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PATRIOTIC IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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10_09_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. Indian academia in times of genocide

जनसंहार के समय में भारतीय अकादमिक जगत

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2. Hubbub around Habba

हब्बा के चारों ओर हंगामा

3. Magnitude of the earthquake that struck Greece's Evia island

यूनान के एविया द्वीप पर आए भूकंप की तीव्रता

4. QUIZ

Indian academia in times of genocide

PCS

In August, as part of a group of 500 scientists and academics, we petitioned the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) regarding Israel's participation. The IOAA, held in Mumbai from 11-21 August with 63 countries participating, is one of the major science Olympiads designed to identify talented high-school students. The Olympiads are a matter of national prestige in Israel and the government showcases the performance of its teams as evidence of scientific progress.

Our petition proposed that Israel be as a national team, which would require students and team leaders to participate as individuals and without an official Israeli flag. Our goal was to convey disapproval of Israeli policies and reduce the Olympiad's propaganda value for the Israeli government. Similar sanctions were applied to Israel in the Informatics Olympiad and to Russia and Belarus in several Olympiads and the Olympic games.

The IOAA is governed by an autonomous international board with 120 members and representatives from every participating country. The board considered our petition, along with other evidence including testimony from the Palestinian delegation. After extensive debate, it approved the proposal with an overwhelming majority. Since Israel did not send a team this year, the board's decision will be effective from next year should Israel choose to participate.

Rift among Indian academics

The Israeli embassy reacted furiously. Consul General Kobbi Shoshani suggested that the Olympiad "change Albert Einstein's relativity theory" to "Hamas' political theories". 300 Indian academics – among them directors of two IITs and vice chancellors of several universities – asked the Prime Minister's Office to take "strict and appropriate



Suvrat Raju

is a theoretical physicist with the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences Bengaluru



Alok Laddha

is a theoretical physicist with the Chennai Mathematical Institute

action" against seven signatories, including the two of us, and the President of IOAA.

This complaint is puzzling since the decision was taken by the IOAA's board and not by the signatories, none of whom are members of the board. The IOAA's President had no involvement with the petition, beyond relaying it to the board. Moreover, the PMO has no role to play and the IOAA has clarified that "deliberations in its meetings are independent of the host country". Nevertheless, this controversy should prompt us to think about the responsibility of Indian academics in the face of the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

10% of population erased

Israel has killed more than 63,000 people in Gaza since 2023. Leaked data indicates that the Israeli military itself estimates that 83% of its victims were civilians. Israel has destroyed or damaged more than 90% of schools in Gaza and the World Health Organization estimates that it has damaged 94% of Gaza's hospitals. In July 2024, experts writing for The Lancet estimated that the breakdown of civic systems and food shortages could lead to more than three additional deaths for every direct victim. This implies that Israel's campaign might have caused the deaths of more than 10% of Gaza's population of 2 million people.

The UN has officially declared a famine in Gaza, with the UN Secretary General calling it a "man-made disaster".

Israel's supporters sometimes argue that its continued campaign is necessary to ensure its security in the aftermath of the attack of 7 October 2023. But former Israeli security chiefs undercut this justification in August 2025 by calling on their government to end the war. This echoes calls made by families of the remaining hostages in Gaza, who have been frustrated by Israel's refusal to strike a deal to secure their release.

Israel minister, Amichay Elyahu, provided a frank explanation for Israeli policy in

July, explaining that the government was "rushing toward Gaza being wiped out." This continues a tradition of dehumanisation of Palestinians and a refusal to recognise their right to their own lands that has been a central element of Israeli polity since 1948, when 750,000 Palestinians were displaced to make way for the founding of Israel, in what Palestinians called the 'Nakba'.

Einstein and other Jewish leaders described a particularly gruesome event from the Nakba in a letter to the New York Times: "terrorist bands attacked [the] peaceful village" of Deir Yassin, "killed most of its inhabitants ... and kept a few of them alive to parade as captives." This letter was written to denounce Menachem Begin who was one of the leaders of these violent groups and went on to become the Prime Minister of Israel in 1977. Begin founded the Likud party that continues to rule Israel today. It makes no sense to pretend that science and cultural events can go on as usual, in the face of the historic crimes unfolding in Gaza. It is our duty, as academics and scientists, to do everything in our power to put pressure on the Israeli government to change its policy.

It is distressing that some of our colleagues have instead chosen to disregard or defend Israel's actions. The responses we find on social media are even more troubling since some people in India refuse to recognise the rights of Palestinians to live with dignity and freedom, merely because of their religion.

Therefore, the debate over the scientists' petition to the IOAA should be viewed as part of a broader struggle for communal harmony and academic freedom within India. We are proud that so many Indian academics signed this petition. It shows that many of us still stand for democratic rights and with India's anti-colonial traditions.

The views expressed are personal

Indian academia in times of genocide

जनसंहार के समय में भारतीय अकादमिक जगत

International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) and Israel's Participation

अंतरराष्ट्रीय खगोल और खगोलभौतिकी ओलंपियाड (IOAA) और इज़राइल की भागीदारी

• In August, as part of a group of 500 scientists and academics, we petitioned the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) regarding Israel's participation.



अगस्त में, 500 वैज्ञानिकों और अकादमिकों के एक समूह के हिस्से के रूप में, हमने इज़राइल की भागीदारी के संबंध में अंतरराष्ट्रीय खगोल और खगोलभौतिकी ओलंपियाड (IOAA) को याचिका दी।

- The IOAA, held in Mumbai from 11-21 August with 63 countries participating, is one of the major science Olympiads designed to identify talented high-school students.
IOAA, जो 11-21 अगस्त को मुंबई में आयोजित हुई, जिसमें 63 देशों ने भाग लिया, प्रमुख विज्ञान ओलंपियाड में से एक है, जो प्रतिभाशाली हाई-स्कूल छात्रों की पहचान करने के लिए डिज़ाइन की गई है।
- The Olympiads are a matter of national prestige in Israel and the government showcases the performance of its teams as evidence of scientific progress.
ओलंपियाड इज़राइल में राष्ट्रीय प्रतिष्ठा का मामला है और सरकार अपनी टीमों के प्रदर्शन को वैज्ञानिक प्रगति के प्रमाण के रूप में प्रदर्शित करती है।
- Our petition proposed that Israel participate as individual students and without an official Israeli flag.
हमारी याचिका में प्रस्ताव था कि इज़राइल को व्यक्तिगत छात्रों के रूप में भाग लेना चाहिए और आधिकारिक इज़राइली झंडे के बिना।
- The goal was to convey disapproval of Israeli policies and reduce the Olympiad's propaganda value for the Israeli government.
हमारा लक्ष्य इज़राइली नीतियों की अस्वीकृति व्यक्त करना और इज़राइली सरकार के लिए ओलंपियाड की प्रचार क्षमता को कम करना था।
- Similar sanctions were applied to Israel in the Informatics Olympiad and to Russia and Belarus in several Olympiads and the Olympic games.
समान प्रतिबंध इज़राइल पर इंफॉर्मेटिक्स ओलंपियाड में और रूस और बेलारूस पर कई ओलंपियाड और ओलंपिक खेलों में लागू किए गए थे।
- The IOAA is governed by an autonomous international board with 120 members and representatives from every participating country.
IOAA का संचालन स्वायत्त अंतरराष्ट्रीय बोर्ड द्वारा किया जाता है, जिसमें 120 सदस्य और हर भाग लेने वाले देश के प्रतिनिधि शामिल हैं।
- The board considered our petition along with evidence including testimony from the Palestinian delegation.
बोर्ड ने हमारी याचिका को सबूत सहित, जिसमें फिलिस्तीनी प्रतिनिधिमंडल की गवाही भी शामिल थी, पर विचार किया।
- After extensive debate, the board approved the proposal with an overwhelming majority.
विस्तृत बहस के बाद, बोर्ड ने प्रस्ताव को प्रभावशाली बहुमत से मंजूरी दी।
- Since Israel did not send a team this year, the board's decision will be effective from next year should Israel choose to participate.
चूंकि इस साल इज़राइल ने टीम नहीं भेजी, बोर्ड का निर्णय अगले वर्ष से प्रभावी होगा यदि इज़राइल भाग लेने का निर्णय ले।

Rift among Indian Academics

भारतीय अकादमिकों में मतभेद

- The Israeli embassy reacted furiously.
इज़राइली दूतावास ने गुस्से में प्रतिक्रिया दी।
- Consul General Kobbi Shoshani suggested that the Olympiad "change Albert Einstein's relativity theory to Hamas' political theories".
काउंसल जनरल कोब्बी शोशानी ने सुझाव दिया कि ओलंपियाड "अल्बर्ट आइंस्टीन के सापेक्षता सिद्धांत को हमस की राजनीतिक थ्योरी में बदल दे"।
- 300 Indian academics, including directors of two IITs and vice-chancellors of several universities, asked the Prime Minister's Office to take "strict and appropriate action" against seven signatories, including the two of us and the President of IOAA.
300 भारतीय अकादमिक, जिनमें दो IIT के निदेशक और कई विश्वविद्यालयों के उपकुलपति शामिल हैं, ने प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय से सात हस्ताक्षरकर्ताओं के खिलाफ "कड़ा और उचित कदम" उठाने का अनुरोध किया, जिसमें हम दोनों और IOAA के अध्यक्ष भी शामिल थे।
- This complaint is puzzling since the decision was taken by the IOAA board and not by the signatories.
यह शिकायत अजीब है क्योंकि निर्णय IOAA बोर्ड द्वारा लिया गया था, न कि हस्ताक्षरकर्ताओं द्वारा।



- The IOAA's President had no involvement with the petition beyond relaying it to the board. IOAA के अध्यक्ष का याचिका में कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं था, सिवाय इसे बोर्ड तक पहुँचाने के।
- Moreover, the PMO has no role and the IOAA clarified that "deliberations in its meetings are independent of the host country". इसके अलावा, PMO का कोई रोल नहीं है और IOAA ने स्पष्ट किया कि "इसके बैठकों में विचार-विमर्श मेजबान देश से स्वतंत्र हैं।"
- Nevertheless, this controversy should prompt reflection on the responsibility of Indian academics in the face of the ongoing genocide in Gaza. इसके बावजूद, इस विवाद को देखना चाहिए कि इंडियन अकादमिक्स की जिम्मेदारी क्या है, विशेषकर गाजा में चल रहे नरसंहार के संदर्भ में।

10% of population erased

जनसंख्या का 10% मिटा दिया गया

- Israel has killed more than 63,000 people in Gaza since 2023. इज़राइल ने 2023 से गाजा में 63,000 से अधिक लोगों की हत्या की है।
- Leaked data indicates that the Israeli military itself estimates that 83% of its victims were civilians. लीक हुए आंकड़े बताते हैं कि इज़राइली सेना स्वयं अनुमान लगाती है कि इसके पीड़ितों का 83% नागरिक थे।
- Israel has destroyed or damaged more than 90% of schools in Gaza and the World Health Organization estimates that it has damaged 94% of Gaza's hospitals. इज़राइल ने गाजा के 90% से अधिक स्कूलों को नष्ट या क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया है और विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन का अनुमान है कि गाजा के 94% अस्पतालों को नुकसान पहुँचाया गया है।
- In July 2024, experts writing for The Lancet estimated that the breakdown of civic systems and food shortages could lead to more than three additional deaths for every direct victim. जुलाई 2024 में, द लांसेट के लिए लिख रहे विशेषज्ञों ने अनुमान लगाया कि नागरिक प्रणाली के टूटने और खाद्य संकट से हर सीधे पीड़ित के लिए तीन अतिरिक्त मौतें हो सकती हैं।
- This implies that Israel's campaign might have caused the deaths of more than 10% of Gaza's population of 2 million people. इसका मतलब है कि इज़राइल के अभियान ने 20 लाख लोगों की गाजा की जनसंख्या का 10% से अधिक लोगों की मृत्यु का कारण बन सकता है।
- The UN has officially declared a famine in Gaza, with the UN Secretary General calling it a "man-made disaster". संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने गाजा में आधिकारिक रूप से अकाल घोषित किया है, और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के महासचिव ने इसे एक "मानव निर्मित आपदा" कहा है।
- Israel's supporters sometimes argue that its continued campaign is necessary to ensure its security in the aftermath of the attack of 7 October 2023. इज़राइल के समर्थक कभी-कभी तर्क देते हैं कि 7 अक्टूबर 2023 के हमले के बाद इसकी सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इसका जारी अभियान आवश्यक है।
- Former Israeli security chiefs undercut this justification in August 2025 by calling on their government to end the war. पूर्व इज़राइली सुरक्षा प्रमुखों ने अगस्त 2025 में अपने सरकार से युद्ध समाप्त करने का आह्वान करके इस तर्क को कमजोर किया।
- This echoes calls made by families of the remaining hostages in Gaza, who have been frustrated by Israel's refusal to strike a deal to secure their release. यह गाजा में बचे हुए बंधकों के परिवारों द्वारा किए गए आह्वानों की गूंज है, जो उनकी रिहाई सुनिश्चित करने के लिए समझौता करने में इज़राइल की अस्वीकृति से निराश हैं।
- Israeli minister, Amichay Eliyahu, provided a frank explanation for Israeli policy in July, explaining that the government was "rushing toward Gaza being wiped out." इज़राइली मंत्री, अमिचाय एलियाहु ने जुलाई में इज़राइली नीति के लिए स्पष्ट व्याख्या दी, बताते हुए कि सरकार "गाजा को मिटाने की ओर तेजी से बढ़ रही थी।"
- This continues a tradition of dehumanisation of Palestinians and a refusal to recognise their right to their own lands that has been a central element of Israeli polity since



1948.

यह फिलिस्तीनियों के मानवतावादहीनकरण और उनके अपने भूमि के अधिकार को मान्यता देने से इनकार की परंपरा को जारी रखता है, जो 1948 से इज़राइली राजनीति का केंद्रीय तत्व रही है।

- In 1948, 750,000 Palestinians were displaced to make way for the founding of Israel, in what Palestinians called the 'Nakba'.

1948 में, इज़राइल की स्थापना के लिए 7,50,000 फिलिस्तीनियों को विस्थापित किया गया, जिसे फिलिस्तीनियों ने 'नाकबा' कहा।

- Einstein and other Jewish leaders described a particularly gruesome event from the Nakba in a letter to the New York Times: "terrorist bands attacked [the] peaceful village" of Deir Yassin, "killed most of its inhabitants ... and kept a few of them alive to parade as captives."

आइंस्टीन और अन्य यहूदी नेताओं ने नाकबा की एक विशेष रूप से भयानक घटना को न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स को पत्र में वर्णित किया: "आतंकवादी समूहों ने डेइर यासिन के शांतिपूर्ण गांव पर हमला किया, इसके अधिकांश निवासियों की हत्या की ... और कुछ को बंधक के रूप में प्रदर्शित करने के लिए जीवित रखा।"

- This letter was written to denounce Menachem Begin who was one of the leaders of these violent groups and went on to become the Prime Minister of Israel in 1977.
यह पत्र मेनाचेम बेगिन की निंदा करने के लिए लिखा गया था, जो इन हिंसक समूहों के नेताओं में से एक थे और 1977 में इज़राइल के प्रधानमंत्री बने।

- Begin founded the Likud party that continues to rule Israel today.
बेगिन ने लिक्वुड पार्टी की स्थापना की, जो आज भी इज़राइल में शासन कर रही है।

- It makes no sense to pretend that science and cultural events can go on as usual, in the face of the historic crimes unfolding in Gaza.

गाजा में घट रहे ऐतिहासिक अपराधों के सामने यह दिखावा करना कि विज्ञान और सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम सामान्य रूप से चल सकते हैं, कोई मतलब नहीं रखता।

- It is our duty, as academics and scientists, to do everything in our power to put pressure on the Israeli government to change its policy.

अकादमिक और वैज्ञानिक के रूप में, यह हमारा कर्तव्य है कि हम अपनी पूरी शक्ति से इज़राइली सरकार पर दबाव डालें ताकि उसकी नीति बदले।

- It is distressing that some of our colleagues have instead chosen to disregard or defend Israel's actions.

यह दुखद है कि हमारे कुछ सहयोगियों ने इसके बजाय इज़राइल की कार्रवाई को नजरअंदाज करने या उसकी रक्षा करने का विकल्प चुना।

- The responses we find on social media are even more troubling since some people in India refuse to recognise the rights of Palestinians to live with dignity and freedom, merely because of their religion.

सोशल मीडिया पर मिली प्रतिक्रियाएं और भी चिंताजनक हैं क्योंकि भारत में कुछ लोग केवल उनके धर्म के कारण फिलिस्तीनियों के गरिमा और स्वतंत्रता के साथ रहने के अधिकार को मान्यता देने से इनकार करते हैं।

- Therefore, the debate over the scientists' petition to the IOAA should be viewed as part of a broader struggle for communal harmony and academic freedom within India.

इसलिए, वैज्ञानिकों की IOAA को प्रस्तुत याचिका पर बहस को भारत में सामुदायिक सौहार्द और शैक्षणिक स्वतंत्रता के व्यापक संघर्ष के हिस्से के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।

- We are proud that so many Indian academics signed this petition.

हमें गर्व है कि इतने सारे भारतीय अकादमिकों ने इस याचिका पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

- It shows that many of us still stand for democratic rights and with India's anti-colonial traditions.

यह दिखाता है कि हम में से कई लोग अभी भी लोकतांत्रिक अधिकारों और भारत की उपनिवेश विरोधी परंपराओं के पक्ष में खड़े हैं।



Hubbub around Habba

BJP's tantrum over Banu Mushtaq's invite to Mysuru Dasara defies tradition

PCS

STATE OF PLAY

S. Bageshree

The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's decision to invite International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate the Mysuru Dasara – Karnataka's Naada Habba (State festival) – on September 22 has sparked a controversy in Karnataka.

Inviting a Muslim woman to inaugurate the event has, not surprisingly, raised the hackles of the BJP and its affiliates, whose leaders are keen to see the festival as a singularly religious event and not what it has evolved into over the years – a festival that is undoubtedly rooted in the Hindu tradition, but has acquired a multi-dimensional character. It has, since the latter period of the Mysuru Wadiyar dynasty's rule to the emergence of Karnataka as a democratic state, metamorphosed into a symbol of the State's identity, a colourful pageantry attracting thousands of tourists from around the world, a business opportunity, a forum for performing arts and much more.

The BJP leaders have asked Ms. Mushtaq to "prove" herself to be deserving of the honour of inaugurating Dasara by throwing multiple challenges, going so far as to ask if she would turn up sporting vermillion and turmeric. Adding another twist, they asked why Deepa Bhashti, the translator of the collection *Heart Lamp* that won the Booker, was not invited to inaugurate Dasara. Even as protests continue, reacting with restraint, the writer has said that she is honoured by the invitation and respects the spirit of the festival, which is an integral part of Karnataka's shared culture.



What has given added ammunition to the BJP arsenal is an old speech by Ms. Mushtaq on how the depiction of the Kannada language as "goddess Bhuvaneshwari" is exclusionary. Though the question of using religious iconography to define national or linguistic identity has been debated for decades, edited clips of her speech made at the Jana Sahitya Sammelana in 2023, held to protest against that year's Kannada Sahitya Sammelana excluding Muslim writers from its panels, have come in handy now.

Ms. Mushtaq is not the first Muslim to be invited to inaugurate the Dasara festival. Back in 2017, the late writer K.S. Nisar Ahmed had inaugurated the event. Though that choice too had faced opposition, the virulent attack on Ms. Mushtaq seems to be not just against her religious identity, but also her activism. She has consistently identified herself with the progressive stream in Kannada literature and has been a feminist and a critic of communal politics. Importantly, her criticism has been against patriarchy of all hues. Many stories in *Heart Lamp* depict the debilitating impact of Muslim orthodoxy on the women of the community.

Attempts to infuse Dasara with a secular character, while not doing away with the religious component, had begun during the later 19th and early

20th century. Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar – the modernist king whose regime was marked by several progressive reforms – is credited with using the Dasara event as an opportunity to showcase his kingdom's entrepreneurial spirit. Interestingly, there was opposition when the king took his trusted and long-serving diwan, Mirza Ismail, to accompany him in Jamboo Savari, the elephant procession on Vijayadashami, the finale of the celebrations and its centrepiece.

Reacting to the controversy, Pramoda Devi Wadiyar of the erstwhile royal family, who is the custodian of the palace traditions, has sought to draw the distinction between the "secular" and "religious" aspects of the festival. She has differentiated between the State government's Dasara, a cultural celebration, and the one observed by her family, adhering to laid down religious traditions.

The BJP in Karnataka seems keen to portray the ruling dispensation as "anti-Hindu". In the coastal region, it is painting the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged killings and burials in the pilgrim centre of Dharmasthala as a deliberate attack on the religion and religious place itself. In southern Karnataka, the party wants to portray a Muslim woman inaugurating Dasara as part of "appeasement politics" of the Congress. A communal disturbance during a Ganesha procession in Maddur town, in Old Mysore region, has added yet another dimension. While the ruling Congress seems to be on the back foot on the Dharmasthala issue, it has stood its ground on the choice for Dasara inauguration.

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Hubbub
around
Habba

हब्बा के चारों
ओर हंगामा

• BJP's tantrum over Banu Mushtaq's invite to Mysuru Dasara defies tradition.

बनू मुश्ताक को मैसूरु दशहरा में आमंत्रित करने पर बीजेपी का गुस्सा परंपरा के खिलाफ है।

Mysuru Dasara Inauguration Controversy मैसूरु दशहरा उद्घाटन विवाद

• The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government decided to invite International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate the Mysuru Dasara – Karnataka's Naada Habba (State festival) on September 22.

सिद्धरमैया नेतृत्व वाली कांग्रेस सरकार ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय बुकर पुरस्कार विजेता बनू मुश्ताक को मैसूरु दशहरा — कर्नाटक का नाडा हब्बा (राज्य उत्सव) 22 सितंबर को उद्घाटन करने के लिए आमंत्रित करने का निर्णय लिया।

• Inviting a Muslim woman has sparked controversy in Karnataka, raising concerns among the BJP and its affiliates. एक मुस्लिम महिला को



आमंत्रित करने से कर्नाटक में विवाद पैदा हुआ है, और इसने BJP और इसके सहयोगियों में चिंता पैदा की।

- BJP leaders want the festival to be a **singularly religious event** rather than its **multi-dimensional character** that evolved over the years.
BJP के नेता चाहते हैं कि यह उत्सव एक **केवल धार्मिक कार्यक्रम** हो, न कि वर्षों में विकसित हुए इसके **बहुआयामी स्वरूप** के रूप में।
- Historically, since the **latter period of the Mysuru Wadiyar dynasty** to Karnataka's emergence as a **democratic state**, Dasara has become a **symbol of the State's identity**, attracting **tourists worldwide**, offering **business opportunities**, and serving as a **forum for performing arts**.
ऐतिहासिक रूप से, **मैसूरु वाडियार राजवंश के अंतिम दौर** से कर्नाटक के **लोकतांत्रिक राज्य** के रूप में उभरने तक, दशहरा राज्य की **पहचान का प्रतीक** बन गया है, जो **दुनिया भर के पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करता है**, **व्यवसाय के अवसर** प्रदान करता है, और **कलात्मक मंच** का काम करता है।
- BJP leaders challenged Ms. Mushtaq to **"prove"** her worthiness of inaugurating Dasara by proposing **multiple challenges**, including if she would wear **vermillion and turmeric**.
BJP नेताओं ने श्रीमती मुश्ताक को दशहरा उद्घाटन के योग्य साबित करने के लिए **कई चुनौतियाँ** पेश कीं, जिसमें यह पूछा गया कि क्या वह **सिंदूर और हल्दी** पहनेंगी।
- They also questioned why **Deepa Bhashti, translator of Heart Lamp**, was not invited to inaugurate Dasara.
उन्होंने यह भी सवाल किया कि क्यों **दीपा भास्ति, हार्ट लैम्प** की अनुवादक, को दशहरा उद्घाटन के लिए आमंत्रित नहीं किया गया।
- Despite ongoing protests, Ms. Mushtaq responded with **restraint**, saying she is **honoured** by the invitation and respects the **spirit of the festival**, integral to **Karnataka's shared culture**.
जारी विरोधों के बावजूद, श्रीमती मुश्ताक ने **संयम** के साथ प्रतिक्रिया दी, कहा कि वह आमंत्रण से **सम्मानित** महसूस करती हैं और **उत्सव की भावना** का सम्मान करती हैं, जो **कर्नाटक की साझा संस्कृति** का अभिन्न हिस्सा है।
- BJP has gained added ammunition from Ms. Mushtaq's **old speech** on depicting **Kannada language as "goddess Bhuvaneshwari"**, which she said is **exclusionary**.
BJP को श्रीमती मुश्ताक के **पुराने भाषण** से और ताकत मिली, जिसमें उन्होंने **कन्नड़ भाषा को "देवी भुवनेश्वरी"** के रूप में दर्शाना को **बहिष्कारी** बताया।
- Edited clips of her speech made at the **Jana Sahitya Sammelana in 2023**, protesting exclusion of **Muslim writers from Kannada Sahitya Sammelana panels**, have now been used in the controversy.
उनके भाषण के संपादित क्लिप्स, जो **2023 के जन साहित्य सम्मेलन** में दिए गए थे, जिसमें **कन्नड़ साहित्य सम्मेलन पैनलों से मुस्लिम लेखकों को बाहर करने का विरोध** किया गया था, अब विवाद में उपयोग किए गए हैं।

Ms. Mushtaq and Dasara Festival Controversy

एम्स. मुश्ताक और दशहरा महोत्सव विवाद

- **Ms. Mushtaq is not the first Muslim** to be invited to inaugurate the Dasara festival.
एम्स. मुश्ताक पहले मुस्लिम नहीं हैं जिन्हें दशहरा महोत्सव का उद्घाटन करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया।
- **Back in 2017, the late writer K.S. Nisar Ahmed had inaugurated the event.**
2017 में, दिवंगत लेखक K.S. निसार अहमद ने इस कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन किया था।
- Though that choice too had faced opposition, the **virulent attack on Ms. Mushtaq** seems to be not just against her **religious identity**, but also her **activism**.
हालांकि उस चुनाव को भी विरोध का सामना करना पड़ा, **एम्स. मुश्ताक पर तीव्र हमला** सिर्फ उनके **धार्मिक पहचान** के खिलाफ नहीं बल्कि उनके **सक्रियता/एक्टिविज्म** के कारण भी प्रतीत होता है।
- She has consistently identified herself with the **progressive stream** in Kannada literature and has been a **feminist** and a critic of **communal politics**.
उन्होंने लगातार खुद को **कन्नड़ साहित्य में प्रगतिशील धारा** के साथ जोड़ा है और वह एक **नारीवादी** और **साम्प्रदायिक राजनीति** की आलोचक रही हैं।
- Importantly, her criticism has been against **patriarchy of all hues**.
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, उनकी आलोचना **सभी प्रकार के पितृसत्तात्मक ढांचों** के खिलाफ रही है।
- Many stories in **Heart Lamp** depict the debilitating impact of **Muslim orthodoxy** on the **women of the community**.



हार्ट लैप में कई कहानियाँ मुस्लिम रूढ़िवादिता के समुदाय की महिलाओं पर पड़ने वाले नकारात्मक प्रभाव को दर्शाती हैं।

- Attempts to infuse Dasara with a **secular character**, while not doing away with the religious component, had begun during the later **19th and early 20th century**.
दशहरा में धर्मनिरपेक्ष चरित्र भरने के प्रयास, जबकि धार्मिक तत्व को समाप्त नहीं किया गया, 19वीं शताब्दी के अंत और 20वीं शताब्दी की शुरुआत में शुरू हुए थे।
- Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar** — the **modernist king** whose regime was marked by several **progressive reforms** — is credited with using the Dasara event as an opportunity to showcase his kingdom's **entrepreneurial spirit**.
नलवाडी कृष्णराज वाडियार — आधुनिकवादी राजा जिनके शासनकाल को कई प्रगतिशील सुधारों ने चिह्नित किया — को दशहरा कार्यक्रम का उपयोग अपने राज्य की उद्यमशील भावना को प्रदर्शित करने के लिए करने का श्रेय दिया जाता है।
- Interestingly, there was opposition when the king took his trusted and long-serving **diwan, Mirza Ismail**, to accompany him in **Jamboo Savari**, the **elephant procession** on **Vijayadashami**, the **finale** of the celebrations and its centrepiece.
रोचक रूप से, विरोध तब हुआ जब राजा ने अपने भरोसेमंद और लंबे समय तक सेवा देने वाले दीवान, मिर्जा इस्माइल को जम्बू सवारी, हाथी जुलूस में विजयादशमी के दिन साथ लिया, जो उत्सव का समापन और केंद्रबिंदु था।
- Reacting to the controversy, **Pramoda Devi Wadiyar** of the erstwhile royal family, who is the **custodian of the palace traditions**, has sought to draw the distinction between the “**secular**” and “**religious**” aspects of the festival.
विवाद पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए, पहले के शाही परिवार की प्रमोदा देवी वाडियार, जो महल की परंपराओं की संरक्षिका हैं, ने महोत्सव के “धर्मनिरपेक्ष” और “धार्मिक” पहलुओं के बीच अंतर स्पष्ट करने की कोशिश की है।
- She has differentiated between the **State government's Dasara**, a **cultural celebration**, and the one observed by her family, adhering to laid down **religious traditions**.
उन्होंने राज्य सरकार के दशहरा, एक सांस्कृतिक उत्सव, और उनके परिवार द्वारा आयोजित दशहरा, जो स्थापित धार्मिक परंपराओं का पालन करता है, में अंतर किया है।
- The **BJP in Karnataka** seems keen to portray the ruling dispensation as “**anti-Hindu**”.
कर्नाटक में भाजपा शासक दल को “अंत हिंदू” के रूप में चित्रित करने की कोशिश कर रही है।
- In the coastal region, it is painting the ongoing **Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe** into the alleged killings and burials in the pilgrim centre of **Dharmasthala** as a deliberate attack on the **religion and religious place** itself.
तटीय क्षेत्र में, यह धर्मस्थल तीर्थ स्थल में कथित हत्याओं और दफनों की जांच कर रही विशेष जांच टीम (SIT) को धर्म और धार्मिक स्थल पर जानबूझकर हमला बताकर प्रस्तुत कर रही है।
- In southern Karnataka, the party wants to portray a **Muslim woman inaugurating Dasara** as part of “**appeasement politics**” of the **Congress**.
दक्षिण कर्नाटक में, पार्टी यह दिखाना चाहती है कि एक मुस्लिम महिला द्वारा दशहरा का उद्घाटन कांग्रेस की ‘मनोनुकूल राजनीति’ का हिस्सा है।
- A **communal disturbance** during a **Ganesha procession** in **Maddur town**, in **Old Mysore region**, has added yet another dimension.
पुराने मैसूर क्षेत्र के मददुर शहर में गणेश जुलूस के दौरान हुए साम्प्रदायिक विवाद ने एक और आयाम जोड़ दिया है।
- While the ruling **Congress** seems to be on the back foot on the **Dharmasthala issue**, it has stood its ground on the choice for **Dasara inauguration**.
जबकि शासक कांग्रेस धर्मस्थल मुद्दे पर पिछड़ती नजर आ रही है, उसने दशहरा उद्घाटन के चुनाव पर अपनी स्थिति बनाए रखी है।

Official State Festival

- Uttar Pradesh's State Festival: “Navratri – Ramlila of Varanasi” (Ramleela of Ramnagar, Varanasi)**
- The Ramlila of Ramnagar (Varanasi) is officially recognized as the State Festival of Uttar Pradesh.**



About the Festival

- **Ram Nagar Ramlila (Varanasi):**
 - Started around the 18th century by Maharaja Udit Narayan Singh.
 - It is a month-long performance during Navratri and Dussehra.
 - Known for its elaborate costumes, dialogues, and stage settings spread across the whole town.
 - Declared by UNESCO in 2005 as part of the “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.”

Magnitude of the earthquake that struck Greece's Evia island

PCS

5.4 On the richter scale. A moderate earthquake struck off the Greek island of Evia and was felt in Athens. The epicentre was located four kilometres from Nea Styra, about 45 km northeast of the capital at around half past midnight local time. No casualties or damage were reported. AFP

Magnitude of the earthquake that struck Greece's Evia island यूनान के एविया द्वीप पर आए भूकंप की तीव्रता

- 5.4 on the Richter scale.
रिक्टर पैमाने पर 5.4।
- A moderate earthquake struck off the Greek island of Evia and was felt in Athens.
एक मध्यम भूकंप यूनान के एविया द्वीप के पास आया और एथेंस में महसूस किया गया।
- The epicenter was located four kilometres from Nea Styra, about 45 km northeast of the capital at around half past midnight local time.
भूकंप का केंद्र निया स्टाइरा से चार किलोमीटर दूर, राजधानी से लगभग 45 किलोमीटर उत्तर-पूर्व में आधी रात के बाद स्थानीय समय पर स्थित था।
- No casualties or damage were reported.
किसी हानि या नुकसान की सूचना नहीं मिली।



Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This Vice President also served as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. **Ans: Mohammad Hidayatullah**

2. This Vice President was the only person to have become the President of India after having served as the Chief Minister of this State. **Ans: Shankar Dayal Sharma; erstwhile Bhopal State**

3. Apart from the first Vice President, this VP was re-elected and served a total of 10 years in the post. **Ans: Hamid Ansari**

4. The first person from a Dalit community to serve as Vice President, and later as President of India. **Ans: K.R.Narayanan**

5. This Vice President was the first to not be elected as President of India. **Ans: Gopal Swarup Pathak**

Visual: Name this former Vice President. **Ans: Zakir Husain**

Early Birds: Tom Alan Faith| Sukdev Shet| Dodo Jayaditya| Sadhan Kumar Panda| M. Suresh Kumar

resignation of Vice President **V. V. Giri**, Justice Hidayatullah served as **Acting President** from **July 20, 1969**, to **August 24, 1969**.

- **Vice President of India:**
 - Elected **Vice President** of India in **1979**.
 - Served from **August 31, 1979**, to **August 30, 1984**.
 - During President **Zail Singh's** medical leave in **1982**, he officiated as **Acting President** from **October 6, 1982**, to **October 31, 1982**.

Contributions to Law and Society

- **Judicial Contributions:**
 - Authored **461 judgments** and participated in over **1,200 benches** during his tenure in the Supreme Court.
 - Notable judgments include:
 - **Golaknath v. State of Punjab** (1967): Held that Parliament cannot amend Fundamental Rights.
 - **Ranjit D. Udeshi v. State of Maharashtra (1965)**: Addressed issues related to **obscenity laws**.

Shankar Dayal Sharma: From Chief Minister to President of India

Political Career

QUIZ

Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah: A Legal Luminary

Early Life and Education

- **Birth:** Born on **December 17, 1905**, in **Betul**, Central Provinces and Berar (now Madhya Pradesh).
 - Appointed **Advocate General** of Central Provinces and Berar in **1943**, becoming the youngest to hold this position.

Judicial Appointments:

- **Chief Justice**, Madhya Pradesh High Court in **1956**.
- **Judge**, Supreme Court of India, from **December 1, 1958**.
- **Chief Justice of India**, from **February 25, 1968**, to **December 16, 1970**.

Political and Constitutional Roles

Acting President of India:

- After the sudden demise of President **Dr. Zakir Husain** on **May 3, 1969**, and the

resignation of Vice President **V. V. Giri**, Justice Hidayatullah served as **Acting President** from **July 20, 1969**, to **August 24, 1969**.

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Shankar Dayal Sharma: From Chief Minister to President of India

Political Career



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- **Chief Minister of Bhopal State:**
 - Served as **Chief Minister of the erstwhile Bhopal State** before its merger into Madhya Pradesh.
 - Held office during the **integration period of princely states into the Indian Union.**
- **Governor of Multiple States:**
 - Governor of **Andhra Pradesh (1984–1985).**
 - Governor of **Punjab (1986–1987)** during turbulent times.
- **Vice President of India:**
 - Elected **Vice President** in **1987**, served until **1992.**

Presidency of India

- **President of India:**
 - Elected as the **9th President of India**, serving from **July 25, 1992, to July 25, 1997.**
 - First and only person to have been **Chief Minister of a state** and later **President of India.**

Hamid Ansari: India's Longest-Serving Vice President (Apart from the First VP)

Vice Presidency

- **Vice President of India:**
 - Elected as the **12th Vice President of India** in **2007.**
 - Re-elected in **2012**, serving a **total of 10 years** until **2017.**
 - Second-longest tenure after **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.**
- **Role in Rajya Sabha:**
 - As **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**, he ensured smooth functioning of parliamentary proceedings.
 - Promoted **debates on social justice, education, and minority rights.**

K.R. Narayanan: First Dalit Vice President and President of India

Vice Presidency

- Elected as the **10th Vice President of India** in **1992.**
- Served under **President R. Venkataraman** before eventually becoming President.
- Role included **Chairman of Rajya Sabha**, overseeing legislative debates and parliamentary functioning.

Presidency

- Became the **10th President of India** in **1997**, serving until **2002.**
- First **Dalit President** of India, symbolizing **social justice and inclusion.**
- Advocated for **minority rights, social equality, and education for disadvantaged groups.**
- Notable for **assertive use of presidential discretion**, including returning bills for reconsideration.

Gopal Swarup Pathak: First Vice President Not Elected as President of India

- Became the **4th Vice President of India** in **1969.**



- Role included **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**, overseeing legislative proceedings and guiding parliamentary debates.
- Gopal Swarup Pathak was the **first Vice President of India** who did not go on to become President.

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography)

- 1. Anarchy in Kathmandu as PM Oli resigns; Parliament, Supreme Court vandalised**
काठमांडू में अराजकता जब पीएम ओली ने इस्तीफा दिया;
संसद, सुप्रीम कोर्ट में तोड़फोड़
- 2. Poor NARI ranking exposes women safety gaps in Delhi**
खराब नारी रैंकिंग ने दिल्ली में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा खामियों को उजागर किया
- 3. Union govt. seeks 'factual report' on forest rights complaint concerning Nicobar project**
निकोबार परियोजना से संबंधित वन अधिकार शिकायत पर केंद्र सरकार ने 'तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्ट' मांगी
- 4. Can the T.N. Does the government break the caste-job nexus?**
क्या तमिलनाडु सरकार जाति-नौकरी संबंध को तोड़ सकती है?
- 5. Lessons for India: how Kerala is tackling rapid urbanisation**
भारत के लिए पाठ: केरल तेजी से हो रही शहरीकरण से कैसे निपट रहा है



Tribal communion



GS I: Society, Culture

Traditional fete: Tiwa tribesmen celebrate Langkhun festival in Umsowai village in Karbi Anglong district of Assam on Tuesday. The Tiwa Langkhun festival has great cultural significance and the community prays for a good harvest. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tiwa tribesmen celebrate Langkhun festival in Umsowai village in Karbi Anglong district of Assam on Tuesday. The Tiwa Langkhun festival has great cultural significance and the community prays for a good harvest.

1. Tiwa Tribe

- **Ethnic Group:** A Scheduled Tribe of Assam and Meghalaya.
- **Also Known As:** Lalung (in older official records).
- **Language:** Tiwa language (Tibeto-Burman family).
- **Location:** Mostly in Assam's **Morigaon, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong districts**, and parts of Meghalaya.
- **Society:**
 - Divided into **Plains Tiwa** and **Hill Tiwa**.
 - **Plains Tiwa:** Largely Hindu, practice wet-rice agriculture, live in Assam plains.
 - **Hill Tiwa:** More traditional, animist/Christian, practice shifting cultivation, live in Karbi Anglong & Meghalaya hills.

Culture & Festivals

- **Jonbeel Mela:**
 - An annual fair near Jagiroad, Assam.



- Known for **barter trade** between Tiwas, Karbis, Khasis, and other tribes.
- Starts with community fishing, followed by barter of agricultural and craft products.
- **Dance & Songs:** Rich folk traditions connected with agriculture and fertility.

2. Langkhun

- **Langkhun** is a **Tiwa traditional institution** (cultural youth dormitory system).
- Functions as a **training center for young boys and girls** in:
 - Social customs,
 - Dance and music,
 - Community service.
- Similar to **Morung (Nagas)** or **Dhumkuria (Oraons)** in other tribes.
- Plays a key role in preserving **oral traditions, rituals, and communal bonding**.

3. Karbi Anglong

- Inhabited mainly by **Karbi tribe**, but also by **Tiwas, Dimasas, Nagas, Kukis, and Adivasi groups**.
- Governed by the **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC)** under the **Sixth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution.
- Rich in **biodiversity (Kaziranga extensions, forested hills)** and **tribal culture**.
- Important cultural ties: Tiwas in Karbi Anglong still practice their **Langkhun dormitory traditions**, unlike the Plains Tiwas.

Langkhun Dormitory Traditions (Tiwa Tribe)

1. Concept of Langkhun

- **Langkhun** = Traditional **youth dormitory institution** of the **Hill Tiwa tribes** (Karbi Anglong, Meghalaya hills).
- Functions as a **community training centre** where unmarried boys and girls live together under village elders' supervision.
- Similar institutions in other tribes:
 - **Morung** (Nagas),
 - **Dhumkuria** (Oraons),
 - **Ghotul** (Marias of Bastar).

2. Functions of Langkhun

(a) Social Training

- Teaches **customs, traditions, folklore, and oral history** of the Tiwas.
- Prepares youth for **adult responsibilities**.

(b) Cultural Preservation

- **Dance, songs, drumming, and festivals** are practiced in Langkhun.



- Acts as a hub of **collective cultural expression**.

(c) Community Service

- Youth trained in Langkhun provide labour for:
 - Building houses,
 - Organizing festivals (like Jonbeel Mela),
 - Helping in agriculture.

(d) Defense & Discipline

- Traditionally, boys were trained in **village defense and discipline**.
- Built a spirit of **solidarity and unity**.

3. Cultural Aspects

- **Entry:** Usually post-puberty, until marriage.
- **Supervision:** Guided by a senior elder (sort of cultural “mentor”).
- **Gender:** Both boys and girls can join (unique feature compared to many other tribal dormitories).
- **Festive Role:** Most Tiwa dances and rituals during **Jonbeel Mela** and **harvest festivals** are rehearsed in Langkhun.

PATRIOTICIAS



Anarchy in Kathmandu as PM Oli resigns; Parliament, Supreme Court vandalised

CS I: Anarchy

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned on Tuesday, a day after 19 people were killed in police firing as Gen Z-led anti-corruption protests intensified across Kathmandu and other parts of the country.

In his resignation letter submitted to President Ram Chandra Poudel, Mr. Oli said he was stepping down to facilitate a political solution to the deepening crisis. President Poudel accepted the resignation and urged all stakeholders, including "the representatives of Gen Z", to engage in peaceful dialogue, even as attacks and arson incidents continued to grip the capital.

Call for dialogue

Despite a curfew imposed by the local administration since early morning, thousands of protesters poured into the streets.

Late on Tuesday, Army Chief Gen. Ashok Raj Sigdel addressed the nation, calling upon protesters to halt all their programmes and engage in dialogue. "Maintaining peace, security, harmony, national unity, and goodwill is the responsibility and duty of every Nepali," he said.

"To provide a peaceful resolution to the current difficult situation, we call upon the protesting groups to suspend their programmes and come forward for dialogue," the Army Chief said.

In a dramatic escalation, demonstrators stormed the Parliament building, the Supreme Court, and Singha Durbar, the seat of government, and set them on fire. Numerous govern-



A protester wearing flak jacket and carrying a shield snatched from a policeman shouts slogans in Kathmandu on Tuesday. AP

ment offices were also attacked across Kathmandu and beyond.

Earlier in the day, demonstrators targeted the homes of senior political leaders. Visuals circulating on social media, later confirmed by police, showed Mr. Oli's private residence in Balkot, Bhaktapur, being set on fire. Protesters also stormed and set ablaze the homes of former Prime Ministers Sher Bahadur Deuba and Pushpa Kamal Dahal. Several other ministers' homes met similar fate. Videos on social media showed Mr. Deuba and his wife Arzu Rana Deuba, who was the foreign minister until Tuesday morning, being manhandled by protesters.

Protesters also attacked a building housing Kantipur Publications, the publisher of The Kathmandu Post and Kantipur.

Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah, who got elected as an independent candidate, had expressed solidarity with the protests a day before they erupted.

The central slogan of the current protests reflected the same sentiment: "Nepal's political class lives lavishly at the expense of our parents' tax money."

Following Mr. Oli's resignation, Mr. Shah posted on Facebook, urging protesters to be ready to hold talks with the Army Chief. His remarks have sparked speculation about whether he is positioning himself to lead a potential interim administration.

In a parallel development, Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) chief Ravi Lamichhane, who was in jail on charges of embezzling cooperatives, was released on Tuesday afternoon. Authorities cited "security concerns" for his release.

His release adds another dimension to the evolving situation, raising questions about a potential alliance between Mr. Lamichhane and Mayor Shah - both prominent figures outside Nepal's mainstream political machinery.

With a caretaker Prime Minister, a paralysed Parliament, and no clear path forward, Nepal is facing what analysts describe as a directionless political vacuum.

(Sanjeev Satgainya is a journalist based in Kathmandu)

RELATED REPORTS

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DEEP STRUCTURAL FAILURES

» PAGE 14

Anarchy in Kathmandu as PM Oli resigns; Parliament, Supreme Court vandalised

काठमांडू में अराजकता जब पीएम ओली ने इस्तीफा दिया; संसद, सुप्रीम कोर्ट में तोड़फोड़

- Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned on Tuesday, a day after 19 people were killed in police firing as Gen Z-led anti-corruption protests intensified across Kathmandu and other parts of the country

नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री के पी. शर्मा ओली ने मंगलवार को इस्तीफा दे दिया, एक दिन बाद जब 19 लोग पुलिस फायरिंग में मारे गए और जनरेशन जेड के नेतृत्व वाले भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी प्रदर्शन काठमांडू और देश के अन्य हिस्सों में तेज हो गए

- In his resignation letter submitted to President Ram Chandra Poudel, Mr. Oli said he was stepping down to facilitate a political solution to the deepening crisis

अपने इस्तीफे के पत्र को राष्ट्रपति राम चंद्र पौडेल को सौंपते हुए, श्री ओली ने कहा कि वह गहरी होती संकट का राजनीतिक समाधान निकालने के लिए पद छोड़ रहे हैं

- President Poudel accepted the resignation and urged all stakeholders, including "the representatives of Gen Z", to engage in peaceful dialogue, even as attacks and arson incidents continued to grip the capital

राष्ट्रपति पौडेल ने इस्तीफा स्वीकार किया और सभी हितधारकों, जिनमें "जनरेशन जेड के प्रतिनिधि" भी शामिल हैं, से शांतिपूर्ण संवाद में शामिल होने का आग्रह किया, जबकि हमले और आगजनी की घटनाएँ राजधानी को जकड़े हुए थीं

Call for dialogue
संवाद का आह्वान



- Despite a **curfew** imposed by the **local administration** since **early morning**, thousands of **protesters** poured into the streets
स्थानीय प्रशासन द्वारा सुबह से लगाए गए कर्फ्यू के बावजूद, हजारों प्रदर्शनकारी सड़कों पर उतर आए
- Late on **Tuesday**, **Army Chief Gen. Ashok Raj Sigdel** addressed the nation, calling upon **protesters** to halt all their programmes and engage in **dialogue**
मंगलवार देर रात, सेना प्रमुख जनरल अशोक राज सिग्देल ने राष्ट्र को संबोधित किया और प्रदर्शनकारियों से अपने सभी कार्यक्रमों को रोककर संवाद में शामिल होने का आह्वान किया
- “Maintaining **peace, security, harmony, national unity, and goodwill** is the responsibility and duty of every **Nepali**,” he said
“शांति, सुरक्षा, सौहार्द, राष्ट्रीय एकता और सद्भावना बनाए रखना हर नेपाली की जिम्मेदारी और कर्तव्य है, उन्होंने कहा
- “To provide a **peaceful resolution** to the current **difficult situation**, we call upon the **protesting groups** to **suspend their programmes** and **come forward for dialogue**,” the **Army Chief** said
“वर्तमान कठिन परिस्थिति का शांतिपूर्ण समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए, हम प्रदर्शनकारी समूहों से अपने कार्यक्रम निलंबित करने और संवाद के लिए आगे आने का आह्वान करते हैं,” सेना प्रमुख ने कहा
- In a **dramatic escalation**, **demonstrators stormed the Parliament building, the Supreme Court, and Singha Durbar**, the seat of **government**, and **set them on fire**
एक नाटकीय वृद्धि में, प्रदर्शनकारियों ने संसद भवन, सुप्रीम कोर्ट और सिंह दरबार, जो सरकार का मुख्यालय है, पर धावा बोल दिया और उन्हें आग के हवाले कर दिया
- Numerous **government offices** were also attacked across **Kathmandu** and beyond
कई सरकारी कार्यालयों पर भी काठमांडू और उसके बाहर हमले किए गए
- Earlier in the day, **demonstrators targeted the homes of senior political leaders**
दिन में पहले, प्रदर्शनकारियों ने वरिष्ठ राजनीतिक नेताओं के घरों को निशाना बनाया
- Visuals circulating on **social media**, later confirmed by **police**, showed Mr. **Oli's private residence** in **Balkot, Bhaktapur**, being **set on fire**
सोशल मीडिया पर प्रसारित दृश्य, बाद में पुलिस द्वारा पुष्टि किए गए, यह दिखाते हैं कि भक्तपुर के बालकोट में स्थित श्री ओली के निजी आवास को आग लगा दी गई
- **Protesters also stormed and set ablaze the homes of former Prime Ministers Sher Bahadur Deuba and Pushpa Kamal Dahal**
प्रदर्शनकारियों ने पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री शेर बहादुर देउबा और पुष्प कमल दहल के घरों पर भी धावा बोला और उन्हें आग के हवाले कर दिया
- Several other **ministers' homes** met a similar fate
कई अन्य मंत्रियों के घरों का भी यही हाल हुआ
- Videos on **social media** showed Mr. **Deuba** and his wife **Arzu Rana Deuba**, who was the **foreign minister** until **Tuesday morning**, being **manhandled by protesters**
सोशल मीडिया पर वीडियो में दिखाया गया कि श्री देउबा और उनकी पत्नी अरजू राणा देउबा, जो मंगलवार सुबह तक विदेश मंत्री थीं, को प्रदर्शनकारियों द्वारा धक्का-मुक्की की गई
- **Protesters also attacked a building housing Kantipur Publications**, the publisher of **The Kathmandu Post** and **Kantipur**
प्रदर्शनकारियों ने कांतिपुर पब्लिकेशन की इमारत पर भी हमला किया, जो द काठमांडू पोस्ट और कांतिपुर का प्रकाशक है
- **Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah**, who got elected as an **independent candidate**, had expressed **solidarity with the protests** a day before they erupted
काठमांडू के मेयर बालेन्द्र शाह, जो स्वतंत्र उम्मीदवार के रूप में निर्वाचित हुए थे, ने प्रदर्शनों के फूटने से एक दिन पहले ही एकजुटता व्यक्त की थी
- The central slogan of the current **protests** reflected the same sentiment: **“Nepal's political class lives lavishly at the expense of our parents' tax money.”**
वर्तमान प्रदर्शनों का मुख्य नारा उसी भावना को दर्शाता है: “नेपाल का राजनीतिक वर्ग हमारे माता-पिता के कर के पैसे पर ऐश करता है।”
- Following Mr. **Oli's resignation**, Mr. **Shah** posted on **Facebook**, urging **protesters** to be ready to **hold talks with the Army Chief**
श्री ओली के इस्तीफे के बाद, श्री शाह ने फेसबुक पर पोस्ट कर प्रदर्शनकारियों से सेना प्रमुख के साथ बातचीत के लिए तैयार रहने का आग्रह किया



- His remarks have sparked **speculation** about whether he is **positioning himself to lead a potential interim administration**
उनकी टिप्पणियों ने इस बात पर अटकलें लगा दी हैं कि क्या वह संभावित अंतरिम प्रशासन का नेतृत्व करने के लिए खुद को तैयार कर रहे हैं
- In a **parallel development**, **Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) chief Ravi Lamichhane**, who was in jail on charges of **embezzling cooperatives**, was released on Tuesday afternoon
एक समानांतर घटनाक्रम में, राष्ट्रीय स्वतन्त्र पार्टी (आरएसपी) प्रमुख रवि लामिछाने, जो सहकारी समितियों में गबन के आरोपों में जेल में थे, को मंगलवार दोपहर रिहा कर दिया गया
- **Authorities** cited “**security concerns**” for his release
प्रशासन ने उनकी रिहाई का कारण “सुरक्षा चिंताएं” बताया
- His release adds another **dimension** to the **evolving situation**, raising **questions** about a **potential alliance** between Mr. **Lamichhane** and **Mayor Shah** — both prominent figures outside **Nepal’s mainstream political machinery**
उनकी रिहाई इस बदलती स्थिति में एक और पहलू जोड़ती है और श्री लामिछाने और मेयर शाह के बीच संभावित गठबंधन को लेकर सवाल उठाती है — जो दोनों ही नेपाल की मुख्यधारा की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के बाहर के प्रमुख चेहरे हैं
- With a **caretaker Prime Minister**, a **paralysed Parliament**, and **no clear path forward**, **Nepal** is facing what analysts describe as a **directionless political vacuum**
एक कार्यवाहक प्रधानमंत्री, असहाय संसद, और स्पष्ट मार्ग के अभाव के साथ, नेपाल का सामना एक दिशाहीन राजनीतिक शून्य से हो रहा है, जैसा कि विश्लेषकों ने वर्णन किया है

Poor NARI ranking exposes women safety gaps in Delhi

GS I: Society

Ashna Butani

NEW DELHI

Thirteen years after the 2012 bus gang rape and murder shocked the nation, women in Delhi continue to face glaring safety gaps in everyday public life.

From poorly lit streets and unsafe transport to the lack of secure public spaces and limited emergency services, the concerns remain stark, according to the National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025.

The survey, launched by the National Commission for Women (NCW) last month, covered 12,770 women across 31 cities.

Delhi ranked 28th on the women's safety index, placing it among the worst-performing cities, ahead only of Kolkata, Srinagar,



Over 30% of women in Delhi said women-friendly infrastructure was either minimal or non-existent. FILE PHOTO

and Ranchi.

According to the report, 31% of women in Delhi said women-friendly infrastructure was either “minimal” or “non-existent”.

‘Serious concern’

Nationally, the figure stood at 23%. “This ranking is a serious cause for concern, particularly because Delhi,

as the national capital, should ideally set the benchmark for women's safety across Bharat,” the report said.

In Delhi, 41% of women said deserted spaces made them feel unsafe, while unlit areas, high crime rates, and public behaviour were also cited as reasons for fear.

The contrast between daytime and nighttime safety was sharp: while 8% felt unsafe during the day, the number jumped to 35% after dark.

The report noted that there is a “concerning disparity” between Delhi and the national average regarding experiences of harassment in public spaces.

The national capital recorded a higher incidence of harassment in public spaces compared with the national average. While 7% of women across the country reported experiencing harassment, in Delhi, the figure was 12%.

Repeated harassment

Alarming, 61% of Delhi women who reported harassment said they had faced it more than twice, pointing to systemic lapses in deterring repeat offen-

ders. Neighbourhood areas were most frequently cited as sites of harassment (34%), indicating that proximity to home does not guarantee safety. This was followed by transport facilities (32%).

When asked for solutions, 51% of women demanded more policing, while 17% specifically called for timely and proper police action, underscoring frustration with law enforcement.

Cities that ranked higher than the national average included Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Aizawl, Bhubaneswar, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai. Faridabad ranked 27th, just above Delhi. The NARI report, ideated and funded by Pvalue Analytics, was released on August 28 and marks the first such national safety index.

Poor NARI ranking exposes women safety gaps in Delhi



खराब नारी रैंकिंग ने दिल्ली में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा खामियों को उजागर किया

- Thirteen years after the **2012 bus gang rape and murder** shocked the nation, women in **Delhi** continue to face glaring **safety gaps** in everyday public life
2012 बस गैंगरेप और हत्या के तेरह साल बाद जिसने देश को हिला दिया था, **दिल्ली** की महिलाएं अब भी अपने दैनिक सार्वजनिक जीवन में **सुरक्षा की खामियों** का सामना कर रही हैं
- From **poorly lit streets** and **unsafe transport** to the lack of **secure public spaces** and **limited emergency services**, the concerns remain stark, according to the **National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025**
कम रोशनी वाली सड़कों और असुरक्षित परिवहन से लेकर सुरक्षित सार्वजनिक स्थानों की कमी और सीमित आपातकालीन सेवाओं तक, चिंताएं गंभीर बनी हुई हैं, **राष्ट्रीय वार्षिक रिपोर्ट और महिलाओं की सुरक्षा सूचकांक (नारी) 2025** के अनुसार
- The **survey**, launched by the **National Commission for Women (NCW)** last month, covered **12,770 women across 31 cities**
पिछले महीने **राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (एनसीडब्ल्यू)** द्वारा शुरू किए गए सर्वेक्षण में **31 शहरों की 12,770 महिलाओं** को शामिल किया गया
- **Delhi ranked 28th on the women's safety index**, placing it among the **worst-performing cities**, ahead only of **Kolkata, Srinagar, and Ranchi**
दिल्ली महिला सुरक्षा सूचकांक में 28वें स्थान पर रही, जो इसे **सबसे खराब प्रदर्शन करने वाले शहरों में** रखता है, और यह केवल **कोलकाता, श्रीनगर और रांची** से आगे है
- According to the **report**, **31% of women in Delhi** said **women-friendly infrastructure** was either "minimal" or "non-existent"
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, दिल्ली की 31% महिलाओं ने कहा कि महिला-अनुकूल बुनियादी ढांचा या तो "न्यूनतम" है या "मौजूद ही नहीं है"

'Serious concern' 'गंभीर चिंता'

Nationally, the figure stood at **23%**
राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर यह आंकड़ा **23%** था

- "This **ranking** is a **serious cause for concern**, particularly because **Delhi**, as the **national capital**, should ideally set the **benchmark for women's safety across Bharat**," the report said
"यह **रैंकिंग गंभीर चिंता का कारण** है, विशेष रूप से क्योंकि **दिल्ली, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी** होने के नाते, को आदर्श रूप से पूरे **भारत में महिला सुरक्षा का मानक** स्थापित करना चाहिए," रिपोर्ट में कहा गया
- In **Delhi**, **41% of women** said **deserted spaces** made them **feel unsafe**, while **unlit areas, high crime rates, and public behaviour** were also cited as reasons for fear
दिल्ली में, 41% महिलाओं ने कहा कि सूने स्थान उन्हें असुरक्षित महसूस कराते हैं, जबकि **अंधेरे क्षेत्र, उच्च अपराध दर और सार्वजनिक व्यवहार** को भी डर के कारणों के रूप में बताया गया
- The contrast between **daytime and nighttime safety** was sharp: while **8%** felt **unsafe** during the **day**, the number jumped to **35% after dark**
दिन और रात की सुरक्षा के बीच का अंतर स्पष्ट था: दिन में 8% ने असुरक्षित महसूस किया, जबकि यह संख्या **अंधेरा होने के बाद 35%** तक बढ़ गई
- The **report** noted that there is a "**concerning disparity**" between **Delhi** and the **national average** regarding experiences of **harassment in public spaces**
रिपोर्ट में उल्लेख किया गया कि दिल्ली और राष्ट्रीय औसत के बीच सार्वजनिक स्थानों में उत्पीड़न के अनुभवों को लेकर "चिंताजनक असमानता" है
- The **national capital** recorded a **higher incidence of harassment in public spaces** compared with the **national average**
राष्ट्रीय राजधानी ने राष्ट्रीय औसत की तुलना में सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर उत्पीड़न की अधिक घटनाएं दर्ज कीं
- While **7% of women** across the country reported experiencing **harassment**, in **Delhi**, the figure was **12%**



जहां देशभर में 7% महिलाओं ने उत्पीड़न का अनुभव होने की सूचना दी, वहीं दिल्ली में यह आंकड़ा 12% था

Repeated harassment बार-बार उत्पीड़न

- Alarmingly, **61% of Delhi women** who reported harassment said they had **faced it more than twice**, pointing to **systemic lapses** in deterring **repeat offenders**
चौंकाने वाली बात यह है कि दिल्ली की 61% महिलाएं जिन्होंने उत्पीड़न की रिपोर्ट की, उन्होंने कहा कि उन्होंने इसे दो से अधिक बार झेला, जो बार-बार अपराध करने वालों को रोकने में प्रणालीगत खामियों की ओर इशारा करता है
- **Neighbourhood areas** were most frequently cited as **sites of harassment (34%)**, indicating that **proximity to home** does not guarantee safety
पड़ोस के क्षेत्रों को उत्पीड़न की घटनाओं के स्थल (34%) के रूप में सबसे अधिक बताया गया, जो दर्शाता है कि घर के पास होना सुरक्षा की गारंटी नहीं है
- This was followed by **transport facilities (32%)**
इसके बाद परिवहन सुविधाएं (32%) आती हैं
- When asked for **solutions**, **51% of women** demanded **more policing**, while **17%** specifically called for **timely and proper police action**, underscoring frustration with **law enforcement**
जब समाधानों के बारे में पूछा गया, तो 51% महिलाओं ने अधिक पुलिसिंग की मांग की, जबकि 17% ने विशेष रूप से समय पर और उचित पुलिस कार्रवाई की मांग की, जो कानून प्रवर्तन के प्रति नाराजगी को दर्शाता है
- Cities that ranked **higher than the national average** included **Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Aizawl, Bhubaneswar, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai**
वे शहर जिन्होंने राष्ट्रीय औसत से अधिक रैंकिंग प्राप्त की उनमें कोहिमा, विशाखापत्तनम, आइजोल, भुवनेश्वर, गंगटोक, ईटानगर और मुंबई शामिल हैं
- **Faridabad** ranked **27th**, just above **Delhi**
फरीदाबाद 27वें स्थान पर रहा, जो दिल्ली से बस ऊपर था
- The **NARI report**, ideated and funded by **Pvalue Analytics**, was released on **August 28** and marks the **first such national safety index**
नारी रिपोर्ट, जिसे पीवैल्यू एनालिटिक्स द्वारा तैयार और वित्तपोषित किया गया, 28 अगस्त को जारी की गई और यह अपनी तरह का पहला राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सूचकांक है



Union govt. seeks 'factual report' on forest rights complaint concerning Nicobar project

GS1

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Union government has sought a "factual report" from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration on points raised in a complaint by the Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar that forest rights had not been settled before diverting around 13,000 hectares for the ₹81,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project in August 2022.

In August, *The Hindu* reported about the complaint to Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram that the administration had made a "false" representation to the Centre in certifying that all rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 had been identified and settled before diverting the required forest land for the project in the certifi-



The Andaman and Nicobar Island administration has maintained that it need not implement the Forest Rights Act of 2006. GETTY IMAGES

cate issued on August 18, 2022.

The council said its consent had been "obtained under pressure" and withdrawn formally soon after in a letter to the government. The certificate contradicted the administration's position in monthly FRA progress reports to the Ministry that it does not need to implement the Act.

In a letter to the Chief

Secretary of the Union Territory on Monday, the Ministry asked for a "factual report addressing each of the points raised in the said news report and the letter of Tribal Council".

The Ministry said it had received the letter from the Tribal Council, "raising the issue that the Forest rights guaranteed to the Nicobarese in Great Nicobar Island have not been settled under the FRA, 2006, and

Nicobarese have not consented to diversion of forest lands...".

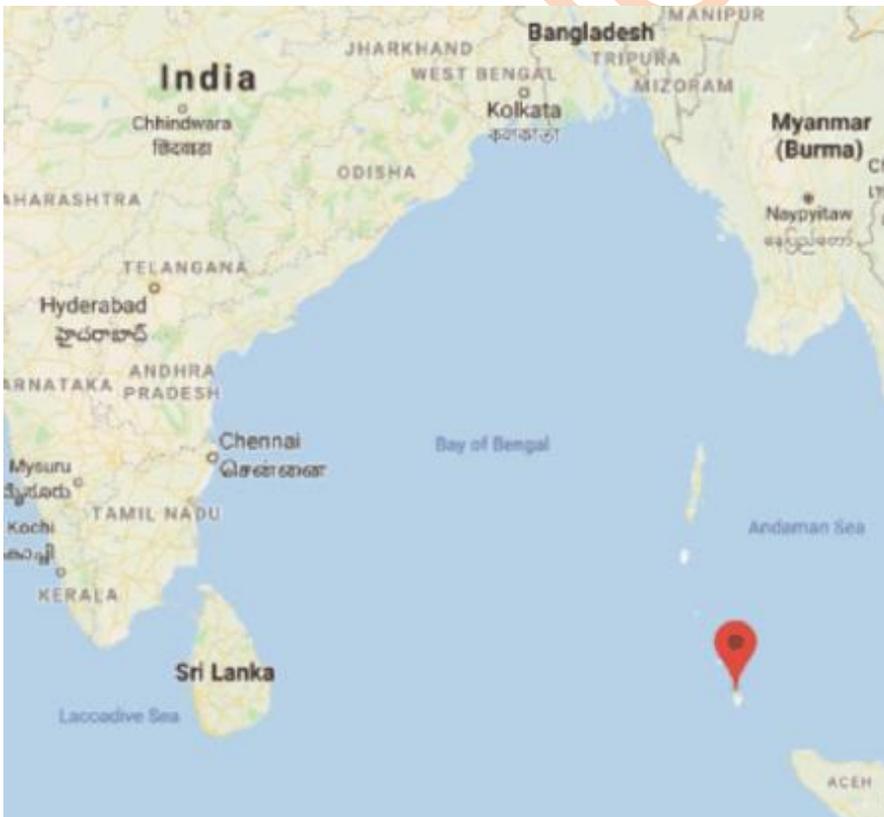
Earlier this year, Mr. Oram said concerns over the project are being "examined". Weeks after sending the complaint to Mr. Oram in July, the Tribal Council said it had received no response.

The council then wrote to the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on August 26, flagging the authorities' "refusal" to engage in dialogue with them. This prompted Mr. Gandhi to write to Mr. Oram last week, urging his office to examine the concerns raised by the council.

On Monday, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, in an article in *The Hindu*, criticised the Centre over this project, calling it a "planned misadventure".

After sending the complaint to Mr. Oram, a member of the Tribal Council told *The Hindu* that it had recently been made aware of the August 2022, certificate issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Nicobar, certifying, "The complete process for identification and settlement of rights under the FRA has been carried out..." But the Tribal Council said that the process of identification and settlement of rights under the FRA "has not even been initiated".

According to the progress reports, the administration has maintained that it does not need to implement the FRA, arguing that tribespeople's rights were already protected on the islands under the Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Act, 1956 which enables the administration to unilaterally divert forest land.



Union govt. seeks 'factual report' on forest rights complaint concerning Nicobar project

निकोबार परियोजना से संबंधित वन अधिकार शिकायत पर केंद्र सरकार ने 'तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्ट' मांगी

• The Union government has sought a "factual report" from the Andaman and Nicobar



Islands administration on points raised in a **complaint by the Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar** that **forest rights** had not been settled before diverting around **13,000 hectares** for the **₹81,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project** in **August 2022**.

केंद्र सरकार ने अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह प्रशासन से लिटिल और ग्रेट निकोबार की जनजातीय परिषद की शिकायत में उठाए गए बिंदुओं पर “तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्ट” मांगी है कि **13,000 हेक्टेयर** भूमि को **₹81,000 करोड़** के ग्रेट निकोबार आइलैंड प्रोजेक्ट के लिए **अगस्त 2022** में हस्तांतरित करने से पहले **वन अधिकार** नहीं निपटाए गए थे।

- In **August**, The Hindu reported about the complaint to **Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram** that the administration had made a “**false**” representation to the Centre in certifying that all **rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006** had been identified and settled before diverting the required forest land for the project in the **certificate issued on August 18, 2022**.

अगस्त में, द हिंदू ने रिपोर्ट किया कि **जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्री जुआल ओराम** को की गई शिकायत में कहा गया कि प्रशासन ने केंद्र को “झूठा” प्रमाणन दिया कि **वन अधिकार अधिनियम (FRA) 2006** के तहत **सभी अधिकार** पहचान लिए गए और निपटाए गए हैं, जबकि यह **18 अगस्त 2022** को जारी प्रमाण पत्र में दिखाया गया।

- The **council** said its **consent** had been “**obtained under pressure**” and **withdrawn formally soon after in a letter to the government**.
परिषद ने कहा कि उसकी सहमति “**दबाव में प्राप्त**” की गई थी और बाद में औपचारिक रूप से सरकार को पत्र लिखकर वापस ले ली गई।
- The **certificate** contradicted the administration’s position in **monthly FRA progress reports** to the **Ministry** that it **does not need to implement the Act**.
यह प्रमाण पत्र प्रशासन की उस स्थिति का खंडन करता है जो उसने मंत्रालय को मासिक FRA प्रगति रिपोर्ट में दी थी कि **इस अधिनियम को लागू करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है**।
- In a **letter to the Chief Secretary** of the Union Territory on **Monday**, the **Ministry** asked for a “**factual report addressing each of the points**” raised in the **news report and the letter of Tribal Council**.

सोमवार को केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के मुख्य सचिव को पत्र में, मंत्रालय ने “तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्ट” मांगी जिसमें समाचार रिपोर्ट और जनजातीय परिषद के पत्र में उठाए गए प्रत्येक बिंदु का उल्लेख हो।

- The **Ministry** said it had received the **letter from the Tribal Council**, “**raising the issue that the Forest Rights guaranteed to the Nicobarese in Great Nicobar Island have not been settled under the FRA, 2006, and Nicobarese have not consented to diversion of forest lands...**”.
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि उसे **जनजातीय परिषद का पत्र** प्राप्त हुआ जिसमें कहा गया, “**ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप के निकोबारी लोगों को गारंटी दिए गए वन अधिकार FRA, 2006 के तहत निपटाए नहीं गए हैं, और निकोबारी लोगों ने वन भूमि के हस्तांतरण के लिए सहमति नहीं दी है...**”।
- Earlier this year, **Mr. Oram** said **concerns over the project** are being “**examined**”.
इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में, **श्री ओराम** ने कहा कि **परियोजना को लेकर चिंताओं की “जांच की जा रही है”**।
- Weeks after sending the complaint to **Mr. Oram** in **July**, the **Tribal Council** said it had received **no response**.

जुलाई में श्री ओराम को शिकायत भेजने के सप्ताहों बाद, **जनजातीय परिषद** ने कहा कि उसे **कोई जवाब नहीं मिला**।

- The **council** then wrote to the **Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi**, on **August 26**, **flagging the authorities’ “refusal” to engage in dialogue with them**.
इसके बाद परिषद ने **26 अगस्त** को **लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी** को पत्र लिखा, जिसमें **अधिकारियों के संवाद में शामिल होने से “इनकार”** को उजागर किया।
- This prompted **Mr. Gandhi** to write to **Mr. Oram** last week, urging his office to **examine the concerns raised by the council**.
इससे प्रेरित होकर **श्री गांधी** ने पिछले सप्ताह **श्री ओराम** को पत्र लिखकर उनके कार्यालय से **परिषद द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताओं की जांच करने का आग्रह किया**।
- On **Monday**, **Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi**, in an article in **The Hindu**, **criticised the Centre over this project**, calling it a “**planned misadventure**”.
सोमवार को कांग्रेस संसदीय दल की अध्यक्ष **सोनिया गांधी** ने द हिंदू में एक लेख में इस परियोजना को लेकर केंद्र की आलोचना की और इसे “**योजनाबद्ध मूर्खता**” कहा।



- After sending the complaint to **Mr. Oram**, a member of the **Tribal Council** told **The Hindu** that it had **recently been made aware of the August 2022 certificate** issued by the **Deputy Commissioner of Nicobar**, certifying, “**The complete process for identification and settlement of rights under the FRA has been carried out...**”
श्री ओराम को शिकायत भेजने के बाद, **जनजातीय परिषद के एक सदस्य** ने द हिंदू को बताया कि उसे हाल ही में **अगस्त 2022 के प्रमाण पत्र** के बारे में पता चला, जो **निकोबार के डिप्टी कमिश्नर** द्वारा जारी किया गया था, जिसमें कहा गया था, “**FRA के तहत अधिकारों की पहचान और निपटान की पूरी प्रक्रिया पूरी की जा चुकी है...**”
- But the **Tribal Council** said that the **process of identification and settlement of rights under the FRA** “**has not even been initiated**”.
लेकिन **जनजातीय परिषद** ने कहा कि **FRA के तहत अधिकारों की पहचान और निपटान की प्रक्रिया** “**अब तक शुरू भी नहीं की गई है**”।
- According to the **progress reports**, the **administration** has maintained that it **does not need to implement the FRA**, arguing that **tribespeople’s rights were already protected** on the islands under the **Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Act, 1956** which enables the **administration to unilaterally divert forest land**.
प्रगति रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, **प्रशासन** का कहना है कि उसे **FRA लागू करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है**, यह तर्क देते हुए कि **जनजातीय लोगों के अधिकार पहले से ही 1956 के आदिवासी जनजातियों के संरक्षण अधिनियम के तहत द्वीपों पर संरक्षित हैं**, जो **प्रशासन को वन भूमि को एकतरफा हस्तांतरित करने की अनुमति देता है**।

PATRIOTIC



Can the T.N. government break the caste-job nexus?

How have the lives of civic workers in Bengaluru changed after the government regularised their jobs?

GS I: Society

Venkatanarayanan Sethuraman

Vijayalaya Srinivas

Viji Bathirasamy

The story so far:

In contemporary times, every sector is moving towards privatisation and contractualisation of the workforce. The recent struggle by conservancy workers in Chennai against privatisation, demanding regularisation, and the way in which they were arrested created a political storm in Chennai.

What happened in Chennai?

Contractual work under the government was providing conservancy workers with minimum wage, which will be further reduced when working under a private contract system. Since a majority of conservancy workers belong to the Dalit community, there were voices against regularisation, as it might perpetuate the

caste-based profession within the community for generations. But working under a private contractor is not going to break this nexus.

Has Bengaluru also faced the same?

A recent study by the authors on civic workers (*pourakarmikas*) in Bengaluru has shown progressive changes in their life after the Karnataka government announced the regularisation of around 12,000 civic workers this year. The 1976 report of the Committee on Improvement of Living and Working Conditions of Sweepers and Scavengers under the chairmanship of IPD Salappa was one of the important interventions which suggested changes in conditions of *pourakarmikas* in Karnataka. The extensive report discussed various aspects related to their housing, health, work safety, job security, etc., and suggested sweeping measures for rehabilitation and

providing healthy living and working conditions for them. Even though, regularisation was not a major issue back then, the privatisation and contractualisation of labour after the 1990's has worsened the status and situation of civic workers so much that it has become impossible to break the caste-profession nexus. But, the recent regularisation has given them hope to break this chain. After sustained struggle under the AICTTU, the government of Karnataka implemented two important measures in 2017 and 2018. In 2017, they implemented minimum wage and in 2018, they removed contractors and brought *pourakarmikas* under the direct payment system of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike with an assurance that they will be made permanent.

How to break the caste-job nexus?

Most of the *pourakarmikas* feel that

Can the T.N. Does the government break the caste-job nexus?

क्या तमिलनाडु सरकार जाति-नौकरी संबंध को तोड़ सकती है?

Privatisation and Contractualisation of Workforce

कर्मचारी शक्ति का निजीकरण और संविदात्मकरण

- In contemporary times, every sector is moving towards **privatisation** and **contractualisation** of the workforce.
आधुनिक समय में, हर क्षेत्र **कर्मचारी शक्ति के निजीकरण** और **संविदात्मकरण** की ओर बढ़ रहा है।
- The recent struggle by **conservancy workers in Chennai** against privatisation, demanding **regularisation**, and the way they were **arrested**, created a **political storm** in Chennai.
हाल ही में **चेन्नई में सफाई कर्मचारी** द्वारा निजीकरण के खिलाफ **नियमन की मांग** और जिस तरह उन्हें **गिरफ्तार किया गया**, उसने चेन्नई में **राजनीतिक तूफान** खड़ा कर दिया।

What happened in Chennai?

चेन्नई में क्या हुआ?

- Contractual work** under the government provided conservancy workers with **minimum wage**, which will be further reduced under a **private contract system**.
सरकार के तहत **संविदात्मक कार्य** सफाई कर्मचारियों को **न्यूनतम वेतन** देता था, जो **निजी संविदा प्रणाली** में और कम हो जाएगा।



- Since the majority of conservancy workers belong to the **Dalit community**, there were voices against **regularisation**, fearing it might **perpetuate caste-based profession** across generations.
चूँकि अधिकांश सफाई कर्मचारी **दलित समुदाय** से हैं, इसलिए **नियमन** के खिलाफ आवाजें उठीं, क्योंकि इससे **जाति-आधारित पेशा** पीढ़ियों तक जारी रह सकता है।
- Working under a **private contractor** is not going to break this **nexus**.
निजी ठेकेदार के तहत काम करने से यह **संबंध** नहीं टूटने वाला है।

Has Bengaluru also faced the same? क्या बैंगलुरु में भी यही स्थिति रही?

- A recent study on **civic workers (pourakarmikas)** in Bengaluru showed **progressive changes** after the Karnataka government announced **regularisation of around 12,000 civic workers** this year.
बैंगलुरु में **नगर निगम कर्मचारी (पौरकार्मिकास)** पर हालिया अध्ययन में यह दिखाया गया कि इस वर्ष कर्नाटक सरकार द्वारा **लगभग 12,000 नगर निगम कर्मचारियों का नियमन** घोषित करने के बाद उनके जीवन में **प्रगतिशील बदलाव** आए।
- The **1976 report** of the **Committee on Improvement of Living and Working Conditions of Sweepers and Scavengers** under **IPD Salappa** suggested **changes in housing, health, work safety, job security**, and other aspects for pourakarmikas.
1976 की रिपोर्ट, स्वीपर्स और स्कैवेंजर्स की जीवन और कार्य परिस्थितियों में सुधार समिति के तहत **IPD सालप्पा** ने पौरकार्मिकास के लिए **आवास, स्वास्थ्य, कार्य सुरक्षा, नौकरी सुरक्षा** और अन्य पहलुओं में बदलाव की सिफारिश की।
- **Privatisation and contractualisation** after the 1990s worsened the status of civic workers, making it **impossible to break caste-profession nexus**, but **recent regularisation has given hope** to break this chain.
1990 के बाद के **निजीकरण और संविदात्मकरण** ने नगर निगम कर्मचारियों की स्थिति को और खराब कर दिया, जिससे **जाति-पेशा संबंध को तोड़ना असंभव** हो गया, लेकिन हाल का **नियमन इस श्रृंखला को तोड़ने की उम्मीद** देता है।
- After sustained struggle under **ACTTU**, Karnataka government implemented **minimum wage in 2017** and **removed contractors in 2018**, bringing **pourakarmikas** under **direct payment system** of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike with assurance of **permanency**.
ACTTU के तहत लगातार संघर्ष के बाद, कर्नाटक सरकार ने **2017 में न्यूनतम वेतन लागू किया** और **2018 में ठेकेदारों को हटाया**, **पौरकार्मिकास** को **बृहद बैंगलुरु महानगर पालिका** के सीधे भुगतान प्रणाली में लाया और उन्हें **स्थायी बनाने का आश्वासन** दिया।

How to break the caste-job nexus? जाति-कार्य संबंध को कैसे तोड़ा जाए?

- Most pourakarmikas feel **regularisation and job security** are crucial to break the **caste-profession nexus**.
अधिकांश पौरकार्मिकास मानते हैं कि **नियमन और नौकरी सुरक्षा जाति-पेशा संबंध को तोड़ने में महत्वपूर्ण** हैं।
- It provides a **safety net**, protection against **exploitation and discrimination**, and strengthens **bargaining power** needed for equality.
यह **सुरक्षा जाल, शोषण और भेदभाव** के खिलाफ सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है और **समानता के लिए आवश्यक सौदेबाजी शक्ति** को मजबूत करता है।
- Under the earlier **private contract system**, pourakarmikas lacked **minimum wages, safety equipment, leave entitlements, compensation for injury/death**, and other legally mandated benefits.
पहले के **निजी संविदा प्रणाली** में पौरकार्मिकास को **न्यूनतम वेतन, सुरक्षा उपकरण, अवकाश लाभ, चोट/मृत्यु के लिए मुआवजा**, और अन्य कानूनी लाभ नहीं मिलते थे।
- Such **uncertainty** hindered focus on **health, children's education**, and **breaking next-generation caste-profession nexus**.



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ऐसी अनिश्चितता ने स्वास्थ्य, बच्चों की शिक्षा, और अगली पीढ़ी का जाति-पेशा संबंध तोड़ने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने में बाधा डाली।

What should the DMK do?

DMK को क्या करना चाहिए?

- The **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)**, rooted in **social justice and caste annihilation**, must **rethink the approach** towards **regularisation demand** of conservancy workers.
द्रविड़ मुनेत्र कज़गम (DMK), जो सामाजिक न्याय और जाति उन्मूलन में आधारित है, को सफाई कर्मचारियों की नियमन की मांग के प्रति अपना दृष्टिकोण पुनर्विचार करना चाहिए।
- Despite announcing various **welfare measures**, working under **private contractors** with **job insecurity** will prevent breaking the **caste-profession nexus**.
विभिन्न कल्याणकारी उपायों की घोषणा के बावजूद, निजी ठेकेदारों के तहत नौकरी असुरक्षा के साथ काम करने से जाति-पेशा संबंध को तोड़ना संभव नहीं होगा।

PATRIOTIC IAS



EXPLAINER



Rejuvenating cities: A fisherman casting his net into the backwaters, in Kochi. H.VIBHU

Lessons for India: how Kerala is tackling rapid urbanisation

As the first State-level urban commission in the country, the Kerala Urban Policy Commission's report promises nothing less than a data revolution, governance recalibration, identity revival, and finance empowerment

CSIS Society

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

Kerala is a tapestry of villages rippling into towns, of backwaters, and midlands and highlands woven together in a living continuum. Capital cities and hamlets bleed into each other, forming a unique "rurban" landscape. Yet beneath this tapestry lies a race against time – urbanisation accelerating faster than infrastructure and governance can keep up, while climate stress lurks in floods, landslides, coastal erosion, and unpredictable weather. In response, Kerala decided to tackle the problem head-on with the Kerala Urban Policy Commission.

What is the KUPC?

The Kerala Urban Policy Commission, (KUPC) set in motion in December 2023, was charged with designing a 25-year urban roadmap that sees cities not as concrete problems, but as organic, climate-aware ecosystems. When the KUPC handed its report to the State in March 2025, the result was not a mild adjustment – it was a structural reset. The blueprint promised nothing less than a data revolution, governance recalibration, identity revival, and finance empowerment – all tied together in one bold vision.

Why was it needed?

By late 2023, Kerala was urbanising at a pace well ahead of the national average. Estimates projected an urban population of over 80% by 2050 – a seismic shift in a region where villages and towns intermesh in a delicate mosaic. Meanwhile, climate threats were intensifying. Floods devastated Ernakulam; landslides shattered hillsides; and coastal zones reeled from sea-level pressures. The gap between crisis and planning was growing wide.

The cabinet's December 2023 resolution to form the KUPC was a calculated break from India's centralised, project-based urban model. It was a

political acknowledgement that Kerala needed its own compass – tailored to its place, history, and climate context. No other State had taken such a leap. Therefore, the KUPC became India's first State-level urban commission, signalling a paradigm shift – from reactive fixes to systemic thinking.

What were the recommendations of the commission?

The commission conducted 33 deep-dive studies, covering everything from land-use patterns and water systems to finance flows and civic health. It held 53 district-level stakeholder dialogues, involving mayors, NGOs, unions, resident associations, gig workers, and panchayat members.

A 2,359-page final report, structured around 10 thematic pillars, ranging from climate readiness and finance to well-being and identity, was submitted to the State. The commission drew on Census numbers, satellite imagery, socio-economic realities, ecological hazards, and Kerala's lived "rurban" character to deliver actionable insights grounded in evidence and local narrative.

Some of the most important recommendations of the KUPC report submitted to the Chief Minister on March 30, 2025 include:

Climate and risk-aware zoning: Any kind of urban planning must reflect hazard mapping of landslides, coastal inundation, flood zones etc. Thus, planning becomes proactive, instead of being reactive.

A digital data observatory: At the Kerala Institute of Local Administration, a real-time data nerve centre could collate high-resolution Light Detection and Ranging, and ground penetrating radar, tide/water gauge, satellite and real-time weather data. Thus, every municipality gains a living intelligence feed.

Green fees and climate insurance: Projects in eco-sensitive zones could come with environmental levies (green fees) which would fund urban resilience. A parametric insurance model ensures pre-approved payouts for disaster-prone

areas.

Municipal and pooled bonds: While Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, and Kozhikode, being bigger cities, could issue municipal bonds, smaller towns would use pooled instruments. Bond subscriptions were even plugged into the 2024 interim Budget.

Governance overhaul: City cabinets, led by mayors, could replace bureaucratic inertia. Specialist cells (climate, waste, mobility, law) with dedicated municipal cadres should be formed. A "Jnanashree" program would recruit and deploy youth tech talent.

Place-based economic revival: Thrissur-Kochi is known as a FinTech hub; Thiruvananthapuram-Kollam a knowledge corridor; Kozhikode is known as the city of literature; and Palakkad and Kasaragod have been elevated to smart-industrial zones.

Commons, culture, and care: The report stressed the need to revive wetlands, reactivate waterways and preserve heritage zones. It also recommended city health councils to cater to migrants, students, gig workers.

Why is the report unique?

The KUPC highlighted a deeper innovation: the fusion of local narratives and data systems.

Commission members described how fishermen's ordeals with coastal recession, youth-crafted water conservation drives, or mobility woes voiced by bazaar vendors – all became structured into the urban data apparatus. LIDAR maps now register tidal health near fishing zones; municipal dashboards carry community-generated indicators; and city briefing templates reflect lived stories. Rather than imposing "top-down solutions," policies were co-produced with citizens, giving Kerala an urban intelligence engine – a living, breathing system where city systems absorb, interpret and act on the emotional, lived intelligence of local communities.

What distinguishes the KUPC isn't one big idea – it's the collision of several game-changing ones.

The KUPC is the first State-level commission built for sub-national realities and not recycled from national frameworks. In its report, climate resilience is embedded and not appended – every pillar integrates disaster awareness. The report also calls for the emancipation of public finance through municipal bonds and green levies which give local bodies fiscal agency.

It also re-defines governance from passive bureaucracies to dynamic election-led city cabinets, guided by youth technocrats. Rich stories fuel data, and data fuels policy, closing the feedback loop between lived reality and institutional action. Together, these features dismantle silos – in planning, finance, governance – and re-assemble them into a 360° urban system.

Does it offer lessons for other States?

Kerala's Urban Commission offers a template with tangible takeaways for other States – mandate a time-bound commission; combine technical data with lived experience and create dialogic systems where citizen inputs are mapped into data observatories; empower local bodies with green levies, bonds, and risk premiums; and insert youth and specialists in governance.

What next?

The KUPC changed more than planning – it rewired the DNA of how a State conceives its cities and towns. It entwined climate awareness, community narrative, financial empowerment, digital governance, and identity economy into a living document-functional plan.

As the first such State-level commission in the country, KUPC isn't an end – it's a beginning. For Kerala, it's a chance to grow not just richer, but wiser; not just bigger, but better; not just more urban, but more human.

For others, it's a call to action: urban transformation isn't a problem to solve. It's a story to be authored – together.

Tikender Singh Panwar is a Member of the KUPC and a former deputy mayor, Shimla.



Lessons for India: how Kerala is tackling rapid urbanisation

भारत के लिए पाठ: केरल तेजी से हो रही शहरीकरण से कैसे निपट रहा है

- As the first State-level urban commission in the country, the **Kerala Urban Policy Commission's report** promises nothing less than a **data revolution, governance recalibration, identity revival, and finance empowerment**.
देश में पहली राज्य-स्तरीय शहरी आयोग के रूप में, केरल अर्बन पॉलिसी कमीशन की रिपोर्ट कुछ कम नहीं बल्कि डेटा क्रांति, शासन पुनःसंतुलन, पहचान पुनरुद्धार, और वित्त सशक्तिकरण का वादा करती है।

Kerala Urban Policy Commission (KUPC) केरल शहरी नीति आयोग (KUPC)

- Kerala is a **tapestry of villages rippling into towns, backwaters, midlands, and highlands, forming a living continuum**.
केरल गांवों से शहरों, बैकवॉटर, मिडलैंड्स और हाईलैंड्स का एक ताना-बाना है, जो एक जीवंत सततता बनाता है।
- Capital cities and hamlets merge to form a unique **"rurban" landscape**, but **urbanisation** is accelerating faster than **infrastructure and governance, with climate risks like floods, landslides, coastal erosion, and unpredictable weather**.
राजधानी शहर और छोटे गांव एक अनोखी "रर्बन" परिदृश्य बनाते हैं, लेकिन शहरीकरण इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर और शासन से तेजी से बढ़ रहा है, जबकि बाढ़, भूस्खलन, तटीय कटाव और अप्रत्याशित मौसम जैसी जलवायु चुनौतियाँ हैं।
- Kerala decided to tackle the problem with the **Kerala Urban Policy Commission (KUPC)**.
केरल ने इस समस्या का समाधान केरल शहरी नीति आयोग (KUPC) के माध्यम से करने का निर्णय लिया।

What is the KUPC? KUPC क्या है?

- The **Kerala Urban Policy Commission (KUPC)** was set in motion in **December 2023**, tasked with designing a **25-year urban roadmap** viewing cities as **climate-aware ecosystems**.
केरल शहरी नीति आयोग (KUPC) को दिसंबर 2023 में शुरू किया गया था, इसका कार्य 25-वर्षीय शहरी रोडमैप तैयार करना था, जिसमें शहरों को जलवायु-सचेत पारिस्थितिक तंत्र के रूप में देखा गया।
- When the KUPC handed its report in **March 2025**, it proposed a **structural reset**, including **data revolution, governance recalibration, identity revival, and finance empowerment**.
जब KUPC ने मार्च 2025 में अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपी, तो इसमें संरचनात्मक पुनर्स्थापना, डेटा क्रांति, शासन पुनःसमायोजन, पहचान पुनरुद्धार और वित्त सशक्तिकरण का प्रस्ताव था।

Why was it needed? यह क्यों आवश्यक था?

- By late **2023**, Kerala was **urbanising faster than the national average**, with projections of **urban population over 80% by 2050**.
2023 के अंत तक, केरल राष्ट्रीय औसत से तेजी से शहरीकृत हो रहा था, और अनुमान था कि 2050 तक शहरी आबादी 80% से अधिक होगी।
- Climate threats were intensifying: **floods in Ernakulam, landslides in hills, coastal pressures**.
जलवायु खतरों में वृद्धि हो रही थी: **एर्नाकुलम में बाढ़, पहाड़ियों में भूस्खलन, तटीय दबाव**।
- The **December 2023 cabinet resolution** to form KUPC was a break from **centralised, project-based urban models**, making Kerala India's **first State-level urban commission**.



KUPC बनाने के लिए दिसंबर 2023 के कैबिनेट निर्णय ने केंद्रीकृत, परियोजना-आधारित शहरी मॉडल से एक अंतर पैदा किया, और केरल को भारत की पहली राज्य-स्तरीय शहरी आयोग बना दिया।

What were the recommendations of the commission?

आयोग की सिफारिशें क्या थीं?

- The commission conducted **33 deep-dive studies** covering **land-use, water systems, finance flows, civic health**.
आयोग ने 33 गहन अध्ययन किए, जिनमें भूमि उपयोग, जल प्रणाली, वित्त प्रवाह, नागरिक स्वास्थ्य शामिल थे।
- **53 district-level stakeholder dialogues** involved mayors, NGOs, unions, resident associations, gig workers, and panchayat members.
53 जिला-स्तरीय हितधारक संवाद में मेयर्स, NGOs, यूनियन्स, निवास संघ, गिग वर्कर्स और पंचायत सदस्य शामिल थे।
- A **2,359-page final report** structured around **10 thematic pillars** including **climate readiness, finance, well-being, and identity**, using **Census data, satellite imagery, socio-economic realities, ecological hazards**, and Kerala's **rurban character**.
2,359 पृष्ठों की अंतिम रिपोर्ट में 10 थीमेटिक स्तंभ जैसे जलवायु तैयारी, वित्त, कल्याण और पहचान शामिल थे, और इसमें जनगणना डेटा, सैटेलाइट इमेजरी, सामाजिक-आर्थिक वास्तविकताएँ, पारिस्थितिक खतरें, और केरल का रबर्न चरित्र शामिल किया गया।
- Key recommendations submitted to Chief Minister on **March 30, 2025**:
मुख्यमंत्री को 30 मार्च 2025 को प्रस्तुत मुख्य सिफारिशें:
 - **Climate and risk-aware zoning**: Urban planning must reflect **hazard mapping of landslides, coastal inundation, flood zones**, making planning **proactive**.
जलवायु और जोखिम-सचेत ज़ोनिंग: शहरी योजना में भूस्खलन, तटीय बाढ़, बाढ़ क्षेत्र का नक्शा शामिल होना चाहिए, जिससे योजना सक्रिय बने।
 - **Digital data observatory**: Kerala Institute of Local Administration to collate **LiDAR, ground-penetrating radar, tide/water gauge, satellite, and real-time weather data**, providing every municipality a **living intelligence feed**.
डिजिटल डेटा वेधशाला: केरल लोक प्रशासन संस्थान में **LiDAR, ग्राउंड-प्रनेट्रिंग राडार, ज्वार/जल स्तर मापक, उपग्रह और वास्तविक समय मौसम डेटा** को एकत्र किया जाएगा, जिससे हर नगर पालिका को **सजीव इंटेलिजेंस फीड** मिले।
 - **Green fees and climate insurance**: Projects in **eco-sensitive zones** may include **environmental levies (green fees)** to fund urban resilience. A **parametric insurance model** ensures **pre-approved disaster payouts**.
ग्रीन फीस और जलवायु बीमा: पर्यावरण-संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में परियोजनाओं में पर्यावरण कर (ग्रीन फीस) शामिल हो सकते हैं, जो शहरी लचीलापन निधि करेंगे। एक पैरामीट्रिक बीमा मॉडल सुनिश्चित करता है कि **आपदा-प्रवण क्षेत्रों के लिए पूर्व-स्वीकृत भुगतान** मिले।

Municipal and Pooled Bonds

नगर पालिका और पूल बांड

- While **Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, and Kozhikode**, being bigger cities, could issue **municipal bonds**, smaller towns would use **pooled instruments**.
जबकि **तिरुवनंतपुरम, कोची, और कोझिकोड**, बड़े शहर होने के नाते, **नगर पालिका बांड** जारी कर सकते हैं, छोटे शहर **पूल्ड इंस्ट्रूमेंट्स** का उपयोग करेंगे।
- **Bond subscriptions** were even plugged into the **2024 interim Budget**.
बांड सब्सक्रिप्शन को **2024 अंतरिम बजट** में भी जोड़ा गया।

Governance Overhaul

शासन में सुधार

- **City cabinets**, led by **mayors**, could replace **bureaucratic inertia**.
नगरपालिका कैबिनेट, मेयर्स के नेतृत्व में, **नौकरशाही जड़ता** को बदल सकते हैं।



- **Specialist cells** (climate, waste, mobility, law) with dedicated **municipal cadres** should be formed.
समर्पित नगर पालिका कैडर के साथ विशेषज्ञ सेल (जलवायु, कचरा, गतिशीलता, कानून) का निर्माण किया जाना चाहिए।
- A “**Jnanashree**” program would recruit and deploy **youth tech talent**.
“ज्ञानश्री” कार्यक्रम युवा तकनीकी प्रतिभा को भर्ती और तैनात करेगा।

Place-based Economic Revival

स्थान-आधारित आर्थिक पुनरुद्धार

- **Thrissur-Kochi** is known as a **FinTech hub**; **Thiruvananthapuram-Kollam** a **knowledge corridor**; **Kozhikode** is known as the **city of literature**; and **Palakkad and Kasaragod** have been elevated to **smart-industrial zones**.
त्रिश्शूर-कोची को फिनटेक हब के रूप में जाना जाता है; तिरुवनंतपुरम-कोल्लम एक नॉलेज कॉरिडोर है; कोझिकोड को साहित्य का शहर कहा जाता है; और पालक्कड़ और कसारागोड़ को स्मार्ट-इंडस्ट्रियल जोन में उन्नत किया गया है।

Commons, Culture, and Care

सामान्य स्थान, संस्कृति और देखभाल

- The report stressed the need to **revive wetlands, reactivate waterways** and **preserve heritage zones**.
रिपोर्ट ने **वेटलैंड्स को पुनर्जीवित, जलमार्गों को पुनः सक्रिय और विरासत क्षेत्रों को संरक्षित** करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- It also recommended **city health councils** to cater to **migrants, students, gig workers**.
यह **शहरी स्वास्थ्य परिषदों** की भी सिफारिश करता है जो **प्रवासी, छात्र, गिग वर्कर्स** की सेवा करें।

Why is the Report Unique?

रिपोर्ट अद्वितीय क्यों है?

- The **KUPC** highlighted a deeper innovation: the **fusion of local narratives and data systems**.
KUPC ने एक गहरी नवाचार को उजागर किया: **स्थानीय कथाओं और डेटा सिस्टम का मिश्रण**।
- Commission members described how **fishermen's ordeals** with **coastal recession, youth-crafted water conservation drives, or mobility woes** voiced by **bazaar vendors** — all became structured into the **urban data apparatus**.
आयोग के सदस्यों ने बताया कि कैसे **मछुआरों की तटीय क्षय की परेशानियाँ, युवा-निर्मित जल संरक्षण अभियान, या बाजार विक्रेताओं द्वारा उठाई गई गतिशीलता समस्याएँ** — सभी को **शहरी डेटा तंत्र** में संरचित किया गया।
- **LIDAR maps** now register **tidal health near fishing zones**; **municipal dashboards** carry **community-generated indicators**; and **city briefing templates** reflect **lived stories**.
अब **LIDAR मैप्स मछली पकड़ने के क्षेत्रों के पास ज्वारीय स्वास्थ्य को दर्ज करते हैं**; **नगर पालिका डैशबोर्ड्स** में **समुदाय-जनित संकेतक** होते हैं; और **शहर ब्रीफिंग टेम्पलेट्स** में **जीवित कहानियाँ** दिखाई देती हैं।
- Rather than imposing “**top-down solutions**”, policies were **co-produced with citizens**, giving Kerala an **urban intelligence engine** — a **living, breathing system** where **city systems absorb, interpret and act on the emotional, lived intelligence** of local communities.
“**टॉप-डाउन समाधान**” लागू करने के बजाय, नीतियाँ **नागरिकों के साथ सह-निर्मित** की गईं, जिससे केरल को एक **शहरी इंटेलिजेंस इंजन** मिला — एक **जीवित, सांस लेने वाला सिस्टम**, जहाँ **शहरी प्रणालियाँ स्थानीय समुदायों की भावनात्मक, अनुभवजन्य बुद्धिमत्ता को ग्रहण, व्याख्यायित और कार्यान्वित** करती हैं।
- What distinguishes the KUPC isn't one **big idea** — it's the **collision of several game-changing ones**.



KUPC को अलग करने वाली बात केवल एक बड़ी विचार नहीं है — यह कई खेल बदलने वाले विचारों का संगम है।

- The KUPC is the **first State-level commission built for sub-national realities** and not recycled from **national frameworks**.
KUPC पहली राज्य-स्तरीय आयोग है जो उप-राष्ट्रीय वास्तविकताओं के लिए बनाई गई है और राष्ट्रीय ढांचों से पुनर्नवीनीकृत नहीं है।
- In its report, **climate resilience** is embedded and not appended — every **pillar integrates disaster awareness**.
अपनी रिपोर्ट में, **जलवायु सहनशीलता** को जोड़ा गया है, न कि केवल संलग्न किया गया — प्रत्येक स्तंभ में **आपदा जागरूकता** शामिल है।
- The report also calls for the **emancipation of public finance through municipal bonds and green levies** which give **local bodies fiscal agency**.
रिपोर्ट **नगर पालिका बांड और ग्रीन लेवीज़** के माध्यम से **सार्वजनिक वित्त की मुक्ति** की भी मांग करती है, जो **स्थानीय निकायों को वित्तीय एजेंसी** देती हैं।
- It also redefines **governance** from **passive bureaucracies** to **dynamic election-led city cabinets**, guided by **youth technocrats**.
यह **शासन** को **निष्क्रिय नौकरशाही** से **गतिशील चुनाव-नेतृत्व वाले नगर कैबिनेट** में पुनर्परिभाषित करता है, जिसे **युवा तकनीकी विशेषज्ञों** द्वारा मार्गदर्शित किया जाता है।
- **Rich stories fuel data**, and **data fuels policy**, closing the **feedback loop** between **lived reality** and **institutional action**.
समृद्ध कहानियाँ **डेटा को बढ़ावा देती हैं**, और **डेटा नीति को बढ़ावा देता है**, जो **जीवित वास्तविकता और संस्थागत कार्रवाई** के बीच **फीडबैक लूप** को बंद करता है।
- Together, these features dismantle **silos** — in **planning, finance, governance** — and re-assemble them into a **360° urban system**.
साथ मिलकर, ये विशेषताएँ **सिलो** को तोड़ती हैं — **योजना, वित्त, शासन** में — और उन्हें एक **360° शहरी प्रणाली** में पुनः संयोजित करती हैं।

Does it offer lessons for other States?

क्या यह अन्य राज्यों के लिए सबक प्रदान करता है?

- Kerala's **Urban Commission** offers a **template with tangible takeaways** for other States — mandate a **time-bound commission**; combine **technical data** with **lived experience** and create **dialogic systems** where **citizen inputs** are mapped into **data observatories**; empower **local bodies** with **green levies, bonds, and risk premiums**; and insert **youth and specialists** in governance.
केरल की **अर्बन कमीशन** अन्य राज्यों के लिए **ठोस सबक के साथ एक टेम्पलेट** प्रदान करती है — एक **समयबद्ध आयोग** का निर्माण करें; **तकनीकी डेटा** को **जीवित अनुभव** के साथ जोड़ें और **संवादी प्रणाली** बनाएं जहाँ **नागरिक इनपुट** को **डेटा ऑब्जर्वेटरीज़** में मैप किया जाता है; **स्थानीय निकायों** को **ग्रीन लेवीज़, बांड और जोखिम प्रीमियम** से सशक्त बनाएं; और **युवा और विशेषज्ञों** को शासन में शामिल करें।

What Next?

अगला क्या?

- The KUPC changed more than **planning** — it rewired the **DNA** of how a **State conceives its cities and towns**.
KUPC ने केवल **योजना** ही नहीं बदली — यह बदल दिया कि एक **राज्य अपने शहरों और कस्बों** की अवधारणा कैसे करता है।
- It entwined **climate awareness, community narrative, financial empowerment, digital governance, and identity economy** into a **living document-functional plan**.
इसने **जलवायु जागरूकता, सामुदायिक कथा, वित्तीय सशक्तिकरण, डिजिटल शासन, और पहचान अर्थव्यवस्था** को एक **जीवित दस्तावेज-कार्यात्मक योजना** में जोड़ा।
- As the **first such State-level commission** in the country, KUPC isn't an end — it's a **beginning**.
देश में **पहली ऐसी राज्य-स्तरीय आयोग** के रूप में, KUPC एक अंत नहीं है — यह एक **शुरुआत** है।



- For Kerala, it's a chance to grow not just **richer**, but **wiser**; not just **bigger**, but **better**; not just more **urban**, but more **human**.
केरल के लिए, यह केवल धनी नहीं बल्कि सुलझा हुआ, केवल बड़ा नहीं बल्कि बेहतर, केवल शहरी नहीं बल्कि मानवकेंद्रित बनने का अवसर है।
- For others, it's a **call to action**: **urban transformation** isn't a problem to solve.
अन्य राज्यों के लिए, यह एक कार्यवाई का आह्वान है: शहरी परिवर्तन कोई हल करने योग्य समस्या नहीं है।

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

1. **C.P. Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President**
सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन उपराष्ट्रपति निर्वाचित
2. **Three soldiers killed as avalanche hits Army base camp in Siachen of Ladakh**
लद्दाख के सियाचिन में सेना के बेस कैंप पर हिमस्खलन, तीन जवान शहीद
3. **INDIA gathers flock for poll, but fails to keep it together**
चुनाव के लिए INDIA ने जुटाया समर्थन, लेकिन एकजुटता बनाए रखने में नाकाम
4. **Governors must act as true guides and philosophers to States, says CJI Gavai**
राज्यों के लिए राज्यपालों को सच्चे मार्गदर्शक और दार्शनिक की तरह कार्य करना चाहिए, सीजेआई गवई का कहना है
5. **Decisive step**
निर्णायक कदम
6. **Why was Indonesia rocked by protests?**
इंडोनेशिया क्यों विरोध प्रदर्शन की चपेट में आया?
7. **Violence reveals the deep structural failures of Nepal's democratic experiment**
नेपाल के लोकतांत्रिक प्रयोग की गहरी संरचनात्मक विफलताओं को उजागर करती हिंसा



C.P. Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President

The NDA nominee got 452 first preferential votes against Opposition candidate who got 300 votes | While 14 MPs abstained, 15 votes were found to be invalid; full electoral college comprises 788 electors | Voting pattern shows that the nationalistic ideology has emerged victorious, says Radhakrishnan

GSII: Executive
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected the 17th Vice-President of India on Tuesday by a margin of 152 votes. The Opposition fell short of its own expected tally, even as 98.2% of the total electorate, comprising members of both Houses of Parliament, cast their ballot.

Mr. Radhakrishnan — the ruling National Democratic Alliance's nominee — got 452 first preferential votes against the joint Opposition candidate Justice B. Sudershan Reddy, who got 300 votes. Fifteen votes were found to be invalid and 14 MPs abstained.

Including the strength of both Houses, the full electoral college comprises 788 electors. With six va-

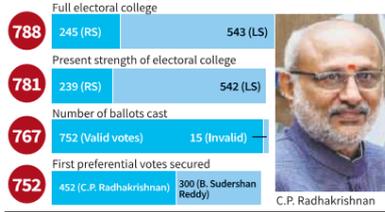
cancies in the Rajya Sabha and one in the Lok Sabha, this tally was reduced to 781 for the election.

Out of this, 767 electors cast their vote before the polling closed at 5 p.m. Rajya Sabha Secretary-General P.C. Mody, the Returning Officer for the election, announced the results.

Cross-voting
Though the Opposition declared the final count a "moral victory", it still fell short of its own estimated strength of 324, despite having managed to get nearly all of its members to vote. On the other hand, the NDA and others aligned with the government, which had an presumed strength of 439, seem to have managed an additional 13 votes, indicating cross-voting from the Opposition's ranks.

Comfortable victory

Radhakrishnan won by a margin of 152 votes, as 98.2% of the total electorate, comprising both Houses of Parliament, cast their ballot



"Congratulations to Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji on winning the 2025 Vice Presidential election. His life has always been devoted to serving society and empowering the poor and marginalised. I am confident that he will be an outstanding VP, who will strengthen our Constitutional values

and enhance Parliamentary discourse," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X.

Other senior Ministers and BJP leaders also congratulated Mr. Radhakrishnan.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge extended his wishes to Mr. Radhak-

rishnan, while also thanking Justice Reddy for putting up a "spirited and principled fight" on behalf of the Opposition. Calling it an ideological battle, he said, "We hope the new Vice President-elect will uphold the highest ethos of Parliamentary traditions, ensuring equal space and dignity for the Opposition, and not succumb to pressures of the ruling dispensation."

In a concession statement, Justice Reddy said that he humbly accepted the outcome. "Our democracy is strengthened not by victory alone, but by the spirit of dialogue, dissent and participation. I remain committed, as a citizen, to upholding the ideals of equality, fraternity, and liberty that bind us together. May our Constitution continue to be the guiding light

of our national life," he said.

In his first public remarks after the win, Mr. Radhakrishnan said, "The other side camp (opposition alliance) said that this (election) is an ideological fight, but from the voting pattern, we understand that the nationalistic ideology has emerged victorious." He said, "It is a victory for every Indian; we all have to work together. If we have to develop Viksit Bharat by 2047, which means we should not do politics in everything, now we will have to concentrate on development."

BJP leaders were quick to claim that at least 15 Opposition MPs had voted in favour of Mr. Radhakrishnan. BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal claimed that "nearly 40 Opposition MPs" had listened to the voice of their

conscience and voted in "some manner" in support of the NDA candidate, showing a wider acceptance for him. His assertion of support from 40 Opposition MPs appeared to include several invalid votes.

Countering this claim, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh insisted that the Opposition stood united. "Its performance has undeniably been most respectable. Its joint candidate Justice (ret'd) B. Sudershan Reddy secured 40% of the vote. In 2022, the Opposition had received 26% of the vote in the Vice Presidential Elections. The BJP's arithmetical victory is really both a moral and political defeat," he said on X.

RELATED REPORTS
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C.P. Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन उपराष्ट्रपति निर्वाचित

C.P. Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन उपराष्ट्रपति निर्वाचित

- The **NDA nominee** got **452 first preferential votes** against **Opposition candidate** who got **300 votes**
एनडीए उम्मीदवार को 452 प्रथम वरीयता वोट मिले जबकि विपक्षी उम्मीदवार को 300 वोट मिले
- While **14 MPs abstained**, **15 votes** were found to be **invalid**; full electoral college comprises **788 electors**
जहाँ 14 सांसदों ने मतदान से परहेज किया, 15 वोट अवैध पाए गए; पूर्ण निर्वाचक मंडल में 788 मतदाता शामिल हैं
- Voting pattern shows that the **nationalistic ideology** has emerged **victorious**, says **Radhakrishnan**
मतदान पैटर्न से पता चलता है कि राष्ट्रवादी विचारधारा विजयी हुई है, ऐसा राधाकृष्णन ने कहा
- Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan** was elected the **17th Vice-President of India** on **Tuesday** by a margin of **152 votes**
महाराष्ट्र के राज्यपाल सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन को भारत के 17वें उपराष्ट्रपति के रूप में मंगलवार को 152 वोटों के अंतर से चुना गया
- The **Opposition** fell short of its own expected tally, even as **98.2%** of the total electorate, comprising members of both **Houses of Parliament**, cast their ballot
विपक्ष अपनी अपेक्षित संख्या से पीछे रह गया, जबकि कुल निर्वाचकों में से 98.2%, जो संसद के दोनों सदनों के सदस्य हैं, ने मतदान किया
- Mr. **Radhakrishnan** — the ruling **National Democratic Alliance's** nominee — got **452 first preferential votes** against the joint **Opposition candidate Justice B. Sudershan Reddy**, who got **300 votes**
राधाकृष्णन — सत्तारूढ़ राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन के उम्मीदवार — को 452 प्रथम वरीयता वोट मिले जबकि संयुक्त विपक्षी उम्मीदवार जस्टिस बी. सुधर्शन रेड्डी को 300 वोट मिले
- Fifteen votes** were found to be **invalid** and **14 MPs** abstained
पंद्रह वोट अवैध पाए गए और 14 सांसदों ने मतदान से परहेज किया



- Including the strength of both **Houses**, the full **electoral college** comprises **788 electors** दोनों **सदनों** की शक्ति को मिलाकर पूर्ण **निर्वाचक मंडल** में **788 मतदाता** होते हैं
- With **six vacancies** in the **Rajya Sabha** and **one** in the **Lok Sabha**, this tally was reduced to **781** for the election
राज्यसभा में छह रिक्तियां और लोकसभा में एक रिक्ति होने के कारण, यह संख्या चुनाव के लिए **781** रह गई
- Out of this, **767 electors** cast their vote before the polling closed at **5 p.m.**
इसमें से **767 मतदाताओं** ने मतदान शाम **5 बजे** मतदान समाप्त होने से पहले किया
- **Rajya Sabha Secretary-General P.C. Mody**, the **Returning Officer** for the election, announced the results
राज्यसभा के महासचिव पी.सी. मोदी, जो चुनाव के रिटर्निंग ऑफिसर हैं, ने परिणामों की घोषणा की

Cross-voting क्रॉस-वोटिंग

- Though the **Opposition** declared the final count a “**moral victory**”, it still fell short of its own estimated strength of **324**, despite having managed to get nearly all of its members to vote हालांकि **विपक्ष** ने अंतिम परिणाम को “**नैतिक विजय**” बताया, फिर भी वह अपनी अनुमानित **324** की संख्या से पीछे रह गया, जबकि उसने अपने लगभग सभी सदस्यों को मतदान के लिए तैयार कर लिया था
- On the other hand, the **NDA** and others aligned with the **government**, which had an assumed strength of **439**, seem to have managed an additional **13 votes**, indicating **cross-voting** from the **Opposition's ranks**
दूसरी ओर, **एनडीए** और **सरकार** से जुड़े अन्य दल, जिनकी अनुमानित संख्या **439** थी, उन्होंने अतिरिक्त **13** वोट प्राप्त किए, जो **विपक्षी खेमे** से **क्रॉस-वोटिंग** का संकेत देते हैं
- “**Congratulations to Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji** on winning the **2025 Vice Presidential election**. His life has always been devoted to **servicing society** and **empowering the poor and marginalized**. I am confident that he will be an **outstanding VP**, who will **strengthen our Constitutional values** and **enhance Parliamentary discourse**,” **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** posted on X
“**2025 के उपराष्ट्रपति चुनाव** में जीत के लिए **थिरु सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन जी** को **बधाई**। उनका जीवन हमेशा **समाज सेवा** और **गरीबों व हाशिए पर रहने वालों को सशक्त बनाने** के लिए समर्पित रहा है। मुझे विश्वास है कि वह एक **उत्कृष्ट उपराष्ट्रपति** होंगे, जो **हमारे संवैधानिक मूल्यों को मजबूत करेंगे** और **संसदीय विमर्श को बढ़ावा देंगे**,” **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने एक्स पर पोस्ट किया
- Other **senior Ministers** and **BJP leaders** also congratulated Mr. **Radhakrishnan**
अन्य **वरिष्ठ मंत्री** और **भाजपा नेताओं** ने भी **राधाकृष्णन** को **बधाई** दी
- **Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge** extended his wishes to Mr. **Radhakrishnan**, while also thanking **Justice Reddy** for putting up a “**spirited and principled fight**” on behalf of the **Opposition**
कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने **राधाकृष्णन** को शुभकामनाएँ दीं और साथ ही **न्यायमूर्ति रेड्डी** को **विपक्ष** की ओर से “**जोशीली और सैद्धांतिक लड़ाई**” लड़ने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया
- Calling it an **ideological battle**, he said, “We hope the new **Vice President-elect** will uphold the highest **ethos of Parliamentary traditions**, ensuring **equal space and dignity** for the **Opposition**, and not succumb to pressures of the **ruling dispensation**.”
इसे **वैचारिक लड़ाई** बताते हुए उन्होंने कहा, “हम आशा करते हैं कि नए **निर्वाचित उपराष्ट्रपति** सर्वोच्च **संसदीय परंपराओं के आदर्शों** को बनाए रखेंगे, **विपक्ष** को **समान स्थान और गरिमा** देंगे, और **सत्तारूढ़ दल** के दबाव में नहीं आएंगे।”
- In a **concession statement**, **Justice Reddy** said that he humbly accepted the outcome एक **स्वीकारोक्ति बयान** में, **न्यायमूर्ति रेड्डी** ने कहा कि वह परिणाम को **विनम्रतापूर्वक स्वीकार** करते हैं
- “Our **democracy** is strengthened not by **victory alone**, but by the **spirit of dialogue, dissent and participation**. I remain committed, as a citizen, to **upholding the ideals of equality, fraternity, and liberty** that bind us together. May our **Constitution** continue to be the **guiding light** of our national life,” he said
“हमारा **लोकतंत्र** केवल **जीत** से ही नहीं बल्कि **संवाद, असहमति और भागीदारी की भावना** से मजबूत होता है। एक नागरिक के रूप में मैं **समानता, भाईचारे और स्वतंत्रता के आदर्शों** को बनाए रखने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध



हूँ, जो हमें एक साथ बांधते हैं। हमारा संविधान हमेशा हमारे राष्ट्रीय जीवन का मार्गदर्शक प्रकाश बना रहे,” उन्होंने कहा

- In his first public remarks after the win, Mr. **Radhakrishnan** said, “The other side camp (**opposition alliance**) said that this **election** is an **ideological fight**, but from the voting pattern, we understand that the **nationalistic ideology** has emerged **victorious**.”
जीत के बाद अपने पहले सार्वजनिक बयान में राधाकृष्णन ने कहा, “दूसरी तरफ का खेमे (विपक्षी गठबंधन) ने कहा कि यह चुनाव एक वैचारिक लड़ाई है, लेकिन मतदान पैटर्न से हमें समझ में आता है कि राष्ट्रवादी विचारधारा विजयी हुई है।”
- He said, “It is a **victory for every Indian**; we all have to work together. If we have to develop **Viksit Bharat by 2047**, which means we should not do **politics** in everything, now we will have to **concentrate on development**.”
उन्होंने कहा, “यह हर भारतीय की जीत है; हमें सभी को मिलकर काम करना होगा। अगर हमें 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनाना है, तो इसका मतलब है कि हमें हर चीज में राजनीति नहीं करनी चाहिए, अब हमें विकास पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना होगा।”
- **BJP leaders** were quick to claim that at least **15 Opposition MPs** had voted in favour of Mr. **Radhakrishnan**
भाजपा नेताओं ने तुरंत दावा किया कि कम से कम 15 विपक्षी सांसदों ने राधाकृष्णन के पक्ष में मतदान किया
- **BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal** claimed that “nearly **40 Opposition MPs** had listened to the **voice of their conscience** and voted in **some manner** in support of the **NDA candidate**, showing a **wider acceptance** for him
भाजपा सांसद संजय जायसवाल ने दावा किया कि “लगभग 40 विपक्षी सांसदों ने अपनी अंतरात्मा की आवाज सुनी और किसी न किसी तरीके से एनडीए उम्मीदवार के समर्थन में मतदान किया, जो उनके प्रति व्यापक स्वीकृति को दर्शाता है”
- His assertion of support from **40 Opposition MPs** appeared to include several **invalid votes**
40 विपक्षी सांसदों से समर्थन का उनका दावा कई अवैध वोटों को भी शामिल करता हुआ प्रतीत होता है
- Countering this claim, **Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh** insisted that the **Opposition stood united**
इस दावे का खंडन करते हुए कांग्रेस संचार प्रमुख जयराम रमेश ने जोर देकर कहा कि विपक्ष एकजुट है
- “Its performance has undeniably been **most respectable**. Its joint candidate **Justice (retd) B. Sudershan Reddy** secured **40% of the vote**. In **2022**, the **Opposition** had received **26% of the vote** in the **Vice Presidential Elections**. The **BJP’s arithmetical victory** is really both a **moral and political defeat**,” he said on X
“उसका प्रदर्शन निस्संदेह सबसे सम्मानजनक रहा है। उसके संयुक्त उम्मीदवार न्यायमूर्ति (सेवानिवृत्त) बी. सुधर्शन रेड्डी ने 40% वोट हासिल किए। 2022 में उपराष्ट्रपति चुनाव में विपक्ष को 26% वोट मिले थे। भाजपा की गणितीय जीत वास्तव में नैतिक और राजनीतिक हार है,” उन्होंने एक्स पर कहा



Three soldiers killed as avalanche hits Army base camp in Siachen of Ladakh

GS II: India-Pakistan

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Three Army personnel, two of them Agniveers, were killed after an avalanche struck a base camp in the Siachen sector of Ladakh on Sunday.

The avalanche hit the camp located at an altitude of around 12,000 feet, trapping the soldiers under snow. A rescue operation was immediately launched, but all three soldiers lost their lives. The bodies were later recovered, officials said.

In a tribute posted on X, the Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps said: "GOC, Fire and Fury Corps and All Ranks salute Sepoy Mohit Kumar, Agniveer Niraj Kumar Choudharv and Ag-



Siachen presents challenges for troops with incidents of avalanche and severe weather conditions posing risks to soldiers. ANI

niveer Dabhi Rakesh Devabhai, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in #Siachen on 09 Sep 2025, and offer deep condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief."

Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, presents extreme challenges for troops, with incidents of avalanche and severe weather conditions posing constant risks to soldiers deployed in the region.

Three soldiers killed as avalanche hits Army base camp in Siachen of Ladakh

लद्दाख के सियाचिन में सेना के बेस कैंप पर हिमस्खलन, तीन जवान शहीद

- Three Army personnel, two of them Agniveers, were killed after an avalanche struck a base camp in the Siachen sector of Ladakh on Sunday
तीन सैन्य कर्मी, जिनमें से दो अग्निवीर थे, रविवार को लद्दाख के सियाचिन सेक्टर में स्थित बेस कैंप पर हिमस्खलन आने से शहीद हो गए



- The **avalanche** hit the **camp** located at an **altitude of around 12,000 feet**, trapping the **soldiers under snow**
हिमस्खलन ने लगभग 12,000 फीट की ऊंचाई पर स्थित कैम्प को प्रभावित किया, जिससे जवान बर्फ के नीचे दब गए
- A **rescue operation** was **immediately launched**, but **all three soldiers lost their lives**
राहत अभियान को तुरंत शुरू किया गया, लेकिन तीनों जवानों की जान नहीं बचाई जा सकी
- The **bodies** were later **recovered**, officials said
शवों को बाद में बरामद किया गया, अधिकारियों ने बताया
- In a **tribute posted on X**, the **Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps** said: "**GOC, Fire and Fury Corps and All Ranks salute Sepoy Mohit Kumar, Agniveer Niraj Kumar Choudhary and Agniveer Dabhi Rakesh Devabhai**, who made the **supreme sacrifice in the line of duty** in **#Siachen** on **09 Sep 2025**, and **offer deep condolences** to the **bereaved families** in this **hour of grief**."
एक्स (X) पर दी गई श्रद्धांजलि में भारतीय सेना की फायर एंड फ्यूरी कॉर्प्स ने कहा: "जीओसी, फायर एंड फ्यूरी कॉर्प्स और सभी रैंक सिपाही मोहित कुमार, अग्निवीर नीरज कुमार चौधरी और अग्निवीर दाभी राकेश देवाभाई को सलाम करते हैं, जिन्होंने 09 सितंबर 2025 को #सियाचिन में कर्तव्य पालन करते हुए सर्वोच्च बलिदान दिया और इस शोक की घड़ी में शोक संतप्त परिवारों के प्रति गहरी संवेदनाएं व्यक्त करते हैं।"
- **Siachen**, the **world's highest battlefield**, presents **extreme challenges** for **troops**, with incidents of **avalanche** and **severe weather conditions** posing **constant risks** to **soldiers deployed in the region**
सियाचिन, जो दुनिया का सबसे ऊंचा युद्धक्षेत्र है, सैन्य बलों के लिए अत्यधिक चुनौतियां प्रस्तुत करता है, जहां हिमस्खलन और कठोर मौसम परिस्थितियां तैनात सैनिकों के लिए लगातार खतरा बनी रहती हैं

Sia Chen Glacier

- For this sub-topic notes handout will be uploaded.
- Ambiguous text of the **Karachi Agreement**. The fixation of the **NJ9842**. Beyond that, the ceasefire line moved northwards.
- Salto ridge
- For Pakistan, the points move northeast and meet the **Karakoram Pass**.
- Indian Government alleged that Pakistan is adopting Orographic politics and Cartographic aggression.
- **Shimla Agreement reiterated the Karachi agreement**.
- Sia Chen is known as the third pole of the world. It is the largest non-polar glacier.
- It is the source of the **Nubra and Shyok rivers**.
- Sia Chen g is located in the eastern Karakoram range. It is the world's highest battlefield.
- Through **Operation Meghdoot** India captured **Sia Chen**.
- By capturing the Sia Chen Glacier India can prevent pincer attacks. It is also situated at the strategic altitude.
- However, the cost of occupation of Sia Chen Glacier is very high. More army men have been died due to Harsh climate as compared to the enemy bullet.
- Thus military utility of the Sia-Chen is debated.
- **Stephen P Cohen**: Compare dispute for the Sia Chen as two bald men fighting for the comb.
- Sia Chen is source of Nubra abd Shyok river which as tributaries of the Indus. It has very unique climatic and ecological characteristic.



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



- Former PM Manmohan Singh suggested **converting the Sia-Chen into a mountain of Peace**. It should be used as a scientific experiment by both countries.

PATRIOTIC IAS



INDIA gathers flock for poll, but fails to keep it together

NDA gets 13 votes more than its strength in two Houses, suggesting cross-voting; Opposition claims that out of 315 votes it expected, 300 were cast for its candidate, while 15 votes were invalidated

GS II: Polity

Sobhana K. Nair

NEW DELHI

Considering the arithmetic in both the Houses, the outcome of the Vice-Presidential election was foretold. The goal for the Opposition was thus to ensure that its candidate, Justice B. Sudershan Reddy (retd.), managed to reduce the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance nominee C.P. Radhakrishnan's victory margin.

Despite the best efforts, chinks in Opposition unity were exposed, with calculations indicating that the NDA got at least 13 votes more than its strength in the two Houses. The NDA MPs and those aligned to the government total 439. Mr. Radhakrishnan got 452 votes.

Despite the fact that there was no whip in the Vice-Presidential polls, the Opposition managed to get all its members to cast their ballot.

Underscoring the importance of the election, two Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha members – Sudip Bandhopadhyay and Saugata Roy – came to vote despite being ill. Many MPs who were abroad, such as



Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, and DMK leader Kanimozhi during the Vice-Presidential polls. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR, ANI

the Congress's Lok Sabha members Imran Masood, who was in Medina, and Ve. Vaithilingam, who was in the U.S., and Rajya Sabha member Imran Pratapgarhi, who was in Australia, returned to vote.

The Congress had appointed 10 coordinators to track down each MP and ensure 100% attendance. By 2 p.m., the majority of the Opposition members had voted. Frantic calls were placed to the few remaining who had not turned up till then, including the newly elected Rajya

Sabha member Kamal Haasan. Many regular absentees such as Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha member Harbhajan Singh made a rare appearance.

Till minutes before the results were announced, the Opposition was expecting at least 315 votes.

At 5.14 p.m., Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh posted on X, "The opposition has stood united. All of its 315 MPs have turned up for voting. This is an unprecedented 100% turnout."

Going by this claim, the Opposition still fell short of 15 votes. One Opposition leader said that all the 15 votes that were invalidated for various reasons were Opposition votes, while another speaking on condition of anonymity did not rule out cross-voting. "While most of the invalidated votes may have been due to inadvertent error on part of the MPs, some we suspect were also deliberate," he said.

Each party is now busy claiming that it had no cross-voters in its camp.

INDIA gathers flock for poll, but fails to keep it together



चुनाव के लिए INDIA ने जुटाया समर्थन, लेकिन एकजुटता बनाए रखने में नाकाम

- **NDA gets 13 votes more** than its strength in two Houses, suggesting **cross-voting**; **Opposition claims** that out of **315 votes** it expected, **300 were cast** for its candidate, while **15 votes were invalidated**
एनडीए को दोनों सदनों में अपनी ताकत से 13 वोट ज्यादा मिले, जो क्रॉस-वोटिंग का संकेत देते हैं; विपक्ष का दावा है कि उसे 315 वोट मिलने की उम्मीद थी, जिनमें से 300 उसके उम्मीदवार को मिले, जबकि 15 वोट अमान्य घोषित किए गए
- Considering the arithmetic in both the Houses, the outcome of the **Vice-Presidential election** was foretold
दोनों सदनों के अंकगणित को देखते हुए, उपराष्ट्रपति चुनाव का परिणाम पहले से तय माना जा रहा था
- The goal for the **Opposition** was thus to ensure that its candidate, **Justice B. Sudershan Reddy (retd.)**, managed to **reduce the BJP-led NDA nominee C.P. Radhakrishnan's victory margin**
विपक्ष का लक्ष्य यह सुनिश्चित करना था कि उसका उम्मीदवार न्यायमूर्ति बी. सुदर्शन रेड्डी (सेवानिवृत्त), भाजपा नेतृत्व वाले एनडीए उम्मीदवार सी.पी. राधाकृष्णन की जीत का अंतर कम कर सके
- Despite the best efforts, chinks in **Opposition unity** were exposed, with calculations indicating that the **NDA got at least 13 votes more** than its strength in the two Houses सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रयासों के बावजूद, विपक्ष की एकता में दरारें सामने आईं, और गणना से संकेत मिला कि एनडीए को दोनों सदनों में अपनी ताकत से कम से कम 13 वोट ज्यादा मिले
- The **NDA MPs** and those aligned to the government total **439**
एनडीए सांसदों और सरकार से जुड़े लोगों की कुल संख्या 439 है
- **Mr. Radhakrishnan got 452 votes**
राधाकृष्णन को 452 वोट मिले
- Despite the fact that there was **no whip** in the **Vice-Presidential polls**, the **Opposition** managed to get all its members to cast their ballot
हालांकि उपराष्ट्रपति चुनाव में कोई व्हिप जारी नहीं था, विपक्ष ने अपने सभी सदस्यों से मतदान करवाने में सफलता हासिल की
- Underscoring the importance of the election, two **Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha members — Sudip Bandhopadhyay and Saugata Roy —** came to vote despite being ill
चुनाव के महत्व को रेखांकित करते हुए, तृणमूल कांग्रेस के लोकसभा सदस्य — सुदीप बंद्योपाध्याय और सागत रॉय — बीमार होने के बावजूद मतदान के लिए आए
- Many **MPs who were abroad**, such as the **Congress's Lok Sabha members Imran Masood**, who was in **Medina**, and **Ve. Vaithilingam**, who was in the **U.S.**, and **Rajya Sabha member Imran Pratapgarhi**, who was in **Australia**, returned to vote
कई विदेश में मौजूद सांसद, जैसे कांग्रेस के लोकसभा सदस्य इमरान मसूद, जो मदीना में थे, और वी. वैथिलिंगम, जो अमेरिका में थे, तथा राज्यसभा सदस्य इमरान प्रतापगढ़ी, जो ऑस्ट्रेलिया में थे, मतदान करने के लिए लौटे
- The **Congress** had appointed **10 coordinators** to track down each MP and ensure **100% attendance**
कांग्रेस ने 10 समन्वयकों को नियुक्त किया था ताकि प्रत्येक सांसद को ढूंढकर 100% उपस्थिति सुनिश्चित की जा सके
- By **2 p.m.**, the majority of the **Opposition members** had voted
दोपहर 2 बजे तक, विपक्षी सदस्यों का अधिकांश मतदान कर चुका था
- Frantic calls were placed to the few remaining who had not turned up till then, including the newly elected **Rajya Sabha member Kamal Haasan**
जो सदस्य अब तक नहीं आए थे, उनमें से कुछ को, जिनमें नए निर्वाचित राज्यसभा सदस्य कमल हासन भी शामिल थे, बार-बार फोन कॉल किए गए
- Many **regular absentees** such as **Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha member Harbhajan Singh** made a **rare appearance**
कई नियमित अनुपस्थित सदस्य, जैसे कि आप के राज्यसभा सदस्य हरभजन सिंह, ने काफी समय बाद उपस्थिति दर्ज कराई



- Till minutes before the results were announced, the **Opposition was expecting at least 315 votes**
परिणाम घोषित होने से कुछ मिनट पहले तक, **विपक्ष को कम से कम 315 वोट मिलने की उम्मीद थी**
- At **5.14 p.m.**, **Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh** posted on X, "The opposition has stood united. All of its 315 MPs have turned up for voting. This is an unprecedented 100% turnout."
शाम 5.14 बजे, कांग्रेस महासचिव (संचार) जयराम रमेश ने एक्स (X) पर पोस्ट किया, "विपक्ष एकजुट खड़ा रहा। इसके सभी 315 सांसद मतदान के लिए पहुंचे। यह एक अभूतपूर्व 100% उपस्थिति है।"
- Going by this claim, the **Opposition still fell short of 15 votes**
इस दावे के अनुसार, **विपक्ष फिर भी 15 वोट कम रह गया**
- One **Opposition leader** said that all the **15 votes that were invalidated** for various reasons were **Opposition votes**
एक **विपक्षी नेता** ने कहा कि विभिन्न कारणों से **अमान्य घोषित किए गए सभी 15 वोट, विपक्ष के वोट थे**
- While another speaking on condition of anonymity did not rule out **cross-voting** वहीं एक अन्य नेता, जिन्होंने गुमनाम रहने की शर्त पर बात की, ने **क्रॉस-वोटिंग** से इनकार नहीं किया
- "While most of the invalidated votes may have been due to **inadvertent error** on part of the MPs, some we suspect were also **deliberate**," he said
"हालांकि अधिकांश **अमान्य वोट सांसदों की अनजाने में हुई गलती** के कारण हो सकते हैं, लेकिन कुछ **जानबूझकर भी किए गए थे**," उन्होंने कहा
- Each party is now busy claiming that it had **no cross-voters** in its camp
अब हर पार्टी यह दावा करने में लगी हुई है कि उसके खेमे में **कोई क्रॉस-वोटर नहीं**

Governors must act as true guides and philosophers to States, says CJI Gavai

CS II: State Executive and Legislature
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, heading a five-judge Presidential Reference Bench, observed on Tuesday that Governors must act as "true guides and philosophers" to State governments. He agreed with the Kerala government that the working relationship between the two constitutional authorities must be "collaborative".

Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, representing Kerala, suggested that the Governors of States ruled by non-NDA parties, such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Telangana and West Bengal, learn from their counterparts in States ruled by the BJP and its allies, where Bills are granted assent without delay.

"Governors must deal

with Bills 'as soon as possible' and not 'as soon as convenient'," Mr. Venugopal, assisted by advocate C.K. Sasi for the State, submitted.

In its written submissions, Kerala said that eight Bills presented to its Governor had remained pending for periods between seven and 23 months.

"There are as many as 28 States and three Union Territories with Legislative Assemblies. Except for five States, i.e. Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, 26 of the State governments or Union Territories had not gone to court complaining about the withholding of assent for long periods. This would mean that the legislatures and the Governors are *ad idem* [in agreement] in regard to the Bills becoming law. Hence, any

approach to the functioning of the Governor cannot be on the basis that the Governor is an adversary of the legislature, but, on the other hand, the example set by the other 26 Governors should be treated as the norm," Mr. Venugopal submitted.

'Will create dyarchy'

Senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, for Karnataka, said that giving Governors expansive powers would create a dyarchy – a government with two independent authorities – in a State. "The repository of real power in a parliamentary democracy is the legislature in its role as the representatives of the people... Allowing Governors power to exercise his discretion in all his functions would render national elections a numerical exercise in expensive



Time after time, this court has laid down timelines. But such orders only became fodder for more litigation. Take a look at the medical admission cases. We fix timelines for admission every year. The next year, applications are filed to extend the timeline
JUSTICE P.S. NARASIMHA
Supreme Court judge

in expensive futility," Mr. Subramaniam submitted.

Mr. Venugopal argued that the Governor must not act as an adversary. He is, in an actual sense, intimately a part of the State Legislature. "He is as much interested in the success of State Bills, which are for the welfare of the people," he submitted.

Specific deadlines

The Bench is hearing a Pre-

sidential Reference on whether timelines to deal with State Bills can be imposed on Governors and the President. The Reference followed the Supreme Court's judgment in a case against the Tamil Nadu Governor on April 8, which declared three-month deadlines for Governors and the President to decide the fate of the Bills placed before them for assent or consideration, respectively, under

Articles 200 and 201.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar questioned why the court must be content with requesting the Governors to act on Bills within a "reasonable time".

"Why should Your Lordships keep the timelines vague by saying 'do this within a reasonable time'?" The Supreme Court must specify – three months, six months. By fixing specific timelines, the court gives complete clarity and certainty," Mr. Datar submitted.

Wrangling on timelines
Justice P.S. Narasimha on the Bench referred to instances in the past when the court had specified timelines, especially in medical admission cases, only to end up with more litigation.

"Time after time, this

court has laid down timelines. But such orders only became fodder for more litigation. Take a look at the medical admission cases. We fix timelines for admission every year. The next year, applications are filed to extend the timeline," Justice Narasimha told Mr. Datar.

Noting that the Reference Bench was interpreting the Constitution, the senior counsel said that the interpretation must help the Constitution work better.

The Governor, State legislature, and the Union government are all components of governance, he said, warning that if one component acted truant by delaying assent to Bills, the whole system of governance would crumble.

Mr. Datar said that if the Supreme Court could

weave the principle of substantive due process (protection of fundamental rights from government abuse) into the Constitution, it could very well read timelines into Articles 200 and 201.

The State of Telangana, represented by senior advocate S. Niranjan Reddy, submitted that the advisory jurisdiction of the top court under Article 143 was not restricted by the separation of powers.

"Acting under the advisory jurisdiction, the Supreme Court, which is answering the President's questions, can give a collective opinion that the President/Governor must follow a three-month timeline. Though only an opinion of the Supreme Court under Article 143, it still has great persuasive value," Mr. Reddy submitted.

Governors must act as true guides and philosophers to States, says CJI Gavai

राज्यों के लिए राज्यपालों को सच्चे मार्गदर्शक और दार्शनिक की तरह कार्य करना चाहिए, सीजेआई गवई का कहना है

- **Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai**, heading a **five-judge Presidential Reference Bench**, observed on Tuesday that **Governors must act as "true guides and philosophers" to State governments**. He agreed with the **Kerala government** that the working relationship between the two constitutional authorities must be "**collaborative**".

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई, जो पांच जजों की राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ पीठ का नेतृत्व कर रहे थे, ने मंगलवार को कहा कि राज्यपालों को राज्य सरकारों के लिए "सच्चे मार्गदर्शक और दार्शनिक" की तरह कार्य



करना चाहिए। उन्होंने केरल सरकार से सहमति जताई कि दोनों संवैधानिक प्राधिकरणों के बीच कार्य संबंध "सहयोगात्मक" होना चाहिए।

- Senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, representing Kerala, suggested that the **Governors of States ruled by non-NDA parties**, such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Telangana and West Bengal, learn from their counterparts in **States ruled by the BJP and its allies**, where **Bills** are granted **assent without delay**.

वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता के.के. वेणुगोपाल, जो केरल का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे, ने सुझाव दिया कि गैर-एनडीए शासित राज्यों जैसे तमिलनाडु, केरल, पंजाब, तेलंगाना और पश्चिम बंगाल के राज्यपालों को उन राज्यों से सीख लेनी चाहिए जहाँ भाजपा और उसके सहयोगियों का शासन है, और जहाँ विधेयकों को बिना देरी के मंजूरी दी जाती है।

- **"Governors must deal with Bills 'as soon as possible' and not 'as soon as convenient' ,"** Mr. Venugopal, assisted by advocate C.K. Sasi for the State, submitted.

"राज्यपालों को विधेयकों से 'जितनी जल्दी हो सके' निपटना चाहिए और नहीं कि 'जब सुविधाजनक हो'," श्री वेणुगोपाल ने राज्य के लिए अधिवक्ता सी.के. सासी की सहायता से प्रस्तुत किया।

- In its written submissions, **Kerala** said that **eight Bills** presented to its **Governor** had remained **pending for periods between seven and 23 months**.

अपने लिखित प्रस्तुतिकरण में, केरल ने कहा कि उसके राज्यपाल को प्रस्तुत आठ विधेयक सात से 23 महीने तक लंबित रहे।

- "There are as many as **28 States** and **three Union Territories** with **Legislative Assemblies**. Except for **five States**, i.e. **Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala**, **26 of the State governments or Union Territories** had not gone to court complaining about the withholding of assent for long periods.

"28 राज्य और तीन केंद्र शासित प्रदेश विधानसभाओं के साथ हैं। पांच राज्यों जैसे पंजाब, तेलंगाना, पश्चिम बंगाल, तमिलनाडु और केरल को छोड़कर, 26 राज्य सरकारों या केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों ने लंबे समय तक मंजूरी रोकने की शिकायत के लिए अदालत का दरवाजा नहीं खटखटाया।"

- This would mean that the **legislatures and the Governors are ad idem [in agreement]** in regard to the **Bills becoming law**. Hence, any approach to the functioning of the **Governor** cannot be on the basis that the **Governor** is an adversary of the **legislature**, but, on the other hand, the example set by the **other 26 Governors** should be treated as the norm," Mr. Venugopal submitted.

इसका अर्थ है कि विधानसभाएं और राज्यपाल इस बात पर सहमत हैं कि विधेयक कानून बन जाएं। इसलिए, राज्यपाल के कामकाज के प्रति कोई भी दृष्टिकोण इस आधार पर नहीं होना चाहिए कि राज्यपाल विधानसभा का विरोधी है, बल्कि दूसरी ओर, अन्य 26 राज्यपालों द्वारा स्थापित उदाहरण को मानक माना जाना चाहिए," श्री वेणुगोपाल ने प्रस्तुत किया।

'Will create dyarchy'

'द्वैध शासन बनाएगा'

- Senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, for Karnataka, said that giving **Governors expansive powers** would create a **dyarchy — a government with two independent authorities — in a State**.

वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता गोपाल सुब्रमणियम, जो कर्नाटक का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे, ने कहा कि राज्यपालों को व्यापक शक्तियां देने से एक द्वैध शासन — यानी दो स्वतंत्र प्राधिकरणों वाली सरकार — राज्य में बन जाएगी।

- "The **repository of real power in a parliamentary democracy** is the **legislature** in its role as the **representatives of the people**... Allowing the **Governor's power to exercise his discretion in all his functions** would render **national elections a numerical exercise in expensive futility**," Mr. Subramaniam submitted.

"संसदीय लोकतंत्र में वास्तविक शक्ति का स्रोत विधानसभा है, जो जनप्रतिनिधियों की भूमिका निभाती है... राज्यपालों को अपने सभी कार्यों में विवेकाधीन शक्ति देने से राष्ट्रीय चुनाव महंगे और व्यर्थ संख्यात्मक अभ्यास बन जाएंगे," श्री सुब्रमणियम ने प्रस्तुत किया।

- Mr. Venugopal argued that the **Governor must not act as an adversary**. He is, in an actual sense, intimately a **part of the State Legislature**.

श्री वेणुगोपाल ने तर्क दिया कि राज्यपाल को विरोधी के रूप में कार्य नहीं करना चाहिए। वास्तव में, वह राज्य विधानमंडल का अभिन्न हिस्सा है।



- “He is as much interested in the **success of State Bills**, which are for the **welfare of the people**,” he submitted.
“वह राज्य विधेयकों की सफलता में उतना ही रुचि रखते हैं, जो जनता के कल्याण के लिए हैं,” उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया।

Specific deadlines विशिष्ट समयसीमाएं

- The **Bench** is hearing a **Presidential Reference**.
पीठ एक राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ की सुनवाई कर रही है।
- **Timelines for Governors and President to act on State Bills**
राज्य विधेयकों पर कार्रवाई करने के लिए राज्यपाल और राष्ट्रपति के लिए समयसीमा
- **Presidential Reference** on whether **timelines to deal with State Bills** can be **imposed on Governors and the President**.
राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ इस बात पर कि क्या राज्य विधेयकों पर कार्रवाई करने की समयसीमा राज्यपालों और राष्ट्रपति पर लागू की जा सकती है।
- The **Reference** followed the **Supreme Court’s judgment** in a case against the **Tamil Nadu Governor on April 8**, which declared **three-month deadlines** for **Governors and the President** to decide the fate of the **Bills** placed before them for **assent or consideration**, respectively, under **Articles 200 and 201**.
यह संदर्भ सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय का अनुसरण करता है, जो तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल के खिलाफ 8 अप्रैल को दिए गए एक मामले में आया था, जिसमें राज्यपालों और राष्ट्रपति के लिए तीन महीने की समयसीमा तय की गई थी ताकि वे विधेयकों के भाग्य का निर्णय कर सकें, जो उनके समक्ष मंजूरी या विचार के लिए अनुच्छेद 200 और 201 के तहत प्रस्तुत किए गए थे।
- **Senior advocate Arvind Datar** questioned why the court must be content with requesting the **Governors** to act on **Bills** within a **“reasonable time”**.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता अरविंद दातार ने सवाल उठाया कि अदालत क्यों इस बात से संतुष्ट हो कि राज्यपालों से विधेयकों पर कार्रवाई करने के लिए केवल “उचित समय” में अनुरोध किया जाए।
- **“Why should Your Lordships keep the timelines vague** by saying ‘do this within a reasonable time’?
“आपकी महोदयता समयसीमा को अस्पष्ट क्यों रखें यह कहकर कि ‘इसे उचित समय में करें’?”
- The **Supreme Court** must specify — **three months, six months**. By **fixing specific timelines**, the court gives **complete clarity and certainty**,” Mr. Datar submitted.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट को स्पष्ट करना चाहिए — तीन महीने, छह महीने। विशिष्ट समयसीमा तय करने से, अदालत पूरी स्पष्टता और निश्चितता देती है,” श्री दातार ने प्रस्तुत किया।
- **Wrangling on timelines**
समयसीमा पर विवाद
- **Justice P.S. Narasimha** on the **Bench** referred to instances in the past when the **court had specified timelines**, especially in **medical admission cases**, only to end up with **more litigation**.
पीठ के न्यायमूर्ति पी.एस. नरसिम्हा ने अतीत की घटनाओं का उल्लेख किया जब अदालत ने समयसीमा निर्धारित की थी, खासकर चिकित्सा प्रवेश मामलों में, और इससे अधिक मुकदमेबाजी हुई।
- **“Time after time, this court has laid down timelines. But such orders only became fodder for more litigation.**
“बार-बार, इस अदालत ने समयसीमाएं तय की हैं। लेकिन ऐसे आदेश केवल और अधिक मुकदमेबाजी का कारण बन गए।
- Take a look at the **medical admission cases**.
चिकित्सा प्रवेश मामलों को देखें।
- We fix **timelines for admission every year**.
हम हर साल प्रवेश के लिए समयसीमा तय करते हैं।
- Next year, **applications are filed to extend the timeline**,” Justice Narasimha told Mr. Datar.
अगले साल, समयसीमा बढ़ाने के लिए आवेदन दाखिल किए जाते हैं,” न्यायमूर्ति नरसिम्हा ने श्री दातार से कहा।
- Noting that the **Reference Bench** was **interpreting the Constitution**, the senior counsel said that the **interpretation must help the Constitution work better**.



इस बात को नोट करते हुए कि संदर्भ पीठ संविधान की व्याख्या कर रही थी, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता ने कहा कि व्याख्या से संविधान को बेहतर ढंग से कार्य करने में मदद मिलनी चाहिए।

- The Governor, State legislature, and the Union government are all components of governance, he said, warning that if one component acted truant by delaying assent to Bills, the whole system of governance would crumble.
उन्होंने कहा कि राज्यपाल, राज्य विधानमंडल और केंद्र सरकार सभी शासन के घटक हैं, चेतावनी देते हुए कि यदि एक घटक विधेयकों की मंजूरी में देरी करके काम नहीं करता, तो पूरा शासन तंत्र ढह जाएगा।
- Mr. Datar said that if the Supreme Court could weave the principle of substantive due process (protection of fundamental rights from government abuse) into the Constitution, it could very well read timelines into Articles 200 and 201.
श्री दातार ने कहा कि यदि सुप्रीम कोर्ट सार्थक उचित प्रक्रिया के सिद्धांत (सरकारी दुरुपयोग से मौलिक अधिकारों की रक्षा) को संविधान में शामिल कर सकता है, तो वह अनुच्छेद 200 और 201 में समयसीमा जोड़ सकता है।
- The State of Telangana, represented by senior advocate S. Niranjan Reddy, submitted that the advisory jurisdiction of the top court under Article 143 was not restricted by the separation of powers.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता एस. निरंजन रेड्डी द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व किए गए तेलंगाना राज्य ने प्रस्तुत किया कि अनुच्छेद 143 के तहत सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का परामर्श क्षेत्राधिकार शक्ति पृथक्करण द्वारा सीमित नहीं है।
- "Acting under the advisory jurisdiction, the Supreme Court, which is answering the President's questions, can give a collective opinion that the President/Governor must follow a three-month timeline.
"परामर्श क्षेत्राधिकार के तहत कार्य करते हुए, सुप्रीम कोर्ट, जो राष्ट्रपति के प्रश्नों का उत्तर दे रहा है, यह सामूहिक राय दे सकता है कि राष्ट्रपति/राज्यपाल को तीन महीने की समयसीमा का पालन करना चाहिए।
- Though only an opinion of the Supreme Court under Article 143, it still has great persuasive value," Mr. Reddy submitted.
हालांकि यह केवल अनुच्छेद 143 के तहत सुप्रीम कोर्ट की राय है, लेकिन इसका बहुत अधिक प्रेरक महत्व है," श्री रेड्डी ने प्रस्तुत किया।



GS II: Election

Decisive step

Including Aadhaar as 12th document for voter verification is significant

The Supreme Court of India's decisive intervention, ordering the Election Commission of India (ECI) to include the Aadhaar card as one of the 12 valid documents for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls, is vital course correction. It is a resounding victory for the fundamental right to vote, reaffirming the principle that procedural rigidity must not disenfranchise lakhs of eligible citizens. The ECI adopted questionable reasoning, insisting that Aadhaar was merely proof of residency, not citizenship, and was, therefore, inadmissible. The Court rightly dismantled this argument by pointing out the glaring inconsistency: if nine of the other 11 documents, save for a passport or birth certificate, do not conclusively prove citizenship, why single out Aadhaar for exclusion? The Court also said that Aadhaar could be used subject to verification of its authenticity. This judicial clarity was urgently needed. Empirical evidence demonstrates that excluding Aadhaar, which is held by nearly 90% of Bihar's population, in favour of documents such as passports (held by a mere 2%) and others, would have created insurmountable barriers for a vast number of genuine voters, particularly among the poor and the marginalised. The ECI's rushed SIR exercise had already resulted in the exclusion of over 65 lakh electors from the draft roll. A statistical analysis by *The Hindu* of this exclusion reveals several anomalies – disproportionate numbers of women removed, statistically improbable death rates in certain areas, and questionable “permanent shifts” of residents, especially migrant workers and married women. These patterns suggest a flawed process that prioritised haste over accuracy, risking the removal of legitimate voters.

The inclusion of Aadhaar paves the way for a smoother, more accessible verification process. First, it offered a lifeline to those unfairly struck off the rolls among the 65 lakh electors. It also assists electors already on the rolls who require document verification. It vindicates the persistent appeals from political and civil society activists who had warned that the ECI's stance was creating a problematic situation on the ground where Aadhaar was not accepted as a verification document, contradicting the Court's earlier guidance. Its order, on Monday, forces the ECI to align its procedures with the practical realities of identity verification in India today. This ruling has implications beyond Bihar, setting a precedent for all the other revisions envisaged across the country. For the ECI, the goal of electoral roll revision should be to ensure accuracy and inclusivity, not to rush the process through in a way that could affect citizens' rights. The ECI must now pivot toward a more diligent and humane approach, emphasising thorough house-to-house verification and ensuring that the foundation of India's democracy – the electoral roll – is both accurate and truly representative of all its people.

(held by a mere 2%), would have created insurmountable barriers for a vast number of genuine voters, particularly among the poor and the marginalised.

ठोस प्रमाण दिखाते हैं कि आधार, जो बिहार की लगभग 90% आबादी के पास है, को बाहर करना और

Decisive step निर्णायक कदम

Including Aadhaar as 12th document for voter verification is significant.

आधार को मतदाता सत्यापन के लिए 12वें दस्तावेज़ के रूप में शामिल करना महत्वपूर्ण है।

Supreme Court intervention in Bihar's electoral rolls

बिहार की मतदाता सूची में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का हस्तक्षेप

The Supreme Court of India's decisive intervention, ordering the Election Commission of India (ECI) to include the Aadhaar card as one of the 12 valid documents for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls, is vital course correction.

भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का निर्णायक हस्तक्षेप, जिसने भारतीय चुनाव आयोग (ECI) को आदेश दिया कि वह आधार कार्ड को बिहार की मतदाता सूची के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) के लिए 12 वैध दस्तावेजों में से एक के रूप में शामिल करे, एक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार है।

It is a resounding victory for the fundamental right to vote, reaffirming the principle that procedural rigidity must not disenfranchise lakhs of eligible citizens.

यह मतदान के मौलिक अधिकार की एक गूँजती हुई जीत है, जो इस सिद्धांत की पुनः पुष्टि करती है कि प्रक्रियात्मक कठोरता लाखों योग्य नागरिकों को मताधिकार से वंचित नहीं कर सकती।

The ECI adopted questionable reasoning, insisting that Aadhaar was merely proof of residency, not citizenship, and was, therefore, inadmissible.

चुनाव आयोग (ECI) ने संदिग्ध तर्क अपनाया, यह कहते हुए कि आधार केवल निवास का प्रमाण है, नागरिकता का नहीं, और इसलिए अस्वीकार्य है।

The Court rightly dismantled this argument by pointing out the glaring inconsistency: if nine of the other 11 documents, save for a passport or birth certificate, do not conclusively prove citizenship, why single out Aadhaar for exclusion?

न्यायालय ने इस तर्क को सही रूप से खारिज कर दिया यह इंगित करते हुए कि यह स्पष्ट असंगति है: यदि अन्य 11 दस्तावेजों में से नौ, पासपोर्ट या जन्म प्रमाणपत्र को छोड़कर, नागरिकता को निर्णायक रूप से साबित नहीं करते, तो केवल आधार को बाहर क्यों किया जाए?

The Court also said that Aadhaar could be used subject to verification of its authenticity.

न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा कि आधार का उपयोग उसकी प्रामाणिकता की पुष्टि के अधीन किया जा सकता है।

This judicial clarity was urgently needed. यह न्यायिक स्पष्टता तत्काल आवश्यक थी।

Empirical evidence demonstrates that excluding Aadhaar, which is held by nearly 90% of Bihar's population, in favour of documents such as passports



पासपोर्ट (जो केवल 2% के पास है) जैसे दस्तावेजों को मान्यता देना, वास्तविक मतदाताओं के बड़े वर्ग, विशेष रूप से गरीबों और वंचितों, के लिए दुर्गम बाधाएँ उत्पन्न कर देता।

- The ECI's rushed SIR exercise had already resulted in the exclusion of over 65 lakh electors from the draft roll.

चुनाव आयोग के जल्दबाजी में किए गए SIR अभ्यास ने पहले ही मसौदा सूची से 65 लाख मतदाताओं को बाहर कर दिया था।

- A statistical analysis by *The Hindu* of this exclusion reveals several anomalies — disproportionate numbers of women removed, statistically improbable death rates in certain areas, and questionable “permanent shifts” of residents, especially migrant workers and married women.

द हिंदू द्वारा किए गए इस बहिष्कार के सांख्यिकीय विश्लेषण से कई विसंगतियाँ सामने आईं — अत्यधिक संख्या में महिलाओं का हटाया जाना, कुछ क्षेत्रों में सांख्यिकीय रूप से असंभव मृत्यु दर, और निवासियों के संदिग्ध “स्थायी परिवर्तन”, विशेषकर प्रवासी श्रमिकों और विवाहित महिलाओं के मामले में।

- These patterns suggest a flawed process that prioritised haste over accuracy, risking the removal of legitimate voters.

ये पैटर्न एक त्रुटिपूर्ण प्रक्रिया का संकेत देते हैं, जिसमें शुद्धता की तुलना में जल्दबाजी को प्राथमिकता दी गई, जिससे वास्तविक मतदाताओं को हटाने का जोखिम उत्पन्न हुआ।

- The inclusion of Aadhaar paves the way for a smoother, more accessible verification process.

आधार का समावेश एक अधिक सरल और सुलभ सत्यापन प्रक्रिया का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है।

- First, it offered a lifeline to those unfairly struck off the rolls among the 65 lakh electors.

सबसे पहले, इसने 65 लाख मतदाताओं में से उन लोगों के लिए जीवनरेखा प्रदान की जिन्हें अनुचित रूप से सूची से बाहर कर दिया गया था।

- It also assists electors already on the rolls who require document verification.

यह उन मतदाताओं की भी मदद करता है जो पहले से सूची में हैं लेकिन जिन्हें दस्तावेज़ सत्यापन की आवश्यकता है।

- It vindicates the persistent appeals from political and civil society activists who had warned that the ECI's stance was creating a problematic situation on the ground where Aadhaar was not accepted as a verification document, contradicting the Court's earlier guidance.

यह राजनीतिक और नागरिक समाज कार्यकर्ताओं की लगातार अपीलों को सही ठहराता है, जिन्होंने चेतावनी दी थी कि चुनाव आयोग का रुख जमीन पर एक समस्या पैदा कर रहा था, जहाँ आधार को सत्यापन दस्तावेज़ के रूप में स्वीकार नहीं किया जा रहा था, जो न्यायालय के पूर्व मार्गदर्शन का विरोधाभास था।

- Its order, on Monday, forces the ECI to align its procedures with the practical realities of identity verification in India today.

इसका आदेश, सोमवार को, चुनाव आयोग को मजबूर करता है कि वह अपनी प्रक्रियाओं को आज भारत में पहचान सत्यापन की व्यावहारिक वास्तविकताओं के साथ संरेखित करे।

- This ruling has implications beyond Bihar, setting a precedent for all the other revisions envisaged across the country.

यह निर्णय बिहार से परे असर डालता है और पूरे देश में होने वाले अन्य पुनरीक्षणों के लिए एक मिसाल कायम करता है।

- For the ECI, the goal of electoral roll revision should be to ensure accuracy and inclusivity, not to rush the process through in a way that could affect citizens' rights.

चुनाव आयोग के लिए मतदाता सूची पुनरीक्षण का लक्ष्य शुद्धता और समावेशिता सुनिश्चित करना होना चाहिए, न कि प्रक्रिया को इस तरह जल्दबाजी में पूरा करना कि नागरिकों के अधिकारों पर असर पड़े।



- The ECI must now pivot toward a more diligent and **humane approach**, emphasising thorough **house-to-house verification** and ensuring that the foundation of India's democracy — the **electoral roll** — is both accurate and truly representative of all its people.
अब चुनाव आयोग को अधिक परिश्रमी और मानवीय दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की ओर बढ़ना चाहिए, जिसमें व्यापक घर-घर सत्यापन पर जोर दिया जाए और यह सुनिश्चित किया जाए कि भारत के लोकतंत्र की नींव — मतदाता सूची — सटीक और वास्तव में सभी लोगों का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हो।

Why was Indonesia rocked by protests?

How did the protests start and what led to its escalation across the country? How many people have been arrested or detained by the police? What did Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto say about the looting and rioting by protestors on the streets? What fuelled such anger against the elites?

GS II: Indonesia

EXPLAINER

Joan Sony Cherian

The story so far:

What started as a peaceful protest against Parliament members of Indonesia on August 25 in Jakarta, quickly snowballed into violent riots between civilians and the police/military when, on August 28, footage emerged of an armoured vehicle of the paramilitary police running over and killing a 21-year-old delivery worker. Since then, thousands have been arrested and at least seven have died in one of the most violent protests Indonesia has seen recently.

What happened?

The initial protests, which were mainly composed of students and labour unions, were conducted outside the Indonesian Parliament, against the housing allowance accorded to legislative members which is almost 50 million rupiah (\$3,000) – 10 times the national average monthly minimum wage.

However, after 21-year-old Affan Kurniawan, a delivery worker, was run over and killed by a police vehicle, protests escalated and spilled out of the capital across the country against the 'corrupt elite' and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's government. The delivery driver's killing became the flame which ignited the long-repressed anger of the people at the various austerity measures of the President in the past year. Protestors attacked public buildings, burned down and looted houses of public officials, including the house of then Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, and violent clashes were reported between protestors and the police.

How has the government responded?

President Prabowo announced that the Parliament had come to a consensus to reduce housing allowance and foreign visits for Parliament representatives. He also assured that an investigation will be



In rage: Demonstrators set alight banners during a protest in Bandung, West Java on September 1. AFP

conducted into the killing of Mr. Affan, and that those responsible will be brought to book. However, he warned that while his government respected the right to peaceful assembly, looting and rioting would be punished and that the same bordered on "terrorism and treason". "I order the police and military to take the strongest possible action against destruction of public facilities and looting of homes and economic centres," Mr. Prabowo said.

At least 3,000 people have been arrested or detained by the police across the country, and hundreds have been injured, some of whom include police personnel. Rights groups have said that at least 20 people are missing since the protests began.

What about income inequality?

The protests in Indonesia have generally been seen as an incitement of anger against the elites by a shrinking middle

class. While the Gini co-efficient of Indonesia has been declining, the country still registers one of the highest levels of inequality in the Southeast Asian region.

As per an Oxfam report, Indonesia ranks sixth among countries with the greatest wealth inequality. The four richest people in Indonesia have a combined income of more than 100 of the poorest citizens in the country. Additional issues which plague the poor include low wages and job insecurity. Education also remains underfunded, with various barriers restricting higher education.

Is this the first time protests emerged against the ruling party?

Mr. Prabowo and his government came to power last year in October. And since then, his government has embarked on a cost-cutting drive to increase 'efficiency'. In the beginning of this year, the Prabowo government announced a fiscal cut of 306 trillion rupiah (\$18.8 billion)

from the country's budget. These cuts were justified by the government as being redirected to fund the 'free meal' programme in schools, which was one of the key election campaign promises of the ruling government. The programme was aimed at not only providing nutritious food to school students but also as a tool to build back the dilapidated schools of the country.

However, this reallocation has come at a great cost. The budgets of several government departments have been reduced significantly; for example, there has been a 70% reduction for public works, a 52% cut for economic affairs and a 40% reduction in investment. To cope with such budget cuts, regional governments increased local taxes, the most infamous of them being a 250% increase in property tax in Pati, a town in central Java. The higher education ministry's budget was also cut by 25%.

These cuts caused massive outrage among college students who stated that these reductions will make education expensive as well as cut scholarships. On February 17, thousands of students came out in protest of these budget cuts. The movement was dubbed 'Dark Indonesia' as opposed to the President's vision of bringing in a 'Golden Indonesia'. The movement reached its zenith on February 20 with hundreds of thousands of students taking to the streets in Jakarta and other cities. However, Mr. Prabowo slammed the protests and said that these cuts were necessary to fuel the economic future of the country.

What next?

In a bid to quell some of the public anger, one of the police officers behind the killing of Mr. Affan has been "dishonourably" fired. The Cabinet has also been reshuffled with five Ministers losing their job, including Ms. Indrawati. Parliamentary officials also met with at least 10 student unions whose demands included the release of demonstrators and detainees. Fitch Ratings has said that the unrest could harm Indonesia's sovereign credit profile.

THE GIST

▼ The initial protests, which were mainly composed of students and labour unions, were conducted outside the Indonesian Parliament, against the housing allowance accorded to legislative members.

▼ However, after 21-year-old Affan Kurniawan, a delivery worker, was run over and killed by a police vehicle, protests escalated.

▼ These protests in Indonesia have generally been seen as an incitement of anger against the elites by a shrinking middle class.

Why was Indonesia rocked by protests? इंडोनेशिया क्यों विरोध प्रदर्शन की चपेट में आया?

Indonesia Protests and Riots इंडोनेशिया में विरोध प्रदर्शन और दंगे

- What started as a **peaceful protest** against **Parliament members** of Indonesia on **August 25** in Jakarta, quickly escalated into **violent riots** between civilians and the police/military.



जो शांतिपूर्ण विरोध प्रदर्शन 25 अगस्त को जकार्ता में इंडोनेशियाई संसद के सदस्यों के खिलाफ शुरू हुआ था, वह जल्दी ही नागरिकों और पुलिस/सैन्य के बीच हिंसक दंगों में बदल गया।

- The escalation occurred on **August 28**, when footage showed an **armoured paramilitary police vehicle** running over and killing a **21-year-old delivery worker**.
यह वृद्धि 28 अगस्त को हुई, जब फुटेज में दिखाया गया कि **आर्मर्ड पैरा मिलिट्री पुलिस वाहन** ने एक **21 वर्षीय डिलीवरी वर्कर** को कुचल दिया और मार डाला।
- Since then, **thousands have been arrested** and at least **seven have died**, marking it as one of the most **violent protests** Indonesia has seen recently.
तब से, **हजारों लोग गिरफ्तार** किए गए और कम से कम **सात की मौत** हुई, जो इसे हाल ही में इंडोनेशिया में हुए सबसे **हिंसक विरोधों** में से एक बनाता है।

What happened?

क्या हुआ?

- Initial protests were mainly by **students and labour unions**, conducted outside the **Indonesian Parliament**, against a **housing allowance** for legislative members of almost **50 million rupiah (\$3,000)**, **10 times** the national average monthly minimum wage.
प्रारंभिक विरोध मुख्य रूप से **छात्रों और श्रमिक संघों** द्वारा किए गए, जो **इंडोनेशियाई संसद** के बाहर हुए, और यह **सांसदों के लिए आवास भत्ते** के खिलाफ था, जो लगभग **50 मिलियन रुपिया (\$3,000)** है, जो राष्ट्रीय औसत मासिक न्यूनतम वेतन का **10 गुना** है।
- After **21-year-old Afan Kurniawan**, a delivery worker, was killed by a police vehicle, protests **escalated nationwide** against the **'corrupt elite'** and **President Prabowo Subianto's government**.
जब **21 वर्षीय अफान कुर्नियावान**, एक डिलीवरी वर्कर, को पुलिस वाहन ने मार डाला, तो विरोध प्रदर्शन पूरे देश में **'भ्रष्ट अभिजात वर्ग'** और **राष्ट्रपति प्रभावो सुबियंटो की सरकार** के खिलाफ फैल गए।
- The killing became the **flame** igniting long-repressed anger at **austerity measures** implemented by the President over the past year.
यह हत्या उस **चिंगारी** बन गई जिसने पिछले साल राष्ट्रपति द्वारा लागू किए गए **कठोरता उपायों** पर दबाए गए गुस्से को भड़का दिया।
- Protestors attacked **public buildings, burned and looted houses of public officials**, including then **Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati**, and violent clashes occurred with police.
विरोधियों ने **सार्वजनिक भवनों** पर हमला किया, **सार्वजनिक अधिकारियों के घर जलाए और लूटे**, जिसमें तत्कालीन वित्त मंत्री **श्री मुल्यानी इंद्रावती** का घर भी शामिल था, और पुलिस के साथ **हिंसक झड़पें** हुईं।

Government Response

सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया

- President Prabowo announced that **Parliament** agreed to **reduce housing allowance and foreign visits** for representatives.
राष्ट्रपति प्रभावो ने घोषणा की कि **संसद** ने प्रतिनिधियों के लिए **आवास भत्ता और विदेशी यात्रा** कम करने पर सहमति दी है।
- He assured an **investigation** into the killing of **Afan** and that **those responsible will be punished**.
उन्होंने **अफान की हत्या** की जांच का आश्वासन दिया और कहा कि **जिम्मेदारों को सजा दी जाएगी**।
- He warned that while peaceful assembly is respected, **looting and rioting** will be punished and is akin to **"terrorism and treason"**.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि शांतिपूर्ण सभा का सम्मान किया जाएगा, लेकिन **लूट और दंगे** दंडनीय हैं और यह **"आतंकवाद और देशद्रोह"** के समान है।
- He ordered **police and military** to take the **strongest action** against destruction of public facilities and looting of homes and economic centers.
उन्होंने **पुलिस और सेना** को **सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं के विनाश और घरों व आर्थिक केंद्रों की लूट** के खिलाफ **कड़ी कार्रवाई** करने का आदेश दिया।
- At least **3,000 people** have been arrested, hundreds injured, including **police personnel**, and rights groups report at least **20 missing** since protests began.



कम से कम **3,000 लोग** गिरफ्तार किए गए हैं, सैकड़ों घायल हुए हैं, जिसमें **पुलिसकर्मी** भी शामिल हैं, और मानवाधिकार समूहों ने बताया कि विरोध प्रदर्शन शुरू होने के बाद से कम से कम **20 लोग लापता** हैं।

Income Inequality

आय असमानता

- The protests are seen as anger of the **shrinking middle class** against the **elites**.
इन विरोधों को **संकुचित मध्य वर्ग** का **अभिजात वर्ग** के खिलाफ गुस्सा माना जा रहा है।
- Indonesia's **Gini coefficient** has declined, but the country still has one of the **highest inequality levels in Southeast Asia**.
इंडोनेशिया का **जिनी कोएफिशिएंट** घटा है, लेकिन देश में अभी भी **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया** में सबसे **उच्च असमानता स्तर** में से एक है।
- According to **Oxfam**, Indonesia ranks **sixth** for **wealth inequality**.
ऑक्सफैम के अनुसार, इंडोनेशिया **धन असमानता** के मामले में **छठा स्थान** रखता है।
- The **four richest people** have combined income greater than **100 poorest citizens**.
देश के **चार सबसे अमीर लोग** की संयुक्त आय **देश के 100 सबसे गरीब नागरिकों** से अधिक है।
- Additional issues for the poor include **low wages, job insecurity**, and underfunded **education with barriers to higher education**.
गरीबों के लिए अतिरिक्त समस्याओं में **कम वेतन, नौकरी की असुरक्षा**, और अपर्याप्त **शिक्षा** शामिल हैं, जिसमें **उच्च शिक्षा में बाधाएं** हैं।

Protests Against the Ruling Party

शासक पार्टी के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शन

- Is this the **first time protests** have emerged against the ruling party?
क्या यह **पहली बार है** जब शासक पार्टी के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए हैं?
- Mr. Prabowo and his government came to power last year in October**.
श्री **प्राबोवो** और उनकी सरकार **पिछले साल अक्टूबर** में सत्ता में आए।
- Since then, his government has embarked on a **cost-cutting drive** to increase 'efficiency'.
तब से, उनकी सरकार ने **खर्च कटौती अभियान** शुरू किया है ताकि '**कुशलता**' बढ़ाई जा सके।
- In the beginning of this year, the Prabowo government announced a fiscal cut of 306 trillion rupiah (\$18.8 billion) from the country's budget**.
इस साल की शुरुआत में, प्राबोवो सरकार ने देश के बजट से **306 ट्रिलियन रुपिया (\$18.8 बिलियन) का वित्तीय कटौती** की घोषणा की।
- These cuts were justified by the government as being redirected to fund the '**free meal programme in schools**', which was one of the **key election campaign promises** of the ruling government.
इन कटौतियों को सरकार द्वारा यह कहते हुए सही ठहराया गया कि इन्हें **विद्यालयों में 'मुफ्त भोजन' कार्यक्रम** के लिए पुनर्निर्देशित किया जाएगा, जो शासक सरकार के **मुख्य चुनावी वादों** में से एक था।
- The programme was aimed at not only providing **nutritious food** to school students but also as a tool to **build back the dilapidated schools** of the country.
इस कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य केवल विद्यार्थियों को **पोषक भोजन** प्रदान करना नहीं था बल्कि देश के **क्षतिग्रस्त स्कूलों को पुनर्निर्मित** करने का भी एक उपकरण था।
- However, this reallocation has come at a great cost.
हालांकि, इस पुनर्निर्देशन की कीमत बहुत अधिक रही है।
- The budgets of several government departments have been reduced significantly; for example, there has been a 70% reduction for public works, a 52% cut for economic affairs and a 40% reduction in investment**.
कई सरकारी विभागों के बजट में काफी कमी हुई है; उदाहरण के लिए, **सार्वजनिक निर्माण के लिए 70% कटौती, आर्थिक मामलों के लिए 52% कटौती और निवेश में 40% कमी** हुई है।
- To cope with such budget cuts, **regional governments increased local taxes**, the most infamous of them being a **250% increase in property tax in Pati, a town in central Java**.
इस प्रकार की बजट कटौती का सामना करने के लिए, **क्षेत्रीय सरकारों ने स्थानीय कर बढ़ा दिए**, जिसमें सबसे कुख्यात था **सेंट्रल जावा के पाटी शहर में संपत्ति कर में 250% वृद्धि**।



- The **higher education ministry's budget** was also cut by **25%**.
उच्च शिक्षा मंत्रालय का बजट भी 25% घटाया गया।
- These cuts caused **massive outrage among college students** who stated that these reductions will make **education expensive** as well as cut **scholarships**.
इन कटौतियों ने कॉलेज छात्रों में भारी आक्रोश पैदा किया, जिन्होंने कहा कि ये कटौतियाँ शिक्षा महंगी कर देंगी और छात्रवृत्तियों को भी कम करेंगी।
- On **February 17, thousands of students** came out in protest of these budget cuts.
17 फरवरी को इन बजट कटौतियों के विरोध में हजारों छात्र सड़कों पर उतरे।
- The movement was dubbed '**Dark Indonesia**' as opposed to the President's vision of bringing in a '**Golden Indonesia**'.
इस आंदोलन को 'डार्क इंडोनेशिया' कहा गया, जबकि राष्ट्रपति का दृष्टिकोण था 'गोल्डन इंडोनेशिया' लाना।
- The movement reached its zenith on **February 20** with **hundreds of thousands of students** taking to the streets in **Jakarta and other cities**.
यह आंदोलन अपने चरम पर 20 फरवरी को पहुंचा जब सैकड़ों हजारों छात्र जकार्ता और अन्य शहरों में सड़कों पर उतरे।
- However, Mr. Prabowo slammed the protests and said that these cuts were necessary to fuel the **economic future** of the country.
हालांकि, श्री प्राबोवो ने विरोध प्रदर्शन की आलोचना की और कहा कि ये कटौतियाँ देश के आर्थिक भविष्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आवश्यक हैं।

What Next? अगला क्या?

- In a bid to quell some of the **public anger**, one of the **police officers** behind the killing of Mr. A'fan has been "**dishonorably**" fired.
कुछ सार्वजनिक गुस्से को शांत करने के प्रयास में, श्री A'fan की हत्या में शामिल एक पुलिस अधिकारी को "अपमानजनक रूप से" बर्खास्त कर दिया गया है।
- The **Cabinet** has also been reshuffled with **five Ministers losing their job**, including **Ms. Indrawati**.
कैबिनेट में भी फेरबदल किया गया है, जिसमें पांच मंत्री अपनी नौकरी खो चुके हैं, जिनमें सुश्री इंद्रावती शामिल हैं।
- **Parliamentary officials** also met with at least **10 student unions** whose demands included the release of **demonstrators and detainees**.
संसदीय अधिकारियों ने कम से कम 10 छात्र संघों से भी मुलाकात की, जिनकी मांगों में प्रदर्शनकारियों और बंदियों की रिहाई शामिल थी।
- **Fitch Ratings** has said that the unrest could harm **Indonesia's sovereign credit profile**.
फिच रेटिंग्स ने कहा है कि यह अशांति इंडोनेशिया की संप्रभु क्रेडिट प्रोफाइल को नुकसान पहुंचा सकती है।



Violence reveals the deep structural failures of Nepal's democratic experiment

Violence reveals the deep structural failures of Nepal's democratic experiment

नेपाल के लोकतांत्रिक प्रयोग की गहरी संरचनात्मक विफलताओं को उजागर करती हिंसा

- The flames that consumed Kathmandu's government buildings on Tuesday illuminated more than just the immediate crisis in Nepal. मंगलवार को काठमांडू की सरकारी इमारतों को निगलने वाली लपटों ने केवल नेपाल के तत्कालीन संकट को ही नहीं उजागर किया।
- As protesters set fire to Parliament, ministerial residences, and media offices despite Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's resignation, the violence revealed the deep structural failures of Nepal's democratic experiment and has raised troubling questions about its political future. प्रधानमंत्री के.पी. शर्मा ओली के त्यागपत्र के बावजूद प्रदर्शनकारियों ने संसद, मंत्रियों के आवास और मीडिया कार्यालयों में आग लगा दी, इस हिंसा ने नेपाल के लोकतांत्रिक प्रयोग की गहरी संरचनात्मक विफलताओं को उजागर किया और उसके राजनीतिक भविष्य को लेकर चिंताजनक सवाल खड़े किए।
- What began as protests against the Oli government's social media ban snowballed into a broader indictment of Nepal's political establishment. ओली सरकार के सोशल मीडिया प्रतिबंध के खिलाफ शुरू हुआ

NEWS ANALYSIS

GS II: India-Nepal Srinivasan Ramani

The flames that consumed Kathmandu's government buildings on Tuesday illuminated more than just the immediate crisis in Nepal. As protesters set fire to Parliament, ministerial residences, and media offices despite Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's resignation, the violence revealed the deep structural failures of Nepal's democratic experiment and has raised troubling questions about its political future.

What began as protests against the Oli government's social media ban snowballed into a broader indictment of Nepal's political establishment. The initial trigger – restrictions on digital platforms– resonated particularly with young Nepalis who had grown increasingly frustrated with rampant corruption, nepotism, and the lavish lifestyles of political elites' children while the country remained mired in underdevelopment and political dysfunction.

The government's brutal response proved catastrophic. Security forces killed at least 19 protesters on Monday, transforming what might have remained localised dissent into nationwide outrage.

The second day of protests marked a dangerous escalation. Even as Mr. Oli resigned and Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak stepped down "on moral grounds", demonstrators continued their destructive rampage. This indiscriminate violence distinguishes the current unrest



K.P. Sharma Oli

from Nepal's previous democratic movements. Unlike the Jana Andolans of 1990 and 2006, which had clear political objectives and organised leadership, the Gen Z protests exhibit what can only be described as nihilistic rage against all institutions of the state.

Dangerous precedents

The current crisis must be understood within the broader context of Nepal's troubled democratic transition. Despite two successful people's movements, a comprehensive constitution-writing process, and the establishment of federal republican institutions, the country has failed to deliver meaningful change to ordinary citizens.

This institutional failure has created space for anti-system forces. Over the past year, Nepal has witnessed sporadic pro-monarchy demonstrations, suggesting nostalgia for the pre-2006 order among some segments of society.

The amorphous nature of the Gen Z movement makes it particularly susceptible to capture by such forces. While protesters have not demanded monarchy's return, the absence of clear democratic alternatives creates dangerous

possibilities.

Nepal's crisis unfolds against the backdrop of similar upheavals across South Asia. In Bangladesh, student-led protests toppled Sheikh Hasina's government but descended into cycles of violence and institutional breakdown that have delayed democratic consolidation. Sri Lanka's Aragalaya movement, while more focused on the overthrow of the Rajapaksas, ultimately paved the way for the previously marginalised JVP to capture power.

Which trajectory Nepal follows may well depend on how emerging political alternatives respond to this moment. Current protesters' apparent support for figures such as jailed former minister Rabi Lamichhane and Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah highlights the appeal of political outsiders. Both are media personalities with limited governance experience – Mr. Lamichhane through his populist RSP party, Mr. Shah through his independent mayoralty.

While Mr. Shah has called for calm and urged protesters to stop violent attacks, his simultaneous demand for Parliament's dissolution echoes the dangerous anti-institutional rhetoric that has characterised post-uprising transitions elsewhere. The role of Nepal's army remains crucial and uncertain. Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel has called for restraint and dialogue, but the military's response to prolonged instability could determine whether Nepal moves toward democratic renewal or authoritarian regression.



विरोध नेपाल की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था पर व्यापक आरोपों में बदल गया।

- The initial trigger — restrictions on digital platforms— resonated particularly with young Nepalis who had grown increasingly frustrated with rampant corruption, nepotism, and the lavish lifestyles of political elites' children while the country remained mired in underdevelopment and political dysfunction.
प्रारंभिक कारण — डिजिटल प्लेटफार्मों पर प्रतिबंध — विशेष रूप से उन युवा नेपालियों से जुड़ा था, जो भ्रष्टाचार, भाई-भतीजावाद, और राजनीतिक अभिजात वर्ग के बच्चों की आलीशान जीवनशैली से बढ़ती निराशा महसूस कर रहे थे, जबकि देश अविास और राजनीतिक अक्षमता में फंसा हुआ था।
- The government's brutal response proved catastrophic.
सरकार की क्रूर प्रतिक्रिया विनाशकारी साबित हुई।
- Security forces killed at least **19 protesters** on Monday, transforming what might have remained localised dissent into nationwide outrage.
सोमवार को सुरक्षा बलों ने कम से कम **19 प्रदर्शनकारियों** की हत्या कर दी, जिससे स्थानीय असंतोष राष्ट्रीय आक्रोश में बदल गया।
- The second day of protests marked a dangerous escalation.
प्रदर्शन के दूसरे दिन ने खतरनाक वृद्धि को चिह्नित किया।
- Even as Mr. Oli resigned and **Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak** stepped down "on moral grounds", demonstrators continued their destructive rampage.
यहां तक कि ओली के त्यागपत्र देने और गृहमंत्री रमेश लेखक के "नैतिक आधार" पर इस्तीफा देने के बावजूद, प्रदर्शनकारियों ने अपनी विनाशकारी हिंसा जारी रखी।
- This indiscriminate violence distinguishes the current unrest from Nepal's previous democratic movements.
यह अंधाधुंध हिंसा वर्तमान अशांति को नेपाल के पिछले लोकतांत्रिक आंदोलनों से अलग करती है।
- Unlike the **Jana Andolans of 1990 and 2006**, which had clear political objectives and organised leadership, the **Gen Z protests** exhibit what can only be described as nihilistic rage against all institutions of the state.
1990 और 2006 के जन आंदोलनों के विपरीत, जिनके स्पष्ट राजनीतिक उद्देश्य और संगठित नेतृत्व थे, जनरेशन Z के विरोध को केवल राज्य की सभी संस्थाओं के खिलाफ निहिलिस्टिक क्रोध के रूप में वर्णित किया जा सकता है।

Dangerous precedents खतरनाक मिसालें

- The current crisis must be understood within the broader context of Nepal's troubled democratic transition.
वर्तमान संकट को नेपाल के संघर्षपूर्ण लोकतांत्रिक संक्रमण के व्यापक संदर्भ में समझा जाना चाहिए।
- Despite two successful people's movements, a comprehensive constitution-writing process, and the establishment of federal republican institutions, the country has failed to deliver meaningful change to ordinary citizens.
दो सफल जन आंदोलनों, व्यापक संविधान-निर्माण प्रक्रिया, और संघीय गणतांत्रिक संस्थाओं की स्थापना के बावजूद, देश साधारण नागरिकों तक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव पहुंचाने में विफल रहा है।
- This institutional failure has created space for anti-system forces.
यह संस्थागत विफलता विरोधी-प्रणाली ताकतों के लिए जगह बना रही है।
- Over the past year, Nepal has witnessed sporadic **pro-monarchy demonstrations**, suggesting nostalgia for the pre-2006 order among some segments of society.
पिछले एक वर्ष में, नेपाल ने राजतंत्र समर्थक प्रदर्शनों को देखा, जो समाज के कुछ वर्गों में **2006 से पहले के शासन** के प्रति नॉस्टेल्जिया को दर्शाता है।
- The amorphous nature of the **Gen Z movement** makes it particularly susceptible to capture by such forces.
जनरेशन Z आंदोलन की अस्पष्ट प्रकृति इसे विशेष रूप से ऐसी ताकतों के कब्जे में आने योग्य बनाती है।
- While protesters have not demanded monarchy's return, the absence of clear democratic alternatives creates dangerous possibilities.
हालांकि प्रदर्शनकारियों ने राजतंत्र की वापसी की मांग नहीं की है, लेकिन स्पष्ट लोकतांत्रिक विकल्पों की अनुपस्थिति खतरनाक संभावनाएं पैदा करती है।



- Nepal's crisis unfolds against the backdrop of similar upheavals across **South Asia**.
नेपाल का संकट दक्षिण एशिया भर में समान उथल-पुथल की पृष्ठभूमि में सामने आ रहा है।
- In **Bangladesh**, student-led protests toppled **Sheikh Hasina's government** but descended into cycles of violence and institutional breakdown that have delayed democratic consolidation.
बांग्लादेश में, छात्र-नेतृत्व वाले प्रदर्शनों ने शेख हसीना सरकार को गिरा दिया, लेकिन यह हिंसा और संस्थागत पतन के चक्र में बदल गया जिसने लोकतांत्रिक मजबूती को विलंबित कर दिया।
- **Sri Lanka's Aragalaya movement**, while more focused on the overthrow of the **Rajapaksas**, ultimately paved the way for the previously marginalised **JVP** to capture power.
श्रीलंका के अरागलाया आंदोलन ने, जो मुख्य रूप से राजपक्ष परिवार के पतन पर केंद्रित था, अंततः पहले से हाशिये पर मौजूद **JVP** को सत्ता में आने का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया।
- Which trajectory Nepal follows may well depend on how emerging political alternatives respond to this moment.
नेपाल किस पथ का अनुसरण करेगा, यह इस पर निर्भर करेगा कि उभरते राजनीतिक विकल्प इस समय पर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं।
- Current protesters' apparent support for figures such as **jailed former minister Rabi Lamichhane** and **Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah** highlights the appeal of **political outsiders**.
वर्तमान प्रदर्शनकारियों का पूर्व मंत्री रबी लामिछाने और काठमांडू के मेयर बलेन्द्र शाह जैसे व्यक्तियों के प्रति समर्थन राजनीतिक बाहरी लोगों के आकर्षण को उजागर करता है।
- Both are **media personalities** with limited governance experience — **Mr. Lamichhane** through his populist **RSP party**, **Mr. Shah** through his independent mayoralty.
दोनों मीडिया हस्तियां हैं जिनके पास सीमित शासन अनुभव है — श्री लामिछाने अपनी **RSP पार्टी** के माध्यम से, श्री शाह अपने स्वतंत्र मेयर पद के माध्यम से।
- While **Mr. Shah** has called for calm and urged protesters to stop violent attacks, his simultaneous demand for **Parliament's dissolution** echoes the dangerous **anti-institutional rhetoric** that has characterised **post-uprising transitions** elsewhere.
जहां श्री शाह ने शांति की अपील की और प्रदर्शनकारियों से हिंसक हमले रोकने का आग्रह किया, वहीं संसद के विघटन की उनकी मांग विरोध-उपरांत संक्रमण में देखे गए खतरनाक संस्थाविरोधी भाषण की गूंज है।
- The role of **Nepal's army** remains crucial and uncertain.
नेपाल की सेना की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण और अनिश्चित बनी हुई है।
- **Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel** has called for **restraint** and **dialogue**, but the military's response to prolonged instability could determine whether Nepal moves toward **democratic renewal** or **authoritarian regression**.
सेना प्रमुख अशोक राज सिग्देल ने संयम और संवाद की अपील की है, लेकिन सैन्य प्रतिक्रिया यह तय कर सकती है कि नेपाल लोकतांत्रिक नवीकरण की ओर बढ़ेगा या सत्तावादी पतन की ओर।

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

1. **Goods movement affected as Manipur's Naga council imposes 'trade embargo'**
मणिपुर की नागा परिषद द्वारा 'व्यापार प्रतिबंध' लगाने से माल की आवाजाही प्रभावित
2. **Centre grants licences to five firms to manufacture its first indigenous malaria vaccine**
केंद्र ने अपने पहले स्वदेशी मलेरिया वैक्सीन के निर्माण के लिए पांच कंपनियों को लाइसेंस प्रदान किए



3. **Could our everyday artificially intelligent chatbots become conscious?**

क्या हमारे रोजमर्रा के कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित चैटबॉट सचेतन हो सकते हैं?

4. **QUIZ**

5. **The cracks are emerging in political hegemony**

राजनीतिक वर्चस्व में दरारें उभर रही हैं

6. **The long march ahead to technological independence**

तकनीकी स्वतंत्रता की ओर लंबा मार्च आगे

7. **China digs in on 'rare earth', commands global market**

चीन 'रेयर अर्थ' में पक्का, वैश्विक बाजार में प्रभुत्व

8. **Tariff-hit diamond, jewellery exporters look to West**

Asia

टैरिफ से प्रभावित हीरा, आभूषण निर्यातक पश्चिम एशिया की ओर देख रहे हैं



GS III: Environment

Firefighters assessing giant sequoia trees as a wildfire burns through the McKinley Grove of Big Trees at the Sierra National Forest in the U.S. on Monday. Giant sequoia trees are found only in California, and the McKinley grove — home to about 200 trees — is particularly vulnerable. AP

Firefighters assessing **giant sequoia trees** as a wildfire burns through the McKinley Grove of Big Trees at the Sierra National Forest in the U.S. on Monday. Giant sequoia trees are found



only in California, and the McKinley grove — home to about 200 trees — is particularly vulnerable.

First day, first show



Pomp and show: Visitors with VR glasses are seen on the opening day of the International Motor Show IAA, on September 9, 2025, in Munich, southern Germany. The IAA Mobility fair runs from September 9 to 14. AFP

Pomp and show: Visitors with VR glasses are seen on the opening day of the International Motor Show IAA, on September 9, 2025, in Munich, southern Germany. The IAA Mobility fair runs from September 9 to 14



Goods movement affected as Manipur's Naga council imposes 'trade embargo'

GS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau

GUWAHATI

A "trade embargo" imposed by the United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of Nagas in Manipur, from midnight on Monday, affected the movement of goods-carrying vehicles in the Naga-dominated hilly areas of the State.

While shops and business establishments were exempted from the "trade embargo", trucks and other non-passenger commercial vehicles were stranded on all major roads, including the arterial National Highway 2, in the Naga-inhabited areas.

The UNC said the "trade embargo" was the first step of non-cooperation with the government in protest against New Delhi's move to fence the 1,643-km India-Myanmar border and scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR). The stir is a fallout of the inconclusive talks between a UNC team



The UNC contends that the fencing of India-Myanmar border will cut familial ties between Nagas on either side of it. FILE PHOTO

and Union government officials on August 26 over the two related issues.

The FMR allows cross-border movement of people living along the International Boundary without travel documents. The extent of travel is up to 10 km from the border, currently unfenced except for a small stretch in Manipur.

'Cuts ethnic ties'

The UNC contends that the fencing will cut familial and ethnic ties between Nagas on either side of the

border. It called for free, prior, and informed consent of the Naga people for any project affecting them and their homeland straddling the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Thadou Inpi Manipur and the Sargolmang Area Naga Students' Association condemned armed Kuki extremists who reportedly intercepted a bus at Molnom in the Ukhrul district on the morning of September 8, frisked passengers, seized their mobile phones, and fired blanks.

Goods movement affected as Manipur's Naga council imposes 'trade embargo'



मणिपुर की नागा परिषद द्वारा 'व्यापार प्रतिबंध' लगाने से माल की आवाजाही प्रभावित

- A “**trade embargo**” imposed by the **United Naga Council (UNC)**, the apex body of Nagas in **Manipur**, from **midnight on Monday**, affected the movement of **goods-carrying vehicles** in the **Naga-dominated hilly areas** of the State
मणिपुर में नागाओं की सर्वोच्च संस्था **यूनाइटेड नागा काउंसिल (यूएनसी)** द्वारा **सोमवार आधी रात** से लगाया गया “**व्यापार प्रतिबंध**” राज्य के **नागा बहुल पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों** में **माल ढोने वाले वाहनों** की आवाजाही को प्रभावित कर गया
- While **shops and business establishments** were exempted from the “**trade embargo**”, **trucks and other non-passenger commercial vehicles** were stranded on all major roads, including the **arterial National Highway 2**, in the **Naga-inhabited areas**
जहां **दुकानों और व्यावसायिक प्रतिष्ठानों** को “**व्यापार प्रतिबंध**” से छूट दी गई थी, वहीं **ट्रक और अन्य गैर-यात्री वाणिज्यिक वाहन** सभी प्रमुख सड़कों पर, जिनमें **राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग 2** जैसी मुख्य सड़कें शामिल हैं, **नागा आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों** में फंसे रहे
- The **UNC** said the “**trade embargo**” was the **first step of non-cooperation** with the government in protest against **New Delhi’s move to fence the 1,643-km India-Myanmar border and scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR)**
यूएनसी ने कहा कि यह “**व्यापार प्रतिबंध**” सरकार के साथ **असहयोग का पहला कदम** है, जो **नई दिल्ली** द्वारा **1,643 किलोमीटर लंबे भारत-म्यांमार सीमा पर बाड़ लगाने और फ्री मूवमेंट रेगाइम (एफएमआर) को समाप्त करने** के कदम के विरोध में उठाया गया है
- The stir is a **fallout of the inconclusive talks** between a **UNC team and Union government officials on August 26** over the two related issues
यह आंदोलन **26 अगस्त को यूएनसी टीम और केंद्र सरकार के अधिकारियों के बीच** दोनों संबंधित मुद्दों पर हुई **अनिर्णायक वार्ता का परिणाम** है
- The **FMR** allows **cross-border movement of people living along the International Boundary** without travel documents
एफएमआर **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा के पास रहने वाले लोगों को बिना यात्रा दस्तावेजों के सीमा पार जाने** की अनुमति देता है
- The extent of travel is **up to 10 km from the border**, currently unfenced except for a **small stretch in Manipur**
यात्रा की सीमा **सीमा से 10 किलोमीटर तक** है, जो वर्तमान में **मणिपुर के एक छोटे हिस्से को छोड़कर बिना बाड़ के** है

‘Cuts ethnic ties’

‘जातीय संबंध तोड़ता है’

- The **UNC** contends that the **fencing** will **cut familial and ethnic ties** between **Nagas** on either side of the border
यूएनसी का कहना है कि **बाड़ लगाना** सीमा के दोनों ओर **नागाओं के पारिवारिक और जातीय संबंधों को तोड़ देगा**
- It called for **free, prior, and informed consent** of the **Naga people** for any project affecting them and their **homeland straddling the two countries**
इसने किसी भी ऐसे प्रोजेक्ट के लिए **मुक्त, पूर्व और सूचित सहमति** की मांग की, जो उन्हें और उनके **दो देशों में फैले मातृभूमि** को प्रभावित करता है



- Meanwhile, the **Thadou Inpi Manipur** and the **Sagolmang Area Naga Students' Association** condemned **armed Kuki extremists** who reportedly intercepted a bus at **Molnom** in the **Ukhrul** district on the morning of **September 8**, frisked passengers, seized their mobile phones, and fired blanks
इस बीच, थाडौ इन्पी मणिपुर और सगोलमांग एरिया नागा स्टूडेंट्स एसोसिएशन ने सशस्त्र कुकी उग्रवादियों की निंदा की, जिन्होंने कथित तौर पर 8 सितंबर की सुबह उखरुल जिले के मोलनॉम में एक बस को रोका, यात्रियों की तलाशी ली, उनके मोबाइल फोन जब्त किए, और खाली गोलियां चलाई

Centre grants licences to five firms to manufacture its first indigenous malaria vaccine

GS III: S&T

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI

The Union government has given licences to five firms for manufacturing and commercialisation of its first indigenous multi-stage malaria vaccine developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and its partners.

Indian Immunologicals Ltd., Technvention Life-care Private Ltd., Panacea Biotech Ltd., Biological E Ltd., and Zydus Lifesciences will make the vaccine targeting the parasite before it enters the bloodstream to prevent transmission.

The council said it was an affordable, stable, and scalable solution. It remains effective for more than nine months at room temperature, it said.



The ICMR-developed vaccine targets the parasite before it enters the bloodstream.

The ICMR had invited expression of interest from eligible organisations, companies, and manufacturers for transfer of technology for commercialisation of “a recombinant chimeric multi-stage malaria vaccine (AdFalcivax) against *Plasmodium falciparum* useful in preventing infection in humans

and minimising community transmission”.

The goal is to facilitate the commercialisation of the vaccine to prevent and minimise malaria transmission.

“The pre-clinical validation of this technology was conducted in collaboration with ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, another constituent institute of ICMR, and National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi, an autonomous research institute of the Department of Biotechnology,” the council said.

Malaria remains one of the major public health problems in India. The country carries 1.4% of the global malaria case burden, and accounted for 66% of cases in the South-east Asia region.

Centre grants licences to five firms to manufacture its first indigenous malaria vaccine

केंद्र ने अपने पहले स्वदेशी मलेरिया वैक्सिन के निर्माण के लिए पांच कंपनियों को लाइसेंस प्रदान किए



- The Union government has given **licences to five firms for manufacturing and commercialisation of its first indigenous multi-stage malaria vaccine** developed by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and its partners.
केंद्र सरकार ने भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR) और उसके साझेदारों द्वारा विकसित पहले स्वदेशी मल्टी-स्टेज मलेरिया वैक्सीन के निर्माण और व्यावसायीकरण के लिए पांच कंपनियों को लाइसेंस प्रदान किए हैं।
- **Indian Immunologicals Ltd., Techinvention Lifecare Private Ltd., Panacea Biotec Ltd., Biological E Ltd., and Zydus Lifesciences** will make the **vaccine targeting the parasite** before it enters the bloodstream to prevent transmission.
इंडियन इम्यूनोलॉजिकल्स लिमिटेड, टेकइन्वेंशन लाइफकेयर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, पनेशिया बायोटेक लिमिटेड, बायोलॉजिकल ई लिमिटेड और ज़ाइडस लाइफसाइंसेज इस वैक्सीन का निर्माण करेंगी जो परजीवी (parasite) को रक्त प्रवाह (bloodstream) में प्रवेश करने से पहले रोककर संक्रमण को फैलने से रोकने का कार्य करेगी।
- The council said it was an **affordable, stable, and scalable solution. It remains effective for more than nine months at room temperature**, it said.
परिषद ने कहा कि यह एक सुलभ, स्थिर और विस्तार योग्य समाधान है। यह कमरे के तापमान (room temperature) पर नौ महीने से अधिक समय तक प्रभावी रहता है।
- The ICMR had invited **expression of interest from eligible organisations, companies, and manufacturers for transfer of technology for commercialisation of “a recombinant chimeric multi-stage malaria vaccine (AdFalciVax) against Plasmodium falciparum”** useful in **preventing infection in humans and minimising community transmission.**
ICMR ने योग्य संगठनों, कंपनियों और निर्माताओं से प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण और व्यावसायीकरण के लिए रुचि पत्र (expression of interest) आमंत्रित किए थे, जो “प्लाज्मोडियम फैल्सिपेरम के खिलाफ पुनः संयोजित काइमेरिक मल्टी-स्टेज मलेरिया वैक्सीन (AdFalciVax)” के मनुष्यों में संक्रमण की रोकथाम और सामुदायिक संक्रमण को कम करने में सहायक होगा।
- The goal is to **facilitate the commercialisation of the vaccine to prevent and minimise malaria transmission.**
उद्देश्य वैक्सीन के व्यावसायीकरण को बढ़ावा देना है ताकि मलेरिया संक्रमण की रोकथाम और इसे न्यूनतम करने में मदद मिल सके।
- “The **pre-clinical validation of this technology** was conducted in **collaboration with ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research**, another constituent institute of ICMR, and **National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi**, an **autonomous research institute of the Department of Biotechnology**,” the council said.
परिषद ने कहा, “इस प्रौद्योगिकी का प्री-क्लिनिकल सत्यापन ICMR-नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मलेरिया रिसर्च, जो ICMR का एक अन्य घटक संस्थान है, और नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इम्यूनोलॉजी (NII), नई दिल्ली, जो जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग का एक स्वायत्त अनुसंधान संस्थान है, के सहयोग से किया गया।”
- **Malaria remains one of the major public health problems in India.** The country carries **1.4% of the global malaria case burden**, and accounted for **66% of cases in the Southeast Asia region.**
मलेरिया अब भी भारत में प्रमुख सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं में से एक है। भारत वैश्विक मलेरिया मामलों के बोझ का 1.4% वहन करता है और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया क्षेत्र के 66% मामलों के लिए जिम्मेदार है।



Could our everyday artificially intelligent chatbots become conscious?

Chatbots may replicate emotional responses, participate in casual conversation, and even emulate empathy, rendering them somewhat 'alive' in a way; advanced systems such as GPT-based chatbots can produce creative writing, emulate personalities, or engage in philosophical discourse, further obscuring the distinction

CS III: S&T

Aranyak Goswami
Biju Dharmapalan

Over the last few years, chatbots have permeated practically every aspect of our digital existence, encompassing customer service, mental health support, entertainment, and education. Powered by sophisticated artificial intelligence (AI) models, these conversational agents can generate remarkably human-like responses, sometimes almost indistinguishable from real people. This swift progression in natural language processing frequently raises a significant question: are chatbots conscious?

The inquiry integrates technology, philosophy, cognitive science, and ethics, requiring a thorough examination of the essence of consciousness, the functioning of AI, and the differences between authentic awareness and its mere simulation.

Understanding consciousness

Consciousness is notoriously difficult to define, although most scholars believe it refers to the subjective experience of being aware: the internal, first-person perspective of sensations, thoughts, feelings and the capability for self-reflection. It's not simply about digesting information or showing complicated behaviour; it's about feeling that behaviour from the inside.

Philosophers use the term "phenomenal consciousness" to talk about the "what it is like" part of experience and "access consciousness" to talk about the ability to think about and use knowledge on purpose. People have consciousness in both ways: we can feel pain, happiness, and our thoughts, and we can talk about and change these feelings.

Consciousness is still a touchy subject in AI research circles, as scientists are careful not to imply that AI systems have human-like consciousness in order to keep their work objective. The 2022 incident with Blake Lemoine, who lost his job at Google after saying in public that their LaMDA chatbot had grown sentient, made this concern even stronger.

Most chatbots today are AI systems that use machine learning models, typically large language models (LLMs) that have been trained on large amounts of text data. They come up with answers by looking at patterns they have learned throughout training and guessing the words or phrases that are most likely to come next. This allows them to provide answers that make sense and fit the situation.

However, these models work only on statistical connections, not on comprehension. They lack memories,



Consciousness is notoriously difficult to define, although most scholars believe it refers to the subjective experience of being aware. SHUBHAM DHAGE/UNSPLASH

emotions, beliefs, or an internal subjective experience. Their 'knowledge' arises via pattern recognition rather than cognitive understanding.

Mistaking consciousness

The growing 'intelligence' of chatbots frequently causes consumers to ascribe human-like attributes to them. The ELIZA effect, named after one of the earliest chatbots, refers to the inclination to attribute comprehension or emotions to algorithms that only replicate communication.

Chatbots may replicate emotional responses, participate in casual conversation, and even emulate empathy, rendering them somewhat 'alive' in a way. Advanced systems such as GPT-based chatbots can produce creative writing, emulate personalities, or engage in philosophical discourse, further obscuring the distinction.

The human brain is predisposed to seek intent, agency, and consciousness in social interactions. When a chatbot interacts well, it might activate this cognitive bias, leading users to anthropomorphise the technology.

The case against

Even though they seem advanced, there is no scientific proof that chatbots are conscious. There are a few important points that make this clear:

(i) No subjective experience: chatbots

Consciousness is a touchy subject, as scientists are careful not to imply that AI systems have human-like consciousness. In 2022, Blake Lemoine lost his job at Google after saying in public that their LaMDA chatbot had grown sentient, making this concern even stronger

don't have any feelings or points of view. Their operations are completely mechanistic, using algorithms and calculations without awareness.

(ii) Lack of intentionality: conscious beings have objectives and plans, but chatbots work based on input-output mappings without any desires or goals other than the functions they were taught to perform.

(iii) No self-awareness: consciousness encompasses the capacity for self-reflection as a temporal entity. Chatbots can pretend to have a sense of self by saying things like "I am a chatbot," but they don't really have one that lasts.

(iv) Lack of embodiment: some theories of consciousness stress how important bodily experience is in creating awareness. Chatbots don't possess any bodily embodiment or sensorimotor interaction with the environment.

Taken together, chatbots are not conscious beings: they are complicated

input-output machines. While continuing advances in AI may create more believable conversational agents, there is no guarantee these systems will ever feel or be aware in the human sense.

Ethical, social behaviour

Even though they lack consciousness, chatbots have already raised important ethical implications. One: people may be deceived into over-trusting chatbots, assuming that they understand or care about what they are saying. This can have repercussions in fields such as healthcare and law. Two: users have the potential to build emotional attachments with chatbots, leading to the possibility of exploitative behaviour or psychological harm.

Three: in the event that chatbots produce harmful information or advice that includes bias, who is liable? And finally, as chatbots continue to improve their capabilities, concerns regarding job displacement become more pronounced.

When it comes to maintaining realistic expectations and guiding appropriate deployment, understanding that chatbots are instruments without consciousness is advantageous.

Significant dilemmas

This inquiry propels us into the realm of speculation regarding the intersection of AI and consciousness. Some scientists and philosophers have proposed that if consciousness emerges from the physical workings of the brain, advanced computational systems could one day conceivably mimic those processes, leading to the development of machine consciousness.

Nevertheless, significant obstacles exist, encompassing both practical and theoretical dimensions. The intricacies of consciousness remain largely elusive, and the prospect of artificially replicating it is more complex. The nature of consciousness may extend beyond mere computation, possibly encompassing biological or quantum mechanisms that are distinctive to living brains.

This emergence also poses significant dilemmas concerning the rights, personhood, and appropriate treatment of these entities. Despite ongoing progress in AI leading to increasingly convincing conversational agents, there's no assurance that these systems will ever possess feelings or awareness the way humans do.

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THE GIST

Most chatbots have been trained on large amounts of text data. Their 'knowledge' arises via pattern recognition rather than cognitive understanding and guessing words most likely to come next. They lack memories, emotions, and beliefs

Chatbots are not conscious beings, they are complicated input-output machines. While continuing advances in AI may create more believable agents, there is no guarantee these systems will ever feel or be aware in the human sense

Some scientists have proposed that if consciousness emerges from the physical workings of the brain, advanced computational systems could one day conceivably mimic those processes, leading to the development of machine consciousness

Could our everyday artificially intelligent chatbots become conscious?

क्या हमारे रोज़मर्रा के कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित चैटबॉट सचेतन हो सकते हैं?

- Chatbots may replicate emotional responses, participate in casual conversation, and even emulate empathy, rendering them somewhat 'alive' in a way. चैटबॉट्स भावनात्मक प्रतिक्रियाओं की नकल कर सकते हैं, सामान्य बातचीत में भाग ले सकते हैं और यहां तक कि सहानुभूति (empathy) की नकल भी कर सकते हैं, जिससे वे एक तरह से 'जीवित' प्रतीत होते हैं।



- Advanced systems such as **GPT-based chatbots** can produce creative writing, emulate personalities, or engage in philosophical discourse, further obscuring the distinction.
GPT-आधारित चैटबॉट्स जैसे उन्नत सिस्टम रचनात्मक लेखन (creative writing) कर सकते हैं, व्यक्तित्व की नकल कर सकते हैं, या दार्शनिक वार्तालाप (philosophical discourse) में शामिल हो सकते हैं, जिससे अंतर और भी अस्पष्ट (obscure) हो जाता है।

Chatbots and Consciousness

चैटबॉट्स और चेतना

- Over the last few years, chatbots have permeated practically every aspect of our digital existence, **encompassing customer service, mental health support, entertainment, and education.**
पिछले कुछ वर्षों में, **चैटबॉट्स** ने हमारे डिजिटल जीवन के लगभग हर पहलू में प्रवेश कर लिया है, जिसमें ग्राहक सेवा, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सहायता, मनोरंजन और शिक्षा शामिल हैं।
- Powered by sophisticated **artificial intelligence (AI)** models, these conversational agents can generate remarkably human-like responses, sometimes almost indistinguishable from real people.
उन्नत **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** मॉडलों द्वारा संचालित, ये संवादात्मक एजेंट आश्चर्यजनक रूप से मानव-समान प्रतिक्रियाएँ उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं, कभी-कभी वास्तविक लोगों से लगभग अलग नज़र नहीं आते।
- This swift progression in **natural language processing** frequently raises a significant question: are chatbots conscious?
प्राकृतिक भाषा प्रसंस्करण में यह तेज़ प्रगति अक्सर एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठाती है: क्या चैटबॉट्स सचेत हैं?
- The inquiry integrates **technology, philosophy, cognitive science, and ethics**, requiring a thorough examination of the essence of consciousness, the functioning of AI, and the differences between authentic awareness and its mere simulation.
यह जाँच **प्रौद्योगिकी, दर्शनशास्त्र, संज्ञानात्मक विज्ञान और नैतिकता** को जोड़ती है, और इसमें चेतना के सार, AI के कामकाज, और वास्तविक जागरूकता और उसके मात्र अनुकरण के बीच अंतर की गहन परीक्षा की आवश्यकता होती है।

Understanding consciousness

चेतना को समझना

- Consciousness is notoriously difficult to define, although most scholars believe it refers to the **subjective experience of being aware**: the internal, first-person perspective of sensations, thoughts, feelings and the capability for self-reflection.
चेतना को परिभाषित करना कुख्यात रूप से कठिन है, हालांकि अधिकांश विद्वानों का मानना है कि यह **सचेत होने के आत्मनिष्ठ अनुभव** को संदर्भित करता है: संवेदनाओं, विचारों, भावनाओं और आत्म-चिंतन की क्षमता का आंतरिक, प्रथम-पुरुष दृष्टिकोण।
- It's not simply about digesting information or showing complicated behaviour; it's about feeling that behaviour from the inside.
यह केवल जानकारी पचाने या जटिल व्यवहार दिखाने के बारे में नहीं है; यह उस व्यवहार को अंदर से महसूस करने के बारे में है।
- Philosophers use the term **“phenomenal consciousness”** to talk about the “what it is like” part of experience and **“access consciousness”** to talk about the ability to think about and use knowledge on purpose.
दार्शनिक **“प्रत्यक्ष चेतना (phenomenal consciousness)”** शब्द का उपयोग अनुभव के “क्या यह जैसा है” हिस्से के बारे में बात करने के लिए करते हैं और **“सुलभ चेतना (access consciousness)”** का उपयोग ज्ञान के बारे में सोचने और उसे उद्देश्यपूर्वक उपयोग करने की क्षमता के लिए करते हैं।
- People have consciousness in both ways: we can feel pain, happiness, and our thoughts, and we can talk about and change these feelings.
लोगों में दोनों प्रकार की चेतना होती है: हम दर्द, खुशी और अपने विचारों को महसूस कर सकते हैं, और हम इन भावनाओं के बारे में बात कर सकते हैं और उन्हें बदल सकते हैं।
- Consciousness is still a touchy subject in **AI research circles**, as scientists are careful not to imply that AI systems have human-like consciousness in order to keep their work objective.



चेतना अभी भी AI शोध क्षेत्रों में एक संवेदनशील विषय है, क्योंकि वैज्ञानिक यह इंगित करने से बचते हैं कि AI सिस्टम में मानव-समान चेतना है ताकि उनका काम वस्तुनिष्ठ बना रहे।

- The 2022 incident with Blake Lemoine, who lost his job at Google after saying in public that their **LaMDA chatbot had grown sentient**, made this concern even stronger.
2022 की घटना ब्लेक लेमोइन (Blake Lemoine) के साथ, जिन्होंने सार्वजनिक रूप से कहा कि Google का **LaMDA चैटबॉट संवेदनशील हो गया है** और इसके बाद उन्होंने अपनी नौकरी खो दी, ने इस चिंता को और भी गहरा कर दिया।

How chatbots work

चैटबॉट्स कैसे काम करते हैं

- Most chatbots today are **AI systems** that use **machine learning models**, typically **large language models (LLMs)** that have been **trained on large amounts of text data**.
आज अधिकांश चैटबॉट्स AI सिस्टम होते हैं जो **मशीन लर्निंग मॉडल्स** का उपयोग करते हैं, आमतौर पर **बड़े भाषा मॉडल (LLMs)**, जिन्हें बड़े पैमाने पर पाठ डेटा पर प्रशिक्षित किया गया है।
- **They come up with answers by looking at patterns they have learned throughout training and guessing the words or phrases that are most likely to come next.**
वे प्रशिक्षण के दौरान सीखे गए **पैटर्न्स** को देखकर और यह अनुमान लगाकर उत्तर देते हैं कि आगे कौन से शब्द या वाक्यांश आने की संभावना है।
- This allows them to provide answers that make sense and fit the situation.
इससे वे ऐसे उत्तर देने में सक्षम होते हैं जो समझ में आते हैं और स्थिति के अनुरूप होते हैं।
- However, **these models work only on statistical connections, not on comprehension.**
हालाँकि, ये मॉडल केवल **सांख्यिकीय संबंधों** पर काम करते हैं, न कि **समझ** पर।
- **They lack memories, emotions, beliefs, or an internal subjective experience.**
इनमें **स्मृतियाँ, भावनाएँ, विश्वास या आंतरिक आत्मनिष्ठ अनुभव** नहीं होते।
- **Their 'knowledge' arises via pattern recognition rather than cognitive understanding.**
उनका **'ज्ञान' पैटर्न पहचान** के माध्यम से उत्पन्न होता है न कि संज्ञानात्मक समझ से।

Mistaking consciousness

चेतना को गलत समझना

- The growing 'intelligence' of chatbots frequently causes consumers to ascribe human-like attributes to them.
चैटबॉट्स की बढ़ती **'बुद्धिमत्ता'** अक्सर उपभोक्ताओं को उनमें **मानव-सदृश गुण** जोड़ने के लिए प्रेरित करती है।
- **The ELIZA effect, named after one of the earliest chatbots, refers to the inclination to attribute comprehension or emotions to algorithms that only replicate communication.**
ELIZA प्रभाव, जिसका नाम सबसे पहले बनाए गए चैटबॉट्स में से एक के नाम पर रखा गया है, उस प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाता है जिसमें लोग केवल **संचार की नकल करने वाले एल्गोरिद्म** को **समझ या भावनाएँ** देने लगते हैं।
- Chatbots may replicate emotional responses, participate in casual conversation, and **even emulate empathy, rendering them somewhat 'alive' in a way.**
चैटबॉट्स **भावनात्मक प्रतिक्रियाओं** की नकल कर सकते हैं, सामान्य बातचीत में भाग ले सकते हैं और यहां तक कि **सहानुभूति (empathy)** की नकल भी कर सकते हैं, जिससे वे एक तरह से **'जीवित'** प्रतीत होते हैं।
- Advanced systems such as **GPT-based chatbots** can produce creative writing, emulate personalities, or engage in philosophical discourse, further obscuring the distinction.
GPT-आधारित चैटबॉट्स जैसे उन्नत सिस्टम **रचनात्मक लेखन (creative writing)** कर सकते हैं, व्यक्तित्व की नकल कर सकते हैं, या **दार्शनिक वार्तालाप (philosophical discourse)** में शामिल हो सकते हैं, जिससे अंतर और भी **अस्पष्ट (obscure)** हो जाता है।
- The human brain is predisposed to seek intent, agency, and consciousness in social interactions.
मानव मस्तिष्क सामाजिक संपर्कों में **उद्देश्य (intent), एजेंसी और चेतना (consciousness)** खोजने की प्रवृत्ति रखता है।
- When a chatbot interacts well, it might activate this **cognitive bias**, leading users to anthropomorphise the technology.



जब कोई चैटबॉट अच्छे से संवाद करता है, तो यह **संज्ञानात्मक पक्षपात (cognitive bias)** को सक्रिय कर सकता है, जिससे उपयोगकर्ता **प्रौद्योगिकी को मानवीय रूप देने** लगते हैं।

The case against विपक्ष में तर्क

- Even though they seem advanced, there is no **scientific proof** that chatbots are conscious. भले ही वे उन्नत लगते हों, लेकिन ऐसा कोई **वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण** नहीं है कि चैटबॉट्स सचेतन हैं।
- There are a few important points that make this clear: इसे स्पष्ट करने वाले कुछ महत्वपूर्ण बिंदु हैं:
 - (i) **No subjective experience**: chatbots don't have any feelings or points of view. **Their operations are completely mechanistic, using algorithms and calculations without awareness.**
 - (i) **कोई व्यक्तिपरक अनुभव नहीं**: चैटबॉट्स के पास कोई **भावनाएँ** या दृष्टिकोण नहीं होते। उनका संचालन पूरी तरह **यांत्रिक (mechanistic)** होता है, जिसमें वे एल्गोरिद्म और गणनाओं का उपयोग करते हैं, लेकिन **जागरूकता (awareness)** नहीं होती।
 - (ii) **Lack of intentionality**: **conscious beings have objectives and plans**, but chatbots work based on input-output mappings without any desires or goals other than the functions they were taught to perform.
 - (ii) **उद्देश्य की कमी**: सचेतन प्राणियों के पास **लक्ष्य और योजनाएँ** होती हैं, लेकिन चैटबॉट्स केवल **इनपुट-आउटपुट मैपिंग** पर काम करते हैं, उनके पास कोई **इच्छा या लक्ष्य** नहीं होता, सिवाय उस कार्य के जिसे उन्हें सिखाया गया हो।
 - (iii) **No self-awareness**: consciousness encompasses the capacity for self-reflection as a temporal entity. Chatbots can pretend to have a sense of self by saying things like "I am a chatbot," but they don't really have one that lasts.
 - (iii) **स्व-जागरूकता की कमी**: चेतना में **स्व-प्रतिबिंब (self-reflection)** की क्षमता शामिल होती है। चैटबॉट्स "मैं एक चैटबॉट हूँ" जैसी बातें कहकर **स्व की अनुभूति** का नाटक कर सकते हैं, लेकिन वास्तव में उनके पास यह क्षमता नहीं होती।
 - (iv) **Lack of embodiment**: **some theories of consciousness stress how important bodily experience is in creating awareness.** Chatbots don't possess any bodily embodiment or **sensorimotor interaction** with the environment.
 - (iv) **शारीरिक अवतार की कमी**: चेतना की कुछ सिद्धांतों में **शारीरिक अनुभव (bodily experience)** की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका बताई गई है। चैटबॉट्स के पास न तो कोई **शारीरिक अवतार (embodiment)** है और न ही पर्यावरण के साथ **संवेदी-गतिशील अंतःक्रिया (sensorimotor interaction)**।
- Taken together, chatbots are not conscious beings: they are complicated input-output machines. कुल मिलाकर, चैटबॉट्स **सचेतन प्राणी** नहीं हैं: वे जटिल **इनपुट-आउटपुट मशीनें** हैं।
- While continuing advances in AI may create more believable conversational agents, there is no guarantee these systems will ever feel or be aware in the human sense. जबकि **AI** में निरंतर प्रगति अधिक **विश्वसनीय संवाद एजेंट्स** बना सकती है, लेकिन इस बात की कोई गारंटी नहीं है कि ये सिस्टम कभी **मानवीय अर्थों** में **महसूस** कर पाएंगे या **जागरूक** हो पाएंगे।

Ethical, social behaviour नैतिक, सामाजिक व्यवहार

- Even though they lack **consciousness**, chatbots have already raised important **ethical implications**. यद्यपि उनमें **चेतना** की कमी है, चैटबॉट्स ने पहले ही महत्वपूर्ण **नैतिक प्रभाव** उत्पन्न किए हैं।
- One: people may be deceived into over-trusting chatbots, assuming that they understand or care about what they are saying. पहला: लोग चैटबॉट्स पर अत्यधिक विश्वास करके धोखा खा सकते हैं, यह मानकर कि वे जो कह रहे हैं उसे समझते हैं या उसकी परवाह करते हैं।
- This can have repercussions in fields such as **healthcare and law**. इसका असर **स्वास्थ्य सेवा और कानून** जैसे क्षेत्रों में हो सकता है।



- Two: users have the potential to build **emotional attachments** with chatbots, leading to the possibility of **exploitative behaviour or psychological harm**.
दूसरा: उपयोगकर्ताओं में चैटबॉट्स के साथ **भावनात्मक जुड़ाव** बनाने की संभावना होती है, जिससे **शोषणकारी व्यवहार या मानसिक नुकसान** की संभावना उत्पन्न हो सकती है।
- Three: in the event that chatbots produce **harmful information or advice** that includes **bias**, who is liable?
तीसरा: यदि चैटबॉट्स **हानिकारक जानकारी या सलाह** उत्पन्न करते हैं जिसमें **पक्षपात** शामिल है, तो जिम्मेदार कौन होगा?
- And finally, as chatbots continue to improve their capabilities, concerns regarding **job displacement** become more pronounced.
और अंत में, जैसे-जैसे चैटबॉट्स अपनी क्षमताओं में सुधार करते हैं, **नौकरी विस्थापन** से संबंधित चिंताएँ अधिक स्पष्ट हो जाती हैं।
- When it comes to maintaining **realistic expectations** and guiding **appropriate deployment**, understanding that chatbots are instruments without consciousness is advantageous.
यथार्थवादी अपेक्षाओं को बनाए रखने और **उचित उपयोग** का मार्गदर्शन करने के मामले में, यह समझना लाभदायक है कि चैटबॉट्स चेतना रहित उपकरण हैं।

Significant dilemmas

महत्वपूर्ण दुविधाएँ

- This inquiry propels us into the realm of speculation regarding the intersection of **AI and consciousness**.
यह जाँच हमें **AI और चेतना** के अंतर्संबंध से संबंधित अटकलों के क्षेत्र में ले जाती है।
- Some scientists and philosophers have proposed that if **consciousness** emerges from the **physical workings of the brain**, advanced **computational systems** could one day conceivably mimic those processes, leading to the development of **machine consciousness**.
कुछ वैज्ञानिकों और दार्शनिकों ने प्रस्तावित किया है कि यदि **चेतना मस्तिष्क के भौतिक कार्यों** से उत्पन्न होती है, तो उन्नत **संगणनात्मक प्रणालियाँ** एक दिन संभवतः उन प्रक्रियाओं की नकल कर सकती हैं, जिससे **मशीन चेतना** का विकास हो सकता है।
- Nevertheless, significant **obstacles** exist, encompassing both **practical and theoretical dimensions**.
फिर भी, महत्वपूर्ण **बाधाएँ** मौजूद हैं, जो **व्यावहारिक और सैद्धांतिक आयामों** दोनों को शामिल करती हैं।
- The intricacies of **consciousness** remain largely elusive, and the prospect of artificially replicating it is more complex.
चेतना की जटिलताएँ बड़े पैमाने पर मायावी बनी रहती हैं, और इसका कृत्रिम रूप से पुनरुत्पादन करना और भी जटिल है।
- The nature of **consciousness** may extend beyond mere computation, possibly encompassing **biological or quantum mechanisms** that are distinctive to living brains.
चेतना का स्वभाव केवल गणना से परे हो सकता है, जिसमें संभवतः **जैविक या क्वांटम तंत्र** शामिल हो सकते हैं जो जीवित मस्तिष्कों के लिए विशिष्ट हैं।
- This emergence also poses significant **dilemmas** concerning the **rights, personhood, and appropriate treatment** of these entities.
यह उभराव इन संस्थाओं के **अधिकारों, व्यक्तित्व और उचित व्यवहार** से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण **दुविधाएँ** भी प्रस्तुत करता है।
- Despite ongoing progress in **AI** leading to increasingly convincing **conversational agents**, there's no assurance that these systems will ever possess **feelings or awareness** the way humans do.
AI में जारी प्रगति के बावजूद, जो तेजी से अधिक विश्वसनीय **संवादी एजेंटों** की ओर ले जाती है, कोई आश्वासन नहीं है कि ये प्रणालियाँ कभी मनुष्यों की तरह **भावनाएँ या जागरूकता** रखेंगी।



In poor taste

Vasudevan Mukunth



Q: Why does the 'brain-eating amoeba' eat the brain?

A: Primary amoebic

GS III: S&T

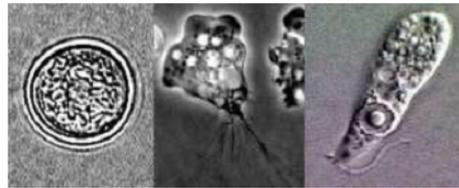
meningoencephalitis (PAM) is caused most often by *Naegleria fowleri*, sometimes called the "brain-eating amoeba". *N. fowleri* lives in warm freshwater, including lakes, hot springs, and in poorly chlorinated pools.

An infection begins when contaminated water rushes up the nasal passages.

The amoeba travels along the olfactory nerves, passing through the cribriform plate and into the olfactory bulbs of the brain.

Unlike viruses, *N. fowleri* is a free-living amoeba. In nature it survives by feeding on bacteria.

Once in the brain, however, it mistakes neurons and glial cells for food. It uses small projections called amoebostomes that literally bite into host cells, ingesting their contents piece by piece. It also releases enzymes and toxins in the form of proteases, phospholipases, and pore-forming proteins that



Three lifecycle stages of *Naegleria fowleri* as seen under a light microscope (L-R): cyst, trophozoite, and flagellate.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

dissolve tissue and kill the host cells.

So "brain-eating" isn't just a metaphor: *N. fowleri* actively consumes living neural cells as a source of nutrients. And as the pathogen feeds and multiplies, its proliferation triggers a profound inflammatory response in the host's body.

The immune system floods the brain with neutrophils and cytokines, causing swelling, bleeding, and necrosis. Together with the amoeba directly consuming the cells, the result is a rapid and catastrophic destruction of brain tissue. For added measure, PAM also progresses very rapidly, often going from the first symptoms to death in under 10 days.

This is also why an *N. fowleri* infection is far more lethal than viral encephalitis.

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- Once inside, the amoeba travels via the **olfactory nerve**, passes through the **cribriform plate**, and reaches the **olfactory bulbs of the brain**.

How it Eats the Brain

- In nature, ***N. fowleri* feeds on bacteria**.
- Inside the brain, it mistakes **neurons and glial cells** for food.
- It uses special feeding structures called **amoebostomes**, which **act like tiny "sucking mouths," to bite and ingest brain cells piece by piece**.
- The amoeba also secretes **enzymes and toxins** such as **proteases, phospholipases, and pore-forming proteins**, which dissolve brain tissue and kill host cells.
- This direct consumption and chemical destruction cause rapid and severe brain damage.

Immune System Response

- As the amoeba multiplies, the body's **immune system floods the brain with neutrophils and cytokines**.
- This causes **inflammation, swelling, bleeding, and necrosis**.
- The combined effect of immune response and amoeba activity leads to the **rapid destruction of brain tissue**.

QUIZ

Brain-Eating Amoeba (*Naegleria fowleri*)

Basic Information

- ***Naegleria fowleri*, often called the "brain-eating amoeba," causes a rare but fatal disease known as Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM).**
- It is a **free-living amoeba found in warm freshwater** such as lakes, rivers, hot springs, and poorly chlorinated swimming pools.
- It was first identified in the **1960s** and has since been reported in various countries including India and the United States.
- The infection is extremely rare but has a **very high fatality rate (over 95%)**.

Mode of Entry into the Body

- Infection occurs when contaminated water enters the body through the **nose**.
- It does **not spread** by drinking contaminated water.



The cracks are emerging in political hegemony

GS III: S&T

For more than a decade, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has not merely dominated Indian politics. It has reshaped it. The party governs 15 States and Union Territories, shares power with allies in six more, and wields the machinery of the Union government even in regions beyond its direct control. Its ascent rested on a potent mix of cultural assertiveness, institutional dominance and muscular nationalism, projecting an aura of invincibility that elevated its rule beyond ordinary electoral success into the realm of political hegemony. But that is beginning to change. The BJP remains electorally formidable and is still the dominant party. Yet, its ability to dominate common sense, dictate the terms of public debate and mute opposition is beginning to show cracks. Recent developments suggest that the once-unassailable dominance of the BJP is facing its most serious challenge in a decade. It has squandered the dominance – even the hegemony – it once enjoyed, a decline now intertwined with the political challenge it confronts as it approaches the Bihar Assembly election later this year.

An eroding narrative supremacy

Its political project built around Hindutva, national pride and majoritarian identity long helped mask economic underperformance, deepening inequality and extreme concentration of wealth in the hands of a few who now exert outsized influence over public policy. The emotional returns of Hindutva were allowed to stand in for material improvements. That trade-off is losing its grip. Youth unemployment remains high, wage growth is stagnant and the informal sector continues to reel from the aftershocks of demonetisation, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). For growing sections of the population, the promise of jobs and upward mobility is beginning to outweigh symbolic victories. And in that widening gap between rhetoric and reality, the party's narrative supremacy is beginning to slip.

The appeal to the urban middle class rested not only on Hindu nationalism but also on the promise of international recognition – an India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as a globally respected power. Diplomatic visibility, high-profile summits and a carefully curated image of global stature were projected as markers of national progress. But that narrative has lost momentum, particularly after tensions with the United States over President Donald Trump's claim of brokering a ceasefire following the India-Pakistan conflict sparked by the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025. The tariff war with Washington, which has triggered job losses across several sectors, alongside the collapse of trade talks and tighter visa regimes, has further punctured the illusion of a seamless global



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ascend. For India's middle class and media, once buoyed by the rhetoric of global rise and the self-proclaimed role of Vishwa Guru, the hard edges of realpolitik have begun to temper enthusiasm and puncture the earlier sense of triumphalism.

One area where the party continues to hold strong appeal, particularly among rural voters and the urban poor, is its system of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT). Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi or PM-KISAN, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Ladli Behna Yojana, and other targeted programmes deliver tangible material benefits. In a context of economic insecurity and widespread deprivation, this helps blunt public discontent. It also helps explain the paradox of the BJP's sustained electoral competitiveness, even as its hegemonic architecture shows signs of strain. Yet, welfare delivery alone cannot sustain political dominance. This is why the regime persistently curbs dissent, silences opposition, and incarcerates critics, activists and intellectuals – not merely to neutralise political rivals, but to suppress independent voices that question its legitimacy.

A more coordinated Opposition

Perhaps the most intangible, yet revealing, sign of change is this: people, especially Opposition leaders, are no longer afraid. Fear once defined the ecosystem of control – fear of arrest, harassment, or marginalisation. That atmosphere has begun to thin. The Opposition is now not only more coordinated but also more assertive, carving out space and placing the government under sustained scrutiny. Yet, challenges remain. The INDIA alliance must still navigate complex regional and ideological differences. But to focus only on those hurdles is to miss the larger shift: the Opposition is no longer a passive critic of government policy. It is actively working to redefine the political agenda. As a result, the cracks in the ruling dispensation's dominance have widened, most visibly in Parliament. Both the Budget and Monsoon sessions saw a combative Opposition taking on the government across multiple political and policy fronts, often to the ruling party's visible discomfort. The 'Gujarat model' – suspending the entire Opposition and pushing Bills through without debate – is no longer proving effective. A more united Opposition has now cornered the government on key issues such as the caste census, Operation Sindoor, the Special Intensive Revision scheme of the Bihar electoral rolls, and alleged election manipulation.

At the centre of this shift is the Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi. His Bharat Jodo Yatra (2022-23) marked a turning point, both for him and for the party. Since then, the Congress has regained momentum, even as the regime tried to cripple it

by freezing its bank accounts on the eve of the 2024 general election. That move backfired. Rather than weakening the party, it exposed the government's heavy-handedness and chipped away at the BJP's aura of invincibility. Mr. Gandhi and his colleagues have managed to reframe the party's image from a reactive opposition to a more proactive, agenda-setting force. The real test, however, lies ahead: turning that shift into sustained political action and significant electoral gains.

The regime's push to tighten control over the Election Commission of India is a telling sign of its waning hegemony. Recent efforts to weaken judicial oversight and expand executive power – particularly through the CEC and Other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023 – reveal a deeper unease. The BJP is no longer willing to rely on existing rules unless it can reshape them in its favour. A government secure in its authority would have no need to rewrite the rules. The very impulse to do so signals a crisis of control – a fear that its dominance can no longer be taken for granted.

Perhaps the most damaging development for the regime has been the Congress-led campaign accusing it of systematically manipulating voter rolls. What might once have seemed like routine administrative irregularities has been reframed as a deliberate strategy to undermine democratic choice. By exposing patterns of mass deletions, rushed revisions and algorithmic targeting of Opposition-leaning demographics, the campaign has transformed technical disputes into a broader indictment of the regime's integrity. Essentially, these charges go beyond questioning the fairness of individual elections, they challenge the legitimacy of the regime's victories, suggesting that they stem not from genuine majority support but the manipulation of electoral processes.

The two parties, the crucial difference

Crucially, the BJP's dominance is often compared to the post-Independence dominance of the Congress Party but the analogy obscures a fundamental difference. What distinguishes the current moment from earlier eras of single-party dominance is that it has not produced a "BJP system" in the way the Congress once created a "Congress system". The Congress's hegemony rested not just on electoral victories but also on its ability to absorb and reflect India's diverse social, regional and ideological currents. Its dominance was underpinned by a broad consensus even when contested. In contrast, the BJP's dominance is rooted in polarisation and exclusion, rather than accommodation and inclusion. Its power rests primarily on electoral success reinforced by state machinery, rather than on a deep reservoir of social legitimacy. And as soon as that machinery falters, the cracks begin to show.

The Bharatiya Janata Party remains electorally strong, but its political hegemony is showing signs of strain as narrative control weakens and the Opposition's confidence grows

The cracks are emerging in political hegemony राजनीतिक वर्चस्व में दरारें उभर रही हैं

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): Political Dominance and Challenges भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा): राजनीतिक प्रभुत्व और चुनौतियाँ

- For more than a decade, the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** has not merely dominated Indian politics. It has reshaped it.
एक दशक से अधिक समय से, **भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा)** ने न केवल भारतीय राजनीति पर प्रभुत्व जमाया है बल्कि इसे नया रूप भी दिया है।
- The party governs **15 States and Union Territories**, shares power with allies in **six more**, and wields the machinery of the Union government even in regions beyond its direct control.



पार्टी 15 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों पर शासन करती है, छह और में सहयोगियों के साथ सत्ता साझा करती है, और प्रत्यक्ष नियंत्रण से बाहर क्षेत्रों में भी केंद्र सरकार की मशीनरी का उपयोग करती है।

- Its ascent rested on a potent mix of **cultural assertiveness, institutional dominance and muscular nationalism**, projecting an aura of invincibility.
इसका उदय सांस्कृतिक आत्मविश्वास, संस्थागत प्रभुत्व और मांसल राष्ट्रवाद के मिश्रण पर आधारित रहा, जिसने इसे अजेयता का आभास दिया।
- That elevated its rule beyond ordinary electoral success into the realm of **political hegemony**.
इसने इसके शासन को साधारण चुनावी सफलता से आगे बढ़ाकर राजनीतिक वर्चस्व के क्षेत्र में पहुँचा दिया।
- But that is beginning to change. The BJP remains electorally formidable and is still the **dominant party**.
लेकिन यह बदलना शुरू हो गया है। भाजपा चुनावी रूप से अभी भी मजबूत और प्रमुख पार्टी है।
- Yet, its ability to dominate **common sense, dictate public debate and mute opposition** is beginning to show cracks.
फिर भी, सामाजिक समझ पर प्रभुत्व, जन बहस को नियंत्रित करना और विपक्ष को दबाना अब कमजोर होता दिख रहा है।
- Recent developments suggest that the once-unassailable dominance of the BJP is facing its **most serious challenge in a decade**.
हाल की घटनाएँ बताती हैं कि भाजपा का कभी अजेय प्रभुत्व अब एक दशक में सबसे गंभीर चुनौती का सामना कर रहा है।
- It has squandered the dominance — even the **hegemony** — it once enjoyed, a decline now intertwined with the **Bihar Assembly election** later this year.
इसने अपने पुराने प्रभुत्व — यहाँ तक कि वर्चस्व — को गंवा दिया है, और यह गिरावट अब इस साल के अंत में होने वाले बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव से जुड़ गई है।

An eroding narrative supremacy

कथानक वर्चस्व का क्षरण

- Its political project built around **Hindutva, national pride and majoritarian identity** long helped mask **economic underperformance, inequality and wealth concentration**.
इसका राजनीतिक प्रोजेक्ट हिंदुत्व, राष्ट्रीय गौरव और बहुसंख्यक पहचान पर आधारित रहा जिसने लंबे समय तक आर्थिक कमजोर प्रदर्शन, असमानता और संपत्ति के संकेंद्रण को छिपाए रखा।
- The emotional returns of **Hindutva** were allowed to stand in for material improvements.
हिंदुत्व से जुड़ी भावनात्मक वापसी को भौतिक सुधारों के स्थान पर खड़ा होने दिया गया।
- That trade-off is losing its grip. **Youth unemployment** remains high, **wage growth** stagnant, and the **informal sector** reeling from **demonetisation, COVID-19 pandemic, and GST**.
यह संतुलन अब ढीला पड़ रहा है। युवा बेरोजगारी उच्च बनी हुई है, वेतन वृद्धि ठहरी हुई है, और अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र नोटबंदी, COVID-19 महामारी और GST से अब भी जूझ रहा है।
- For growing sections, the **promise of jobs and upward mobility** is beginning to outweigh symbolic victories.
बढ़ते वर्गों के लिए, रोज़गार और उन्नति का वादा अब प्रतीकात्मक जीत से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो रहा है।
- In this gap between **rhetoric and reality**, the party's **narrative supremacy** is beginning to slip.
वाकपटुता और वास्तविकता के बीच इस अंतर में, पार्टी का कथानक वर्चस्व कमजोर होने लगा है।
- The appeal to the **urban middle class** rested not only on **Hindu nationalism** but also on **international recognition** under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
शहरी मध्यवर्ग का आकर्षण केवल हिंदू राष्ट्रवाद पर नहीं, बल्कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के तहत अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहचान पर भी आधारित था।
- But that narrative has lost momentum, particularly after tensions with the **United States** over **Donald Trump's ceasefire claim** following the **Pahalgam terror attack (April 2025)**.
लेकिन यह कथानक कमजोर पड़ गया है, खासकर संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के साथ तनाव और डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के युद्धविराम दावे (पहलगाम आतंकी हमला, अप्रैल 2025 के बाद) के चलते।
- The **tariff war** with Washington has triggered **job losses** across sectors, collapse of trade talks, and **tighter visa regimes**.



वॉशिंगटन के साथ शुल्क युद्ध ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में नौकरी छिन्ने, व्यापार वार्ता टूटने और कठोर वीजा व्यवस्था को जन्म दिया।

- For the **middle class and media**, once buoyed by **Vishwa Guru rhetoric**, the hard edges of **realpolitik** have punctured triumphalism.
मध्यवर्ग और मीडिया, जो कभी विश्वगुरु की वाणी से उत्साहित थे, अब कठोर कूटनीति ने उनके विजय भाव को कमजोर कर दिया है।

Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) and Welfare Schemes प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) और कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ

- The party holds strong appeal among **rural voters and urban poor** through **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)**.
पार्टी का ग्रामीण मतदाताओं और शहरी गरीबों पर गहरा प्रभाव प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) से है।
- Schemes like **PM-KISAN, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Ladli Behna Yojana**, and others deliver **tangible benefits**.
पीएम-किसान, प्रधानमंत्री जन-धन योजना, मुख्यमंत्री लाडली बहना योजना और अन्य योजनाएँ प्रत्यक्ष लाभ पहुँचाती हैं।
- In a context of **economic insecurity and deprivation**, this blunts **public discontent**.
आर्थिक असुरक्षा और वंचना के परिप्रेक्ष्य में, यह जन असंतोष को कम करता है।
- This explains the paradox of BJP's sustained **electoral competitiveness** despite strain in its **hegemonic architecture**.
यह भाजपा की लगातार बनी रहने वाली **चुनावी प्रतिस्पर्धा** को समझाता है, भले ही इसके **वर्चस्व ढांचे** में दरारें दिखाई दे रही हों।
- Yet, **welfare delivery alone** cannot sustain political dominance.
फिर भी, केवल **कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की डिलीवरी** राजनीतिक प्रभुत्व को बनाए नहीं रख सकती।
- Hence, the regime curbs **dissent, silences opposition, incarcerates critics, activists, and intellectuals** — not only to neutralise rivals but also to suppress voices questioning legitimacy.
इसलिए, शासन **असहमति को दबाता है, विपक्ष को चुप कराता है, आलोचकों, कार्यकर्ताओं और बुद्धिजीवियों को जेल में डालता है** — न केवल प्रतिद्वंद्वियों को कमजोर करने के लिए बल्कि वैधता पर सवाल उठाने वाली आवाज़ों को दबाने के लिए भी।

A more coordinated Opposition एक अधिक समन्वित विपक्ष

- Perhaps the most intangible, yet revealing, sign of **change** is this: people, especially Opposition leaders, are no longer afraid. Fear once defined the **ecosystem of control** — fear of arrest, harassment, or marginalisation. That atmosphere has begun to thin.
शायद सबसे अमूर्त लेकिन प्रकट करने वाला **परिवर्तन** का संकेत यह है: लोग, विशेष रूप से विपक्षी नेता, अब डरते नहीं हैं। कभी **नियंत्रण की पारिस्थितिकी** को डर परिभाषित करता था — गिरफ्तारी, उत्पीड़न या हाशिये पर डाले जाने का डर। वह माहौल अब पतला होने लगा है।
- The **Opposition** is now not only more coordinated but also more assertive, carving out space and placing the government under sustained scrutiny. Yet, challenges remain.
अब **विपक्ष** न केवल अधिक समन्वित है बल्कि अधिक आत्मविश्वासी भी है, वह स्थान बना रहा है और सरकार को निरंतर जांच के घेरे में ला रहा है। फिर भी, चुनौतियाँ बनी हुई हैं।
- The **INDIA alliance** must still navigate complex regional and ideological differences. But to focus only on those hurdles is to miss the larger shift: the Opposition is no longer a passive critic of government policy. It is actively working to redefine the political agenda.
INDIA गठबंधन को अभी भी जटिल क्षेत्रीय और वैचारिक भिन्नताओं से निपटना होगा। लेकिन केवल उन बाधाओं पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना बड़े बदलाव को नज़रअंदाज़ करना होगा: विपक्ष अब सरकार की नीतियों का निष्क्रिय आलोचक नहीं है। यह सक्रिय रूप से राजनीतिक एजेंडा को पुनर्परिभाषित करने का काम कर रहा है।
- As a result, the **cracks** in the ruling dispensation's dominance have widened, most visibly in **Parliament**. Both the **Budget and Monsoon sessions** saw a combative Opposition taking on the government across multiple political and policy fronts, often to the ruling party's visible discomfort.



परिणामस्वरूप, शासक व्यवस्था के प्रभुत्व में दरारें चौड़ी हो गई हैं, विशेष रूप से संसद में। बजट और मानसून सत्र दोनों में एक आक्रामक विपक्ष ने कई राजनीतिक और नीतिगत मोर्चों पर सरकार को घेरा, जिससे अक्सर सत्तारूढ़ दल को स्पष्ट असहजता हुई।

- The 'Gujarat model' — suspending the entire Opposition and pushing Bills through without debate — is no longer proving effective. A more united Opposition has now cornered the government on key issues such as the **caste census**, **Operation Sindoor**, the **Special Intensive Revision scheme** of the Bihar electoral rolls, and alleged **election manipulation**.
'गुजरात मॉडल' — पूरे विपक्ष को निलंबित करना और बिना बहस के विधेयक पारित करना — अब प्रभावी साबित नहीं हो रहा है। अब एक अधिक एकजुट विपक्ष ने सरकार को **जाति जनगणना**, **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर**, बिहार की मतदाता सूची की **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण योजना**, और कथित **चुनावी धांधली** जैसे प्रमुख मुद्दों पर घेर लिया है।
- At the centre of this shift is the **Congress**, led by **Rahul Gandhi**. His **Bharat Jodo Yatra (2022-23)** marked a turning point, both for him and for the party. Since then, the Congress has regained momentum, even as the regime tried to cripple it by freezing its bank accounts on the eve of the **2024 general election**.
इस बदलाव के केंद्र में **कांग्रेस** है, जिसका नेतृत्व **राहुल गांधी** कर रहे हैं। उनकी **भारत जोड़ो यात्रा (2022-23)** ने उनके लिए और पार्टी के लिए एक मोड़ का काम किया। तब से कांग्रेस ने फिर से गति पकड़ी है, भले ही शासन ने **2024 आम चुनाव** की पूर्व संध्या पर उसके बैंक खाते फ्रीज़ कर उसे अपंग करने की कोशिश की।
- That move backfired. Rather than weakening the party, it exposed the government's **heavy-handedness** and chipped away at the BJP's aura of **invincibility**.
वह कदम उल्टा पड़ गया। पार्टी को कमजोर करने के बजाय, इसने सरकार की **कठोरता** को उजागर किया और बीजेपी की **अजेयता** की आभा को कम किया।
- Mr. Gandhi and his colleagues have managed to reframe the party's image from a **reactive opposition** to a more **proactive, agenda-setting force**. The real test, however, lies ahead: turning that shift into sustained political action and significant electoral gains.
श्री गांधी और उनके सहयोगियों ने पार्टी की छवि को एक **प्रतिक्रियाशील विपक्ष** से बदलकर एक अधिक **सक्रिय, एजेंडा तय करने वाली शक्ति** के रूप में प्रस्तुत करने में सफलता पाई है। हालांकि, असली परीक्षा आगे है: उस बदलाव को स्थायी राजनीतिक कार्रवाई और महत्वपूर्ण चुनावी लाभ में बदलना।
- The regime's push to tighten control over the **Election Commission of India** is a telling sign of its waning hegemony. Recent efforts to weaken judicial oversight and expand executive power — particularly through the **CEC and Other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023** — reveal a deeper unease.
शासन का **भारत निर्वाचन आयोग** पर नियंत्रण कड़ा करने का प्रयास उसके घटते वर्चस्व का एक स्पष्ट संकेत है। न्यायिक निगरानी को कमजोर करने और कार्यपालिका की शक्ति बढ़ाने के हालिया प्रयास — विशेषकर **मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त और अन्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त विधेयक, 2023** के माध्यम से — एक गहरी बेचैनी को उजागर करते हैं।
- The BJP is no longer willing to rely on existing rules unless it can reshape them in its favour. A government secure in its authority would have no need to rewrite the rules. The very impulse to do so signals a **crisis of control** — a fear that its dominance can no longer be taken for granted.
अब बीजेपी मौजूदा नियमों पर भरोसा करने को तैयार नहीं है जब तक कि वह उन्हें अपने पक्ष में बदल न सके। एक सरकार जो अपने अधिकार में सुरक्षित है, उसे नियमों को फिर से लिखने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। ऐसा करने की प्रवृत्ति स्वयं ही **नियंत्रण के संकट** का संकेत देती है — यह डर कि उसका प्रभुत्व अब स्वाभाविक रूप से स्वीकार नहीं किया जा सकता।
- Perhaps the most damaging development for the regime has been the **Congress-led campaign** accusing it of systematically manipulating **voter rolls**. What might once have seemed like routine administrative irregularities has been reframed as a deliberate strategy to undermine **democratic choice**.
शायद शासन के लिए सबसे हानिकारक विकास **कांग्रेस के नेतृत्व वाला अभियान** रहा है, जिसमें उस पर **मतदाता सूचियों** में व्यवस्थित रूप से हेरफेर करने का आरोप लगाया गया है। जो कभी सामान्य प्रशासनिक अनियमितताएँ लग सकती थीं, उन्हें अब **लोकतांत्रिक विकल्प** को कमजोर करने की एक जानबूझकर रणनीति के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है।
- By exposing patterns of **mass deletions**, rushed revisions and **algorithmic targeting** of Opposition-leaning demographics, the campaign has transformed technical disputes into a broader indictment of the regime's **integrity**.



जन विलोपनों, जल्दबाजी में किए गए संशोधनों और विपक्ष-समर्थक जनसांख्यिकी को एल्गोरिथमिक लक्ष्य बनाने के पैटर्न को उजागर करके, इस अभियान ने तकनीकी विवादों को शासन की निष्ठा पर व्यापक अभियोग में बदल दिया है।

- Essentially, these charges go beyond questioning the fairness of individual elections, they challenge the **legitimacy** of the regime's victories, suggesting that they stem not from genuine majority support but from the manipulation of electoral processes.
मूल रूप से, ये आरोप व्यक्तिगत चुनावों की निष्पक्षता पर सवाल उठाने से आगे बढ़ते हैं, ये शासन की जीत की वैधता को चुनौती देते हैं, यह सुझाव देते हुए कि वे वास्तविक बहुमत समर्थन से नहीं बल्कि चुनावी प्रक्रियाओं में हेरफेर से उत्पन्न होते हैं।

The two parties, the crucial difference

दोनों दल, महत्वपूर्ण अंतर

- Crucially, the BJP's dominance is often compared to the **post-Independence dominance** of the **Congress Party** but the analogy obscures a fundamental difference.
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, बीजेपी के प्रभुत्व की अक्सर तुलना स्वतंत्रता-उत्तर प्रभुत्व से की जाती है जो कांग्रेस पार्टी का था, लेकिन यह तुलना एक मौलिक अंतर को छिपा देती है।
- What distinguishes the current moment from earlier eras of single-party dominance is that it has not produced a **"BJP system"** in the way the Congress once created a **"Congress system"**.
जो वर्तमान समय को एकदलीय प्रभुत्व के पहले के युगों से अलग करता है, वह यह है कि इसने एक **"बीजेपी प्रणाली"** का निर्माण नहीं किया है जिस तरह कांग्रेस ने कभी एक **"कांग्रेस प्रणाली"** बनाई थी।
- The **Congress's hegemony** rested not just on electoral victories but also on its ability to absorb and reflect India's diverse **social, regional and ideological currents**. Its dominance was underpinned by a broad **consensus** even when contested.
कांग्रेस का वर्चस्व केवल चुनावी जीत पर आधारित नहीं था बल्कि भारत की विविध सामाजिक, क्षेत्रीय और वैचारिक धाराओं को आत्मसात और प्रतिबिंबित करने की उसकी क्षमता पर भी आधारित था। उसका प्रभुत्व एक व्यापक **सर्वसम्मति** पर आधारित था, भले ही उसे चुनौती दी जाती रही।
- In contrast, the **BJP's dominance** is rooted in **polarisation and exclusion**, rather than accommodation and inclusion. Its power rests primarily on **electoral success** reinforced by **state machinery**, rather than on a deep reservoir of social legitimacy.
इसके विपरीत, **बीजेपी का प्रभुत्व ध्रुवीकरण और बहिष्कार** पर आधारित है, न कि समायोजन और समावेशन पर। उसकी शक्ति मुख्य रूप से राज्य तंत्र द्वारा सुदृढ़ किए गए **चुनावी सफलता** पर टिकी है, न कि सामाजिक वैधता के गहरे भंडार पर।
- And as soon as that machinery falters, the **cracks** begin to show.
और जैसे ही वह तंत्र उगमगाता है, **दरारें** दिखने लगती हैं।



The long march ahead to technological independence

GS III: S&T

India celebrated its hard-won political freedom on the 79th Independence Day, on August 15, 2025. But we must recognise that true independence today requires more than political autonomy. It also demands technological sovereignty, as technology aids every walk of life today.

Geopolitics has taken a darker turn recently. Modern wars are fought with software and drones, not bullets and bombs. The most damaging war is in cyberspace. Our banks, trains and power grids run on information and communication technology. A small number of companies, primarily from a single country, build and control these systems.

This dependence is a serious vulnerability. What happens if these companies turn off their cloud or Artificial Intelligence services under national diktat or out of malice? The capacity to inflict serious harm on the country is very real. We saw this when cloud services were stopped to a company recently. This is not a hypothetical threat, but a reality that we must confront.

Building the foundation

Technological autonomy is the solution. India has no operating system, database, or other foundational software that it builds and can trust completely. This leaves the country dependent on external sources that it cannot control or trust. However, the path to independence is not as difficult as it might seem.

The open-source model offers a path to a solution. India can create its own versions of Linux and Android that are safe and free of backdoors. It is possible for a dedicated group of professionals to do this. The real challenge lies in long-term support and maintenance. A large, supportive user base is necessary for a home-grown operating system (OS) to be viable. If we are to adopt an OS that is a little behind, we can make them competitive and viable. This is a



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True independence today demands that India pursues technological sovereignty, as dependence is now a vulnerability

mission for India's sizeable technology community. The problem affects everyone, but the solution lies with IT professionals who build the digital world. They must join hands to remove this debilitating dependence. This is too big a task for any single institution, but is achievable if many unite behind this goal.

The path to hardware sovereignty

Achieving hardware sovereignty is a greater challenge than software sovereignty. Building sophisticated semi-conductor fabs requires massive, long-term national investment in chip design, manufacturing and supply chain management. Do we have the resources and, more importantly, the patience to build them? A crucial first step is to focus on specific hardware components and invest in partnerships to build expertise in chip design and assembly, even if fabrication is outsourced.

India's journey to political independence was defined by non-violence. Its quest for technology independence should be through open-source software, which is a gift of society to itself. This is about supporting ourselves and not opposing others.

The global open-source movement is no longer the powerful socio-political force that it was. Much of the software today is open-source, including Android, Linux, and Hadoop. However, key control is with centralised cloud and data managed externally by powerful companies. A social movement for autonomy in software and hardware is needed today. India has the necessary talent and the capability. The way exists.

What India needs is the collective will. Let it start an urgent mission of planning, development, and execution before a crisis forces its hand.

Assembling a crack team to create India's own versions of essential software from the open

source resources is the first step. India must build client-side components (such as database, email client, calendar) and server-side components such as web server, email server, and cloud server. Open source versions are available for all of them. India needs to set up teams to continually update and maintain these components, which is the harder task. These teams should work like product teams in companies. This is possible only when there is a sound business model behind it, outside of government or private funds. The mission has to be self-supporting or better.

While this may have been a difficult idea to sell in the past, the current climate is different. Previously, only the strategic sectors were concerned with having trusted and secure software. Now, private companies and individuals are concerned about being dependent on outside forces for critical needs. People are already paying, either directly or indirectly, for the free and open-source software that they use. The shift to a model where these costs are explicit and support trusted software would be a small one.

A mission as the core

The immediate step is to establish a mission to plan the necessary actions. This will be an implementation mission and not a research and development mission aimed at academic/research communities. It will primarily involve strong development and support teams of engineers and a capable project management team to coordinate activities.

There is ample expertise in both industry and academia to make it happen, provided a viable model is established. The government will need to play an enabling role, but should focus on establishing a self-sustaining model as early as possible.

Let us embark on the long march toward technological independence.

The long march ahead to technological independence तकनीकी स्वतंत्रता की ओर लंबा मार्च आगे

India's 79th Independence Day and the Demand for Technological Sovereignty भारत का 79वां स्वतंत्रता दिवस और तकनीकी संप्रभुता की आवश्यकता

- India celebrated its hard-won political freedom on the **79th Independence Day, on August 15, 2025**.
भारत ने अपनी कठिनाई से अर्जित राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता को **79वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस, 15 अगस्त 2025** को मनाया।
- But true independence today requires more than **political autonomy**. It also demands **technological sovereignty**.
लेकिन आज सच्ची स्वतंत्रता केवल **राजनीतिक स्वायत्तता** से अधिक है। इसके लिए **तकनीकी संप्रभुता** भी आवश्यक है।
- Technology aids every walk of life today**.
आज **प्रौद्योगिकी** जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में सहायक है।

Geopolitical Shifts and Digital Vulnerability भूराजनीतिक परिवर्तन और डिजिटल असुरक्षा

- Geopolitics has taken a **darker turn** recently.
हाल ही में भूराजनीति ने **गंभीर मोड़** लिया है।



- Modern wars are fought with **software and drones**, not bullets and bombs.
आधुनिक युद्ध **सॉफ्टवेयर और ड्रोन** से लड़े जाते हैं, न कि गोलियों और बमों से।
- The most damaging war is in **cyberspace**.
सबसे विनाशकारी युद्ध **साइबरस्पेस** में है।
- Our **banks, trains and power grids** run on **information and communication technology (ICT)**.
हमारे **बैंक, ट्रेन और विद्युत ग्रिड सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT)** पर चलते हैं।
- A **small number of companies**, primarily from a **single country**, build and control these systems.
कुछ कंपनियाँ, जो मुख्यतः **एक ही देश** से हैं, इन प्रणालियों का निर्माण और नियंत्रण करती हैं।
- This dependence is a serious **vulnerability**.
यह निर्भरता एक गंभीर **कमजोरी** है।
- If these companies **turn off cloud or AI services**, the capacity to inflict **serious harm** is very real.
यदि ये कंपनियाँ **क्लाउड या एआई सेवाएँ बंद** कर दें, तो **गंभीर नुकसान** पहुँचाने की क्षमता वास्तविक है।
- We saw this when **cloud services were stopped** to a company recently.
हमने हाल ही में यह देखा जब एक कंपनी की **क्लाउड सेवाएँ बंद** कर दी गईं।
- This is not a **hypothetical threat**, but a **reality** we must confront.
यह कोई **काल्पनिक खतरा** नहीं बल्कि एक **वास्तविकता** है जिसका सामना करना होगा।

Building the Foundation of Technological Autonomy तकनीकी आत्मनिर्भरता की नींव बनाना

- **Technological autonomy** is the solution.
तकनीकी आत्मनिर्भरता ही समाधान है।
- India has no **operating system, database, or foundational software** that it builds and can fully trust.
भारत के पास कोई **ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टम, डेटाबेस या बुनियादी सॉफ्टवेयर** नहीं है जिसे उसने बनाया हो और जिस पर पूरी तरह भरोसा कर सके।
- This leaves the country **dependent on external sources** it cannot control or trust.
इससे देश **बाहरी स्रोतों पर निर्भर** हो जाता है जिन्हें वह न तो नियंत्रित कर सकता है और न ही भरोसा कर सकता है।
- The **open-source model** offers a path to a solution.
ओपन-सोर्स मॉडल समाधान का मार्ग प्रदान करता है।
- India can create its own versions of **Linux and Android**, safe and free of **backdoors**.
भारत अपने स्वयं के **Linux और Android** संस्करण बना सकता है, जो सुरक्षित और **बैकडोर** से मुक्त हों।
- A **dedicated group of professionals** can achieve this.
एक **समर्पित पेशेवरों का समूह** इसे संभव कर सकता है।
- The real challenge lies in **long-term support and maintenance**.
असली चुनौती **दीर्घकालिक समर्थन और रखरखाव** में है।
- A **large supportive user base** is necessary for a **home-grown OS** to be viable.
एक **बड़ा उपयोगकर्ता आधार** आवश्यक है ताकि **घरेलू ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टम (OS)** व्यवहार्य हो सके।
- Even if such an OS is a little behind, it can be made **competitive and viable**.
भले ही ऐसा OS थोड़ा पीछे हो, इसे **प्रतिस्पर्धी और व्यवहार्य** बनाया जा सकता है।
- This is a **mission** for India's **technology community**.
यह भारत के **प्रौद्योगिकी समुदाय** के लिए एक **मिशन** है।
- The problem affects **everyone**, but the solution lies with **IT professionals**.
यह समस्या **सभी** को प्रभावित करती है, लेकिन समाधान **आईटी पेशेवरों** के पास है।
- They must **join hands** to remove this **dependence**.
उन्हें इस **निर्भरता** को खत्म करने के लिए **एकजुट होना** होगा।
- This task is too big for any **single institution**, but achievable if **many unite** behind this goal.
यह कार्य किसी एक **संस्था** के लिए बहुत बड़ा है, लेकिन यदि **कई मिलकर** इसके पीछे खड़े हों तो यह संभव है।



The path to hardware sovereignty

हार्डवेयर संप्रभुता का मार्ग

- Achieving **hardware sovereignty** is a greater challenge than **software sovereignty**. Building sophisticated **semi-conductor fabs** requires massive, long-term national investment in chip design, manufacturing and supply chain management. Do we have the resources and, more importantly, the patience to build them?
हार्डवेयर संप्रभुता प्राप्त करना **सॉफ्टवेयर संप्रभुता** से बड़ी चुनौती है। उन्नत **सेमीकंडक्टर फैब्स** का निर्माण चिप डिज़ाइन, निर्माण और सप्लाय चैन प्रबंधन में विशाल, दीर्घकालिक राष्ट्रीय निवेश की मांग करता है। क्या हमारे पास इसे बनाने के लिए संसाधन हैं और उससे भी महत्वपूर्ण, धैर्य है?
- A crucial first step is to focus on specific hardware components and invest in partnerships to build expertise in **chip design** and **assembly**, even if fabrication is outsourced.
पहला महत्वपूर्ण कदम विशेष हार्डवेयर घटकों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना और **चिप डिज़ाइन** और **असेंबली** में विशेषज्ञता विकसित करने के लिए साझेदारी में निवेश करना है, भले ही फैब्रिकेशन आउटसोर्स किया जाए।
- India's journey to **political independence** was defined by **non-violence**. Its quest for **technology independence** should be through **open-source software**, which is a gift of society to itself. This is about supporting ourselves and not opposing others.
भारत की **राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता** की यात्रा **अहिंसा** से परिभाषित हुई थी। इसकी **तकनीकी स्वतंत्रता** की खोज **ओपन-सोर्स सॉफ्टवेयर** के माध्यम से होनी चाहिए, जो समाज का स्वयं को दिया गया उपहार है। यह स्वयं को सहारा देने के बारे में है, दूसरों का विरोध करने के लिए नहीं।
- The global **open-source movement** is no longer the powerful socio-political force that it was. Much of the software today is open-source, including **Android, Linux, and Hadoop**. However, key control is with centralised **cloud** and **data** managed externally by powerful companies.
वैश्विक **ओपन-सोर्स आंदोलन** अब वह शक्तिशाली सामाजिक-राजनीतिक शक्ति नहीं रहा जो कभी था। आज अधिकांश सॉफ्टवेयर **ओपन-सोर्स** हैं, जिनमें **Android, Linux और Hadoop** शामिल हैं। हालांकि, मुख्य नियंत्रण केंद्रीकृत **क्लाउड** और **डेटा** पर है, जिसे बाहरी शक्तिशाली कंपनियों द्वारा प्रबंधित किया जाता है।
- A social movement for **autonomy in software and hardware** is needed today. India has the necessary talent and the capability. The way exists. What India needs is the **collective will**.
आज **सॉफ्टवेयर और हार्डवेयर में स्वायत्तता** के लिए एक सामाजिक आंदोलन की आवश्यकता है। भारत के पास आवश्यक प्रतिभा और क्षमता है। मार्ग उपलब्ध है। भारत को केवल **सामूहिक इच्छाशक्ति** की ज़रूरत है।
- Let it start an urgent mission of **planning, development, and execution** before a crisis forces its hand.
संकट हाथ मजबूर करने से पहले इसे **योजना, विकास और क्रियान्वयन** का एक तात्कालिक मिशन शुरू करना चाहिए।
- Assembling a **crack team** to create India's own versions of essential software from **open-source resources** is the first step.
ओपन-सोर्स संसाधनों से आवश्यक सॉफ्टवेयर के भारत के अपने संस्करण बनाने के लिए एक **विशेषज्ञ टीम** तैयार करना पहला कदम है।
- India must build **client-side components** (such as database, email client, calendar) and **server-side components** (such as web server, email server, cloud server). **Open source versions** are available for all of them.
भारत को **क्लाइंट-साइड कंपोनेंट्स** (जैसे डेटाबेस, ईमेल क्लाइंट, कैलेंडर) और **सर्वर-साइड कंपोनेंट्स** (जैसे वेब सर्वर, ईमेल सर्वर, क्लाउड सर्वर) बनाने होंगे। इनके सभी के लिए **ओपन-सोर्स संस्करण** उपलब्ध हैं।
- India needs to set up teams to continually **update and maintain** these components, which is the harder task. These teams should work like **product teams in companies**.
भारत को इन घटकों को लगातार **अपडेट और बनाए रखने** के लिए टीमों स्थापित करनी होंगी, जो कठिन कार्य है। इन टीमों को **कंपनियों में प्रोडक्ट टीमों** की तरह काम करना चाहिए।
- This is possible only when there is a **sound business model** behind it, outside of government or private funds. The mission has to be **self-supporting or better**.
यह तभी संभव है जब इसके पीछे एक **सुदृढ़ व्यावसायिक मॉडल** हो, जो सरकारी या निजी निधियों से अलग हो। मिशन को **स्वावलंबी या उससे बेहतर** होना चाहिए।
- While this may have been a difficult idea to sell in the past, the current climate is different. भले ही अतीत में इसे बेचना कठिन विचार रहा हो, वर्तमान माहौल अलग है।



- Previously, only the **strategic sectors** were concerned with having **trusted and secure software**. Now, **private companies** and **individuals** are concerned about being dependent on outside forces for critical needs.
पहले केवल **रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों** को **विश्वसनीय और सुरक्षित सॉफ्टवेयर** की चिंता थी। अब, **निजी कंपनियाँ** और **व्यक्ति** भी महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकताओं के लिए बाहरी ताकतों पर निर्भर रहने को लेकर चिंतित हैं।
- People are already paying, either directly or indirectly, for the **free and open-source software** that they use. The shift to a model where these costs are explicit and support trusted software would be a small one.
लोग पहले से ही **फ्री और ओपन-सोर्स सॉफ्टवेयर** के लिए सीधे या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से भुगतान कर रहे हैं। एक ऐसे मॉडल की ओर बदलाव, जहाँ ये लागतें स्पष्ट हों और विश्वसनीय सॉफ्टवेयर को सहारा मिले, एक छोटा परिवर्तन होगा।

A mission as the core

एक मिशन के रूप में केंद्र

- The immediate step is to establish a **mission** to plan the necessary actions. This will be an **implementation mission** and not a **research and development mission** aimed at academic/research communities.
तत्काल कदम आवश्यक कार्यों की योजना बनाने के लिए एक **मिशन** स्थापित करना है। यह एक **कार्यान्वयन मिशन** होगा, न कि शैक्षणिक/अनुसंधान समुदायों को लक्षित **अनुसंधान और विकास मिशन**।
- It will primarily involve strong **development and support teams** of engineers and a capable **project management team** to coordinate activities.
इसमें मुख्य रूप से इंजीनियरों की मजबूत **विकास और समर्थन टीमों** और गतिविधियों के समन्वय के लिए एक सक्षम **प्रोजेक्ट प्रबंधन टीम** शामिल होगी।
- There is ample expertise in both **industry and academia** to make it happen, provided a **viable model** is established.
इसे सफल बनाने के लिए **उद्योग और शिक्षा जगत** दोनों में पर्याप्त विशेषज्ञता है, बशर्ते कि एक **व्यवहार्य मॉडल** स्थापित किया जाए।
- The government will need to play an **enabling role**, but should focus on establishing a **self-sustaining model** as early as possible.
सरकार को एक **सक्षम भूमिका** निभाने की आवश्यकता होगी, लेकिन उसे जितना जल्दी हो सके एक **स्व-निर्वाह मॉडल** स्थापित करने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- Let us embark on the long march toward **technological independence**.
आइए हम **तकनीकी स्वतंत्रता** की ओर लंबे मार्च पर निकलें।



China digs in on 'rare earth', commands global market

GS III: Industries

China is world's largest producer of rare earths, contributing over 60% of global production

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

Last month, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology introduced interim measures to tighten controls on 'rare earth' mining and processing. The rules are the latest in Beijing's efforts to centralise oversight of extraction, exports, and refining.

While China's trading partners such as India and the U.S. are seeking alternative sources to reduce dependency, data shows that China's dominance in rare earths stems not only from resource availability but more so from its longstanding strength in mining and research capacity.

Rare earth elements (REEs), despite the name, are not particularly scarce. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), they comprise 17 metals, typically grouped into light rare earths (LREEs) – including lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, samarium and europium – and heavy rare earths (HREEs) such as gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium, scandium and yttrium. Promethium is not included in the list as it is radioactive and does not occur in mineable quantities.

They are critical components in clean energy technologies such as electric vehicles and wind turbines, as well as in defence applications. Rare earths are also essential for high-tech devices including smartphones and hard drives.

Although rare earth deposits exist in countries such as Brazil, Australia, and India, China holds nearly half of global reserves (Chart 1). It is also the world's largest producer, contributing over 60% of global production in the last five years (Chart 2). Beyond extraction, China dominates the value chain with around 92% of global refining capacity, according to the

IEA. Moreover, in the last five years, China has been the largest exporter, supplying close to 30% of global demand (Chart 3).

Charts 1, 2 and 3 establish China's dominance across reserves, production, and exports.

In April, amid escalating U.S.-China trade tensions, Beijing imposed export restrictions on seven rare earth elements. The move targeted elements used in neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets – essential for clean energy technologies – as well as those critical to ceramics, phosphors, steel, optical glass, fibres, and aerospace applications (Chart 4).

China's decision to curb rare earth exports, amid tit-for-tat tariffs, dealt a significant blow to the U.S., which remains heavily dependent on Chinese supply. The U.S. is the second-largest importer of Chinese rare earths, after Japan (Chart 5). India, too, is heavily dependent on China for its rare earth imports. Since 2021, more than 75% have come from China.

Under China's interim measures announced last month, Chinese companies must now operate within government-set quotas for various minerals and obtain approval to trade in rare earths. This is not the first time China has tightened its rare earth trade. It has already prohibited export of tools and methods used to extract and separate rare earths, and in December 2023, it banned the export of processing technology.

China's monopoly over rare earths is also reinforced by its strong research base. A study found that China leads the field of rare-earth research, contributing nearly 30% of all published papers. The U.S. and Japan followed with shares of 10% or less, while India accounted for about 6%.

In parallel, China has increased funding for mineral exploration, allocating about \$14 billion annually since 2022, according to the IEA. The agency notes that this marks the highest three-year stretch of investment in the past decade.

Tightening its grip

The data for the charts were sourced from the U.S. Geological Survey, UN COMTRADE, the International Energy Agency, AP and Reuters



Chart 1: Country-wise share (in %) of global reserves of rare earths (as per U.S. Geological Survey 2025)

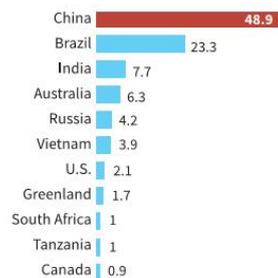


Chart 2: Country-wise share of estimated global mine production of rare earths in the last five years

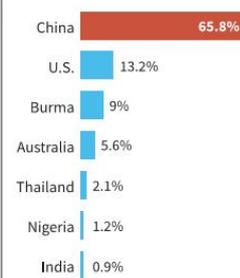


Chart 4: Sector-wise demand for rare earth elements under export controls announced by China in April

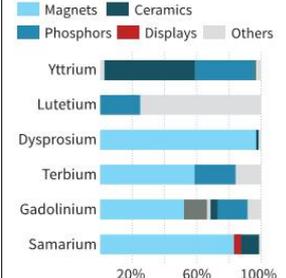


Chart 3: Major exporters of rare earth. Figures in % shows their share in global exports

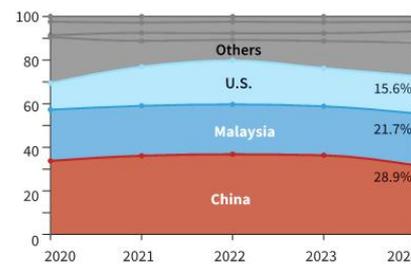
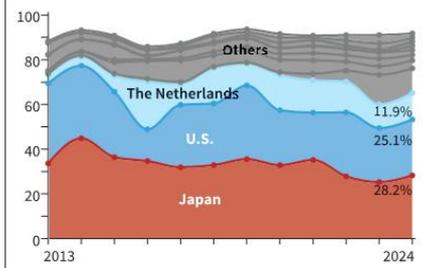


Chart 5: Major importers of China's rare earth. Figures in % shows their share in China's exports



China digs in on 'rare earth', commands global market चीन 'रेयर अर्थ' में पक्का, वैश्विक बाजार में प्रभुत्व

- China is the world's largest producer of rare earths, contributing over **60% of global production**.

चीन दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा दुर्लभ पृथ्वी तत्वों (रेयर अर्थ) उत्पादक है, जो वैश्विक उत्पादन का 60% से अधिक योगदान करता है।

China Tightens Rare Earth Controls चीन ने रियर अर्थ नियंत्रण सख्त किए

- Last month, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology introduced interim measures to tighten controls on 'rare earth' mining and processing.



पिछले महीने, चीन के उद्योग और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय ने 'रेयर अर्थ' खनन और प्रसंस्करण पर नियंत्रण सख्त करने के लिए अंतरिम उपाय पेश किए।

- The rules are part of Beijing's efforts to **centralise oversight of extraction, exports, and refining**.

ये नियम खनन, निर्यात और शोधन पर निगरानी केंद्रीकृत करने के बीजिंग के प्रयासों का हिस्सा हैं।

- Trading partners like **India and the U.S.** are seeking **alternative sources** to reduce dependency, but China's dominance stems from both **resource availability** and **longstanding mining and research capacity**.

भारत और अमेरिका जैसे व्यापारिक साझेदार वैकल्पिक स्रोत तलाश रहे हैं ताकि निर्भरता कम हो सके, लेकिन चीन का प्रभुत्व संसाधन उपलब्धता और दीर्घकालिक खनन व अनुसंधान क्षमता दोनों से है।

- **Rare earth elements (REEs)** are not particularly scarce. They comprise **17 metals**, grouped as **light rare earths (LREEs)** like lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, samarium, europium, and **heavy rare earths (HREEs)** like gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium, scandium, yttrium. **Promethium is excluded as it is radioactive and not mineable**.

रेयर अर्थ एलिमेंट्स (REEs) विशेष रूप से दुर्लभ नहीं हैं। इनमें 17 धातुएँ शामिल हैं, जिन्हें लाइट रियर अर्थ्स (LREEs) जैसे लैथेनम, सीरियम, प्रासियोडिमियम, नियोडिमियम, सैमेरियम, यूरोपीयम और हेवी रियर अर्थ्स (HREEs) जैसे गैडोलिनियम, टर्बियम, डिसप्रोसीयम, होल्मियम, एर्बियम, थुलियम, यट्टरबियम, ल्यूटेथियम, स्केंडियम, यट्रियम में विभाजित किया गया है। प्रोमैथियम शामिल नहीं है क्योंकि यह रेडियोधर्मी है और खनन योग्य मात्रा में नहीं पाया जाता।

- REEs are critical in **clean energy technologies** like **electric vehicles and wind turbines**, in **defense applications**, and essential for **high-tech devices** including **smartphones and hard drives**.

REEs साफ ऊर्जा तकनीकों जैसे इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन और पवन टरबाइन, रक्षा अनुप्रयोगों और उच्च तकनीक उपकरणों जैसे स्मार्टफोन और हार्ड ड्राइव के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- While rare earth deposits exist in **Brazil, Australia, and India**, China holds nearly **half of global reserves** and is the **largest producer**, contributing over **60% of global production in the last five years**.

जबकि ब्राजील, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और भारत में REE जमा हैं, चीन के पास वैश्विक भंडार का लगभग आधा हिस्सा है और यह सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है, जिसने पिछले पांच वर्षों में वैश्विक उत्पादन का 60% से अधिक योगदान दिया।

- China dominates the **value chain** with about **92% of global refining capacity**. It has been the **largest exporter**, supplying nearly **30% of global demand in the last five years**.

चीन मूल्य श्रृंखला में प्रभुत्व रखता है, जिसके पास वैश्विक शोधन क्षमता का लगभग 92% है। यह सबसे बड़ा निर्यातक भी रहा है, जिसने पिछले पांच वर्षों में वैश्विक मांग का लगभग 30% आपूर्ति किया।

- In **April**, amid rising **U.S.-China trade tensions**, **Beijing imposed export restrictions on seven rare earth elements used in NdFeB magnets, ceramics, phosphors, steel, optical glass, fibers, and aerospace applications**.

अप्रैल में, बढ़ते अमेरिका-चीन व्यापार तनाव के बीच, बीजिंग ने सात रियर अर्थ एलिमेंट्स पर निर्यात प्रतिबंध लगाया, जो NdFeB मैग्नेट्स, सिरेमिक, फॉस्फर्स, स्टील, ऑप्टिकल ग्लास, फाइबर और एयरोस्पेस अनुप्रयोगों में उपयोग होते हैं।

- China's export curbs amid **tit-for-tat tariffs** dealt a **significant blow** to the **U.S., the second-largest importer after Japan**. India is also **heavily dependent**, with more than **75% imports from China since 2021**.

टैरिफ के जवाब में निर्यात प्रतिबंध ने अमेरिका को गंभीर झटका दिया, जो जापान के बाद दूसरा सबसे बड़ा आयातक है। भारत भी भारी निर्भर है, 2021 से 75% से अधिक आयात चीन से हुआ।

- Under China's interim measures, companies must operate within **government-set quotas for minerals** and obtain **approval to trade in rare earths**. China has previously **prohibited export of extraction tools/methods** and **banned processing technology exports in December 2023**.

चीन के अंतरिम उपायों के तहत, कंपनियों को सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित कोटा के भीतर काम करना होगा और रेयर अर्थ्स में व्यापार के लिए अनुमोदन प्राप्त करना होगा। चीन ने पहले ही खनन उपकरण/तरीकों के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाया है और दिसंबर 2023 में प्रसंस्करण तकनीक निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाया था।

- China's monopoly is reinforced by its **strong research base**: it contributes nearly **30% of all published papers**, with the U.S. and Japan at **10% or less**, and India about **6%**.



चीन का मोनोपोली इसके मजबूत अनुसंधान आधार से मजबूत होता है: यह सभी प्रकाशित पेपरों का लगभग 30% योगदान देता है, जबकि अमेरिका और जापान 10% या कम, और भारत लगभग 6% है।

- China has increased funding for mineral exploration, allocating about \$14 billion annually since 2022, marking the highest three-year investment in the past decade.

चीन ने खनिज अन्वेषण के लिए फंडिंग बढ़ाई है, 2022 से सालाना लगभग \$14 बिलियन आवंटित किए हैं, जो पिछले दशक में तीन साल की सबसे बड़ी निवेश अवधि है।

Tariff-hit diamond, jewellery exporters look to West Asia

GS III: External Sector

Indian exporters to showcase a variety of exhibits at SAJEX, the first largescale B2B jewellery expo, to be held in Jeddah from Sept. 11-13

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Stung by the U.S. tariffs on Indian diamond and jewellery exports, the country's exporters are now looking to set their foot in the untapped West Asia market. As a first step, a dedicated B2B jewellery show, the first of its kind, is to be held at Jeddah Superdome from September 11-13.

More than 100 exhibitors are set to participate across 200 booths. The Saudi Arabia Jewellery Exposition (SAJEX) 2025 will see over 2,000 buyers from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Hong Kong and Lebanon.

Indian diamond and jewellery exporters will showcase diamond and coloured gemstone jewellery; 18karat, 21karat, and 22karat plain gold jewellery; platinum jewellery; lab-grown diamond jewellery, bridal and gifting collections, besides jewellery technology.

"SAJEX marks a strategic step forward in our mission to strengthen India-Saudi ties in the gem and jewellery sector. Saudi Arabia's jewellery market is projected to grow from \$4.56 billion in 2024 to \$8.34 billion by 2030, driven by a young, high-spending demographic and a growing appetite for both traditional and mod-



Bright prospects: Saudi Arabia's jewellery market is projected to grow from \$4.56 billion in 2024 to \$8.34 billion by 2030. AFP

ern designs," said Kirit Bhansali, chairperson of Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

India is the largest exporter of cut and polished diamonds with 14 out of every 15 diamonds globally getting cut and polished here.

"Due to the U.S. tariffs, our industry is worried about its fate. 30% of my export basket is to the U.S. alone, and that has dried up after the tariffs. But we are seeing some good results in U.K., UAE due to the free trade agreements. We are extremely interested in Saudi Arabia as their per capita income is huge. The new rulers are business-friendly. I had a couple of meetings with them," Mr. Bhansali told *The Hindu*.

"While we hope that good sense prevails and

that the U.S. reverses its tariffs, we will also keep looking at newer markets - may it be domestic or international. We are number one in diamond export and we will work our way out of the challenges," Dinesh Lakhani, Group Director of Kiran diamonds, the world's largest exporter of cut and polished diamonds, told *The Hindu*.

But the path is not easy for the jewellery manufacturers. "What we have been designing for the U.S. for years now, can't be sold in the Saudi market. Someone else has already been catering to their jewellery requirements. So establishing yourself, building new relations and understanding their design aesthetics won't be an overnight process," said Adil Kotwal, CEO, Creations Gems & Jewellery Pvt. Ltd.

showcase diamond and coloured gemstone jewellery; 18karat, 21karat, and 22karat plain gold jewellery; platinum jewellery; lab-grown diamond jewellery; bridal and gifting collections, besides jewellery technology.

Tariff-hit diamond, jewellery exporters look to West Asia

टैरिफ से प्रभावित हीरा, आभूषण निर्यातक पश्चिम एशिया की ओर देख रहे हैं

- Indian exporters to showcase a variety of exhibits at SAJEX, the first largescale B2B jewellery expo, to be held in Jeddah from Sept. 11-13.

भारतीय निर्यातक SAJEX में विभिन्न प्रकार की प्रदर्शनियां प्रदर्शित करेंगे, यह पहला बड़े पैमाने पर B2B आभूषण एक्सपो होगा, जो जेद्दा में 11-13 सितंबर तक आयोजित किया जाएगा।

- Stung by the U.S. tariffs on Indian diamond and jewellery exports, the country's exporters are now looking to set their foot in the untapped West Asia market.

भारतीय हीरा और आभूषण निर्यात पर अमेरिकी टैरिफ से प्रभावित होकर, देश के निर्यातक अब अप्रयुक्त पश्चिम एशियाई बाजार में अपनी जगह बनाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

- As a first step, a dedicated B2B jewellery show, the first of its kind, is to be held at Jeddah Superdome from September 11-13.

पहले कदम के रूप में, एक विशेष B2B आभूषण प्रदर्शनी, जो अपनी तरह की पहली होगी, जेद्दा सुपरडोम में 11-13 सितंबर तक आयोजित की जाएगी।

- More than 100 exhibitors are set to participate across 200 booths.

100 से अधिक प्रदर्शक 200 बूथों में भाग लेने के लिए तैयार हैं।

- The Saudi Arabia Jewellery Exposition (SAJEX) 2025 will see over 2,000 buyers from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Hong Kong and Lebanon.

सऊदी अरब ज्वैलरी एक्सपोज़िशन (SAJEX) 2025 में सऊदी अरब, यूएई, हांगकांग और लेबनान के 2,000 से अधिक खरीदार शामिल होंगे।

- Indian diamond and jewellery exporters will



भारतीय हीरा और आभूषण निर्यातक हीरे और रंगीन रत्नों के आभूषण; 18 कैरेट, 21 कैरेट और 22 कैरेट सादे सोने के आभूषण; प्लैटिनम आभूषण; लैब-ग्रेड हीरे के आभूषण; ब्राइडल और गिफ्टिंग कलेक्शन के साथ आभूषण तकनीक भी प्रदर्शित करेंगे।

- “SAJEX marks a strategic step forward in our mission to strengthen India–Saudi ties in the gem and jewellery sector.

“SAJEX हमारे रत्न और आभूषण क्षेत्र में भारत-सऊदी संबंधों को मजबूत करने के मिशन में एक रणनीतिक कदम है।

- Saudi Arabia’s jewellery market is projected to grow from \$4.56 billion in 2024 to \$8.34 billion by 2030, driven by a young, high-spending demographic and a growing appetite for both traditional and modern designs,” said Kirit Bhansali, chairperson of Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

सऊदी अरब का आभूषण बाजार 2024 में 4.56 अरब डॉलर से बढ़कर 2030 तक 8.34 अरब डॉलर तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है, जो युवा, उच्च खर्च करने वाले उपभोक्ताओं और पारंपरिक व आधुनिक डिज़ाइन की बढ़ती मांग से प्रेरित है,” रत्न और आभूषण निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद के अध्यक्ष किरित भांसाली ने कहा।

- India is the largest exporter of cut and polished diamonds with 14 out of every 15 diamonds globally getting cut and polished here.

भारत कट और पॉलिश किए गए हीरों का सबसे बड़ा निर्यातक है, जहां दुनिया के हर 15 में से 14 हीरे कट और पॉलिश किए जाते हैं।

- “Due to the U.S. tariffs, our industry is worried about its fate.

“अमेरिकी टैरिफ के कारण, हमारा उद्योग अपने भविष्य को लेकर चिंतित है।

- 30% of my export basket is to the U.S. alone, and that has dried up after the tariffs.

मेरे निर्यात बास्केट का 30% हिस्सा केवल अमेरिका को जाता था, और टैरिफ के बाद वह पूरी तरह बंद हो गया है।

- But we are seeing some good results in the U.K., UAE due to the free trade agreements.

लेकिन हम मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों के कारण यू.के., यू.एई में कुछ अच्छे परिणाम देख रहे हैं।

- We are extremely interested in Saudi Arabia as their per capita income is huge.

हम सऊदी अरब में अत्यधिक रुचि रखते हैं क्योंकि उनकी प्रति व्यक्ति आय बहुत अधिक है।

- The new rulers are business-friendly.

नए शासक व्यवसाय-हितैषी हैं।

- I had a couple of meetings with them,” Mr. Bhansali told *The Hindu*.

मैंने उनसे कुछ बैठकें की हैं,” श्री भांसाली ने *द हिंदू* को बताया।

- “While we hope that good sense prevails and that the U.S. reverses its tariffs, we will also keep looking at newer markets – may it be domestic or international.

“जबकि हम आशा करते हैं कि समझदारी दिखे और अमेरिका अपने टैरिफ को वापस ले, हम नए बाजारों की तलाश जारी रखेंगे – चाहे वह घरेलू हो या अंतर्राष्ट्रीय।

- We are number one in diamond export and we will work our way out of the challenges,” Dinesh Lakhani, Group Director of Kiran Diamonds, the world’s largest exporter of cut and polished diamonds, told *The Hindu*.

हम हीरा निर्यात में नंबर एक हैं और हम चुनौतियों से बाहर निकलने के लिए काम करेंगे,” दुनिया के सबसे बड़े कट और पॉलिश किए गए हीरों के निर्यातक किरण डायमंड्स के ग्रुप डायरेक्टर दिनेश लखानी ने *द हिंदू* को बताया।

- But the path is not easy for the jewellery manufacturers.

लेकिन आभूषण निर्माताओं के लिए रास्ता आसान नहीं है।

- “What we have been designing for the U.S. for years now, can’t be sold in the Saudi market.

“जो हम वर्षों से अमेरिका के लिए डिज़ाइन कर रहे हैं, वह सऊदी बाजार में नहीं बेचा जा सकता।

- Someone else has already been catering to their jewellery requirements.

कोई और पहले से ही उनकी आभूषण आवश्यकताओं को पूरा कर रहा है।

- So establishing yourself, building new relations and understanding their design aesthetics won’t be an overnight process,” said Adil Kotwal, CEO, Creations Gems & Jewellery Pvt. Ltd.

इसलिए खुद को स्थापित करना, नए संबंध बनाना और उनके डिज़ाइन सौंदर्यशास्त्र को समझना एक रातोंरात प्रक्रिया नहीं होगी,” क्रिएशंस जेम्स एंड ज्वेलरी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के सीईओ आदिल कोटवाल ने कहा।