भेदभाव नहीं'
- However, Mr. Kumar did not reply to a question on why **BJP MP Anurag Thakur** — who has made similar allegations of voter roll discrepancies in the **Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency**, which is represented by Mr. Gandhi — was not asked to submit an affidavit as well.
हालांकि, श्री कुमार ने इस सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया कि **भाजपा सांसद अनुराग ठाकुर** — जिन्होंने **रायबरेली लोकसभा क्षेत्र** (जिसका प्रतिनिधित्व श्री गांधी करते हैं) में मतदाता सूची में गड़बड़ी के समान आरोप लगाए हैं — को भी शपथपत्र दाखिल करने के लिए क्यों नहीं कहा गया।



- To another question on why a complaint filed by the **Biju Janata Dal** in **Odisha** about last year's **Lok Sabha election** had not been probed, Mr. Kumar clarified that the complaint was not made under oath, adding that the **45-day limit** for complaints has also passed. He had a similar response to a complaint filed by **Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav**.

एक अन्य सवाल पर कि पिछले साल के **लोकसभा चुनाव** को लेकर **ओडिशा** में **बीजू जनता दल** द्वारा दर्ज की गई शिकायत की जांच क्यों नहीं की गई, श्री कुमार ने स्पष्ट किया कि शिकायत शपथपूर्वक दर्ज नहीं की गई थी और शिकायत दर्ज करने की **45 दिन की सीमा** भी समाप्त हो चुकी है। उनका यही जवाब **समाजवादी पार्टी प्रमुख अखिलेश यादव** की शिकायत पर भी था।

- The CEC began the press conference by asserting that the **EC cannot discriminate** among political parties, insisting that it considers ruling and Opposition parties as equal.

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस की शुरुआत यह कहते हुए की कि **चुनाव आयोग भेदभाव नहीं कर सकता** और यह मानता है कि सत्तारूढ़ और विपक्षी दल समान हैं।

- He said that it was an insult to the **Constitution** if election petitions are not filed within **45 days**, but allegations of "**vote chori**" (vote theft) are later raised. उन्होंने कहा कि यदि **45 दिनों** के भीतर चुनाव याचिकाएं दाखिल नहीं की जातीं, लेकिन बाद में "**वोट चोरी**" (मत चुराने) के आरोप लगाए जाते हैं, तो यह **संविधान** का अपमान है।
- "According to law, if errors in the voter list are not reported in time, if an election petition is not filed in the **High Court** within **45 days** of a voter choosing their candidate, and then misleading attempts are made to confuse people by using wrong words such as 'vote theft', then what else can this be if not an insult to the Constitution of India?" he asked. "More than **one crore employees** are engaged in the election exercise. Can 'vote chori' happen in such a transparent process?" he added.

"कानून के अनुसार, यदि समय पर मतदाता सूची में त्रुटियों की रिपोर्ट नहीं की जाती, यदि मतदाता द्वारा अपना उम्मीदवार चुनने के **45 दिनों** के भीतर **उच्च न्यायालय** में चुनाव याचिका दायर नहीं की जाती, और फिर लोगों को गुमराह करने के लिए 'वोट चोरी' जैसे गलत शब्दों का उपयोग किया जाता है, तो यह और क्या हो सकता है यदि **भारत के संविधान** का अपमान नहीं?" उन्होंने पूछा। "चुनाव प्रक्रिया में **एक करोड़ से अधिक कर्मचारी** लगे हुए हैं। क्या इतनी पारदर्शी प्रक्रिया में 'वोट चोरी' हो सकती है?" उन्होंने जोड़ा।

- Mr. Kumar sought to dismiss any doubts about the **2024 election**. "How can someone steal votes" in such a scenario, he asked, adding that "neither the EC nor any voter is afraid of such baseless accusations".

श्री कुमार ने **2024 चुनाव** पर किसी भी तरह के संदेह को खारिज करने की कोशिश की। उन्होंने पूछा, "ऐसी स्थिति में कोई वोट कैसे चुरा सकता है," और यह भी जोड़ा कि "न तो चुनाव आयोग और न ही कोई मतदाता ऐसे बेबुनियाद आरोपों से डरता है।"

- On accusations made by the Opposition regarding the **Maharashtra Assembly election**, he said: "When the results came, they remembered that the rolls are wrong? No objection with evidence has been filed against any voter with the **Maharashtra CEO**. The elections happened **eight months ago**. Why no election petition was filed?"

महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा चुनाव को लेकर विपक्ष द्वारा लगाए गए आरोपों पर उन्होंने कहा: "जब नतीजे आए, तो उन्हें याद आया कि मतदाता सूची गलत है? **महाराष्ट्र सीईओ** के पास किसी भी मतदाता के खिलाफ सबूत के साथ कोई आपत्ति दर्ज नहीं की गई। चुनाव **आठ महीने पहले** हुए थे। कोई चुनाव याचिका क्यों नहीं दाखिल की गई?"



C.P. Radhakrishnan is NDA's V-P candidate

GS II: VP

Nistula Hebbar

NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan was named the National Democratic Alliance's Vice-Presidential candidate on Sunday, after the BJP Parliamentary Board endorsed his name, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Radhakrishnan, 68, is a former MP from Coimbatore and former Tamil Nadu BJP chief. The party's national president and Un-



C. P. Radhakrishnan

ion Minister, J.P. Nadda, made the announcement at a press conference.

ALLIES TAKEN ON BOARD

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C.P. Radhakrishnan is NDA's V-P candidate

सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन एनडीए के उपराष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार

Maharashtra Governor C.P.

Radhakrishnan was named the National Democratic Alliance's Vice-Presidential candidate on Sunday, after the BJP Parliamentary Board endorsed his name, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

महाराष्ट्र के राज्यपाल सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन को राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन (एनडीए) का उपराष्ट्रपति पद का उम्मीदवार रविवार को घोषित किया गया, जब भाजपा संसदीय बोर्ड ने उनका नाम प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की मौजूदगी में अनुमोदित किया।

- Mr. Radhakrishnan, 68, is a former MP from Coimbatore and former Tamil Nadu BJP chief.

राधाकृष्णन, 68, पहले कोयंबटूर से सांसद रह चुके हैं और पूर्व तमिलनाडु भाजपा अध्यक्ष भी रह चुके हैं।

- The party's national president and Union Minister J.P. Nadda, made the announcement at a press conference.

पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष और केंद्रीय मंत्री जे.पी. नड्डा ने यह घोषणा एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में की।



'Simultaneous polls Bill gives unfettered discretion to EC'

GS II: Election

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna has told a parliamentary committee scrutinising the simultaneous election Bill that the constitutional validity of a proposal in no way amounts to a pronouncement upon the desirability or necessity of its provisions.

In his written opinion to the committee, Justice Khanna, however, said arguments related to the dilution of the country's federal structure might be raised about the constitutional amendment Bill, as he listed the various claims made supporting and criticising the concept, sources said.

Most experts addressing the committee have rejected the charge that the proposals are unconstitutional, but issued concerns with certain provisions.

Justice Khanna said the Bill conferred "unfettered

Most experts have rejected the charge that the proposals are unconstitutional, but issued concerns

discretion" to the EC in deciding that an Assembly poll could not be conducted along with that of the Lok Sabha, and to make a recommendation to the President on these lines, the sources said.

Justice Khanna said there was a difference between "merit review" and "judicial review". When the SC or HCs uphold constitutional validity, it was a mere affirmation of the legislative power and that the amendment or the provision was not violative of the constitutional limitations, he said.

"The court decisions in no way amount to pronouncement upon the desirability or necessity of such provisions," he added.

sources said.

समिति को अपने लिखित मत में, न्यायमूर्ति खन्ना ने हालांकि कहा कि संवैधानिक संशोधन विधेयक पर देश की संघीय संरचना के पतला होने से संबंधित तर्क उठाए जा सकते हैं, क्योंकि उन्होंने अवधारणा का समर्थन और आलोचना करने वाले विभिन्न दावों की सूची दी थी, सूत्रों ने कहा।

- Most experts addressing the committee have rejected the charge that the proposals are unconstitutional, but issued concerns with certain provisions. समिति से संबोधित करने वाले अधिकांश विशेषज्ञों ने यह आरोप खारिज कर दिया है कि प्रस्ताव असंवैधानिक हैं, लेकिन कुछ प्रावधानों को लेकर चिंता जताई है।
- Justice Khanna said the Bill conferred "unfettered discretion" to the EC in deciding that an Assembly poll could not be conducted along with that of the Lok Sabha, and to make a recommendation to the President on these lines, the sources said. न्यायमूर्ति खन्ना ने कहा कि विधेयक ने विधानसभा चुनाव को लोकसभा के साथ आयोजित नहीं किए

'Simultaneous polls Bill gives unfettered discretion to EC'

'समानांतर चुनाव विधेयक EC को असीमित विवेकाधिकार देता है'

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna has told a parliamentary committee scrutinising the simultaneous election Bill that the constitutional validity of a proposal in no way amounts to a pronouncement upon the desirability or necessity of its provisions.

भारत के पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) संजय खन्ना ने समानांतर चुनाव विधेयक की जांच कर रही एक संसदीय समिति से कहा है कि किसी प्रस्ताव की संवैधानिक वैधता किसी भी तरह से उसके प्रावधानों की वांछनीयता या आवश्यकता पर उच्चारण नहीं होती है।

- In his written opinion to the committee, Justice Khanna, however, said arguments related to the dilution of the country's federal structure might be raised about the constitutional amendment Bill, as he listed the various claims made supporting and criticising the concept,



जाने और इस संबंध में राष्ट्रपति को सिफारिश करने के लिए EC को “असीमित विवेकाधिकार” प्रदान किया है, सूत्रों ने कहा।

- **Justice Khanna** said there was a difference between “merit review” and “judicial review”. When the SC or HCs uphold constitutional validity, it was a mere affirmation of the legislative power and that the amendment or the provision was not violative of the constitutional limitations, he said.

न्यायमूर्ति खन्ना ने कहा कि “गुण समीक्षा” और “न्यायिक समीक्षा” के बीच अंतर है। जब SC या HCs संवैधानिक वैधता को बरकरार रखते हैं, तो यह मात्र विधायी शक्ति की पुष्टि होती है और इसका अर्थ यह होता है कि संशोधन या प्रावधान संवैधानिक सीमाओं का उल्लंघन नहीं करता है, उन्होंने कहा।

- “The court decisions in no way amount to pronouncement upon the desirability or necessity of such provisions,” he added.
उन्होंने कहा, “अदालत के निर्णय किसी भी तरह से ऐसे प्रावधानों की वांछनीयता या आवश्यकता पर उच्चारण नहीं होते।”

Bill to decriminalise minor offences to be introduced in the Lok Sabha today

GS II: Polity

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to decriminalise certain minor offences to promote ease of living and business, will be introduced by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to the list of business posted on the Lok Sabha website, the Minister will introduce the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025, “to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business”. Over 350 provisions are proposed to be amended through the Bill.

The legislation is part of the government’s effort to improve the country’s business climate.



Piyush Goyal

Earlier, in 2023, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment to Provisions) Act was enacted, which decriminalised 183 provisions in 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries and departments.

Through the Act, the government removed imprisonment and/or fines in some provisions. Imprisonment was removed and fine was retained in a few rules, while in some cases imprisonment and fine were converted to a penalty.

“There are laws in our country, astonishing as it may sound, that provide for imprisonment over trivial matters, and no one ever paid attention to them,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day speech on August 15.

“I have taken it upon myself to ensure that such unnecessary laws, which place Indian citizens behind bars, are abolished. We had introduced a Bill in Parliament earlier; we have brought it again this time,” he noted.

The government earlier abolished more than 40,000 compliances deemed unnecessary. It has also scrapped over 1,500 obsolete laws.

“We have gone to Parliament to amend dozens of laws to simplify them, always placing the interests of the public first,” Mr. Modi said.

Bill to decriminalise minor offences to be introduced in the Lok Sabha today

लघु अपराधों को अपराधमुक्त करने वाला विधेयक आज लोकसभा में पेश किया जाएगा

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to decriminalise certain minor offences to promote ease of living and business, will be introduced by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

जन विश्वास (संशोधन)



विधेयक, 2025, जो कुछ लघु अपराधों को अपराधमुक्त कर जीवन और व्यवसाय की सुगमता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए है, इसे सोमवार को लोकसभा में केंद्रीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल द्वारा पेश किया जाएगा।

- According to the list of business posted on the **Lok Sabha website**, the Minister will introduce the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025**, "to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business". **Over 350 provisions are proposed to be amended through the Bill.**

लोकसभा वेबसाइट पर पोस्ट की गई कार्य सूची के अनुसार, मंत्री जन विश्वास (संशोधन प्रावधान) विधेयक, 2025 पेश करेंगे, "कुछ अधिनियमों में संशोधन करने के लिए ताकि अपराधमुक्त और अपराधों का तर्कसंगतिकरण किया जा सके और जीवन और व्यवसाय की सुगमता के लिए विश्वास-आधारित शासन को और सुदृढ़ किया जा सके"। इस विधेयक के माध्यम से 350 से अधिक प्रावधानों में संशोधन का प्रस्ताव है।

- The legislation is part of the government's effort to improve the country's business climate.
यह विधेयक देश के व्यापार माहौल को सुधारने के लिए सरकार के प्रयास का हिस्सा है।
- Earlier, in **2023**, the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment to Provisions) Act** was enacted, which decriminalised **183 provisions** in **42 Central Acts** administered by **19 Ministries and departments**.
इससे पहले, **2023** में, **जन विश्वास (संशोधन प्रावधान) अधिनियम** लागू किया गया था, जिसने **19 मंत्रालयों और विभागों** द्वारा प्रशासित **42 केंद्रीय अधिनियमों** में से **183 प्रावधानों** को अपराधमुक्त किया था।
- Through the Act, the government removed imprisonment and/or fines in some provisions. Imprisonment was removed and fine was retained in a few rules, while in some cases imprisonment and fine were converted to a penalty.
इस अधिनियम के माध्यम से, सरकार ने कुछ प्रावधानों में कारावास और/या जुर्माने को हटा दिया। कुछ नियमों में कारावास हटा दिया गया और जुर्माना बरकरार रखा गया, जबकि कुछ मामलों में कारावास और जुर्माने को दंड में बदल दिया गया।
- "There are laws in our country, astonishing as it may sound, that provide for imprisonment over trivial matters, and no one ever paid attention to them," **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said in his **Independence Day speech on August 15**.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने अपने **15 अगस्त स्वतंत्रता दिवस भाषण** में कहा, "हमारे देश में ऐसे कानून हैं, जितना आश्चर्यजनक यह सुनाई दे सकता है, जो तुच्छ मामलों में कारावास का प्रावधान करते हैं, और किसी ने कभी उन पर ध्यान नहीं दिया।"
- "I have taken it upon myself to ensure that such unnecessary laws, which place Indian citizens behind bars, are abolished. We had introduced a Bill in Parliament earlier; we have brought it again this time," he noted.
उन्होंने कहा, "मैंने यह जिम्मेदारी ली है कि ऐसे अनावश्यक कानून, जो भारतीय नागरिकों को जेल के पीछे रखते हैं, समाप्त किए जाएं। हमने पहले संसद में एक विधेयक पेश किया था; इस बार हम इसे फिर से लाए हैं।"
- The government earlier abolished more than **40,000 compliances** deemed unnecessary. It has also scrapped over **1,500 obsolete laws**.
सरकार ने पहले **40,000 से अधिक अनुपालनों** को, जिन्हें अनावश्यक माना गया था, समाप्त कर दिया था। इसके अलावा, **1,500 से अधिक अप्रचलित कानूनों** को भी समाप्त कर दिया गया है।



- “We have gone to Parliament to amend dozens of laws to simplify them, always placing the interests of the public first,” Mr. Modi said.
श्री मोदी ने कहा, “हमने दर्जनों कानूनों को सरल बनाने के लिए संसद का रुख किया है, हमेशा जनता के हितों को पहले रखते हुए।”



GS II: Elections

Roll recall

The Supreme Court's intervention highlights the ECI's procedural failures

In what must be seen as a rap on the knuckles of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Supreme Court of India ordered it to publish the names of 65 lakh voters excluded from Bihar's draft electoral roll, and the reasons, following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. That it required the Court to compel the ECI to follow the basic principles of natural justice for these voters underscores the pressing lacunae in the institution's conduct of the SIR and the presumptuous and hasty manner of its implementation. There has been no consolidated list of the excluded electors whose names, the ECI claims, have been removed because they have died, or are untraceable or have fake/duplicate entries. No reasons have been provided against each name. Data analysed by *The Hindu* and ground reports have highlighted significant anomalies. A much higher number of women (close to 32 lakh) than men (close to 25 lakh) have been excluded despite more men having migrated, and recent death rates having been slightly higher among men too. Reports indicate that several voters have been wrongly identified as dead or had not been enumerated despite having valid voter IDs and proof of residence across areas. The Court's intervention now provides a meaningful way – the ECI deadline of September 1 to complete the filing of claims and objections is near – for such voters to address their anomalous situations.

The Court will continue to hear the case on the SIR which has other problematic elements to it. The constitutionality of the exercise itself, conducted after the ECI's own summary revision in January, remains to be adjudicated. Also, the ECI still insists that enumerated voters in the draft roll are vetted by Election Registration Officers based on the availability of one of 11 indicative documents, which do not include the more universally available Aadhaar or ration cards. With the Court ordering the ECI to allow excluded citizens to file objections with their Aadhaar card and having nudged it to accept this document in two previous hearings, the ECI must now include the Aadhaar card as an identity document also. The Court's order also shines a light on the ECI's use of non-transparent means to conduct the SIR; it has made it onerous for civil society to parse the electoral rolls and it continues to use that ploy even now by refusing to put up the full list of those excluded and the reasons in one place. Universal adult franchise has been a cornerstone of India's democracy since Independence. The upcoming hearings in the case and the ECI's actions in rectifying its role in Bihar's SIR process will go a long way in assuaging serious concerns about the voter enrolment process in the country today.

Roll recall रोल रि कॉल

- The Supreme Court's **intervention highlights the ECI's procedural failures.**

सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हस्तक्षेप ईसीआई की प्रक्रियात्मक विफलताओं को उजागर करता है।

Supreme Court Orders ECI on Bihar Voter List

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बिहार मतदाता सूची पर ECI को आदेश दिया

- In what must be seen as a rap on the knuckles of the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, the **Supreme Court of India** ordered it to **publish the names of 65 lakh voters** excluded from Bihar's **draft electoral roll**, and the **reasons**, following the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** exercise.

इसे भारत के चुनाव आयोग (ECI) पर कानूनी चेतावनी के रूप में देखा जा सकता है, जब भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बिहार के ड्राफ्ट मतदाता सूची से बाहर किए गए 65 लाख मतदाताओं के नाम और उनके कारण प्रकाशित करने का आदेश दिया, जो विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR) अभ्यास के बाद किया गया।

- That it required the Court to **compel the ECI** to follow the **basic principles of natural justice** for these voters underscores the pressing **lacunae** in the institution's conduct of the SIR and the **presumptuous and hasty** manner of its implementation.

कि अदालत को इन मतदाताओं के लिए प्राकृतिक न्याय के मूल सिद्धांतों का पालन करने के लिए ECI को बाध्य करना पड़ा, यह SIR के संचालन में संस्था की गंभीर कमियों और इसके अहंकारी और जल्दबाजी वाले कार्यान्वयन को उजागर करता है।

- There has been no **consolidated list** of the excluded electors whose names, the ECI claims, have been removed because they have **died**, or are **untraceable** or have **fake/duplicate entries**.

बाहर किए गए मतदाताओं की कोई संयुक्त सूची नहीं है, जिनके नाम ECI के अनुसार मृत होने, अनुसंधान योग्य नहीं होने, या नकली/प्रतिलिपि प्रविष्टियाँ होने के कारण हटा दिए गए हैं।

- No **reasons** have been provided against each name. प्रत्येक नाम के खिलाफ कोई कारण नहीं दिया गया है।

- **Data analysed** by *The Hindu* and **ground reports** have highlighted significant **anomalies**.

द हिन्दू द्वारा विश्लेषित डेटा और मैदान रिपोर्ट्स ने महत्वपूर्ण विचलन को उजागर किया है।

- A much higher number of **women (close to 32 lakh)** than **men (close to 25 lakh)** have been excluded despite more



men having **migrated**, and recent **death rates** being slightly higher among men too.

अधिकतर पुरुषों के स्थानांतरण और हाल ही में पुरुषों में मृत्यु दर अधिक होने के बावजूद, महिलाओं (लगभग 32 लाख) की संख्या पुरुषों (लगभग 25 लाख) की तुलना में अधिक बाहर की गई है।

- Reports indicate that several voters have been wrongly **identified as dead** or had not been **enumerated** despite having **valid voter IDs** and **proof of residence** across areas.
रिपोर्टों से पता चलता है कि कई मतदाता गलत तरीके से मृत के रूप में पहचाने गए या गणना नहीं किए गए, जबकि उनके पास वैध मतदाता पहचान पत्र और निवास प्रमाण मौजूद थे।
- The Court's **intervention** now provides a meaningful way — the ECI deadline of **September 1** to complete the **filing of claims and objections** is near — for such voters to address their **anomalous situations**.
अदालत का हस्तक्षेप अब एक महत्वपूर्ण रास्ता प्रदान करता है — ECI की 1 सितंबर की समयसीमा के तहत दावे और आपत्तियां दाखिल करने का समय नजदीक है — ताकि ऐसे मतदाता अपनी असामान्य स्थितियों को सुधार सकें।
- The Court will continue to **hear the case** on the SIR which has other **problematic elements** to it.
अदालत SIR पर मुकदमे की सुनवाई जारी रखेगी जिसमें अन्य समस्याग्रस्त तत्व भी हैं।
- The **constitutionality** of the exercise itself, conducted after the ECI's own **summary revision in January**, remains to be adjudicated.
इस अभ्यास की संवैधानिकता, जो ECI द्वारा जनवरी में की गई सारांश समीक्षा के बाद किया गया था, अब भी निर्णय की प्रतीक्षा में है।
- Also, the ECI still insists that enumerated voters in the draft roll are **vetted** by **Election Registration Officers** based on the availability of one of **11 indicative documents**, which do not include the more universally available **Aadhaar** or **ration cards**.
साथ ही, ECI अभी भी यह कहता है कि ड्राफ्ट रोल में गिने गए मतदाता को चुनाव पंजीकरण अधिकारियों द्वारा 11 संकेतक दस्तावेजों में से किसी एक की उपलब्धता के आधार पर सत्यापित किया जाता है, जिसमें अधिक व्यापक रूप से उपलब्ध आधार या राशन कार्ड शामिल नहीं हैं।
- With the Court ordering the ECI to allow excluded citizens to **file objections with their Aadhaar card** and having nudged it to accept this document in **two previous hearings**, the ECI must now include the **Aadhaar card** as an **identity document** also.
अदालत द्वारा ECI को आदेश देने और इसे दो पिछली सुनवाईयों में इस दस्तावेज को स्वीकार करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने के साथ, अब ECI को आधार कार्ड को भी पहचान दस्तावेज के रूप में शामिल करना होगा।
- The Court's order also shines a light on the ECI's use of **non-transparent means** to conduct the SIR; it has made it **onerous** for **civil society** to parse the electoral rolls and it continues to use that ploy even now by refusing to put up the **full list of those excluded** and the **reasons** in one place.
अदालत का आदेश ECI द्वारा SIR करने में गैर-पारदर्शी तरीकों के उपयोग पर भी प्रकाश डालता है; इसने सिविल सोसायटी के लिए मतदाता सूचियों का विश्लेषण करना कठिन बना दिया है और अब भी यह चाल जारी है क्योंकि यह बाहर किए गए सभी मतदाताओं की पूरी सूची और उनके कारण को एक जगह नहीं रख रहा है।
- **Universal adult franchise** has been a cornerstone of India's democracy since **Independence**.
सार्वभौमिक वयस्क मताधिकार स्वतंत्रता (Independence) के बाद से भारत के लोकतंत्र की आधारशिला रहा है।
- The upcoming hearings in the case and the ECI's actions in **rectifying its role** in Bihar's SIR process will go a long way in assuaging serious concerns about the **voter enrolment process** in the country today.



मामले में आगामी सुनवाई और बिहार के SIR प्रक्रिया में अपने भूमिका को सुधारने के लिए ECI के कार्य आज देश में मतदाता पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया के बारे में गंभीर चिंताओं को दूर करने में लंबा रास्ता तय करेंगे।

In Namibia, India shows a new way to engage Africa

GS II: India-Africa

In his address to Namibia's National Assembly in July this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi quoted a Namibian poet, invoked the symbolism of the *Welwitschia mirabilis* plant (the national plant) and the Springbok, and sprinkled his remarks with phrases in Oshiwambo, earning laughter and applause.

The gesture suggested a deliberate effort to engage with culturally meaningful terms, reflecting a more grounded approach to partnership-building. It is a sharp contrast to western engagement, which continues to be shaped by conditional aid, travel bans, and episodic withdrawals such as the recent USAID cutback, and is increasingly tied to migration deterrence, with assistance hinging on controlling outward migrant flows.

The steps being pursued

India is pursuing a quieter, adaptive approach, favouring alignment over instruction and forming issue-based coalitions. Underlying this appears to be a deliberate three-step logic: evoking shared historical solidarities, engaging in present-day pragmatic cooperation, and investing in long-term, future-oriented ties. This offers insights into what more thoughtful, durable partnerships with African states might look like.

The first step anchors diplomacy in a shared anti-colonial heritage, drawing on historical memory not as nostalgia, but as a legitimate force of solidarity. There are gentle but meaningful reminders: that New Delhi hosted the South West Africa People's Organization's first-ever diplomatic office during Namibia's liberation struggle; that Lieutenant General Diwan Prem Chand, an Indian officer, commanded the United Nations peacekeeping forces during Namibia's delicate transition to independence. These references are not incidental. They create a sense of long-haul engagement, contrasting with the episodic presence of many other powers.

Second is to highlight the depth and the breadth of current cooperation. New Delhi's bilateral trade with Windhoek is \$800 million, modest but growing, and supported by a \$12



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billion development partnership across Africa. More significant are India's targeted investments in capacity-building, including the India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in IT at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, and the 'India Wing' at the University of Namibia's Ongwediva campus, funded by a \$12 million grant. These efforts leverage India's strengths in IT and respond to Namibia's youthful population and digital readiness.

Third, and closely linked, India is laying out a road map for the future by pivoting toward knowledge-based cooperation. Namibia's recent adoption of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the first country in Africa to implement this, signals a quiet revolution in tech diplomacy. If this succeeds, it will offer a model for transferring not just digital tools but also regulatory frameworks, institutional design, and user-centric tech architectures that India has stress-tested at scale.

Advantage Namibia

Crucial to this approach is the choice of partner. Namibia's political stability, rich mineral resources and growing technological base offer a strong foundation for India's engagement, grounded in shared histories and aligned futures. President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's call to reform global economic and financial systems for fairness and resilience echoes India's own vision for inclusive, equitable governance. More than a bilateral partner, Namibia is a key collaborator in the Global South's broader effort to reshape international rules in line with their collective aspirations, agency, and demand for a more just world order.

While India and Namibia share a compelling vision for partnership, consistent follow-through remains a challenge. India's developmental ambitions are often criticised for uneven implementation, and its engagement with Africa has seen long lapses, evident in the recent visit to Namibia by an Indian head of government, the first in nearly three decades.

Though symbolically important, the visit's

outcomes were modest: two memoranda of understanding on entrepreneurship and health, and Namibia's accession to the Global Biofuels Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. These are valuable steps but fall short of the scale the moment, and the bilateral potential, clearly calls for.

Notably absent was any major agreement on Namibia's critical mineral reserves. As a leading uranium producer, Namibia is a natural partner for countries such as India seeking resilient low-carbon supply chains. The visit offered a clear opportunity to outline a strategic framework, including resource access, local workforce development, or investment in value addition. Though the issue was acknowledged, discussions ultimately failed to produce concrete outcomes.

Regardless, India's approach, while not without its gaps, stands out not just for what it offers but also how it engages. India's quiet recalibration emphasises trust built through inclusive dialogue, acknowledging histories, and letting African priorities shape the agenda.

Move beyond symbolism

The upcoming India-Africa Forum Summit, anticipated in the near term, could serve as a vital platform to formalise and solidify these diplomatic efforts through institutional cooperation. It presents an opportunity for India to build on recent momentum and demonstrate that its commitment to partnership and mutual respect is backed by enduring political resolve.

Delivering on this vision, however, will require more than symbolism. It will entail confronting structural and operational shortcomings at home and ensuring that India's strategic ambitions are matched by sustained investment and institutional coherence. Ultimately, India's credibility as a Global South partner will rest not only on what it commits to but also on how consistently and collaboratively it follows through.

The views expressed are personal

In Namibia, India Shows a New Way to Engage Africa

नामिबिया में, भारत अफ्रीका के साथ जुड़ने का नया तरीका दिखाता है

- In his address to Namibia's National Assembly in July this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi quoted a Namibian poet, invoked the symbolism of the *Welwitschia mirabilis* plant (the national plant) and the Springbok, and sprinkled his remarks with phrases in Oshiwambo, earning laughter and applause.

इस वर्ष जुलाई में नामीबिया की राष्ट्रीय विधानसभा को दिए अपने संबोधन में, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने एक नामीबियाई कवि का उद्धरण दिया, *Welwitschia mirabilis* पौधे (राष्ट्रीय पौधा) और Springbok का प्रतीकात्मक उल्लेख किया, और Oshiwambo में वाक्यांशों को शामिल कर हँसी और तालियों को आकर्षित किया।

- The gesture suggested a deliberate effort to engage with culturally meaningful terms, reflecting a more grounded approach to partnership-building.

इस इशारे ने सांस्कृतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण शब्दों के साथ संलग्न होने का एक जानबूझकर प्रयास दर्शाया, जो साझेदारी निर्माण के लिए एक अधिक ठोस दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है।



- It is a sharp contrast to western engagement, which continues to be shaped by **conditional aid, travel bans**, and episodic withdrawals such as the recent **USAID cutback**, and is increasingly tied to **migration deterrence**, with assistance hinging on controlling outward migrant flows.

यह पश्चिमी सहभागिता के विपरीत है, जो **सशर्त सहायता, यात्रा प्रतिबंध**, और हालिया **USAID कटौती** जैसी समय-समय पर वापसी से प्रभावित होती है, और यह बढ़ते हुए **प्रवास रोकथाम** से जुड़ी है, जिसमें सहायता बाहरी प्रवासियों के प्रवाह को नियंत्रित करने पर निर्भर करती है।

The Steps Being Pursued

अपनाए जा रहे कदम

- India is pursuing a quieter, adaptive approach, favouring **alignment over instruction** and forming **issue-based coalitions**.
भारत एक शांत, अनुकूलनशील दृष्टिकोण अपना रहा है, जिसमें **निर्देशन की तुलना में समन्वय** को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है और **मुद्दा-आधारित गठबंधन** बनाए जा रहे हैं।
- Underlying this appears to be a deliberate **three-step logic**: evoking shared **historical solidarities**, engaging in present-day **pragmatic cooperation**, and investing in **long-term, future-oriented ties**.
इसके पीछे एक जानबूझकर **तीन-चरणीय तर्क** प्रतीत होता है: साझा **ऐतिहासिक एकजुटता** को याद करना, वर्तमान में **व्यावहारिक सहयोग** में संलग्न होना, और **दीर्घकालिक, भविष्य-उन्मुख संबंधों** में निवेश करना।
- This offers insights into what more thoughtful, durable **partnerships with African states** might look like.
यह बताता है कि अफ्रीकी राज्यों के साथ अधिक विचारशील, टिकाऊ **साझेदारियाँ** कैसी दिख सकती हैं।
- The first step anchors **diplomacy** in a shared **anti-colonial heritage**, drawing on historical memory not as nostalgia, but as a legitimate force of **solidarity**.
पहला कदम साझा **औपनिवेशिक विरोधी विरासत** में **कूटनीति** को आधारित करता है, ऐतिहासिक स्मृति का उपयोग केवल **स्मरण** के रूप में नहीं बल्कि **एकजुटता** की वैध शक्ति के रूप में करता है।
- There are gentle but meaningful reminders:
कुछ कोमल लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण स्मरण हैं:
 - That **New Delhi** hosted the **South West Africa People's Organization's first-ever diplomatic office** during Namibia's **liberation struggle**.
कि **नई दिल्ली** ने नामीबिया के **मुक्ति संग्राम** के दौरान **South West Africa People's Organization का पहला कूटनीतिक कार्यालय** होस्ट किया।
 - That **Lieutenant General Diwan Prem Chand**, an **Indian officer**, commanded the **United Nations peacekeeping forces** during Namibia's delicate transition to **independence**.
कि **लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल दिवान प्रेम चंद**, एक **भारतीय अधिकारी**, नामीबिया के संवेदनशील **स्वतंत्रता संक्रमण** के दौरान **संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति सैनिक बलों** का नेतृत्व किया।
- These references are not incidental. They create a sense of **long-haul engagement**, contrasting with the episodic presence of many other powers.
ये संदर्भ आकस्मिक नहीं हैं। ये **दीर्घकालिक सहभागिता** की भावना पैदा करते हैं, जो कई अन्य शक्तियों की समय-समय पर उपस्थिति से अलग है।
- Second is to highlight the **depth and breadth of current cooperation**.
दूसरा है वर्तमान सहयोग की **गहराई और चौड़ाई** को उजागर करना।
- New Delhi's **bilateral trade with Windhoek** is **\$800 million**, modest but growing, and supported by a **\$12 billion development partnership** across Africa.



नई दिल्ली का विंडहोक के साथ द्विपक्षीय व्यापार \$800 मिलियन है, जो मामूली है लेकिन बढ़ रहा है, और पूरे अफ्रीका में \$12 बिलियन विकास साझेदारी द्वारा समर्थित है।

- More significant are India's targeted investments in **capacity-building**, including: अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हैं भारत के **क्षमता निर्माण** में लक्षित निवेश, जिनमें शामिल हैं:
 - **India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in IT at the Namibia University of Science and Technology.**
नामीबिया विश्वविद्यालय ऑफ़ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी में भारत-नामीबिया आईटी उत्कृष्टता केंद्र।
 - The '**India Wing**' at the **University of Namibia's Ongwediva campus**, funded by a **\$12 million grant.**
नामीबिया विश्वविद्यालय के Ongwediva परिसर में 'India Wing', जिसे \$12 मिलियन अनुदान द्वारा वित्त पोषित किया गया।
- These efforts leverage India's strengths in **IT** and respond to Namibia's **youthful population and digital readiness.**
ये प्रयास भारत की आईटी में ताकत का लाभ उठाते हैं और नामीबिया की **युवा जनसंख्या** और **डिजिटल तत्परता** का उत्तर देते हैं।
- Third, and closely linked, India is laying out a **road map for the future** by pivoting toward **knowledge-based cooperation.**
तीसरा, और निकटता से जुड़ा हुआ, भारत **ज्ञान-आधारित सहयोग** की ओर रुख करके भविष्य के लिए **रोड मैप** तैयार कर रहा है।
- **Namibia's recent adoption of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the first country in Africa to implement this, signals a quiet revolution in tech diplomacy.**
नामीबिया द्वारा हाल ही में भारत का **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** अपनाना, अफ्रीका में इसे लागू करने वाला पहला देश, **टेक कूटनीति में एक शांत क्रांति** का संकेत देता है।
- If this succeeds, it will offer a model for transferring not just **digital tools** but also **regulatory frameworks, institutional design, and user-centric tech architectures** that India has stress-tested at scale.
यदि यह सफल होता है, तो यह केवल **डिजिटल उपकरणों** ही नहीं बल्कि **नियामक ढांचे, संस्थागत डिजाइन, और उपयोगकर्ता-केंद्रित तकनीकी संरचनाओं** को स्थानांतरित करने के लिए एक मॉडल प्रदान करेगा, जिन्हें भारत ने बड़े पैमाने पर परीक्षण किया है।

Advantage Namibia

नामीबिया का लाभ

- Crucial to this approach is the choice of **partner.**
इस दृष्टिकोण में **साझेदार** का चयन अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- **Namibia's political stability, rich mineral resources** and growing **technological base** offer a strong foundation for India's engagement, grounded in **shared histories** and aligned **futures.**
नामीबिया की राजनीतिक स्थिरता, समृद्ध खनिज संसाधन और बढ़ती प्रौद्योगिकी आधार भारत की भागीदारी के लिए मजबूत आधार प्रदान करते हैं, जो **साझा इतिहास** और संगत **भविष्य** पर आधारित है।
- President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's** call to reform **global economic and financial systems** for fairness and resilience echoes India's vision for **inclusive, equitable governance.**
राष्ट्रपति **नेटुम्बो नान्डी-डाइटवाह** का **वैश्विक आर्थिक और वित्तीय प्रणालियों** में सुधार का आह्वान, **समान, समावेशी शासन** के लिए भारत की दृष्टि को दर्शाता है।
- More than a bilateral partner, Namibia is a key collaborator in the **Global South's** broader effort to reshape **international rules** in line with their **collective aspirations, agency, and demand for a more just world order.**
द्विपक्षीय साझेदार से अधिक, नामीबिया **ग्लोबल साउथ** के व्यापक प्रयास में एक प्रमुख सहयोगी है,



जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय नियमों को उनके साझा आकांक्षाओं, एजेंसी और अधिक न्यायपूर्ण विश्व व्यवस्था की मांग के अनुसार पुनः आकार देने का प्रयास करता है।

- While India and Namibia share a compelling vision for **partnership**, consistent follow-through remains a **challenge**.
जबकि भारत और नामिबिया साझेदारी के लिए एक मजबूत दृष्टि साझा करते हैं, लगातार पालन करना अभी भी एक चुनौती है।
- India's **developmental ambitions** are often criticised for uneven implementation, and its engagement with **Africa** has seen long lapses, evident in the recent visit to Namibia by an **Indian head of government**, the first in nearly three decades.
भारत की विकासवादी महत्वाकांक्षाओं की अक्सर असमान क्रियान्वयन के लिए आलोचना होती है, और अफ्रीका के साथ इसकी भागीदारी में लंबी कमी रही है, जो हाल ही में भारत के प्रधान मंत्री के नामिबिया दौरे में स्पष्ट हुई, जो लगभग तीन दशकों में पहला था।
- Though symbolically important, the visit's outcomes were modest: **two memoranda of understanding on entrepreneurship and health**, and Namibia's accession to the **Global Biofuels Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**.
यद्यपि प्रतीकात्मक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण, दौरे के परिणाम मामूली थे: उद्यमिता और स्वास्थ्य पर दो सहमति ज्ञापन, और नामिबिया का ग्लोबल बायोफ्यूल्स अलायंस और डिजास्टर रेसिलिएंट इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर में शामिल होना।
- These are valuable steps but fall short of the scale the moment, and the bilateral **potential**, clearly calls for.
ये मूल्यवान कदम हैं लेकिन उस समय की व्यापकता और द्विपक्षीय संभावना के अनुरूप नहीं हैं।
- Notably absent was any major agreement on Namibia's critical **mineral reserves**.
उल्लेखनीय रूप से, नामिबिया के महत्वपूर्ण खनिज भंडारों पर कोई बड़ा समझौता नहीं हुआ।
- **As a leading uranium producer, Namibia is a natural partner for countries such as India seeking resilient low-carbon supply chains.**
एक प्रमुख यूरेनियम उत्पादक के रूप में, नामिबिया उन देशों के लिए प्राकृतिक साझेदार है जैसे भारत, जो सुदृढ़ लो-कार्बन सप्लाई चेन चाहता है।
- The visit offered a clear opportunity to outline a **strategic framework**, including **resource access, local workforce development, or investment in value addition**.
इस दौरे ने एक स्पष्ट अवसर प्रदान किया कि रणनीतिक ढांचे का खाका तैयार किया जाए, जिसमें संसाधन पहुँच, स्थानीय श्रमशक्ति विकास, या मूल्य संवर्धन में निवेश शामिल हो।
- Though the issue was acknowledged, discussions ultimately failed to produce **concrete outcomes**.
यद्यपि इस मुद्दे को स्वीकार किया गया, चर्चाओं ने अंततः ठोस परिणाम नहीं दिए।
- Regardless, India's approach, while not without its **gaps**, stands out not just for what it offers but also how it **engages**.
इसके बावजूद, भारत का दृष्टिकोण, हालांकि इसमें कमियाँ हैं, केवल इसके प्रस्तावों के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि इसके जुड़ाव के तरीके के लिए भी उल्लेखनीय है।
- India's quiet recalibration emphasises **trust** built through **inclusive dialogue**, acknowledging **histories**, and letting **African priorities** shape the agenda.
भारत की शांत पुनर्संतुलन प्रक्रिया विश्वास पर जोर देती है, जो समावेशी संवाद के माध्यम से निर्मित है, इतिहासों को स्वीकार करती है, और अफ्रीकी प्राथमिकताओं को एजेंडा आकार देने देती है।

Move Beyond Symbolism

प्रतीकात्मकता से आगे बढ़ना

- The upcoming **India-Africa Forum Summit**, anticipated in the near term, could serve as a vital platform to formalise and solidify these **diplomatic efforts** through **institutional cooperation**.
आगामी भारत-अफ्रीका फोरम शिखर सम्मेलन, जो निकट भविष्य में अपेक्षित है, इन कूटनीतिक



प्रयासों को सांस्थानिक सहयोग के माध्यम से औपचारिक और सुदृढ़ करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मंच हो सकता है

- It presents an opportunity for India to build on recent **momentum** and demonstrate that its commitment to **partnership** and **mutual respect** is backed by enduring **political resolve**.

यह भारत को हालिया गति पर निर्माण करने और यह दिखाने का अवसर प्रदान करता है कि साझेदारी और पारस्परिक सम्मान के लिए उसकी प्रतिबद्धता लंबे समय तक टिकाऊ राजनीतिक संकल्प द्वारा समर्थित है।

- Delivering on this vision will require more than **symbolism**. इस दृष्टि को पूरा करने के लिए केवल प्रतीकात्मकता पर्याप्त नहीं होगी।
- It will entail confronting **structural and operational shortcomings** at home and ensuring that India's **strategic ambitions** are matched by sustained **investment** and **institutional coherence**.

इसमें घर पर सांरचनिक और परिचालनात्मक कमियों का सामना करना और यह सुनिश्चित करना शामिल होगा कि भारत की रणनीतिक महत्वाकांक्षाओं को लगातार निवेश और सांस्थानिक सुसंगतता से पूरा किया जाए।

- Ultimately, India's **credibility** as a **Global South partner** will rest not only on what it commits to but also on how consistently and collaboratively it **follows through**.

अंततः, एक ग्लोबल साउथ साझेदार के रूप में भारत की विश्वसनीयता केवल इसके वादों पर नहीं बल्कि इस पर भी निर्भर करेगी कि यह कितनी लगातार और सहयोगात्मक रूप से पालन करता है।

World Nuclear Association (2022) [edit]

Rank ↕	Country/Region ↕	Uranium production (2022) (tonnes U) ^[1] ↕	Percentage of World Production (2022) ↕
	World	49,355	100.00%
1	 Kazakhstan	21,227	43.01%
2	 Canada	7,351	14.89%
3	 Namibia	5,613	11.37%
4	 Australia	4,553	9.22%
5	 Uzbekistan	3,300 (est.)	6.69%
6	 Russia	2,508	5.08%
7	 Niger	2,020	4.09%
8	 China	1,700 (est.)	3.44%
9	 India	600 (est.)	1.22%
10	 South Africa	200 (est.)	0.40%



A case for judicial introspection

GS II: Elections

At least a few from the ruling dispensation have asked why the Opposition is not formally taking up the electoral roll issue before the Supreme Court. However, the reluctance shown by the major Opposition parties is quite reasonable and even justifiable.

The Modi regime promulgated the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act in 2023 with a view to nullify the Constitution Bench judgment in *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India* (2023). The Act excluded the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and included a Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister in his place, as part of the Selection Committee for choosing the Election Commission of India (ECI). This statute was legally challenged in several writ petitions which are yet to be finally heard. Significantly, the petitioners also sought a stay of the enactment. A Bench, led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna (as he then was), heard the application for a stay and rejected it on March 22, 2024, by a detailed order in *Dr. Jaya Thakur and others v. Union of India* (2024). Had the statute been stayed, the country could have had a different umpire for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the subsequent Assembly elections. In all probability, a more independent ECI could have had the potential to conduct the elections more fairly and impartially. That this did not happen shows the Supreme Court's failure to act at a time when it was supposed to.

The present type of ECI

In *Anoop Baranwal*, the Constitution Bench analysed Article 324 of the Constitution dealing with the appointment of Election Commissioners. It spoke of the need to take the appointment "out of the exclusive hands of the executive". It said that "a pliable ECI, an unfair and biased overseer of the



Kaleeswaram Raj

Lawyer at the Supreme Court of India, who also appeared in the Anoop Baranwal case

The only way to rescue our democracy would be to restore the position laid down in the *Baranwal* verdict and to nullify the 2023 enactment.

foundational exercise of adult franchise, which lies at the heart of democracy, who obliges the powers that be, perhaps offers the surest gateway to acquisition and retention of power". The Court was assertive when it said that "the outpouring of demands for an impartial mode of appointment of the members require, at the least, the banishing of the impression that the ECI is appointed by less than fair means". This shows the rationale behind prescribing the CJI as a member of the Selection Committee for the ECI.

Yet, a few months later, the Centre ensured that only "persons under the thumb of the executive", as feared by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, dominate the Selection Committee. When this was shown to the Supreme Court, it took a very conservative and dangerous stand, saying it won't interfere with a statute for it carries a "presumption of validity". This is how the present type of ECI was allowed to function.

At a time when majoritarianism often rests on electoral frauds, courts across the world face newer challenges, both jurisprudential and political. In a paper titled 'Abusive Judicial Review: Courts Against Democracy' (2020), David Landau and Rosalind Dixon have conducted an extensive global survey on the topic. According to them, "courts have upheld and thus legitimated regime actions that helped actors consolidate power, undermine the Opposition, and tilt the electoral playing field heavily in their favour". They explain that sometimes "(the) clever authoritarians often do their manipulation well before elections have actually been held, by consolidating power, stacking key institutions such as courts and electoral commissions, and harassing Opposition parties and leaders". The paper says courts in countries such as Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia aided and facilitated electoral frauds which ensured continuation of autocracies. On the other hand, there are few instances where the

courts could prevent electoral manipulation and the consequent subversion of democracy. The judgment in *Baranwal* exemplifies such judicial vigilance.

Fourth branch institutions

Article 324 failed to prescribe a body free from the ruling executive for installing the ECI. Modern Constitutions have reorganised the need to evolve fourth Branch institutions (in addition to the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary) which are autonomous and independent of the ruling dispensation. The Constitution of South Africa envisages a cluster of state institutions for "supporting constitutional democracy". The Chapter Nine institutions, as they are called, include the Electoral Commission of South Africa. The silence of the Indian Constitution prompted the Court in *Baranwal* to prescribe a fairer body for choosing the ECI. It was an instance of imaginative interpretation of the relevant constitutional provision. However, Parliament failed the Court and the people when it enacted the 2023 Act. The Court's refusal to stay the enactment practically nullified its own hard labour and intelligence in redefining the ECI as an independent fourth branch establishment.

In India, electoral manipulation, as alleged by the Opposition, would call for a deeper and comprehensive analysis by a fair agency. The Court, on its own, will not be able to carry out this exercise. The only way to rescue our democracy would be to restore the position laid down in the *Baranwal* verdict and to nullify the 2023 enactment. A Selection Committee with the CJI in it will have to induct another ECI by way of a fresh selection process. Such an ECI will have to act as a Truth Commission to investigate the alleged instances of electoral scam. The courtesy expected from the present dispensation would be to facilitate such a course by removing the present ECI.

A Case for Judicial Introspection न्यायिक आत्मावलोकन के लिए एक मामला



Electoral Roll Issue and ECI Concerns

चुनाव सूची मुद्दा और ECI संबंधी चिंताएँ

- At least a few from the **ruling dispensation** have asked why the **Opposition** is not formally taking up the **electoral roll issue** before the **Supreme Court**.
कम से कम कुछ **सत्तारूढ़ दल** के लोगों ने पूछा है कि **विपक्ष चुनाव सूची मुद्दे** को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में औपचारिक रूप से क्यों नहीं उठा रहा है।
- However, the reluctance shown by the major **Opposition parties** is quite reasonable and even justifiable.
हालांकि, बड़े **विपक्षी दलों** द्वारा दिखाई गई हिचकिचाहट काफी **वाजिब** और यहां तक कि **संगत** भी है।
- The **Modi regime** promulgated the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act in 2023** to nullify the **Constitution Bench judgment in Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023)**.
मोदी शासन ने **2023** में **मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त और अन्य निर्वाचन आयुक्तों (नियुक्ति, सेवा की शर्तें और कार्यकाल) अधिनियम** लागू किया ताकि **Anoop Baranwal बनाम भारत संघ (2023)** में **संविधान पीठ के निर्णय** को शून्य किया जा सके।
- The **Act excluded the Chief Justice of India (CJI)** and included a **Cabinet Minister** to be nominated by the **Prime Minister** in his place as part of the **Selection Committee** for choosing the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.
इस अधिनियम ने **मुख्य न्यायाधीश भारत (CJI)** को बाहर किया और उसकी जगह **प्रधानमंत्री** द्वारा नामित **कैबिनेट मंत्री** को **ECI चयन समिति** में शामिल किया।
- This statute was legally challenged in several **writ petitions** which are yet to be finally heard.
इस अधिनियम को कई **रिट याचिकाओं** में कानूनी चुनौती दी गई, जो अभी तक अंतिम रूप से नहीं सुनी गई हैं।
- Significantly, the petitioners also sought a **stay of the enactment**.
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, याचिकाकर्ताओं ने अधिनियम पर **स्थगन** भी मांगा।
- A Bench, led by **Justice Sanjiv Khanna**, heard the application for a stay and rejected it on **March 22, 2024**, in **Dr. Jaya Thakur and others v. Union of India (2024)**.
एक पीठ, **न्यायमूर्ति संजीव खन्ना** के नेतृत्व में, स्थगन के लिए आवेदन सुना और इसे **22 मार्च 2024** को **Dr. Jaya Thakur और अन्य बनाम भारत संघ (2024)** में अस्वीकार कर दिया।
- **Had the statute been stayed, the country could have had a different umpire for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the subsequent Assembly elections.**
यदि अधिनियम पर स्थगन होता, तो देश में **2024 लोकसभा चुनाव** और उसके बाद के **विधानसभा चुनावों** के लिए एक अलग **अंपायर** हो सकता था।
- In all probability, a more **independent ECI** could have had the potential to conduct the elections more fairly and impartially.
सभी संभावना में, एक अधिक **स्वतंत्र ECI** चुनावों को अधिक **निष्पक्ष** और **तटस्थ** तरीके से कराने में सक्षम हो सकता था।
- That this did not happen shows the **Supreme Court's failure** to act at a time when it was supposed to.
यह न होना दर्शाता है कि जब इसे कार्रवाई करनी थी तब **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** असफल रही।

The Present Type of ECI

वर्तमान प्रकार का ECI



- In **Anoop Baranwal**, the **Constitution Bench** analysed **Article 324** of the Constitution dealing with the appointment of **Election Commissioners**.
Anoop Baranwal में, **संविधान पीठ** ने **आर्टिकल 324** का विश्लेषण किया, जो **निर्वाचन आयुक्तों** की नियुक्ति से संबंधित है।
- It spoke of the need to take the appointment “out of the exclusive hands of the **executive**”.
इसने कहा कि नियुक्ति को **कार्यपालिका** के विशेष हाथों से बाहर करना आवश्यक है।
- It said that “a pliable ECI, an unfair and biased overseer of the foundational exercise of **adult franchise**, which lies at the heart of **democracy**, who obliges the powers that be, perhaps offers the surest gateway to acquisition and retention of power”.
इसने कहा कि “एक **लचीला ECI**, **व्यस्क मताधिकार** के आधारभूत अभ्यास का **अनैतिक और पक्षपाती पर्यवेक्षक**, जो सत्ता में बैठे लोगों के अनुरूप कार्य करता है, शायद **सत्ता प्राप्ति और संरक्षण** का सबसे सुनिश्चित मार्ग प्रदान करता है।”
- The Court was assertive when it said that “the outpouring of demands for an **impartial mode of appointment** of the members require, at the least, the banishing of the impression that the ECI is appointed by less than fair means”.
कोर्ट ने दृढ़तापूर्वक कहा कि “सदस्यों की **निष्पक्ष नियुक्ति** के लिए मांगों के प्रकट होने से, कम से कम यह प्रभाव हटाना आवश्यक है कि ECI की नियुक्ति **निष्पक्ष तरीकों से नहीं की गई है।**”
- This shows the rationale behind prescribing the **CJI** as a member of the **Selection Committee** for the ECI.
यह **CJI** को ECI के **चयन समिति** का सदस्य बनाने के पीछे का तर्क दर्शाता है।
- Yet, a few months later, the **Centre** ensured that only “persons under the thumb of the **executive**”, as feared by **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, dominate the **Selection Committee**.
फिर भी, कुछ महीनों बाद, **केंद्र** ने सुनिश्चित किया कि केवल “**कार्यपालिका** के अधीन व्यक्ति”, जैसा कि **डॉ. बी.आर. अम्बेडकर** ने भय व्यक्त किया था, **चयन समिति** में प्रभुत्व रखते हैं।
- When this was shown to the **Supreme Court**, it took a very conservative and dangerous stand, saying it won’t interfere with a statute for it carries a “**presumption of validity**”.
जब इसे **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** को दिखाया गया, तो उसने बहुत **संरक्षात्मक और खतरनाक** रुख अपनाया, कहते हुए कि यह अधिनियम में हस्तक्षेप नहीं करेगा क्योंकि इसमें “**वैधता की अनुमानित धारा**” है।
- This is how the present type of **ECI** was allowed to function.
इस प्रकार वर्तमान प्रकार का **ECI** कार्य करने की अनुमति प्राप्त हुआ।

Judicial Challenges Amid Electoral Manipulation

चुनावी हेरफेर के बीच न्यायिक चुनौतियाँ

- At a time when **majoritarianism** often rests on **electoral frauds**, courts across the world face newer challenges, both **jurisprudential** and **political**.
जब **बहुमतवाद** अक्सर **चुनावी धोखाधड़ी** पर आधारित होता है, तब दुनिया भर के **न्यायालयों** को नई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, जो **न्यायशास्त्रीय** और **राजनीतिक** दोनों हैं।
- In a paper titled ‘**Abusive Judicial Review: Courts Against Democracy**’ (2020), **David Landau** and **Rosalind Dixon** have conducted an extensive global survey.
‘**Abusive Judicial Review: Courts Against Democracy**’ (2020) नामक पेपर में, **डेविड लैंडाऊ** और **रोज़ालिंड डिक्सन** ने व्यापक वैश्विक सर्वेक्षण किया।
- According to them, “courts have upheld and thus legitimated **regime actions** that helped actors consolidate power, undermine the **Opposition**, and tilt the **electoral playing field** heavily in their favour”.
उनके अनुसार, “न्यायालयों ने **शासनात्मक कार्रवाइयों** को समर्थन दिया और उन्हें वैध ठहराया, जिससे सत्ता धारकों को **सत्ता मजबूत करने**, **विपक्ष** को कमजोर करने, और **चुनावी मैदान** को अपने पक्ष में झुकाने में मदद मिली।”



- Sometimes “clever authoritarians often do their manipulation well before elections, by consolidating power, stacking key institutions such as **courts** and **electoral commissions**, and harassing **Opposition parties** and leaders”.
कभी-कभी “चतुर तानाशाह चुनाव से पहले ही अपने **सत्ता समेकन**, मुख्य संस्थाओं जैसे **न्यायालयों** और **निर्वाचन आयोग** को नियंत्रित करना, और **विपक्षी दलों** और नेताओं को परेशान करना शुरू कर देते हैं।”
- Courts in countries such as **Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia** aided and facilitated **electoral frauds**, ensuring continuation of **autocracies**.
वेनेजुएला, इक्वाडोर और बोलिविया जैसे देशों में न्यायालयों ने **चुनावी धोखाधड़ी** में मदद की और इसे सुगम बनाया, जिससे **तानाशाही शासन** जारी रहा।
- There are few instances where courts could prevent **electoral manipulation** and the consequent subversion of **democracy**.
कुछ ही मामलों में न्यायालय **चुनावी हेरफेर** और इसके परिणामस्वरूप **लोकतंत्र के अपसंस्कार** को रोक पाए।
- The **judgment in Baranwal** exemplifies such **judicial vigilance**.
बरनवाल में निर्णय ऐसी **न्यायिक सतर्कता** का उदाहरण है।

Fourth Branch Institutions

चौथी शाखा संस्थाएँ

- **Article 324** failed to prescribe a body free from the ruling **executive** for installing the **ECI**.
धारा 324 ने **ECI** स्थापित करने के लिए शासन के **कार्यपालिका** से स्वतंत्र किसी निकाय का प्रावधान नहीं किया।
- Modern **Constitutions** have reorganised the need to evolve **fourth Branch institutions** which are autonomous and independent of the ruling dispensation.
आधुनिक **संविधानों** ने **चौथी शाखा संस्थाओं** को विकसित करने की आवश्यकता को पुनर्गठित किया है, जो स्वायत्त और सत्तारूढ़ शासन से स्वतंत्र हों।
- The **Constitution of South Africa** envisages a cluster of **state institutions** for “supporting **constitutional democracy**”, called **Chapter Nine institutions**, which include the **Electoral Commission of South Africa**.
दक्षिण अफ्रीका के संविधान ने “संवैधानिक लोकतंत्र का समर्थन” करने के लिए **राज्य संस्थाओं** का एक समूह प्रस्तावित किया है, जिसे **अध्याय नौ संस्थाएँ** कहा जाता है, जिसमें **दक्षिण अफ्रीका का निर्वाचन आयोग** शामिल है।
- The silence of the **Indian Constitution** prompted the Court in **Baranwal** to prescribe a fairer body for choosing the **ECI**.
भारतीय संविधान की चुप्पी ने **बरनवाल** में न्यायालय को **ECI** चुनने के लिए एक निष्पक्ष निकाय निर्धारित करने के लिए प्रेरित किया।
- It was an instance of **imaginative interpretation** of the relevant constitutional provision.
यह संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधान की **सृजनात्मक व्याख्या** का उदाहरण था।
- However, **Parliament** failed the Court and the people when it enacted the **2023 Act**.
हालांकि, **संसद** ने न्यायालय और जनता को असफल किया जब उसने **2023 अधिनियम** पारित किया।
- The Court’s refusal to stay the enactment practically nullified its own **hard labour** and **intelligence** in redefining the **ECI** as an independent **fourth branch establishment**.
अधिनियम पर स्थगन से इंकार करके न्यायालय ने अपने स्वयं के **कठिन परिश्रम** और **बुद्धिमत्ता** को व्यर्थ कर दिया, जो **ECI** को स्वतंत्र **चौथी शाखा स्थापना** के रूप में पुनः परिभाषित करने में लगी थी।
- In India, **electoral manipulation**, as alleged by the **Opposition**, would call for a deeper and comprehensive analysis by a **fair agency**.



भारत में, **चुनावी हेरफेर**, जैसा कि **विपक्ष** ने आरोपित किया है, इसके लिए एक **निष्पक्ष एजेंसी** द्वारा गहन और व्यापक विश्लेषण की आवश्यकता होगी।

- The **Court**, on its own, will not be able to carry out this exercise. न्यायालय, अपने दम पर, यह कार्य नहीं कर सकेगा।
- The only way to rescue our **democracy** would be to restore the position laid down in the **Baranwal verdict** and to nullify the **2023 enactment**.
हमारे **लोकतंत्र** को बचाने का एकमात्र तरीका यह होगा कि **बरनवाल फैसले** में निर्धारित स्थिति को बहाल किया जाए और **2023 अधिनियम** को शून्य किया जाए।
- A **Selection Committee** with the **CJI** in it will have to induct another **ECI** by way of a **fresh selection process**.
एक **चयन समिति** जिसमें **CJI** शामिल हों, को **ताजा चयन प्रक्रिया** के माध्यम से एक और **ECI** नियुक्त करना होगा।
- Such an **ECI** will have to act as a **Truth Commission** to investigate the alleged instances of **electoral scam**.
ऐसा **ECI सत्य आयोग** के रूप में कार्य करेगा ताकि **चुनावी घोटाले** के कथित मामलों की जांच की जा सके।
- The courtesy expected from the present dispensation would be to facilitate such a course by removing the present **ECI**.
वर्तमान शासन से अपेक्षित **शिष्टाचार** यह होगा कि वह वर्तमान **ECI** को हटाकर इस प्रक्रिया को सुगम बनाए।

'Putin agreed to U.S., EU security guarantees for Ukraine at summit'

Special envoy Steve Witkoff says the U.S. could offer **Article 5-like protection**, one of the **reasons Kyiv wants to be in NATO**; he adds that Russia has promised to make a legislative commitment **not to go after any additional territory in Ukraine**

GS II: Europe

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Special U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff said on Sunday that Russian leader Vladimir Putin agreed at his summit with President Donald Trump to allow the U.S. and European allies to offer Ukraine a security guarantee resembling NATO's collective defence mandate as part of an eventual deal to end the three-and-a-half-year-long war.

"We were able to win the following concession: That the United States could offer Article 5-like protection, which is one of the real reasons why Ukraine wants to be in NATO,"



Baby steps: U.S. negotiators claim Vladimir Putin's robust security guarantees to be 'game-changing'. REUTERS

he said on *CNN's State of the Union*. Mr. Witkoff said it was the first time he had heard Mr. Putin agree to that.

European Commission

President Ursula von der Leyen, speaking at a news conference in Brussels with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said that "we welcome Presi-

dent Trump's willingness to contribute to Article 5-like security guarantees for Ukraine, and the 'Coalition of the willing' – including the European Union – is ready to do its share."

Mr. Witkoff, offering some of the first details of what was discussed at Friday's summit in Alaska, said the two sides agreed to "robust security guarantees that I would describe as game-changing." He added that Russia said that it would make a legislative commitment not to go after any additional territory in Ukraine.

Mr. Zelenskyy thanked the U.S. for recent signals that Washington is willing to support security guaran-

tees for Ukraine, but said the details remained unclear.

Mr. Witkoff defended Mr. Trump's decision to abandon his push for Russia to agree to an immediate ceasefire, saying the President had pivoted toward a peace deal because so much progress was made.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio insisted there would be "additional consequences" as Mr. Trump warned before meeting with Mr. Putin, if they failed to reach a ceasefire. But Mr. Rubio noted that there wasn't going to be any sort of deal on a truce reached when Ukraine wasn't at the talks.



‘Putin agreed to U.S., EU security guarantees for Ukraine at summit’

‘पुतिन ने शिखर सम्मेलन में यू.एस., ई.यू. सुरक्षा गारंटी पर सहमति दी’

Special envoy Steve Witkoff says the U.S. could offer **Article 5-like protection**, one of the reasons Kyiv wants to be in NATO; he adds that Russia has promised to make a legislative commitment not to go after any additional territory in Ukraine

विशेष दूत स्टीव विटकोफ़ ने कहा कि अमेरिका अनुच्छेद 5 जैसी सुरक्षा प्रदान कर सकता है, यही एक कारण है कि कीव नाटो में शामिल होना चाहता है; उन्होंने जोड़ा कि रूस ने यूक्रेन में किसी भी अतिरिक्त क्षेत्र पर कब्ज़ा न करने की विधायी प्रतिबद्धता करने का वादा किया है।

- Special U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff said on Sunday that Russian leader Vladimir Putin agreed at his summit with President Donald Trump to allow the U.S. and European allies to offer Ukraine a security guarantee resembling NATO’s collective defence mandate as part of an eventual deal to end the three-and-a-half-year-long war.
विशेष अमेरिकी दूत स्टीव विटकोफ़ ने रविवार को कहा कि रूसी नेता व्लादिमीर पुतिन ने राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के साथ शिखर सम्मेलन में सहमति दी कि अमेरिका और यूरोपीय सहयोगी यूक्रेन को नाटो के सामूहिक रक्षा जनादेश जैसी सुरक्षा गारंटी दें, जो साढ़े तीन साल लंबे युद्ध को समाप्त करने के लिए एक अंतिम समझौते का हिस्सा है।
- “We were able to win the following concession: That the United States could offer Article 5-like protection, which is one of the real reasons why Ukraine wants to be in NATO,” he said on CNN’s State of the Union. Mr. Witkoff said it was the first time he had heard Mr. Putin agree to that.
“हमने निम्नलिखित रियायत प्राप्त की: कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका अनुच्छेद 5 जैसी सुरक्षा प्रदान कर सकता है, जो उन वास्तविक कारणों में से एक है कि क्यों यूक्रेन नाटो में शामिल होना चाहता है,” उन्होंने सीएनएन के स्टेट ऑफ द यूनियन पर कहा। श्री विटकोफ़ ने कहा कि यह पहली बार था जब उन्होंने श्री पुतिन को इसके लिए सहमत होते सुना।
- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, speaking at a news conference in Brussels with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said that “we welcome President Trump’s willingness to contribute to Article 5-like security guarantees for Ukraine. and the ‘Coalition of the willing’ — including the European Union — is ready to do its share.”
यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन, जिन्होंने ब्रसेल्स में यूक्रेनी राष्ट्रपति वलोडिमिर ज़ेलेन्स्की के साथ एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा कि “हम राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप की अनुच्छेद 5 जैसी सुरक्षा गारंटी के लिए यूक्रेन में योगदान करने की तत्परता का स्वागत करते हैं। और ‘कोएलिशन ऑफ द विलिंग’ — जिसमें यूरोपीय संघ शामिल है — अपना हिस्सा निभाने के लिए तैयार है।”
- Mr. Witkoff, offering some of the first details of what was discussed at Friday’s summit in Alaska, said the two sides agreed to “robust security guarantees that I would describe as game-changing.” He added that Russia said that it would make a legislative commitment not to go after any additional territory in Ukraine.
श्री विटकोफ़, जिन्होंने शुक्रवार के अलास्का शिखर सम्मेलन में हुई चर्चा का पहला विवरण पेश



किया, ने कहा कि दोनों पक्षों ने “मजबूत सुरक्षा गारंटी” पर सहमति व्यक्त की, जिसे मैं “गेम-चेंजिंग” कहूंगा। उन्होंने जोड़ा कि **रूस** ने कहा कि वह **यूक्रेन** में किसी भी अतिरिक्त क्षेत्र पर कब्ज़ा न करने की **विधायी प्रतिबद्धता** करेगा।

- Mr. **Zelenskyy** thanked the **U.S.** for recent signals that **Washington** is willing to support security guarantees for **Ukraine**, but said the details remained unclear.
श्री **ज़ेलेन्स्की** ने हालिया संकेतों के लिए **अमेरिका** का धन्यवाद किया कि **वाशिंगटन यूक्रेन** के लिए सुरक्षा गारंटियों का समर्थन करने के लिए तैयार है, लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि विवरण अभी भी अस्पष्ट है।
- Mr. **Witkoff** defended Mr. **Trump's** decision to abandon his push for **Russia** to agree to an immediate ceasefire, saying the President had pivoted toward a peace deal because so much progress was made.
श्री **विटकोफ़** ने श्री **ट्रंप** के इस निर्णय का बचाव किया कि उन्होंने **रूस** से तत्काल युद्धविराम पर सहमति दिलाने के प्रयास को छोड़ दिया, यह कहते हुए कि राष्ट्रपति ने शांति समझौते की ओर रुख किया क्योंकि बहुत प्रगति हो चुकी थी।
- **U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio** insisted there would be “additional consequences” as Mr. **Trump** warned before meeting with Mr. **Putin**, if they failed to reach a ceasefire. But Mr. **Rubio** noted that there wasn't going to be any sort of deal on a truce reached when **Ukraine** wasn't at the talks.
अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो ने जोर देकर कहा कि “अतिरिक्त परिणाम” होंगे जैसा कि श्री **ट्रंप** ने श्री **पुतिन** से मिलने से पहले चेतावनी दी थी, अगर वे युद्धविराम तक नहीं पहुँच पाए। लेकिन श्री **रुबियो** ने कहा कि जब **यूक्रेन** वार्ता में शामिल नहीं था, तो युद्धविराम पर किसी तरह का समझौता होने वाला नहीं था।

PATRIOTICIAS



TELANGANA



Bribe and prejudice: when graft charges slip through the cracks

Cash, cover-ups and courtroom slips: In 2024, the Anti-Corruption Bureau booked 152 cases — the highest in three years — but secured only 16 convictions. Officials say the conviction rate is 60-70%, yet most trials stretch for 7-8 years. GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

In Telangana, instances of officers getting caught taking a bribe may spark a scandal, but it is rarely a career-ender. Bureaucratic delays, alleged shoddy investigations and political shielding drag cases to a crawl. Many accused officers not only return to their posts but climb the ranks, while prosecutions fade into obscurity. The result? A system that claims to fight graft but too often shields the corrupt. Lavpreet Kaur exposes how anti-corruption cases end without a sense of justice

She called from an unknown number on the evening of June 21. Routine enough, thought 35-year-old sales executive Adepu Nikhil — until the voice on the line introduced himself as Sub-Inspector K.V. Venugopal from the Women Police Station, Cyberabad. There had been tensions at home. His marriage to L. Swathi, 30, a private company employee, was strained. She had moved out months ago. But police involvement? That was a new line being crossed, he felt.

At home in Hyderabad's Gachibowli, he was raising their three-year-old son, Agastya, alone. The family's struggles had been quiet and private, so the news of a formal police complaint and being called in for questioning hit him hard.

He visited the police station that very evening, but the officer handling the case wasn't available. When he returned the next afternoon, he was told a case had been filed four days earlier. The charges: cruelty by husband, assault and criminal intimidation. He was not alone accused; his 63-year-old mother, Adepu Vijaya, residing in Kazipet of Warangal district, around 200 kilometres from Hyderabad, was also named in the complaint.

"My mother is the sole caregiver for my ailing father and had no role in my disagreements with Swathi. Yet her name was on the FIR," recalls Nikhil. When he explained the family situation to the police officer, the conversation reportedly took a different turn.

On June 25, during another visit to the police station, the officer allegedly hinted at a fix: reconcile with Swathi and pay ₹50,000 to have his mother's name dropped. When Nikhil refused, the demand dropped to ₹25,000, the calls pressing harder each time.

Two weeks later, Nikhil walked into the station again. This time, with officers of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) trailing behind. The trap was swift, the officer was caught with the cash.

His case is now among 22 booked by Telangana ACB in July 2025 alone, which is part of a broader tally of 148 cases in seven months, 145 arrests, and over ₹30.32 lakh seized.

In a State where corruption is often hard to prove and harder to prosecute, the case highlights how ordinary families, already grappling with personal crises, can be further ensnared by abuse of power, leaving them either silenced or, in rare moments, emboldened to fight back.

There are several government employees who have been caught more than once but nothing happens to them, thanks to the file-pushing culture.

PADMANABH REDDY, President, Forum for Good Governance

anged, the complainant is fitted with a hidden recorder and currency notes dusted with a chemical powder called phenolphthalein are handed over. When touched, the powder leaves traces visible in a chemical test, with the entire exchange captured on camera.

If the handover succeeds, the accused is caught 'red-handed', taken into custody and booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Press notes and photos follow, but the real work begins behind the scenes.

The ACB compiles a case file which includes enquiry reports, witness and accused statements, forensic results and trap footage, and then sends it to the Vigilance Commission for vetting. To proceed, prosecution sanction — legal nod before the chargesheet can be filed in court — must come from the accused officer's department, a process intended to be independent but rarely swift.

After arrest, the ACB also recommends the officer's immediate suspension for two years as per its own manual and government orders. On paper, it is automatic; in practice, it often isn't.

Promotions, plum posts, repeat offenders

Despite a steady rise in ACB cases, systemic deterrence remains weak. Many accused officials face little consequence, securing plum postings and, in some cases, earning promotions while proceedings drag on.

On July 12, Panchayat Raj Assistant Engineer Jagadeesh Babu was trapped by the ACB in Peddapalli while accepting bribe of ₹90,000. He had earlier been booked in 2017 for allegedly taking ₹1.5 lakh in Karimnagar, yet continued in service

and secured a prime posting.

"This is not an isolated incident," says Padmanabh Reddy, president of the Forum for Good Governance, a non-profit working towards securing good governance at all levels. "There are several government employees who have been caught more than once but nothing happens to them, thanks to the file-pushing culture," he adds.

Promotions, though technically on hold under the "sealed cover" rule, are often granted when officers approach the courts or departmental review committees. Without a chargesheet filed within a "reasonable" timeframe, many successfully argue that promotions cannot be withheld.

In one instance, a Deputy Commercial Tax Officer (DCTO), posted in the office of the Joint Commissioner, Malkajgiri, who was booked by ACB in 2013, obtained a court order recommending promotion to Assistant Commissioner, with the case still pending 12 years later. In another case, a woman CTO facing disciplinary charges since 2017 was similarly recommended for promotion. The pattern is clear: institutional delays, poor follow-up and legal loopholes blunt the impact of corruption cases.

The bureaucratic backdoor

Even with trap videos, recovery of tainted cash and written complaints, an ACB case rarely moves in a straight line to conviction.

In 2024, the bureau booked 152 cases — highest in three years — but secured only 16 convictions. Officials say the conviction rate is 60-70%, yet most trials stretch for 7-8 years. "These cases represent only 5% of actual corruption in the State," says Reddy. "Everyone knows it will take 8-10 years, if at all, to reach a conclusion, so even the accused treat the proceedings with little seriousness."

Structural deficiency, he says, makes the process slower. Bail comes within two weeks of arrest, suspension is reviewed in six months and many officers are reinstated soon after.

Interestingly, right from the day of suspension, the accused official draws half-salary and 75% dearness allowance, and receives full pay after six months. If the departmental review committee finds no strong reason to extend the suspension, which Reddy says is common, they are posted back to work.

"In most cases, the committee just lets it go. Since the accused officer has to be paid the entire salary after six months, the government prefers they come back on job," says a senior official of ACB on condition of anonymity.

Early reinstatement happens in 5-6% of cases, says another ACB official. A recent Supreme Court ruling, stating that suspension should not exceed six months unless a chargesheet is filed, has further opened the door for accused officers to return early via committee orders or court appeals. "There needs to be clarity and reconcilia-

tion on this issue," the official adds.

Prosecution sanction is another bottleneck where delays spiral: "Unless the report is airtight, legally and procedurally, the file can get stuck."

If the Vigilance Commission flags gaps, files are sent back; in some cases, the government withholds sanction altogether, ending the matter without a trial. Political or departmental links can further slow down movement.

According to Reddy, the State government denied ACB permission to prosecute in at least 40 cases between 2014 and 2015 alone.

"Since then, at least 13 FIRs have been closed and six cases dropped entirely. In many other cases, files have simply been routed to 'departmental action'; 'tribunal disciplinary proceedings', which has remained largely inactive due to staff shortages or the 'Commissioner of Inquiries', often led by a retired officer with limited capacity," he says.

Internal inquiries often involve officers known to the accused, resulting in cursory questioning and little to zero disciplinary action.

And when a case does make it to court, judicial delays take over.

Weak links in the chain

Until recently, Telangana had only one special ACB court in Nampally, Hyderabad. Two more have been set up in Warangal and Karimnagar, but backlogs remain high. "The Nampally court is overburdened. There are no regular judges, trials are delayed, and pendency keeps growing," an ACB official says.

Structural limitations also continue to weaken investigations. "For misappropriation cases, we often deal with hundreds of pages of bank statements, digital transactions and layered financial data. We need more forensic experts, trained analysts, better labs and upgraded tools, but our resources are stretched thin and delays in reports are routine," an official notes.

Reddy says the bureau's staffing mindset must change. "An ACB posting is still seen as a punishment. Like other specialised units, ACB personnel should get special allowances or incentives," he stresses.

Legal experts warn that the bigger threat lies in exploiting procedural loopholes that enables accused officials to return to service with minimal consequences. "Removal from service is the only real deterrent, but it almost never happens," says a criminal lawyer at the Nampally court.

He asserts that many delays are deliberate: FIRs and mediators' reports in trap cases are ready, yet departments take 100 days or more to file a chargesheet that could be done in 30. "That delay itself weakens the case," he says.

In the meantime, accused officers often secure reinstatement through High Court or tribunal orders, he adds. Poor prosecution is another weakness, he says: "Public prosecutors handling ACB cases are often poorly trained and lack the legal expertise to meet the defence. If we are serious about securing convictions, we need our best lawyers on such cases." Advocate Immanuel Rama Rao echoes similar concerns, noting that political and bureaucratic interference continues to compromise accountability. "There is a lackadaisical approach when it comes to certain individuals. That selective leniency creates public suspicion," he says.

While technology and online portals have improved reporting, he warns that unless the role of influential State actors is reined in, structural protections will continue to shield tainted officials.

The long road to justice

For most people, walking into an ACB office is far from a routine visit. They arrive anxious, hesitant and even scared, unsure if speaking out will bring change or invite trouble.

It begins with a complaint, usually handwritten or typed, submitted at the local ACB range office or via the bureau's online portal. Most allege that a government official demanded a bribe for a service supposed to be provided as a matter of right. Once filed, the ACB verifies the claim, seeking proof such as recordings, chats or other evidence. If the bribe hasn't been paid, officers may plan a trap.

The operation is precise: mediators are ar-



In Telangana, corruption cases rarely end careers

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तेलंगाना में भ्रष्टाचार के मामले शायद ही करियर खत्म करते हैं

In Telangana, instances of officers getting caught taking a bribe may spark a scandal, but it is rarely a career-ender. Bureaucratic delays, alleged shoddy investigations and 'political shielding' drag cases to a crawl.

तेलंगाना में, अधिकारियों के रिश्तत लेते पकड़े जाने की घटनाएँ घोटाले को जन्म दे सकती हैं, लेकिन यह शायद ही कभी करियर खत्म करने वाला साबित होता है। ब्यूरोक्रेटिक देरी, कथित खराब जांच और राजनीतिक संरक्षण मामलों को धीमा कर देते हैं।

- Many accused officers not only return to their posts but climb the ranks, while prosecutions fade into obscurity.
कई आरोपित अधिकारी न केवल अपनी पोस्ट पर वापस लौटते हैं बल्कि रैंक में भी चढ़ते हैं, जबकि अभियोजन धुंधला पड़ जाता है।
- The result? A system that claims to fight graft but too often shields the corrupt. Lavpreet Kaur exposes how anti-corruption cases end without a sense of justice.
नतीजा? एक ऐसा सिस्टम जो भ्रष्टाचार से लड़ने का दावा करता है लेकिन अक्सर भ्रष्ट लोगों को बचाता है। लवप्रीत कौर दिखाती हैं कि कैसे भ्रष्टाचार-रोधी मामले बिना न्याय की भावना के खत्म हो जाते हैं।
- The call from an unknown number came on the evening of **June 21**. Rou tine enough, thought 35-year-old sales executive **Adepu Nikhil** — until the voice on the line introduced himself as Sub-Inspector **K.Y. Venugopal** from the **Women Police Station, Cyberabad**.
21 जून की शाम को एक अज्ञात नंबर से कॉल आया। यह सामान्य लगा, सोचा 35 वर्षीय सेल्स एग्जीक्यूटिव **अडेपु निखिल** ने — जब तक कि लाइन पर आवाज ने खुद को **सब-इंस्पेक्टर के.वाई. वेणुगोपाल, वीमेन पुलिस स्टेशन, साइबराबाद** से बताया।
- There had been tensions at home. His marriage to **L. Swathi, 30**, a private company employee, was strained. She had moved out months ago. But police involvement? That was a new line being crossed, he felt.
घर में तनाव था। उसकी शादी **एल. स्वाति, 30**, जो एक प्राइवेट कंपनी कर्मचारी थीं, से तनावपूर्ण थी। वह महीनों पहले ही घर छोड़ चुकी थीं। लेकिन **पुलिस की भागीदारी?** उसे लगा कि यह एक नई सीमा पार हो गई।
- At home in **Hyderabad's Gachibowli**, he was raising their three-year-old son, **Agastya**, alone.
हैदराबाद के गाचीबोवली में घर पर, वह उनके तीन वर्षीय बेटे **अगस्त्य** को अकेले पाल रहा था।
- The family's struggles had been quiet and private, so the news of a formal police complaint and being called in for questioning hit him hard.
परिवार का संघर्ष शांत और निजी था, इसलिए **औपचारिक पुलिस शिकायत** और पूछताछ के लिए बुलाए जाने की खबर ने उसे गहराई से प्रभावित किया।
- He visited the police station that very evening, but the officer handling the case wasn't available.
वह उसी शाम **पुलिस स्टेशन** गया, लेकिन मामले को संभालने वाला अधिकारी उपलब्ध नहीं था।
- When he returned the next afternoon, he was told a case had been filed four days earlier. The charges: **cruelty by husband, assault and criminal intimidation**.
जब वह अगले दोपहर लौटा, तो उसे बताया गया कि **चार दिन पहले** एक केस दर्ज हो चुका है। आरोप: **पति द्वारा क्रूरता, हमला और आपराधिक डराना-धमकाना**।
- He was not lone accused; his **63-year-old mother, Adepu Vijaya**, residing in **Kazipet of Warangal district, around 200 kilometres from Hyderabad**, was also named in the complaint.



वह अकेला आरोपी नहीं था; उसकी **63 वर्षीय माँ, अडेपु विजय**, जो **वारंगल जिले के काज़ीपेट (हैदराबाद से लगभग 200 किमी दूर)** में रहती थीं, को भी शिकायत में नामित किया गया।

- “My mother is the sole caregiver for my ailing father and had no role in my disagreements with Swathi. Yet her name was on the **FIR**,” recalls Nikhil.
“मेरी माँ मेरे बीमार पिता की अकेली देखभाल करने वाली हैं और उनका मेरे और **स्वाति** के बीच असहमति से कोई लेना-देना नहीं था। फिर भी उनका नाम **एफआईआर** में था,” निखिल याद करते हैं।
- When he explained the family situation to the police officer, the conversation reportedly took a different turn.
जब उसने पुलिस अधिकारी को परिवार की स्थिति समझाई, तो बातचीत कथित तौर पर अलग दिशा में चली गई।
- On **June 25**, during another visit to the police station, the officer allegedly hinted at a fix: reconcile with **Swathi** and pay **₹50,000** to have his mother’s name dropped.
25 जून को पुलिस स्टेशन की एक और यात्रा के दौरान, अधिकारी ने कथित तौर पर एक समाधान का इशारा किया: **स्वाति** से समझौता करो और अपनी माँ का नाम हटवाने के लिए **₹50,000** दो।
- When Nikhil refused, the demand dropped to **₹25,000**, the calls pressing harder each time.
जब निखिल ने मना किया, तो मांग घटकर **₹25,000** हो गई, और हर बार कॉल का दबाव बढ़ गया।
- Two weeks later, Nikhil walked into the station again. This time, with officers of the **Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)** trailing behind. The trap was swift; the officer was caught with the cash.
दो सप्ताह बाद, निखिल फिर से स्टेशन में दाखिल हुआ। इस बार उसके पीछे **एंटी-कॉरप्शन ब्यूरो (ACB)** के अधिकारी थे। जाल फौरन बिछा; अधिकारी को नकदी के साथ पकड़ा गया।
- His case is now among **22 booked by Telangana ACB in July 2025 alone**, which is part of a broader tally of **148 cases in seven months, 145 arrests, and over ₹30.32 lakh seized**.
उसका मामला अब **केवल जुलाई 2025 में तेलंगाना ACB द्वारा दर्ज 22 मामलों में से एक है, जो सात महीनों में 148 मामले, 145 गिरफ्तारियाँ और ₹30.32 लाख से अधिक की जब्ती के व्यापक आँकड़े का हिस्सा है।**
- In a State where corruption is often hard to prove and harder to prosecute, the case highlights how ordinary families, already grappling with personal crises, can be further ensnared by abuse of power, leaving them either silenced or, in rare moments, emboldened to fight back.
एक ऐसे राज्य में जहाँ **भ्रष्टाचार** को साबित करना कठिन और अभियोजन करना और भी कठिन है, यह मामला दिखाता है कि कैसे साधारण परिवार, जो पहले से ही निजी संकटों से जूझ रहे हैं, **सत्ता के दुरुपयोग** से और फँस सकते हैं, जिससे वे या तो चुप हो जाते हैं या, दुर्लभ क्षणों में, पलटकर लड़ने के लिए साहस जुटा लेते हैं।

The long road to justice

न्याय तक लंबा रास्ता

- For most people, walking into an **ACB office** is far from a routine visit. They arrive anxious, hesitant and even scared, unsure if speaking out will bring change or invite trouble.
ज्यादातर लोगों के लिए, **ACB कार्यालय** में जाना एक सामान्य यात्रा से बहुत दूर है। वे चिंतित, हिचकिचाते और यहाँ तक कि डरे हुए आते हैं, यह सुनिश्चित नहीं कि बोलने से बदलाव आएगा या मुसीबत बुलाएगा।
- It begins with a complaint, usually handwritten or typed, submitted at the local ACB range office or via the bureau’s online portal.
यह एक शिकायत से शुरू होता है, जो आमतौर पर हस्तलिखित या टाइप की हुई होती है, और इसे स्थानीय **ACB रेंज कार्यालय** में या ब्यूरो के **ऑनलाइन पोर्टल** के माध्यम से जमा किया जाता है।



- Most allege that a **government official** demanded a bribe for a service supposed to be provided as a matter of right.
अधिकतर का आरोप होता है कि एक **सरकारी अधिकारी** ने रिश्वत मांगी उस सेवा के लिए जिसे अधिकार के रूप में दिया जाना चाहिए।
- Once filed, the **ACB** verifies the claim, seeking proof such as **recordings, chats or other evidence**.
जैसे ही शिकायत दर्ज होती है, **ACB** दावे की जांच करता है, और **रिकॉर्डिंग्स, चैट या अन्य सबूत** जैसी प्रमाणिकता तलाशता है।
- If the bribe hasn't been paid, officers may plan a **trap**.
अगर रिश्वत का भुगतान नहीं किया गया है, तो अधिकारी **जाल (ट्रैप)** की योजना बना सकते हैं।

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

1. **GST reforms will benefit the poor and middle class: PM**
जीएसटी सुधार गरीब और मध्यम वर्ग को लाभ देंगे: प्रधानमंत्री
2. **T.N. offers incentives to entities engaged in semiconductor design**
तमिलनाडु ने सेमीकंडक्टर डिज़ाइन में लगे संस्थाओं को प्रोत्साहन दिया
3. **Grassland invaders stifle Assam's island-like national park home to feral horses: study**
घासभूमि आक्रमणकारियों ने असम के द्वीप जैसे राष्ट्रीय उद्यान को दबा दिया, जहाँ जंगली घोड़े रहते हैं: अध्ययन
4. **Biodiversity everywhere is ordered by a common 'hidden' pattern**
सभी जगह जैव विविधता एक सामान्य 'छिपे हुए' पैटर्न द्वारा व्यवस्थित है
5. **Total outflow by foreign portfolio investors in equities**
इक्विटी में विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों द्वारा कुल बहिर्वाह
6. **Impact of Ethanol Blending and EV Adoption in India**
भारत में ईथेनॉल मिश्रण और ईवी अपनाने का प्रभाव
7. **Solorza, actor with Down syndrome, eyes Chile's top job**



सोलोर्जा, डाउन सिंड्रोम से ग्रस्त अभिनेता, चिली की सर्वोच्च पदवी पर नज़र

GST reforms will benefit the poor and middle class: PM

GS III: Taxation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The proposed changes to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime will benefit the poor, middle class, traders, and entrepreneurs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

“For us, reform signifies the advancement of good governance, which is why we place strong emphasis on continuous improvement,” Mr. Modi said, while inaugurating two key highway projects in the National Capital Region – the

Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway and the Urban Extension Road-II. “As part of this vision, next-generation reforms will be introduced under the GST framework. This Diwali, these GST reforms will bring a double bonus to the people,” he said.

“Every family, the poor and the middle class, small and big entrepreneurs, and every trader and businessman will benefit from this,” he added. The changes to the GST were first announced by Mr. Modi in his Independence Day address on Friday.

According to sources, the new GST structure, with 18% and 5% rates, will have the twin objectives of making tax categories and compliance processes simpler and more rational.

“This has been in the making for a while. Our learnings from the past eight years has gone into this, and this will be a fundamental change in the template of taxation,” one senior functionary said. “The new GST regime will make our taxation more equitable and will see reduced taxes. The template will be more from the con-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Dwarka Expressway during the inauguration of its Delhi section on Sunday. DPR PMO

sumers’ point of view, and will be explained to the States from the consumers’ point of view.”

The Centre expects any

reduction in revenues to be soon offset by new buoyancy in the economy stemming from the rate rationalisation and process

simplification.

“Reduced rates will not lead to reduced revenues, and we expect compliance and collection going up,” an official said, adding that the forthcoming regime will be “fiscally sustainable”.

Most of the items in the 28% rate of the GST will move to 18% and “a few” will go to a 40% bracket, which will apply to exceptional items, termed as “sin goods”, sources said.

The Centre expects the States to be on board with the proposals in time for the Deepavali deadline.

GST reforms will benefit the poor and middle class: PM जीएसटी सुधार गरीब और मध्यम वर्ग को लाभ देंगे: प्रधानमंत्री

The proposed changes to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime will benefit the poor, middle class, traders, and entrepreneurs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) प्रणाली में प्रस्तावित बदलाव गरीबों, मध्यम वर्ग, व्यापारियों और उद्यमियों को लाभ देंगे, यह बात प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने रविवार को कही।

- “For us, reform signifies the advancement of **good governance**, which is why we place strong emphasis on continuous improvement,” Mr. Modi said, while inaugurating two key **highway projects** in the **National Capital Region** — the **Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway** and the **Urban Extension Road-II**.

“हमारे लिए **सुधार** का अर्थ है **सुशासन** की प्रगति, यही कारण है कि हम निरंतर सुधार पर जोर देते हैं,” श्री मोदी ने कहा, जब उन्होंने **राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र** में दो प्रमुख **हाईवे परियोजनाओं** — **द्वारका एक्सप्रेसवे का दिल्ली खंड** और **अर्बन एक्सटेंशन रोड-दो** का उद्घाटन किया।

- “As part of this vision, **next-generation reforms** will be introduced under the **GST framework**. This **Diwali**, these **GST reforms** will bring a **double bonus** to the people,” he said.

“इस दृष्टिकोण के तहत, **जीएसटी ढांचे** में **अगली पीढ़ी के सुधार** पेश किए जाएंगे। इस **दिवाली** पर, ये **जीएसटी सुधार** जनता के लिए **दोगुना बोनस** लाएंगे,” उन्होंने कहा।

- “Every family, the **poor and the middle class**, small and big **entrepreneurs**, and every **trader and businessman** will benefit from this,” he added. The changes to the **GST** were first announced by Mr. Modi in his **Independence Day address** on **Friday**.

“हर परिवार, **गरीब और मध्यम वर्ग**, छोटे और बड़े **उद्यमी**, और हर **व्यापारी और व्यवसायी** इससे



लाभान्वित होंगे,” उन्होंने कहा। जीएसटी में बदलाव की घोषणा श्री मोदी ने सबसे पहले शुक्रवार को अपने स्वतंत्रता दिवस के संबोधन में की थी।

- According to sources, the new **GST structure**, with **18% and 5% rates**, will have the twin objectives of making **tax categories and compliance processes** simpler and more rational.

स्रोतों के अनुसार, नया जीएसटी ढांचा, जिसमें **18% और 5% दरें** होंगी, का उद्देश्य **कर श्रेणियों और अनुपालन प्रक्रियाओं** को सरल और अधिक तार्किक बनाना होगा।

- “This has been in the making for a while. Our learnings from the past **eight years** has gone into this, and this will be a **fundamental change** in the template of taxation,” one senior functionary said.

“यह कुछ समय से बन रहा है। पिछले **आठ वर्षों** के हमारे अनुभव इसमें शामिल किए गए हैं, और यह कराधान के ढांचे में एक **मौलिक परिवर्तन** होगा,” एक वरिष्ठ पदाधिकारी ने कहा।

- “The new **GST regime** will make our taxation more **equitable** and will see **reduced taxes**. The template will be more from the **consumers’ point of view**, and will be explained to the **States** from the consumers’ point of view.”

“नई जीएसटी व्यवस्था हमारे कराधान को अधिक **न्यायसंगत** बनाएगी और इसमें **कम कर** देखने को मिलेंगे। ढांचा अधिकतर **उपभोक्ताओं के दृष्टिकोण** से होगा, और इसे **राज्यों** को भी उपभोक्ताओं के दृष्टिकोण से समझाया जाएगा।”

- The **Centre** expects any reduction in revenues to be soon offset by new buoyancy in the **economy** stemming from the rate rationalisation and process simplification.

केंद्र को उम्मीद है कि राजस्व में किसी भी कमी की भरपाई दरों के तर्कसंगतीकरण और प्रक्रियाओं के सरलीकरण से उत्पन्न **अर्थव्यवस्था** में नई तेजी से जल्द ही हो जाएगी।

- “Reduced rates will not lead to reduced revenues, and we expect compliance and collection going up,” an official said, adding that the forthcoming regime will be **“fiscally sustainable”**.

“कम दरें राजस्व में कमी नहीं लाएँगी, और हमें उम्मीद है कि अनुपालन और संग्रह बढ़ेगा,” एक अधिकारी ने कहा, साथ ही यह भी जोड़ा कि आने वाली व्यवस्था **“राजकोषीय रूप से टिकाऊ”** होगी।

- Most of the items in the **28% rate** of the **GST** will move to **18%** and “a few” will go to a **40% bracket**, which will apply to exceptional items, termed as **“sin goods”**, sources said.

स्रोतों ने कहा कि जीएसटी की **28% दर** वाली अधिकांश वस्तुएँ **18%** में आ जाएँगी और “कुछ” **40% श्रेणी** में चली जाएँगी, जो विशेष वस्तुओं पर लागू होगी जिन्हें **“पाप वस्तुएँ”** कहा जाता है।

- The **Centre** expects the **States** to be on board with the proposals in time for the **Deepavali deadline**.

केंद्र को उम्मीद है कि **राज्य** इन प्रस्तावों को **दीपावली की समय सीमा** तक स्वीकार कर लेंगे।



T.N. offers incentives to entities engaged in semiconductor design

GS III: S&T

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

Building on its position as the frontrunner in India's electronics and semiconductor landscape, Tamil Nadu has sanctioned the Semiconductor Design Promotion Scheme under its ₹500-crore Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission 2030 (TNSM 2030).

Announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget 2025, the scheme is aimed at turbocharging the State's fabless design ecosystem by offering targeted subsidies and prototyping grants.

Govt. support

According to a Government Order, financial incentives and facilitation support will be extended to Tamil Nadu-based entities engaged in semiconductor design for integrated circuits, chipsets, system on chips, IP cores, and semiconductor-linked design. For instance, for firms whose products are commercially deployed, a payroll subsidy will be offered for Tamil Nadu residents. It will be 30% in the initial year, 25% in the second year, and 20% in the third year. This subsidy will be capped at ₹20,000 per employee per month.

Companies whose products are yet to be commercially deployed, a payroll subsidy covering 50% of the payroll cost (basic wages) of the employees for three years will be given, subject to a ceiling of ₹5 crore per company. The company should demonstrate the proposed pro-



The government will extend payroll subsidies to specific firms. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

duct's technical viability to an expert committee.

The State will negotiate with national and international semiconductor fabs to get concessional rates for fabricating the chips designed by the local companies. The government will encourage the use of Tamil Nadu-designed semiconductor products in public procurement.

Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said, "We are unfazed by major semiconductor investments being dragged to other States, despite our unmatched talent pool and mature electronics ecosystem with global players. While we continue to attract investments in manufacturing, we will focus on semiconductor design and research and development."

Students to be trained

New centres of excellence will provide the infrastructure required for chip design and testing.

The government will facilitate the training of 1,000 students from engineering colleges in the State under a semiconductor workforce programme.

T.N. offers incentives to entities engaged in semiconductor design तमिलनाडु ने सेमीकंडक्टर डिज़ाइन में लगे संस्थाओं को प्रोत्साहन दिया

Building on its position as the frontrunner in India's electronics and semiconductor landscape, Tamil Nadu has sanctioned the Semiconductor Design Promotion Scheme under its ₹500-crore Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission 2030 (TNSM 2030).

भारत के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सेमीकंडक्टर क्षेत्र में अग्रणी स्थिति पर आधारित होकर, तमिलनाडु ने अपने ₹500-करोड़ तमिलनाडु सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन 2030 (TNSM 2030) के तहत सेमीकंडक्टर डिज़ाइन प्रमोशन योजना को मंजूरी दी है।

- Announced in the Tamil Nadu Budget 2025, the scheme is aimed at turbocharging the State's fabless design ecosystem by offering targeted subsidies and prototyping grants.

तमिलनाडु बजट 2025 में घोषित, इस योजना का उद्देश्य राज्य के फैबलैस डिज़ाइन इकोसिस्टम को लक्षित सब्सिडी और प्रोटोटाइपिंग ग्रांट्स के माध्यम से तेज़ी देना है।

- Govt. support सरकारी सहायता

- According to a Government Order, financial incentives and facilitation support will be extended to Tamil Nadu-based entities engaged in semiconductor design for integrated circuits, chipsets, system on chips, IP cores, and semiconductor-linked design.

एक सरकारी आदेश के अनुसार, वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन और सुविधा सहायता तमिलनाडु-आधारित संस्थाओं को दी जाएगी जो इंटीग्रेटेड सर्किट्स, चिपसेट्स, सिस्टम ऑन चिप्स, आईपी कोर और सेमीकंडक्टर-संबंधित डिज़ाइन के लिए सेमीकंडक्टर डिज़ाइन में लगी हों।

- For instance, for firms whose products are commercially deployed, a payroll subsidy will be offered for Tamil Nadu residents. It will be 30% in the initial year, 25% in the second year, and 20% in the third year. This subsidy will be capped at ₹20,000 per employee per month.

उदाहरण के लिए, जिन कंपनियों के उत्पाद व्यावसायिक रूप से तैनात किए गए हैं, उन्हें तमिलनाडु निवासियों के लिए पेरॉल सब्सिडी दी जाएगी। यह पहले वर्ष में 30%, दूसरे वर्ष में 25% और तीसरे वर्ष में 20% होगी। यह सब्सिडी प्रति कर्मचारी प्रति माह ₹20,000 तक सीमित होगी।

- Companies whose products are yet to be commercially deployed, a payroll subsidy covering 50% of the payroll cost (basic wages) of the employees for



three years will be given, subject to a ceiling of ₹5 crore per company. The company should demonstrate the proposed product's technical viability to an expert committee.

जिन कंपनियों के उत्पाद अभी व्यावसायिक रूप से तैनात नहीं किए गए हैं, उन्हें तीन वर्षों के लिए कर्मचारियों की पेरोल लागत (मूल वेतन) का 50% कवर करने वाली सब्सिडी दी जाएगी, प्रति कंपनी ₹5 करोड़ की सीमा के अधीन। कंपनी को प्रस्तावित उत्पाद की तकनीकी व्यवहार्यता एक विशेषज्ञ समिति को प्रदर्शित करनी होगी।

- The State will negotiate with national and international semiconductor fabs to get concessional rates for fabricating the chips designed by the local companies. The government will encourage the use of Tamil Nadu-designed semiconductor products in public procurement.

राज्य राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सेमीकंडक्टर फैब्स के साथ बातचीत करेगा ताकि स्थानीय कंपनियों द्वारा डिज़ाइन किए गए चिप्स को बनाने के लिए रियायती दरें मिल सकें। सरकार सार्वजनिक खरीद में तमिलनाडु-डिज़ाइन किए गए सेमीकंडक्टर उत्पादों के उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित करेगी।

- Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said, "We are unfazed by major semiconductor investments being dragged to other States, despite our unmatched talent pool and mature electronics ecosystem with global players. While we continue to attract investments in manufacturing, we will focus on semiconductor design and research and development."

उद्योग मंत्री टी.आर.बी. राजा ने कहा, "हम प्रमुख सेमीकंडक्टर निवेशों के अन्य राज्यों में जाने से अप्रभावित हैं, बावजूद इसके कि हमारे पास बेमिसाल प्रतिभा और वैश्विक खिलाड़ियों के साथ परिपक्व इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स इकोसिस्टम है। जबकि हम निर्माण में निवेश आकर्षित करना जारी रखते हैं, हम सेमीकंडक्टर डिज़ाइन और अनुसंधान एवं विकास पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेंगे।"

- Students to be trained
छात्रों को प्रशिक्षित किया जाएगा
- New centres of excellence will provide the infrastructure required for chip design and testing.
नए उत्कृष्टता केंद्र चिप डिज़ाइन और परीक्षण के लिए आवश्यक बुनियादी ढांचा प्रदान करेंगे।



- The government will facilitate the training of 1,000 students from engineering colleges in the State under a semiconductor workforce programme.
सरकार राज्य के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के 1,000 छात्रों को सेमीकंडक्टर वर्कफोर्स कार्यक्रम के तहत प्रशिक्षण देने में सुविधा प्रदान करेगी।

Grassland invaders stifle Assam's island-like national park home to feral horses: study

GS III: Environment

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A new study has identified at least two native plants that have joined invasive species to alter the riverine ecosystem of eastern Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (DSNP), the only habitat of feral horses in India.

These species have added to the changes in the grassland-dominated DSNP landscape, largely attributed to the recurring Brahmaputra river floods and increasing anthropogenic pressures from villages located within its boundaries, the study said.

The native "grassland invaders" are *Bombax ceiba* and *Lagerstroemia speciosa* – flowering trees known as *Simalu* and *Ajar* in Assamese. Their impact on the local vegetation has been as worrying as that of the invasive species, which include shrubs *Chromola-*



Unwelcome guests: Native and invasive plant species are changing the riverine ecosystem of the national park. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

na odorata and *Ageratum conyzoides*, herb *Parthenium hysterophorous* and climber *Mikania micrantha*.

The study titled *Grasslands in Flux*, analysing the land use and land cover (LULC) changes in Dibru-Saikhowa from its designation as a national park in 1999 through 2024, was published in the latest issue of *Earth*, an international, peer-reviewed journal on earth science.

The researchers used remote sensing and geo-

graphic information systems to analyse the LULC changes in DSNP, an island-like formation between the Brahmaputra to the north and the Dibru river to the south.

According to their study, grasslands covered 28.78% of the 425 sq. km DSNP in 2000, followed by semi-evergreen forests (25.58%). By 2013, shrubland became the most prominent class (81.31 sq. km), and degraded forest expanded to 75.56 sq. km.

"During this period,

substantial areas of grassland [29.94 sq. km], degraded forest [10.87 sq. km], semi-evergreen forest [12.33 sq. km], and bare land [10.50 sq. km] were converted to shrubland. In 2024, degraded forest further increased, covering 80.52 sq. km [23.47%]," the study said.

This change was the outcome of the conversion of 11.46 sq. km of shrubland and 27.48 sq. km of semi-evergreen forest into degraded forest, indicating a substantial and consistent decline in grassland, the study noted. Forest degradation can lead to loss of biodiversity, threaten the survival of local fauna, and reduce carbon storage, potentially intensifying climate change.

The study stated that the changes in the "natural structure and function" of the DSNP landscape pose a serious threat to the survival of grassland-obligate fau-

nal species, many of which are already globally threatened due to ongoing habitat loss.

"The concern is heightened by the fact that numerous species are endemic to the grasslands found in the floodplains of this region. Notable species which are rapidly decreasing include the Bengal florican [*Houbaropsis bengalensis*], hog deer [*Axis porcinus*], and swamp grass babbler [*Prinia cinerascens*]," the study said.

The DSNP is also home to some 200 feral horses, which are descendants of military horses abandoned during World War 2.

The study recommended a targeted grassland recovery project that would encompass the control of invasive species, improved surveillance, increased staffing, and the relocation of forest villages and support community-based conservation efforts.

Grassland invaders stifle Assam's island-like national park home to feral horses: study

घासभूमि आक्रमणकारियों ने असम के द्वीप जैसे राष्ट्रीय उद्यान को दबा दिया, जहाँ जंगली घोड़े रहते हैं: अध्ययन

A new study has identified at least two native plants that have joined invasive species to alter the riverine ecosystem of eastern Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (DSNP), the only habitat of feral horses in India.

एक नए अध्ययन ने कम से कम दो स्थानीय पौधों की पहचान की है जिन्होंने आक्रामक प्रजातियों के साथ मिलकर असम के पूर्वी क्षेत्र के दिब्रू-सैखोवा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान (डीएसएनपी) की नदीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बदल दिया है, जो भारत में जंगली घोड़ों का एकमात्र आवास है।

- These species have added to the changes in the grassland-dominated DSNP landscape, largely attributed to the recurring Brahmaputra river floods and increasing anthropogenic pressures from villages located within its boundaries, the study said.

अध्ययन ने कहा कि इन प्रजातियों ने डीएसएनपी की घासभूमि-प्रधान भूदृश्य में बदलाव जोड़े हैं,



जिनका कारण बार-बार आने वाली ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी की बाढ़ और इसकी सीमाओं के भीतर स्थित गांवों से बढ़ते मानवीय दबाव हैं।

- The native “grassland invaders” are **Bombax ceiba** and **Lagerstroemia speciosa** — flowering trees known as **Simalu** and **Ajar** in Assamese.
स्थानीय “घासभूमि आक्रमणकारी” बॉम्बैक्स सीबा और लेगस्ट्रोमिया स्पेसियोसा हैं — फूलदार पेड़ जिन्हें असमिया भाषा में सिमालू और अजार कहा जाता है।
- Their impact on the local vegetation has been as worrying as that of the invasive species, which include shrubs **Chromolaena odorata** and **Ageratum conyzoides**, herb **Parthenium hysterophorous** and climber **Mikania micrantha**.
इनका प्रभाव स्थानीय वनस्पति पर उतना ही चिंताजनक रहा है जितना कि आक्रामक प्रजातियों का, जिनमें झाड़ियां क्रोमोलाएना ओडोराटा और एजेराटम कोनिज़ोइड्स, जड़ी-बूटी पार्थेनियम हिस्टेरोफोरस और लता मिकेनिया माइक्रान्था शामिल हैं।
- The study titled **Grasslands in Flux**, analysing the **land use and land cover (LULC)** changes in Dibru-Saikhowa from its designation as a national park in **1999** through **2024**, was published in the latest issue of **Earth**, an international, peer-reviewed journal on earth science.
घासभूमियों में परिवर्तन शीर्षक वाला अध्ययन, जिसमें **भूमि उपयोग और भूमि आवरण (एलयूएलसी)** में बदलाव का विश्लेषण किया गया, जो दिब्रू-सैखोवा को **1999** में राष्ट्रीय उद्यान घोषित करने से लेकर **2024** तक हुए, को **अर्थ** नामक अंतरराष्ट्रीय, सहकर्मि-समीक्षित भूविज्ञान पत्रिका के नवीनतम अंक में प्रकाशित किया गया।
- The researchers used **remote sensing** and **geographic information systems** to analyse the **LULC** changes in DSNP, an island-like formation between the **Brahmaputra** to the north and the **Dibru river** to the south.
शोधकर्ताओं ने **दूरसंवेदी तकनीक** और **भौगोलिक सूचना प्रणाली** का उपयोग करके **डीएसएनपी** में **एलयूएलसी** बदलावों का विश्लेषण किया, जो उत्तर में **ब्रह्मपुत्र** और दक्षिण में **दिब्रू नदी** के बीच एक द्वीप जैसी संरचना है।
- According to their study, grasslands covered **28.78%** of the **425 sq. km** DSNP in **2000**, followed by semi-evergreen forests (**25.58%**). By **2013**, shrubland became the most prominent class (**81.31 sq. km**), and degraded forest expanded to **75.56 sq. km**.
उनके अध्ययन के अनुसार, **2000** में **425 वर्ग किमी** के डीएसएनपी में घासभूमियां **28.78%** क्षेत्र को कवर करती थीं, जिसके बाद अर्ध-सदाबहार वन (**25.58%**) आते थे। **2013** तक झाड़ीभूमि सबसे प्रमुख वर्ग बन गई (**81.31 वर्ग किमी**), और अवनत वन बढ़कर **75.56 वर्ग किमी** हो गए।
- “During this period, substantial areas of grassland [**29.94 sq. km**], degraded forest [**10.87 sq. km**], semi-evergreen forest [**12.33 sq. km**], and bare land [**10.50 sq. km**] were converted to shrubland. In **2024**, degraded forest further increased, covering **80.52 sq. km [23.47%]**,” the study said.
“इस अवधि के दौरान, घासभूमि [**29.94 वर्ग किमी**], अवनत वन [**10.87 वर्ग किमी**], अर्ध-सदाबहार वन [**12.33 वर्ग किमी**], और बंजर भूमि [**10.50 वर्ग किमी**] के बड़े हिस्से झाड़ीभूमि में परिवर्तित हो गए। **2024** में अवनत वन और बढ़कर **80.52 वर्ग किमी [23.47%]** हो गए,” अध्ययन ने कहा।
- This change was the outcome of the conversion of **11.46 sq. km** of shrubland and **27.48 sq. km** of semi-evergreen forest into degraded forest, indicating a substantial and consistent decline in grassland, the study noted.
यह बदलाव **11.46 वर्ग किमी** झाड़ीभूमि और **27.48 वर्ग किमी** अर्ध-सदाबहार वन को अवनत वन में बदलने का परिणाम था, जो घासभूमि में बड़े और लगातार गिरावट का संकेत देता है, अध्ययन ने उल्लेख किया।
- Forest degradation can lead to loss of **biodiversity**, threaten the survival of local fauna, and reduce **carbon storage**, potentially intensifying **climate change**.
वन अवनति **जैव विविधता** के नुकसान, स्थानीय जीव-जंतुओं के अस्तित्व को खतरा, और **कार्बन भंडारण** में कमी का कारण बन सकती है, जिससे **जलवायु परिवर्तन** और तेज हो सकता है।



- The study stated that the changes in the “natural structure and function” of the DSNP landscape pose a serious threat to the survival of **grassland-obligate faunal species**, many of which are already **globally threatened** due to ongoing habitat loss.
अध्ययन ने कहा कि डीएसएनपी परिदृश्य की “प्राकृतिक संरचना और कार्य” में बदलाव घासभूमि-निर्भर जीव-जंतु प्रजातियों के अस्तित्व के लिए गंभीर खतरा पैदा करता है, जिनमें से कई चल रहे आवास ह्रास के कारण पहले से ही वैश्विक स्तर पर संकटग्रस्त हैं।
- “The concern is heightened by the fact that numerous species are **endemic** to the grasslands found in the floodplains of this region. Notable species which are rapidly decreasing include the **Bengal florican [Houbaropsis bengalensis]**, **hog deer [Axis porcinus]**, and **swamp grass babbler [Prinia cinerascens]**,” the study said.
“चिंता इस तथ्य से और बढ़ जाती है कि कई प्रजातियां इस क्षेत्र की बाढ़भूमि में पाई जाने वाली घासभूमि की स्थानिक हैं। उल्लेखनीय प्रजातियां जो तेजी से घट रही हैं उनमें शामिल हैं बंगाल फ्लोरिकन [हौबरोप्सिस बंगालेंसिस], हॉग डियर [एक्सिस पोरसीनस], और स्वैम्प ग्रास बैबलर [प्रिनिया सिनेरासेंस],” अध्ययन ने कहा।
- The **DNBP** is also home to some **200 feral horses**, which are descendants of military horses abandoned during **World War 2**.
डीएसएनपी लगभग 200 जंगली घोड़ों का भी घर है, जो द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के दौरान छोड़े गए सैन्य घोड़ों के वंशज हैं।
- The study recommended a targeted **grassland recovery project** that would encompass the control of **invasive species**, improved **surveillance**, increased **staffing**, and the **relocation of forest villages** and support **community-based conservation efforts**.
अध्ययन ने एक लक्षित घासभूमि पुनर्प्राप्ति परियोजना की सिफारिश की, जिसमें आक्रामक प्रजातियों पर नियंत्रण, बेहतर निगरानी, बढ़ी हुई कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति, और वन गांवों का पुनर्वास तथा समुदाय-आधारित संरक्षण प्रयासों का समर्थन शामिल होगा।



Biodiversity everywhere is ordered by a common 'hidden' pattern

A new study has found that biodiversity is organised like an onion: with dense, unique biodiversity at the centre and grading outward towards porous, mixed margins: these findings could reveal insights into the basic forces that assemble nature's living mosaics and show conservationists where protection could have the biggest payoff

GS III: Environment

Hirra Azmat
Vasudevan Mukunth

For almost two centuries, biologists have divided the earth into large biogeographical regions. Each region hosts a unique mix of species shaped by its own history, climate, and barriers, such as oceans and mountains. Because those histories differ, many scientists assumed the inner layout of species inside every region would be idiosyncratic – that South America's biodiversity, for example, would organise itself in a very different way from Africa's.

At the same time, global rules clearly exist. Tropical zones almost everywhere teem with life while polar zones host far fewer species. The authors of a new study wondered: could there also be a universal rule inside each biogeographical region, one that transcended continents, oceans, and even entire branches of the tree of life?

Answering that question could reveal the basic forces that assemble nature's living mosaics and show conservationists where protection could deliver the biggest payoff.

Peeling the onion

A new study, authored by scientists in Spain, Sweden, and the UK, reported just such a pattern in the July edition of *Nature Ecology & Evolution*.

According to University of Kashmir Department of Botany assistant professor Irfan Rashid, the study provides a rare, large-scale, data-backed confirmation of a general rule in biogeography.

In search of a hidden rule, the researchers cast an exceptionally wide net. They studied more than 30,000 species, including birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, rays, dragonflies, and trees. Information about the species' ranges came from global databases such as the IUCN Red List, BirdLife International, and US Forest inventories. The team also tiled the earth's surface into thousands of cells of equal area – each about 111 sq. km for most land animals, for example – and recorded all the species living there.

Then the researchers used a network analysis tool called Infomap to group those cells together whose species frequently co-occurred. Each cluster thus became a biogeographical region, and the species most tied to that region were tagged as characteristic, i.e. as belonging to its core community. Species that spilled over from neighbouring regions were called non-characteristic.

Finally, they took snapshots of four types of diversity in every cell: species



A newly uncovered core rule turns the earth's messy quilt of species' ranges into something organised in layers. DAVIDVRAJU (CC BY-SA)

richness (how many characteristic species live here), biota overlap (what fraction of species are non-characteristic); occupancy (how widely do characteristic species range); and endemism (how much of each characteristic species' range is confined to that region alone).

With these four numbers in hand, the researchers ran a clustering algorithm on all the cells. If biodiversity organised itself differently among different kinds of organisms, cells from birds would cluster apart from cells from mammals, and so on. If a common rule existed, however, the algorithm would lump cells from many different taxa together.

This is how the researchers were eventually able to split the world into seven repeating biogeographical sectors. More importantly, they found that the sectors appear again and again inside every major region and for every taxonomic group, lining up in a remarkably orderly pattern.

The core hotspots were highly rich, highly endemic, and had almost no foreign species. The next inner layers were still species-rich but had slightly more endemic species and slightly more widespread species. The middle layers had no richness and also had some non-characteristic species. Finally, the transition zones were species-poor and packed with wide-ranging generalists from multiple regions.

That is, biodiversity everywhere was organised like an onion: with dense, unique biodiversity at the centre and grading outward towards porous, mixed margins.

The researchers also found that in 98% of region-taxon combinations, temperature plus rainfall models could



The study provides a strong basis for understanding broad ecological trends

AMIT CHAWLA
PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST AT THE CSIR-INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN BIOSOURCE TECHNOLOGY (IHBT), PALAMPUR

predict which sector a cell belonged to. This implied that only species that could tolerate the local conditions could survive in a given layer.

Further, the species that inhabited the outer layers were also usually subsets, not replacements, of inner layer species. That is, moving outward from the core, there were fewer specialist species rather than entirely different specialised species.

"The study provides a strong basis for understanding broad ecological trends," Amit Chawla, Principal Scientist at the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Biosource Technology (IHBT) in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, said. "It shows how biodiversity tends to spread outward from regional hotspots, and how environmental filters like elevation or climate allow some species to move while blocking others."

Geographical gaps

In a time of climate uncertainty, understanding how species are spread can help make smarter decisions about what to protect and where. In the Indian Himalayas, for example, this could mean looking beyond traditional protected areas and focusing on key habitats, altitudinal zones, and natural corridors.

THE GIST

Researchers tiled the earth into cells and recorded the species there. Then a tool called Infomap grouped together those cells whose species co-occurred. Species were tagged as characteristic or non-characteristic. Finally, they took snapshots of four types of diversity in every cell

Researchers then ran a clustering algorithm on all the cells. If biodiversity organised itself differently among different organisms, cells from birds would cluster apart from mammals, and so on. Thus they split the world into seven sectors. The sectors appear repeatedly inside every major region and for every taxonomic group, lining up in an orderly pattern

It was found that temperature plus rainfall models could predict which sector a cell belonged to. This implies that only species that can tolerate local conditions can survive in a given layer. Moving outward from the core, there were fewer specialist species rather than entirely different species. The study shows that environmental filters allow some species to move while blocking others

"We need to look at how changes in rainfall or temperature are affecting biodiversity along mountain slopes," Chawla said. "Small experiments that simulate these changes can give us important insights."

"The Himalayas are already experiencing rising temperatures and shifting rainfall and are at the frontlines of this change. Studies like this one offer a useful lens to understand the big picture," Asif Bashir Shikari, professor of genetics and plant breeding at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, said.

Finally, Chawla did point out that while the study was global in scope, it had some geographical gaps. "For instance, groups like dragonflies in Eurasia and trees in North America were studied only in limited regions. The conclusions for these taxa could have been stronger with more comprehensive global datasets," he said.

He added that some biodiversity-rich regions in the tropics and Global South, including parts of India, were underrepresented for certain taxa, underscoring the need for region-specific research to complement these global findings.

In sum, the newly uncovered core-to-transition rule turns the earth's messy quilt of species' ranges into something organised in layers. By identifying how environmental filters shape these layers, the study could give conservationists a sharper lens through which to understand and protect the living planet.

(Hirra Azmat is a Kashmir-based journalist who writes on science, health, and environment. azmathirra@gmail.com, mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)

Biodiversity everywhere is ordered by a common 'hidden' pattern

सभी जगह जैव विविधता एक सामान्य 'छिपे हुए' पैटर्न द्वारा व्यवस्थित है

- A new study has found that biodiversity is organised like an onion: with dense, unique biodiversity at the centre and grading outward towards porous, mixed



margins;

एक नए अध्ययन में पाया गया कि **जैव विविधता प्याज़ की तरह व्यवस्थित है**: केंद्र में घनी, अनूठी **जैव विविधता** होती है और बाहर की ओर यह **छिद्रयुक्त, मिश्रित सीमाओं** की ओर जाती है;

- These findings could reveal insights into the **basic forces that assemble nature's living mosaics** and show conservationists where **protection could have the biggest payoff**.

ये निष्कर्ष यह उजागर कर सकते हैं कि **कौन सी मूल शक्तियाँ प्रकृति के जीवित मोज़ेक को एक साथ जोड़ती हैं** और संरक्षण कार्यकर्ताओं को यह दिखा सकती हैं कि **कहाँ संरक्षण सबसे अधिक लाभकारी हो सकता है**।

For almost two centuries

लगभग दो सदियों से

- **Biologists** have divided the **earth** into large **biogeographical regions**.
जैवविज्ञानी पृथ्वी को बड़े **जैवभौगोलिक क्षेत्रों** में विभाजित कर चुके हैं।
- Each **region** hosts a unique mix of **species** shaped by its own **history, climate, and barriers**, such as **oceans and mountains**.
प्रत्येक **क्षेत्र** अपने **इतिहास, जलवायु और बाधाओं**, जैसे **सागरों और पहाड़ों**, से आकार लिए अद्वितीय **प्रजातियों** का मिश्रण रखता है।
- Because those **histories differ**, many **scientists** assumed the **inner layout of species** inside every **region** would be **idiosyncratic** — that **South America's biodiversity**, for example, would organise itself in a very different way from **Africa's**.
चूंकि ये **इतिहास अलग-अलग** हैं, कई **वैज्ञानिकों** ने अनुमान लगाया कि प्रत्येक **क्षेत्र** के भीतर **प्रजातियों का आंतरिक स्वरूप विशिष्ट** होगा — उदाहरण के लिए **दक्षिण अमेरिका की जैव विविधता** अपनी संरचना में **अफ्रीका** से बहुत अलग होगी।
- At the same time, **global rules** clearly exist. **Tropical zones** almost everywhere teem with **life** while **polar zones** host far fewer **species**.
साथ ही, **वैश्विक नियम** स्पष्ट रूप से मौजूद हैं। लगभग हर जगह **उष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्र** जीवन से भरे हुए हैं, जबकि **ध्रुवीय क्षेत्र** में बहुत कम **प्रजातियाँ** होती हैं।
- The authors of a new **study** wondered: could there also be a **universal rule** inside each **biogeographical region**, one that transcended **continents, oceans, and even entire branches of the tree of life**?
एक नए **अध्ययन** के लेखकों ने सोचा: क्या प्रत्येक **जैवभौगोलिक क्षेत्र** के भीतर भी एक **सार्वभौमिक नियम** हो सकता है, जो **महाद्वीपों, महासागरों और जीवन वृक्ष की पूरी शाखाओं** को पार कर सके?
- Answering that question could reveal the basic **forces** that assemble **nature's living mosaics** and show **conservationists** where protection could deliver the biggest **payoff**.
इस प्रश्न का उत्तर प्रकृति के जीवित **मोज़ेक** को संगठित करने वाली मूल **शक्तियों** को उजागर कर सकता है और **संरक्षणवादियों** को दिखा सकता है कि किस स्थान की **सुरक्षा** से सबसे बड़ा **लाभ** मिल सकता है।

Peeling the onion

प्याज़ के परत खोलना

- A new **study**, authored by **scientists** in **Spain, Sweden, and the UK**, reported just such a **pattern** in the **July** edition of **Nature Ecology & Evolution**.
एक नए **अध्ययन**, जिसे **स्पेन, स्वीडन और यूके** के **वैज्ञानिकों** ने लिखा, ने **Nature Ecology & Evolution** के **जुलाई संस्करण** में इसी तरह का **पैटर्न** बताया।
- According to **University of Kashmir Department of Botany assistant professor Irfan Rashid**, the **study** provides a rare, large-scale, data-backed confirmation of a



general rule in biogeography.

कश्मीर विश्वविद्यालय, वनस्पति विज्ञान विभाग के सहायक प्रोफेसर इरफान राशिद के अनुसार, यह अध्ययन जैवभूगोल में एक सामान्य नियम की दुर्लभ, बड़े पैमाने पर, डेटा-समर्थित पुष्टि प्रदान करता है।

- In search of a **hidden rule**, the **researchers** cast an exceptionally wide **net**.
एक छिपे हुए नियम की खोज में, शोधकर्ताओं ने असाधारण रूप से व्यापक जाल फैला दिया।
- They studied more than **30,000 species**, including **birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, rays, dragonflies, and trees**.
उन्होंने 30,000 से अधिक प्रजातियों का अध्ययन किया, जिसमें पक्षी, स्तनधारी, उभयचर, सरीसृप, रे, ड्रैगनफ्लाई और पेड़ शामिल हैं।
- Information about the **species' ranges** came from global **databases** such as the **IUCN Red List, BirdLife International, and US Forest inventories**.
प्रजातियों की सीमाओं की जानकारी विश्वव्यापी डेटाबेस जैसे IUCN Red List, BirdLife International, और US Forest inventories से मिली।
- The team also **tiled the earth's surface** into thousands of **cells of equal area** — each about **111 sq. km** for most land **animals**, for example — and recorded all the **species living there**.
टीम ने पृथ्वी की सतह को हजारों समान क्षेत्र वाले कोशिकाओं में विभाजित किया — उदाहरण के लिए अधिकांश भूमि जीवों के लिए प्रत्येक लगभग 111 वर्ग किमी — और वहां रहने वाली सभी प्रजातियों को रिकॉर्ड किया।
- Then the **researchers** used a **network analysis tool** called **Infomap** to group those **cells together** whose **species frequently co-occurred**.
फिर शोधकर्ताओं ने Infomap नामक एक नेटवर्क विश्लेषण उपकरण का उपयोग किया ताकि उन कोशिकाओं को समूहबद्ध किया जा सके जिनकी प्रजातियाँ अक्सर साथ-साथ पाई जाती हैं।
- Each **cluster** thus became a **biogeographical region**, and the **species** most tied to that **region** were tagged as **characteristic**, i.e., as belonging to its **core community**.
इस प्रकार प्रत्येक क्लस्टर एक जैवभौगोलिक क्षेत्र बन गया, और उस क्षेत्र से सबसे अधिक जुड़ी प्रजातियों को विशिष्ट के रूप में टैग किया गया, अर्थात् इसकी मुख्य समुदाय की सदस्य माना गया।
- **Species** that spilled over from **neighbouring regions** were called **non-characteristic**.
उन प्रजातियों को जो आस-पास के क्षेत्रों से फैल गई थीं, उन्हें गैर-विशिष्ट कहा गया।
- Finally, they took snapshots of four types of **diversity** in every **cell**:
अंत में, उन्होंने प्रत्येक कोशिका में चार प्रकार की विविधता के स्नैपशॉट लिए:
 - **Species richness**: how many **characteristic species** live here
प्रजातियों की समृद्धि: यहां कितनी विशिष्ट प्रजातियाँ रहती हैं
 - **Biota overlap**: what fraction of **species** are **non-characteristic**
जैविकी का ओवरलैप: कितनी प्रजातियाँ गैर-विशिष्ट हैं
 - **Occupancy**: how widely do **characteristic species** range
अधिकारिता: विशिष्ट प्रजातियों का क्षेत्र कितना व्यापक है
 - **Endemicity**: how much of each **characteristic species' range** is confined to that **region** alone
अंत्यस्थता: प्रत्येक विशिष्ट प्रजाति का क्षेत्र केवल उस क्षेत्र तक ही सीमित है

Biodiversity Clustering and Biogeographical Sectors

जैव विविधता क्लस्टरिंग और जीवभौगोलिक क्षेत्रों

- With these four numbers in hand, the researchers ran a **clustering algorithm on all the cells**.
इन चार आंकड़ों के साथ, शोधकर्ताओं ने सभी कोशिकाओं पर क्लस्टरिंग एल्गोरिथ्म चलाया।
- If biodiversity organised itself differently among different kinds of organisms, **cells from birds would cluster apart from cells from mammals**, and so on.



यदि जैव विविधता विभिन्न प्रकार के जीवों में अलग ढंग से व्यवस्थित होती, तो पक्षियों की कोशिकाएं स्तनधारियों की कोशिकाओं से अलग क्लस्टर बनाती और इसी तरह।

- If a **common rule existed**, however, the algorithm would **lump cells from many different taxa together**.
हालांकि, यदि कोई सामान्य नियम मौजूद होता, तो एल्गोरिथ्म कई अलग-अलग वर्गों की कोशिकाओं को एक साथ जोड़ देता।
- This is how the researchers were eventually able to split the world into **seven repeating biogeographical sectors**.
इस तरह शोधकर्ताओं ने अंततः दुनिया को सात दोहराए जाने वाले जीवभौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में विभाजित किया।
- More importantly, they found that the sectors appear again and again **inside every major region and for every taxonomic group**, lining up in a **remarkably orderly pattern**.
और भी महत्वपूर्ण, उन्होंने पाया कि ये क्षेत्र हर बड़े क्षेत्र और हर टैक्सोनोमिक समूह में बार-बार दिखाई देते हैं, और एक अद्भुत रूप से व्यवस्थित पैटर्न में स्थित होते हैं।
- The **core hotspots were highly rich, highly endemic**, and had **almost no foreign species**.
मुख्य हॉटस्पॉट बहुत धनी, अत्यधिक अंतर्निहित (endemic) थे, और उनमें लगभग कोई विदेशी प्रजाति नहीं थी।
- The next **inner layers** were still **species-rich** but had slightly **more endemic species** and slightly **more widespread species**.
अगले अंदरूनी स्तर अभी भी प्रजातियों में समृद्ध थे लेकिन उनमें थोड़ी अधिक अंतर्निहित प्रजातियां और थोड़ी अधिक व्यापक प्रजातियां थीं।
- The **middle layers** had **no richness** and also had some **non-characteristic species**.
मध्य स्तरों में धन संपन्नता नहीं थी और उनमें कुछ गैर-विशेष प्रजातियां भी थीं।
- Finally, the **transition zones** were **species-poor** and packed with **wide-ranging generalists from multiple regions**.
अंततः, संक्रमण क्षेत्र प्रजातियों में गरीब थे और उनमें कई क्षेत्रों से व्यापक रूप से फैले सामान्य जीव मौजूद थे।
- That is, **biodiversity everywhere was organised like an onion: with dense, unique biodiversity at the centre** and grading outward towards **porous, mixed margins**.
अर्थात्, सभी जगह जैव विविधता प्याज़ की तरह व्यवस्थित थी: केंद्र में घनी, अनूठी जैव विविधता और बाहर की ओर छिद्रयुक्त, मिश्रित सीमाएं।
- The researchers also found that in **98% of region–taxon combinations, temperature plus rainfall models could predict which sector a cell belonged to**.
शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी पाया कि क्षेत्र–प्रजाति संयोजनों के 98% में, तापमान और वर्षा मॉडल यह पूर्वानुमान कर सकते थे कि कौन सी कोशिका किस क्षेत्र में आती है।
- This implied that only **species that could tolerate the local conditions** could survive in a given layer.
इसका अर्थ था कि केवल वही प्रजातियां जो स्थानीय परिस्थितियों को सहन कर सकती थीं किसी दिए गए स्तर में जीवित रह सकती थीं।
- Further, the species that inhabited the **outer layers** were also usually **subsets, not replacements, of inner layer species**.
इसके अलावा, जो प्रजातियां बाहरी स्तरों में रहती थीं, वे आम तौर पर अंदरूनी स्तर की प्रजातियों के उपसमूह थीं, पूरी तरह अलग प्रजातियों के प्रतिस्थापन नहीं।
- That is, moving outward from the core, there were **fewer specialist species rather than entirely different specialised species**.
अर्थात्, केंद्र से बाहर जाते हुए, वहाँ कम विशेषज्ञ प्रजातियां थीं, पूरी तरह से अलग विशेषज्ञ प्रजातियां नहीं।



- “The study provides a strong basis for understanding **broad ecological trends**,” Amit Chawla, Principal Scientist at the **CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh**, said.
“यह अध्ययन **विस्तृत पारिस्थितिक प्रवृत्तियों को समझने के लिए एक मजबूत आधार प्रदान करता है,” अमित चावला, प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक, CSIR-हिमालयन बायोरेसोर्स टेक्नोलॉजी संस्थान (IHBT), पलामपुर, हिमाचल प्रदेश ने कहा।
- “It shows how **biodiversity tends to spread outward from regional hotspots**, and how **environmental filters like elevation or climate allow some species to move while blocking others**.”
“यह दिखाता है कि कैसे **जैव विविधता क्षेत्रीय हॉटस्पॉट से बाहर की ओर फैलती है**, और कैसे **पर्यावरणीय फ़िल्टर जैसे ऊंचाई या जलवायु कुछ प्रजातियों को आगे बढ़ने देते हैं जबकि दूसरों को रोकते हैं।**”

Geographical gaps

भौगोलिक अंतर

- In a time of **climate uncertainty**, understanding how **species are spread** can help make smarter decisions about what to **protect** and where.
जलवायु अनिश्चितता के समय में, यह समझना कि **प्रजातियाँ कैसे फैली हुई हैं**, मदद कर सकता है यह तय करने में कि क्या **सुरक्षित** करना है और कहाँ।
- In the **Indian Himalayas**, for example, this could mean looking beyond traditional **protected areas** and focusing on key **habitats, altitudinal zones, and natural corridors**.
उदाहरण के लिए, **भारतीय हिमालय** में इसका मतलब पारंपरिक **सुरक्षित क्षेत्रों** से परे देखना और प्रमुख **आवास, ऊंचाई क्षेत्रों और प्राकृतिक मार्गों** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना हो सकता है।
- “We need to look at how changes in **rainfall** or **temperature** are affecting **biodiversity** along mountain slopes,” **Chawla** said.
“**हमें यह देखना चाहिए कि वर्षा या तापमान में बदलाव किस प्रकार से पर्वत ढालों पर **जैव विविधता** को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं,” **चावला** ने कहा।
- “Small experiments that simulate these changes can give us important **insights**.”
“इन परिवर्तनों का अनुकरण करने वाले छोटे प्रयोग हमें महत्वपूर्ण **जानकारी** दे सकते हैं।”
- “The **Himalayas** are already experiencing rising **temperatures** and shifting **rainfall** and are at the **frontlines** of this change.
“**हिमालय** पहले ही बढ़ती **तापमान** और बदलती **वर्षा** का अनुभव कर रहे हैं और इस परिवर्तन की **सीमाओं पर** हैं।
- Studies like this one offer a useful **lens** to understand the big picture,” **Asif Bashir Shikari**, professor of **genetics and plant breeding** at the **Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology**, said.
इस तरह के अध्ययन एक उपयोगी **दृष्टिकोण** प्रदान करते हैं ताकि बड़े चित्र को समझा जा सके,” **असिफ बशीर शिकारी, जेनेटिक्स और पौधों की प्रजनन के प्रोफेसर, शेर-ए-कश्मीर कृषि विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय** ने कहा।
- Finally, **Chawla** did point out that while the **study** was global in scope, it had some **geographical gaps**.
अंत में, **चावला** ने यह इंगित किया कि जबकि यह **अध्ययन** वैश्विक स्तर पर था, इसमें कुछ **भौगोलिक अंतर** थे।
- “For instance, groups like **dragonflies in Eurasia** and **trees in North America** were studied only in limited regions.
“उदाहरण के लिए, समूह जैसे **यूरेशिया में ड्रैगनफ्लाइ** और **उत्तरी अमेरिका में पेड़** केवल सीमित क्षेत्रों में अध्ययन किए गए।
- The conclusions for these **taxa** could have been stronger with more comprehensive global **datasets**,” he said.



इन टैक्सा के निष्कर्ष अधिक व्यापक वैश्विक डेटासेट्स के साथ अधिक मजबूत हो सकते थे," उन्होंने कहा।

- He added that some **biodiversity-rich regions** in the **tropics** and **Global South**, including parts of **India**, were underrepresented for certain **taxa**, underscoring the need for **region-specific research** to complement these global findings.
उन्होंने कहा कि कुछ **जैव विविधता-समृद्ध क्षेत्र** जैसे **उष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्र** और **ग्लोबल साउथ**, जिसमें **भारत के कुछ हिस्से** शामिल हैं, कुछ **टैक्सा** के लिए कम प्रतिनिधित्व वाले थे, जो इन वैश्विक निष्कर्षों के पूरक के लिए **क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट शोध** की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है।
- In sum, the newly uncovered **core-to-transition rule** turns the earth's messy quilt of **species' ranges** into something organised in **layers**.
संक्षेप में, नए खोजे गए **कोर-से-ट्रांज़िशन नियम** ने पृथ्वी की अव्यवस्थित **प्रजातियों की सीमाओं** को कुछ **परतों** में संगठित कर दिया।
- By identifying how **environmental filters** shape these **layers**, the **study** could give **conservationists** a sharper **lens** through which to understand and protect the **living planet**.
यह पहचान कर कि **पर्यावरणीय फिल्टर** इन **परतों** को कैसे आकार देते हैं, यह **अध्ययन संरक्षणवादियों** को एक तेज़ **दृष्टि** दे सकता है जिससे वे **जीवित ग्रह** को समझें और सुरक्षित करें।

Total outflow by foreign portfolio investors in equities

GS III: FPI

1.16

In ₹ lakh crore. Foreign investors offloaded Indian equities worth

nearly ₹21,000 crore in the first half of August, pressured by U.S.-India trade tensions, lacklustre first-quarter corporate earnings, and a weakening rupee. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Total outflow by foreign portfolio investors in equities

इक्विटी में विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों द्वारा कुल बहिर्वाह

Total outflow by foreign portfolio investors in equities 1.16 In ₹ lakh crore.

इक्विटी में विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों द्वारा कुल बहिर्वाह 1.16 ₹ लाख करोड़ में।

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first-quarter corporate earnings, and a weakening rupee.

विदेशी निवेशकों ने अगस्त के पहले आधे हिस्से में लगभग ₹21,000 करोड़ मूल्य के भारतीय इक्विटी बेच दिए, जिस पर **अमेरिका-भारत व्यापार तनाव**, कमजोर पहली तिमाही के **कॉर्पोरेट नतीजे**, और **गिरता रुपया** दबाव डाल रहे थे।

- PTI COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM
पीटीआई संकलित द हिंदू डेटा टीम द्वारा



What has been the impact of ethanol blending?

How are petrol vehicle owners reacting to the E20 mandate? How environmentally friendly is India's dependence on sugarcane for ethanol? How has the U.S. reacted to India's booming ethanol economy? Why has the adoption of EVs in India been much slower compared to other large economies?

ISSUE: S&T, Environment

EXPLAINER

Kunal Shankar
S. Hariharan

The story so far:

E20 petrol, which contains 20% ethanol and is being sold by Indian oil refiners, has been much in the news lately. India has achieved its target to blend 20% ethanol per litre of fuel five years ahead of the target under the National Policy on Biofuels. Ethanol blending in India rose from just 1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025, backed by the government's strong fiscal incentives to the sugarcane industry. While the government says ethanol blending achieves a range of goals such as cutting greenhouse gas emissions, bolstering farmers' incomes and reducing India's oil import bill, its benefits to the environment require closer scrutiny.

How are vehicle owners reacting to this change?

Vehicles sold in India from 2023 come with E20 stickers, indicating compatibility with 20% ethanol blended petrol. Additionally, manufacturers have addressed the concerns of those who own older vehicles. Hero Motocorp says in its website, "The material composition such as rubbers, elastomers and plastic components that are directly exposed to fuel also need to be changed to E20 compatible materials."

However, according to LocalCircles, two in three petrol vehicle owners are against the E20 mandate. Only 12% of the 36,000 people surveyed across 315 districts are in favour of the switch. Critics cited a drop in mileage and increased maintenance costs. The survey urged the Union government to allow consumers to choose the type of fuel they want.

While the Centre admitted to a "marginal drop" in engine efficiency, it said this "can be further minimised through improved engine tuning and use of E20-compatible materials." Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has called the consumer angst a "vindication campaign" facilitated by "vested, economic interests". While the Union government attempts to defend its E20 policy, its own think tank, the NITI Aayog, has urged the government "to compensate the consumers for a drop in efficiency from ethanol blended fuels", by way of "tax incentives on E10 and E20 fuel".

According to the Minister, "since 2014-15 India has already saved more than ₹1.40 lakh crore in foreign exchange through petrol substitution." But has the benefit been passed to the end consumer?

An analysis by *The Hindu* showed that Coal India Ltd, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Gas Authority of India Ltd collectively contributed ₹1.27 lakh crore, or 42.3% of the total ₹3 lakh crore dividends the Union government received from non-banking Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) between 2020-21 and 2024-25. IOC and BPCL together saw a 255% rise in their dividend payouts since 2022-23 and a 65% decrease in oil prices. However, the two PSUs only passed on a 2% decrease in petrol prices to the public.

What about the impact on agriculture?

Sugarcane-based ethanol supply has grown from 40 crore litres in FY14 to nearly 670 crore litres, derived from about 9% of total sugar output, in FY24. The Union government says it has paid "over ₹1.20 lakh crore to farmers" since



New fuel: Farmers load freshly harvested sugarcane into a tractor trolley during the harvesting season, in Karad, Maharashtra, on December 15, 2024. PTI

FY15. But how environmentally friendly is India's dependence on sugarcane for ethanol?

About 60-70 tonnes of water is required to cultivate one tonne of sugarcane. Many sugarcane growing regions in India do not receive the 1,500 to 3,000 millimetre rainfall that is necessary for the crop's optimal growth. This leads to groundwater extraction and unsustainable irrigation methods. A 2023 Central Groundwater Board report says that sugarcane growing districts in Maharashtra extract more groundwater than nearby regions. Distress among sugarcane growers in that State has been widely reported. Unsustainable agriculture practices accelerate land degradation. The Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India 2021 found that almost 30% of India's land is degraded. The water intensive nature of sugarcane and the impact on ground water reserves at a time of extreme weather has been absent from the discussion on ethanol-blended petrol.

The Centre, however, says it is looking to diversify ethanol supplies. The Food Corporation of India's rice allocation for ethanol jumped to a record 5.2 million metric tonnes, which is about 3.6% of output, from less than 3,000 tonnes allocated last year. Similarly, in 2024-25, over 34% of corn output was diverted for ethanol production. This diversion forced India to import about 9.7 lakh tonnes of corn during 2024-25 – a six-fold increase over the previous year's 1.37 lakh tonnes.

Despite diversification efforts, area under sugarcane cultivation this year is estimated to be 57.2 lakh hectare against 57.11 lakh hectare last season. The assured payment mechanism for sugarcane, the

Fair and Remunerative Pricing, is the key reason farmers bet on the crop as a source of stable income. While this rise is marginal, an analysis by the OECD-FAO says that 22% of India's sugarcane will be used for ethanol production by 2034. India's booming ethanol economy has also come under the gaze of the U.S. The Trump administration is pushing India to relax restrictions to its ethanol imports. The 2025 National Trade Estimate report noted India's policy as a significant "trade barrier." Import relaxation could potentially undermine years of investment and capacity building in ethanol production. The Indian Sugar Mills Association has urged the government to maintain the restrictions.

Will it affect the transition to EVs?

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said the shift to ethanol-blended petrol "has helped India reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 700 lakh tonnes." Shifting to EVs, however, will achieve far higher rates of emissions reductions and speed up transport's decarbonisation, which is the third largest carbon emitting sector globally after energy and industry. The success of cities like Beijing in cutting air pollution is mainly due to the rapid adoption of EVs. Of course, this switch has to be backed by renewable energy rather than coal, to aid in decarbonising transport.

Adoption of EVs has been much slower in India when compared to other large economies like the U.S., the European Union and China. About 7.6% of vehicle sales in 2024 was electric. Sales of EVs have to increase by over 22% in the next five years to reach the government's own target of 30% by 2030.

Another challenge to wider EV adoption in India is its dependence on Rare Earth Elements (REE). According to the Ministry of Mines, before China's export curbs were imposed, only 2,270 tonnes of REEs and compounds of REEs were imported in 2023-24. But this relatively lower level is critical for the industry to sustain the current level of EV production. The production and processing of many REEs is geographically concentrated in China, making global supply vulnerable to several risks.

The automotive industry has also sounded alarm bells about the disruption in rare earth supply. India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki reduced its near-term production targets for its new EV, e-Vitar, attributing it to delays in receiving rare earth magnets. Other manufacturers too are bracing themselves for disruptions.

Crisil Ratings Senior Director Anuj Sethi has said, "The supply squeeze comes just as the auto sector is preparing for aggressive EV rollouts." The recent detente in bilateral relations with China might help the industry to address the crisis in the short term. The Union government is engaged in diplomacy with Beijing to address the rare earth supply crunch, mainly germanium.

Going forward, there is uncertainty on whether the Centre wants to push ahead with ethanol blending beyond 20%. While Minister Puri said the government will push for blending beyond 20%, the Union government in March said that there has been no decision yet.

To know more, please scan the link to watch *The Hindu's* video explainer [newsthlive.com/ethanolblending](https://www.newsthlive.com/ethanolblending)

THE GIST

▼ Vehicles sold in India from 2023 come with E20 stickers, indicating compatibility with 20% ethanol blended petrol. Additionally, manufacturers have addressed the concerns of those who own older vehicles.

▼ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said the shift to ethanol-blended petrol "has helped India reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 700 lakh tonnes."

▼ India's booming ethanol economy has also come under the gaze of the U.S. The Trump administration is pushing India to relax restrictions to its ethanol imports.

Impact of Ethanol Blending and EV Adoption in India भारत में ईथेनॉल मिश्रण और ईवी अपनाने का प्रभाव

E20 Petrol and Ethanol Blending in India

E20 पेट्रोल और भारत में ईथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग



- **E20 petrol**, which contains **20% ethanol** and is being sold by **Indian oil refiners**, has been much in the news lately.
E20 पेट्रोल, जिसमें **20% इथेनॉल** होता है और जिसे **भारतीय तेल रिफाइनर** बेच रहे हैं, हाल ही में काफी खबरों में रहा है।
- **India has achieved its target to blend 20% ethanol per litre of fuel five years ahead of the target under the National Policy on Biofuels.**
भारत ने **राष्ट्रीय बायोफ्यूल नीति** के तहत निर्धारित लक्ष्य से **5 साल पहले** प्रति लीटर ईंधन में **20% इथेनॉल** मिलाने का लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिया है।
- Ethanol blending in India rose from just **1.5% in 2014** to **20% in 2025**, backed by the government's strong **fiscal incentives** to the sugarcane industry.
भारत में इथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग **2014 में 1.5%** से बढ़कर **2025 में 20%** हो गई, जो गन्ना उद्योग को सरकार द्वारा दिए गए मजबूत **वित्तीय प्रोत्साहनों** के कारण संभव हुई।
- While the government says ethanol blending achieves a range of goals such as cutting **greenhouse gas emissions**, bolstering **farmers' incomes**, and reducing India's **oil import bill**, its benefits to the environment require closer scrutiny.
जबकि सरकार कहती है कि इथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग कई लक्ष्यों को पूरा करती है जैसे **ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन में कमी**, **किसानों की आय में वृद्धि**, और भारत के **तेल आयात बिल में कमी**, इसके पर्यावरणीय लाभों की और करीब से जांच की आवश्यकता है।
- Vehicles sold in India from **2023** come with **E20 stickers**, indicating compatibility with **20% ethanol blended petrol.**
2023 से भारत में बेची जाने वाली गाड़ियों पर **E20 स्टिकर** लगे होते हैं, जो यह संकेत देते हैं कि वे **20% इथेनॉल ब्लेंडेड पेट्रोल** के अनुकूल हैं।
- Manufacturers have addressed concerns of those who own **older vehicles.**
निर्माताओं ने **पुरानी गाड़ियों** के मालिकों की चिंताओं को संबोधित किया है।
- **Hero Motocorp** says on its website: "The material composition such as **rubbers, elastomers, and plastic components** that are directly exposed to fuel also need to be changed to **E20 compatible materials.**"
हीरो मोटोकॉर्प अपनी वेबसाइट पर कहता है: "जैसे **रबर, इलास्टोमर और प्लास्टिक घटक**, जो सीधे ईंधन के संपर्क में हैं, उन्हें भी **E20 अनुकूल सामग्री** में बदलने की आवश्यकता है।"
- According to **LocalCircles**, **two in three petrol vehicle owners** are against the **E20 mandate.**
LocalCircles के अनुसार, **तीन में से दो पेट्रोल वाहन मालिक E20 नियम** के खिलाफ हैं।
- Only **12% of the 36,000 people surveyed** across **315 districts** are in favour of the switch.
36,000 लोगों में से केवल 12%, जो **315 जिलों** में सर्वेक्षण किए गए, इस बदलाव के पक्ष में हैं।
- **Critics cited a drop in mileage and increased maintenance costs.**
आलोचकों ने **माइलेज में कमी** और **रखरखाव लागत में वृद्धि** का हवाला दिया।
- The survey urged the **Union government** to allow consumers to choose the type of fuel they want.
सर्वेक्षण ने **केंद्र सरकार** से आग्रह किया कि उपभोक्ताओं को अपनी पसंद का ईंधन चुनने की अनुमति दी जाए।
- While the Centre admitted to a "**marginal drop**" in **engine efficiency**, it said this "can be further minimised through improved engine tuning and use of **E20-compatible materials.**"
केंद्र ने **इंजन दक्षता में मामूली कमी** को स्वीकार किया, लेकिन कहा कि इसे बेहतर इंजन ट्यूनिंग और **E20-अनुकूल सामग्री** के उपयोग से और कम किया जा सकता है।
- Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** has called the consumer angst a "**vilification campaign**" facilitated by "**vested, economic interests**".
मंत्री **हरदीप सिंह पुरी** ने उपभोक्ताओं की नाराजगी को "**मानहानि अभियान**" कहा, जिसे "**स्वार्थी आर्थिक हित**" द्वारा संचालित बताया।



- **NITI Aayog** has urged the government “to **compensate consumers** for a drop in efficiency from ethanol blended fuels”, via **tax incentives on E10 and E20 fuel**.
नीति आयोग ने सरकार से कहा कि वह इथेनॉल ब्लेंडेड ईंधन से दक्षता में कमी के लिए उपभोक्ताओं को मुआवजा दे, **E10 और E20 ईंधन पर कर प्रोत्साहनों** के माध्यम से।
- According to the Minister, “since **2014-15**, India has already saved more than **₹1.40 lakh crore** in **foreign exchange** through petrol substitution.”
मंत्री के अनुसार, **2014-15** से भारत ने पेट्रोल के विकल्प के माध्यम से पहले ही **₹1.40 लाख करोड़** से अधिक **विदेशी मुद्रा** बचाई है।
- An analysis by **The Hindu** showed that **Coal India Ltd, ONGC, IOC, BPCL, and GAIL** collectively contributed **₹1.27 lakh crore**, or **42.3%** of the total **₹3 lakh crore dividends** the Union government received from non-banking **PSUs** between **2020-21 and 2024-25**.
द हिन्दू के विश्लेषण से पता चला कि **कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड, ONGC, IOC, BPCL, और GAIL** ने मिलकर **₹1.27 लाख करोड़** का योगदान दिया, जो **₹3 लाख करोड़ कुल लाभांश** का **42.3%** है, जो **2020-21 से 2024-25** के बीच केंद्र सरकार को गैर-बैंकिंग **PSU** से मिला।
- **IOC and BPCL** together saw a **255% rise in dividend payouts** since **2022-23** and a **65% decrease in oil prices**.
IOC और BPCL ने मिलकर **2022-23 से लाभांश भुगतान में 255% की वृद्धि** और **तेल की कीमतों में 65% की कमी** देखी।
- However, the two PSUs only passed on a **2% decrease in petrol prices** to the public.
हालांकि, इन दो PSU ने केवल जनता को **पेट्रोल की कीमतों में 2% की कमी** ही पहुँचाई।

Impact of Ethanol Blending on Agriculture कृषि पर ईथेनॉल मिश्रण का प्रभाव

- What about the **impact on agriculture**?
कृषि पर **प्रभाव** के बारे में क्या कहा जा सकता है?
- **Sugarcane-based ethanol supply** has grown from **40 crore litres in FY14** to nearly **670 crore litres**, derived from about **9% of total sugar output** in FY24.
गन्ने आधारित **ईथेनॉल आपूर्ति** FY14 में **40 करोड़ लीटर** से बढ़कर FY24 में लगभग **670 करोड़ लीटर** हो गई है, जो कुल **शुगर उत्पादन का लगभग 9%** है।
- The Union government says it has paid **over ₹1.20 lakh crore to farmers** since FY15.
केंद्र सरकार का कहना है कि उसने FY15 से **किसानों को 1.20 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक** का भुगतान किया है।
- But how **environmentally friendly** is India's dependence on **sugarcane for ethanol**?
लेकिन **ईथेनॉल** के लिए **गन्ने पर भारत की निर्भरता** कितनी **पर्यावरण के अनुकूल** है?
- About **60-70 tonnes of water** is required to cultivate **one tonne of sugarcane**.
एक टन गन्ना उगाने के लिए लगभग **60-70 टन पानी** की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Many sugarcane growing regions in India do not receive the **1,500 to 3,000 millimetre rainfall** necessary for optimal growth.
भारत के कई गन्ना उगाने वाले क्षेत्रों को फसल की **उत्तम वृद्धि** के लिए आवश्यक **1,500 से 3,000 मिमी वर्षा** नहीं मिलती।
- This leads to **groundwater extraction** and **unsustainable irrigation methods**.
इससे **भूजल निकासी** और **असतत सिंचाई विधियों** का सहारा लेना पड़ता है।
- A **2023 Central Groundwater Board report** says sugarcane growing districts in **Maharashtra** extract more groundwater than nearby regions.
एक **2023 केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड रिपोर्ट** कहती है कि **महाराष्ट्र** के गन्ना उगाने वाले जिले आसपास के क्षेत्रों की तुलना में अधिक भूजल निकालते हैं।



- **Distress among sugarcane growers** in Maharashtra has been widely reported. महाराष्ट्र में गन्ना किसानों के संकट की व्यापक रिपोर्टिंग हुई है।
- **Unsustainable agriculture practices accelerate land degradation.** असतत कृषि प्रथाएँ भूमि क्षरण को तेज करती हैं।
- The **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India 2021** found that almost **30% of India's land is degraded.** भारत के रेगिस्तान और भूमि क्षरण एटलस 2021 के अनुसार लगभग 30% भूमि क्षतिग्रस्त है।
- The **water intensive nature** of sugarcane and the impact on **groundwater reserves** during **extreme weather** has been absent from the discussion on **ethanol-blended petrol.** गन्ने की जल-सघन प्रकृति और अत्यधिक मौसम में भूजल भंडार पर इसका प्रभाव ईथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल की चर्चा में नहीं आया।
- The Centre says it is looking to **diversify ethanol supplies.** केंद्र सरकार कहती है कि वह ईथेनॉल आपूर्ति को विविध बनाने की दिशा में काम कर रही है
- The **Food Corporation of India's rice allocation** for ethanol jumped to a record **5.2 million metric tonnes**, about **3.6% of output**, from less than **3,000 tonnes** last year. भारतीय खाद्य निगम का चावल आवंटन ईथेनॉल के लिए पिछले साल 3,000 टन से बढ़कर रिकॉर्ड 5.2 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन, जो उत्पादन का लगभग 3.6% है, हो गया।
- In **2024-25**, over **34% of corn output** was diverted for **ethanol production**, forcing India to **import about 9.7 lakh tonnes** of corn — a **six-fold increase** over the previous year's **1.37 lakh tonnes.** 2024-25 में, ईथेनॉल उत्पादन के लिए मकई उत्पादन का 34% से अधिक मोड़ दिया गया, जिससे भारत को लगभग 9.7 लाख टन मकई आयात करनी पड़ी — पिछले वर्ष के 1.37 लाख टन की तुलना में छह गुना वृद्धि।
- Despite **diversification efforts**, area under sugarcane cultivation this year is estimated at **57.24 lakh hectare** against **57.11 lakh hectare** last season. विविधीकरण प्रयासों के बावजूद, इस साल गन्ना की खेती का क्षेत्र लगभग 57.24 लाख हेक्टेयर है, पिछले सीजन में 57.11 लाख हेक्टेयर था।
- The **assured payment mechanism** for sugarcane, the **Fair and Remunerative Pricing**, is why farmers bet on the crop as a **source of stable income.** गन्ने के लिए सुनिश्चित भुगतान तंत्र, फेयर और रिम्यूनरेटिव प्राइसिंग, ही वह कारण है कि किसान इसे स्थिर आय का स्रोत मानते हैं।
- An analysis by the **OECD-FAO** says that **22% of India's sugarcane** will be used for **ethanol production by 2034.** OECD-FAO के विश्लेषण के अनुसार, 2034 तक भारत के गन्ने का 22% ईथेनॉल उत्पादन के लिए उपयोग होगा।
- India's booming **ethanol economy** has come under the gaze of the **U.S.**, with the **Trump administration** pushing India to **relax restrictions on ethanol imports.** भारत की बढ़ती हुई ईथेनॉल अर्थव्यवस्था पर अमेरिका की नजर है, और ट्रम्प प्रशासन भारत से ईथेनॉल आयात पर प्रतिबंधों में ढील देने को कह रहा है।
- The **2025 National Trade Estimate report** noted India's policy as a significant **"trade barrier"**. 2025 राष्ट्रीय व्यापार अनुमान रिपोर्ट में भारत की नीति को महत्वपूर्ण "व्यापार बाधा" के रूप में बताया गया।
- **Import relaxation** could potentially **undermine years of investment** and **capacity building** in ethanol production. आयात में ढील संभावित रूप से ईथेनॉल उत्पादन में वर्षों के निवेश और क्षमता निर्माण को कमजोर कर सकती है।



- The **Indian Sugar Mills Association** has urged the government to **maintain the restrictions**.
भारतीय शुगर मिल्स एसोसिएशन ने सरकार से प्रतिबंध बनाए रखने का आग्रह किया है।

Impact of E20 Petrol on Transition to EVs

E20 पेट्रोल का ईवी संक्रमण पर प्रभाव

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** said the shift to **ethanol-blended petrol** “has helped India reduce **carbon dioxide emissions by 700 lakh tonnes.**”
पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इथेनॉल-मिक्स्ड पेट्रोल की ओर बदलाव ने भारत को **700 लाख टन कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन** कम करने में मदद की है।
- Shifting to **EVs** will achieve far higher rates of **emissions reductions** and speed up **transport’s decarbonisation**, which is the **third largest carbon emitting sector globally** after energy and industry.
ईवी की ओर बदलाव से उत्सर्जन में बहुत अधिक कमी होगी और परिवहन का डिकार्बोनाइजेशन तेज होगा, जो ऊर्जा और उद्योग के बाद वैश्विक रूप से तीसरा सबसे बड़ा कार्बन उत्सर्जक क्षेत्र है।
- The success of cities like **Beijing** in cutting air pollution is mainly due to the rapid adoption of **EVs**.
बीजिंग जैसे शहरों में वायु प्रदूषण घटाने में सफलता मुख्यतः ईवी को तेजी से अपनाने के कारण है।
- This switch has to be backed by **renewable energy** rather than coal, to aid in **decarbonising transport**.
इस बदलाव को कोयला के बजाय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के समर्थन से लागू करना होगा, ताकि परिवहन के डिकार्बोनाइजेशन में मदद मिल सके।
- Adoption of **EVs** has been much slower in India compared to other large economies like the **U.S., European Union, and China**.
भारत में ईवी को अपनाने की गति अन्य बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं जैसे अमेरिका, यूरोपीय संघ और चीन की तुलना में काफी धीमी रही है।
- About **7.6% of vehicle sales in 2024** was electric.
2024 में लगभग 7.6% वाहन बिक्री इलेक्ट्रिक थी।
- Sales of **EVs** have to increase by over **22% in the next five years** to reach the government’s target of **30% by 2030**.
ईवी की बिक्री को अगले पांच सालों में 22% से अधिक बढ़ाना होगा ताकि सरकार का लक्ष्य 2030 तक 30% हासिल किया जा सके।
- Another challenge to wider **EV adoption in India** is its dependence on **Rare Earth Elements (REEs)**.
भारत में ईवी अपनाने की एक और चुनौती इसकी रियर अर्थ एलीमेंट्स (REEs) पर निर्भरता है।
- According to the **Ministry of Mines**, before **China’s export curbs**, only **2,270 tonnes of REEs and compounds** were imported in **2023-24**.
खनन मंत्रालय के अनुसार, चीन के निर्यात प्रतिबंधों से पहले केवल 2,270 टन REEs और उनके यौगिक 2023-24 में आयात किए गए थे।
- This relatively lower level is critical for the industry to sustain the current level of **EV production**.
इस अपेक्षाकृत कम स्तर का उद्योग के लिए वर्तमान ईवी उत्पादन बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The production and processing of many **REEs** is geographically concentrated in **China**, making global supply vulnerable to several risks.
कई REEs का उत्पादन और प्रसंस्करण चीन में भौगोलिक रूप से केंद्रित है, जिससे वैश्विक आपूर्ति कई जोखिमों के प्रति संवेदनशील हो जाती है।
- The **automotive industry** has also sounded alarm bells about the disruption in **rare earth supply**.
ऑटोमोबाइल उद्योग ने भी रियर अर्थ सप्लाई में व्यवधान के बारे में चेतावनी दी है।



- **Maruti Suzuki**, India's largest carmaker, reduced its near-term production targets for its new **EV, e-Vitara**, attributing it to delays in receiving **rare earth magnets**.
भारत की सबसे बड़ी कार निर्माता **मारुति सुजुकी** ने अपने नए **ईवी, ई-वितारा** के निकट भविष्य के उत्पादन लक्ष्य कम किए, इसे **रेयर अर्थ मैग्नेट** की आपूर्ति में देरी का कारण बताया।
- Other manufacturers too are bracing themselves for **disruptions**.
अन्य निर्माता भी **विक्षोभ** के लिए तैयारी कर रहे हैं।
- **Crisil Ratings Senior Director Anuj Sethi** said, "The **supply squeeze** comes just as the **auto sector** is preparing for aggressive **EV rollouts**."
Crisil रेटिंग्स के सीनियर डायरेक्टर अनुज सेठी ने कहा, "जैसे ही **ऑटो सेक्टर** आक्रामक **ईवी रोलआउट** की तैयारी कर रहा है, यह **सप्लाई squeeze** सामने आता है।"
- The recent **detente in bilateral relations with China** might help the industry to address the crisis in the **short term**.
चीन के साथ द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में हालिया शांति उद्योग को **संक्षिप्त अवधि** में संकट को हल करने में मदद कर सकती है।
- The **Union government** is engaged in **diplomacy with Beijing** to address the **rare earth supply crunch**, mainly **germanium**.
केंद्र सरकार बीजिंग के साथ कूटनीति में लगी हुई है ताकि **रेयर अर्थ सप्लाई संकट**, मुख्य रूप से **जर्मैनियम**, को हल किया जा सके।
- There is uncertainty on whether the **Centre** wants to push ahead with **ethanol blending beyond 20%**.
यह अनिश्चित है कि क्या **केंद्र 20% से अधिक इथेनॉल ब्लेंडिंग** को आगे बढ़ाना चाहता है।
- Minister **Puri** said the government will push for blending beyond **20%**, but the **Union government** in March said that there has been **no decision yet**.
मंत्री **पुरी** ने कहा कि सरकार **20% से अधिक ब्लेंडिंग** को बढ़ावा देगी, लेकिन **केंद्र सरकार** ने मार्च में कहा कि इस पर **अभी तक कोई निर्णय नहीं** हुआ है।

GS III: Economy

Questions and Answers to the August 15 edition of the daily quiz:

1. The **Bretton Woods** system created two major institutions: the IMF and the _____. **Ans: IBRD**
2. The system encouraged countries to depend on the US dollar as the central reserve currency. Name the national currency that the dollar succeeded in this capacity. **Ans: Pound sterling**
3. French president Georges Pompidou sent this warship to New York to bring France's gold holdings at the Federal Reserve Bank back. **Ans: Colbert (aka Suffren)**
4. On August 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon cancelled the ability of the U.S. dollar to be converted to gold. The collective name of the effects of this measure. **Ans: Nixon shock**
5. Name the agreement that officially rewrote the IMF's rules. **Ans: Jamaica Accords**

Visual: Name this English economist who proposed a supranational currency called 'bancor' in the early 1940s. **Ans: John Maynard Keynes**

Early Birds: Nobody got all the correct answers

QUIZ

Bretton Woods system created two major institutions: the IMF and the _____. Ans: IBRD
ब्रेटन वुड्स प्रणाली ने दो प्रमुख संस्थान बनाए: IMF और _____. उत्तर: IBRD

- The system encouraged countries to depend on the US dollar as the central reserve currency. Name the national currency that the dollar succeeded in this capacity. **Ans: Pound sterling**

इस प्रणाली ने देशों को केंद्रीय आरक्षित मुद्रा के रूप में **अमेरिकी डॉलर** पर निर्भर होने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। उस राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा का नाम बताइए जिसे डॉलर ने इस भूमिका में प्रतिस्थापित किया। उत्तर: **पाउंड स्टर्लिंग**

- On **August 15, 1971**, President **Richard Nixon** cancelled the ability of the U.S. dollar to be converted to gold. The collective name of the effects of this measure. **Ans: Nixon shock**

15 अगस्त 1971 को राष्ट्रपति **रिचर्ड निक्सन** ने अमेरिकी डॉलर को

सोने में परिवर्तित करने की क्षमता समाप्त कर दी। इस उपाय के प्रभाव का सामूहिक नाम। उत्तर: **निक्सन शॉक**



- Name the agreement that officially rewrote the IMF's rules. Ans: **Jamaica Accords**
उस समझौते का नाम बताइए जिसने आधिकारिक रूप से IMF के नियमों को फिर से लिखा। उत्तर: **जमैका समझौते**
- a supranational currency called 'bancor' in the early 1940s. Ans: **John Maynard Keynes**
1940 के दशक की शुरुआत में 'बैंकोर' नामक एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा। उत्तर: **जॉन मेनार्ड कीन्स**

'Responsible' venture capital



Good start: The first fund's portfolio included boAT, Mama Earth and Vahdam, says Singh.

GS III: Capital Market

Chitra Narayanan

It's been 10 years since Fireside Ventures was set up by Kanwaljit Singh, who had earlier cut his teeth in consumer marketing at HUL and Intel before plunging into investing with Carlye Group and Helion Venture Partners. The first fund of Fireside Ventures was \$50 million, and the portfolio companies included boAT, MamaEarth, and Vahdam among others. The second fund was \$118 million, with investments in 12 companies; the third fund was \$250 million, with investments in 25 companies.

Three funds and several successful exits later, you ask Mr. Singh how Fireside's journey of investing has evolved. How have the three funds differed from each other? Were there any differences in the investing strategies?

The response is in the affirmative. There have been significant changes – in ticket size, the type of companies that were funded, the scope of investment, the size of the team (there are five partners now), and so on. When they started, the modest ambition was to scale start-ups to ₹100 crore, but today that target has been upped to ₹1,000 crore.

But the most important evolution, says Mr. Singh, is that Fireside is now fully focused on being a responsible investor, educating the portfolio companies on 'environmental, social, and governance' or ESG factors, sustainability and diversity. "We can't solve the world's problems, but we are trying very hard," he says.

But let's rewind to fund one.

"In 2015, my intuition was that there was an opportunity to build great new-age brands in India for the young millennial generation, using digital as the primary medium. So, in fund one, the investment strategy was focused on digital-first brands that targeted urban millennial consumers," he says.

'Exitable' factor

In the first fund, he adds, the investment would be multi-stages. "We would write the first cheque of \$1 million very early and then, once the company was a little more established, pump in, say, \$3 million. We thought this way we could work with the companies throughout, helping shape their foundation and growth."

The hypothesis, he elaborates, was you could build a good business so that it becomes "exitable" either to large private equity players wanting to take it to the next level or to strategic acquirers. "That was the scope of our thinking," says Mr. Singh.

Fireside's investing model was to come in with a 10% stake, and increase ownership gradually to 20% over time. But, Mr. Singh explains, they found increasing ownership bit by bit was not that easy, as often the portfolio companies would have got investment from elsewhere too, or the valuation would have gone up.

Which is why, for its second fund, the venture capital firm raised \$120 million. Now, instead of 10% at the start, they could come in at 20%.

There were other differences too. Instead of focusing purely on fast-moving consumer goods, Fireside expanded the scope to other categories – home, lifestyle, and fashion, among others.

And since this fund happened during the early days of COVID, healthcare naturally also became a focus area. Thus investments happened in Fitrrfly, Gynoveda and Wellbeing Nutrition.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

'Responsible' venture capital 'जिम्मेदार' वेंचर कैपिटल

It's been 10 years since Fireside Ventures was set up by Kanwaljit Singh, who had earlier cut his teeth in consumer marketing at HUL and Intel before plunging into investing with Carlye Group and Helion Venture Partners.

फायरसाइड वेंचर्स की स्थापना हुए 10 वर्ष हो चुके हैं, जिसे कंवलजीत सिंह ने स्थापित किया था, जिन्होंने पहले HUL और इंटेल में उपभोक्ता विपणन में अनुभव प्राप्त किया और फिर कार्लाइल ग्रुप और हेलियन वेंचर पार्टनर्स के साथ निवेश में कदम रखा।



- The first fund of **Fireside Ventures** was **\$50 million**, and the portfolio companies included **boAt, MamaEarth, and Vahdam** among others.
फायरसाइड वेंचर्स का पहला फंड 50 मिलियन डॉलर का था, और पोर्टफोलियो कंपनियों में **boAt, MamaEarth और Vahdam** सहित अन्य शामिल थे।
- The second fund was **\$118 million**, with investments in **12 companies**; the third fund was **\$250 million**, with investments in **25 companies**.
दूसरा फंड 118 मिलियन डॉलर का था, जिसमें 12 कंपनियों में निवेश किया गया; तीसरा फंड 250 मिलियन डॉलर का था, जिसमें 25 कंपनियों में निवेश हुआ।
- Three funds and several successful exits later, you ask Mr. Singh how Fireside's journey of investing has evolved. How have the three funds differed from each other? Were there any differences in the investing strategies?
तीन फंड और कई सफल निकासों के बाद, आप श्री सिंह से पूछते हैं कि फायरसाइड की निवेश यात्रा कैसे विकसित हुई। तीनों फंड एक-दूसरे से कैसे अलग थे? क्या निवेश रणनीतियों में कोई अंतर था?
- The response is in the affirmative. There have been significant changes — in ticket size, the type of companies that were funded, the scope of investment, the size of the team (there are five partners now), and so on.
उत्तर सकारात्मक है। महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव हुए हैं — टिकट साइज, जिन कंपनियों को फंड किया गया उनकी प्रकृति, निवेश का दायरा, टीम का आकार (अब पाँच साझेदार हैं), और इसी तरह।
- When they started, the modest ambition was to scale start-ups to **₹100 crore**, but today that target has been upped to **₹1,000 crore**.
जब उन्होंने शुरुआत की, तो मामूली महत्वाकांक्षा स्टार्ट-अप्स को 100 करोड़ रुपये तक बढ़ाने की थी, लेकिन आज वह लक्ष्य 1,000 करोड़ रुपये तक बढ़ा दिया गया है।
- But the most important evolution, says Mr. Singh, is that **Fireside** is now fully focused on being a **responsible investor**, educating the portfolio companies on **'environmental, social, and governance' (ESG)** factors, **sustainability** and **diversity**.
लेकिन सबसे महत्वपूर्ण विकास, श्री सिंह कहते हैं, यह है कि अब फायरसाइड पूरी तरह से एक जिम्मेदार निवेशक बनने पर केंद्रित है, पोर्टफोलियो कंपनियों को 'पर्यावरणीय, सामाजिक और प्रशासनिक' (ESG) कारकों, सस्टेनेबिलिटी और डाइवर्सिटी के बारे में शिक्षित कर रहा है।
- "We can't solve the world's problems, but we are trying very hard," he says.
"हम दुनिया की समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं कर सकते, लेकिन हम बहुत मेहनत कर रहे हैं," वे कहते हैं।
- But let's rewind to fund one.
लेकिन चलिए पहले फंड पर लौटते हैं।
- "In **2015**, my intuition was that there was an opportunity to build great new-age brands in India for the young millennial generation, using digital as the primary medium. So, in fund one, the investment strategy was focused on **digital-first brands** that targeted **urban millennial consumers**," he says.
"2015 में, मेरी अंतर्दृष्टि थी कि भारत में युवा मिलेनियल पीढ़ी के लिए शानदार नए युग के ब्रांड बनाने का अवसर था, जिसमें डिजिटल को प्राथमिक माध्यम के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जाए। इसलिए, पहले फंड में, निवेश रणनीति डिजिटल-फर्स्ट ब्रांड्स पर केंद्रित थी जो शहरी मिलेनियल उपभोक्ताओं को लक्षित करती थी," वे कहते हैं।
- **'Exitable' factor**
'एक्जिटेबल' फैक्टर
- In the first fund, he adds, the investment would be multi-stages. "We would write the first cheque of **\$1 million** very early and then, once the company was a little more established, pump in, say, **\$3 million**. We thought this way we could work with the companies throughout, helping shape their foundation and growth."
पहले फंड में, वे जोड़ते हैं, निवेश मल्टी-स्टेज होता। "हम बहुत जल्दी पहला चेक 1 मिलियन डॉलर का लिखते और फिर, जब कंपनी थोड़ी अधिक स्थापित हो जाती, तो मान लीजिए 3 मिलियन डॉलर



और लगाते। हमें लगा इस तरह हम कंपनियों के साथ पूरे समय काम कर सकते हैं, उनकी नींव और विकास को आकार देने में मदद कर सकते हैं।”

- The hypothesis, he elaborates, was you could build a good business so that it becomes “**exitable**” either to large **private equity players** wanting to take it to the next level or to **strategic acquirers**. “That was the scope of our thinking,” says Mr. Singh.

वे विस्तार से बताते हैं, परिकल्पना यह थी कि आप एक अच्छा व्यवसाय बना सकते हैं ताकि यह “**एक्जिटेबल**” बन सके, या तो बड़े **प्राइवेट इक्विटी प्लेयर्स** के लिए जो इसे अगले स्तर पर ले जाना चाहते हों या **स्ट्रैटेजिक अक्रायर्स** के लिए। “यही हमारी सोच का दायरा था,” श्री सिंह कहते हैं।

- **Fireside’s** investing model was to come in with a **10% stake**, and increase ownership gradually to **20%** over time. But, Mr. Singh explains, they found increasing ownership bit by bit was not that easy, as often the portfolio companies would have got investment from elsewhere too, or the valuation would have gone up.

फायरसाइड का निवेश मॉडल यह था कि **10% हिस्सेदारी** लेकर प्रवेश किया जाए, और समय के साथ इसे धीरे-धीरे **20%** तक बढ़ाया जाए। लेकिन, श्री सिंह बताते हैं, उन्होंने पाया कि हिस्सेदारी धीरे-धीरे बढ़ाना इतना आसान नहीं था, क्योंकि अक्सर पोर्टफोलियो कंपनियों को कहीं और से भी निवेश मिल जाता था, या उनका मूल्यांकन बढ़ जाता था।

- Which is why, for its second fund, the venture capital firm raised **\$120 million**. Now, instead of **10%** at the start, they could come in at **20%**.

इसी वजह से, अपने दूसरे फंड के लिए, वेंचर कैपिटल फर्म ने **120 मिलियन डॉलर** जुटाए। अब, शुरुआत में **10%** के बजाय, वे **20%** पर आ सकते थे।

- There were other differences too. Instead of focusing purely on **fast-moving consumer goods**, **Fireside** expanded the scope to other categories — **home, lifestyle, and fashion**, among others.

अन्य अंतर भी थे। केवल **फास्ट-मूविंग कंज्यूमर गुड्स** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के बजाय, **फायरसाइड** ने दायरा अन्य श्रेणियों — **होम, लाइफस्टाइल और फैशन** आदि तक बढ़ाया।

- And since this fund happened during the early days of **COVID**, **healthcare** naturally also became a focus area. Thus investments happened in **Fittrfy, Gynoveda and Wellbeing Nutrition**.

और चूंकि यह फंड **कोविड** के शुरुआती दिनों में आया, **हेल्थकेयर** स्वाभाविक रूप से एक केंद्र बिंदु भी बन गया। इस प्रकार निवेश **Fittrfy, Gynoveda और Wellbeing Nutrition** में हुआ।



Actor Sebastián Solorza says his candidacy offers a middle ground between political extremes. AP

Solorza, actor with Down syndrome, eyes Chile's top job

GS III: S&T

Associated Press

CHILE

Sebastián Solorza is already a familiar face to many Chileans, having starred in a popular Netflix series and won national acting awards. Now, the 43-year-old actor with Down syndrome wants to enter the race for President in Chile's national election this year.

Mr. Solorza is racing against the clock to gather 35,000 signatures by August 18, a requirement for him to run as an independent candidate. He positions himself as a "point of balance" between the far right and the far left – a fierce ideological battle that dominates Chile's political scene.

"I listen with my heart," Mr. Solorza said, adding that his condition allows him to offer a softer communication style.

Chile will choose its new president on November 16, with the campaign so far defined by the mutual attacks between the two main contestants: the far-right José Antonio Kast, who lost to current leftist President Gabriel Boric in 2021, and Jeannette Jara, the ruling coalition's communist nominee.

Mr. Solorza argues that his candidacy offers a middle ground between political extremes, while working toward a "more inclusive country."

The actor hopes that this will give greater visibility to people with Down syndrome and other disabilities. While it's unlikely he will secure the necessary support to run for President – he has collected a little over 600 of the 35,000 signatures required – he sees his political foray as a success.

Despite social media criticism that he lacks preparedness and political experience to run for office, he insists he will not be deterred. "I know my candidacy would be uncomfortable for many," he said. "But I am here to support minorities."

Solorza, actor with Down syndrome, eyes Chile's top job सोलोर्जा, डाउन सिंड्रोम से ग्रस्त अभिनेता, चिली की सर्वोच्च पदवी पर नज़र

Sebastián Solorza is already a familiar face to many Chileans, having starred in a popular Netflix series and won national acting awards. Now, the 43-year-old actor with Down syndrome wants to enter the race for President in Chile's national election this year.

सेबास्टियन सोलोर्जा पहले से ही कई चिलीवासियों के लिए एक परिचित चेहरा हैं, जिन्होंने एक लोकप्रिय नेटफ्लिक्स सीरीज़ में अभिनय किया और राष्ट्रीय अभिनय पुरस्कार जीते। अब, यह 43 वर्षीय डाउन सिंड्रोम से ग्रस्त अभिनेता इस वर्ष चिली के राष्ट्रीय चुनाव में राष्ट्रपति की दौड़ में शामिल होना चाहते हैं।

- Mr. Solorza is racing against the clock to gather **35,000 signatures by August 18**, a requirement for him to run as an **independent candidate**. He positions himself as a "point of balance" between the **far right** and the **far left** — a fierce ideological battle that dominates **Chile's political scene**.

श्री सोलोर्जा 18 अगस्त तक 35,000 हस्ताक्षर इकट्ठा करने के लिए समय के खिलाफ दौड़ रहे हैं, जो एक स्वतंत्र उम्मीदवार के रूप में चुनाव लड़ने के लिए आवश्यक है। वे खुद को अत्यंत दक्षिणपंथ और अत्यंत वामपंथ के बीच एक "संतुलन बिंदु" के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं — एक तीव्र वैचारिक लड़ाई जो चिली के राजनीतिक परिदृश्य पर हावी है।

- "I listen with my heart," Mr. Solorza said, adding that his condition allows him to offer a softer communication style.

"मैं अपने दिल से सुनता हूँ," श्री सोलोर्जा ने कहा, यह जोड़ते हुए कि उनकी स्थिति उन्हें एक नरम संवाद शैली प्रदान करने की अनुमति देती है।

- Chile will choose its new **president on November 16**, with the campaign so far defined by the mutual attacks between the two main contestants: the **far-right José Antonio Kast**, who lost to current leftist President **Gabriel Boric** in **2021**, and **Jeannette Jara**, the ruling coalition's **communist nominee**.

चिली अपना नया राष्ट्रपति 16 नवंबर को चुनेगा, अब तक अभियान दो मुख्य उम्मीदवारों के बीच परस्पर हमलों से



परिभाषित हुआ है: अत्यंत दक्षिणपंथी जोस एंटोनियो कास्ट, जो 2021 में वर्तमान वामपंथी राष्ट्रपति गेब्रियल बोरिक से हार गए थे, और जानेट जारा, सत्तारूढ़ गठबंधन की कम्युनिस्ट उम्मीदवार।

- Mr. **Solorza** argues that his candidacy offers a middle ground between political extremes, while working toward a “more inclusive country.”
श्री **सोलोर्जा** का तर्क है कि उनकी उम्मीदवारी राजनीतिक चरम सीमाओं के बीच एक मध्य मार्ग प्रदान करती है, जबकि एक “अधिक समावेशी देश” की दिशा में काम करती है।
- The actor hopes that this will give greater visibility to people with **Down syndrome** and other disabilities. While it’s unlikely he will secure the necessary support to run for **President** — he has collected a little over **600 of the 35,000 signatures required** — he sees his political foray as a success.
अभिनेता को आशा है कि इससे **डाउन सिंड्रोम** और अन्य विकलांगताओं वाले लोगों को अधिक दृश्यता मिलेगी। जबकि यह संभावना नहीं है कि वे **राष्ट्रपति** पद के लिए आवश्यक समर्थन प्राप्त कर पाएंगे — उन्होंने आवश्यक **35,000 हस्ताक्षरों में से थोड़ा अधिक 600** ही एकत्र किए हैं — वे अपनी राजनीतिक पहल को एक सफलता मानते हैं।
- Despite social media criticism that he lacks preparedness and political experience to run for office, he insists he will not be deterred. “I know my candidacy would be uncomfortable for many,” he said. “But I am here to support minorities.”
सोशल मीडिया आलोचना के बावजूद कि उनके पास चुनाव लड़ने के लिए तैयारी और राजनीतिक अनुभव की कमी है, वे जोर देते हैं कि वे हतोत्साहित नहीं होंगे। उन्होंने कहा, “मुझे पता है कि मेरी उम्मीदवारी कई लोगों के लिए असुविधाजनक होगी। लेकिन मैं यहां अल्पसंख्यकों का समर्थन करने आया हूँ।”

PATRIOTICIAS