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# PATRIOTIC IAS

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### THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

# 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## नेशनल जूनियर बास्केटबॉल चैम्पियनशिप में तमिलनाडु के लिए दोहरी खुशी

# EC holds CEO conference; reviews readiness ahead of nationwide SIR

PCS

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

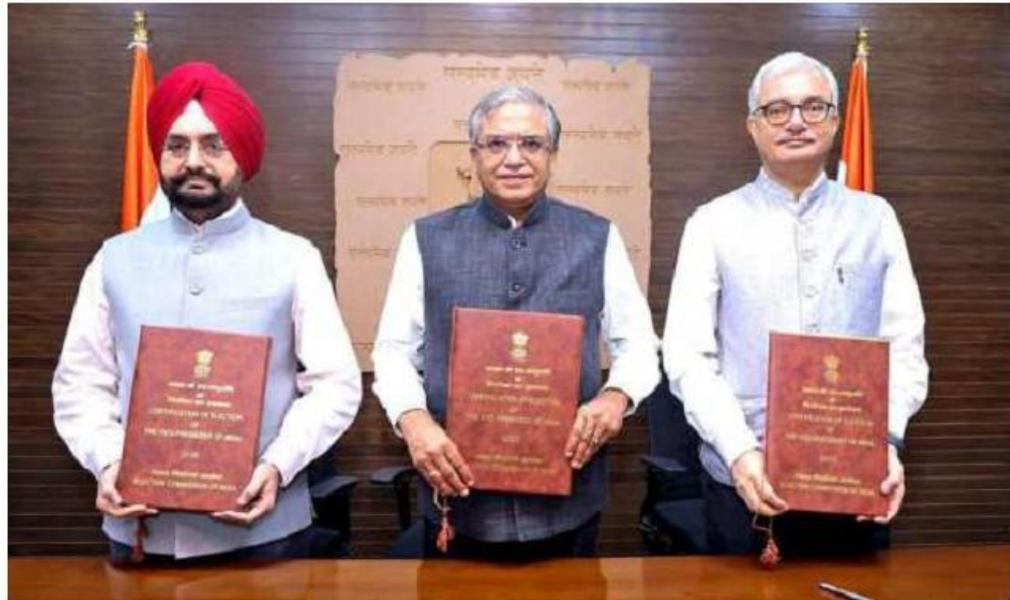
The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday held a conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all States and Union Territories to assess the preparedness for rolling out a nationwide special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists.

The commission was planning to roll out the SIR across the country with a single schedule, as of now, sources in the EC said.

The conference was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in the presence of Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. It assessed the preparedness of the offices of the CEOs of all States and Union Territories for the nationwide SIR exercise, an official statement said.

At the beginning of the conference, Bihar CEO Vinod Singh Gunjyal made a presentation on the strategies, constraints, and best practices adopted in his State, which was the first to roll out the SIR.

All other CEOs provided detailed presentations on the number of electors and the qualifying date of the previous SIRs and electoral



**Gearing up:** Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. PTI

rolls in their respective States or Union Territories, according to the previous completed SIR. They also presented the status of digitisation and uploading of the electoral roll after the previous SIR on the website of the State and Union Territory CEO.

The officers also provided suggested documents to ensure no eligible citizen was left out of the electoral roll, and no ineligible person was included in it.

The issue assumes importance in light of the controversy surrounding the list of 11 indicative doc-

uments, which the EC had sought as part of the SIR exercise in Bihar. However, the Supreme Court had on Monday asked the poll body to add Aadhaar as the 12th document in the Bihar SIR.

EC sources said that though the SIR order of June 24 holds for the entire country, the list of documents could be made more inclusive when the schedule is announced.

The CEOs also provided the status of mapping of current electors with the electors as per the previous SIR, in the State or

Union Territory, the statement said.

To ensure the uniform implementation of the Commission's initiative of having no polling station with over 1,200 electors, the status of rationalisation of polling stations was also reviewed.

The Commission also reviewed the status of appointment and training of District Electoral Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Booth-Level Officers, and Booth-Level Agents.



## EC holds CEO conference; reviews readiness ahead of nationwide SIR

### चुनाव आयोग ने CEO सम्मेलन आयोजित किया; देशव्यापी SIR से पहले तैयारी की समीक्षा की

- The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday held a conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all States and Union Territories to assess the preparedness for rolling out a nationwide special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists.  
चुनाव आयोग (EC) ने बुधवार को सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारियों (CEOs) का सम्मेलन आयोजित किया ताकि मतदाता सूचियों के देशव्यापी विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR) को लागू करने की तैयारी का आकलन किया जा सके।
- The commission was planning to roll out the SIR across the country with a single schedule, as of now, sources in the EC said.  
EC के सूत्रों ने कहा कि आयोग वर्तमान में पूरे देश में SIR को एक ही कार्यक्रम के साथ लागू करने की योजना बना रहा है।
- The conference was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in the presence of Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.  
सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार ने चुनाव आयुक्त सुखबीर सिंह संधू और विवेक जोशी की उपस्थिति में किया।
- It assessed the preparedness of the offices of the CEOs of all States and Union Territories for the nationwide SIR exercise, an official statement said.  
एक आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया कि इसमें सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के CEO कार्यालयों की देशव्यापी SIR अभ्यास के लिए तैयारी का आकलन किया गया।
- At the beginning of the conference, Bihar CEO Vinod Singh Gunjyal made a presentation on the strategies, constraints, and best practices adopted in his State, which was the first to roll out the SIR.  
सम्मेलन की शुरुआत में बिहार CEO विनोद सिंह गुंजियाल ने अपने राज्य में अपनाई गई रणनीतियों, बाधाओं और सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं पर प्रस्तुति दी, जो SIR लागू करने वाला पहला राज्य था।
- All other CEOs provided detailed presentations on the number of electors and the qualifying date of the previous SIRs and electoral rolls in their respective States or Union Territories, according to the previously completed SIR.  
अन्य सभी CEOs ने अपने-अपने राज्यों या केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में पिछली पूरी हुई SIR के अनुसार मतदाताओं की संख्या और पिछली SIRs तथा मतदाता सूचियों की पात्रता तिथि पर विस्तृत प्रस्तुति दी।
- They also presented the status of digitisation and uploading of the electoral roll after the previous SIR on the website of the State and Union Territory CEO.  
उन्होंने पिछली SIR के बाद राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेश CEO की वेबसाइट पर मतदाता सूची के डिजिटलीकरण और अपलोडिंग की स्थिति भी प्रस्तुत की।
- The officers also provided suggested documents to ensure no eligible citizen was left out of the electoral roll, and no ineligible person was included in it.  
अधिकारियों ने यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सुझाए गए दस्तावेज भी प्रस्तुत किए कि कोई भी पात्र नागरिक मतदाता सूची से बाहर न रहे और कोई भी अपात्र व्यक्ति इसमें शामिल न हो।
- The issue assumes importance in light of the controversy surrounding the list of 11 indicative documents, which the EC had sought as part of the SIR exercise in Bihar.  
यह मुद्दा महत्वपूर्ण हो गया है क्योंकि बिहार में SIR अभ्यास के हिस्से के रूप में EC द्वारा मांगे गए 11 संकेतक दस्तावेजों की सूची को लेकर विवाद चल रहा है।
- However, the Supreme Court had on Monday asked the poll body to add Aadhaar as the 12th document in the Bihar SIR.  
हालांकि, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को चुनाव आयोग से बिहार SIR में आधार को 12वां दस्तावेज जोड़ने के लिए कहा था।
- EC sources said that though the SIR order of June 24 holds for the entire country, the list of documents could be made more inclusive when the schedule is announced.  
EC के सूत्रों ने कहा कि हालांकि 24 जून का SIR आदेश पूरे देश के लिए लागू है, लेकिन दस्तावेजों की सूची को कार्यक्रम की घोषणा के समय और अधिक समावेशी बनाया जा सकता है।



- The CEOs also provided the **status of mapping of current electors with the electors as per the previous SIR**, in the **State or Union Territory**, the statement said.  
बयान में कहा गया कि CEOs ने राज्य या केंद्र शासित प्रदेश में वर्तमान मतदाताओं को पिछली SIR के मतदाताओं के साथ मिलान की स्थिति भी प्रस्तुत की।
- To ensure the **uniform implementation of the Commission's initiative of having no polling station with over 1,200 electors**, the **status of rationalisation of polling stations** was also reviewed.  
किसी भी मतदान केंद्र पर 1,200 से अधिक मतदाता न होने की आयोग की पहल के समान कार्यान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, मतदान केंद्रों के तर्कसंगतिकरण की स्थिति की भी समीक्षा की गई।
- The **Commission also reviewed the status of appointment and training of District Electoral Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Booth-Level Officers, and Booth-Level Agents.**  
आयोग ने जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारियों, निर्वाचन पंजीकरण अधिकारियों, सहायक निर्वाचन पंजीकरण अधिकारियों, बूथ-स्तरीय अधिकारियों, और बूथ-स्तरीय एजेंटों की नियुक्ति और प्रशिक्षण की स्थिति की भी समीक्षा की।

# What is next for Indian football?

What did the Supreme Court judgment say about the status of the Indian Super League? Why did the Football Sports Development Limited put the 2025-26 season on hold? Has the All India Football Federation ratified its new constitution? Is there a possibility of the FSDL not being the commercial partner this season?

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## EXPLAINER

N. Sudarshan

### The story so far:

In September 1, the Supreme Court of India paved the way for the commencement of the country's top-flight football – the Indian Super League (ISL). Scheduled to begin this month, the premier competition has been in limbo ever since the Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), organisers of ISL, announced on July 11 that the 2025-26 season will be 'put on hold'. But in a short order – with a detailed judgment to follow – the SC accepted a tentative roadmap presented jointly by the FSDL and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) which will see the season start with the Super Cup in late October, followed by the ISL in December, subject to the consent of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

### Why was the ISL put on hold?

In 2010, the AIFF signed a 15-year Master Rights Agreement (MRA) with the FSDL – a joint venture between Reliance Industries and Star Sports – to run the ISL, which eventually kicked off in 2014. The FSDL is AIFF's commercial partner and pays Indian football's custodian an annual sum of ₹50 crore for the right to broadcast, commercialise and manage Indian football, including the national team. But this agreement runs only till December 8, 2025, and though negotiations to finalise new terms went on for months, they remained inconclusive. A deal that will expire midway through the season was deemed undesirable and the organisers decided to suspend operations until there was clarity about the future.

The situation was made more complicated when the SC, back in April, asked both parties not to take any final decision until it pronounces the judgment in a case regarding the formulation of a new constitution for the AIFF. This case



**Fresh hope:** The Kerala Blasters FC team during a training session in Kochi in 2023. FILE PHOTO

arose out of a judgment passed by the Delhi High Court in 2017 which deemed that the election of AIFF office-bearers was in violation of the National Sports Code. The SC stayed the HC order and called for a new constitution to be drafted. The SC's recent prohibition on any decisive parleys between AIFF and FSDL was essentially to avoid a scenario where the eventual verdict calls for fresh elections and the whole MRA has to be renegotiated by the new AIFF committee.

On August 22, however, after being apprised of the difficulties faced by the stakeholders in the football ecosystem, the SC asked AIFF and FSDL to come up with a "workable arrangement for the smooth functioning of the league(s)". The SC, through last week's order, while making no mention of fresh elections, *prima facie* accepted the joint roadmap

and stated that the "collaborative effort is a significant step in the evolution of Indian football".

### What have AIFF and FSDL proposed?

Apart from the provisional dates for starting the season, it has been agreed to "conduct an open, competitive and transparent tender for selection of a commercial partner to conduct the ISL in line with global best practices". This effectively means that there is a chance that the FSDL may cease to be the commercial partner if any other entity outbids it. Additionally, FSDL agreed to "waive its contractual Right of First Negotiation and Right to Match under the Master Rights Agreement dated 08 December 2010" and to issue a No Objection Certificate for the execution of this tender. This process is to wind up

before October 15 and a bid evaluation committee has been formed for the same. FSDL also told the SC that the July-September quarterly rights fee of ₹12.5 crore has been cleared and that it was open to advancing the payment of the final tranche of ₹12.5 crore for the October-December 2025 quarter.

### What does the short to medium-term future hold?

Once the tender is floated and a commercial partner finalised, broadcast deals have to be struck and revenue-sharing agreements with clubs drawn. These remain important for clubs to work out their budgets for the season.

While such negotiations progress on one side, authorities will have to deal with the stern ultimatum that the world governing body FIFA and AFC have issued to the AIFF to adopt and ratify its new constitution by October 30. It is to be noted that in August 2022, when the SC appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to temporarily assume charge of AIFF and finalise the new constitution, FIFA suspended the AIFF citing "undue interference by a third party".

A repeat of this episode is unlikely, for the AIFF is now governed by an elected committee, and the SC's detailed judgment ratifying the constitution – as finalised by Justice (Retd.) L. Nageswara Rao after taking into account the comments and suggestions of various stakeholders on the draft version prepared by the CoA – is expected shortly.

The constitution has to be in line with the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, which was passed during the recent monsoon session of Parliament. But the Act, despite receiving Presidential assent, is yet to be notified. The SC had initially kept its judgment pending to ensure that the constitution was in sync with the Sports Governance Act. But in the last hearing, it indicated that it will not wait for the law to be notified after being informed by the Centre's counsel that it could take as many as six months.

## THE GIST

▼ In 2010, the AIFF signed a 15-year Master Rights Agreement (MRA) with the FSDL – a joint venture between Reliance Industries and Star Sports – to run the ISL, which eventually kicked off in 2014.

▼ But this agreement runs only till December 8, 2025, and though negotiations to finalise new terms went on for months, they remained inconclusive.

▼ On September 1, the Supreme Court of India paved the way for the commencement of the country's top-flight football – the Indian Super League (ISL).



## What is next for Indian football? भारतीय फुटबॉल का अगला कदम क्या है?

- On **September 1**, the **Supreme Court of India** cleared the way for the **commencement of the Indian Super League (ISL)**.  
1 सितंबर को, भारत का सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने भारतीय सुपर लीग (ISL) के आयोजन के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त किया।
- The **2025-26 season** was scheduled to begin this month but had been **put on hold** since **July 11**, when **Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL)** announced the suspension.  
**2025-26 का सीजन** इस महीने शुरू होने वाला था लेकिन इसे **11 जुलाई** से स्थगित कर दिया गया था, जब **फुटबॉल स्पोर्ट्स डेवलपमेंट लिमिटेड (FSDL)** ने निलंबन की घोषणा की।
- The **Supreme Court (SC)** accepted a tentative roadmap by **FSDL and All India Football Federation (AIFF)**: season to start with the **Super Cup in late October**, followed by **ISL in December**, subject to **AFC consent**.  
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय (SC) ने **FSDL और ऑल इंडिया फुटबॉल फेडरेशन (AIFF)** द्वारा प्रस्तुत अस्थायी रोडमैप को स्वीकार किया: सीजन की शुरुआत **अक्टूबर के अंत में सुपर कप** से होगी, इसके बाद **दिसंबर में ISL**, एशियाई फुटबॉल महासंघ (AFC) की अनुमति पर।

### Why was the ISL put on hold?

#### ISL को स्थगित क्यों किया गया?

- In **2010**, AIFF signed a **15-year Master Rights Agreement (MRA)** with **FSDL** — a joint venture between **Reliance Industries** and **Star Sports** — to run the **ISL**, which kicked off in **2014**.  
2010 में, AIFF ने **FSDL** के साथ **15-वर्षीय मास्टर राइट्स एग्रीमेंट (MRA)** पर हस्ताक्षर किए — जो **रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज और स्टार स्पोर्ट्स** का संयुक्त उद्यम है — **ISL** चलाने के लिए, जो **2014** में शुरू हुआ।
- FSDL pays AIFF ₹50 crore annually** for the right to **broadcast, commercialise and manage Indian football**, including the **national team**.  
**FSDL AIFF** को **वार्षिक ₹50 करोड़** का भुगतान करता है, जो **भारतीय फुटबॉल का प्रसारण, व्यावसायीकरण और प्रबंधन** करने का अधिकार देता है, जिसमें **राष्ट्रीय टीम** भी शामिल है।
- The **MRA** ran only till **December 8, 2025**, and negotiations for new terms **remained inconclusive**.  
**MRA** केवल **8 दिसंबर, 2025** तक मान्य है, और नए नियमों के लिए बातचीत **असफल** रही।
- A deal expiring **midway through the season** was **undesirable**, so **organisers suspended operations until clarity on future**.  
सीजन के **बीच में समाप्त होने वाला समझौता अप्रिय** था, इसलिए **आयोजकों ने संचालन को स्थगित** किया जब तक कि **भविष्य पर स्पष्टता** नहीं मिलती।
- The **SC** in **April** asked parties not to take any **final decision** until it pronounces judgment regarding a **new AIFF constitution**.  
**SC** ने **अप्रैल** में दोनों पक्षों से कहा कि **कोई अंतिम निर्णय** न लें जब तक कि यह **AIFF के नए संविधान** पर फैसला न सुनाए।
- The case arose from a **2017 Delhi High Court judgment** declaring **AIFF office-bearer elections in violation of the National Sports Code**.  
यह मामला **2017 के दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के फैसले** से उत्पन्न हुआ, जिसमें कहा गया कि **AIFF अधिकारियों के चुनाव नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स कोड का उल्लंघन** हैं।
- The **SC stayed HC order** and called for a **new constitution** to be drafted.  
**SC** ने **HC आदेश पर रोक** लगाई और **नए संविधान** के मसौदे की मांग की।
- SC prohibited any **decisive parleys** between AIFF and FSDL to avoid scenarios where **fresh elections** would require **renegotiation of MRA**.  
SC ने AIFF और FSDL के बीच किसी भी **निर्णायक बातचीत** पर रोक लगाई ताकि यह स्थिति न बने कि **नए चुनाव MRA का पुनः बातचीत** कराना पड़े।
- On **August 22**, after reviewing **football ecosystem difficulties**, SC asked **AIFF and FSDL** to create a **“workable arrangement”** for smooth league functioning.



22 अगस्त को, फुटबॉल इकोसिस्टम की दिक्कतों को देखकर, SC ने AIFF और FSDL से कहा कि लीग के सुचारू संचालन के लिए “कार्यान्वयन योग्य व्यवस्था” बनाएं।

- The SC’s recent order accepted the joint roadmap and described the collaborative effort as a significant step in Indian football evolution.  
SC के हालिया आदेश ने संयुक्त रोडमैप को स्वीकार किया और सहयोगात्मक प्रयास को भारतीय फुटबॉल के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण कदम बताया।

### What have AIFF and FSDL proposed?

#### AIFF और FSDL ने क्या प्रस्तावित किया है?

- Apart from the provisional dates for starting the season, it has been agreed to “conduct an open, competitive and transparent tender for selection of a commercial partner to conduct the ISL in line with global best practices”.  
सीजन की अस्थायी तिथियों के अलावा, यह सहमति बनी है कि ISL संचालन के लिए वाणिज्यिक भागीदार के चयन हेतु खुला, प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक और पारदर्शी निविदा आयोजित की जाएगी, जो वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के अनुरूप होगी।
- This effectively means that there is a chance that the FSDL may cease to be the commercial partner if any other entity outbids it.  
इसका मतलब यह है कि यदि कोई अन्य संस्था अधिक बोली लगाती है तो FSDL वाणिज्यिक भागीदार नहीं रह सकती।
- FSDL agreed to “waive its contractual Right of First Negotiation and Right to Match under the Master Rights Agreement dated 08 December 2010” and to issue a No Objection Certificate for the execution of this tender.  
FSDL ने 08 दिसंबर 2010 के मास्टर राइट्स एग्रीमेंट के तहत अपने पहली बातचीत का अधिकार और मैच करने का अधिकार छोड़ने और इस निविदा के निष्पादन के लिए अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र (No Objection Certificate) जारी करने पर सहमति दी।
- This process is to wind up before October 15 and a bid evaluation committee has been formed for the same.  
यह प्रक्रिया 15 अक्टूबर से पहले पूरी करनी है और इसके लिए एक बोली मूल्यांकन समिति का गठन किया गया है।
- FSDL also told the SC that the July-September quarterly rights fee of ₹12.5 crore has been cleared and that it was open to advancing the payment of the final tranche of ₹12.5 crore for the October-December 2025 quarter.  
FSDL ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को बताया कि जुलाई-सितंबर तिमाही का राइट्स शुल्क ₹12.5 करोड़ चुका दिया गया है और यह अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2025 तिमाही का अंतिम किस्त ₹12.5 करोड़ पहले देने के लिए तैयार है।

### What does the short to medium-term future hold?

#### लघु और मध्यम अवधि में भविष्य क्या है?

- Once the tender is floated and a commercial partner finalised, broadcast deals have to be struck and revenue-sharing agreements with clubs drawn.  
एक बार निविदा जारी हो और वाणिज्यिक भागीदार तय हो जाए, तब प्रसारण सौदे करने होंगे और क्लबों के साथ राजस्व-वितरण समझौते तैयार करने होंगे।
- These remain important for clubs to work out their budgets for the season.  
यह क्लबों के लिए अपने सीजन के बजट तैयार करने हेतु महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- While such negotiations progress on one side, authorities will have to deal with the stern ultimatum that FIFA and AFC have issued to the AIFF to adopt and ratify its new constitution by October 30.  
जबकि एक ओर ये बातचीत चल रही हैं, अधिकारियों को FIFA और AFC द्वारा AIFF को दिया गया कड़ा अल्टीमेटम भी संभालना होगा कि वह 30 अक्टूबर तक नया संविधान अपनाए और अनुमोदित करे।
- It is to be noted that in August 2022, when the SC appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to temporarily assume charge of AIFF and finalise the new constitution, FIFA suspended the AIFF citing “undue interference by a third party”.  
यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि अगस्त 2022 में, जब सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने AIFF का अस्थायी संचालन संभालने और



नया संविधान अंतिम रूप देने के लिए एक एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर्स कमिटी (CoA) नियुक्त की, तब FIFA ने AIFF को निलंबित कर दिया और कारण बताया "तीसरे पक्ष का अनुचित हस्तक्षेप"।

- A repeat of this episode is unlikely, for the AIFF is now governed by an **elected committee**, and the SC's detailed judgment ratifying the constitution — as finalised by **Justice (Retd.) L. Nageswara Rao** after taking into account the **comments and suggestions of various stakeholders** on the draft version prepared by the CoA — is expected shortly.  
इस घटना के दोहराव की संभावना कम है, क्योंकि अब AIFF **चुनावित समिति** द्वारा शासित है, और सुप्रीम कोर्ट का विस्तृत फैसला, जो **न्यायमूर्ति (सेवानिवृत्त) एल. नागेश्वर राव** द्वारा CoA द्वारा तैयार मसौदा पर **विभिन्न हितधारकों की टिप्पणियों और सुझावों** को ध्यान में रखते हुए अंतिम रूप दिया गया है, जल्द ही अपेक्षित है।
- The constitution has to be in line with the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**, which was passed during the recent **monsoon session of Parliament**.  
संविधान को **राष्ट्रीय खेल प्रशासन अधिनियम, 2025** के अनुरूप होना चाहिए, जिसे हाल ही में संसद के **मानसून सत्र** में पारित किया गया था।
- But the Act, despite receiving **Presidential assent**, is yet to be **notified**.  
लेकिन इस अधिनियम को **राष्ट्रपति की स्वीकृति** मिलने के बावजूद अभी तक **सूचित नहीं किया गया है**।
- The SC had initially kept its judgment pending to ensure that the constitution was in sync with the **Sports Governance Act**.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुरू में अपना फैसला इसलिए लंबित रखा ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि संविधान **खेल प्रशासन अधिनियम** के अनुरूप हो।
- But in the last hearing, it indicated that it will not wait for the law to be notified after being informed by the **Centre's counsel** that it could take as many as **six months**.  
लेकिन अंतिम सुनवाई में, कोर्ट ने संकेत दिया कि वह अधिनियम के **सूचित होने** का इंतजार नहीं करेगा, जब **केंद्र के वकील** ने सूचित किया कि इसमें **छह महीने** तक का समय लग सकता है।



# Double delight for Tamil Nadu in National junior basketball championships

PCS

**Sports Bureau**

The Tamil Nadu boys' and girls' teams bagged the titles in the 75th National junior basketball in Ludhiana on Tuesday.

In the boys' final, Tamil Nadu overcame host Punjab 81-76 while in the girls' title clash, Tamil Nadu beat Gujarat 100-85.

The winners took home ₹3 lakh and the runners-up got ₹2 lakh.

Rajasthan boys and Maharashtra girls, who finished third, were awarded



**Memorable triumph:** The victorious Tamil Nadu squads.

₹1,00,000 each.

Mrigendra Singh Dhaliwal of Punjab and Aahana George of Gujarat were adjudged the Most Valuable Players in boys and girls'

sections and were presented ₹50,000 each.

**The results: Finals: Boys:** Tamil Nadu 81 (Venkat Dhanush 32, Mithun Vel 17, R.R. Ashwin 13, Yadesh Kumar 11) bt Punjab 76

(Tajinderbir Singh 24, Mrigendra Singh Dhaliwal 21, Farehjeet Singh 14, Ravi Pratap Singh 11).

**Girls:** Tamil Nadu 100 (K. Heema Vani 31, Noorul Shajitha 21, G. Swetha 16, A. Jeffrin 12, Raja Lakshmi 12) bt Gujarat 86 (Archi Patel 30, Aahana George 27, Niyaliba Gohil 17).

**Bronze medal: Boys:** Rajasthan 86 (Chetan Choudhary 16, Piyush Choudhary 16, Kailash Bishnoi 14, Lokesh Kumar Sharma 13, Bhupendra Singh Rathore 12) bt Kerala 59 (Jins K. Joby 21, P.M. Goutham 10).

**Girls:** Maharashtra 54 (Aarya Pathangare 13, Siya Bhonsle 11) bt Haryana 51 (Kafi 25).

## Double delight for Tamil Nadu in National junior basketball championships

### नेशनल जूनियर बास्केटबॉल चैम्पियनशिप में तमिलनाडु के लिए दोहरी खुशी

- The **Tamil Nadu boys' and girls' teams** bagged the titles in the **75th National junior basketball in Ludhiana** on Tuesday. तमिलनाडु की लड़कों और लड़कियों की टीमों ने मंगलवार को लुधियाना में हुए 75वें नेशनल जूनियर बास्केटबॉल में खिताब जीते।
- In the **boys' final, Tamil Nadu overcame host Punjab 81-76** while in the **girls' title clash, Tamil Nadu beat Gujarat 100-85**. लड़कों के फाइनल में तमिलनाडु ने मेजबान पंजाब को 81-76 से हराया, जबकि लड़कियों के खिताबी मुकाबले में तमिलनाडु ने गुजरात को 100-85 से हराया।
- The **winners took home ₹3 lakh** and the **runners-up got ₹2 lakh**. विजेताओं को ₹3 लाख मिले और रनर-अप को ₹2 लाख दिए गए।
- Rajasthan boys** and **Maharashtra girls**, who finished third, were awarded **₹1,00,000 each**. राजस्थान लड़कों और महाराष्ट्र लड़कियों, जिन्होंने तीसरा स्थान हासिल किया, को ₹1,00,000 प्रत्येक पुरस्कार दिया गया।
- Mrigendra Singh Dhaliwal** of Punjab and **Aahana George** of Gujarat were adjudged the **Most Valuable Players** in boys and girls' sections and were presented **₹50,000 each**. पंजाब के मृगेन्द्र सिंह धालीवाल और गुजरात की आहाना जॉर्ज को लड़कों और लड़कियों के वर्ग में सबसे मूल्यवान खिलाड़ी चुना गया और उन्हें ₹50,000 प्रत्येक प्रदान किया गया।



The results:

परिणाम:

Finals:

फाइनल्स:

- **Boys: Tamil Nadu 81** (Venkat Dhanush 32, Mithun Vel 17, R.R. Ashwin 13, Yadesh Kumar 11) **bt Punjab 76** (Tajinderbir Singh 24, Mrigendra Singh Dhaliwal 21, Farehjeet Singh 14, Ravi Pratap Singh 11).  
लड़के: तमिलनाडु 81 (वेंकट धनुष 32, मिथुन वेल 17, आर.आर. अश्विन 13, यादेश कुमार 11) ने पंजाब को 76 (तजिंदरबीर सिंह 24, मृगेन्द्र सिंह धालीवाल 21, फरेहजीत सिंह 14, रवि प्रताप सिंह 11) से हराया।
- **Girls: Tamil Nadu 100** (K. Heema Vani 31, Noorul Shajitha 21, G. Swetha 16, A. Jefrin 12, Raja Lakshmi 12) **bt Gujarat 86** (Archi Patel 30, Aahana George 27, Niyaliba Gohil 17).  
लड़कियां: तमिलनाडु 100 (के. हीमा वाणी 31, नूरुल शाजिथा 21, जी. स्वैता 16, ए. जेफ्रिन 12, राजा लक्ष्मी 12) ने गुजरात को 86 (आर्ची पटेल 30, आहाना जॉर्ज 27, नियालिबा गोहिल 17) से हराया।

Bronze medal:

कांस्य पदक:

- **Boys: Rajasthan 86** (Chetan Choudhary 16, Piyush Choudhary 16, Kailash Bishnoi 14, Lokesh Kumar Sharma 13, Bhupendra Singh Rathore 12) **bt Kerala 59** (Jins K. Joby 21, P.M. Goutham 10).  
लड़के: राजस्थान 86 (चेतन चौधरी 16, पियूष चौधरी 16, कैलाश बिश्रोई 14, लोकेश कुमार शर्मा 13, भूपेंद्र सिंह राठौर 12) ने केरल को 59 (जिन्स के. जोबी 21, पी.एम. गौतम 10) से हराया।
- **Girls: Maharashtra 54** (Aarya Pathangare 13, Siya Bhonsle 11) **bt Haryana 51** (Kafi 25).  
लड़कियां: महाराष्ट्र 54 (आर्या पथनगरे 13, सिया भोंसले 11) ने हरियाणा को 51 (काफी 25) से हराया।

## GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography

TOPICS COVERED 11 September 2025

1. **Dalit residents allege 'untouchability wall' blocking access in Tamil Nadu**  
दलित निवासियों का आरोप 'अछूत दीवार' तमिलनाडु में रास्ता रोक रही है
2. **Digital platform to preserve tribal art, culture launched**  
जनजातीय कला, संस्कृति को संरक्षित करने के लिए डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च



# Dalit residents allege 'untouchability wall' blocking access in Tamil Nadu

**GS I: Society**  
**M. Nacchinarkkiniyan**  
TIRUVARUR

A 200-metre-long wall blocking a common pathway in Valangaiman town panchayat of Tamil Nadu's Tiruvarur district has triggered allegations of caste discrimination.

The wall, nearly 10 feet high, was erected three years ago at Kovilpathu in Valangaiman, bordering Pathiripuram in Virupachipuram panchayat. Kovilpathu and Pathiripuram house over 1,000 Dalit families, which say the closure of the pathway has forced them to walk an additional kilometre via the main road for daily needs.

The road was a two-km stretch connecting their settlements to Valangaiman's primary and higher secondary schools, rice mills, government hospital, and police station. More than 800 school-going children have been directly affected.



The wall, nearly 10 feet high, was erected about three years ago at Valangaiman in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvarur district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Most residents are daily wage workers and they say the longer route adds both time and costs to their already strained lives.

"For household errands and shops, this was the shortest path. Now, we are forced to take detours," said Manimegalai R., an elderly resident.

According to local activists, dominant caste groups tacitly support the wall. "There is fear that if Dalits have free access,

then property rates in the new layout will drop. We see this as an untouchability wall in all but name," said Murali K., district president of the Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front.

Plot developer J. Jekabar Ali, however, denied the charge. "This is patta land belonging to me, not a common pathway. There is a conspiracy to defame me. There are other walls around the Dalit settle-

ment - not just mine," he told *The Hindu*.

## Official response

A peace committee meeting was held on September 26, 2024 by the then Valangaiman Tahsildar. The meeting recorded that a wooden footbridge existed for public use before the wall was built. Resolutions called for a PWD survey to verify encroachment. However, they remain unimplemented.

Tahsildar K. Om Sivakumar said he wrote to the Special Tahsildar (Adi Dravidar Welfare) to inspect the land and take steps if found to be an encroachment. District Revenue Officer B. Kalaivani said she would inquire into the matter and take necessary steps.

"This appears to be a personal property dispute. No complaint regarding untouchability has reached us," said P. Tamilmaran, DSP, Nannilam.

## Dalit residents allege 'untouchability wall' blocking access in Tamil Nadu

## दलित निवासियों का आरोप 'अछूत दीवार' तमिलनाडु में रास्ता रोक रही है

- A 200-metre-long wall blocking a common pathway in Valangaiman town panchayat of Tamil Nadu's Tiruvarur district has triggered allegations of caste discrimination. तमिलनाडु के तिरुवरुर जिले के वलंगाइमन टाउन पंचायत में एक 200-मीटर लंबी दीवार जो आम रास्ते को रोक रही है, ने जाति भेदभाव के आरोपों को जन्म दिया है।



- The wall, nearly **10 feet high**, was erected **three years ago** at **Kovilpathu** in **Valangaiman**, bordering **Pathiripuram** in **Virupachipuram panchayat**.  
यह दीवार लगभग **10 फीट ऊंची** है और इसे **तीन साल पहले वलंगाइमन के कोविलपथु** में बनाया गया था, जो **विरुपाचिपुरम पंचायत के पथिरिपुरम** से सटा हुआ है।
- **Kovilpathu and Pathiripuram house over 1,000 Dalit families**, which say the closure of the pathway has forced them to walk an **additional kilometre** via the main road for daily needs.  
**कोविलपथु और पथिरिपुरम में 1,000 से अधिक दलित परिवार** रहते हैं, जिनका कहना है कि रास्ता बंद होने से उन्हें रोजमर्रा की जरूरतों के लिए मुख्य सड़क से **एक अतिरिक्त किलोमीटर पैदल** चलना पड़ता है।
- The road was a **two-km stretch** connecting their settlements to **Valangaiman's primary and higher secondary schools, rice mills, government hospital, and police station**.  
यह सड़क **दो किलोमीटर लंबी** थी जो उनकी बस्तियों को **वलंगाइमन के प्राथमिक और उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालयों, चावल मिलों, सरकारी अस्पताल और पुलिस स्टेशन** से जोड़ती थी।
- More than **800 school-going children** have been directly affected.  
**800 से अधिक स्कूल जाने वाले बच्चे** सीधे प्रभावित हुए हैं।
- Most residents are **daily wage workers** and they say the longer route adds both **time and costs** to their already strained lives.  
अधिकांश निवासी **दिहाड़ी मजदूर** हैं और उनका कहना है कि लंबा रास्ता उनकी पहले से ही तंग जिंदगी में **समय और खर्च दोनों** बढ़ा देता है।
- "For household errands and shops, this was the shortest path. Now, we are forced to take detours," said **Manimegalai R.**, an elderly resident.  
"घरेलू काम और दुकानों के लिए यह सबसे छोटा रास्ता था। अब, हमें मजबूरन लंबा रास्ता लेना पड़ता है," ऐसा कहा **मनीमेगलाई आर.**, एक बुजुर्ग निवासी ने।
- According to local activists, **dominant caste groups** tacitly support the wall.  
स्थानीय कार्यकर्ताओं के अनुसार, **प्रमुख जाति समूह** चुपचाप इस दीवार का समर्थन करते हैं।
- "There is fear that if Dalits have free access, then **property rates** in the new layout will drop. We see this as an **untouchability wall** in all but name," said **Murali K.**, district president of the **Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front**.  
"डर है कि अगर दलितों को स्वतंत्र पहुंच मिल गई, तो नए इलाके में **संपत्ति की दरें** गिर जाएंगी। हम इसे नाम के अलावा हर मायने में एक **अछूत दीवार** मानते हैं," ऐसा कहा **मुरली के.**, तमिलनाडु अछूतता उन्मूलन मोर्चा के जिला अध्यक्ष ने।
- Plot developer **J. Jekabar Ali**, however, denied the charge.  
प्लॉट डेवलपर **जे. जेकबर अली** ने हालांकि आरोप को खारिज किया।
- "This is **patta land** belonging to me, not a common pathway. There is a conspiracy to defame me. There are other walls around the Dalit settlement – not just mine," he told **The Hindu**.  
"यह **पट्टा भूमि** मेरी है, कोई आम रास्ता नहीं है। मुझे बदनाम करने की साजिश रची जा रही है। दलित बस्ती के चारों ओर और भी दीवारें हैं – सिर्फ मेरी ही नहीं," उन्होंने **द हिंदू** को बताया।
- **Official response**  
**आधिकारिक प्रतिक्रिया**
- A **peace committee meeting** was held on **September 26, 2024** by the then **Valangaiman Tahsildar**.  
**26 सितंबर, 2024** को तत्कालीन **वलंगाइमन तहसीलदार** द्वारा **शांति समिति की बैठक** आयोजित की गई।
- The meeting recorded that a **wooden footbridge** existed for public use before the wall was built.  
बैठक में दर्ज किया गया कि दीवार बनने से पहले जनता के उपयोग के लिए एक **लकड़ी का पैदल पुल** मौजूद था।
- Resolutions called for a **PWD survey** to verify encroachment. However, they remain unimplemented.  
प्रस्तावों में अतिक्रमण की पुष्टि के लिए **PWD सर्वेक्षण** की मांग की गई, लेकिन अभी तक लागू नहीं किया गया है।
- **Tahsildar K. Om Sivakumar** said he wrote to the **Special Tahsildar (Adi Dravidar Welfare)** to inspect the land and take steps if found to be an encroachment.  
**तहसीलदार के. ओम शिवकुमार** ने कहा कि उन्होंने **विशेष तहसीलदार (आदि द्रविड़ कल्याण)** को जमीन की जांच करने और अतिक्रमण पाए जाने पर कदम उठाने के लिए पत्र लिखा है।



- District Revenue Officer B. Kalaivani said she would inquire into the matter and take necessary steps.  
जिला राजस्व अधिकारी बी. कलैवानी ने कहा कि वह मामले की जांच करेगी और आवश्यक कदम उठाएंगी।
- “This appears to be a personal property dispute. No complaint regarding **untouchability** has reached us,” said P. Tamilmaran, DSP, Nannilam.  
“यह मामला व्यक्तिगत संपत्ति विवाद का प्रतीत होता है। अछूतता के संबंध में कोई शिकायत हमारे पास नहीं आई है,” ऐसा कहा पी. तमिलमरन, डीएसपी, नन्निलम ने।

## INBRIEF



GS I: A&C

### Digital platform to preserve tribal art, culture launched

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry on Wednesday launched the beta version of “Adi Sanskriti”, a digital platform for “tribal artforms and heritage”. Officials said it had been envisioned to become the “world’s first Digital University to preserve and promote the culture and knowledge of tribal communities”. The digital platform will have an online marketplace, opening up a digital market for products made by tribal artisans in India. The platform consists of three components: Adi Vishwavidyalaya (Digital Tribal Art Academy), Adi Sampada (Socio-Cultural Repository), and Adi Haat (digital marketplace).

और बढ़ावा देगा।

- The **digital platform** will have an **online marketplace**, opening up a **digital market** for **products made by tribal artisans in India**.  
यह डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म एक ऑनलाइन मार्केटप्लेस प्रदान करेगा, जिससे भारत में जनजातीय कारीगरों द्वारा बनाए गए उत्पादों के लिए एक डिजिटल बाजार खुलेगा।

### Digital platform to preserve tribal art and culture launched

जनजातीय कला, संस्कृति को संरक्षित करने के लिए डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च

- The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry on Wednesday launched the **beta version of “Adi Sanskriti”, a digital platform for “tribal artforms and heritage”**.  
केंद्रीय जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को “आदि संस्कृति” का बीटा वर्जन लॉन्च किया, जो “जनजातीय कला रूपों और विरासत” के लिए एक डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म है।
- Officials said it had been envisioned to become the “**world’s first Digital University**” to **preserve and promote the culture and knowledge of tribal communities**.  
अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इसे “दुनिया का पहला डिजिटल विश्वविद्यालय” बनाने की परिकल्पना की गई है, जो जनजातीय समुदायों की संस्कृति और ज्ञान को संरक्षित



- The platform consists of three components: **Adi Vishwavidyalaya (Digital Tribal Art Academy)**, **Adi Sampada (Socio-Cultural Repository)**, and **Adi Haat (digital marketplace)**.  
यह प्लेटफॉर्म तीन घटकों से मिलकर बना है: आदि विश्वविद्यालय (डिजिटल जनजातीय कला अकादमी), आदि संपदा (सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक भंडार), और आदि हाट (डिजिटल मार्केटप्लेस)।

## GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations

### TOPICS COVERED

11 September 2025

- 22 Nepal prisoners escape amid unrest, nabbed at U.P. border**  
अशांति के बीच 22 नेपाली कैदी भागे, उत्तर प्रदेश सीमा पर पकड़े गए
- Navy strengthens maritime ties with France, Mauritius through joint exercises**  
नौसेना ने संयुक्त अभ्यास के माध्यम से फ्रांस, मॉरीशस के साथ समुद्री संबंध मजबूत किए
- The way forward on Katchatheevu, Palk Strait disputes**  
कट्टाचेवु, पाल्क स्ट्रेट विवादों में आगे का मार्ग
- Generational rage**  
पीढ़ीगत क्रोध
- A Joint and New Journey along the SCO Pathway**  
SCO मार्ग पर एक संयुक्त और नई यात्रा
- Political instability and economic difficulties in Nepal**  
नेपाल में राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और आर्थिक कठिनाइयाँ
- Why does peace seem so elusive to eastern DRC?**  
पूर्वी डीआरसी में शांति इतनी मुश्किल क्यों लगती है?
- UN nuclear watchdog says new Iran deal covers 'all facilities'**  
संयुक्त राष्ट्र परमाणु निगरानी संस्था का कहना है कि नया ईरान समझौता 'सभी सुविधाओं' को शामिल करता है



## 9. 'Three steps back': Ukraine-Hungary feud causes despair on both sides

‘तीन कदम पीछे’: यूक्रेन-हंगरी विवाद दोनों पक्षों में निराशा का कारण

### *Festive 'fiesta'*



GS II: Gibraltar

Gibraltarians gather for National Day celebrations on Wednesday, marking the first since the EU-U.K. deal easing cross-border trade and travel. The festivities commemorate the 1967 referendum to remain part of the U.K. AP

Gibraltarians gather for National Day celebrations on Wednesday, marking the first since the EU-U.K. deal easing cross-border trade and travel. The festivities commemorate the 1967 referendum to remain part of the U.K



# 22 Nepal prisoners escape amid unrest, nabbed at U.P. border

GS II: Immigration Act

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

At least 22 inmates, who escaped from prisons in Nepal following the collapse of the government there, were apprehended by the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** along the Nepal-Uttar Pradesh border on Wednesday, a senior government official said.

The inmates were apprehended on the basis of **lists of prisoners shared by the armed forces of Nepal with the SSB**. They are at present in the custody of the Uttar Pradesh Police, the official said.

**Thousands of prisoners are said to have escaped in Nepal following the massive protests by young people across that country against corruption and nepotism**. The escapees were “illegal foreigners” and they would be caught and jailed, another government official said. The U.P. Police is likely to register a case under the **Foreigners and Immigration Act, 2025** against the escapees, the official said.

The SSB, a Central armed police force, guards the 1,751-km border with Nepal, and the 699-km India-Bhutan border. The official explained that the movement of people from

**The escapees were apprehended based on a list of prisoners shared by armed forces of Nepal**

Nepal to India had substantially fallen after the curfew imposed by the Army.

Nepal and India share an open border, and residents of the neighbouring country are allowed entry without visas and passports based on documents, including driving licences, and government-issued ID cards, among others.

“The armed forces of Nepal have shared the list of inmates who fled the prisons in Nepal, and we apprehended the suspects based on that information. We have deployed personnel at all checkpoints,” the official said, adding that the number of such escapees could go up in the coming days.

The official said no additional deployment had been made but personnel had been moved closer to the border, and other possible points had been fortified along with the usual entry points. A watch is being kept on the possible influx of people if the situation deteriorated in the neighbourhood.

## 22 Nepal prisoners escape amid unrest, nabbed at U.P. border

अशांति के बीच 22 नेपाली कैदी भागे, उत्तर प्रदेश सीमा पर पकड़े गए

• At least 22 inmates, who escaped from prisons in Nepal following the collapse of the government there, were apprehended by the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** along the Nepal-Uttar Pradesh border on Wednesday, a senior government official said.

कम से कम 22 कैदी, जो नेपाल की जेलों से वहां की सरकार के पतन के बाद भाग गए थे, उन्हें बुधवार को सशस्त्र सीमा बल (SSB) द्वारा नेपाल-उत्तर प्रदेश सीमा पर गिरफ्तार किया गया, एक वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी ने कहा।

• The inmates were apprehended on the basis of **lists of prisoners** shared by the **armed forces of Nepal** with the SSB.

कैदियों को नेपाल की सशस्त्र सेनाओं द्वारा SSB के साथ साझा की गई कैदियों की सूचियों के आधार पर गिरफ्तार किया गया।

• They are at present in the **custody** of the **Uttar Pradesh Police**, the official said. वर्तमान में वे उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस की हिरासत में हैं, अधिकारी ने कहा।

• Thousands of prisoners are said to have escaped in Nepal following the **massive protests** by young people across that country against **corruption and nepotism**.

भ्रष्टाचार और भाई-भतीजावाद के खिलाफ युवा लोगों द्वारा पूरे देश में किए गए बड़े पैमाने पर विरोध प्रदर्शनों के बाद कहा जाता है कि नेपाल में हजारों कैदी भाग गए।

• The escapees were “**illegal foreigners**” and they would be **caught and jailed**, another government official said.

भागे हुए कैदी “अवैध विदेशी” थे और उन्हें पकड़ा और जेल में डाला जाएगा, एक अन्य सरकारी अधिकारी ने कहा।

• The **U.P. Police** are likely to register a case under the **Foreigners and Immigration Act, 2025** against the escapees, the official said.

उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस संभवतः भागे हुए कैदियों के खिलाफ विदेशी और आत्रजन अधिनियम, 2025 के तहत मामला दर्ज करेगी, अधिकारी ने कहा।

• The **SSB**, a **Central armed police force**, guards the **1,751-km border with Nepal**, and the **699-km India-Bhutan border**.

SSB, जो एक केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल है, 1,751



किलोमीटर लंबी नेपाल सीमा और 699 किलोमीटर लंबी भारत-भूटान सीमा की सुरक्षा करती है।

- The official explained that the **movement of people** from **Nepal to India** had **substantially fallen** after the **curfew imposed by the Army**.  
अधिकारी ने बताया कि **सेना द्वारा लगाए गए कर्फ्यू** के बाद **नेपाल से भारत** आने वाले **लोगों की आवाजाही** में **काफी कमी** आई है।
- **Nepal and India share an open border**, and residents of the neighbouring country are **allowed entry without visas and passports** based on documents, including **driving licences**, and **government-issued ID cards**, among others.  
नेपाल और भारत की खुली सीमा है, और पड़ोसी देश के निवासियों को **वीजा और पासपोर्ट के बिना प्रवेश की अनुमति** है, जो **डाइविंग लाइसेंस** और **सरकारी पहचान पत्र** सहित दस्तावेजों पर आधारित है।
- “The **armed forces of Nepal** have **shared the list of inmates** who fled the prisons in Nepal, and we **apprehended the suspects** based on that information.  
“नेपाल की सशस्त्र सेनाओं ने जेलों से भागे कैदियों की सूची साझा की है, और हमने उसी जानकारी के आधार पर **संदिग्धों को गिरफ्तार** किया है।
- We have **deployed personnel at all checkpoints**,” the official said, adding that the **number of such escapees** could **go up** in the coming days.  
हमने **सभी चौकियों पर कर्मियों की तैनाती** की है,” अधिकारी ने कहा, यह जोड़ते हुए कि आने वाले दिनों में **ऐसे भागे हुए कैदियों की संख्या बढ़ सकती है**।
- The official said **no additional deployment** had been made but personnel had been **moved closer to the border**, and other **possible points** had been **fortified** along with the usual entry points.  
अधिकारी ने कहा कि **कोई अतिरिक्त तैनाती नहीं** की गई है, लेकिन कर्मियों को **सीमा के करीब भेजा गया है** और अन्य **संभावित स्थानों** को सामान्य प्रवेश बिंदुओं के साथ **मजबूत किया गया है**।
- A **watch** is being kept on the **possible influx of people** if the **situation deteriorated** in the neighbourhood.  
यदि पड़ोसी क्षेत्र में **स्थिति बिगड़ती है**, तो **लोगों के संभावित आगमन पर निगरानी रखी जा रही है**।

## Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- Sashastra Seema Bal is a Central Armed Police Force under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** tasked primarily with guarding India’s land borders with **Nepal** and **Bhutan**, and with associated intelligence, law-and-order and civic action roles.
- Origin: Raised originally as the **Special Service Bureau (SSB)** on **15 March 1963** after the 1962 Sino-Indian conflict to carry out both a defence-support and civic/action role in border areas.  
Change of role and name: Following policy reforms (post-Kargil and the “one border–one force” approach), SSB was transferred to the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and assigned the mandate to guard the **Indo-Nepal border** (June 2001).
- The role was later expanded to include the **Indo-Bhutan border** (12 March 2004). The organisation was renamed **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** to reflect its border-guarding role.
- **Geographic responsibility (area of operations)**
  - Indo-Nepal border: Approximately **1,751 km**, spanning the states of **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Sikkim**.
  - Indo-Bhutan border: Approximately **699 km**, covering parts of **West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam**.



# Navy strengthens maritime ties with France, Mauritius through joint exercises

**GS II: India and it's neighbours**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Ships of the Indian Navy's first training squadron (ITS), *INS Tir* and *ICGS Sarathi*, arrived at Réunion island, while *INS Shardul* reached Port Louis, Mauritius, on September 8, as part of their training deployment in the southwest Indian Ocean Region.

At Réunion island, the ships were welcomed by French Navy ship *FS Nivose* with a 'passage exercise'. The visit features professional interactions, including cross-training visits, joint diving exercises, and sports fixtures, furthering the India-France naval partnership. The senior officer of the ITS, also called on the French Naval Base Commander and the Commandant Supérieur des FAZSOI, with discussions centred on regional security, future joint exercises, and maritime cooperation.

The *INS Shardul* conducted joint patrolling and Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance with *MCGS Victory* and a Mauritius Coast Guard Dornier, before arriving at Port Louis. During the port call, the



*INS Shardul*, a landing ship tank of the Indian Navy, arrives at Port Louis in Mauritius. X/@INDIANNAVY

Commanding Officer of *INS Shardul* met the senior Mauritian leadership, reaffirming the strong bonds of trust and professional cooperation between India and Mauritius, the Indian Navy said.

The concurrent port of calls of the ITS highlight India's commitment to "maritime collaboration, and regional stability, aligned with the vision of MAHA-SAGAR", and the Indian Navy's enduring role in building bridges of friendship across the Indian Ocean Region, the Navy said in a statement.

The *INS Surat*, the In-

dian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer, mission deployed in the north Arabian Sea, participated in a passage exercise with *ITS Caio Duilio*, an Andrea Doria class destroyer of the Italian Navy, on September 7.

The exercise featured complex tactical manoeuvres, aircraft tracking, seamanship evolutions, communication drills, and flying operations, including cross-deck helicopter landings. The PASSEX concluded with a ceremonial steampast, where the two navies exchanged traditional courtesies at sea.

**Navy strengthens maritime ties with France, Mauritius**



## through joint exercises

# नौसेना ने संयुक्त अभ्यास के माध्यम से फ्रांस, मॉरीशस के साथ समुद्री संबंध मजबूत किए

- Ships of the **Indian Navy's first training squadron (1TS)**, **INS Tir** and **ICGS Sarathi**, arrived at **Réunion island**, while **INS Shardul** reached **Port Louis, Mauritius**, on **September 8**, as part of their **training deployment** in the **southwest Indian Ocean Region**.  
भारतीय नौसेना के पहले प्रशिक्षण स्काइन (1TS) के जहाज, आईएनएस तिर और आईसीजीएस सारथी, 8 सितंबर को दक्षिण-पश्चिम हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में अपने प्रशिक्षण तैनाती के हिस्से के रूप में रीयूनियन द्वीप पहुंचे, जबकि आईएनएस शार्दूल पोर्ट लुईस, मॉरीशस पहुंचा।
- At **Réunion island**, the ships were welcomed by **French Navy ship FS Nivose** with a **'passage exercise'**.  
रीयूनियन द्वीप पर जहाजों का स्वागत फ्रांसीसी नौसेना के जहाज एफएस निवोज़ द्वारा 'पासेज एक्सरसाइज' के साथ किया गया।
- The visit features **professional interactions**, including **cross-training visits**, **joint diving exercises**, and **sports fixtures**, furthering the **India-France naval partnership**.  
इस दौर में क्रॉस-ट्रेनिंग यात्राएं, संयुक्त गोताखोरी अभ्यास, और खेल आयोजन सहित पेशेवर बातचीत शामिल हैं, जिससे भारत-फ्रांस नौसैनिक साझेदारी को और मजबूती मिली।
- The **senior officer** of the **1TS** also called on the **French Naval Base Commander** and the **Commandant Supérieur des FAZSOI**, with discussions centred on **regional security**, **future joint exercises**, and **maritime cooperation**.  
1TS के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने फ्रांसीसी नौसैनिक बेस कमांडर और कमांडेंट सुपीरियर डेस FAZSOI से मुलाकात की, जिसमें क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा, भविष्य के संयुक्त अभ्यास, और समुद्री सहयोग पर चर्चा की गई।
- The **INS Shardul** conducted **joint patrolling** and **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance** with **MCGS Victory** and a **Mauritius Coast Guard Dornier**, before arriving at **Port Louis**.  
आईएनएस शार्दूल ने पोर्ट लुईस पहुंचने से पहले एमसीजीएस विक्ट्री और मॉरीशस कोस्ट गार्ड डॉर्नियर के साथ संयुक्त गश्त और विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र (EEZ) निगरानी की।
- During the **port call**, the **Commanding Officer of INS Shardul** met the **senior Mauritian leadership**, reaffirming the **strong bonds of trust and professional cooperation between India and Mauritius**, the **Indian Navy** said.  
पोर्ट कॉल के दौरान, आईएनएस शार्दूल के कमांडिंग ऑफिसर ने मॉरीशस के वरिष्ठ नेतृत्व से मुलाकात की और भारत और मॉरीशस के बीच विश्वास के मजबूत संबंधों और पेशेवर सहयोग की पुनः पुष्टि की, भारतीय नौसेना ने कहा।
- The **concurrent port calls** of the **1TS** highlight **India's commitment to "maritime collaboration, and regional stability"**, aligned with the vision of **MAHASAGAR**, and the **Indian Navy's enduring role in building bridges of friendship across the Indian Ocean Region**, the **Navy** said in a statement.  
1TS के समानांतर पोर्ट कॉल्स भारत की प्रतिबद्धता को "समुद्री सहयोग और क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता" के प्रति दर्शाते हैं, जो महासागर की दृष्टि के अनुरूप हैं, और भारतीय नौसेना की स्थायी भूमिका को हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में मित्रता के पुल बनाने में दर्शाते हैं, नौसेना ने एक बयान में कहा।
- The **INS Surat**, the **Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer, mission deployed** in the **north Arabian Sea**, participated in a **passage exercise** with **ITS Caio Duilio**, an **Andrea Doria class destroyer** of the **Italian Navy**, on **September 7**.  
आईएनएस सूरत, जो भारतीय नौसेना का नवीनतम स्वदेशी गाइडेड मिसाइल विध्वंसक है, ने 7 सितंबर को उत्तरी अरब सागर में मिशन तैनाती के दौरान इटालियन नौसेना के एंड्रिया डोरिया वर्ग विध्वंसक ITS कैओ डुइलियो के साथ एक पासेज एक्सरसाइज में भाग लिया।
- The exercise featured **complex tactical manoeuvres**, **aircraft tracking**, **seamanship evolutions**, **communication drills**, and **flying operations**, including **cross-deck helicopter landings**.  
इस अभ्यास में जटिल सामरिक गतिविधियां, विमान ट्रैकिंग, नौवहन विकास, संचार अभ्यास, और क्रॉस-डेक हेलीकॉप्टर लैंडिंग सहित उड़ान संचालन शामिल थे।
- The **PASSEX** concluded with a **ceremonial steampast**, where the two navies **exchanged traditional courtesies** at sea.



PASSEX का समापन एक औपचारिक स्टीमपास्ट के साथ हुआ, जहां दोनों नौसेनाओं ने समुद्र में पारंपरिक शिष्टाचार का आदान-प्रदान किया।

## Port Calls

- A **Port Call** refers to the **visit of a vessel (ship) to a port** for a specific purpose.
- It includes all activities related to the ship's **arrival, stay, and departure** at that port.

## Reasons for Port Calls

Ships call at ports for multiple reasons, such as:

1. **Loading or Unloading Cargo**
  - Containers, bulk commodities, oil, LNG, coal, etc.
2. **Passenger Services**
  - Cruise ships stopping at ports for tourism or embarkation/disembarkation.
3. **Bunkering**
  - Refueling of the ship.
4. **Crew Change**
  - Embarkation/disembarkation of crew members.
5. **Repairs & Maintenance**
  - Dry-docking, technical servicing.
6. **Regulatory / Safety**



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- Customs, immigration, and quarantine checks.

### 3. Activities in a Port Call

A port call typically involves:

- **Pre-arrival documentation** (ship manifests, cargo details, crew lists).
- **Pilot boarding** and guiding the ship to the berth.
- **Mooring/anchoring** the vessel.
- **Cargo operations** (loading/unloading).
- **Port services:** waste disposal, water supply, and bunkering.
- **Clearances:** Customs, Port Authority, Immigration.
- **Departure formalities** and sailing to the next port.

PATRIOTIC IAS



# The way forward on Katchatheevu, Palk Strait disputes

GS II: India-Sri Lanka

India has historically shaped regional and global diplomacy through the Panchsheel principles, the Non-Aligned Movement, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and, most recently, with its "Neighbourhood First Policy". This stance has generally promoted peace and interdependence in South Asia. However, its unresolved issues with Sri Lanka, as the fisheries crisis in the Palk Straits and the sovereignty of Katchatheevu island, pose challenges.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Colombo in April 2025, both governments revisited these long-standing concerns. Mr. Modi emphasised a "humane approach" to the fisheries issue – one that balances livelihoods with conservation. This vision can succeed only if India and Sri Lanka address ecological imperatives and historic grievances in a spirit of cooperation.

## Livelihood and conservation at odds

Fishing communities along the Tamil Nadu coast and the Northern Province of Sri Lanka have, for centuries, shared the Palk Straits. But disputes today are exacerbated by Indian vessels carrying out mechanised bottom trawling in Sri Lankan waters.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) lays stress not only on equitable use of marine resources but also their conservation. Similarly, the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 1995 deems destructive practices such as bottom trawling to be unacceptable.

Sri Lanka banned bottom trawling in 2017, but hundreds of Indian trawlers still continue the practice, damaging coral beds, shrimp habitats, and depleting fish stocks. Ironically, Tamil Nadu's smaller artisanal fishers, who use traditional sustainable methods, also suffer: their near-shore resources have been depleted by the trawler industry, forcing them into contested waters. Thus, this is not just a territorial clash but also a livelihood conflict within the Tamil communities themselves – between business trawler operators pursuing profit and traditional fishers who are dependent on the sea for subsistence.

A sustainable resolution calls for making a distinction between the needs of artisanal fishers and trawler operators. Trawler operators cannot claim empathy as their commercial profits are at the expense of marine sustainability and community welfare. Small boat artisanal fishers have fished in these waters "from time immemorial" and their plight deserves humane accommodation.

This can be worked out through dialogue between Indian and Sri Lankan fisher organisations. With the consent of the Sri Lankan fishers, they can work out quotas or regulated



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access and set out limited fishing rights on specific days or seasons for Tamil Nadu's small fishers, until India's stocks recover.

There should be community sensitisation. Sri Lankan Tamil Members of Parliament and the Tamil media can play a role by highlighting in Tamil Nadu the hardships that the Northern fishermen suffered during Sri Lanka's long civil war. Many of these families lost decades of income when the military restricted sea access during the conflict. They should not be portrayed as aggressors but as fellow victims of economic loss. Such steps would foster goodwill. It is worth remembering that during the Sri Lankan conflict, Tamil refugees were received in Tamil Nadu with compassion, housed in camps, and given assistance. Preserving these bonds of fraternity is essential.

## Clearing the misconceptions

Public debate often portrays Katchatheevu, the tiny uninhabited islet in the Palk Straits, as the root of the fisheries dispute. This is misleading. Katchatheevu is less than half a square mile in area, and is barren except for the church of St. Anthony, which fishermen from Tamil Nadu continue to visit for the annual festival under the 1974 India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Treaty. The 1974 boundary settlement placed the islet in Sri Lankan waters. The Treaty is legally binding. Under international law, boundary treaties are sacrosanct (*pacta sunt servanda*). They cannot be unilaterally repudiated without undermining the global order – just as China's contestation of its settled frontiers with India generates instability.

Myths such as "Indira Gandhi gifted the island to Sirimavo Bandaranaike" need clarification. In reality, India weighed historic evidence of sovereignty before deciding. Records showed Sri Lankan administrative control dating back to Portuguese and Dutch rule, and, earlier, to the Tamil kings of the kingdom of Jaffna.

International precedents exist in the following cases. In the *Minquiers and Ecrehos* case (*France vs United Kingdom*, the International Court of Justice 1953), the ICJ awarded sovereignty to the U.K., despite France's historical claim through the Duchy of Normandy, because it had exercised administrative jurisdiction. Similarly, India conceded that Sri Lanka had the stronger claim. Another example is the Rann of Kutch Arbitration (1968) between India and Pakistan.

Thus, retrieving Katchatheevu is not a question of justice but of political rhetoric. It remains a settled issue under international law. Importantly, fishing rights are a distinct matter – not linked to sovereignty over the islet.

The Palk Straits and adjacent waters were recognised as "historic waters" under Indian and Sri Lankan law – areas where sovereign rights are even stronger than in normal territorial seas. As

such, there is no "right of innocent passage" or third-state fishing rights without explicit consent. Judicial recognition of historic rights dates back to the Madras High Court case of *Annakumar Pillai vs Muthupayal And Ors.* (1904), which upheld claims based on traditional pearl and conch fisheries. Therefore, India's acceptance in 1974 of the maritime boundary was not whimsical but legally consistent with historic precedent.

The UNCLOS (Article 123) encourages cooperation in semi-enclosed seas – such as the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar. Here, joint resource management is not just ideal but mandatory.

Models exist as in the Baltic Sea Fisheries Convention where Latvia, Poland and the European Union share quotas to conserve resources.

India and Sri Lanka could implement similar frameworks such as equitable quotas for fishing days and catch, a joint research station on Katchatheevu for marine biologists to monitor resources and suggest sustainable practices, and promotion of deep-sea fishing in India's 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), reducing pressure on near-shore waters and lessening illegal crossings.

## Toward good neighbourhood policy

India's regional leadership is shaped not just by geography but also by cultural and civilisational ties. With Sri Lanka, those ties are especially deep. To protect them, disputes must be addressed without populist rhetoric but through quiet cooperation, legal recognition and shared livelihood security. The way forward involves multiple levels such as government-to-government talks (retaining trust and treaty obligations) and State/Provincial engagement (involving Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka's Northern Provincial Council and community dialogue, encouraging people-people empathy that overcomes media distortions).

If handled with prudence, the Katchatheevu and Palk Straits issues can become symbols of cooperation rather than conflict.

India and Sri Lanka share not only maritime boundaries but also centuries of cultural, religious, and kinship ties. The fisheries issue requires fairness to both communities, prioritising artisanal livelihoods and ecological sustainability. The Katchatheevu issue, meanwhile, is legally settled – it should no longer cloud the real problem of managing resources. By adopting a collaborative fisheries regime, investing in deep-sea alternatives, and respecting historical legal agreements, the fishers of Tamil Nadu and the Northern province of Sri Lanka could move from confrontation to cooperation. In the long arc of diplomacy, smaller disputes must not overshadow the larger vision: peace, prosperity and mutual respect in South Asia.

If handled with prudence, the Katchatheevu and Palk Straits issues can become symbols of cooperation rather than conflict

## The way forward on Katchatheevu, Palk Strait disputes कट्टाचेवु, पाल्क स्ट्रेट विवादों में आगे का मार्ग

### India's Role in Regional Diplomacy भारत की क्षेत्रीय कूटनीति में भूमिका

- India has historically shaped regional and global diplomacy through the Panchsheel principles, the Non-Aligned Movement, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and most recently, its "Neighbourhood First Policy".

ऐतिहासिक रूप से, भारत ने पंचशील सिद्धांतों, गैर-सरिखित आंदोलन, दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्रीय सहयोग संघ (SAARC) और हाल ही में अपनी "नेबरहुड फर्स्ट पॉलिसी" के माध्यम से क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक कूटनीति को आकार दिया है।



- This stance has generally promoted **peace and interdependence** in South Asia. इस रुख ने आम तौर पर दक्षिण एशिया में शांति और आपसी निर्भरता को बढ़ावा दिया है।
- Unresolved issues with Sri Lanka, such as the **fisheries crisis in the Palk Straits** and the **sovereignty of Katchatheevu island**, pose challenges. श्रीलंका के साथ अनसुलझे मुद्दे, जैसे पाल्क स्ट्रेट्स में मछली पालन संकट और कट्टाचेवु द्वीप की संप्रभुता, चुनौतियाँ पैदा करते हैं।

### Prime Minister Modi's Visit to Colombo कोलंबो में प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का दौरा

- During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Colombo in April 2025, both governments revisited these long-standing concerns. प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के अप्रैल 2025 में कोलंबो दौरे के दौरान, दोनों सरकारों ने इन लंबे समय से चले आ रहे मुद्दों पर पुनर्विचार किया।
- Mr. Modi emphasised a “**humane approach**” to the **fisheries issue** — one that balances **livelihoods** with **conservation**. श्री मोदी ने मछली पालन मुद्दे पर “मानवीय दृष्टिकोण” पर जोर दिया — जो रोज़गार और संरक्षण के बीच संतुलन बनाए।
- This vision can succeed only if India and Sri Lanka address **ecological imperatives** and **historic grievances** in a spirit of **cooperation**. यह दृष्टि तभी सफल हो सकती है जब भारत और श्रीलंका पारिस्थितिकीय आवश्यकताओं और ऐतिहासिक शिकायतों को सहयोग की भावना में संबोधित करें।

### Livelihood and Conservation at Odds रोज़गार और संरक्षण में संघर्ष

- **Fishing communities** along the **Tamil Nadu coast** and the **Northern Province of Sri Lanka** have, for centuries, shared the **Palk Straits**. तमिलनाडु तट और श्रीलंका के उत्तरी प्रांत के मछुआरा समुदायों ने सदियों से पाल्क स्ट्रेट्स साझा किए हैं।
- Disputes today are exacerbated by **Indian vessels** carrying out **mechanised bottom trawling** in **Sri Lankan waters**. आजकल विवादों को बढ़ावा दिया है भारतीय नौकाओं द्वारा श्रीलंकाई जल में मैकेनाइज्ड बॉटम ट्रॉवलिंग करने से।
- The **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** emphasizes **equitable use and conservation of marine resources**. संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासागर कानून सम्मेलन (UNCLOS) समुद्री संसाधनों के समान उपयोग और संरक्षण पर जोर देता है।
- The **FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 1995** considers **destructive practices like bottom trawling** unacceptable. FAO का 1995 का जिम्मेदार मछली पालन आचार संहिता नाशकारी प्रथाओं जैसे बॉटम ट्रॉवलिंग को अस्वीकार्य मानता है।
- **Sri Lanka banned bottom trawling in 2017**, but **hundreds of Indian trawlers** continue, **damaging coral beds, shrimp habitats, and depleting fish stocks**. श्रीलंका ने 2017 में बॉटम ट्रॉवलिंग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया, लेकिन सैकड़ों भारतीय ट्रॉलर अभी भी जारी हैं, जिससे कोरल बिस्तर, झींगा आवास और मछली स्टॉक क्षतिग्रस्त हो रहे हैं।
- **Tamil Nadu's smaller artisanal fishers**, using **traditional sustainable methods**, also suffer due to depletion of **near-shore resources** by the **trawler industry**. तमिलनाडु के छोटे कारीगरी मछुआरे, जो पारंपरिक सतत तरीकों का उपयोग करते हैं, ट्रॉलर उद्योग द्वारा तटवर्ती संसाधनों के खत्म होने से भी प्रभावित हैं।
- This is not just a **territorial clash** but also a **livelihood conflict** within **Tamil communities** — between **business trawler operators** and **traditional fishers**. यह केवल एक क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष नहीं है बल्कि तमिल समुदायों के भीतर रोज़गार संघर्ष भी है — व्यावसायिक ट्रॉलर ऑपरेटर और पारंपरिक मछुआरों के बीच।



## A Sustainable Resolution

### सतत समाधान

- Distinguish between the needs of **artisanal fishers** and **trawler operators**.  
कारीगरी मछुआरों और ट्रॉलर ऑपरेटरों की जरूरतों में अंतर करना आवश्यक है।
- Trawler operators** cannot claim **empathy** as their **profits** come at the expense of **marine sustainability** and **community welfare**.  
ट्रॉलर ऑपरेटर सहानुभूति का दावा नहीं कर सकते क्योंकि उनका लाभ समुद्री सततता और सामुदायिक कल्याण के खर्च पर है।
- Small boat artisanal fishers** have fished in these waters “**from time immemorial**”, deserving **humane accommodation**.  
छोटे कारीगरी मछुआरे इन जलों में “अकाल से” मछली पकड़ते आए हैं और उन्हें मानवीय व्यवस्था मिलनी चाहिए।
- Dialogue between Indian and Sri Lankan fisher organisations** can work out **quotas**, **regulated access**, and **limited fishing rights** for **Tamil Nadu’s small fishers** until **India’s stocks recover**.  
भारतीय और श्रीलंकाई मछुआरा संगठनों के बीच संवाद कोटा, नियंत्रित पहुंच, और सीमित मछली पकड़ने के अधिकार तय कर सकते हैं, जब तक कि भारत के स्टॉक्स पुनर्प्राप्त नहीं हो जाते।

## Community Sensitisation

### सामुदायिक संवेदनशीलता

- Sri Lankan Tamil MPs** and **Tamil media** can highlight **hardships** suffered during **Sri Lanka’s civil war**.  
श्रीलंकाई तमिल सांसद और तमिल मीडिया श्रीलंका के नागरिक युद्ध के दौरान हुई कठिनाइयों को उजागर कर सकते हैं।
- Families lost **decades of income** when the military **restricted sea access** during the conflict; they should not be portrayed as **aggressors**.  
परिवारों ने कई दशकों की आय खोई, जब सैन्य ने युद्ध के दौरान समुद्री पहुंच को प्रतिबंधित किया; उन्हें आक्रामक के रूप में नहीं दिखाया जाना चाहिए।
- Such steps would foster **goodwill** and preserve **bonds of fraternity**, recalling how **Tamil refugees** were **received in Tamil Nadu with compassion, housed in camps, and assisted**.  
ऐसे कदम सद्भावना को बढ़ावा देंगे और भाईचारे के बंधन को बनाए रखेंगे, याद दिलाते हुए कि तमिल शरणार्थियों को तमिलनाडु में सहानुभूति के साथ स्वागत, कैम्प में आवास, और सहायता प्रदान की गई थी।

## Clearing the Misconceptions

### गलतफहमियों का निवारण

- Public debate often portrays **Katchatheevu**, the tiny uninhabited islet in the **Palk Straits**, as the root of the **fisheries dispute**. This is misleading.  
सार्वजनिक बहस अक्सर कट्टाचेवु, जो पाल्क स्ट्रेट्स में एक छोटा निर्जन द्वीप है, को मछली पालन विवाद की जड़ के रूप में प्रस्तुत करती है। यह भ्रामक है।
- Katchatheevu is less than half a square mile in area, and is barren except for the church of St. Anthony, which fishermen from Tamil Nadu continue to visit for the annual festival under the 1974 India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Treaty.**  
कट्टाचेवु का क्षेत्रफल आधा वर्ग मील से कम है और यह बंजर है, केवल सेंट एंथनी का चर्च है, जिसे तमिलनाडु के मछुआरे वार्षिक त्योहार के लिए 1974 भारत-श्रीलंका समुद्री सीमा संधि के तहत जाते रहते हैं।
- The **1974 boundary settlement** placed the islet in **Sri Lankan waters**. The **Treaty is legally binding**.  
1974 सीमा समझौते ने द्वीप को श्रीलंकाई पानी में रखा। यह संधि कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी है।
- Under **international law**, boundary treaties are **sacrosanct (pacta sunt servanda)**. They cannot be **unilaterally repudiated** without undermining the **global order** — just as **China’s contestation** of its settled frontiers with India generates instability.



अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून के तहत, सीमा संधियाँ पवित्र होती हैं (pacta sunt servanda)। इन्हें एकतरफा खारिज नहीं किया जा सकता बिना वैश्विक व्यवस्था को कमजोर किए — जैसे कि चीन का भारत के साथ अपने स्थिर सीमाओं पर विवाद अस्थिरता पैदा करता है।

- Myths such as “Indira Gandhi gifted the island to Sirimavo Bandaranaike” need clarification.  
“इंदिरा गांधी ने द्वीप को सिरीमावो बंदरानायके को दिया” जैसी मिथक कथाओं को स्पष्ट करने की आवश्यकता है।
- In reality, India weighed **historic evidence of sovereignty** before deciding. Records showed **Sri Lankan administrative control** dating back to **Portuguese and Dutch rule**, and earlier, to the **Tamil kings of the kingdom of Jaffna**.  
वास्तव में, भारत ने निर्णय लेने से पहले **संप्रभुता के ऐतिहासिक सबूत** पर विचार किया। रिकॉर्ड दिखाते हैं कि **श्रीलंका का प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण पुर्तगाली और डच शासन से लेकर**, और उससे पहले, **जाफना राज्य के तमिल राजाओं तक** का रहा।
- International precedents exist, such as the **Minquiers and Ecrehos case (France vs UK, ICJ 1953)**, where the ICJ awarded **sovereignty to the UK**, despite France’s historical claim, because the UK had **exercised administrative jurisdiction**.  
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मिसालें मौजूद हैं, जैसे **Minquiers और Ecrehos मामला (फ्रांस बनाम यूके, ICJ 1953)**, जहाँ ICJ ने **संप्रभुता यूके को दी**, भले ही फ्रांस का ऐतिहासिक दावा था, क्योंकि यूके ने **प्रशासनिक अधिकार का प्रयोग किया**।
- Similarly, India conceded that **Sri Lanka had the stronger claim**.  
इसी तरह, भारत ने माना कि **श्रीलंका का दावा मजबूत था**।
- Another example is the **Rann of Kutch Arbitration (1968)** between India and Pakistan. एक और उदाहरण है **रैन ऑफ कच्छ मध्यस्थता (1968)** भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच।
- Thus, retrieving **Katchatheevu** is not a question of **justice** but of **political rhetoric**. It remains a **settled issue under international law**.  
इसलिए, **कट्टाचेवु** को वापस लेना **न्याय का प्रश्न नहीं बल्कि राजनीतिक बयानबाजी का मामला है**। यह **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून के तहत सुलझा हुआ मुद्दा है**।
- Importantly, **fishing rights** are a **distinct matter**, not linked to **sovereignty over the islet**. महत्वपूर्ण बात, **मछली पकड़ने के अधिकार एक अलग मामला है**, जो **द्वीप की संप्रभुता से जुड़ा नहीं है**।
- The **Palk Straits** and adjacent waters were recognised as “**historic waters**” under **Indian and Sri Lankan law**, where **sovereign rights** are stronger than in normal territorial seas. **पाल्क स्ट्रेट्स** और आस-पास के पानी को **भारत और श्रीलंका के कानून के तहत “ऐतिहासिक जल”** माना गया, जहाँ **संप्रभु अधिकार सामान्य क्षेत्रीय समुद्र की तुलना में मजबूत हैं**।
- As such, there is no “**right of innocent passage**” or **third-state fishing rights** without explicit consent.  
इस प्रकार, बिना स्पष्ट अनुमति के “**निर्दोष मार्ग**” या तीसरे राज्य के **मछली पकड़ने के अधिकार नहीं हैं**।
- Judicial recognition of **historic rights** dates back to the Madras **High Court case of Annakumar Pillai vs Muthupayal (1904)**, which upheld claims based on **traditional pearl and conch fisheries**.  
**ऐतिहासिक अधिकारों की न्यायिक मान्यता मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय के Annakumar Pillai बनाम Muthupayal (1904)** मामले तक जाती है, जिसने **पारंपरिक मोती और शंख मछली पकड़ने के दावों को मान्यता दी**।
- Therefore, India’s acceptance in **1974 of the maritime boundary** was not whimsical but **legally consistent with historic precedent**.  
इसलिए, भारत का **1974 में समुद्री सीमा को स्वीकार करना** यादृच्छिक नहीं था बल्कि **ऐतिहासिक मिसाल के अनुसार कानूनी रूप से संगत था**।
- The **UNCLOS (Article 123)** encourages cooperation in **semi-enclosed seas** such as the **Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar**, where **joint resource management** is mandatory. **UNCLOS (अनुच्छेद 123)** आंशिक रूप से **बंद समुद्रों** जैसे **पाल्क बे और मन्नार की खाड़ी** में सहयोग को प्रोत्साहित करता है, जहाँ **संयुक्त संसाधन प्रबंधन अनिवार्य है**।
- Models exist such as the **Baltic Sea Fisheries Convention**, where **Latvia, Poland, and the EU share quotas** to conserve resources.  
मॉडल मौजूद हैं जैसे **बाल्टिक सी फिशरीज कन्वेंशन**, जहाँ **लातविया, पोलैंड और EU संसाधनों के संरक्षण के लिए कोटा साझा करते हैं**।



- India and Sri Lanka could implement similar frameworks:  
भारत और श्रीलंका समान ढांचे को लागू कर सकते हैं:
  - Equitable quotas for fishing days and catch**  
मछली पकड़ने के दिनों और पकड़ के लिए न्यायसंगत कोटा
  - A joint research station on Katchatheevu for marine biologists** to monitor resources and suggest sustainable practices  
कट्टाचेवु में एक संयुक्त अनुसंधान केंद्र जहां समुद्री जीवविज्ञानी संसाधनों की निगरानी करें और टिकाऊ प्रथाओं का सुझाव दें
  - Promotion of deep-sea fishing in India's 200-nautical-mile EEZ**, reducing pressure on near-shore waters and **lessening illegal crossings**  
भारत के 200-नॉटिकल-मील EEZ में डीप-सी मछली पकड़ने को बढ़ावा देना, तटीय पानी पर दबाव कम करना और अवैध पारगमन घटाना

## Toward Good Neighbourhood Policy

### अच्छे पड़ोसी नीति की ओर

- India's regional leadership is shaped by **geography, cultural and civilisational ties**, especially with **Sri Lanka**.  
भारत का क्षेत्रीय नेतृत्व भूगोल, सांस्कृतिक और सभ्यतागत संबंधों द्वारा आकार लिया जाता है, विशेष रूप से श्रीलंका के साथ।
- Disputes must be addressed without **populist rhetoric** but through **quiet cooperation, legal recognition, and shared livelihood security**.  
विवादों को जनप्रिय बयानबाजी के बिना, बल्कि शांत सहयोग, कानूनी मान्यता और साझा आजीविका सुरक्षा के माध्यम से सुलझाना चाहिए।
- The way forward involves multiple levels:  
आगे का रास्ता कई स्तरों पर शामिल है:
  - Government-to-government talks**, retaining **trust and treaty obligations**  
सरकार-से-सरकार वार्ता, भरोसा और संधि दायित्व बनाए रखना
  - State/Provincial engagement**, involving **Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka's Northern Provincial Council**, and **community dialogue**, encouraging **people-to-people empathy**  
राज्य/प्रांत की भागीदारी, जिसमें तमिलनाडु, श्रीलंका की उत्तरी प्रांतीय परिषद और सामुदायिक संवाद शामिल है, जो जनता के बीच सहानुभूति को बढ़ावा देता है
- If handled prudently, the **Katchatheevu and Palk Straits issues** can become **symbols of cooperation** rather than conflict.  
यदि सावधानीपूर्वक संभाला जाए, तो कट्टाचेवु और पाल्क स्ट्रेट्स के मुद्दे संघर्ष के बजाय सहयोग के प्रतीक बन सकते हैं।
- India and Sri Lanka share **maritime boundaries, centuries of cultural, religious, and kinship ties**.  
भारत और श्रीलंका समुद्री सीमाएं, सदियों पुराने सांस्कृतिक, धार्मिक और रक्त संबंधों को साझा करते हैं।
- The **fisheries issue** requires **fairness** to both communities, prioritising **artisanal livelihoods and ecological sustainability**.  
मछली पकड़ने का मुद्दा दोनों समुदायों के लिए न्यायपूर्ण होना चाहिए, जिसमें हस्तशिल्प आजीविका और पारिस्थितिक स्थिरता को प्राथमिकता दी जाए।
- The **Katchatheevu issue** is **legally settled** and should no longer cloud the **real problem of managing resources**.  
कट्टाचेवु का मुद्दा कानूनी रूप से सुलझा हुआ है और अब इसे संसाधनों के प्रबंधन की असली समस्या को नहीं ढकना चाहिए।
- By adopting a **collaborative fisheries regime, investing in deep-sea alternatives, and respecting historical legal agreements**, fishers of **Tamil Nadu and Northern Sri Lanka** could move from **confrontation to cooperation**.  
सहयोगात्मक मछली पकड़ने की प्रणाली अपनाकर, डीप-सी विकल्पों में निवेश करके और ऐतिहासिक कानूनी समझौतों का सम्मान करके, तमिलनाडु और उत्तरी श्रीलंका के मछुआरे संघर्ष से सहयोग की ओर बढ़ सकते हैं।



## Panchsheel Policy

- The **Panchsheel Agreement** (Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence) refers to the framework signed between **India and China in April 1954**.
- It has since served as a **cornerstone of India's foreign policy**, guiding relations with neighbours and shaping India's image as a peace-oriented, non-aligned nation.
- **Context:** Post-independence, India sought peaceful coexistence with neighbours and newly decolonised nations.
- **India–China Agreement (1954):** Signed on **29 April 1954** in Beijing, as part of the agreement on **Tibet and trade between India and Tibet Region of China**.
- **Leaders Involved:** Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** (India) and Premier **Zhou Enlai** (China).
- Adopted later at **Bandung Conference (1955)** by Afro-Asian nations and recognised by the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** and **United Nations**.

## Five Principles of Panchsheel

1. **Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty**
2. **Mutual non-aggression**
3. **Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs**
4. **Equality and mutual benefit**
5. **Peaceful coexistence**

## Significance in India's Foreign Policy

- **Foundation of NAM:** Panchsheel deeply influenced the **Non-Aligned Movement (1961)**, reflecting India's commitment to strategic autonomy.
- **Peaceful Global Image:** Enhanced India's credibility as a country advocating peace, cooperation, and non-violence in international relations.
- **Neighbourhood Diplomacy:** Applied in India's bilateral relations with Asian and African countries, emphasizing sovereignty and non-interference.
- **UN Relevance:** Principles resonate with the **UN Charter (1945)**, particularly sovereignty and peaceful dispute settlement.

## Limitations and Criticism

- **China's Violation:** Despite Panchsheel, **China's aggression in 1962** undermined its credibility, raising questions about realism in foreign policy.
- **Idealism vs. Realpolitik:** Critics argue Nehru's reliance on Panchsheel was **over-idealistic**, ignoring power politics and strategic preparedness.
- **Selective Application:** While India promoted Panchsheel, practical compulsions (e.g., interventions in Bangladesh 1971, Sri Lanka IPKF 1987) showed deviations.



GS II: India & It's Neighbours

## Generational rage

Violent nihilism following crackdown threatens democracy in Nepal

**T**he upheaval that swept Nepal on Tuesday, with protesters torching Parliament, the Supreme Court, political residences, and media offices while releasing prisoners, cannot be dismissed as a natural reaction to the previous day's crackdown that killed 19 young demonstrators. These actions, following Prime Minister K.P. Oli's resignation, reveal a violent nihilism that threatens to undo Nepal's hard-won democratic gains. The "Gen Z protests" were born out of frustration with Nepal's chronic political dysfunction. Less than two decades after the triumphant "Jan Andolan II" of 2005 overthrew absolute monarchy and promised a "Naya Nepal", the political establishment has delivered only instability and self-serving governance. Since the 1990s, Nepal has cycled through 13 heads of government across 30 tenures. The leaders of the mainstream Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, and CPN-Maoist Centre have prioritised unethical alliances over electoral mandates. Leaders such as K.P. Oli and Sher Bahadur Deuba showed little inclination in supporting Jan Andolan II and the Constituent Assembly process in the 2000s, while Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal has prioritised staying in power. The consequences are stark: the economy banks on remittances, leading to significant youth out-migration, soaring unemployment, and failure of diversification in a country that the UN calls "least developed".

The disillusionment resulting from an entire generation growing up watching its country's potential squandered has now birthed new political forces. They include the Rashtriya Swatantra Party and independents such as Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah, reflecting a genuine public hunger for alternatives. However, some positions assumed by these new voices raise concerns. Mr. Shah's call to dissolve the elected Parliament, rather than for a caretaker government, leading to elections, suggests either democratic immaturity or, more dangerously, a willingness to abandon democratic norms. Bangladesh's recent upheaval, which led to democratic backsliding, offers a cautionary tale. Nepal must not mistake the destruction of state and civil society institutions to be democratic renewal. The crisis demands stabilisation and long-term constitutional reform that fulfil the promises made before the Constituent Assembly process, but which were diluted by the time the Constitution was written. A presidential system with direct elections and accountable to an elected Parliament could break the cycle of instability. But constitutional reform means nothing without immediate peace. The Nepali Army must step forward to create space for civilian democratic actors to reassert control and chart reform. The alternative – allowing violent nihilism to masquerade as democratic renewal – risks destroying the very foundations upon which any "Naya Nepal" must be built.

• In the long arc of diplomacy, **smaller disputes** must not overshadow the **larger vision: peace, prosperity, and mutual respect in South Asia.**

कूटनीति के लंबे दौर में, छोटे विवादों को दक्षिण एशिया में शांति, समृद्धि और आपसी सम्मान के बड़े दृष्टिकोण को प्रभावित नहीं करना चाहिए।

## Generational rage पीढ़ीगत क्रोध

• **Violent nihilism following crackdown threatens democracy in Nepal.**

कड़े क्रदम के बाद उत्पन्न हिंसक निराशावाद ने नेपाल में लोकतंत्र को खतरे में डाल दिया है।

### Nepal Political Upheaval नेपाल में राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल

• The **upheaval that swept Nepal on Tuesday**, with protesters torching Parliament, the Supreme Court, political residences, and media offices while releasing prisoners, cannot be dismissed as a natural reaction to the previous day's crackdown that **killed 19 young demonstrators.**

मंगलवार को नेपाल में आई उथल-पुथल, जिसमें प्रदर्शनकारियों ने संसद, सुप्रीम कोर्ट, राजनीतिक आवास और मीडिया कार्यालयों में आग लगाई और कैदियों को रिहा किया, को पिछले दिन हुए दमन, जिसमें 19 युवा प्रदर्शनकारी मारे गए, की प्राकृतिक प्रतिक्रिया के रूप में नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जा सकता।

• These actions, following **Prime Minister K.P. Oli's resignation reveals a violent nihilism** that threatens to undo Nepal's **hard-won democratic gains.**

ये कार्रवाईयां प्रधानमंत्री के पी. ओली के इस्तीफे के बाद हुईं, जो नेपाल के कठिनाई से हासिल किए गए लोकतांत्रिक लाभों को खतरे में डालने वाले हिंसक निरर्थकवाद को दर्शाती हैं।

• The **"Gen Z protests"** were born out of **frustration with Nepal's chronic political dysfunction.**

"जनरेशन Z प्रदर्शन" नेपाल की दीर्घकालिक राजनीतिक विफलता से पैदा हुई निराशा का परिणाम हैं।

• Less than two decades after the triumphant **"Jan Andolan II" of 2005** overthrew absolute monarchy and promised a **"Naya Nepal"**, the political establishment has delivered only **instability and self-serving governance.**

2005 के विजयी "जन आंदोलन II" के लगभग दो दशकों के भीतर, जिसने पूर्ण राजशाही को उखाड़ फेंका और "नया नेपाल" का वादा किया, राजनीतिक व्यवस्था ने केवल अस्थिरता और स्वार्थी शासन दिया है।

• Since the 1990s, Nepal has cycled through **13 heads of government across 30 tenures.**

1990 के दशक से नेपाल ने 13 प्रधानमंत्रियों के 30 कार्यकालों के माध्यम से शासन किया है।

• Leaders of mainstream **Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, and CPN-Maoist Centre** have prioritised **unethical alliances over electoral mandates.**

मुख्यधारा के नेता नेपाली कांग्रेस, CPN-UML और CPN-माओवादी केंद्र ने चुनावी जनादेश के बजाय अनैतिक गठबंधनों को प्राथमिकता दी।



- Leaders such as **K.P. Oli** and **Sher Bahadur Deuba** showed little inclination in supporting **Jan Andolan II** and the **Constituent Assembly process** in the 2000s, while **Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal** has prioritised staying in power.  
के.पी. ओली और शेर बहादुर देउबा जैसे नेताओं ने 2000 के दशक में जन आंदोलन II और संविधान सभा प्रक्रिया का समर्थन करने में कम रुचि दिखाई, जबकि माओवादी नेता पुष्प कमल दहाल ने सत्ता में बने रहना प्राथमिकता दी।
- **The consequences are stark: the economy banks on remittances, leading to significant youth out-migration, soaring unemployment, and failure of diversification in a country that the UN calls "least developed"**.  
परिणाम स्पष्ट हैं: अर्थव्यवस्था रेमिटेंस पर निर्भर है, जिससे युवा प्रवासन, बेरोजगारी में उछाल, और विविधीकरण में विफलता होती है, एक ऐसा देश जिसे संयुक्त राष्ट्र "अत्यल्प विकसित" कहता है।
- The disillusionment resulting from an entire generation growing up watching its country's potential squandered has now birthed new political forces.  
पूरे एक पीढ़ी के अपने देश की संभावनाओं के बर्बाद होते देखने से पैदा हुई निराशा ने अब नई राजनीतिक शक्तियों को जन्म दिया है।
- They include the **Rashtriya Swatantra Party** and independents such as **Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah**, reflecting a **genuine public hunger for alternatives**.  
इनमें राष्ट्रीय स्वतंत्र पार्टी और स्वतंत्र उम्मीदवार जैसे काठमांडू के मेयर बालेंद्र शाह शामिल हैं, जो वास्तविक जनता की वैकल्पिक विकल्पों की भूख को दर्शाते हैं।
- However, some positions assumed by these new voices raise concerns.  
हालांकि, इन नई आवाजों द्वारा अपनाए गए कुछ स्थानों चिंताएँ पैदा करते हैं।
- Mr. Shah's call to **dissolve the elected Parliament**, rather than for a **caretaker government** leading to elections, suggests either **democratic immaturity** or, more dangerously, a **willingness to abandon democratic norms**.  
श्री शाह का चुनिंदा संसद को भंग करने का आह्वान, बजाय इसके कि संरक्षक सरकार चुनाव की ओर ले जाए, दर्शाता है या तो लोकतांत्रिक अपरिपक्वता या, और अधिक खतरनाक, लोकतांत्रिक मानदंडों को छोड़ने की इच्छा।
- **Bangladesh's recent upheaval**, which led to **democratic backsliding**, offers a **cautionary tale**.  
हालिया बांग्लादेश की उथल-पुथल, जिसने लोकतांत्रिक क्षरण को जन्म दिया, एक सावधानीपूर्ण कहानी प्रस्तुत करती है।
- Nepal must not mistake the **destruction of state and civil society institutions** to be **democratic renewal**.  
नेपाल को राज्य और नागरिक समाज संस्थाओं के विनाश को लोकतांत्रिक नवीनीकरण समझने में गलती नहीं करनी चाहिए।
- The crisis demands **stabilisation and long-term constitutional reform** that fulfill the promises made before the **Constituent Assembly process**, but which were diluted by the time the **Constitution was written**.  
इस संकट में स्थिरीकरण और दीर्घकालिक संवैधानिक सुधार की आवश्यकता है जो संविधान सभा प्रक्रिया से पहले किए गए वादों को पूरा करे, लेकिन जो संविधान लिखे जाने तक कमजोर हो गए थे।
- A **presidential system with direct elections** and accountable to an **elected Parliament** could break the **cycle of instability**.  
प्रत्यक्ष चुनावों वाला राष्ट्रपति प्रणाली और चुनिंदा संसद के प्रति जवाबदेह होने से अस्थिरता के चक्र को तोड़ा जा सकता है।
- But constitutional reform means nothing without **immediate peace**.  
लेकिन संवैधानिक सुधार बिना तत्काल शांति के कुछ भी नहीं है।
- The **Nepali Army** must step forward to create space for **civilian democratic actors** to reassert control and chart reform.  
नेपाली सेना को आगे बढ़कर सिविलियनों लोकतांत्रिक अभिनेताओं के लिए जगह बनानी चाहिए ताकि वे नियंत्रण फिर से स्थापित कर सकें और सुधार की दिशा तय कर सकें।
- The alternative — allowing **violent nihilism to masquerade as democratic renewal** — risks **destroying the very foundations** upon which any **"Naya Nepal"** must be built.  
विकल्प — हिंसक निरर्थकवाद को लोकतांत्रिक नवीनीकरण के रूप में छद्म रूप से चलाने देना — उन मूलभूत आधारों को नष्ट करने का जोखिम है, जिन पर कोई भी "नया नेपाल" बनना चाहिए।



# A joint and new journey along the SCO pathway

**GS II: Global Groupings**

Last week, I was privileged to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tianjin, China, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, and attend the meeting between China's President Xi Jinping and Mr. Modi. This is a summit of solidarity and friendship. After 24 years of development, the SCO has grown into the world's largest regional organisation. The SCO Tianjin Summit has been the largest since the organisation's establishment. Leaders or the representatives of 23 countries, Mr. Modi included, and 10 heads of international organisations gathered to renew friendship, explore cooperation, seek common development, and advance the SCO into a new stage of high-quality development.

## A high-yielding summit

There were fruitful outcomes. The Tianjin Declaration announced the establishment of "four security centres", including the SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats and the SCO Anti-drug Center, and decided to set up the SCO Development Bank. Member-states of the SCO issued statements which expressed a fair stance in support of the multilateral trading system, and a just voice for defending the achievements of the victory in the Second World War.

This was a summit that focused on development. The leaders adopted the SCO's development strategy for the next decade. Against this backdrop, Mr. Xi announced that China would establish three major platforms for China-SCO cooperation in energy, green industry, and the digital economy, and set up three major cooperation centres for scientific and technological innovation, higher education and also vocational and technical education. These initiatives are open to all member-states, providing the organisation with new opportunities and empowering the region's sustainable development.

It was a summit leading global governance. In response to the governance deficit facing today's



**Xu Feihong**

is China's  
Ambassador to India

China stands ready to work with India in enhancing cooperation under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

world, Mr. Xi put forth the Global Governance Initiative, calling for adhering to sovereign equality, abiding by international rule of law, practising multilateralism, advocating a people-centered approach, and focusing on taking real actions, which became the biggest highlight of this summit.

Since joining the SCO in 2017, India has played an important role in advancing the SCO's development. China deeply appreciates Mr. Modi's and India's full support for China's SCO presidency. China stands ready to work with India to enhance cooperation under the framework of SCO in various areas such as security, financing, energy, green industry and the digital economy, to better improve the well-being of their people.

## The diamond jubilee of ties

This year marks the 75th anniversary of China-India diplomatic ties. In Tianjin, Mr. Xi and Mr. Modi reached new, important and common understandings on growing China-India relations further. Mr. Xi pointed out that it should be the right choice for China and India to be good-neighbourly friends and partners who help each other succeed, and have the dragon and the elephant dance together. Mr. Modi also stated that India and China are partners, not rivals. Their consensus far outweighs their disagreement. India is ready to view and develop the bilateral ties from a long-term perspective.

We should uphold the important and common understandings reached by the two leaders as guidance, and push bilateral relations forward for more practical progress.

First, we should further consolidate strategic mutual trust. We should earnestly draw the lessons from the past 75 years, strengthen correct strategic perception, explore right ways for neighbouring major countries to get along with each other, which are characterised by mutual respect and trust, peaceful coexistence, pursuit of common development, and win-win cooperation, and gradually resume various

mechanisms for dialogue and exchange between the two governments.

Second, we should further expand exchanges and cooperation. We should focus on development, which is the biggest common denominator of the two countries, and promote mutual support and success, and better facilitate trade and investment flows. The Chinese side is ready to strengthen cooperation with the Indian side in technology, education, culture, tourism and poverty alleviation, and promote exchanges and communications between political parties, think-tanks, media and the youth, so as to expand the convergence of interests and promote people-to-people bonds.

Third, we should further enhance good-neighbourliness and friendship. We should continue to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence initiated by the older generation of Chinese and Indian leaders, truly respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and combine our strength to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas. We should not allow the boundary question that was left over from the past to define current China-India relations, nor let specific differences affect bilateral cooperation, so as to ensure the sound and stable development of China-India relations.

## The road ahead

As the world's two most populous major developing countries and important members of the Global South, China and India share common interests in pursuing development and revitalisation, maintaining world peace and stability, and promoting global governance. India and China will successively assume the BRICS presidency in the next two years. China stands ready to work with India to support each other's presidency, deepen and strengthen greater BRICS cooperation, jointly implement the Global Governance Initiative, resolutely oppose bullying and hegemony, defend international fairness and justice, and join hands to build a community with a shared future for humanity.

## A Joint and New Journey along the SCO Pathway

### SCO मार्ग पर एक संयुक्त और नई यात्रा

#### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit

#### शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) शिखर सम्मेलन

- Last week, I was privileged to welcome **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **Tianjin, China**, for the **SCO Summit**, and attend the meeting between **China's President Xi Jinping** and Mr. Modi.  
पिछले सप्ताह, मुझे यह सम्मान मिला कि मैंने **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** का **तिआनजिन, चीन** में **SCO शिखर सम्मेलन** के लिए स्वागत किया और **चीन के राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग** और **मोदी जी** की बैठक में शामिल हुआ।
- This is a summit of **solidarity and friendship**.  
यह **एकजुटता और मित्रता** का शिखर सम्मेलन है।



- After 24 years of development, the SCO has grown into the world's largest regional organisation.  
24 वर्षों के विकास के बाद, SCO विश्व का सबसे बड़ा क्षेत्रीय संगठन बन गया है।
- The **SCO Tianjin Summit** has been the largest since the organisation's establishment.  
SCO तिआनजिन शिखर सम्मेलन संगठन की स्थापना के बाद से सबसे बड़ा रहा है।
- Leaders or representatives of 23 countries, including Mr. Modi, and 10 heads of international organisations gathered to renew friendship, explore cooperation, seek common development, and advance the SCO into a new stage of high-quality development.  
23 देशों के नेता या प्रतिनिधि, जिनमें मोदी जी भी शामिल हैं, और 10 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगठनों के प्रमुख ने मित्रता को नवीनीकृत करने, सहयोग की खोज, साझा विकास करने और SCO को उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले विकास के नए चरण में ले जाने के लिए बैठक की।

## A High-Yielding Summit उपजाऊ शिखर सम्मेलन

- There were fruitful outcomes.  
इसके सार्थक परिणाम हुए।
- The **Tianjin Declaration** announced the establishment of "four security centres", including the **SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats** and the **SCO Anti-drug Center**, and decided to set up the **SCO Development Bank**.  
तिआनजिन घोषणा में "चार सुरक्षा केंद्रों" की स्थापना की घोषणा की गई, जिसमें SCO यूनिवर्सल सेंटर फॉर काउंटरिंग सिब्योरिटी चैलेंजेस एंड थ्रेट्स और SCO एंटी-ड्रग सेंटर शामिल हैं, और SCO विकास बैंक स्थापित करने का निर्णय लिया गया।
- Member-states of the SCO issued statements expressing a **fair stance in support of the multilateral trading system**, and a **just voice for defending the achievements of the victory in the Second World War**.  
SCO के सदस्य देशों ने बयान जारी किए, जिसमें बहुपक्षीय व्यापार प्रणाली के समर्थन में निष्पक्ष रुख और द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध में विजय की उपलब्धियों की रक्षा के लिए न्यायपूर्ण आवाज व्यक्त की।
- This was a summit that focused on **development**. The leaders adopted the **SCO's development strategy for the next decade**.  
यह एक ऐसा शिखर सम्मेलन था जो विकास पर केंद्रित था। नेताओं ने अगले दशक के लिए SCO की विकास रणनीति को अपनाया।
- Against this backdrop, **Mr. Xi announced that China would establish three major platforms for China-SCO cooperation in energy, green industry, and the digital economy**, and set up **three major cooperation centres for scientific and technological innovation, higher education, and vocational and technical education**.  
इस पृष्ठभूमि में, श्री शी ने घोषणा की कि चीन तीन प्रमुख प्लेटफॉर्म स्थापित करेगा चीन-SCO सहयोग के लिए ऊर्जा, हरित उद्योग और डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था में, और तीन प्रमुख सहयोग केंद्र स्थापित करेगा वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी नवाचार, उच्च शिक्षा, और व्यावसायिक और तकनीकी शिक्षा के लिए।
- These initiatives are **open to all member-states**, providing the organisation with **new opportunities** and empowering the region's **sustainable development**.  
ये पहले सभी सदस्य देशों के लिए खुली हैं, संगठन को नए अवसर प्रदान करती हैं और क्षेत्र के सतत विकास को सशक्त बनाती हैं।
- It was a summit leading **global governance**.  
यह वैश्विक शासन का नेतृत्व करने वाला शिखर सम्मेलन था।
- In response to the **governance deficit facing today's world**, Mr. Xi put forth the **Global Governance Initiative**, calling for **adhering to sovereign equality, abiding by international rule of law, practising multilateralism, advocating a people-centered approach, and focusing on taking real actions**, which became the **biggest highlight of this summit**.  
आज की दुनिया में शासन घाटे के जवाब में, श्री शी ने वैश्विक शासन पहल प्रस्तुत की, जिसमें संप्रभु समानता का पालन, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कानून का सम्मान, बहुपक्षवाद का अभ्यास, जनता-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण की वकालत, और वास्तविक कार्यों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना शामिल था, जो इस शिखर सम्मेलन की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता बन गई।



- Since joining the SCO in 2017, India has played an important role in advancing the SCO's development.  
2017 में SCO में शामिल होने के बाद से, भारत ने SCO के विकास को आगे बढ़ाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।
- China deeply appreciates Mr. Modi's and India's full support for China's SCO presidency.  
चीन श्री मोदी और भारत के पूर्ण समर्थन की गहराई से सराहना करता है चीन की SCO अध्यक्षता के लिए।
- China stands ready to work with India to enhance cooperation under the framework of SCO in various areas such as security, financing, energy, green industry, and the digital economy, to better improve the well-being of their people.  
चीन भारत के साथ काम करने के लिए तैयार है, SCO के ढांचे के तहत सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में जैसे सुरक्षा, वित्तपोषण, ऊर्जा, हरित उद्योग और डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था, ताकि उनके लोगों की कल्याण स्थिति को बेहतर बनाया जा सके।

### The Diamond Jubilee of Ties संबंधों की डायमंड जयंती

- 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of China-India diplomatic ties.  
2025 में चीन-भारत कूटनीतिक संबंधों की 75वीं वर्षगांठ है।
- In Tianjin, Mr. Xi and Mr. Modi reached important and common understandings to further China-India relations.  
तियानजिन में, श्री शी और श्री मोदी ने महत्वपूर्ण और साझा समझ प्राप्त की ताकि चीन-भारत संबंधों को और बढ़ाया जा सके।
- Mr. Xi emphasized being good-neighborly friends and partners, where the dragon and the elephant dance together.  
श्री शी ने अच्छे पड़ोसी मित्र और साझेदार बनने पर जोर दिया, जहां ड्रैगन और हाथी एक साथ नृत्य करें।
- Mr. Modi stated India and China are partners, not rivals, and their consensus outweighs disagreement.  
श्री मोदी ने कहा कि भारत और चीन साझेदार हैं, प्रतिद्वंद्वी नहीं, और उनकी सहमति असहमति से अधिक महत्व रखती है।
- India is ready to develop bilateral ties from a long-term perspective and uphold common understandings as guidance.  
भारत दो-पक्षीय संबंधों को दीर्घकालिक दृष्टिकोण से विकसित करने और साझा समझों को मार्गदर्शन के रूप में बनाए रखने के लिए तैयार है।
- Learn from the past 75 years, strengthen strategic perception, and explore ways for major neighbouring countries to coexist with mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, common development, and win-win cooperation.  
पिछले 75 वर्षों से सीख लें, रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण मजबूत करें, और मुख्य पड़ोसी देशों के बीच आपसी सम्मान, शांति पूर्ण सह-अस्तित्व, साझा विकास, और विन-विन सहयोग के तरीकों का पता लगाएँ।
- Gradually resume mechanisms for dialogue and exchange between governments.  
सरकारों के बीच संवाद और आदान-प्रदान के तंत्र को धीरे-धीरे पुनः शुरू करें।

### Expand Exchanges and Cooperation विनिमय और सहयोग का विस्तार

- Focus on development, the biggest common denominator, to promote mutual support and success and facilitate trade and investment flows.  
विकास पर ध्यान दें, जो सबसे बड़ा साझा आधार है, ताकि आपसी समर्थन और सफलता को बढ़ावा मिले और व्यापार और निवेश प्रवाह सुगम हो।
- China is ready to cooperate with India in technology, education, culture, tourism, and poverty alleviation, and promote exchanges among political parties, think-tanks, media, and youth.  
चीन भारत के साथ प्रौद्योगिकी, शिक्षा, संस्कृति, पर्यटन, और गरीबी उन्मूलन में सहयोग करने और राजनीतिक दलों, थिंक-टैंक्स, मीडिया, और युवा के बीच आदान-प्रदान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए तैयार है।



## Enhance Good-Neighbourliness and Friendship

### अच्छे पड़ोसी संबंध और मित्रता को बढ़ाना

- Uphold the **Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence** initiated by earlier **Chinese and Indian leaders**, respect each other's **core interests** and **major concerns**, and maintain **peace in border areas**.

पहले के चीन और भारत नेताओं द्वारा शुरू किए गए शांतिपूर्ण सह-अस्तित्व के पांच सिद्धांतों को बनाए रखें, एक-दूसरे के मूल हितों और मुख्य चिंताओं का सम्मान करें, और सीमा क्षेत्रों में शांति बनाए रखें।

- Do not let **boundary issues** or **specific differences** define current relations or affect **bilateral cooperation**.

सीमा संबंधी मुद्दों या विशिष्ट मतभेदों को वर्तमान संबंधों को परिभाषित करने या दो-पक्षीय सहयोग को प्रभावित करने की अनुमति न दें।

## The Road Ahead

### आगे का मार्ग

- As the **world's two most populous major developing countries** and key members of the **Global South**, **China and India** share common interests in **development**, **revitalisation**, **world peace**, **stability**, and **global governance**.

दुनिया के दो सबसे अधिक जनसंख्या वाले प्रमुख विकासशील देश और ग्लोबल साउथ के प्रमुख सदस्य के रूप में, चीन और भारत के साझा हित हैं विकास, पुनरुत्थान, विश्व शांति, स्थिरता, और वैश्विक शासन में।

- India and China** will assume the **BRICS presidency** successively in the next two years.  
अगले दो वर्षों में भारत और चीन क्रमशः BRICS अध्यक्षता ग्रहण करेंगे।

- China** is ready to work with **India** to **support each other's presidency**, deepen **BRICS cooperation**, implement the **Global Governance Initiative**, oppose **bullying and hegemony**, defend **international fairness and justice**, and build a **community with a shared future for humanity**.

चीन भारत के साथ काम करने और एक-दूसरे की अध्यक्षता का समर्थन, BRICS सहयोग को गहरा करना, ग्लोबल गवर्नेंस इनिशिएटिव को लागू करना, धमकियों और प्रभुत्व का विरोध, अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्याय और निष्पक्षता की रक्षा, और मानवता के लिए साझा भविष्य वाला समुदाय बनाने के लिए तैयार है।



# Political instability, economic difficulties behind Nepal's rage

Nepal is the most unstable democracy and has the fourth highest remittance-dependency

GS II: Nepal

## DATA POINT

**Vignesh Radhakrishnan**  
**Srinivasan Ramani**

The "Gen Z" protests in Nepal that began as a movement against the ban on social media outlets and corruption on Monday, took a violent turn the next day, with attacks on all institutions. The proximate reasons apart, political instability – marked by frequent changes in government and unethical alliances – has kept Nepal's stark societal inequalities intact, especially among youth who are forced to emigrate due to soaring unemployment. This should explain their angry protests.

When Khadga Prasad Oli – he has since resigned – formed a new government in 2024, it marked the 30th change in leadership in Nepal ever since it became an elected democracy in 1990. Despite transitioning from constitutional monarchy (1990-2008) to becoming a constitutional republic (2008 onwards), no Prime Minister has ever completed a full term.

Data show that Nepal tops the world in government tenures since 1990. Excluding countries such as San Marino, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Switzerland, where frequent leadership changes are legally mandated, Nepal leads with 25 completed tenures since 1990 – each lasting on average just a year and two months (Table 1).

These frequent changes have undermined the promise of stable, democratic, federal governance as envisioned by Nepal's two Jan Andolans (1989-90 and 2005-2008). Political instability has also meant that long-standing inequalities – between rich and poor, rural and urban, educated and less-educated – remain entrenched. These divides are most pronounced among youth, the main cohort that led the demonstrations against political elites in protests described as "Gen Z vs Nepal kids".

Nepal's overall unemployment rate stood at 12.5% in 2022-23, but the burden falls disproportionately on the young. Among those aged 15-24, unemployment reached 22.7%, compared to 11.5% in the 25-44 group and 7.5% among those aged 45-64 (Chart 2).

Inequality cuts across multiple dimensions. Some 17.2% of individuals from the poorest households were unemployed, as against 8.5% from the richest. Education creates stark differences: unemployment stands at 18.1% among those with only basic schooling, compared to just 6.3% among bachelor's degree holders. Geography adds another layer – while Kathmandu valley records the lowest rate at 7.6%, unemployment exceeds 20% in many rural regions.

Critically, labour force participation itself is much lower among poor, rural, and less-educated populations. Among the relatively fewer in these groups who enter the labour market, a higher share cannot find work. This creates a double disadvantage – not only are they unable to find employment, but many are not even actively seeking it due to lack of relevant opportunities.

This has pushed many, especially from disadvantaged groups, to seek work abroad. About one in four males in Nepal is absent from home, with a significant share living outside the country. The proportion of female-headed households has increased dramatically from just 13.6% in 1995-96 to 37.1% in 2022-23, reinforcing this pattern of male out-migration.

Absenteeism is starkest in rural areas and among youth. About 20% of the rural population is absent from home, compared with just 8.7% in the Kathmandu valley. More than half of male absentees (56%) are aged 15-29 years – the same group recording the highest unemployment rate. Those who leave Nepal to work abroad have become a major income source for families and the nation. The share of households receiving remittance-

es has risen sharply from 23.4% in 1995-96 to 76.8% in 2022-23. Among such households, remittances now account for over 33% of total income, up from 26.6% in 1995-96 (Chart 3).

More significantly, remittances increasingly originate from outside Nepal. In 2022-23, nearly 50% came from countries other than India, about 20% from India, and the rest from internal migrants. In contrast, in 1995-96, 44.7% came from within Nepal and 33% from India. This shift highlights both the growing exodus of Nepali workers and diversification of destinations beyond India. Current remittance sources show that Qatar (10%), Saudi Arabia (9%), Malaysia (8.6%), and the UAE (7.1%) are the most preferred non-Indian destinations for Nepali workers.

Personal remittances have surged from just 1% of Nepal's GDP in 1990 to over 33% in 2024. By this measure, Nepal ranks as the world's fourth most remittance-dependent country. Notably, this figure covers only cross-border remittances.

These statistics show precisely why Nepal's youth had taken to the streets with such fury, even if the violent upheaval that followed the Gen Z's protests the next day deserves a closer look at who instigated the arson and vandalism that targeted Parliament, the Supreme Court and other institutions.

In sum, Nepal has achieved the world's highest level of political instability while simultaneously becoming the world's fourth most-remittance-dependent economy. These two facts seen together suggest that political instability has resulted in the lack of economic policies to diversify Nepal's economy and provide jobs, forcing citizens to seek jobs abroad. Which goes on to explain why there is severe anger against the political system that came into being after two massive civil and political society mobilisations in 1990 and 2005.

*With inputs from Godhashri S.*

## Fire in the mountains

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Statistics Office of Nepal and the Rulers, Elections and Irregular Governance dataset



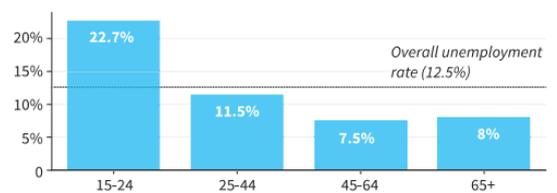
**Trouble at the top: Protesters climbing the main gate of the Prime Minister's office during the anti-government protests in Kathmandu, Nepal. PTI**

**Table 1:** Countries with the highest number of tenures their heads of governments have had between 1990 and August 2021

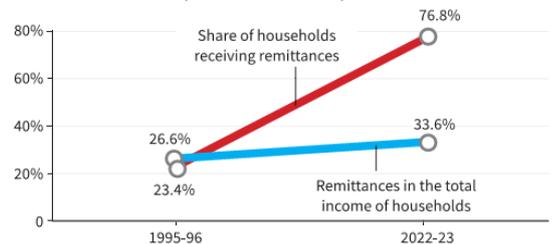
Country	Tenures	Average tenure (months)
Nepal	25*	13.7
Vanuatu	22	15.6
Bulgaria	17	21.8
Nauru	17	16.8
Moldova	16	22.8
Japan	15	23.1

\*The data excludes two tenures of direct rule by former King Gyanendra. Countries where frequent leadership changes are legally mandated are excluded

**Chart 2:** Nepal's age-wise unemployment rate in 2022-23 (in %)



**Chart 3:** Share of households receiving remittances and the share of remittances in the total income of recipient households in Nepal



## Political instability and economic difficulties in Nepal नेपाल में राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और आर्थिक कठिनाइयाँ

- Nepal is the most unstable democracy and has the fourth highest remittance-dependency.  
नेपाल सबसे अस्थिर लोकतंत्र है और इसमें रेमिटेंस पर निर्भरता के मामले में चौथा सबसे उच्च स्तर है।



## “Gen Z” Protests in Nepal नेपाल में “जनरेशन Z” विरोध

- The “Gen Z” protests in Nepal began as a movement against the **ban on social media outlets and corruption** on Monday, and took a **violent turn** the next day with attacks on **all institutions**.  
नेपाल में “जनरेशन Z” विरोध सोमवार को सोशल मीडिया पर प्रतिबंध और भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ शुरू हुआ, और अगले दिन यह हिंसक मोड़ ले लिया, जिसमें सभी संस्थानों पर हमले हुए।
- Political instability — marked by **frequent changes in government** and **unethical alliances** — has kept Nepal’s **stark societal inequalities intact**, especially among youth who are **forced to emigrate due to soaring unemployment**.  
राजनीतिक अस्थिरता — जिसमें **अक्सर सरकारों में बदलाव** और **अनैतिक गठबंधनों** का संकेत है — ने नेपाल की **तीव्र सामाजिक असमानताओं** को बरकरार रखा है, विशेषकर युवाओं में जो **बढ़ती बेरोजगारी** के कारण **प्रवास करने के लिए मजबूर** हैं।
- This explains the **angry protests** of the youth.  
यह युवाओं के **गुस्से वाले विरोध** को समझाता है।

## Nepal’s Leadership Changes नेपाल में नेतृत्व में बदलाव

- When **Khadga Prasad Oli** formed a new government in **2024** (he has since **resigned**), it marked the **30th change in leadership** in Nepal since it became an **elected democracy in 1990**.  
जब **खड्ग प्रसाद ओली** ने **2024** में नई सरकार बनाई (उन्होंने बाद में **इस्तीफा** दे दिया), यह नेपाल में **30वां नेतृत्व परिवर्तन** था जब से यह **1990 में निर्वाचित लोकतंत्र** बना।
- Despite transitioning from **constitutional monarchy (1990-2008)** to **constitutional republic (2008 onwards)**, **no Prime Minister has ever completed a full term**.  
**संवैधानिक राजतंत्र (1990-2008)** से **संवैधानिक गणराज्य (2008 onwards)** में संक्रमण के बावजूद, कोई भी **प्रधानमंत्री कभी पूरा कार्यकाल पूरा नहीं कर पाया**।
- Data show that Nepal tops the **world in government tenures since 1990**.  
आंकड़े बताते हैं कि नेपाल **1990 से सरकार की कार्यकाल अवधि में दुनिया में शीर्ष पर** है।
- Excluding countries like **San Marino, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Switzerland**, where frequent leadership changes are legally mandated, Nepal leads with **25 completed tenures since 1990**, each lasting **on average just a year and two months**.  
उन देशों को छोड़कर जैसे **सैन मारिनो, बोस्निया-हर्जगोविना, और स्विट्जरलैंड**, जहां अक्सर नेतृत्व परिवर्तन कानूनी रूप से अनिवार्य है, नेपाल **1990 से 25 पूर्ण कार्यकालों** के साथ शीर्ष पर है, प्रत्येक का औसत **सिर्फ एक साल और दो महीने** है।
- These frequent changes have undermined stable, democratic, federal governance as envisioned by Nepal’s two Jan Andolans (1989-90 and 2005-2008)**.  
इन बार-बार बदलावों ने नेपाल के **दो जन आंदोलनों (1989-90 और 2005-2008)** द्वारा कल्पित स्थिर, **लोकतांत्रिक, संघीय शासन** को कमजोर किया है।

## Youth Inequality and Unemployment युवा असमानता और बेरोजगारी

- Political instability has meant that **long-standing inequalities** — between **rich and poor, rural and urban, educated and less-educated** — remain entrenched.  
राजनीतिक अस्थिरता का मतलब है कि **दीर्घकालिक असमानताएँ** — जैसे **अमीर और गरीब, ग्रामीण और शहरी, शिक्षित और कम-शिक्षित** — अब भी जड़ें जमाए हुए हैं।
- These divides are most pronounced among **youth**, the main cohort leading the demonstrations against political elites in protests described as **“Gen Z vs Nepo kids”**.  
ये विभाजन सबसे अधिक **युवाओं** में स्पष्ट हैं, जो **राजनीतिक नेतृत्व के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन** कर रहे हैं और जिन्हें **“जनरेशन Z बनाम नेपो किड्स”** के रूप में वर्णित किया गया है।
- Nepal’s overall **unemployment rate** stood at **12.5% in 2022-23**, but the **burden falls disproportionately on the young**.



नेपाल की कुल बेरोजगारी दर 2022-23 में 12.5% थी, लेकिन इसका भार असमान रूप से युवाओं पर पड़ता है।

- Among those aged 15-24, unemployment reached 22.7%, compared to 11.5% in the 25-44 group and 7.5% among those aged 45-64.  
15-24 वर्ष आयु वर्ग में बेरोजगारी 22.7% तक पहुंच गई, जबकि 25-44 वर्ष में यह 11.5% और 45-64 वर्ष में 7.5% थी।
- Inequality cuts across multiple dimensions. 17.2% of individuals from the poorest households were unemployed, as against 8.5% from the richest.  
असमानता कई आयामों में है। सबसे गरीब घरों के 17.2% लोग बेरोजगार थे, जबकि सबसे अमीर में यह 8.5% था।
- Education creates stark differences: unemployment stands at 18.1% among those with only basic schooling, compared to 6.3% among bachelor's degree holders.  
शिक्षा में स्पष्ट अंतर पैदा करता है: केवल बुनियादी शिक्षा वाले में बेरोजगारी 18.1% है, जबकि स्नातक डिग्री धारकों में केवल 6.3% है।
- Geography adds another layer: while Kathmandu valley records the lowest rate at 7.6%, unemployment exceeds 20% in many rural regions.  
भूगोल एक और परत जोड़ता है: जबकि काठमांडू घाटी में सबसे कम दर 7.6% है, कई ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बेरोजगारी 20% से अधिक है।
- Critically, labour force participation is much lower among poor, rural, and less-educated populations.  
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, श्रम शक्ति में भागीदारी गरीब, ग्रामीण और कम-शिक्षित जनसंख्या में बहुत कम है।
- Among the relatively few in these groups who enter the labour market, a higher share cannot find work, creating a double disadvantage — not only unable to find employment, but many are not even actively seeking it due to lack of relevant opportunities.  
इन समूहों में जो श्रम बाजार में प्रवेश करते हैं, उनमें से एक बड़ा हिस्सा काम नहीं पा पाता, जिससे दोहरी असुविधा पैदा होती है — न केवल वे रोजगार नहीं पा पाते, बल्कि कई संबंधित अवसरों की कमी के कारण सक्रिय रूप से इसे भी नहीं खोज रहे।

### Male Out-Migration and Remittances in Nepal नेपाल में पुरुष प्रवासन और रेमिटेंस

- Many, especially from disadvantaged groups, are forced to seek work abroad.  
कई लोग, विशेषकर वंचित समूहों के, विदेश में रोजगार खोजने के लिए मजबूर हैं।
- About one in four males in Nepal is absent from home, with a significant share living outside the country.  
नेपाल में लगभग चार में एक पुरुष अपने घर से अनुपस्थित है, जिसमें एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्से देश के बाहर रहते हैं।
- The proportion of female-headed households has increased from 13.6% in 1995-96 to 37.1% in 2022-23, reflecting the pattern of male out-migration.  
महिला-प्रधान परिवारों का अनुपात 1995-96 में 13.6% से बढ़कर 2022-23 में 37.1% हो गया है, जो पुरुषों के प्रवासन का पैटर्न दर्शाता है।
- Absenteeism is highest in rural areas and among youth.  
अनुपस्थिति सबसे अधिक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों और युवाओं में है।
- About 20% of the rural population is absent from home, compared with 8.7% in Kathmandu valley.  
लगभग 20% ग्रामीण आबादी अपने घर से अनुपस्थित है, जबकि काठमांडू घाटी में 8.7% है।
- More than half of male absentees (56%) are aged 15-29 years, the same group recording the highest unemployment rate.  
अनुपस्थित पुरुषों में से अधिकतर भाग (56%) की आयु 15-29 वर्ष है, वही समूह सबसे उच्च बेरोजगारी दर दर्ज करता है।
- Those leaving Nepal for work abroad have become a major income source for families and the nation.  
नेपाल छोड़कर विदेश में काम करने वाले लोग परिवारों और राष्ट्र के लिए मुख्य आय स्रोत बन गए हैं।
- The share of households receiving remittances has risen from 23.4% in 1995-96 to 76.8% in 2022-23.



रेमिटेंस प्राप्त करने वाले परिवारों का हिस्सा 1995-96 में 23.4% से बढ़कर 2022-23 में 76.8% हो गया है।

- Among such households, **remittances account for over 33% of total income**, up from **26.6% in 1995-96**.  
ऐसे परिवारों में, रेमिटेंस कुल आय का 33% से अधिक बनाते हैं, जो 1995-96 में 26.6% था।
- **Remittances increasingly originate from outside Nepal**. In 2022-23, nearly **50% came from countries other than India**, about **20% from India**, and the rest from **internal migrants**.  
रेमिटेंस अब अधिकतर नेपाल के बाहर से आती हैं। 2022-23 में, लगभग 50% भारत के बाहर के देशों से, लगभग 20% भारत से, और शेष आंतरिक प्रवासियों से आई।
- In 1995-96, **44.7% came from within Nepal and 33% from India**.  
1995-96 में, 44.7% नेपाल के भीतर से और 33% भारत से आई थी।
- This shift highlights the **growing exodus of Nepali workers and diversification of destinations beyond India**.  
यह बदलाव नेपाली कामगारों के बढ़ते पलायन और भारत के बाहर गंतव्यों के विविधीकरण को दर्शाता है।
- **Current remittance sources show Qatar (10%), Saudi Arabia (9%), Malaysia (8.6%), and UAE (7.1%) are the most preferred non-Indian destinations**.  
वर्तमान रेमिटेंस स्रोतों से पता चलता है कि कतर (10%), सऊदी अरब (9%), मलेशिया (8.6%), और यूएई (7.1%) सबसे पसंदीदा गैर-भारतीय गंतव्य हैं।
- **Personal remittances have surged from 1% of Nepal's GDP in 1990 to over 33% in 2024, making Nepal the world's fourth most remittance-dependent country**.  
व्यक्तिगत रेमिटेंस 1990 में नेपाल की GDP का 1% से बढ़कर 2024 में 33% से अधिक हो गई है, जिससे नेपाल दुनिया का चौथा सबसे अधिक रेमिटेंस-निर्भर देश बन गया है।
- These statistics explain why Nepal's youth protested with such **fury**, even if the **violent upheaval** following Gen Z protests needs a closer look.  
ये आंकड़े बताते हैं कि क्यों नेपाल के युवाओं ने इतनी क्रोधपूर्ण विरोध किया, भले ही जनरेशन Z विरोधों के बाद हुई हिंसक उथल-पुथल को और ध्यान से देखना पड़े।
- Nepal has achieved the **world's highest political instability** while also becoming the **fourth most remittance-dependent economy**.  
नेपाल ने दुनिया की सबसे अधिक राजनीतिक अस्थिरता हासिल की है, साथ ही चौथे सबसे अधिक रेमिटेंस-निर्भर अर्थव्यवस्था भी बन गया है।
- Political instability has resulted in a **lack of economic policies to diversify Nepal's economy and provide jobs**, forcing citizens to **seek work abroad**.  
राजनीतिक अस्थिरता के कारण आर्थिक नीतियों की कमी हुई है जो नेपाल की अर्थव्यवस्था को विविधीकृत कर सके और रोजगार प्रदान कर सके, जिससे नागरिकों को विदेश में रोजगार खोजने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा।
- This explains the **severe anger** against the political system that emerged after **two massive civil and political mobilisations in 1990 and 2005**.  
यह उस राजनीतिक प्रणाली के खिलाफ तीव्र क्रोध को समझाता है, जो 1990 और 2005 में दो बड़े नागरिक और राजनीतिक आंदोलनों के बाद उभरी।



# Why does peace seem so elusive to eastern DRC?

Why is the U.S. interested in entering the region? Why did the ceasefire deal fail?

GS II: Africa

Anu Maria Joseph

The story so far:

Over the past eight weeks, the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has seen two major developments. On June 27, Rwanda and the DRC signed a U.S.-brokered peace agreement in Washington, DC. On July 19, the Congolese government and M23 rebel group signed a ceasefire deal in Doha, mediated by Qatar. However, days after the U.S.-led peace agreement and Doha ceasefire, M23 resumed its offensive, undermining the peace objectives.

What happened in the U.S. and Doha?

Washington brought the DRC and Rwanda to sign a peace agreement, committing to a cessation of hostilities, respect for territorial integrity, and an end to support for armed groups, including the M23. Both signatories agreed to establish a Joint

Security Coordination Mechanism (JSCM) within 30 days to oversee conflict settlement and an Economic Integration Framework within 90 days to promote licit mineral trade and economic cooperation. The accord also calls for disengagement, disarmament, and conditional integration of armed groups into the Congolese forces. For the DRC, the U.S. entry meant an end to illicit mineral trade; security assistance; and U.S. investment. Rwanda has been accused by the UN and other Western countries of supporting the M23 rebels. The international pressure left Rwanda with no option but to sign the agreement.

Doha mediated directly between the DRC and the non-state armed group, M23. The DRC and M23 rebels signed a Declaration of Principles, agreeing to an immediate ceasefire and commitment to reach a comprehensive peace agreement by August 18. The M23 promised to withdraw from the regions it seized, and

the DRC agreed to release M23 prisoners.

What are the interests of the U.S.?

For the U.S., the deal would give them access to the DRC's \$24 trillion worth of critical mineral reserves. The country possesses 70% of global cobalt reserves, making it the world's largest producer. The region is also popular for its coltan, copper, diamond, gold and tin reserves. Further, U.S. entry into the region would mean an end to Chinese companies' monopoly in the DRC's mineral sector.

Did the peace agreement last?

The Doha ceasefire did not hold for long. M23 continued its offensives in North and South Kivu provinces. The Human Rights Watch reported that the group killed more than 140 people in July. The ceasefire was violated when M23 and DRC failed to adhere to the terms of the agreement. M23 has not withdrawn from the regions it seized, nor has the DRC

released M23 prisoners.

What does it mean for the conflict?

The U.S.'s direct involvement and Qatar's mediation with armed groups have brought hope and opened a gateway toward trust and a lasting peace in eastern DRC. Although the ceasefire was violated, Qatar resumed re-negotiating with the warring sides on August 26. However, DRC's record of previously failed ceasefires and peace efforts signal that commitment and compliance from all actors can never be guaranteed.

Unlike previous peace initiatives, the U.S.-led peace agreement served the security, political and economic interests of the warring parties. The signing of the agreement conveyed an impression of a return to peace in the region, which is far from happening. The conflict in eastern DRC is rooted in unresolved history stemming from the Rwandan genocide of 1994, the subsequent Congo wars, and the tensions between more than a hundred ethnic armed groups, persisting over decades. Although the peace agreement successfully brought Rwanda and DRC to the bargaining table, the root causes of the conflict remain unaddressed. Therefore, for the agreement to succeed, it requires a comprehensive peace process and continued efforts.

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THE GIST

Washington brought the DRC and Rwanda to sign a peace agreement, committing to a cessation of hostilities, respect for territorial integrity, and an end to support for armed groups, including the M23.

Doha mediated directly between the DRC and the non-state armed group, M23.

The U.S.'s direct involvement and Qatar's mediation with armed groups have brought hope and opened a gateway toward trust and a lasting peace in eastern DRC.

## Why does peace seem so elusive to eastern DRC?

### पूर्वी डीआरसी में शांति इतनी मुश्किल क्यों लगती है?

#### Conflict in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

#### पूर्वी डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ कांगो (DRC) में संघर्ष

- Over the past eight weeks, the conflict in eastern DRC has seen two major developments. पिछले आठ हफ्तों में, पूर्वी DRC में संघर्ष में दो महत्वपूर्ण घटनाएं हुई हैं।
- On June 27, Rwanda and the DRC signed a U.S.-brokered peace agreement in Washington, DC. 27 जून को, रवांडा और DRC ने वाशिंगटन, DC में अमेरिका द्वारा मध्यस्थता किए गए शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
- On July 19, the Congolese government and M23 rebel group signed a ceasefire deal in Doha, mediated by Qatar. 19 जुलाई को, कोंगोलिज़ सरकार और M23 विद्रोही समूह ने दोहा में एक युद्धविराम समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसकी मध्यस्थता कतार ने की।
- However, days after both agreements, M23 resumed its offensive, undermining the peace objectives. हालांकि, दोनों समझौतों के कुछ ही दिनों बाद, M23 ने अपनी हमले की कार्रवाई फिर से शुरू की, जिससे शांति के उद्देश्य कमजोर हुए।

#### What happened in the U.S. and Doha?

#### अमेरिका और दोहा में क्या हुआ?

- Washington brought DRC and Rwanda to sign a peace agreement, committing to cessation of hostilities, respect for territorial integrity, and an end to support for armed groups, including M23. वाशिंगटन ने DRC और रवांडा को शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए बुलाया, जिसमें शत्रुता समाप्त करने, भौगोलिक अखंडता का सम्मान, और M23 समेत सशस्त्र समूहों का समर्थन समाप्त करने का वचन शामिल था।



- Both signatories agreed to establish a **Joint Security Coordination Mechanism (JSCM)** within **30 days** and an **Economic Integration Framework** within **90 days** to promote **licit mineral trade and economic cooperation**.  
दोनों पक्षों ने **30 दिनों** के भीतर **साझा सुरक्षा समन्वय तंत्र (JSCM)** और **90 दिनों** के भीतर **आर्थिक एकीकरण ढांचा** स्थापित करने पर सहमति दी, ताकि **कानूनी खनिज व्यापार और आर्थिक सहयोग** को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।
- The accord also calls for **disengagement, disarmament, and conditional integration of armed groups** into **Congolese forces**.  
समझौते में **सशस्त्र समूहों का पृथक्करण, निरस्त्रीकरण, और कोंगोलिज़ बलों में सशर्त एकीकरण** की भी बात की गई।
- For the DRC, **U.S. entry** meant an **end to illicit mineral trade, security assistance, and U.S. investment**.  
DRC के लिए, **अमेरिका की भागीदारी** का मतलब था **अवैध खनिज व्यापार का अंत, सुरक्षा सहायता, और अमेरिकी निवेश**।
- Rwanda has been accused by the UN and other Western countries of supporting M23 rebels**.  
रवांडा पर **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN)** और अन्य **पश्चिमी देशों** द्वारा **M23 विद्रोहियों का समर्थन करने** का आरोप है।
- The **international pressure** left Rwanda with **no option but to sign the agreement**.  
**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दबाव** के कारण रवांडा के पास **समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के अलावा कोई विकल्प नहीं बचा**।
- Doha** mediated directly between **DRC and M23**, leading to a **Declaration of Principles, immediate ceasefire, and commitment to reach comprehensive peace by August 18**.  
**दोहा** ने सीधे **DRC और M23** के बीच मध्यस्थता की, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **सिद्धांतों की घोषणा, तत्काल युद्धविराम, और 18 अगस्त तक व्यापक शांति समझौते तक पहुंचने का वचन** आया।
- M23 promised to withdraw from seized regions, and DRC agreed to release M23 prisoners**.  
**M23 ने कब्ज़ा किए हुए क्षेत्रों से पीछे हटने का वादा किया, और DRC ने M23 के कैदियों को रिहा करने पर सहमति दी।**

### What are the interests of the U.S.? अमेरिका के हित क्या हैं?

- The deal would give the U.S. access to **DRC's \$24 trillion worth of critical mineral reserves**.  
इस समझौते से अमेरिका को **DRC के \$24 ट्रिलियन मूल्य के महत्वपूर्ण खनिज भंडारों तक पहुंच** मिलती।
- DRC possesses **70% of global cobalt reserves**, making it the **world's largest producer**.  
DRC के पास **वैश्विक कोबाल्ट भंडार का 70%** है, जो इसे **दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक** बनाता है।
- The region is also rich in coltan, copper, diamond, gold, and tin reserves**.  
यह क्षेत्र **कोल्टन, तांबा, हीरा, सोना और टिन** के भंडारों में भी समृद्ध है।
- U.S. entry would end **Chinese companies' monopoly** in the **DRC's mineral sector**.  
अमेरिका की भागीदारी **DRC के खनिज क्षेत्र में चीनी कंपनियों की एकाधिकार** को समाप्त कर देगी।

### Did the peace agreement last? क्या शांति समझौता टिक पाया?

- The **Doha ceasefire** did not hold for long; **M23 continued offensives in North and South Kivu provinces**.  
**दोहा युद्धविराम** लंबे समय तक नहीं टिक पाया; **M23 ने उत्तर और दक्षिण किवु प्रांतों में हमले जारी रखे**।
- Human Rights Watch** reported that **more than 140 people were killed in July**.  
**ह्यूमन राइट्स वॉच** ने रिपोर्ट दी कि **जुलाई में 140 से अधिक लोग मारे गए**।
- Ceasefire was violated as **M23 and DRC failed to adhere to agreement terms; M23 has not withdrawn and DRC has not released prisoners**.  
**युद्धविराम का उल्लंघन हुआ क्योंकि M23 और DRC ने समझौते की शर्तों का पालन नहीं किया; M23 पीछे नहीं हटा, और DRC ने कैदियों को रिहा नहीं किया।**



## What does it mean for the conflict?

### संघर्ष के लिए इसका क्या अर्थ है?

- **U.S.'s direct involvement and Qatar's mediation** have brought **hope** and a **gateway toward trust and lasting peace** in eastern DRC.  
अमेरिका की प्रत्यक्ष भागीदारी और कतार की मध्यस्थता ने पूर्वी DRC में आशा और विश्वास व स्थायी शांति की राह खोली है।
- **Qatar resumed re-negotiating on August 26** after ceasefire violations.  
कतार ने 26 अगस्त को युद्धविराम उल्लंघनों के बाद पुनः बातचीत शुरू की।
- **DRC's history of failed ceasefires and peace efforts** signals that **commitment from all actors is not guaranteed**.  
DRC का विफल युद्धविराम और शांति प्रयासों का इतिहास दर्शाता है कि सभी पक्षों की प्रतिबद्धता सुनिश्चित नहीं है।
- Unlike previous initiatives, the **U.S.-led peace agreement served security, political, and economic interests of warring parties**.  
पिछले प्रयासों के विपरीत, अमेरिका नेतृत्व वाले शांति समझौते ने युद्धरत पक्षों के सुरक्षा, राजनीतिक और आर्थिक हितों को पूरा किया।
- Signing the agreement gave an impression of **return to peace**, which is **far from reality**.  
समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने से शांति की वापसी का भ्रम पैदा हुआ, जो वास्तविकता से बहुत दूर है।
- The conflict is rooted in **Rwandan genocide of 1994, Congo wars, and tensions between over a hundred ethnic armed groups**, persisting for decades.  
यह संघर्ष 1994 के रवांडा नरसंहार, कांगो युद्ध, और सौ से अधिक जातीय सशस्त्र समूहों के बीच तनाव से उत्पन्न हुआ है, जो दशकों तक जारी रहा।
- Although **Rwanda and DRC** reached the **bargaining table**, the **root causes** of the conflict remain **unaddressed**.  
हालांकि रवांडा और DRC बातचीत की मेज तक पहुंचे, संघर्ष के मूल कारण अब भी सुलझाए नहीं गए।
- For the agreement to succeed, it requires a **comprehensive peace process** and **continued efforts**.  
समझौते को सफल बनाने के लिए, यह व्यापक शांति प्रक्रिया और लगातार प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है।

PATRIOTICIAS



## VIENNA

### UN nuclear watchdog says new Iran deal covers 'all facilities'



GS II: West Asia

AP

Iran's new cooperation framework with the UN nuclear watchdog includes "all facilities and installations" in the Islamic republic, the agency's head said Wednesday — though Iran said the agreement itself "does not create access". Iran agreed on a deal with the International Atomic Energy Agency on Tuesday. AFP

Tuesday.

ईरान ने मंगलवार को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी के साथ एक समझौते पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

### UN nuclear watchdog says new Iran deal covers 'all facilities'

संयुक्त राष्ट्र परमाणु निगरानी संस्था का कहना है कि नया ईरान समझौता 'सभी सुविधाओं' को शामिल करता है

• Iran's new cooperation framework with the **UN nuclear watchdog** includes "all facilities and installations" in the Islamic republic, the agency's head said **Wednesday** — though Iran said the agreement itself "does not create access".

ईरान का नया सहयोग ढांचा **संयुक्त राष्ट्र परमाणु निगरानी संस्था** के साथ इस्लामिक गणराज्य की "सभी सुविधाओं और प्रतिष्ठानों" को शामिल करता है, एजेंसी के प्रमुख ने **बुधवार** को कहा — हालांकि ईरान ने कहा कि यह समझौता स्वयं "प्रवेश की अनुमति नहीं देता"।

• Iran agreed on a deal with the **International Atomic Energy Agency** on



# Chemmani mass grave probe will continue: Sri Lanka govt.

**GS II**

**Meera Srinivasan**

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Justice and National Integration has refuted recent media reports claiming that the exhumation at the mass grave site in Chemmani, in the northern Jaffna district, has been halted owing to a "lack of funds".

"At no stage has there been a suspension or delay due to lack of funds," and media reports claiming so are "inaccurate and risk spreading misinformation among the public", the Ministry said in a statement.

Last week, the *Press Trust of India* published a news report headlined 'Excavation of Sri Lanka's Chemmani mass grave halted over lack of funds'.

Reaffirming its "firm



Officials said that at no stage has there been a suspension or delay due to lack of funds. AP

commitment" to supporting the judicial process, the Justice Ministry said funds for the excavations are allocated based on requests made by the Jaffna Magistrate's Court and the Judicial Medical Officer (JMO). In every instance, the full amount was released based on such re-

quests, it said, adding that the "impresst was released on time, in phases, and strictly according to necessity". The budget for phase three, to be presented to the Jaffna High Court, will be forwarded to the Ministry for approval, said the statement dated September 8.

## Chemmani mass grave probe will continue: Sri Lanka govt. केममनी सामूहिक कब्र की जांच जारी रहेगी: श्रीलंका सरकार

- Sri Lanka's **Ministry of Justice and National Integration** has refuted recent media reports claiming that the exhumation at the **mass grave site in Chemmani**, in the northern **Jaffna district**, has been halted owing to a "**lack of funds**".

श्रीलंका के न्याय और राष्ट्रीय एकीकरण मंत्रालय ने हालिया मीडिया रिपोर्टों का खंडन किया है, जिसमें यह



दावा किया गया था कि उत्तरी जाफ़ना ज़िले में केममनी सामूहिक कब्र स्थल पर खुदाई “फंड की कमी” के कारण रोक दी गई है।

- “At no stage has there been a suspension or delay due to lack of funds,” and media reports claiming so are “inaccurate and risk spreading misinformation among the public”, the Ministry said in a statement.  
मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा, “फंड की कमी के कारण किसी भी चरण में कोई निलंबन या देरी नहीं हुई है”, और इस तरह का दावा करने वाली मीडिया रिपोर्टें “गलत हैं और जनता में गलत सूचना फैलाने का खतरा पैदा करती हैं”।
- Last week, the Press Trust of India published a news report headlined ‘Excavation of Sri Lanka’s Chemmani mass grave halted over lack of funds’.  
पिछले सप्ताह, प्रेस ट्रस्ट ऑफ इंडिया ने ‘फंड की कमी के कारण श्रीलंका की केममनी सामूहिक कब्र की खुदाई रोकी गई’ शीर्षक से एक समाचार रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित की थी।
- Reaffirming its “firm commitment” to supporting the judicial process, the Justice Ministry said funds for the excavations are allocated based on requests made by the Jaffna Magistrate’s Court and the Judicial Medical Officer (JMO).  
न्याय मंत्रालय ने न्यायिक प्रक्रिया के समर्थन के लिए अपनी “दृढ़ प्रतिबद्धता” को दोहराते हुए कहा कि खुदाई के लिए फंड का आवंटन जाफ़ना मजिस्ट्रेट कोर्ट और न्यायिक चिकित्सा अधिकारी (JMO) द्वारा किए गए अनुरोधों के आधार पर किया जाता है।
- In every instance, the full amount was released based on such requests, it said, adding that the “import was released on time, in phases, and strictly according to necessity”.  
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि प्रत्येक मामले में, ऐसे अनुरोधों के आधार पर पूरी राशि जारी की गई, और जोड़ा कि “एडवांस राशि समय पर, चरणबद्ध तरीके से और सख्ती से आवश्यकता के अनुसार जारी की गई”।
- The budget for phase three, to be presented to the Jaffna High Court, will be forwarded to the Ministry for approval, said the statement dated September 8.  
चरण तीन का बजट, जिसे जाफ़ना हाई कोर्ट को प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा, मंत्रालय की मंजूरी के लिए भेजा जाएगा, यह बयान 8 सितंबर को जारी किया गया।

## ‘Three steps back’: Ukraine-Hungary feud causes despair on both sides

GS II: Europe

Agence France-Presse  
BUDAPEST

When the newest bilingual school for Ukrainians opened in Budapest this month, both the Hungarian and Ukrainian national anthems were played — a rare moment of unity that masked rising tension between the neighbours.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Hungary has become Kyiv’s fiercest critic in the European Union, refusing to send military aid while maintaining close ties with Moscow.

The school’s co-founder Lilliana Grexa highlighted a rise in anti-Ukrainian sentiment over the past two years, saying Hungarians seemed “less inhibited to say ‘go home to Ukraine’”.  
“Despite good initiatives

from both governments, every time we go one step forward, we take three steps back,” said Grexa, an elected representative for the Ukrainian community in Hungary’s parliament.

She estimates between 70,000 and 80,000 Ukrainians now call Hungary home — though many are refugees and many others likely to head back to their home country when the conditions allow.

Relations between Hungary and Ukraine have sunk to new lows in recent months with spying accusations, diplomatic expulsions, and travel restrictions.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Taras Kachka is expected to visit on Thursday, with Hungary’s Foreign Minister Peter Szijar-

to saying earlier this week that it was up to Kyiv to stop the “continuous deterioration” of relations.

‘Tools of blackmail’

In the latest spat, Hungary barred the commander of Ukraine’s drone forces from entering the country late last month.

Kyiv has repeatedly attacked Russian energy infrastructure and the oil supply to Hungary via Russia’s Druzhba pipeline has been disrupted.

The row came as Kachka was in Budapest lobbying for Hungary’s support for its EU membership bid.

Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban opposes allowing Ukraine into the bloc, and Hungarians are increasingly behind him on the issue.



School organiser hands gifts to students attending the first day of school at the newly established bilingual primary school for ethnic Ukrainians in Budapest on September 1. AFP

A recent Eurobarometer poll suggested just 30% backed Ukrainian membership, down from 45% a year ago.

Mr. Orban held a two-month consultation on the

bid earlier this year, accompanying it with a media campaign and posters warning of the cost of integrating Ukraine into the bloc.

Almost all of those who

took part said they were opposed.

Zoltan Kiszely from the pro-government Szazadveg think-tank said that both sides were using “tools of blackmail”

against the other.

While Hungary withholds support for the EU bid, Ukraine continues its attacks on the pipelines.

“This leads to a vicious circle, because the two countries have been unable to solve these conflicts lately,” he said.

In May, Hungary said it had expelled two Ukrainian diplomats and accused them of spying after Ukraine’s SBU security service said it detained two alleged Hungarian spies.

Relations first soured in 2017 when Kyiv adopted a law mandating Ukrainian as the main language for secondary education.

Budapest said the law disenfranchised tens of thousands of ethnic Hungarians, who live mostly in Ukraine’s westernmost re-

gion of Transcarpathia — part of the former Kingdom of Hungary until the end of the First World War.

In an increasingly tense climate, a church was set on fire in the region in July and defaced with anti-Hungarian graffiti.

Several diplomats told AFP that Hungary was using the issue for political gain and impeding progress on Ukraine.

Since he returned to power in 2010, Orban’s government has funded schools, hospitals and other projects in the region, and made it easier for residents to get Hungarian citizenship.

As tension grows on both sides, Grexa is hopeful that the schools established with her support can help inspire change.

## ‘Three steps back’: Ukraine-Hungary feud causes despair on both sides

### ‘तीन कदम पीछे’: यूक्रेन-हंगरी विवाद दोनों पक्षों में निराशा का कारण

- School for Ukrainians opened in Budapest this month, both the Hungarian and Ukrainian national anthems were played — a rare moment of unity that masked rising tension between the neighbours.  
इस महीने बुडापेस्ट में यूक्रेनियों के लिए स्कूल खोला गया, जहां हंगरी और यूक्रेन दोनों के राष्ट्रीय गान बजाए गए — यह एक दुर्लभ एकता का क्षण था जिसने पड़ोसी देशों के बीच बढ़ते तनाव को छुपाया।



- Since **Russia** invaded **Ukraine** in **2022**, **Hungary** has become **Kyiv's fiercest critic** in the **European Union**, refusing to send **military aid** while maintaining **close ties with Moscow**.  
**2022** में **रूस** द्वारा **यूक्रेन** पर आक्रमण के बाद से, **हंगरी यूरोपीय संघ** में **कीव का सबसे कड़ा आलोचक** बन गया है, जिसने **सैन्य सहायता** भेजने से इनकार कर दिया और **मॉस्को** के साथ **घनिष्ठ संबंध** बनाए रखे।
- The school's **co-founder Lilliana Grexa** highlighted a rise in **anti-Ukrainian sentiment** over the past two years, saying Hungarians seemed "less inhibited to say 'go home to Ukraine'".  
**स्कूल की सह-संस्थापक लिलियाना ग्रेक्सा** ने पिछले दो वर्षों में **यूक्रेन विरोधी भावना** में वृद्धि को उजागर करते हुए कहा कि हंगरी के लोग "कम झिझक के साथ कहते हैं 'यूक्रेन वापस जाओ'।"
- "Despite good initiatives from both governments, every time we go one step forward, we take three steps back," said **Grexa**, an elected representative for the **Ukrainian community in Hungary's parliament**.  
"दोनों सरकारों की अच्छी पहलों के बावजूद, हर बार जब हम एक कदम आगे बढ़ते हैं, हम तीन कदम पीछे चले जाते हैं," **ग्रेक्सा** ने कहा, जो **हंगरी की संसद** में **यूक्रेनी समुदाय** की निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधि हैं।
- She estimates between **70,000 and 80,000 Ukrainians** now call **Hungary home** — though many are **refugees** and many others likely to **head back** to their home country when the conditions allow.  
उनका अनुमान है कि अब **70,000 से 80,000 यूक्रेनी हंगरी** को अपना घर कहते हैं — हालांकि कई **शरणार्थी** हैं और कई अन्य लोग परिस्थितियाँ अनुकूल होने पर अपने **देश वापस** लौट सकते हैं।
- Relations between **Hungary** and **Ukraine** have sunk to **new lows** in recent months with **spying accusations, diplomatic expulsions, and travel restrictions**.  
हाल के महीनों में **जासूसी के आरोपों, राजनयिक निष्कासन, और यात्रा प्रतिबंधों** के कारण **हंगरी और यूक्रेन** के बीच संबंध नए निचले स्तर पर पहुंच गए हैं।
- **Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Taras Kachka** is expected to visit on **Thursday**, with **Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto** saying earlier this week that it was up to **Kyiv** to stop the "continuous deterioration" of relations.  
**यूक्रेन के उप प्रधान मंत्री तारास काचका** के **गुरुवार** को दौरे की उम्मीद है, जबकि **हंगरी के विदेश मंत्री पीटर सिज्जार्टो** ने इस सप्ताह की शुरुआत में कहा कि संबंधों के "लगातार बिगड़ने" को रोकना **कीव** पर निर्भर है।
- **'Tools of blackmail'**  
**'ब्लैकमेल के उपकरण'**
- In the latest spat, **Hungary barred the commander of Ukraine's drone forces** from entering the country late last month.  
हालिया विवाद में, **हंगरी ने पिछले महीने के अंत में यूक्रेन की ड्रोन सेना के कमांडर** को देश में प्रवेश करने से **रोक दिया**।
- **Kyiv** has repeatedly **attacked Russian energy infrastructure** and the **oil supply to Hungary via Russia's Druzhba pipeline** has been disrupted.  
**कीव** ने बार-बार **रूसी ऊर्जा अवसंरचना पर हमला** किया है और **रूस की द्रुजबा पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से हंगरी को तेल की आपूर्ति** बाधित हो गई है।
- The row came as **Kachka** was in **Budapest lobbying for Hungary's support for its EU membership bid**.  
यह विवाद उस समय हुआ जब **काचका बुडापेस्ट** में **हंगरी के समर्थन के लिए ईयू सदस्यता बोली के लिए लॉबींग** कर रहे थे।
- **Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban** opposes allowing **Ukraine** into the **bloc**, and **Hungarians** are increasingly behind him on the issue.  
**हंगरी के प्रधानमंत्री विक्टर ऑर्बन यूक्रेन को गुट** में शामिल करने का **विरोध** करते हैं, और इस मुद्दे पर **हंगरीवासियों** का समर्थन उनके पीछे लगातार बढ़ रहा है।
- A recent **Eurobarometer poll** suggested just **30% backed Ukrainian membership**, down from **45% a year ago**.  
हाल ही के **यूरोबैरोमीटर सर्वेक्षण** से पता चला कि केवल **30% ने यूक्रेनी सदस्यता का समर्थन** किया, जो **एक साल पहले के 45%** से कम है।
- **Mr. Orban** held a **two-month consultation** on the region of **Transcarpathia** — part of the **former Kingdom of Hungary** until the end of the **First World War**.  
**श्री ऑर्बन** ने **ट्रांसकारपथिया क्षेत्र पर दो महीने का परामर्श** आयोजित किया — जो **प्रथम विश्व युद्ध के अंत तक पूर्व हंगरी साम्राज्य का हिस्सा** था।



- In an increasingly tense climate, a **church was set on fire** in the region in **July** and **defaced with anti-Hungarian graffiti**.  
लगातार बढ़ते तनाव के माहौल में, **जुलाई** में क्षेत्र में एक **चर्च** को **आग लगा दी गई** और **हंगरी विरोधी** ग्रैफिटी से बिगाड़ दिया गया।
- Several **diplomats told AFP** that **Hungary** was using the issue for **political gain** and **impeding progress** on **Ukraine**.  
कई **राजनयिकों** ने **एएफपी** को बताया कि **हंगरी** इस मुद्दे का **राजनीतिक लाभ** के लिए उपयोग कर रहा है और **यूक्रेन** पर **प्रगति में बाधा** डाल रहा है।
- Since he **returned to power in 2010**, **Orban's government** has **funded schools, hospitals, and other projects** in the region, and **made it easier** for residents to **get Hungarian citizenship**.  
**2010** में सत्ता में लौटने के बाद से, **ऑर्बन की सरकार** ने क्षेत्र में **स्कूलों, अस्पतालों और अन्य परियोजनाओं** के लिए **धन प्रदान किया**, और **निवासियों** के लिए **हंगरी की नागरिकता प्राप्त करना आसान** बना दिया।
- As tension grows on both sides, **Grexa** is hopeful that the **schools established with her support** can **help inspire change**.  
जैसे-जैसे दोनों पक्षों में तनाव बढ़ रहा है, **ग्रेक्सा** को उम्मीद है कि **उनके समर्थन से स्थापित स्कूल परिवर्तन को प्रेरित करने में मदद** कर सकते हैं।
- While **Hungary withholds support for the EU bid**, **Ukraine** continues its **attacks on the pipelines**.  
जबकि **हंगरी ईयू बोली के समर्थन** को रोक रहा है, **यूक्रेन** अपनी **पाइपलाइनों पर हमले** जारी रखता है।
- "This leads to a **vicious circle**, because the two countries have been **unable to solve these conflicts lately**," he said.  
"यह एक **दुष्चक्र** की ओर ले जाता है, क्योंकि हाल ही में दोनों देश इन **संघर्षों को हल करने में असमर्थ** रहे हैं," उन्होंने कहा।
- In **May**, **Hungary** said it had **expelled two Ukrainian diplomats** and **accused them of spying** after **Ukraine's SBU security service** said it **detained two alleged Hungarian spies**.  
**मई** में, **हंगरी** ने कहा कि उसने **दो यूक्रेनी राजनयिकों को निष्कासित किया** और **जासूसी का आरोप** लगाया, जबकि **यूक्रेन की एसबीयू सुरक्षा सेवा** ने कहा कि उसने **दो कथित हंगरी जासूसों को हिरासत में** लिया।
- Relations **first soured in 2017** when **Kyiv** adopted a law mandating **Ukrainian as the main language for secondary education**.  
**2017** में संबंध पहली बार खराब हुए, जब **कीव** ने **माध्यमिक शिक्षा के लिए यूक्रेनी को मुख्य भाषा बनाने का कानून अपनाया**।
- **Budapest** said the law **disenfranchised tens of thousands of ethnic Hungarians**, who live **mostly in Ukraine's westernmost region**.  
**बुडापेस्ट** ने कहा कि इस कानून ने **दसियों हजार जातीय हंगरीवासियों को अधिकारों से वंचित कर दिया**, जो **मुख्य रूप से यूक्रेन के पश्चिमी क्षेत्र में रहते हैं**।
- **Zoltan Kiszelly** from the **pro-government Szazadveg think-tank** said that both sides were using **"tools of blackmail"**.  
**सरकार समर्थक सज़ादवेग थिंक-टैंक के जोल्टन किस्ज़ेली** ने कहा कि दोनों पक्ष **"ब्लैकमेल के उपकरण"** का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।
- **Bid earlier this year**, accompanying it with a **media campaign** and **posters warning of the cost of integrating Ukraine into the bloc**.  
इस वर्ष की **शुरुआत में बोली**, इसके साथ **मीडिया अभियान** और **यूक्रेन को गुट में शामिल करने की** **लागत के बारे में चेतावनी वाले पोस्टर** लगाए गए।

### 'Tools of blackmail' and Rising Tensions Between Ukraine and Hungary

#### 'ब्लैकमेल के औजार' और यूक्रेन तथा हंगरी के बीच बढ़ता तनाव

- took part and said they were opposed.  
भाग लेने वालों ने कहा कि वे इसके विरोध में थे।
- **Zoltan Kiszelly** from the **pro-government Szazadveg think-tank** said that both sides were using **"tools of blackmail"** against the other.



सरकारी समर्थक थिंक-टैंक सज़ादवेग के ज़ोल्तान किस्ज़ेली ने कहा कि दोनों पक्ष एक-दूसरे के खिलाफ “ब्लैकमेल के औजार” का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।

- While Hungary withholds support for the EU bid, Ukraine continues its attacks on the pipelines.  
जहाँ हंगरी ने ईयू बोली के लिए समर्थन रोका हुआ है, वहीं यूक्रेन अपने पाइपलाइनों पर हमले जारी रखता है।
- “This leads to a vicious circle, because the two countries have been unable to solve these conflicts lately,” he said.  
“यह एक दुष्चक्र की ओर ले जाता है, क्योंकि दोनों देश हाल ही में इन संघर्षों को हल करने में असमर्थ रहे हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।
- In May, Hungary said it had expelled two Ukrainian diplomats and accused them of spying after Ukraine’s SBU security service said it detained two alleged Hungarian spies.  
मई में, हंगरी ने कहा कि उसने दो यूक्रेनी राजनयिकों को जासूसी के आरोप में निकाल दिया, इसके बाद यूक्रेन की एसबीयू सुरक्षा सेवा ने कहा कि उसने दो कथित हंगेरियन जासूसों को हिरासत में लिया।
- Relations first soured in 2017 when Kyiv adopted a law mandating Ukrainian as the main language for secondary education.  
संबंध पहली बार 2017 में खराब हुए जब कीव ने एक कानून पारित किया जिसमें माध्यमिक शिक्षा के लिए यूक्रेनी को मुख्य भाषा बनाया गया।
- Budapest said the law disenfranchised tens of thousands of ethnic Hungarians, who live mostly in Ukraine’s westernmost region of Transcarpathia — part of the former Kingdom of Hungary until the end of the First World War.  
बुडापेस्ट ने कहा कि यह कानून दसियों हजार जातीय हंगेरियनों को अधिकारों से वंचित करता है, जो ज्यादातर यूक्रेन के पश्चिमी क्षेत्र ट्रांसकारपैथिया में रहते हैं — जो पहले विश्व युद्ध के अंत तक पूर्व हंगरी साम्राज्य का हिस्सा था।
- In an increasingly tense climate, a church was set on fire in the region in July and defaced with anti-Hungarian graffiti.  
लगातार बढ़ते तनावपूर्ण माहौल में, जुलाई में इस क्षेत्र में एक चर्च को आग लगा दी गई और उस पर विरोधी-हंगेरियन ग्रेफिटी कर दी गई।
- Several diplomats told AFP that Hungary was using the issue for political gain and impeding progress on Ukraine.  
कई राजनयिकों ने एएफपी को बताया कि हंगरी इस मुद्दे का राजनीतिक लाभ उठाने और यूक्रेन की प्रगति में बाधा डालने के लिए उपयोग कर रहा है।
- Since he returned to power in 2010, Orban’s government has funded schools, hospitals and other projects in the region, and made it easier for residents to get Hungarian citizenship.  
2010 में सत्ता में लौटने के बाद से, ओर्बान की सरकार ने इस क्षेत्र में स्कूल, अस्पताल और अन्य परियोजनाओं के लिए धन उपलब्ध कराया है और निवासियों के लिए हंगेरियन नागरिकता प्राप्त करना आसान बनाया है।
- As tension grows on both sides, Grexa is hopeful that the schools established with her support can help inspire change.  
जैसे-जैसे दोनों पक्षों में तनाव बढ़ रहा है, ग्रेक्सा को आशा है कि उनके समर्थन से स्थापित स्कूल परिवर्तन की प्रेरणा देने में मदद कर सकते हैं।



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

1. **Elephant electrocuted in Bandipur Tiger Reserve**  
बंदिपुर टाइगर रिजर्व में हाथी करंट लगने से मौत
2. **Panel questions non-tariff barriers ahead of FTA talks**  
FTA वार्ता से पहले पैनल ने गैर-शुल्क बाधाओं पर सवाल उठाए
3. **ISRO inks agreement with HAL for transfer of SSLV technology**  
ISRO ने HAL के साथ SSLV तकनीक के हस्तांतरण के लिए समझौता किया
4. **Steel truss bridges have 'secret' defences against collapse**  
स्टील ट्रस पुलों में गिरने के खिलाफ 'गुप्त' रक्षा होती है
5. **QUIZ**
6. **To Build Roads is to Build Peace**  
सड़कें बनाना = शांति बनाना
7. **Wood wide web: trees have their own network to preserve life**  
वुड वाइड वेब: पेड़ों का अपना नेटवर्क जीवन को बचाने के लिए
8. **India resists full crypto framework, fears systemic risks**  
भारत ने पूर्ण क्रिप्टो ढांचे का विरोध किया, प्रणालीगत जोखिमों का भय
9. **'India set to be among top five shipbuilding nations by 2047'**  
'भारत 2047 तक शीर्ष पांच जहाज निर्माण देशों में शामिल होने के लिए तैयार'
10. **GST reforms to benefit consumption, growth**  
खपत और विकास को लाभ पहुंचाने के लिए जीएसटी सुधार



A railgun runs a strong electric current through parallel rails, using the resulting electromagnetic forces to accelerate a projectile to extreme speeds.  
JAPAN MOD

A railgun runs a strong electric current through parallel rails, using the resulting electromagnetic forces to accelerate a projectile to extreme speeds.



## Elephant electrocuted in Bandipur Tiger Reserve

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau  
MYSURU

An elephant was electrocuted when it came in contact with a live electric wire drawn to fence a plot of agricultural land at Mangala in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve on Wednesday.

It is speculated that the electric fence was illegally drawn by villagers to ward off wild animals raiding standing crops. Senior Forest Department officials reached the spot after being informed about the incident. Wildlife conservationists have expressed their dismay over the incident.

## Elephant electrocuted in Bandipur Tiger Reserve

### बंदिपुर टाइगर रिजर्व में हाथी करंट लगने से मौत

• An elephant was electrocuted when it came in contact with a live electric wire drawn to fence a plot of agricultural land at Mangala in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve on Wednesday.

एक हाथी को करंट लग गया जब वह बंदिपुर टाइगर रिजर्व के मंगल में बुधवार को कृषि भूमि की बाड़ के लिए लगाई गई लाइव बिजली की तार के संपर्क में आया।

• It is speculated that the electric fence was illegally drawn by villagers to ward off wild animals raiding standing crops.

यह अटकलें हैं कि बिजली की बाड़ को गांव वालों ने अवैध रूप से लगाया था ताकि जंगली जानवरों को खड़ी फसलों पर हमला करने से रोका जा सके।

• Senior Forest Department officials reached the spot after being informed about the incident.

वरिष्ठ वन विभाग के अधिकारी घटना की सूचना मिलने के बाद मौके पर पहुंचे।

• Wildlife conservationists have expressed their dismay over the incident. वन्यजीव संरक्षणवादियों ने इस घटना पर निराशा व्यक्त की है।



# Panel questions non-tariff barriers ahead of FTA talks

**GS III: Not Tariff Barries**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Opposition members raised a host of questions on the non-tariff barriers for Indian agricultural exports to European countries, including the U.K., at a meeting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday.

This meeting on “India-Europe Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges” comes a day before the EU negotiators sit down with the Indian government to discuss the EU-India Free Trade Agreement. The EU team is led by European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic, and Commissioner for Agriculture Christophe Hansen will be in Delhi.

Mr. Hansen’s visit is crucial since agriculture has been a knotty issue for India and Europe.

The two sides have agreed to keep “dairy, sugar and rice” out of the agriculture trade negotiations.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal briefed the parliamentarians for over two hours. Mr. Tharoor,

**The meeting comes a day before the EU negotiators sit down with the Indian government**

speaking to *The Hindu*, described it as a comprehensive meeting. “Several questions were raised. Mr. Barthwal candidly answered the queries,” he said, without going into the details of the interaction.

The two sides have several issues to thrash out, especially the EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and other non-tariff barriers for the Indian agricultural exports, which limit India’s market access. It is learnt that Mr. Barthwal said India would underline the principles of common but differentiated responsibility in development paths.

A member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Barthwal, owing to the upcoming negotiations, phrased his remarks very carefully.

“He did assure us that all our concerns, especially our fears on agricultural exports, will be addressed,” a member said.

**Panel questions non-tariff barriers ahead of FTA talks**

**FTA वार्ता से पहले पैनल ने गैर-शुल्क बाधाओं पर सवाल उठाए**

• **Opposition members** raised a host of questions on the **non-tariff barriers** for Indian agricultural exports to European countries, including the U.K., at a meeting of the **Standing Committee on External Affairs** headed by senior Congress leader **Shashi Tharoor** on **Wednesday**.

विपक्षी सदस्यों ने बुधवार को वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता शशि थरूर की अध्यक्षता वाली विदेश मामलों पर स्थायी समिति की बैठक में भारतीय कृषि निर्यातों पर यूरोपीय देशों, जिनमें यू.के. भी शामिल है, के गैर-शुल्क बाधाओं पर कई सवाल उठाए।

• This meeting on “**India-Europe Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges**” comes a day before the **EU negotiators** sit down with the **Indian government** to discuss the **EU-India Free Trade Agreement**.

“**भारत-यूरोप संबंध: अवसर और चुनौतियाँ**” पर यह बैठक **EU-भारत मुक्त व्यापार समझौते** पर चर्चा करने के लिए **EU वार्ताकारों** और **भारतीय सरकार** की बैठक से एक दिन पहले हुई।

• The **EU team** is led by **European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic**, and **Commissioner for Agriculture Christophe Hansen** will be in **Delhi**.

**EU टीम** का नेतृत्व **यूरोपीय वाणिज्य आयुक्त मारोस शेफकोविक** कर रहे हैं और **कृषि आयुक्त क्रिस्टोफ हैनसन** दिल्ली में मौजूद रहेंगे।

• **Mr. Hansen’s** visit is crucial since **agriculture** has been a **knotty issue** for **India and Europe**.

**हैनसन** की यह यात्रा महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि **कृषि भारत और यूरोप** के लिए एक **जटिल मुद्दा** रहा है।

• The two sides have agreed to keep “**dairy, sugar and rice**” out of the **agriculture trade negotiations**.

दोनों पक्षों ने “**डेयरी, चीनी और चावल**” को **कृषि व्यापार वार्ताओं** से बाहर रखने पर सहमति जताई है।

• **Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal** briefed the parliamentarians for over **two hours**.



वाणिज्य सचिव सुनील बर्थवाल ने दो घंटे से अधिक समय तक सांसदों को जानकारी दी।

- **Mr. Tharoor**, speaking to **The Hindu**, described it as a **comprehensive meeting**.  
थरूर ने द हिंदू से बात करते हुए इसे एक **व्यापक बैठक** बताया।
- “Several questions were raised. **Mr. Barthwal** candidly answered the queries,” he said, without going into the details of the interaction.  
उन्होंने कहा, “कई सवाल उठाए गए। **बर्थवाल** ने ईमानदारी से सवालों के जवाब दिए,” उन्होंने बातचीत के विवरण में गए बिना कहा।
- The two sides have several issues to thrash out, especially the **EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism** and other **non-tariff barriers** for the **Indian agricultural exports**, which limit **India’s market access**.  
दोनों पक्षों को कई मुद्दों पर चर्चा करनी है, विशेष रूप से **EU का कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म** और **भारतीय कृषि निर्यातों** के लिए अन्य **गैर-शुल्क बाधाएं**, जो **भारत की बाजार पहुंच** को सीमित करती हैं।
- It is learnt that **Mr. Barthwal** said **India** would underline the **principles of common but differentiated responsibility in development paths**.  
सूत्रों के अनुसार, **बर्थवाल** ने कहा कि **भारत विकास मार्गों** में **सामान्य लेकिन भिन्न जिम्मेदारी के सिद्धांतों** पर जोर देगा।
- A member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said **Mr. Barthwal**, owing to the upcoming negotiations, phrased his remarks very carefully.  
एक सदस्य ने, गुमनामी की शर्त पर, कहा कि **बर्थवाल** ने आगामी वार्ताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपने बयान बहुत सावधानी से दिए।
- “He did assure us that all our concerns, especially our fears on **agricultural exports**, will be addressed,” a member said.  
एक सदस्य ने कहा, “उन्होंने हमें आश्वासन दिया कि हमारी सभी चिंताओं, विशेष रूप से **कृषि निर्यातों** से जुड़ी आशंकाओं को दूर किया जाएगा।”



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

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f SSLV

# ISRO inks agreement with HAL for transfer of SSLV technology

GS III: S&T

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation signed a formal agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. on Wednesday for the transfer of technology for production of small satellite launch vehicles (SSLV), marking a significant step in industry participation in the space sector.

The agreement, the 100th transfer of technology agreement facilitated by the space sector promoter INSPACE, was inked in Bengaluru by the ISRO, NewSpace India Ltd., and INSPACE with HAL, which outbid a consortium led by Adani Group-backed Alpha Design Technologies.

The aim is to complete the entire technology transfer process within 24 months from the date of

signing the agreement, a statement from INSPACE said. During this period, the ISRO will provide training and technical support to the HAL for acquiring the know-how of the SSLV, it added.

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said the agreement would allow the HAL to independently build the SSLV for both domestic and international markets.

“We are honoured to be in this league to scale India’s next big frontiers with the SSLV technology, by partnering with ISRO and NSIL and IN-SPACE to implement it,” D.K. Sunil, Chairman and Managing Director of HAL, said.

Mr. Sunil said HAL would build SSLVs so that India could offer regular, cost-competitive small-satellite launches to domestic and global customers.



## technology

# ISRO ने HAL के साथ SSLV तकनीक के हस्तांतरण के लिए समझौता किया

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a formal agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) on Wednesday for the transfer of technology for production of Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV), marking a significant step in industry participation in the space sector.  
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) ने बुधवार को हिंदुस्तान एरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) के साथ तकनीक के हस्तांतरण और स्मॉल सैटेलाइट लॉन्च व्हीकल (SSLV) के उत्पादन के लिए एक औपचारिक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जो अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में उद्योग की भागीदारी के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।
- The agreement, the 100th transfer of technology agreement facilitated by the space sector promoter INSPACe, was inked in Bengaluru by the ISRO, NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL), and INSPACe with HAL, which outbid a consortium led by Adani Group-backed Alpha Design Technologies.  
यह समझौता, जो अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र प्रोत्साहक INSPACe द्वारा सुविधा प्रदान किया गया 100वां तकनीकी हस्तांतरण समझौता है, बेंगलुरु में ISRO, न्यूस्पेस इंडिया लिमिटेड (NSIL) और INSPACe द्वारा HAL के साथ हस्ताक्षरित किया गया। HAL ने अदानी समूह समर्थित अल्फा डिज़ाइन टेक्नोलॉजीज के नेतृत्व वाले कंसोर्टियम को पीछे छोड़ते हुए यह बोली जीती।
- The aim is to complete the entire technology transfer process within 24 months from the date of signing the agreement, a statement from INSPACe said.  
INSPACe के एक बयान में कहा गया कि लक्ष्य यह है कि समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर की तारीख से 24 महीनों के भीतर पूरे तकनीकी हस्तांतरण प्रक्रिया को पूरा किया जाए।
- During this period, the ISRO will provide training and technical support to the HAL for acquiring the know-how of the SSLV, it added.  
इस अवधि के दौरान, ISRO HAL को SSLV के तकनीकी ज्ञान को प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रशिक्षण और तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करेगा।
- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said the agreement would allow the HAL to independently build the SSLV for both domestic and international markets.  
ISRO के चेयरमैन वी. नारायणन ने कहा कि यह समझौता HAL को घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों के लिए स्वतंत्र रूप से SSLV बनाने की अनुमति देगा।
- "We are honoured to be in this league to scale India's next big frontiers with the SSLV technology, by partnering with ISRO, NSIL and INSPACe to implement it," D.K. Sunil, Chairman and Managing Director of HAL, said.  
HAL के चेयरमैन और मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर डी.के. सुनील ने कहा, "हमें गर्व है कि हम ISRO, NSIL और INSPACe के साथ साझेदारी करके SSLV तकनीक के माध्यम से भारत की अगली बड़ी उपलब्धियों को हासिल करने की इस यात्रा का हिस्सा हैं।"
- Mr. Sunil said HAL would build SSLVs so that India could offer regular, cost-competitive small-satellite launches to domestic and global customers.  
सुनील ने कहा कि HAL SSLV का निर्माण करेगा ताकि भारत घरेलू और वैश्विक ग्राहकों को नियमित, किफायती स्मॉल सैटेलाइट लॉन्च सेवाएं प्रदान कर सके।



The Ganga river in spate as it passes under the Howrah Bridge, in Kolkata. PTI

## Steel truss bridges have 'secret' defences against collapse

The Hindu Bureau

CS III: S&T

Steel truss bridges have been the backbone of transport networks since the late 19th century. They are built from interconnected steel bars and they can span long distances and carry heavy loads, rendering them ideal for railways and highways. The Pamban, Howrah, and Saraighat bridges in India are some famous examples.

Many of these bridges remain in use today and often carry far more traffic than they were designed for. They're also exposed to more intense natural hazards like floods and storms, faster rates of material corrosion due to environmental change, and the simple wear of a century of service.

When one part of a truss bridge fails, the entire structure can collapse suddenly and disastrously. Such collapses incur human tragedies as well as economic shocks, since closing a busy bridge can cost crores of rupees a day. Engineers understand the primary resistance of these bridges well: the way intact parts carry normal traffic loads. But they have been less clear why some bridges survive after one component breaks while others collapse quickly.

A study in *Nature* on September 3, by researchers from Spain, has revealed why.

The team built a scaled-down steel truss bridge in the laboratory based on a common railway design called a Pratt truss. Then they simulated damage by cutting through specific components, such as chords and beams, to mimic sudden failure. In each scenario, sensors recorded how the structure responded. The team also created advanced computer models that reproduced both the intact and damaged states, allowing them to simulate more than 200 different damage scenarios.

The experiments revealed six fundamental secondary resistance mechanisms that activated when a main component failed: panel distortions, torsion of the whole structure, hinged rotations, out-of-plane bending, simple bridging by nearby members, and

were

इनमें से कई पुल आज भी उपयोग में हैं और अक्सर उनकी डिज़ाइन क्षमता से कहीं अधिक ट्रैफ़िक संभालते हैं।

- They're also exposed to more intense natural hazards like floods and storms, faster rates of material corrosion due to environmental change, and the wear of a century of service.

**Many bridges remain in use today and often carry far more than they were designed for. They're also exposed to more intense natural hazards like floods and storms**

uniaxial bending. Like a spider web adapting to the loss of a thread, each of these mechanisms rerouted loads through alternative paths, preventing immediate collapse. Which mechanism dominated depended on which part failed. For example, losing a diagonal mainly triggered panel distortions, while losing a chord involved global torsion and rotation.

Even when damaged, the bridge specimen was surprisingly robust. It could withstand loads up to 3x higher than standard operating levels before collapsing. The failures propagated differently depending on the role of the original component. For instance, members that sustained compression, like upper chords, led to brittle failures, while tension-bearing members, like lower chords, led to more gradual and ductile failures. In all cases, however, the bridge only collapsed following a cascade of buckling failures spreading through the structure.

These insights open new doors for engineering practice. Just as understanding secondary mechanisms reshaped building design worldwide, the same knowledge can be used to guide safer engineering. For new bridges, engineers can refine designs to bolster secondary resistance mechanisms. In existing structures, inspections and retrofits can focus on critical areas that help activate these 'secret' defences. The study also provides a roadmap to make bridges more resilient to accidents, natural disasters, and the test of time.

**Steel truss bridges have 'secret' defences against collapse**

**स्टील ट्रस पुलों में गिरने के खिलाफ 'गुप्त' रक्षा होती है**

**Steel Truss Bridges**  
**स्टील ट्रस पुल**

- Steel truss bridges have been the backbone of transport networks since the late 19th century.

स्टील ट्रस पुल 19वीं शताब्दी के उत्तरार्ध से परिवहन नेटवर्क की रीढ़ रहे हैं।

- They are built from interconnected steel bars and they can span long distances and carry heavy loads, rendering them ideal for railways and highways.

इन्हें आपस में जुड़े स्टील बार्स से बनाया जाता है और ये लंबी दूरी तक फैले रह सकते हैं तथा भारी भार उठा सकते हैं, जिससे ये रेलवे और हाईवे के लिए उपयुक्त बनते हैं।

- The Pamban, Howrah, and Saraighat bridges in India are some famous examples.

भारत में पंबन, हावड़ा और सरायघाट पुल इसके कुछ प्रसिद्ध उदाहरण हैं।

- Many of these bridges remain in use today and often carry far more traffic than they designed for.



ये पुल अधिक तीव्र प्राकृतिक खतरों जैसे बाढ़ और तूफान, पर्यावरणीय परिवर्तन के कारण तेज़ी से होने वाले क्षरण, और सदीभर की सेवा से हुए क्षय का सामना करते हैं।

- When one part of a truss bridge fails, the **entire structure can collapse suddenly and disastrously**.  
जब ट्रस पुल का एक हिस्सा विफल होता है, तो पूरा ढांचा अचानक और विनाशकारी तरीके से ढह सकता है।
- Such collapses incur **human tragedies as well as economic shocks**, since closing a busy bridge can **cost crores of rupees a day**.  
ऐसे ढहने से मानवीय त्रासदियों और आर्थिक झटकों का सामना करना पड़ता है, क्योंकि एक व्यस्त पुल को बंद करने से प्रतिदिन करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान हो सकता है।
- Engineers understand the **primary resistance** of these bridges well: the way intact parts carry **normal traffic loads**.  
इंजीनियर इन पुलों की प्राथमिक प्रतिरोध क्षमता को अच्छी तरह समझते हैं: यानी कैसे सुरक्षित हिस्से सामान्य ट्रैफ़िक भार उठाते हैं।
- But they have been less clear why some bridges **survive after one component breaks** while others **collapse quickly**.  
लेकिन यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि कुछ पुल किसी हिस्से के टूटने के बाद भी टिके रहते हैं, जबकि अन्य जल्दी ढह जाते हैं।

## The Study and Experiments अध्ययन और प्रयोग

- A study in **Nature on September 3** by researchers from **Spain** revealed why.  
3 सितंबर को स्पेन के शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा किए गए एक अध्ययन (नेचर में प्रकाशित) ने इसका कारण बताया।
- The team built a **scaled-down steel truss bridge** in the laboratory based on a common railway design called a **Pratt truss**.  
टीम ने प्रयोगशाला में एक छोटा स्टील ट्रस पुल बनाया, जो एक सामान्य रेलवे डिज़ाइन प्रैट ट्रस पर आधारित था।
- Then they simulated damage by **cutting through specific components**, such as **chords and beams**, to mimic **sudden failure**.  
फिर उन्होंने विशिष्ट हिस्सों (जैसे कॉर्ड्स और बीम्स) को काटकर नुकसान का अनुकरण किया, ताकि अचानक विफलता का परीक्षण किया जा सके।
- In each scenario, **sensors recorded** how the structure responded.  
प्रत्येक स्थिति में सेंसरों ने दर्ज किया कि ढांचा कैसे प्रतिक्रिया करता है।
- The team also created **advanced computer models** that reproduced both the **intact and damaged states**, allowing them to simulate **more than 200 different damage scenarios**.  
टीम ने उन्नत कंप्यूटर मॉडल भी बनाए, जो संपूर्ण और क्षतिग्रस्त दोनों अवस्थाओं को दोहराते थे, जिससे वे 200 से अधिक विभिन्न क्षति परिदृश्यों का अनुकरण कर सके।

## Findings of the Study अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष

- The experiments revealed **six fundamental secondary resistance mechanisms** that activated when a main component failed:  
प्रयोगों ने दिखाया कि जब एक मुख्य हिस्सा विफल हुआ, तो छह मूलभूत द्वितीयक प्रतिरोध तंत्र सक्रिय हुए:
  - panel distortions
  - torsion of the whole structure
  - hinged rotations
  - out-of-plane bending
  - simple bridging by nearby members
  - uniaxial bending
  - पैनल विकृति
  - पूरे ढांचे का मरोड़
  - हिंग वाले घुमाव
  - समतल से बाहर झुकना



- पास के सदस्यों द्वारा साधारण सहारा
- एकध्रुवीय झुकाव
- Like a **spider web** adapting to the loss of a thread, each of these mechanisms **rerouted loads through alternative paths**, preventing **immediate collapse**.  
जैसे एक **मकड़ी का जाला** धागे के टूटने पर ढल जाता है, वैसे ही ये तंत्र **वैकल्पिक रास्तों से भार को मोड़ देते हैं**, जिससे **तुरंत ढहने से बचाव** होता है।
- Which mechanism dominated depended on which **part failed**.  
कौन-सा तंत्र प्रभावी होगा, यह इस पर निर्भर करता था कि कौन-सा **हिस्सा विफल हुआ**।
- For example, losing a **diagonal** mainly triggered **panel distortions**, while losing a **chord** involved **global torsion and rotation**.  
उदाहरण के लिए, **डायगोनल** के टूटने से मुख्य रूप से **पैनल विकृति** होती, जबकि **कॉर्ड** के टूटने से **वैश्विक मरोड़ और घुमाव** होता।

## Bridge Strength and Failure पुल की मजबूती और विफलता

- Even when damaged, the **bridge specimen was surprisingly robust**.  
क्षतिग्रस्त होने पर भी **पुल का नमूना आश्चर्यजनक रूप से मजबूत** था।
- It could withstand **loads up to 3x higher** than standard operating levels before collapsing.  
यह ढहने से पहले **मानक संचालन स्तर से 3 गुना अधिक भार** सहन कर सकता था।
- The failures propagated differently depending on the role of the **original component**.  
विफलताएँ अलग-अलग तरीकों से फैलीं, यह इस पर निर्भर करता था कि **मूल घटक** की भूमिका क्या थी।
- Members that sustained **compression** (like **upper chords**) led to **brittle failures**.  
जो हिस्से **संपीड़न** (जैसे **ऊपरी कॉर्ड्स**) झेलते थे, वे **भंगुर विफलता** का कारण बने।
- Members that bore **tension** (like **lower chords**) led to **gradual and ductile failures**.  
जो हिस्से **तनाव** (जैसे **निचले कॉर्ड्स**) उठाते थे, वे **धीरे-धीरे और लचीली विफलता** का कारण बने।
- In all cases, the bridge only collapsed following a **cascade of buckling failures spreading through the structure**.  
सभी मामलों में, पुल केवल तब ढहा जब संरचना में **क्रमिक बकलिंग विफलताएँ फैल गईं**।

## Engineering Implications इंजीनियरिंग प्रभाव

- These insights open new doors for **engineering practice**.  
ये निष्कर्ष **इंजीनियरिंग प्रैक्टिस** के लिए नए रास्ते खोलते हैं।
- Just as understanding **secondary mechanisms** reshaped **building design worldwide**, the same knowledge can guide **safer engineering**.  
जैसे **द्वितीयक तंत्रों की समझ** ने **विश्वभर में भवन डिज़ाइन** को बदला, वैसे ही यही ज्ञान **सुरक्षित इंजीनियरिंग** का मार्गदर्शन कर सकता है।
- For **new bridges**, engineers can **refine designs** to bolster **secondary resistance mechanisms**.  
नए पुलों के लिए, इंजीनियर **डिज़ाइनों को परिष्कृत** कर सकते हैं ताकि **द्वितीयक प्रतिरोध तंत्र** मजबूत हो।
- In **existing structures**, inspections and retrofits can focus on **critical areas** that help activate these '**secret**' defences.  
**मौजूदा ढांचों** में, निरीक्षण और सुधार कार्य **महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों** पर केंद्रित किए जा सकते हैं जो इन '**गुप्त**' रक्षा तंत्रों को सक्रिय करने में मदद करते हैं।
- The study also provides a **roadmap** to make bridges more **resilient to accidents, natural disasters, and the test of time**.  
यह अध्ययन पुलों को **दुर्घटनाओं, प्राकृतिक आपदाओं और समय की कसौटी** के प्रति अधिक लचीला बनाने के लिए एक **रोडमैप** भी प्रदान करता है।



EFP stand for?

Answers to September 2 quiz:

1. Coauthor of Oppenheimer's September 1, 1939, paper – Ans: Hartland Snyder
2. Object that Oppenheimer, Tolman, Serber, Volkoff were studying – Ans: Neutron stars
3. Physicist who coined the term “black hole” – Ans: John Wheeler
4. Geometry of spacetime around a rotating black hole – Ans: Kerr
5. Surface ‘above’ an event horizon near rotating black holes – Ans: Ergosphere

Visual: Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Nitin Shah | Anmol Agrawal | Anusha Raj | Sharini Shivakumar

Answers to September 5 quiz:

1. Millimetres of mercury; 2. Beats/contracts; rests between beats; 3. True; 4. They narrow and harden, reducing blood flow; 5. About five litres; 6. Hypotension; 7. False; 8. Salt; 9. Sphygmomanometer

First contact: Udayakumar Bundimutt | Karthikeyan R.

## QUIZ

# Oppenheimer–Snyder Paper (September 1, 1939)

Coauthor: Hartland Snyder

- The paper titled “On Continued Gravitational Contraction” was published in *Physical Review* on September 1, 1939.
- It was authored by J. Robert Oppenheimer (later famous as the “father of the atomic bomb”) and his PhD student Hartland Snyder.
- This was the first detailed theoretical study of how massive stars collapse under their own gravity.
- The work was published on the same day World War II began (Germany invaded Poland, September 1, 1939), which overshadowed its scientific importance at the time.

## Key Concepts in the Paper

- **Gravitational Collapse:** When a massive star exhausts its nuclear fuel, it can no longer resist gravity and begins collapsing inward.
- **Schwarzschild Radius:** The critical radius beyond which not even light can escape the gravitational pull of the star.
- **Event Horizon:** The “point of no return” formed during collapse where light and matter cannot escape.
- **Singularity:** The paper predicted that matter would eventually collapse into a point of infinite density at the center.

## Neutron Stars

- Neutron stars are the collapsed cores of massive stars that have undergone a supernova explosion.
- They represent one of the densest forms of matter in the universe.
- A typical neutron star has:
  - **Mass:** about 1.4 times that of the Sun (can be up to 2–3 solar masses).
  - **Radius:** only about 10–12 kilometers.
  - **Density:** A sugar-cube-sized piece would weigh billions of tons on Earth.



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- Composed almost entirely of **neutrons**, held together by gravity and neutron degeneracy pressure.

## Physicist who coined the term “Black Hole” – John Wheeler

- Before Wheeler popularized it, black holes were referred to as “**gravitationally completely collapsed objects**” or “**frozen stars.**”
- These terms were scientifically accurate but too long and difficult for widespread use.
- There was a need for a **short, powerful, and simple phrase**

### When and How Wheeler Coined the Term

- The term “**Black Hole**” came into use in the **early 1960s** during astrophysics conferences.
- Wheeler formally **adopted and popularized the term in December 1967**, during a lecture at the NASA Goddard Institute of Space Studies.
- By the late **1960s**, the word became standard in scientific literature and then in popular culture.
- Wheeler’s prestige in the scientific community helped the phrase gain global acceptance.

### Why the Term “Black Hole” Was Powerful

- **Short and memorable** compared to earlier complex names.
- The word “**black**” signifies that no light can escape.
- The word “**hole**” suggests a region into which matter falls and cannot escape.
- The phrase conveyed the **mystery and extreme nature** of the phenomenon.

### Scientific Concept of a Black Hole

- A black hole is a region of **space-time** where gravity is so intense that **nothing, not even light, can escape.**
- **Key features:**
  - **Event Horizon:** The invisible boundary beyond which escape is impossible.
  - **Singularity:** The point where matter is thought to collapse to infinite density.
  - **Schwarzschild Radius:** The critical radius at which a star collapses into a black hole.
- The concept arises from **Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity (1915)** and mathematical solutions like the **Schwarzschild Solution (1916).**



# Geometry of Spacetime around a Rotating Black Hole – Kerr Geometry

- A **black hole** is a region of space where gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape.
- In **1963**, New Zealand mathematician **Roy Kerr** discovered the exact solution to **Einstein's General Relativity equations** describing the spacetime around a **rotating (spinning) black hole**.
- This solution is known as the **Kerr Metric** or **Kerr Geometry**.
- Unlike non-rotating Schwarzschild black holes, Kerr black holes have **rotation, angular momentum, and unique spacetime effects**.

## Key Features of Kerr Black Holes

- **Rotation (Spin)**: Described by a parameter " $a$ " = angular momentum per unit mass.
- **Event Horizon**: The boundary beyond which nothing can escape. Kerr black holes have **two horizons**:
  - **Outer Event Horizon**
  - **Inner Cauchy Horizon**
- **Ergosphere**: A unique region outside the event horizon where space itself is dragged by rotation (frame-dragging).
  - Inside the ergosphere, no object can remain stationary.
  - Enables the **Penrose Process** (energy extraction).
- **Ring Singularity**: Instead of a point, the singularity becomes a **rotating ring**.

## Geometry of Spacetime

- The spacetime around a Kerr black hole is **curved and twisted** due to rotation.
- **Frame Dragging**: The spinning black hole **drags spacetime around with it** (also called the Lense-Thirring effect).
- **Closed Timelike Curves**: The Kerr geometry theoretically allows **pathways for time travel** inside the inner horizon, though unstable in reality.
- **Asymptotic Flatness**: Far away from the black hole, spacetime becomes flat, like normal space.

## Comparison: Schwarzschild vs Kerr

- **Schwarzschild Black Hole**: Non-rotating, spherical symmetry, single event horizon, point singularity.
- **Kerr Black Hole**: Rotating, axisymmetric, double horizons, ring singularity, ergosphere.

## What is the Ergosphere

- The **ergosphere** is the region *outside* the event horizon of a **rotating (Kerr) black hole** in which space-time is dragged around by the black hole's rotation so strongly that no object can remain at rest relative to a distant observer.
- It's bounded by two surfaces:



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- On one side by the **event horizon** (inner boundary).
- On the other side by the **static limit surface** (outer boundary), where the dragging of space-time makes the “static observers” impossible (i.e. to hover without being carried by space-time).

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# To build roads is to build peace

## GS III: Maoism

In India's tribal hinterlands, especially those affected by Maoist insurgency, roads are not just a matter of transport. They are emissaries of the state, carving a path not only through forests and hills but also through histories of marginalisation and neglect. In regions where formal institutions are barely visible, a newly built road often marks the first arrival of governance itself.

A growing body of research shows that road development in conflict-affected areas has a stabilising effect. In Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha, core States in the "Red Corridor," the presence of rural roads is strongly associated with improvements in electricity access, employment opportunities, and security. Roads help reclaim governance from non-state actors who thrive in isolation. When the state is absent, insurgent groups often step in with slogans and systems. Across conflict zones, insurgents have set up parallel institutions that mimic state functions. Diego Gambetta's classic study of the Sicilian Mafia illustrates this: extralegal actors assume roles such as conflict resolution and taxation when the state withdraws. In India, Maoist insurgents have attempted to fill governance gaps in remote areas by running informal courts and levying their own "taxes." The demand and supply logic applies to governance. An undersupply of formal governance leads to opportunistic entrepreneurship seeking to pick up the slack in supply.

In some tribal regions, it is reported that extralegal outfits have even dispensed rudimentary medical aid where clinics are absent – an act that blurs the line between care and coercion. Research by Alpa Shah (2018) and Human Rights Watch (2009) notes that the Naxalite presence in villages often includes some health services and welfare activities, though always underwritten by the threat of violence. As scholar Zachariah



**Pavan Mamidi**

is Director, Centre for Social and Behavior Change (CSBC), Ashoka University

Roads help reclaim governance from non-state actors who thrive in isolation

Mampilly (2011) observed in other insurgent contexts, such services are not charitable - they are strategic. The aim is not just survival but legitimacy.

Legitimacy cannot rest on coercion alone. Extralegal governance, while sometimes filling the gaps left by the state, is not bound by constitutional safeguards or democratic principles. Its forms of justice are often opaque, arbitrary, and punitive. In several Maoist-affected areas, there are reports of kangaroo courts (*jan adalats*) that have issued summary punishments, including executions, without due process. This is justice without appeal, correction, or accountability-more terror than tribunal.

This is why infrastructure matters. It is the physical precondition for the presence of lawful authority. Jain and Biswas (2023) have shown that road connectivity correlates with a decline in crime and increased service access in rural India. Internationally, Rafael Prieto-Curiel and Ronaldo Menezes (2020) demonstrate that violence is higher in poorly connected areas, whether in cities or rural zones. Infrastructure, they argue, is not merely functional; it is political.

Formal state institutions, though imperfect, operate within a framework of laws shaped by democratic consensus. These laws are debated, refined, and subject to public scrutiny. When schools, police stations, clinics and courts are introduced in conflict-prone areas through road development, they bring not only services but a system that is, at least in principle, accountable to citizens. It is the rule of law, not rule by fiat.

This contrast is critical. While formal institutions are subject to electoral oversight, bureaucratic accountability, and legal restraint, informal justice systems are not. They more often reflect entrenched power hierarchies and patriarchal norms, leading to practices such as vigilante justice

and collective punishment. In the absence of courts, entire communities can be targeted. Accusations of collaboration with security forces have, in some cases, led to mob reprisals under the guise of justice.

The Indian state has recognised this. In Chhattisgarh, former top official and current NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam led a thoughtful strategy that placed infrastructure at the heart of governance renewal. Roads came first, followed by schools, clinics, and law enforcement. Each road had a message: that the state has come in, and is here to stay.

## Safeguards are needed too

But infrastructure alone cannot resolve conflict. Roads can carry relief or repression. Without institutional safeguards such as justice mechanisms, health-care access, and community consultation, they risk becoming symbols of control rather than inclusion. A road should not simply be laid through a village but built with the village as this is essential to legitimacy. Moreover, we must be mindful that informal social norms, even outside insurgent control, can be just as exclusionary. It is said that in some parts of rural India, *khap* panchayats and caste councils operate alongside or in place of formal institutions. These bodies often enforced rigid social codes through shame or violence. While they may have provided swift resolution, they did so without the protections of equity or legality. Development, therefore, must aim not only to replace insurgent authority but also to integrate pluralistic, rights-based governance rooted in India's constitutional values.

As India invests in its tribal heartlands, especially in regions like southern Chhattisgarh, road development must be part of a broader effort to extend justice, dignity, and opportunity. The goal is not merely movement but belonging. To build roads, then, is to build peace.

**To Build Roads is to Build Peace**

**सड़कें बनाना = शांति बनाना**



## Infrastructure and Governance in Tribal Hinterlands

### जनजातीय पिछड़े इलाकों में अवसंरचना और शासन

- In India's **tribal hinterlands**, especially those affected by **Maoist insurgency**, **roads** are not just a matter of transport.  
भारत के **जनजातीय पिछड़े इलाकों** में, विशेष रूप से जहाँ **माओवादी विद्रोह** सक्रिय है, **सड़कों** का महत्व केवल परिवहन तक सीमित नहीं है।
- They are **emissaries of the state**, carving a path not only through **forests and hills** but also through histories of **marginalisation and neglect**.  
ये **राज्य के दूत** हैं, जो केवल **जंगल और पहाड़** नहीं काटते बल्कि **हाशिए पर पड़े और उपेक्षित इतिहास** से भी गुजरते हैं।
- In regions where **formal institutions** are barely visible, a newly built road often marks the **first arrival of governance itself**.  
उन क्षेत्रों में जहाँ **औपचारिक संस्थान** मुश्किल से दिखाई देते हैं, एक नई बनी सड़क अक्सर **शासन की पहली उपस्थिति** का संकेत देती है।

## Road Development and Stabilisation

### सड़क विकास और स्थिरीकरण

- Research shows that **road development** in conflict-affected areas has a **stabilising effect**.  
शोध से पता चलता है कि **संग्राम प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में सड़क विकास का स्थिरीकरण पर प्रभाव** होता है।
- In **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha**, core states in the "**Red Corridor**", the presence of **rural roads** is strongly associated with improvements in **electricity access, employment opportunities, and security**.  
**छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड और ओडिशा** में, जो "**रेड कॉरिडोर**" के मुख्य राज्य हैं, **ग्रामीण सड़कों** की मौजूदगी **बिजली, रोजगार अवसर और सुरक्षा** में सुधार से जुड़ी हुई है।
- Roads help reclaim **governance** from **non-state actors** who thrive in isolation.  
सड़के उन **गैर-राज्यीय समूहों** से **शासन** वापस लेने में मदद करती हैं, जो अलगाव में फलते-फूलते हैं।
- When the state is absent, **insurgent groups** often step in with **slogans and systems**, setting up **parallel institutions** that mimic **state functions**.  
जब राज्य अनुपस्थित होता है, तो **विद्रोही समूह** अक्सर **नारे और सिस्टम** के साथ हस्तक्षेप करते हैं, और **राज्य कार्यों की नकल करने वाले समानांतर संस्थान** स्थापित करते हैं।
- Diego Gambetta's study of the **Sicilian Mafia** illustrates this: **extralegal actors** assume roles such as **conflict resolution and taxation** when the state withdraws.  
डिएगो गैंबेता के अध्ययन में **सिसिली माफिया** का उदाहरण है: जब राज्य पीछे हटता है तो **अवैध अभिनेता विवाद समाधान और कराधान** जैसे भूमिकाएँ निभाते हैं।
- In India, **Maoist insurgents** have attempted to fill governance gaps in **remote areas** by running **informal courts** and levying their own "**taxes**".  
भारत में, **माओवादी विद्रोहियों** ने **दूरदराज़ इलाकों** में शासन की कमी को **अनौपचारिक अदालतें** चलाकर और अपने "**कर**" लगाकर भरने का प्रयास किया है।
- The **demand and supply logic** applies to governance. An undersupply of formal governance leads to **opportunistic entrepreneurship** seeking to pick up the slack.  
शासन में **मांग और आपूर्ति तर्क** लागू होता है। औपचारिक शासन की कमी से **सुविधाजनक उद्यमिता** उत्पन्न होती है जो इस कमी को पूरा करने की कोशिश करती है।

## Health Services and Coercion

### स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ और जबरदस्ती

- In some tribal regions, **extralegal outfits** have even dispensed **rudimentary medical aid** where **clinics are absent**, blurring the line between **care and coercion**.  
कुछ जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में, **अवैध समूहों** ने यहाँ तक कि **साधारण चिकित्सा सहायता** दी जहाँ **क्लीनिक मौजूद नहीं थे**, जिससे **देखभाल और जबरदस्ती** के बीच की सीमा धुंधली हो गई।



- Research by **Alpa Shah (2018)** and **Human Rights Watch (2009)** notes that the **Naxalite presence** in villages often includes **some health services and welfare activities**, though always **underwritten by the threat of violence**.  
अल्पा शाह (2018) और ह्यूमन राइट्स वॉच (2009) के शोध के अनुसार, गाँवों में नक्सलियों की मौजूदगी में अक्सर कुछ स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ और कल्याण गतिविधियाँ शामिल होती हैं, हालांकि हमेशा हिंसा की धमकी के साथ।
- Scholar **Zachariah Mampilly (2011)** observed in other insurgent contexts that such services are not charitable but **strategic**, aiming not just at survival but **legitimacy**.  
विद्वान जकरियाह मम्मिली (2011) ने अन्य विद्रोही संदर्भों में देखा कि ऐसी सेवाएँ दानशील नहीं बल्कि **रणनीतिक** हैं, जिनका उद्देश्य केवल जीवित रहना नहीं बल्कि **वैधता** हासिल करना है।

## Legitimacy and Justice

### वैधता और न्याय

- Legitimacy cannot rest on **coercion alone**.  
वैधता केवल **जबरदस्ती** पर आधारित नहीं हो सकती।
- **Extralegal governance**, while sometimes filling state gaps, is not bound by **constitutional safeguards or democratic principles**.  
अवैध शासन, कभी-कभी राज्य की कमी को भरते हुए, **संवैधानिक सुरक्षा या लोकतांत्रिक सिद्धांतों** से बंधा नहीं होता।
- Its forms of justice are often **opaque, arbitrary, and punitive**.  
इसका न्याय अक्सर **अस्पष्ट, मनमाना और दंडात्मक** होता है।
- In several **Maoist-affected areas**, there are reports of **kangaroo courts (jan adalats)** issuing **summary punishments**, including **executions**, without **due process**.  
कई **माओवादी प्रभावित क्षेत्रों** में, **कंगारू अदालतों (जन अदालतों)** की रिपोर्टें हैं जो **संक्षिप्त दंड**, जैसे **फांसी**, बिना उचित प्रक्रिया के देती हैं।
- This is **justice without appeal, correction, or accountability** – more **terror than tribunal**.  
यह **अपील, सुधार या जवाबदेही के बिना न्याय** है – यह अधिक **सुनवाई से अधिक आतंक** है।

## Importance of Infrastructure

### अवसंरचना का महत्व

- Infrastructure is the **physical precondition** for the presence of **lawful authority**.  
अवसंरचना **कानूनी प्राधिकरण** की उपस्थिति के लिए **भौतिक पूर्वशर्त** है।
- **Jain and Biswas (2023)** have shown that **road connectivity** correlates with a **decline in crime** and **increased service access** in rural India.  
**जैन और बिस्वास (2023)** ने दिखाया कि **सड़क संपर्कता** का **ग्रामीण भारत में अपराध में कमी और सेवा पहुँच में वृद्धि** से संबंध है।
- Internationally, **Rafael Prieto-Curiel and Ronaldo Menezes (2020)** demonstrate that **violence is higher in poorly connected areas**, whether in **cities or rural zones**.  
अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर, **राफेल प्रियो-कुरियल और रोनाल्डो मेनेज़ेस (2020)** ने दिखाया कि **खराब संपर्क वाले क्षेत्रों में हिंसा अधिक होती है**, चाहे वह शहर हों या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र।
- Infrastructure is not merely functional; it is **political**.  
अवसंरचना केवल कार्यात्मक नहीं है; यह **राजनीतिक** है।

## Formal Institutions and Road Development

### औपचारिक संस्थाएँ और सड़क विकास

- **Formal state institutions**, though imperfect, operate within a framework of **laws shaped by democratic consensus**.  
**औपचारिक राज्य संस्थाएँ**, भले ही असंपूर्ण हों, **लोकतांत्रिक सहमति से बनाए गए कानूनों** के ढांचे के भीतर काम करती हैं।
- These **laws are debated, refined, and subject to public scrutiny**.  
ये **कानून चर्चा, सुधार और सार्वजनिक निगरानी** के अधीन होते हैं।



- When **schools, police stations, clinics, and courts** are introduced in **conflict-prone areas** through **road development**, they bring not only **services** but a **system accountable to citizens**.  
जब सड़क विकास के माध्यम से स्कूल, पुलिस स्टेशन, क्लिनिक और न्यायालय संघर्ष-प्रवण क्षेत्रों में स्थापित किए जाते हैं, तो ये केवल सेवाएँ ही नहीं लाते बल्कि नागरिकों के प्रति जवाबदेह प्रणाली भी लाते हैं।
- It is the **rule of law**, not rule by fiat, that matters.  
महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह कानून का शासन है, न कि मनमाने आदेश का शासन।
- **Formal institutions** are subject to **electoral oversight, bureaucratic accountability, and legal restraint**, unlike informal justice systems.  
औपचारिक संस्थाएँ चुनावी निगरानी, नौकरशाही जवाबदेही, और कानूनी प्रतिबंध के अधीन होती हैं, जबकि अनौपचारिक न्याय प्रणालियाँ नहीं।
- **Informal justice systems** often reflect **entrenched power hierarchies and patriarchal norms**, leading to **vigilante justice** and **collective punishment**.  
अनौपचारिक न्याय प्रणाली अक्सर स्थायी शक्ति संरचनाओं और पितृसत्तात्मक मानदंडों को दर्शाती हैं, जिससे संगठित न्याय और सामूहिक दंड जैसी प्रथाएँ होती हैं।
- **Absence of courts** can lead to **entire communities being targeted**, and accusations of collaboration with **security forces** have sometimes resulted in **mob reprisals**.  
न्यायालयों की अनुपस्थिति से पूरा समुदाय लक्षित हो सकता है, और सुरक्षा बलों के साथ सहयोग के आरोप कभी-कभी भीड़ प्रतिशोध में बदल जाते हैं।
- The Indian state has **recognized this**, and in **Chhattisgarh**, former top official and current **NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam** implemented a strategy placing **infrastructure at the heart of governance renewal**.  
भारतीय राज्य ने इसे पहचान लिया है, और छत्तीसगढ़ में, पूर्व उच्च अधिकारी और वर्तमान नीति आयोग सीईओ बी.वी.आर. सुब्रमण्यम ने सड़कें और बुनियादी ढांचे को शासन सुधार का केंद्र बनाने की रणनीति लागू की।
- **Roads came first**, followed by **schools, clinics, and law enforcement**, each road signaling that the **state has arrived and is here to stay**.  
सड़कें पहले आईं, इसके बाद स्कूल, क्लिनिक और कानून प्रवर्तन, हर सड़क यह संदेश देती है कि राज्य यहाँ आ गया है और स्थायी है।

### Safeguards are needed too सुरक्षा उपाय भी आवश्यक हैं

- **Infrastructure alone cannot resolve conflict**; roads can carry **relief or repression**.  
केवल बुनियादी ढांचा संघर्ष हल नहीं कर सकता; सड़कें राहत या दमन ला सकती हैं।
- Without **institutional safeguards** like **justice mechanisms, healthcare access, and community consultation**, roads risk becoming **symbols of control** rather than **inclusion**.  
न्याय तंत्र, स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं और सामुदायिक परामर्श जैसे संस्थागत सुरक्षा उपायों के बिना, सड़कें नियंत्रण के प्रतीक बन सकती हैं, न कि समावेश।
- Roads should be **built with the village**, not merely through it, to ensure **legitimacy**.  
सड़कें केवल गुजरने के लिए नहीं, बल्कि गांव के सहयोग से बनाई जानी चाहिए ताकि वैधता सुनिश्चित हो।
- **Informal social norms**, even outside insurgent control, can be **exclusionary**; e.g., **khap panchayats** and **caste councils** may enforce **rigid social codes** through **shame or violence**.  
अनौपचारिक सामाजिक मानदंड, चाहे विद्रोही नियंत्रण के बाहर ही क्यों न हों, बहिष्करणकारी हो सकते हैं; जैसे, खाप पंचायतें और जाति परिषदें अक्सर शर्म या हिंसा के माध्यम से कठोर सामाजिक कोड लागू करती हैं।
- Development must aim not only to **replace insurgent authority** but also to **integrate pluralistic, rights-based governance** rooted in **India's constitutional values**.  
विकास का उद्देश्य केवल विद्रोही सत्ता को बदलना नहीं बल्कि बहुलतावादी, अधिकार-आधारित शासन को भारत के संवैधानिक मूल्यों के आधार पर जोड़ना भी होना चाहिए।
- As India invests in **tribal heartlands**, especially **southern Chhattisgarh**, road development must extend **justice, dignity, and opportunity**.  
जब भारत आदिवासी हृदयस्थल, विशेषकर दक्षिण छत्तीसगढ़, में निवेश करता है, तो सड़क विकास को न्याय, गरिमा और अवसर प्रदान करना चाहिए।

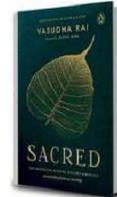


- The goal is not merely **movement** but **belonging**; therefore, **to build roads is to build peace**.  
उद्देश्य केवल यात्रा नहीं बल्कि सम्बंध और सहभागिता है; इसलिए, सड़कें बनाना = शांति बनाना है।

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Pine trees from a wood in Himachal Pradesh. GETTY IMAGES



# Wood wide web: trees have their own network to preserve life

What is a tree? When were trees born? Three books urge readers to think of trees not as passive, aesthetic entities but as key shapers of the environment. Trees are rain-makers above ground and redistributors of water underground, among other contributions

**GS III S&T**

**Sudhiredar Sharma**

It is easy to think of trees as passive entities with limited mobility, the essential green in the biodiversity of life. But as new research shows, the environmental benefits of trees – air cleaning, prevention of flooding, sequestration of carbon dioxide – are side-effects of trees' abilities to shape the environment. There is a tendency to take trees for granted for their environmental and aesthetic values. It is so despite the fact that any of the tree species which have evolved over thousands of years carries a common ecological narrative. Amongst many environmental services one offer, the amazing property of trees is that they can not only bring water down from the sky, but can send it back up as transpiration too.

But to assume that trees have only a limited role is to belittle their existence. Conversely, it is amazing how trees have done more as blind explorers beneath the soil to communicate and cooperate not only with themselves but with other species too. It is only in recent times that this quality is being studied. In the process, trees have emerged as the original terraformers, breaking down barren rock to create soil, channelling water into rivers, and releasing oxygen into an atmosphere previously inhospitable to complex life. Without trees, the earth would have literally been a desert.

This hasn't been a passive process in itself. Trees have, over millennia, exerted control over fundamental elements – water, air, fire, and the ground beneath.

Element by element, trees have learned to control water, air, fire and the ground beneath, as well as fungi, plants, animals, and even people, shaping them according to their 'tree-ish' agenda. According to tree researcher Harriet Rix, (*The Genius of Trees*, 2025, Bodley Head) trees are not victims of change but agents of change in a grand ecological narrative. They are undoubtedly leading actors in the great drama of life on earth. "When modern humans evolved about 40,000 years ago, there were an estimated six trillion trees on the planet. By the time we appeared on the scene, trees had already altered the planet's air, changed the flow of water, used fire as a tool and built relationships with the plants and animals around them," writes Rix.

### Vital consciousness

Recent scientific research has illuminated the intricate relationship trees maintain with their surroundings. For the better part of almost 400 million years, trees have been some of the largest organisms on land.

While early research highlights the interesting exchange of resources through what is often dubbed the 'wood wide web' – some interpretations have ventured into anthropomorphism and human-like emotions being transmitted to trees. How have trees done this is perhaps the story to understand.

Do trees have consciousness? The work of Suzanne Simard (*Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, 2021, Allen Lane) is worth mentioning here wherein she gives anthropomorphic claims that trees 'talk' to and 'love' one

another. It is like putting a nurturing mammalian face on to the giants of the forest to unfold the complexities of a system. The arboreal history also reveals how these passive organisms fundamentally reshaped the planet. Billions of years ago, these early plants embarked on an evolutionary journey culminating in the majestic trees that dominate landscapes worldwide.

Trees are more than what they may seem to the naked eye. Recent research has enlisted the role of trees in shaping the crucial elements of the ecosystem viz., water, air, soil, plants, and animals. Although all elements are equally important, trees have an endearing effect on rainfall and water flows above and below them. The anatomy of trees is more tightly engineered than a human body, because rather than moving to avoid drought and flood, trees control their own environment to counter any emerging situation.

Above the ground, trees are rain-makers and under, their roots collect and redistribute water. And in between, the tree can control and use the water within itself. But the core question remains: does water enable the trees or do the trees enable the water? A little bit of both – and when the climate changes around them, trees tend to get better at shaping water.

### Innate value

Scientists argue that there is a reason why we find the smell of wood so comforting, and like to press our noses between the pages of books. A little over fifty species of trees constitute 'divine' trees – trees

based on our faiths and traditions. Vasudha Rai's *Sacred: The Mysticism, Science, Recipes and Rituals* (Ebury 2025) does not investigate such divine antecedents but reflects on the values ascribed to trees like peepal, banyan, rudraksha and deodar. Why are these trees considered invaluable? What is the scientific basis of such a belief?

An acclaimed author on wellness, who connects traditions with contemporary living, Rai goes into the science of it. Blending spiritual wisdom with scientific research, she provides new insights on our symbiotic relationship with trees. What makes divine botany interesting is the manner in which it outlines ancient mysticism, modern science, and enlists recipes to build the narrative that helps reconnect with trees.

Exploring and reviving this subject is not without reason. It is about revisiting our reverence for the green cover which has reached such a crescendo that we are devoted to the intangible god but do not respect tangible manifestations of the divine.

In reality, every plant must be seen as sacred because every plant species supports some bacteria, insects, bees, birds and mammals. According to ancient scriptures, every leaf and blade of grass, branch and the trunk is home to nature spirits. There is an ancient tale in which a guru asks his disciple to go into the forest and find a plant that has no use. The disciple comes back empty-handed because he cannot find a single plant that had no use.

Sudhiredar Sharma is an independent writer, researcher and academic.



## Wood wide web: trees have their own network to preserve life

### वुड वाइड वेब: पेड़ों का अपना नेटवर्क जीवन को बचाने के लिए

#### The Vital Role of Trees

#### पेड़ों की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका

- It is easy to think of **trees** as passive entities with limited mobility, the essential green in the **biodiversity** of life.  
यह सोचना आसान है कि **पेड़** निष्क्रिय और सीमित गतिशीलता वाले हैं, जो जीवन के **जैव विविधता** में आवश्यक हरे तत्व हैं।
- New research shows that the **environmental benefits** of trees — **air cleaning, flood prevention, carbon dioxide sequestration** — are **side-effects** of trees' abilities to **shape the environment**.  
नए शोध से पता चलता है कि पेड़ों के **पर्यावरणीय लाभ** — **वायु शुद्धिकरण, बाढ़ की रोकथाम, कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड का अवशोषण** — पेड़ों की **पर्यावरण को आकार देने की क्षमता** के साइड-इफेक्ट्स हैं।
- There is a tendency to take trees for granted for their **environmental and aesthetic values**, despite the fact that any **tree species** carries a **common ecological narrative** evolved over **thousands of years**.  
पेड़ों को उनके **पर्यावरणीय और सौंदर्य मूल्य** के लिए अक्सर हल्के में लिया जाता है, जबकि किसी भी पेड़ की **प्रजाति में हजारों वर्षों में विकसित सामान्य पारिस्थितिक कथा** होती है।
- Among environmental services, trees can **bring water down from the sky** and send it **back up as transpiration**.  
पर्यावरणीय सेवाओं में, पेड़ **आसमान से पानी ला सकते हैं** और इसे **ट्रांसपिरेशन के रूप में वापस भेज सकते हैं**।
- To assume trees have only a limited role is to **belittle their existence**.  
यह मान लेना कि पेड़ों की भूमिका सीमित है, उनकी **अस्तित्व को छोटा दिखाना** है।
- Trees act as **blind explorers beneath the soil**, communicating and cooperating with themselves and **other species**.  
पेड़ **मिट्टी के नीचे अंधे अन्वेषक** की तरह कार्य करते हैं, जो खुद और **अन्य प्रजातियों** के साथ संवाद और सहयोग करते हैं।
- **Trees have emerged as original terraformers, breaking down barren rock to create soil, channeling water into rivers, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.**  
पेड़ **मूल टेराफॉर्मर** के रूप में उभरे हैं, **बंजर चट्टानों को तोड़कर मिट्टी बनाना, नदियों में पानी भेजना, और वायुमंडल में ऑक्सीजन छोड़ना**।
- Over millennia, trees have exerted control over **fundamental elements** — **water, air, fire, ground**.  
हजारों वर्षों में, पेड़ ने **मूल तत्वों** — **पानी, हवा, आग, भूमि** पर नियंत्रण स्थापित किया।
- Trees have learned to control **fungi, plants, animals, and even people**, shaping them according to their **'tree-ish' agenda**.  
पेड़ ने **फफूंदी, पौधे, जानवर, और यहां तक कि मनुष्यों** को नियंत्रित करना सीखा, और उन्हें अपने **'पेड़-संबंधित' एजेंडे** के अनुसार आकार दिया।
- According to tree researcher **Harriet Rix**, trees are **not victims of change but agents of change** in a grand ecological narrative.  
पेड़ शोधकर्ता **हरियट रिक्स** के अनुसार, पेड़ **परिवर्तन के शिकार नहीं बल्कि परिवर्तन के एजेंट** हैं, एक विशाल पारिस्थितिक कथा में।
- **When modern humans evolved about 40,000 years ago, there were an estimated six trillion trees on the planet.**  
जब आधुनिक मानव लगभग **40,000 साल पहले** विकसित हुए, तो पृथ्वी पर अनुमानित **छह ट्रिलियन पेड़** थे।



- By the time humans appeared, trees had already **altered the planet's air, changed water flow, used fire as a tool, and built relationships with plants and animals.**  
जब मानव प्रकट हुए, तब तक पेड़ों ने पहले ही पृथ्वी की हवा बदल दी थी, जल प्रवाह को परिवर्तित किया, आग को एक उपकरण के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया, और पौधों और जानवरों के साथ संबंध बनाए।

## Vital Consciousness

### महत्वपूर्ण चेतना

- Recent research shows **trees have maintained an intricate relationship with their surroundings for almost 400 million years.**  
हालिया शोध से पता चलता है कि पेड़ ने लगभग 400 मिलियन वर्षों तक अपने परिवेश के साथ जटिल संबंध बनाए रखे हैं।
- Early research highlights the **exchange of resources** through the 'wood wide web', with some interpretations extending to **anthropomorphism and human-like emotions.**  
प्रारंभिक शोध ने 'वुड वाइड वेब' के माध्यम से संसाधनों के आदान-प्रदान को उजागर किया, कुछ व्याख्याओं में इसे मानवीकरण और मानव जैसी भावनाओं तक बढ़ा दिया गया।
- Suzanne Simard claims trees **'talk'** to and **'love'** one another, giving a **nurturing mammalian face** to forest giants.  
सुज़ैन सिमार्ड का कहना है कि पेड़ एक दूसरे से 'बात करते' और 'प्यार करते' हैं, जिससे जंगल के विशाल पेड़ों को पोषक स्तनधारी का रूप दिया गया।
- Arboreal history shows how **trees fundamentally reshaped the planet.**  
वृक्ष संबंधी इतिहास दिखाता है कि कैसे पेड़ों ने मूल रूप से पृथ्वी को पुनः आकार दिया।
- Early plants embarked on an **evolutionary journey** culminating in the **majestic trees** dominating landscapes worldwide.  
प्रारंभिक पौधों ने एक सांस्कृतिक विकास यात्रा शुरू की, जो भव्य पेड़ों में परिणत हुई, जो विश्वभर के परिदृश्यों पर हावी हैं।
- Trees play a role in shaping **water, air, soil, plants, and animals**, with special impact on **rainfall and water flows.**  
पेड़ पानी, हवा, मिट्टी, पौधे और जानवरों को आकार देने में भूमिका निभाते हैं, खासकर वृष्टि और जल प्रवाह पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव डालते हैं।
- Tree anatomy is more **tightly engineered than a human body**, controlling their environment to counter **drought and flood.**  
पेड़ की संरचना मानव शरीर से अधिक जटिल है, जो सूखा और बाढ़ का मुकाबला करने के लिए अपने पर्यावरण को नियंत्रित करती है।
- Above the ground, trees are **rain-makers**; below, roots **collect and redistribute water**; internally, trees **control and use water.**  
जमीन के ऊपर, पेड़ बारिश पैदा करने वाले हैं; नीचे, जड़ें पानी इकट्ठा और पुनः वितरित करती हैं; भीतर, पेड़ पानी को नियंत्रित और उपयोग करते हैं।
- The core question remains: does **water enable trees** or do **trees enable water**? The answer is **a little of both.**  
मुख्य प्रश्न यह है: क्या पानी पेड़ों को सक्षम करता है या पेड़ पानी को सक्षम करते हैं? उत्तर है, दोनों का थोड़ा सा।
- When the climate **changes** around them, trees tend to **get better at shaping water.**  
जब उनके आसपास जलवायु बदलती है, पेड़ आमतौर पर पानी को आकार देने में बेहतर हो जाते हैं।

## Innate value

### स्वाभाविक मूल्य

- Scientists argue that there is a reason why we **find the smell of wood so comforting**, and like to press our **noses between the pages of books.**  
वैज्ञानिकों का तर्क है कि ऐसा कारण है कि हम लकड़ी की खुशबू को इतना सुखदायक पाते हैं, और किताबों के पन्नों के बीच अपनी नाक लगाने का आनंद लेते हैं।
- A little over **fifty species of trees constitute 'divine' trees** — trees based on our **faiths and traditions.**



पचास से अधिक प्रजातियों के पेड़ 'दिव्य' पेड़ माने जाते हैं — ये पेड़ हमारे धर्म और परंपराओं पर आधारित हैं।

- **Vasudha Rai's Sacred: The Mysticism, Science, Recipes and Rituals (Ebury 2025)** reflects on the values ascribed to trees like peepal, banyan, rudraksha, and deodar rather than investigating divine antecedents.

वसुधा राय की **Sacred: The Mysticism, Science, Recipes and Rituals (Ebury 2025)** पिपल, बरगद, रुद्राक्ष और देवदार जैसे पेड़ों को दी गई मूल्यवान विशेषताओं पर ध्यान देती है, बजाय कि उनके दिव्य पूर्ववर्ती पहलुओं की जांच करे।

- Why are these trees considered **invaluable**? What is the **scientific basis** of such a belief? ये पेड़ क्यों **अमूल्य** माने जाते हैं? इस विश्वास का **वैज्ञानिक आधार** क्या है?
- Rai, an acclaimed author on wellness, blends **spiritual wisdom with scientific research**, providing new insights on our **sympiotic relationship with trees**.  
राय, एक प्रसिद्ध वेलनेस लेखक, **आध्यात्मिक ज्ञान को वैज्ञानिक शोध के साथ जोड़ती हैं**, और हमारे **पेड़ों के साथ सहजीवी संबंध** पर नई अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान करती हैं।
- **Divine botany** is interesting as it outlines **ancient mysticism, modern science**, and includes **recipes** to build a narrative that helps **reconnect with trees**.  
**दिव्य वनस्पति विज्ञान** दिलचस्प है क्योंकि यह **प्राचीन रहस्यवाद, आधुनिक विज्ञान** को दर्शाता है, और **कहानियों और व्यंजनों** के माध्यम से हमें **पेड़ों से पुनः जुड़ने** में मदद करता है।
- Exploring and reviving this subject is about revisiting our **reverence for the green cover**, which has reached a level where we are devoted to the **intangible god** but do not respect **tangible manifestations of the divine**.  
इस विषय का अन्वेषण और पुनर्जीवन हमारे **हरी आवरण के प्रति श्रद्धा** को दोबारा देखने के बारे में है, जो इस स्तर तक पहुँच गया है कि हम **अदृश्य देवता के प्रति समर्पित** हैं लेकिन **दिव्य की मूर्त रूपों का सम्मान नहीं करते**।
- Every plant must be seen as **sacred** because every plant species supports **bacteria, insects, bees, birds, and mammals**.  
हर पौधे को **पवित्र** माना जाना चाहिए क्योंकि हर पौधे की प्रजाति **बैक्टीरिया, कीड़े, मधुमक्खियां, पक्षी और स्तनधारी** का समर्थन करती है।
- According to ancient scriptures, every **leaf, blade of grass, branch, and trunk** is home to **nature spirits**.  
प्राचीन शास्त्रों के अनुसार, हर **पत्ता, घास की कली, शाखा और तना** प्रकृति की **आत्माओं** का घर है।
- An ancient tale narrates that a **guru asks his disciple** to find a plant that has **no use**; the disciple returns **empty-handed**, finding **no plant without use**.  
एक प्राचीन कथा बताती है कि एक **गुरु अपने शिष्य** से ऐसा पौधा खोजने के लिए कहते हैं जिसका **कोई उपयोग न हो**; शिष्य **खाली हाथ लौटता है**, क्योंकि उसे **कोई ऐसा पौधा नहीं मिलता जिसका उपयोग न हो**।



# India resists full crypto framework, fears systemic risks

Official document cites the RBI's view that containing the risks of cryptocurrencies through regulation would be difficult in practice

**GS III: Crypto**

**Reuters**

NEW DELHI

India is leaning towards not creating legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies in the country and instead will maintain partial oversight, fearing that bringing the digital assets into its mainstream financial system could raise systemic risks, a government document shows.

The document, seen by *Reuters*, cites the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) view that, in practice, containing the risks of cryptocurrencies through regulation would be difficult.

Global acceptance of cryptocurrencies has improved since U.S. President Donald Trump took office and prices of bitcoin have hit record highs.

The U.S. has also passed legislation permitting wider use of stablecoins, which are cryptocurren-



**Cryptic crypto:** Regulating cryptocurrencies in India may cause the sector to become systemic, the document says. AFP

cies backed by fiat currencies making them less vulnerable to wild swings.

China continues to ban cryptocurrencies but is considering a Yuan-backed stablecoin, *Reuters* reported last month. Although, Japan and Australia are developing regulatory frameworks for such virtual assets, they maintain a cautious stance without actively promoting the sector. Regulating cryptocurrencies in India would grant them "legitimacy",

and "may cause the sector to become systemic", the government document, prepared this month, said.

In contrast, while an outright ban can tackle the "alarming" risks from largely speculative crypto assets, it would not be able to tackle peer-to-peer transfers or trades on decentralised exchanges, it added.

India's federal finance ministry and the RBI did not immediately respond to *Reuters* request for comment.

**India resists full crypto framework, fears systemic risks**  
**भारत ने पूर्ण क्रिप्टो ढांचे का विरोध किया, प्रणालीगत जोखिमों का भय**



- The official document cites the **RBI's view** that **containing the risks of cryptocurrencies** through **regulation** would be **difficult** in practice.  
आधिकारिक दस्तावेज में **RBI का मत** उद्धृत किया गया है कि **क्रिप्टोकॉइन्स के जोखिमों को नियंत्रित करना नियमन** के माध्यम से व्यावहारिक रूप से **कठिन** होगा।
- India is leaning towards **not creating legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies** in the country and instead will **maintain partial oversight**, fearing that **bringing the digital assets into its mainstream financial system** could **raise systemic risks**, a government document shows.  
भारत **क्रिप्टोकॉइन्स को विनियमित करने के लिए कानून नहीं बनाने** की ओर झुक रहा है और इसके बजाय **आंशिक निगरानी बनाए रखेगा**, क्योंकि यह डर है कि **डिजिटल संपत्तियों को मुख्यधारा की वित्तीय प्रणाली में लाने से प्रणालीगत जोखिम बढ़ सकते हैं**, सरकारी दस्तावेज में यह दिखाया गया है।
- The document, seen by **Reuters**, cites the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** view that, in practice, **containing the risks of cryptocurrencies through regulation** would be **difficult**.  
रॉयटर्स द्वारा देखे गए दस्तावेज में **भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI)** का यह मत उद्धृत किया गया है कि व्यावहारिक रूप से **नियमन के माध्यम से क्रिप्टोकॉइन्स के जोखिमों को नियंत्रित करना कठिन** होगा।
- **Global acceptance of cryptocurrencies** has improved since **U.S. President Donald Trump** took office and **prices of bitcoin** have hit **record highs**.  
वैश्विक स्तर पर **क्रिप्टोकॉइन्स की स्वीकृति** में वृद्धि हुई है जब से **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने पदभार संभाला और **बिटकॉइन की कीमतें रिकॉर्ड ऊंचाई** पर पहुंच गईं।
- The **U.S.** has also passed **legislation permitting wider use of stablecoins**, which are **cryptocurrencies backed by fiat currencies** making them **less vulnerable to wild swings**.  
अमेरिका ने **स्टेबलकॉइन के व्यापक उपयोग की अनुमति देने वाला कानून** भी पारित किया है, जो **फिएट मुद्राओं द्वारा समर्थित क्रिप्टोकॉइन्स** हैं, जिससे वे **अत्यधिक उतार-चढ़ाव के प्रति कम संवेदनशील** बनती हैं।
- **China** continues to **ban cryptocurrencies** but is **considering a Yuan-backed stablecoin**, Reuters reported last month.  
चीन अभी भी **क्रिप्टोकॉइन्स पर प्रतिबंध** जारी रखे हुए है, लेकिन **युआन समर्थित स्टेबलकॉइन पर विचार** कर रहा है, यह जानकारी पिछले महीने **रॉयटर्स** ने दी थी।
- Although **Japan and Australia** are **developing regulatory frameworks** for such **virtual assets**, they **maintain a cautious stance** without **actively promoting the sector**.  
हालांकि, **जापान और ऑस्ट्रेलिया** ऐसे **वर्चुअल एसेट्स के लिए नियामक ढांचे विकसित** कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वे **इस क्षेत्र को सक्रिय रूप से बढ़ावा दिए बिना सतर्क रुख** बनाए रखते हैं।
- **Regulating cryptocurrencies** in India would **grant them legitimacy**, and **may cause the sector to become systemic**, the **government document**, prepared this month, said.  
इस महीने तैयार किए गए **सरकारी दस्तावेज** में कहा गया है कि **भारत में क्रिप्टोकॉइन्स का नियमन उन्हें वैधता प्रदान करेगा** और **इस क्षेत्र को प्रणालीगत बना सकता है**।
- In contrast, while an **outright ban** can tackle the **"alarming" risks** from **largely speculative crypto assets**, it would **not be able to tackle peer-to-peer transfers or trades** on **decentralised exchanges**, it added.  
इसके विपरीत, एक **पूर्ण प्रतिबंध** मुख्य रूप से **सट्टा क्रिप्टो संपत्तियों से जुड़े "चौकाने वाले" जोखिमों** को नियंत्रित कर सकता है, लेकिन यह **पीयर-टू-पीयर ट्रांसफर या विकेन्द्रीकृत एक्सचेंजों पर व्यापार** को नियंत्रित नहीं कर पाएगा, इसमें जोड़ा गया।
- **India's federal finance ministry** and the **RBI** did **not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment**.  
भारत के **केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्रालय** और **RBI** ने **रॉयटर्स की टिप्पणी के अनुरोध पर तुरंत प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी**।



# 'India set to be among top five shipbuilding nations by 2047'

GS III: Port

**Lalatendu Mishra**  
MUMBAI

With less than 1% share in global shipbuilding currently, India is on course to be among the world's top five countries in this arena by 2047, according to the Centre. "The Government of India, through the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Directorate General of Shipping, is committed to positioning India as a new hub for shipbuilding," Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, said here on Wednesday.

"The nation has a clear goal of ranking among the top 10 maritime nations by 2030 and among the top 5 by 2047," he said, speaking at INMEX SMM India 2025, organised by Informa Markets in India. He said shipbuilding and repair would serve as vital growth engines of India's 'blue economy', generating employment, enhancing global competitiveness, and driving sustainability through green shipping initiatives and modernised infrastructure.

"While the maritime sector currently contributes 4% to India's GDP and just 1% of global tonnage, the vision is to raise its share to 12% of national GDP and advance it from the 16th position globally to the fifth by 2047," said Shyam Jagannathan, Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

"Indian seafarers already



Shantanu Thakur

represent 12% of the global workforce, with a goal to expand this to around 25%, making shipbuilding and repair central to this transformation," he said.

He said the government was strongly supporting the ambition through initiatives such as the Shipbuilding Finance Assistance Scheme, the Maritime Development Fund, shipbuilding and repair clusters, a National Shipbuilding Mission, the Shipbreaking Credit Note scheme, and upfront subsidies of up to 30% for non-conventional builds.

"Under Maritime India Vision India is firmly on course to emerge as a global maritime superpower," he emphasised.

Sabyasachi Hajara, Chairman, INMEX SMM India Advisory Board, said, "The Government of India has taken unprecedented measures to boost the maritime sector, including the establishment of a \$3 billion Maritime Development Fund, with nearly 45% earmarked for shipbuilding and ship repair, and 20% for building Indian tonnage, alongside investments in port infrastructure and coastal shipping."

contributes 4% to India's GDP and just 1% of global tonnage, the vision is to raise its share to 12% of national GDP and advance it from the 16th position globally to the fifth by 2047," said Shyam Jagannathan, Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

# 'India set to be among top five shipbuilding nations by 2047'

## 'भारत 2047 तक शीर्ष पांच जहाज निर्माण देशों में शामिल होने के लिए तैयार'

• With less than 1% share in global shipbuilding currently, India is on course to be among the world's top five countries in this arena by 2047, according to the Centre.

वर्तमान में वैश्विक जहाज निर्माण में 1% से कम हिस्सेदारी के साथ, भारत 2047 तक इस क्षेत्र में दुनिया के शीर्ष पांच देशों में शामिल होने की राह पर है, केंद्र के अनुसार।

• "The Government of India, through the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Directorate General of Shipping, is committed to positioning India as a new hub for shipbuilding," Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, said here on Wednesday.

बंदरगाह, नौवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय और नौवहन महानिदेशालय के माध्यम से भारत सरकार, भारत को जहाज निर्माण के नए केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, यह बात राज्य मंत्री शांतनु ठाकुर, भारत सरकार, ने यहां बुधवार को कही।

• "The nation has a clear goal of ranking among the top 10 maritime nations by 2030 and among the top 5 by 2047," he said, speaking at INMEX SMM India 2025, organised by Informa Markets in India.

उन्होंने कहा कि "देश का स्पष्ट लक्ष्य 2030 तक शीर्ष 10 समुद्री देशों में और 2047 तक शीर्ष 5 देशों में स्थान प्राप्त करना है", यह बात उन्होंने इनमैक्स एसएमएम इंडिया 2025 में कही, जिसका आयोजन इंफोर्मा मार्केट्स इन इंडिया द्वारा किया गया था।

• He said shipbuilding and repair would serve as vital growth engines of India's 'blue economy', generating employment, enhancing global competitiveness, and driving sustainability through green shipping initiatives and modernised infrastructure.

उन्होंने कहा कि जहाज निर्माण और मरम्मत, भारत की 'ब्लू इकोनॉमी' के महत्वपूर्ण विकास इंजन के रूप में काम करेंगे, जो रोजगार सृजित करेंगे, वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बढ़ाएंगे, और हरित नौवहन पहल और आधुनिकीकरण अवसंरचना के माध्यम से सततता को बढ़ावा देंगे।

• "While the maritime sector currently



शाम जगन्नाथन, नौवहन महानिदेशक, बंदरगाह, नौवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय ने कहा, “वर्तमान में समुद्री क्षेत्र, भारत की जीडीपी में 4% योगदान देता है और वैश्विक टन भार में केवल 1%, दृष्टि यह है कि इसे राष्ट्रीय जीडीपी का 12% तक बढ़ाया जाए और 2047 तक वैश्विक स्तर पर 16वें स्थान से पांचवें स्थान तक पहुंचाया जाए।”

- “Indian seafarers already represent 12% of the global workforce, with a goal to expand this to around 25%, making shipbuilding and repair central to this transformation,” he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, “भारतीय नाविक पहले से ही वैश्विक कार्यबल का 12% प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, लक्ष्य इसे 25% तक बढ़ाने का है, जिससे जहाज निर्माण और मरम्मत इस परिवर्तन का केंद्र बन सके।”
- He said the government was strongly supporting the ambition through initiatives such as the Shipbuilding Finance Assistance Scheme, the Maritime Development Fund, shipbuilding and repair clusters, a National Shipbuilding Mission, the Shipbreaking Credit Note scheme, and upfront subsidies of up to 30% for non-conventional builds.  
उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार इस महत्वाकांक्षा का मजबूती से समर्थन कर रही है जैसे कि जहाज निर्माण वित्त सहायता योजना, समुद्री विकास कोष, जहाज निर्माण और मरम्मत क्लस्टर, राष्ट्रीय जहाज निर्माण मिशन, शिपब्रेकिंग क्रेडिट नोट योजना, और गैर-पारंपरिक निर्माण के लिए 30% तक की अग्रिम सब्सिडी।
- “Under Maritime India Vision India is firmly on course to emerge as a global maritime superpower,” he emphasised.  
उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा, “समुद्री भारत दृष्टि के तहत भारत वैश्विक समुद्री महाशक्ति के रूप में उभरने की राह पर दृढ़ता से आगे बढ़ रहा है।”
- Sabyasachi Hajara, Chairman, INMEX SMM India Advisory Board, said, “The Government of India has taken unprecedented measures to boost the maritime sector, including the establishment of a \$3 billion Maritime Development Fund, with nearly 45% earmarked for shipbuilding and ship repair, and 20% for building Indian tonnage, alongside investments in port infrastructure and coastal shipping.”  
सब्यसाची हजारा, अध्यक्ष, इनमैक्स एसएमएम इंडिया सलाहकार बोर्ड, ने कहा, “भारत सरकार ने समुद्री क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अभूतपूर्व कदम उठाए हैं, जिसमें 3 बिलियन डॉलर का समुद्री विकास कोष स्थापित करना, जिसमें लगभग 45% जहाज निर्माण और मरम्मत के लिए, और 20% भारतीय टन भार निर्माण के लिए आरक्षित, साथ ही बंदरगाह अवसंरचना और तटीय नौवहन में निवेश शामिल है।”



# GST reforms to benefit consumption, growth

**GS III: Taxation**

**B. Bhagwan Das**

GST Reforms announced by the GST Council at its 56th Meeting held on September 3, 2025, will boost domestic private consumption, negate the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's punitive tariffs on India's GDP growth, while sustaining its growth momentum as the fastest-growing economy in the world though the GST is still work-in-progress and throws up mixed messaging through the latest round of rate rationalisation.



**Some expense:** GST rate rationalisation is likely to result in a net revenue loss of ₹48,000 crore. GIRI KVS

## Boost consumption

When the Prime Minister of India announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2025 of an impending Diwali Gift to the nation in the form of proposed GST reforms (GST 2.0) that would lower and rationalise the GST rates to benefit the consumers in India, it set the perfect tone for the upcoming festive season. Before his announcement, the RBI, the IMF and several credit rating agencies had forecast India's GDP growth to be around 6.5% for FY26, powered largely by agriculture, government infrastructure spending, manufacturing, construction and services sector growth.

As private consumption was lagging, the Government tried to address this through Income Tax reforms in the Union Budget for 2025-26, that increased the exemption limit, widened the tax slabs and lowered the rates of income tax. The Government also promised Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms and tasked the Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into specific areas of GST reforms that can boost private consumption

expenditure.

The RBI also played its part by cutting lending rates (Repo rate came down from 6.5% to 5.5%).

## Counter Trump's tariffs

As things were looking up on the growth front, the 50% reciprocal-cum-punitive tariffs imposed by the U.S. on some Indian exports to the U.S., which came into effect from August 27 this year, threatened to derail India's growth momentum in terms of shaving off nearly half a percentage point from India's GDP growth in the current fiscal. It is against this backdrop that the unanimous decision of the GST Council in its 56th meeting held on September 3, to exempt a large number of consumer goods of daily use and to limit the GST rates to largely two rates of 5% and 18%, from the prevailing four rates of 5, 12, 18 and 28% (the last carrying a compensation cess ranging from 1% to 22% to benefit the producer States), with a 40% third rate on a small number of sin and luxury goods, and the reorganisation of commodities and services to fit into these GST rates, came as a



GST 2.0 reforms are still work in progress, as fossil fuels, liquor and electricity, fiercely resisted by States due to revenue, fiscal autonomy implications, are not part of the GST regime

breath of fresh air to lift the pall of gloom of the U.S. tariffs and set the upcoming festive mood in motion.

## Sustaining GDP growth

As per the press briefing of the Government of India, GST rate rationalisation is likely to result in a net revenue loss of ₹48,000 crore. However, according to some experts, the resultant buoyancy of the economy may offset some of these revenue losses, with the GDP of India expected to grow by an additional 0.5 to 1%, thereby offsetting the growth impact of Trump's punitive tariffs on Indian exports. The GST rate rationalisation is going to benefit both the rural and urban consumers (especially the middle class) and give a fillip to overall domestic private consumption. Increased consumer demand due to fall

in prices brought about by GST rate rationalisation, will benefit agriculture, dairy farming and a whole lot of industries like processed foods, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), consumer durables, pharmaceuticals, leather, textiles, automobiles and auto components, cement, housing, construction and services like hospitality, healthcare, health and life insurance. In the case of the exemption from GST for health and life insurance premiums, it is said that while premiums may not go down because of the non-availability of input tax credit (ITC) due to this exemption, the overall individual payment by the policy holders towards insurance premiums will decline, making insurance more attractive to the consumers and thereby widening the insurance cover of individuals and households in the country.

## Work in progress

However, despite all the hullabaloo, surrounding GST 2.0 reforms, it is still a work in progress, as fossil fuels, liquor and electricity, fiercely resisted by States because of revenue and fiscal autonomy impli-

cations, are not part of the GST regime. Even after the reforms, there are effectively three rates of GST, namely, 5, 18 and 40% (without cess) while the consumer expectation was an ideal two rate GST regime of 5 or 6% and 16%. Some States even openly demanded to be compensated for their potential revenue losses, while others wanted to see a continuation of the compensation cess beyond its mandated expiry date. The GST Council, conscious of these pulls and pressures and the need to cut the revenue losses for both the Centre and the States, has created a new higher GST rate of 40% (by adding the discontinued rates of 12 and 28%), ostensibly to discourage the consumption of sin goods like tobacco in various forms, cigarettes, pan masala, gutka, on which compensation cesses will continue till such time the Centre pays off loans it borrowed on behalf of the States. High-end motorcycles, luxury cars, SUV's, yachts and private jets also come under the 40% GST rate. Interestingly, every time cigarettes and beedis are subjected to higher rates of tax, the monopoly power of the existing players further goes up.

## Mixed messaging

The taxation of cars, sedans and SUV's is sending out mixed messages. Originally, electric vehicles (EV's) were supposed to be taxed on par with petrol and diesel vehicles, but giving consideration to their representation, that they are still a nascent industry in India with inadequate support infrastructure like charging stations, the GST rate of 5% has been retained irrespective of engine capacity and length of the vehicle, unlike their pe-

trol and diesel counterparts. If the intention is to encourage automobile buyers to transition to clean fuels, then there should also have been a differential treatment of CNG, petrol and diesel vehicles. Based on engine capacity and length, while all automobile buyers, except EV buyers for whom there is no change, enjoy a GST rate reduction of 5 to 10%, the sub-4 metre and up to 1200 CC for petrol and 1500 CC for diesel categories get the highest rate reduction of 10%, while those above 4 metres and above 1200CC for petrol and 1500CC for diesel, benefit by 5% GST rate reduction. Again, some hoteliers are agast that while Indian breads (read rotis) are exempt from GST, idlis and dosas are not!

## Consumer shift ignored

Given that consumer preferences for cars have moved away from compact cars and hatchbacks to SUVs in general, is the Government nudging consumers to move back to entry-level cars and compact hatchbacks through the new GST rates? What impact will it have on the automobile industry in general and consumer preferences for automobiles in particular, going forward is a moot question only time can answer. Also, retaining 18% GST on automobile insurance and automobile maintenance services and auto repairs leave vehicle owners disappointed. If a full exemption, like in the case of life and health insurance may not have been advisable given the revenue implications, a possible GST rate cut to 5% must have been explored.

*(The writer is former head and associate professor of economics, Loyola College)*

## GST reforms to benefit consumption, growth

### खपत और विकास को लाभ पहुंचाने के लिए जीएसटी सुधार

- **GST Reforms** announced by the GST Council at its **56th Meeting** held on **September 3, 2025**, will boost domestic private consumption, negate the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's punitive tariffs on India's GDP growth, while sustaining its growth momentum as the fastest-growing economy in the world though the GST is still work-in-progress and throws up mixed messaging through the latest round of rate rationalisation.

जीएसटी सुधार जो जीएसटी परिषद द्वारा अपनी 56वीं बैठक में 3 सितंबर, 2025 को घोषित किए गए, घरेलू निजी खपत को बढ़ावा देंगे, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के भारत की जीडीपी वृद्धि पर दंडात्मक टैरिफ के प्रभाव को समाप्त करेंगे, जबकि इसे दुनिया की सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था के रूप में बनाए रखेंगे, हालांकि जीएसटी अभी भी कार्य प्रगति पर है और दर तर्कसंगतीकरण के नवीनतम दौर के माध्यम से मिश्रित संदेश दे रहा है।



- **Boost consumption**  
खपत को बढ़ावा देना
- When the **Prime Minister of India** announced from the **ramparts of the Red Fort** on **August 15, 2025** of an impending **Diwali Gift** to the nation in the form of proposed **GST reforms (GST 2.0)** that would **lower and rationalise the GST rates** to **benefit the consumers in India**, it set the **perfect tone for the upcoming festive season**.  
जब भारत के प्रधानमंत्री ने 15 अगस्त, 2025 को लाल किले की प्राचीर से प्रस्तावित जीएसटी सुधार (जीएसटी 2.0) के रूप में राष्ट्र को दिवाली उपहार देने की घोषणा की, जो जीएसटी दरों को कम और तर्कसंगत बनाएगा और भारत में उपभोक्ताओं को लाभ पहुंचाएगा, इसने आगामी त्योहारी सीजन के लिए सही माहौल बनाया।
- Before his announcement, the **RBI**, the **IMF** and several **credit rating agencies** had forecast **India's GDP growth** to be around **6.5% for FY26**, powered largely by **agriculture**, **government infrastructure spending**, **manufacturing**, **construction** and **services sector growth**.  
उनकी घोषणा से पहले, आरबीआई, आईएमएफ और कई क्रेडिट रेटिंग एजेंसियों ने भारत की जीडीपी वृद्धि को वित्त वर्ष 26 के लिए लगभग 6.5% रहने का अनुमान लगाया था, जो मुख्य रूप से कृषि, सरकारी बुनियादी ढांचे पर खर्च, विनिर्माण, निर्माण और सेवा क्षेत्र की वृद्धि से संचालित थी।
- As **private consumption** was lagging, the **Government** tried to address this through **Income Tax reforms** in the **Union Budget for 2025-26**, that **increased the exemption limit**, **widened the tax slabs** and **lowered the rates of income tax**.  
चूंकि निजी खपत पिछड़ रही थी, सरकार ने इसे संबोधित करने के लिए 2025-26 के केंद्रीय बजट में आयकर सुधारों के माध्यम से छूट सीमा बढ़ाई, कर स्लैब चौड़े किए और आयकर दरें घटाईं।
- The **Government** also promised **Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms** and tasked the **Group of Ministers (GoM)** to look into **specific areas of GST reforms** that can **boost private consumption expenditure**.  
सरकार ने वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) सुधारों का भी वादा किया और मंत्रियों के समूह (गोएम) को यह देखने का कार्य सौंपा कि जीएसटी सुधार के कौन से विशिष्ट क्षेत्र निजी खपत व्यय को बढ़ावा दे सकते हैं।
- The **RBI** also played its part by **cutting lending rates (Repo rate)** came down from **6.5% to 5.5%**.  
आरबीआई ने भी ऋण दरों में कटौती (रेपो दर 6.5% से घटकर 5.5% हुई) करके अपना योगदान दिया।

### Counter Trump's tariffs ट्रंप के टैरिफ का मुकाबला

- As things were looking up on the **growth front**, the **50% reciprocal-cum-punitive tariffs** imposed by the **U.S.** on some **Indian exports to the U.S.**, which came into effect from **August 27 this year**, threatened to **derail India's growth momentum** in terms of **shaving off nearly half a percentage point from India's GDP growth** in the **current fiscal**.  
जब विकास के मोर्चे पर चीजें बेहतर दिख रही थीं, अमेरिका द्वारा कुछ भारतीय निर्यातों पर 50% पारस्परिक-दंडात्मक टैरिफ, जो 27 अगस्त से प्रभावी हुआ, ने भारत की वृद्धि की गति को बाधित करने और वर्तमान वित्त वर्ष में भारत की जीडीपी वृद्धि को लगभग आधा प्रतिशत अंक घटाने की धमकी दी।
- It is against this backdrop that the **unanimous decision of the GST Council in its 56th meeting held on September 3**, to **exempt a large number of consumer goods of daily use** and to **limit the GST rates to largely two rates of 5% and 18%**, from the **prevailing four rates of 5, 12, 18 and 28%**, with a **40% third rate on a small number of sin and luxury goods**, and the **reorganisation of commodities and services to fit into these GST rates**, came as a **breath of fresh air** to lift the **pall of gloom of the U.S. tariffs** and set the **upcoming festive mood in motion**.  
इसी पृष्ठभूमि में जीएसटी परिषद का 3 सितंबर को हुई 56वीं बैठक में सर्वसम्मत निर्णय आया, जिसमें दैनिक उपयोग की बड़ी संख्या में उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं को छूट देने और जीएसटी दरों को मुख्य रूप से 5% और 18% तक सीमित करने का निर्णय लिया गया, जो वर्तमान में 5, 12, 18 और 28% की चार दरें थीं, और कुछ पाप और लक्जरी वस्तुओं पर 40% तीसरी दर के साथ, तथा इन जीएसटी दरों में वस्तुओं और सेवाओं का पुनर्गठन किया गया। यह निर्णय अमेरिकी टैरिफ की निराशा को दूर करने और आगामी त्योहारी माहौल को गति देने के लिए ताजा हवा का झोंका बनकर आया।



## Sustaining GDP growth जीडीपी वृद्धि को बनाए रखना

- As per the **press briefing of the Government of India**, **GST rate rationalisation** is likely to result in a **net revenue loss of ₹48,000 crore**.  
भारत सरकार की प्रेस ब्रीफिंग के अनुसार, जीएसटी दर तर्कसंगतीकरण से ₹48,000 करोड़ का शुद्ध राजस्व नुकसान होने की संभावना है।
- However, according to some experts, the **resultant buoyancy of the economy** may **offset some of these revenue losses**, with the **GDP of India expected to grow by an additional 0.5 to 1%**, thereby **offsetting the growth impact of Trump's punitive tariffs on Indian exports**.  
हालांकि, कुछ विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, अर्थव्यवस्था में उत्पन्न उत्साह इन राजस्व नुकसानों में से कुछ की भरपाई कर सकता है, और भारत की जीडीपी में अतिरिक्त 0.5% से 1% की वृद्धि होने की संभावना है, जिससे भारतीय निर्यातों पर ट्रंप के दंडात्मक टैरिफ के वृद्धि प्रभाव की भरपाई हो सकेगी।
- The **GST rate rationalisation** is going to **benefit both the rural and urban consumers** (especially the **middle class**) and **give a fillip to overall domestic private consumption**.  
जीएसटी दर तर्कसंगतीकरण ग्रामीण और शहरी दोनों उपभोक्ताओं (विशेषकर मध्यम वर्ग) को लाभ पहुंचाएगा और कुल घरेलू निजी खपत को बढ़ावा देगा।
- Increased **consumer demand** due to **fall in prices brought about by GST rate rationalisation**, will **benefit agriculture, dairy farming, and industries like processed foods, FMCG, consumer durables, pharmaceuticals, leather, textiles, automobiles, auto components, cement, housing, construction and services like hospitality, healthcare, health and life insurance**.  
जीएसटी दर तर्कसंगतीकरण के कारण कीमतों में गिरावट से बढ़ी हुई उपभोक्ता मांग, कृषि, डेयरी फार्मिंग, और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य, एफएमसीजी, उपभोक्ता टिकाऊ वस्तुएं, फार्मास्यूटिकल्स, चमड़ा, वस्त्र, ऑटोमोबाइल, ऑटो कंपोनेंट्स, सीमेंट, आवास, निर्माण और आतिथ्य, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, स्वास्थ्य और जीवन बीमा जैसी सेवाओं को लाभ पहुंचाएगी।
- In the case of the **exemption from GST for health and life insurance premiums**, it is said that while **premiums may not go down** because of the **non-availability of input tax credit (ITC)** due to this exemption, the **overall individual payment by the policy holders towards insurance premiums will decline**, making **insurance more attractive** to the consumers and thereby **widening the insurance cover** of individuals and households in the country.  
स्वास्थ्य और जीवन बीमा प्रीमियम पर जीएसटी से छूट के मामले में कहा गया है कि हालांकि इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट (आईटीसी) की अनुपलब्धता के कारण प्रीमियम में कमी नहीं हो सकती, लेकिन पॉलिसी धारकों द्वारा बीमा प्रीमियम की कुल व्यक्तिगत भुगतान राशि घटेगी, जिससे उपभोक्ताओं के लिए बीमा अधिक आकर्षक हो जाएगा और इस प्रकार देश में व्यक्तियों और परिवारों का बीमा कवरेज बढ़ेगा।

## Work in progress कार्य प्रगति पर है

- However, despite all the **hullabaloo surrounding GST 2.0 reforms**, it is still a **work in progress**, as **fossil fuels, liquor and electricity**, fiercely resisted by **States** because of **revenue and fiscal autonomy implications**, are **not part of the GST regime**.  
हालांकि, जीएसटी 2.0 सुधारों के चारों ओर की हलचल के बावजूद, यह अभी भी कार्य प्रगति पर है, क्योंकि राजस्व और वित्तीय स्वायत्तता के प्रभावों के कारण राज्य जीवाश्म ईंधन, शराब और बिजली का कड़ा विरोध करते हैं, और ये जीएसटी शासन का हिस्सा नहीं हैं।
- Even after the **reforms**, there are effectively **three rates of GST**, namely, **5%, 18% and 40%** (without cess) while the **consumer expectation** was an **ideal two rate GST regime** of **5 or 6% and 16%**.  
सुधारों के बाद भी, जीएसटी की प्रभावी दरें तीन हैं, अर्थात् 5%, 18% और 40% (बिना सेस), जबकि उपभोक्ता की अपेक्षा एक आदर्श दो दर जीएसटी प्रणाली की थी, यानी 5 या 6% और 16%।
- Some **States** even openly **demand to be compensated for their potential revenue losses**, while others **wanted to see a continuation of the compensation cess** beyond its **mandated expiry date**.



कुछ राज्यों ने खुले तौर पर संभावित राजस्व हानि के लिए मुआवजे की मांग की, जबकि अन्य मुआवजा सेस की जारी रखने की मांग कर रहे थे, जो इसके अनिवार्य समाप्ति तिथि से आगे बढ़े।

- The **GST Council**, conscious of these pulls and pressures and the need to cut the revenue losses for both the Centre and the States, has created a new higher GST rate of 40% (by adding the discontinued rates of 12 and 28%), ostensibly to discourage the consumption of sin goods like tobacco, cigarettes, pan masala, gutka, on which compensation cesses will continue till such time the Centre pays off loans it borrowed on behalf of the States.

जीएसटी परिषद, इन खींचतान और दबावों तथा केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों के लिए राजस्व हानि को कम करने की आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए, एक नई उच्च जीएसटी दर 40% (12 और 28% की समाप्त दरों को जोड़कर) बनाई है, जो तंबाकू, सिगरेट, पान मसाला, गुटका जैसी पाप वस्तुओं की खपत को हतोत्साहित करने के लिए है, जिन पर मुआवजा सेस तब तक जारी रहेगा जब तक कि केंद्र राज्यों की ओर से लिए गए ऋण का भुगतान नहीं कर देता।

- High-end motorcycles, luxury cars, SUVs, yachts and private jets also come under the 40% GST rate.

हाई-एंड मोटरसाइकिल, लक्जरी कारें, एसयूवी, याचट्स और प्राइवेट जेट्स भी 40% जीएसटी दर के अंतर्गत आते हैं।

- Interestingly, every time cigarettes and beedis are subjected to higher rates of tax, the monopoly power of the existing players further goes up.

दिलचस्प बात यह है कि हर बार सिगरेट और बीड़ी पर उच्च कर दरें लगाने से, मौजूदा खिलाड़ियों की एकाधिकार शक्ति और बढ़ जाती है।

## Mixed messaging

### मिश्रित संदेश

- The taxation of cars, sedans and SUVs is sending out mixed messages.

कारों, सेडान और एसयूवी पर कराधान मिश्रित संदेश दे रहा है।

- Originally, electric vehicles (EVs) were supposed to be taxed on par with petrol and diesel vehicles, but giving consideration to their representation, that they are still a nascent industry in India with inadequate support infrastructure like charging stations, the GST rate of 5% has been retained irrespective of engine capacity and length of the vehicle, unlike their petrol and diesel counterparts.

मूल रूप से, इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ईवी) पर पेट्रोल और डीजल वाहनों के बराबर कर लगाया जाना था, लेकिन यह देखते हुए कि वे अभी भी भारत में अपर्याप्त समर्थन अवसंरचना जैसे चार्जिंग स्टेशन के साथ एक नवजात उद्योग हैं, जीएसटी दर 5% रखी गई है, चाहे इंजन क्षमता और वाहन की लंबाई कुछ भी हो, उनके पेट्रोल और डीजल समकक्षों के विपरीत।

- If the intention is to encourage automobile buyers to transition to clean fuels, then there should also have been a differential treatment of CNG, petrol and diesel vehicles.

यदि उद्देश्य ऑटोमोबाइल खरीदारों को स्वच्छ ईंधन की ओर स्थानांतरित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना है, तो सीएनजी, पेट्रोल और डीजल वाहनों का भी अलग-अलग उपचार होना चाहिए था।

- Based on engine capacity and length, while all automobile buyers, except EV buyers for whom there is no change, enjoy a GST rate reduction of 5 to 10%, the sub-4 metre and up to 1200 CC for petrol and 1500 CC for diesel categories get the highest rate reduction of 10%, while those above 4 metres and above 1200CC for petrol and 1500CC for diesel, benefit by 5% GST rate reduction.

इंजन क्षमता और लंबाई के आधार पर, सभी ऑटोमोबाइल खरीदारों, ईवी खरीदारों को छोड़कर, जिन्हें कोई बदलाव नहीं मिला, 5 से 10% की जीएसटी दर में कटौती का लाभ मिला, 4 मीटर से कम और पेट्रोल के लिए 1200 सीसी तथा डीजल के लिए 1500 सीसी तक की श्रेणी को 10% की उच्चतम दर कटौती मिली, जबकि 4 मीटर से अधिक और पेट्रोल के लिए 1200 सीसी तथा डीजल के लिए 1500 सीसी से अधिक श्रेणी वालों को 5% जीएसटी दर कटौती का लाभ मिला।

- Again, some hoteliers are aghast that while Indian breads (rotis) are exempt from GST, idlis and dosas are not!

फिर से, कुछ होटल व्यवसायी हैरान हैं कि जहां भारतीय ब्रेड (रोटी) जीएसटी से मुक्त है, वहीं इडली और डोसा नहीं!



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

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- **Consumer shift ignored**  
उपभोक्ता बदलाव की अनदेखी
- Given that **consumer preferences for cars have moved away from compact cars and hatchbacks to SUVs**, is the **Government nudging consumers to move back to entry-level cars and compact hatchbacks** through the new **GST rates**?  
यह देखते हुए कि कारों के लिए उपभोक्ता वरीयताएँ कॉम्पैक्ट कारों और हैचबैक से एसयूवी की ओर स्थानांतरित हो गई हैं, क्या सरकार उपभोक्ताओं को नई जीएसटी दरों के माध्यम से प्रवेश-स्तर की कारों और कॉम्पैक्ट हैचबैक की ओर लौटने के लिए प्रेरित कर रही है?
- What **impact will it have on the automobile industry in general and consumer preferences for automobiles in particular**, going forward is a **moot question only time can answer**.  
भविष्य में इसका \*\*ऑटो

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