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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

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PCS Special:	18 November 2025
UPPSC	
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UPPSC	18/11/2025
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Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Centre announces Gopal Ratna awards

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aravind Yashavant Patil, a farmer from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, won this year's National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA), constituted by the Union Animal Husbandry Ministry, for best dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds.

Meenangadi Ksheerolpadaka Sahakarana Sangham Ltd, Wayanad, Kerala, won the award for best in the category of Dairy Cooperative society/ Milk Producer company/ Dairy Farmer producer organisation.

For the North Eastern and Himalayan regions, Vijay Lata, from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, is the best farmer, and Kulha Duud Udpadhak Sahkari Samiti, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, is the best cooperative society.

Various awards in the dairy sector will be presented on November 26, as part of the National Milk Day celebrations.

The Centre received 2,081 applications from farmers and cooperatives for this year's NGRA.

Centre announces Gopal Ratna awards केंद्र ने गोपाल रत्न पुरस्कारों की घोषणा की

• **Aravind Yashavant Patil**, a farmer from **Kolhapur, Maharashtra**, won this year's **National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA)**, constituted by the **Union Animal Husbandry Ministry**, for best dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/bu• alo breeds.

अरविंद यशवंत पाटिल, कोल्हापुर, महाराष्ट्र के एक किसान, को इस वर्ष के राष्ट्रीय गोपाल रत्न पुरस्कार (NGRA) से सम्मानित किया गया, जिसे केंद्रीय पशुपालन मंत्रालय द्वारा स्थापित किया गया है, स्वदेशी गाय/भैंस नस्लों को पालने वाले सर्वश्रेष्ठ डेयरी किसान के लिए।

• **Meenangadi Ksheerolpadaka Sahakarana Sangham Ltd, Wayanad, Kerala**, won the award for best in the category of **Dairy Cooperative society/ Milk Producer company/ Dairy Farmer producer organisation**.

मीनंगडी क्षीरोत्पादक सहकारणा संघम लिमिटेड, वायनाड, केरल, ने डेयरी सहकारी समिति/ दूध उत्पादक कंपनी/ डेयरी किसान उत्पादक संगठन श्रेणी में सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुरस्कार जीता।

• For the **North Eastern and Himalayan regions**, **Vijay Lata**, from **Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh**, is the best farmer, and **Kulha Duud Udpadhak Sahkari Samiti, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand**, is the best cooperative society.

पूर्वोत्तर और हिमालयी क्षेत्रों के लिए, विजय लता, हमीरपुर, हिमाचल प्रदेश से सर्वश्रेष्ठ किसान हैं, और कुल्हा दूध उत्पादक सहकारी समिति, ऊधम सिंह नगर, उत्तराखंड, सर्वश्रेष्ठ सहकारी समिति है।

• Various awards in the dairy sector will be presented on **November 26**, as part of the **National Milk Day** celebrations.

डेयरी क्षेत्र में विभिन्न पुरस्कार 26 नवंबर को राष्ट्रीय दुग्ध दिवस समारोह के हिस्से के रूप में प्रदान किए जाएंगे।

• The **Centre** received **2,081 applications** from farmers and cooperatives for this year's NGRA.

इस वर्ष के NGRA के लिए केंद्र को किसानों और सहकारी समितियों से **2,081 आवेदन** प्राप्त हुए।



Gurpreet wins silver; Indians finish third

PCS

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Olympian Gurpreet Singh won the silver in the 25m centre fire pistol, losing out on gold on fewer inner 10s to Ukraine's Pavlo Korostylov on the final day of competition at the ISSF World Championships in Cairo. Yann Pierre Louis Fridrici of France won bronze.

Gurpreet shot a total of 584-18x in the precision and rapid stages but Korostylov's 29 inner 10's and a perfect score of 100 in the final rapid round helped him edge ahead. After the precision stage, Gurpreet, who was ninth, fought back on Monday with a score of 296 in rapid. In contrast, Harpreet Singh, second at the end of day one, could only manage 286-6x in rapid to finish ninth. Sahil Choudhary finished 28th with the trio together placing fifth as a team.

India ended third in the competition with 13 medals including three gold, six silver and four bronze. China finished on top with 21 medals including 12 gold. South Korea is placed second with 14 medals.

Gurpreet wins silver; Indians finish third गुरप्रीत ने जीता रजत; भारतीय तीसरे स्थान पर रहे

- Olympian **Gurpreet Singh** won the **silver** in the **25m centre fire pistol**, losing out on gold on fewer **inner 10s** to Ukraine's **Pavlo Korostylov** on the final day of competition at the **ISSF World Championships** in Cairo.

ओलिंपियन **गुरप्रीत सिंह** ने **25 मीटर सेंटर फायर पिस्टल** में **रजत** जीता, और **आंतरिक 10s** कम होने के कारण यूक्रेन के **पावलो कोरोस्टाइलोव** से स्वर्ण चूक गए। यह मुकाबला **काहिरा में ISSF विश्व चैंपियनशिप** के अंतिम दिन हुआ।

- Yann Pierre Louis Fridrici** of France won **bronze**.

फ्रांस के **यान पियरे लुई फ्रिडरिसी** ने **कांस्य** जीता।

- Gurpreet shot a total of **584-18x** in the precision and rapid stages but Korostylov's **29 inner 10s** and a perfect score of **100** in the final rapid round helped him edge ahead.

गुरप्रीत ने प्रिसिजन और रैपिड चरणों में कुल **584-18x** का स्कोर किया, लेकिन कोरोस्टाइलोव के **29 आंतरिक 10s** और अंतिम रैपिड राउंड में **100** के परफेक्ट स्कोर ने उसे आगे बढ़ाया।

- After the precision stage, Gurpreet, who was **ninth**, fought back on Monday with a score of **296** in rapid succession.

प्रिसिजन चरण के बाद **नौवें** स्थान पर रहे गुरप्रीत ने सोमवार को रैपिड में **296** का स्कोर कर वापसी की।

- In contrast, **Harpreet Singh**, second at the end of day one, could only manage **286-6x** in rapid succession to finish ninth.

इसके विपरीत, पहले दिन के अंत में दूसरे स्थान पर रहे **हरप्रीत सिंह** रैपिड में केवल **286-6x** कर पाए और **नौवें** स्थान पर रहे।

- Sahil Choudhary** finished **28th** with the trio together placing **fifth as a team**.

साहिल चौधरी **28वें** स्थान पर रहे और तीनों ने मिलकर **टीम के रूप में पांचवां** स्थान हासिल किया।

- India ended **third** in the competition with **13 medals** including **three gold, six silver and four bronze**.

भारत ने प्रतियोगिता में **13 पदक** (जिसमें **तीन स्वर्ण, छह रजत और चार कांस्य** शामिल हैं) जीतकर **तीसरा** स्थान प्राप्त किया।

- China** finished on top with **21 medals** including **12 gold**.

चीन ने **21 पदकों** (जिसमें **12 स्वर्ण** शामिल हैं) के साथ शीर्ष स्थान हासिल किया।

- South Korea** is placed **second** with **14 medals**.

दक्षिण कोरिया **14 पदकों** के साथ **दूसरे** स्थान पर रहा।



GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography

TOPICS COVERED

18 November 2025

History

1. **Remembering Batukeshwar Dutt, the forgotten comrade of Bhagat Singh**
भगत सिंह के भूले-बिसरे साथी बटुकेश्वर दत्त को याद करते हुए

Society

2. **45 Indian pilgrims killed in Saudi mishap**
सऊदी दुर्घटना में 45 भारतीय तीर्थयात्री मारे गए
3. **The trajectory of anti-rape laws in India**
भारत में एंटी-रेप कानूनों की प्रगति

History

18/11/2025

Anniversary of revolution



GS I: History

Breaching the iron curtain: People participate in an event marking the 36th anniversary of the 1989 Velvet Revolution that toppled the Communist government in then Czechoslovakia, in Prague, Czech Republic, on Monday. REUTERS

Breaching the iron curtain: People participate in an event marking the 36th anniversary of the 1989 **Velvet Revolution** that toppled the Communist government in then Czechoslovakia, in Prague, Czech Republic,



Remembering Batukeshwar Dutt, the forgotten comrade of Bhagat Singh

Celebrated briefly for his role in the Delhi Assembly bombing, Batukeshwar Dutt, who was born on November 18, 1910, spent much of his life in obscurity, neglected by the nation he helped liberate. His story is one of courage, sacrifice, and erasure

CS I History

MOB

Chaman Lal

On April 8, 1929, the *Hindustan Times* in Delhi rushed out a special evening edition, while *The Statesman* in Calcutta cabled its story to London to evade colonial censorship. That afternoon, two young men had thrown harmless bombs into the Central Assembly Hall, now Parliament, raising slogans of *Inquilab Zindabad* (Long Live the Revolution) and *Samrajyavad ka Nash Ho* (Down with Imperialism). They scattered red pamphlets titled 'To Make the Deaf Hear'. Reporters caught the words, and newspapers across India and abroad carried dramatic headlines. One international paper proclaimed: "Reds Storm the Assembly!"

The two young men were Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt. Both were arrested, tried, and convicted. While Bhagat Singh went on to become one of the most iconic figures of the Indian freedom struggle, his comrade Dutt gradually faded from public memory, remembered only occasionally, and rarely honoured with the dignity he deserved.

A revolutionary's journey

Batukeshwar Dutt was born on November 18, 1910, in the Burdwan district of Bengal. Convicted in the *Delhi Assembly Bomb Case* on June 12, 1929, he spent nine years in prisons across India – Multan, Jhelum, Trichinopoly, Salem, and even the Andamans. In each jail he resorted to hunger strikes, twice fasting for over a month, demanding humane treatment for political prisoners.

When Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were executed in Lahore on March 23, 1931, Dutt was languishing in the Salem jail. That night he dreamt of Singh in chains, a vision that haunted him. Released in 1938, Dutt was

re-arrested during the Quit India movement of 1942 and spent another four years in jail.

After his release, he married Anjali, a school teacher, and settled in Patna with their daughter Bharti, who later became a Professor of Economics at Patna College. But life after independence offered little stability. The Bihar government allotted him a coal depot, but it proved financially unviable. President Rajendra Prasad intervened, urging the State to extend due consideration to him. The gesture resulted only in a token nomination to the Bihar Legislative Council – for the remainder of an existing member's six-month term.

Despite such neglect, Dutt remained respected by many political leaders. His health, however, declined in the mid-1960s. Afflicted with bone cancer, he was admitted to AIIMS, New Delhi, where he endured eight months of suffering. Leading orthopaedist Dr. Vig told his comrades that treatment could only ensure a "painless death". Plans to send him abroad were abandoned after the Indian High Commission in London reported that Delhi offered care equal to Europe's. Dutt passed away on July 20, 1965. Honouring his last wish, he was cremated at Hussainiwala in Punjab, alongside Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev. The site, which remained in Pakistan until 1965, had only recently come under Indian control for the construction of a memorial to the martyrs.

Neglect and recognition

For a brief moment after his death, the nation honoured Dutt. His funeral procession was massive, attended by the President, Prime Minister, central ministers, the Lok Sabha Speaker, and the Punjab Chief Minister. The funeral drew vast numbers of people along the streets.

Yet today, few remember that the farewell accorded to him rivalled those of the most revered leaders of his time.

Ironically, the Parliament building where he and Bhagat Singh had staged their act of defiance still does not display their portraits. In contrast, the portrait of V. D. Savarkar, once an accused in Gandhi's assassination case (though later acquitted), hangs prominently opposite Gandhi's. In 2014, MPs including Dharamvir Gandhi and Sitaram Yechury protested this omission, but the demand to include Bhagat Singh – and by extension Dutt – was ignored.

The story of this neglect was first documented by Chaman Lal Azad, a fellow revolutionary who later became a journalist. While caring for Dutt at AIIMS, Chaman Lal Azad wrote a series of articles in the Urdu daily *Pratap*. These were later compiled as *Bhagat Singh aur Dutt ki Amar Kahani* (1966), one of the most authentic, if scattered, accounts of the revolutionary movement. The book contains Bhagat Singh's letters, court statements, and postcards – some published for the first time – along with Gandhi's letter to Dutt and rare photographs of him with Nehru and Indira Gandhi in 1963.

The book also records Dutt's conversations about fellow revolutionaries. In it, he spoke of Hari Kishan Talwar, who was hanged in 1931 for shooting Punjab's Lieutenant Governor, and of his comrade Ehsan Ilahi, who migrated to Pakistan, became a musician, and died penniless despite Chaman Lal Azad's attempts to help him. Dutt also disapproved of films made on Bhagat Singh in the 1950s, which he and other comrades protested against. Only Manoj Kumar's *Shaheed* in 1965 won their approval, with the actor personally consulting Dutt.

Equally touching are accounts of his

bond with Bhagat Singh's family. Mata Vidyawati, Bhagat Singh's mother, spent long periods with Dutt in his final days. She even sold a Hindi epic poem on Bhagat Singh, gifted to her by poet Sri Krishan Saral, to raise funds for Dutt's treatment. Revolutionary comrades such as Shiv Verma, Sadashiv Malkapurkar, and Jatin Das's brother Kiran Das remained constantly by his side. Leaders including Home Minister Gulzari Lal Nanda, Defence Minister Y. B. Chavan, Jagjivan Ram, Swaran Singh, and Dr. Sushila Nayyar also visited him in hospital, though such respect was rarely extended while he was alive and struggling.

Ode to the forgotten soldier

Chaman Lal Azad used his book to underline Bhagat Singh's intellectual legacy – his ability to rise above religion and envision socialism as the foundation of India's future. Dutt himself remarked that Singh was far-sighted, always with a book in hand, reading wherever he went.

Despite having a shared vision of India's future, history has not treated Dutt kindly. He remains absent from memorials, textbooks, and the national consciousness. While never works such as Justice Anil Verma's *Bhagat Singh ke Sahyogi: Batukeshwar Dutt* and Bhairav Lal Das's *Vipvi Batukeshwar Dutt* (both post-2007) have attempted to reclaim his place, Chaman Lal Azad's earlier book, rich with first-hand memories, is nearly lost. Its Hindi translation, commissioned years ago by the Government's Publications Division, still lies unpublished due to copyright hurdles.

Dutt's life illustrates how revolutionaries in India are often remembered only in passing.

Chaman Lal is a professor (retired) and a former chairperson of the Centre of Indian Languages at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Remembering Batukeshwar Dutt, the forgotten comrade of Bhagat Singh भगत सिंह के भूले-बिसरे साथी बटुकेश्वर दत्त को याद करते हुए

- On April 8, 1929, the *Hindustan Times* in Delhi rushed out a special evening edition, while *The Statesman* in Calcutta cabled its story to London to evade colonial censorship. 8 अप्रैल 1929 को दिल्ली के हिंदुस्तान टाइम्स ने विशेष शाम का संस्करण निकाला, जबकि कलकत्ता के द स्टेट्समैन ने औपनिवेशिक सेंसरशिप से बचने के लिए अपनी खबर लंदन को केबल की।
- That afternoon, two young men had thrown harmless bombs into the Central Assembly Hall, now Parliament, raising slogans of *Inquilab Zindabad* (Long Live the Revolution) and *Samrajyavad ka Nash Ho* (Down with Imperialism). उस दोपहर दो युवकों ने सेंट्रल असेंबली हॉल (अब संसद) में नुकसानरहित बम फेंके और इंकलाब जिंदाबाद तथा साम्राज्यवाद का नाश हो के नारे लगाए।
- They scattered red pamphlets titled 'To Make the Deaf Hear'. उन्होंने लाल पर्चे बिखरे जिनका शीर्षक था 'To Make the Deaf Hear'।
- Reporters caught the words, and newspapers across India and abroad carried dramatic headlines. सं
- वाददाताओं ने शब्द सुने और भारत तथा विदेश के समाचार-पत्रों ने नाटकीय सुर्खियाँ छापीं।
- One international paper proclaimed: "Reds Storm the Assembly!"





एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय अखबार ने घोषणा की: "रेड्स ने असेंबली पर धावा बोला!"

- The two young men were **Bhagat Singh** and **Batukeshwar Dutt**. वे दोनों युवक **भगत सिंह** और **बटुकेश्वर दत्त** थे।
- Both were arrested, tried, and convicted. दोनों को गिरफ्तार किया गया, मुकदमा चलाया गया और दोषी ठहराया गया।
- While **Bhagat Singh** went on to become one of the most iconic figures of the Indian freedom struggle, his comrade **Dutt** gradually faded from public memory, remembered only occasionally, and rarely honoured with the dignity he deserved. जबकि **भगत सिंह** भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित चेहरों में से एक बन गए, उनके साथी **दत्त** धीरे-धीरे जनस्मृति से लुप्त हो गए, कभी-कभार ही याद किए गए और शायद ही कभी उन्हें उचित सम्मान मिला।

A revolutionary's journey

एक क्रांतिकारी की यात्रा

- **Batukeshwar Dutt** was born on **November 18, 1910**, in the **Burdwan district** of Bengal. **बटुकेश्वर दत्त** का जन्म **18 नवंबर 1910** को बंगाल के **बर्धमान जिले** में हुआ था।
- **Convicted in the Delhi Assembly Bomb Case on June 12, 1929**, he spent **nine years in prisons across India — Multan, Jhelum, Trichinopoly, Salem, and even the Andamans**. **दिल्ली असेंबली बम कांड** में **12 जून 1929** को दोषी ठहराए जाने के बाद उन्होंने भारत भर की जेलों — **मुल्तान, झेलम, त्रिचिनोपोली, सेलम और अंडमान तक** — में **नौ वर्ष** बिताए।
- **In each jail he resorted to hunger strikes, twice fasting for over a month, demanding humane treatment for political prisoners**. हर जेल में उन्होंने भूख हड़ताल की, दो बार एक महीने से अधिक उपवास किया, राजनीतिक कैदियों के लिए मानवीय व्यवहार की मांग की।
- When **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev** were executed in **Lahore** on **March 23, 1931**, **Dutt** was languishing in the **Salem jail**. जब **भगत सिंह, राजगुरु और सुखदेव** को **23 मार्च 1931** को **लाहौर** में फाँसी दी गई, तब **दत्तसेलम जेल** में थे।
- That night he dreamt of **Singh** in chains, a vision that haunted him. उस रात उन्होंने **सिंह** को जंजीरों में देखा, वह दृश्य उन्हें जीवनभर सताता रहा।
- **Released in 1938, Dutt was rearrested during the Quit India movement of 1942 and spent another four years in jail**. **1938** में रिहा होने के बाद **1942** के **भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन** में उन्हें फिर गिरफ्तार किया गया और **चार वर्ष** और जेल में बिताए।
- After his release, he married **Anjali**, a school teacher, and settled in **Patna** with their daughter **Bharti**, who later became a **Professor of Economics at Patna College**. रिहाई के बाद उन्होंने स्कूल शिक्षिका **अंजलि** से विवाह किया और **पटना** में बस गए, उनकी बेटी **भारती** बाद में **पटना कॉलेज** में **अर्थशास्त्र की प्रोफेसर** बनीं।
- But life after independence offered little stability. लेकिन स्वतंत्रता के बाद जीवन में स्थिरता बहुत कम रही।
- **The Bihar government allotted him a coal depot, but it proved financially unviable**. **बिहार** सरकार ने उन्हें कोयला डिपो आवंटित किया, पर वह आर्थिक रूप से व्यवहार्य नहीं रहा।
- **President Rajendra Prasad** intervened, urging the State to extend due consideration to him. **राष्ट्रपति राजेंद्र प्रसाद** ने हस्तक्षेप किया और राज्य से उन्हें उचित सम्मान देने का आग्रह किया।
- The gesture resulted only in a token nomination to the **Bihar Legislative Council** — for the remainder of an existing member's **six-month** term. इसका परिणाम सिर्फ **बिहार विधान परिषद** में एक प्रतीकात्मक नामांकन था — किसी मौजूदा सदस्य के शेष **छह माह** के कार्यकाल के लिए।
- Despite such neglect, **Dutt** remained respected by many political leaders. इतनी उपेक्षा के बावजूद **दत्त** को कई राजनीतिक नेताओं का सम्मान प्राप्त रहा।
- His health, however, declined in the mid-1960s. हालाँकि **1960** के मध्य में उनकी सेहत बिगड़ने लगी।
- Afflicted with bone cancer, he was admitted to **AIIMS, New Delhi**, where he endured **eight months** of suffering. हड्डी के कैंसर से पीड़ित होने पर उन्हें **AIIMS, नई दिल्ली** में भर्ती किया गया जहाँ उन्होंने **आठ महीने** तक कष्ट सहे।



- Leading orthopaedist **Dr. Vig** told his comrades that treatment could only ensure a “painless death”. प्रमुख आर्थोपेडिस्ट **डॉ. विग** ने उनके साथियों को बताया कि इलाज केवल “दर्दरहित मृत्यु” ही सुनिश्चित कर सकता है।
- Plans to send him abroad were abandoned after the **Indian High Commission in London** reported that **Delhi** offered care equal to Europe's. विदेश भेजने की योजनाएँ तब रद्द कर दी गईं जब **लंदन में भारतीय उच्चायोग** ने बताया कि **दिल्ली** में यूरोप जितनी ही देखभाल उपलब्ध है।
- **Dutt passed away on July 20, 1965**. **दत्त** का निधन **20 जुलाई 1965** को हुआ।
- Honouring his last wish, he was cremated at **Hussainiwala in Punjab**, alongside **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev**. उनकी अंतिम इच्छा का सम्मान करते हुए उनका दाह-संस्कार **पंजाब के हुसैनीवाला में भगत सिंह, राजगुरु और सुखदेव** के साथ किया गया।
- **The site, which remained in Pakistan until 1965, had only recently come under Indian control for the construction of a memorial to the martyrs.** वह स्थान **1965** तक **पाकिस्तान** में था और शहीदों की स्मृति में स्मारक बनाने के लिए अभी-अभी **भारत** के नियंत्रण में आया था।

Neglect and recognition

उपेक्षा और सम्मान

- For a brief moment after his death, the nation honoured **Dutt**. उनकी मृत्यु के बाद एक क्षणिक समय के लिए देश ने **दत्त** को सम्मान दिया।
- His funeral procession was massive, attended by the **President, Prime Minister, central ministers, the Lok Sabha Speaker, and the Punjab Chief Minister**. उनका अंतिम संस्कार जुलूस विशाल था, जिसमें **राष्ट्रपति, प्रधानमंत्री, केंद्रीय मंत्री, लोक सभा अध्यक्ष और पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री** शामिल हुए।
- The funeral drew vast numbers of people along the streets. सड़कों पर लोगों की भारी भीड़ उमड़ी।
- Yet today, few remember that the farewell accorded to him rivalled those of the most revered leaders of his time. आज बहुत कम लोग याद करते हैं कि उन्हें दी गई विदाई उस समय के सबसे सम्मानित नेताओं की विदाई के बराबर थी।
- **Ironically, the Parliament building where he and Bhagat Singh had staged their act of defiance still does not display their portraits.** विपक्षपूर्ण रूप से, **संसद** भवन जहाँ उन्होंने और **भगत सिंह** ने चुनौती का कार्य किया था, वहाँ आज भी उनकी तस्वीरें नहीं लगी हैं।
- In contrast, the portrait of **V. D. Savarkar**, once an accused in **Gandhi's** assassination case (though later acquitted), hangs prominently opposite **Gandhi's**. इसके विपरीत **वी. डी. सावरकर** की तस्वीर, जो कभी **गांधी** हत्या मामले में आरोपी थे (हालांकि बाद में बरी हो गए), **गांधी** के ठीक सामने प्रमुखता से लगी है।
- **In 2014, MPs including Dharamvira Gandhi and Sitaram Yechury protested this omission, but the demand to include Bhagat Singh — and by extension Dutt — was ignored.** **2014** में **धर्मवीर गांधी** और **सीताराम येचुरी** सहित सांसदों ने इस उपेक्षा के खिलाफ विरोध किया, लेकिन **भगत सिंह** और इस तरह **दत्त** को शामिल करने की माँग अनसुनी कर दी गई।
- **The story of this neglect was first documented by Chaman Lal Azad, a fellow revolutionary who later became a journalist.** इस उपेक्षा की कहानी सबसे पहले साथी क्रांतिकारी **चमन लाल आजाद** ने दर्ज की, जो बाद में पत्रकार बने।
- While caring for **Dutt** at **AIIMS**, **Chaman Lal Azad** wrote a series of articles in the Urdu daily **Pratap**. **AIIMS** में **दत्त** की देखभाल करते हुए **चमन लाल आजाद** ने उर्दू दैनिक **प्रताप** में लेखों की श्रृंखला लिखी।
- These were later compiled as **Bhagat Singh aur Dutt ki Amar Kahani (1966)**, one of the most authentic, if scattered, accounts of the revolutionary movement. ये बाद में **भगत सिंह और दत्त की अमर कहानी (1966)** के रूप में संकलित हुई, जो क्रांतिकारी आंदोलन की सबसे प्रामाणिक, भले ही बिखरी हुई, रिपोर्टों में से एक है।
- The book contains **Bhagat Singh's** letters, court statements, and postcards — some published for the first time — along with **Gandhi's letter to Dutt** and rare photographs of him with **Nehru and Indira Gandhi in 1963**. पुस्तक में **भगत सिंह** के पत्र, अदालती बयान, पोस्टकार्ड —



कुछ पहली बार प्रकाशित — गांधी का दत्त को लिखा पत्र और 1963 में नेहरू तथा इंदिरा गांधी के साथ उनकी दुर्लभ तस्वीरें हैं।

- The book also records **Dutt's** conversations about fellow revolutionaries. पुस्तक में दत्त के साथी क्रांतिकारियों पर बातचीत भी दर्ज है।
- In it, he spoke of **Hari Kishan Talwar**, who was hanged in 1931 for shooting Punjab's **Lieutenant Governor**, and of his comrade **Ehsan Ilahi**, who migrated to **Pakistan**, became a musician, and died penniless despite **Chaman Lal Azad's** attempts to help him. इसमें उन्होंने **हरि किशन तलवार** का जिक्र किया जो 1931 में पंजाब के **लेफ्टिनेंट गवर्नर** पर गोली चलाने के लिए फाँसी पर चढ़े, और अपने साथी **एहसान इलाही** का, जो **पाकिस्तान** चले गए, संगीतकार बने और **चमन लाल आजाद** की मदद के प्रयासों के बावजूद निर्धन मरे।
- **Dutt** also disapproved of films made on **Bhagat Singh** in the 1950s, which he and other comrades protested against. दत्त ने 1950 के दशक में **भगत सिंह** पर बनी फिल्मों का भी विरोध किया था, जिसके खिलाफ उन्होंने और अन्य साथियों ने प्रदर्शन किया।
- Only **Manoj Kumar's Shaheed in 1965** won their approval, with the actor personally consulting **Dutt**. केवल **मनोज कुमार** की **शहीद (1965)** को उनकी स्वीकृति मिली, जिसमें अभिनेता ने स्वयं दत्त से परामर्श किया था।
- Equally touching are accounts of his bond with **Bhagat Singh's family**. उनका **भगत सिंह** के परिवार से भावनात्मक बंधन भी उतना ही मार्मिक है।
- **Mata Vidyawati**, **Bhagat Singh's** mother, spent long periods with **Dutt** in his final days. **भगत सिंह** की माँ **माता विद्यावती** उनके अंतिम दिनों में लंबे समय तक दत्त के साथ रहीं।
- She even sold a Hindi epic poem on **Bhagat Singh**, gifted to her by poet **Sri Krishan Saral**, to raise funds for **Dutt's** treatment. उन्होंने दत्त के इलाज के लिए धन जुटाने हेतु कवि **श्री कृष्ण सरल** द्वारा भेंट की गई **भगत सिंह** पर हिंदी महाकाव्य कविता तक बेच दी।
- Revolutionary comrades such as **Shiv Verma**, **Sadashiv Malkapurkar**, and **Jatin Das's** brother **Kiran Das** remained constantly by his side. क्रांतिकारी साथी जैसे **शिव वर्मा**, **सदाशिव मलकापुरकर** और **जतिन दास** के भाई **किरण दास** उनके साथ निरंतर बने रहे।
- Leaders including **Home Minister Gulzari Lal Nanda**, **Defence Minister Y. B. Chavan**, **Jagjivan Ram**, **Swaran Singh**, and **Dr. Sushila Nayyar** also visited him in hospital, though such respect was rarely extended while he was alive and struggling. गृह मंत्री **गुलजारी लाल नंदा**, रक्षा मंत्री **वाई. बी. चव्हाण**, **जगजीवन राम**, **स्वर्ण सिंह** एवं डॉ. **सुशीला नैय्यर** जैसे नेता भी अस्पताल में उनसे मिले, हालांकि जीते जी संघर्ष के दिनों में ऐसा सम्मान शायद ही मिला।

Ode to the forgotten soldier

भूले हुए सैनिक को समर्पित

- **Chaman Lal Azad** used his book to underline **Bhagat Singh's** intellectual legacy — his ability to rise above religion and envision socialism as the foundation of India's future. **चमन लाल आजाद** ने अपनी पुस्तक में **भगत सिंह** की बौद्धिक विरासत को रेखांकित किया — धर्म से ऊपर उठने और समाजवाद को भारत के भविष्य की नींव मानने की उनकी क्षमता।
- **Dutt** himself remarked that **Singh** was far-sighted, always with a book in hand, reading wherever he went. दत्त ने स्वयं कहा था कि **सिंह** दूरदर्शी थे, हमेशा हाथ में किताब लिए, जहाँ भी जाते पढ़ते रहते थे।
- Despite having a shared vision of India's future, history has not treated **Dutt** kindly. भारत के भविष्य की साझा दृष्टि होने के बावजूद इतिहास ने दत्त के साथ दयालुता नहीं बरती।
- He remains absent from memorials, textbooks, and the national consciousness. वे स्मारकों, पाठ्यपुस्तकों और राष्ट्रीय चेतना से अनुपस्थित हैं।
- While newer works such as **Justice Anil Verma's Bhagat Singh ke Sahyogi: Batukeshwar Dutt** and **Bhairav Lal Das's Vipulvi Batukeshwar Dutt** (both post-2007) have attempted to reclaim his place, **Chaman Lal Azad's** earlier book, rich with first-hand memories, is nearly lost. नवीनतम पुस्तकें जैसे **न्यायमूर्ति अनिल वर्मा** की **भगत सिंह के सहयोगी: बटुकेश्वर दत्त** और **भैरव लाल दास** की **विप्लवी बटुकेश्वर दत्त** (दोनों 2007 के बाद की) उनके स्थान को पुनः स्थापित करने की कोशिश कर रही हैं, पर प्रत्यक्ष स्मृतियों से भरपूर **चमन लाल आजाद** की पुरानी पुस्तक लगभग खो चुकी है।



- Its Hindi translation, commissioned years ago by the **Government's Publications Division**, still lies unpublished due to copyright hurdles. सरकार की प्रकाशन विभाग द्वारा वर्षों पहले कमीशन की गई इसकी हिंदी अनुवाद कॉपीराइट बाधाओं के कारण अभी तक अप्रकाशित है।
- **Dutt's life illustrates how revolutionaries in India are often remembered only in passing.** दत्त का जीवन दर्शाता है कि भारत में क्रांतिकारियों को अक्सर केवल गुजरते हुए याद किया जाता है।

Society

18/11/2025

45 Indian pilgrims killed in Saudi mishap

Collision sparked a massive fire that killed the passengers hailing from Telangana

ISSI, A&C

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

Forty-five pilgrims from Telangana were killed after an oil tanker collided with their bus about 40 km from Medina in Saudi Arabia in the early hours of Monday.

The collision sparked a massive fire that spread quickly through the bus, killing the passengers, authorities said. Among the victims were 20 women and 11 children.

The bus had stopped by the roadside when the oil tanker crashed into it, resulting in the explosion. Saudi authorities were investigating the circumstances leading to the incident, official sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed his condolences to the families of the victims and said Indian officials were in



Painful moment: Telangana Minister Mohammad Azharuddin comforting a grieving family member of a person who died in the accident. G. RAMAKRISHNA

"close contact with Saudi Arabian authorities". Mortal remains of the deceased were transferred to three hospitals in Medina – King Fahad, King Salman and Al

Miqat. "After the mortal remains are identified, families will have the option for repatriation to India or local burial at the Jannatul Baqi cemetery in Medina

as per local customs," said a source familiar with the official exchanges between Indian and Saudi authorities.

Forty-six members of a

Hyderabad family loses 18 members in the accident

HYDERABAD
As many as 18 members of the same family, including several children, who were on the Umrah pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, were killed in the road accident, according to relatives and government officials. The same fate also befell five members of another family. In the first instance, the deceased were residents of Ramnagar in Musheerabad and from the same house. In the second, the victims were a man, his wife, his mother, and the couple's two children. » PAGE 3

group of 54 people, who had left Hyderabad for their pilgrimage on November 9, were on the bus, Tafseer Iqbal, Joint Commissioner of Police (Law

and Order), Hyderabad, said during a press conference. All except one person perished in the blaze reported around 1.30 a.m. IST on Monday, he added. However, another official said, "We are still waiting for an official list from Saudi Arabia to confirm the figures."

24x7 Control Room

Officials from the Consulate General of India in Jeddah have met the lone survivor and are coordinating with hospitals to ensure medical treatment.

"Of the 54, four had already left for Medina after completing Umrah in Mecca in private vehicles. Four others decided to stay back in Mecca. The remaining 46 began their journey on Sunday night," the official said. The bus driver and his assistant, believed to be locals, also died in the accident.

The police have collected the full list of passengers and their details from the travel companies involved, allowing officials to coordinate with families. The Consulate General of India in Jeddah has set up a 24x7 Control Room to support the families of victims. The Helpline numbers are: 8002440003 (toll free), 0122614093, 0126614276 and +966556122301 (WhatsApp).

The Telangana government announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh for the family of each of the deceased. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat on Monday.

The Cabinet also decided to send an official team to Saudi Arabia, led by Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin. Two family members of each victim will also be asked to travel to the accident site.

45 Indian pilgrims killed in Saudi mishap सऊदी दुर्घटना में 45 भारतीय तीर्थयात्री मारे गए

- **Collision** sparked a massive fire that killed the passengers hailing from Telangana टक्कर ने एक भीषण आग भड़का दी जिसने तेलंगाना के यात्रियों की जान ले ली।
- The bus had stopped on the roadside when it was hit; **Saudi officials** are investigating बस सड़क किनारे रुकी हुई थी जब उसे टक्कर मारी गई; **सऊदी अधिकारी** जांच कर रहे हैं।
- State govt. to send a **delegation** headed by Minister Azharuddin to Saudi Arabia राज्य सरकार मंत्री **अज़हरुद्दीन** के नेतृत्व में एक **प्रतिनिधिमंडल** सऊदी अरब भेजेगी।
- Forty-five pilgrims from Telangana were killed after an oil tanker collided with their bus about 40 km from Medina in Saudi Arabia in the early hours of Monday.



सोमवार की सुबह सऊदी अरब में मदीना से करीब 40 किमी दूर एक ऑयल टैंकर के बस से टकराने के बाद तेलंगाना के पैतालीस तीर्थयात्री मारे गए।

- The collision sparked a massive fire that spread quickly through the bus, killing the passengers, authorities said.
अधिकारियों ने कहा कि टक्कर से भीषण आग लगी जो तेजी से बस में फैल गई और यात्रियों की मौत हो गई।
- Among the victims were **20 women and 11 children**.
मृतकों में **20 महिलाएं और 11 बच्चे** शामिल थे।
- The bus had stopped by the roadside when the oil tanker crashed into it, resulting in the explosion.
बस सड़क किनारे रुकी हुई थी जब ऑयल टैंकर उससे टकराया, जिससे विस्फोट हुआ।
- Saudi authorities were investigating the circumstances leading to the incident, official sources said.
आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने कहा कि सऊदी अधिकारी घटना के हालात की जांच कर रहे हैं।
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** conveyed his condolences to the families of the victims and said Indian officials were in "close contact with Saudi Arabian authorities".
प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने पीड़ित परिवारों के प्रति संवेदना व्यक्त की और कहा कि भारतीय अधिकारी "सऊदी अधिकारियों के साथ घनिष्ठ संपर्क" में हैं।
- **Mortal remains** of the deceased were transferred to three hospitals in Medina — King Fahad, King Salman and Al Miqat.
मृतकों के **पार्थिव अवशेष** मदीना के तीन अस्पतालों—किंग फहद, किंग सलमान और अल मीक़ात—में भेजे गए।
- "After the mortal remains are identified, families will have the option for repatriation to India or local burial at the **Jannatul Baqi cemetery** in Medina as per local customs," said a source familiar with the oral exchanges between Indian and Saudi authorities.
"पार्थिव अवशेषों की पहचान के बाद, परिवारों के पास भारत लाने या स्थानीय परंपराओं के अनुसार मदीना में **जन्नतुल बक्की कब्रिस्तान** में दफनाने का विकल्प होगा," भारतीय और सऊदी अधिकारियों के आधिकारिक संवाद से जुड़े एक सूत्र ने कहा।
- A group of 54 people, who had left Hyderabad for their pilgrimage on November 9, were on the bus, Tafseer Iqbal, Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Hyderabad, said during a press conference.
प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में हैदराबाद के पुलिस संयुक्त आयुक्त (कानून और व्यवस्था) तफसीर इकबाल ने कहा कि 9 नवंबर को हैदराबाद से तीर्थयात्रा के लिए निकले 54 लोगों का समूह बस में था।
- All except one person perished in the blaze reported around 1.30 a.m. IST on Monday, he added.
उन्होंने कहा कि सोमवार तड़के करीब 1:30 बजे (IST) लगी आग में एक को छोड़कर सभी की मृत्यु हो गई।
- However, another official said, "We are still waiting for an official list from Saudi Arabia to confirm the figures."
हालांकि, एक अन्य अधिकारी ने कहा, "हम अभी भी आंकड़ों की पुष्टि के लिए सऊदी अरब से आधिकारिक सूची का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।"
- **24x7 Control Room**
24x7 नियंत्रण कक्ष
- Officials from the Consulate General of India in Jeddah have met the lone survivor and are coordinating with hospitals to ensure medical treatment.
जेद्दा स्थित भारतीय महावाणिज्य दूतावास के अधिकारियों ने एकमात्र जीवित बचे व्यक्ति से मुलाकात की और चिकित्सा उपचार सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अस्पतालों के साथ समन्वय कर रहे हैं।
- "Of the 54, four had already left for Medina after completing Umrah in Mecca in private vehicles. Four others decided to stay back in Mecca. The remaining 46 began their journey on Sunday night," the official said.
अधिकारी ने कहा, "54 में से चार निजी वाहनों से उमराह पूरा करने के बाद पहले ही मदीना जा चुके थे। चार अन्य ने मक्का में रुकने का फैसला किया। बाकी 46 ने रविवार रात अपनी यात्रा शुरू की।"
- The bus driver and his assistant, believed to be locals, also died in the accident.
स्थानीय माने जा रहे बस चालक और उसके सहायक की भी दुर्घटना में मौत हो गई।



- The police have collected the full list of passengers and their details from the travel companies involved, allowing officials to coordinate with families.
पुलिस ने संबंधित ट्रेवल कंपनियों से यात्रियों की पूरी सूची और विवरण एकत्र किए, जिससे अधिकारियों को परिवारों से संपर्क करने में मदद मिली।
- The Consulate General of India in Jeddah has set up a **24x7 Control Room** to support the families of victims.
जेद्दा में भारतीय महावाणिज्य दूतावास ने पीड़ितों के परिवारों की सहायता के लिए **24x7 नियंत्रण कक्ष** स्थापित किया है।
- The **Helpline numbers** are: 8002440003 (toll free), 0122614093, 0126614276 and +966556122301 (WhatsApp).
हेल्पलाइन नंबर हैं: 8002440003 (टोल फ्री), 0122614093, 0126614276 और +966556122301 (व्हाट्सएप)।
- The Telangana government announced an **ex gratia of ₹5 lakh** for the family of each of the deceased.
तेलंगाना सरकार ने प्रत्येक मृतक के परिवार को **₹5 लाख की अनुग्रह राशि** देने की घोषणा की।
- The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat on Monday.
यह निर्णय सोमवार को सचिवालय में हुई मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में लिया गया।
- The Cabinet also decided to send an official team to Saudi Arabia, led by **Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin**.
मंत्रिमंडल ने **अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण मंत्री मोहम्मद अज़हरुद्दीन** के नेतृत्व में एक आधिकारिक टीम को सऊदी अरब भेजने का फैसला भी किया।
- Two family members of each victim will also be able to travel to the accident site.
प्रत्येक पीड़ित के दो परिवारजन भी दुर्घटना स्थल की यात्रा कर सकेंगे।
- Forty-six members of a
छियालीस सदस्यों का एक

24x7 Control Room

24x7 नियंत्रण कक्ष

- A group of **54 people**, who had left Hyderabad for their pilgrimage on **November 9**, were on the bus, Tafseer Iqbal, **Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Hyderabad**, said during a press conference.
54 लोगों का समूह, जो **9 नवंबर** को अपनी तीर्थयात्रा के लिए हैदराबाद से निकला था, बस में था, यह बात तफसीर इकबाल, **संयुक्त पुलिस आयुक्त (कानून एवं व्यवस्था), हैदराबाद**, ने एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस के दौरान कही।
- All except **one person** perished in the blaze reported around **1.30 a.m. IST on Monday**, he added.
उन्होंने कहा कि सोमवार को **रात 1:30 बजे (IST)** के आसपास लगी आग में **एक व्यक्ति** को छोड़कर सभी की मृत्यु हो गई।
- However, another official said, "We are still waiting for an official list from Saudi Arabia to confirm the figures."
हालांकि, एक अन्य अधिकारी ने कहा, "हम संख्या की पुष्टि के लिए अभी भी सऊदी अरब से **आधिकारिक सूची** का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।"
- Officials from the **Consulate General of India in Jeddah** have met the **lone survivor** and are coordinating with hospitals to ensure medical treatment.
जेद्दा स्थित भारतीय महावाणिज्य दूतावास के अधिकारियों ने **एकमात्र जीवित बचे** व्यक्ति से मुलाकात की और चिकित्सा उपचार सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अस्पतालों के साथ समन्वय कर रहे हैं।
- "Of the 54, **four** had already left for Medina after completing **Umrah in Mecca** in private vehicles. Four others decided to stay back in Mecca. The remaining **46** began their journey on Sunday night," the official said.
अधिकारी ने कहा, "54 में से **चार** निजी वाहनों से **मक्का में उमराह** पूरा करने के बाद पहले ही मदीना के लिए निकल चुके थे। **चार** अन्य ने मक्का में ही रुकने का निर्णय लिया। शेष **46** ने रविवार रात अपनी यात्रा शुरू की।"
- The **bus driver** and his **assistant**, believed to be locals, also died in the accident.
माना जाता है कि स्थानीय होने वाले **बस चालक** और उसके **सहायक** की भी दुर्घटना में मृत्यु हो गई।



Support Measures and Official Actions सहायता उपाय और आधिकारिक कार्यवाही

- The **police** have collected the full list of passengers and their details from the **travel companies** involved, allowing officials to coordinate with families.
पुलिस ने संबंधित **ट्रैवल कंपनियों** से यात्रियों की पूरी सूची और उनके विवरण एकत्र किए, जिससे अधिकारियों को परिवारों से समन्वय करने में मदद मिली।
- The **Consulate General of India in Jeddah** has set up a **24x7 Control Room** to support the families of victims.
जेद्दा स्थित भारतीय महावाणिज्य दूतावास ने पीड़ितों के परिवारों की सहायता के लिए **24x7 नियंत्रण कक्ष** स्थापित किया है।
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- The decision was taken at a **Cabinet meeting** held at the **Secretariat** on Monday.
यह निर्णय सोमवार को **सचिवालय** में हुई **मंत्रिमंडल बैठक** में लिया गया।
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मंत्रिमंडल ने **अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण मंत्री मोहम्मद अज़हरुद्दीन** के नेतृत्व में एक आधिकारिक टीम को **सऊदी अरब** भेजने का भी निर्णय किया।
- **Two family members** of each victim will also be able to travel to the accident site.
प्रत्येक पीड़ित के **दो परिवारजन** भी दुर्घटना स्थल की यात्रा कर सकेंगे।

Umrah Pilgrimage

Umrah (basic definition)

- Umrah is a voluntary Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca) that a Muslim may perform at any time of the year.
- It is commonly called the “minor pilgrimage,” in contrast to Hajj, the compulsory major pilgrimage required once in a lifetime for those who are able.

Core rituals of Umrah

- **Ihram (state of consecration):** Pilgrims enter a sacred state and adopt prescribed dress (men wear two seamless white sheets; women wear modest dress). They make *niyyah* (intention) for Umrah and recite the *talbiyah*.
- **Tawaf (circumambulation):** Pilgrims walk seven circuits around the Kaaba in Al-Masjid al-Haram, keeping the Kaaba to their left.
- **Sa'i (walking between Safa and Marwa):** Pilgrims walk seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwa, commemorating Hajar's search for water.
- **Halq/Taqsir (hair cut or shave):** Pilgrims conclude Umrah by either trimming (taqsir) or shaving (halq) their hair, after which they exit the state of Ihram.

How Umrah differs from Hajj

- **Timing:** Umrah can be performed at any time, whereas Hajj is only performed during specific days of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah.



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



- **Ritual scope:** Hajj includes additional rites such as standing at Arafat, staying in Mina, and spending the night in Muzdalifah—none of which are part of Umrah.
- **Obligation:** Hajj is obligatory once in a lifetime for those who are physically and financially able, while Umrah is highly recommended but voluntary.

PATRIOTIC IAS



The trajectory of anti-rape laws in India

By condemning the 1979 Supreme Court acquittal in a custodial rape case, Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai has highlighted India's evolving legal reforms aimed at better protecting sexual assault survivors and redefining consent

AS I Society

MOB



A better dawn: Bhanwari Devi, activist and sexual assault survivor, addresses a gathering at Somaiyya grounds, Sion in 2018. FILE PHOTO

THE GIST

▼ The Chief Justice said the "troubling" judgment in *Tukaram versus State of Maharashtra* in 1979 became a turning point as the verdict brought the nation together in protest, for the legal system had failed to protect the dignity of the very person it was meant to safeguard.

▼ The September 1979 letter by Upendra Baxi, Vasudha Dhagamwar, Raghunath Kelkar and Lotika Sarkar pointed out to the judges the clear difference, both in law and common sense, between 'submission' and 'consent'.

▼ The brutal gangrape and fatal assault of a 22-year-old physiotherapy intern in a moving bus by six men on a December 2012 night had the nation rise in protest, demanding stricter laws to protect women and punish their attackers.

LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

Forty-six years after the Supreme Court acquitted two policemen in the custodial rape of a teenage tribal girl in Maharashtra, concluding she consented to the sexual intercourse as there were no visible marks of physical injury on her, Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai India called the judgment "a moment of institutional embarrassment". The judgment reflected a deeply regressive and patriarchal understanding of consent, effectively denying the social context of power, coercion, and vulnerability in which sexual violence often occurs.

The Chief Justice said the "troubling" judgment in *Tukaram versus State of Maharashtra* in 1979 became a turning point as the verdict brought the nation together in protest, for the legal system had failed to protect the dignity of the very person it was meant to safeguard. The acquittal ignited the women's rights movement for stronger rape laws in India.

It also forced Parliament to address the lapses in criminal law; to strengthen legal protections against custodial rape; to make punishments under the Dowry Prohibition Act more stringent; and to introduce the Family Courts Act. A series of Criminal Law Amendments, from 1983 to the spirit of changes made in sexual offences' provisions in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in 2023, trace their spirit to the top court's "institutional failure" in the Mathura rape (*Tukaram versus State of Maharashtra*) judgment.

The trajectory of the case

The 1979 judgment, which further condemned a custodial rape survivor, was pronounced even before the "the ink had dried" in Justice Krishna Iyer's verdict in the *Nandini Satpathy* (1978) case. The court, speaking through Justice Iyer, condemned the practice of calling women

to police stations and declared that a woman must be questioned by the police only at her residence.

The incident in the Mathura rape case happened in March 1972. The rape survivor, an orphan aged between 14 and 16 years, was one among four who were called to the police station at night. After a brief questioning, she was asked to stay behind while the others were asked to leave. She was subjected to sexual assault by two policemen, a head constable and a constable inside the police station. The trial court, in its judgment, found the rape survivor a "shocking liar" whose testimony "is riddled with falsehood and improbabilities". The court came to the conclusion that she had sexual intercourse while at the police station but rape had not been proved and that she was "habituated" to sexual intercourse. The Bombay High Court, in 1976, overturned the Sessions Judge's findings and concluded the teenager was subject to forcible sexual intercourse amounting to rape. The High Court had held that the so-called 'consent' to act was only 'passive submission' by a helpless victim to persons in authority whose advances she could hardly repel by herself. In an appeal by the two policemen, the Supreme Court set aside the High Court judgment, agreeing with the petitioners that the "alleged intercourse was a peaceful affair" as there were no marks of injury on her person.

A letter which shook the nation

What brought the Mathura rape case into national consciousness and sparked outrage was a letter written by four intellectuals to the court in September 1979, shortly after the acquittal of the two accused policemen.

The September 1979 letter by Upendra Baxi, Vasudha Dhagamwar, Raghunath Kelkar and Lotika Sarkar pointed out to the judges the clear difference, both in law and common sense, between 'submission' and 'consent'. Consent involves submission; but the converse is

not necessarily true. Nor is absence of resistance necessarily indicative of consent, they argued.

The letter pointed out that there was not a single word in the judgment condemning the very act of calling a teenage girl and detaining her at the police station in gross violation of the law. Nor was there a single word in the judgment condemning the use of the police station as a theatre of rape or submission to sexual intercourse. "The Court gave no consideration whatsoever to the socio-economic status, the lack of knowledge of legal rights, the age of the victim, lack of access to legal services, and the fear complex which haunts the poor and the exploited in Indian police stations. May we respectfully suggest that you and your distinguished colleagues visit in cognito, wearing the visage of poverty, some police stations in villages adjoining Delhi?" the letter had challenged the Supreme Court judges.

Myriad amendments

The public furor following the 1979 judgment led Parliament to introduce the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1983 in which custodial rape was included as a separate offence under Section 376 of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (IPC). The amendment shifted the burden of proof in custodial rape cases from the rape survivor to the accused if the fact of sexual intercourse was established. The top court framed the Vishaka guidelines against sexual harassment at the workplace when a public interest petition was filed after the gangrape of Bhanwari Devi, a Kumbhar woman and an auxiliary nurse midwife, who raised her voice as part of her job against child marriage, especially in upper caste families.

The brutal gangrape and fatal assault of a 22-year-old physiotherapy intern in a moving bus by six men on a December 2012 night had the nation rise in protest again, demanding stricter laws to protect women and punish their attackers. The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013,

loosely crafted on the recommendations of the Justice J.S. Verma Committee, introduced, among others, provisions to punish police officers who do not record an FIR in sexual violence cases against women, or hospitals which do not provide free care to sexual assault victims. The 2013 amendments broadened the definition of rape as in Section 375 to include acts other than forcible sexual intercourse.

Most importantly, it clarified that silence or a feeble no by a woman cannot be translated as a 'yes'. Besides, the amendments raised the age of consent from 16 to 18 years.

The amendments awarded death penalty to repeat offenders or if rape led to the death or 'persistent vegetative state' of the victim.

The Unnao and Kathua rape cases of 2017 and 2018 compelled Parliament to usher in further amendments to make criminal laws for sexual offences against women more stringent. In the Unnao case, former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Senagar was convicted for the kidnap and rape of a minor girl.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2018 provided death penalty as a punishment in rape cases in which the victims are below 12 years of age. The 2018 amendments also included a minimum of 20 years imprisonment if the victim is under 16 years of age. The amendments fast-tracked investigation as well as the trial and appeal proceedings in rape cases – two months to complete a probe and trial, and six months to wrap up appeals.

Finally, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2023 through the BNS, made sexual offences against women and children gender-neutral for both the victims and the perpetrators. It uniformly made gang rape of a woman aged below 18 years punishable with death or life imprisonment. The BNS also brought in new offences like sexual intercourse under false pretences and broadened the definition of sexual harassment.

The trajectory of anti-rape laws in India भारत में एंटी-रेप कानूनों की प्रगति

- Forty-six years after the **Supreme Court** acquitted two policemen in the custodial rape of a teenage tribal girl in **Maharashtra**, concluding she consented to the sexual intercourse as there were no visible marks of physical injury on her, **Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai** called the judgment "a moment of institutional embarrassment". **सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने महाराष्ट्र में एक किशोर आदिवासी लड़की के हिरासत में बलात्कार के मामले में दो पुलिसकर्मियों को बरी करते हुए कहा था कि उसके शरीर पर शारीरिक चोट के कोई दिखाई देने वाले निशान नहीं थे इसलिए उसने यौन संबंध के लिए सहमति दी थी — इस फैसले के छियालीस वर्ष बाद, भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी. आर. गवई ने इस फैसले को "संस्थागत शर्मिंदगी का क्षण" कहा।**



- The judgment reflected a deeply regressive and patriarchal understanding of consent, effectively denying the social context of power, coercion, and vulnerability in which sexual violence often occurs. यह फैसला सहमति की गहरी पितृसत्तात्मक और प्रतिगामी समझ को दर्शाता था, जिसने यौन हिंसा के सामाजिक संदर्भ — सत्ता, दबाव और कमजोरी — को पूरी तरह नकार दिया।
- The **Chief Justice** said the “troubling” judgment in **Tukaram versus State of Maharashtra in 1979** became a turning point as the verdict brought the nation together in protest, for the legal system had failed to protect the dignity of the very person it was meant to safeguard. **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** ने कहा कि **तुकाराम बनाम महाराष्ट्र राज्य का 1979** का “चिंताजनक” फैसला एक मोड़ बन गया क्योंकि इस निर्णय ने पूरे देश को विरोध में एकजुट कर दिया, क्योंकि कानूनी व्यवस्था उस व्यक्ति की गरिमा की रक्षा करने में असफल रही जिसकी रक्षा के लिए वह बनी थी।
- The acquittal ignited the women's rights movement for stronger rape laws in India. इस बरी होने ने भारत में बलात्कार कानूनों को मजबूत करने के लिए महिला अधिकार आंदोलन को प्रज्वलित किया।
- It also forced **Parliament** to address the lapses in criminal law; to strengthen legal protections against custodial rape; to make punishments under the **Dowry Prohibition Act** more stringent; and to introduce the **Family Courts Act**. इसने **संसद** को आपराधिक कानून की खामियों को दूर करने, हिरासत में बलात्कार के खिलाफ कानूनी सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने, **दहेज निषेध अधिनियम** के तहत सजाओं को कठोर करने और **पारिवारिक न्यायालय अधिनियम** लाने के लिए मजबूर किया।
- A series of **Criminal Law Amendments**, from **1983** to the spirit of changes made in sexual offences' provisions in the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** in **2023**, trace their spirit to the top court's “institutional failure” in the **Mathura rape (Tukaram versus State of Maharashtra)** judgment. **1983** से लेकर **2023** में **भारतीय न्याय संहिता (BNS)** में यौन अपराधों के प्रावधानों में किए गए बदलावों तक की **आपराधिक कानून संशोधन श्रृंखला** की भावना **मथुरा बलात्कार (तुकाराम बनाम महाराष्ट्र राज्य)** फैसले में शीर्ष अदालत की “संस्थागत विफलता” से उत्पन्न हुई है।

The trajectory of the case

मामले की यात्रा

- The **1979** judgment, which further condemned a custodial rape survivor, was pronounced even before the “the ink had dried” in **Justice Krishna Iyer's** verdict in the **Nandini Satpathy (1978)** case. **1979** का फैसला, जिसने हिरासत में बलात्कार पीड़िता को और निंदा की, **नंदिनी सत्पथी (1978)** मामले में **न्यायमूर्ति कृष्णा अय्यर** के फैसले की स्याही सूखने से पहले ही सुनाया गया था।
- The court, speaking through **Justice Iyer**, condemned the practice of calling women to police stations and declared that a woman must be questioned by the police only at her residence. **न्यायमूर्ति अय्यर** के माध्यम से अदालत ने महिलाओं को पुलिस स्टेशन बुलाने की प्रथा की निंदा की और घोषणा की कि महिला से पूछताछ केवल उसके निवास पर ही की जाएगी।
- The incident in the **Mathura rape case** happened in **March 1972**. **मथुरा बलात्कार मामले** की घटना **मार्च 1972** में हुई।
- The rape survivor, an orphan aged between **14 and 16 years**, was one among four who were called to the police station at night. बलात्कार पीड़िता, एक अनाथ लड़की जिसकी उम्र **14 से 16 वर्ष** के बीच थी, उन चार लोगों में से एक थी जिन्हें रात में पुलिस स्टेशन बुलाया गया था।
- After a brief questioning, she was asked to stay behind while the others were asked to leave. संक्षिप्त पूछताछ के बाद उसे रुकने को कहा गया जबकि बाकियों को जाने दिया गया।
- She was subjected to sexual assault by two policemen, a head constable and a constable inside the police station. उसे पुलिस स्टेशन के अंदर दो पुलिसकर्मियों — एक हेड कांस्टेबल और एक कांस्टेबल — द्वारा यौन हमला किया गया।
- The trial court, in its judgment, found the rape survivor a “shocking liar” whose testimony “is riddled with falsehood and improbabilities”. विचारण न्यायालय ने अपने फैसले में बलात्कार पीड़िता को “चौका देने वाली झूठी” पाया जिसकी गवाही “झूठ और असंभावनाओं से भरी” थी।
- The court came to the conclusion that she had sexual intercourse while at the police station but rape had not been proved and that she was “habituated” to sexual intercourse. अदालत ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि पुलिस स्टेशन में उसके साथ यौन संबंध हुआ था लेकिन बलात्कार साबित नहीं हुआ और वह यौन संबंध के लिए “आदी” थी।



- The **Bombay High Court**, in **1976**, overturned the Sessions Judge's findings and concluded the teenager was subject to forcible sexual intercourse amounting to rape. **बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट** ने **1976** में सत्र न्यायाधीश के निष्कर्षों को पलट दिया और निष्कर्ष निकाला कि किशोरी को जबरन यौन संबंध के लिए मजबूर किया गया जो बलात्कार की श्रेणी में आता है।
- The High Court had held that the so-called 'consent' to act was only 'passive submission' by a helpless victim to persons in authority whose advances she could hardly repel by herself. हाई कोर्ट ने माना था कि तथाकथित 'सहमति' केवल एक असहाय पीड़िता का सत्ता में बैठे व्यक्तियों के प्रति 'निष्क्रिय समर्पण' था जिनके अग्रिम को वह स्वयं मुश्किल से रोक सकती थी।
- In an appeal by the two policemen, the **Supreme Court** set aside the High Court judgment, agreeing with the petitioners that the "alleged intercourse was a peaceful affair" as there were no marks of injury on her person. दो पुलिसकर्मियों की अपील में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने हाई कोर्ट के फैसले को रद्द कर दिया और याचिकाकर्ताओं से सहमति जताते हुए कहा कि "कथित संबंध शांतिपूर्ण मामला" था क्योंकि उसके शरीर पर चोट के कोई निशान नहीं थे।

A letter which shook the nation

एक पत्र जिसने देश को हिला दिया

- What brought the **Mathura rape case** into national consciousness and sparked outrage was a letter written by four intellectuals to the court in **September 1979**, shortly after the acquittal of the two accused policemen. **मथुरा बलात्कार मामले** को राष्ट्रीय चेतना में लाने और आक्रोश जगाने वाला **सितंबर 1979** में चार बुद्धिजीवियों का वह पत्र था जो दोषी पुलिसकर्मियों की बरी होने के तुरंत बाद अदालत को लिखा गया था।
- The **September 1979** letter by **Upendra Baxi, Vasudha Dhagamwar, Raghunath Kelkar** and **Lotika Sarkar** pointed out to the judges the clear difference, both in law and common sense, between 'submission' and 'consent'. **उपेंद्र बक्शी, वसुधा धागमवार, रघुनाथ केलकर** और **लोटिका सरकार** का **सितंबर 1979** का पत्र था जिसमें न्यायाधीशों को कानून और सामान्य बुद्धि दोनों के आधार पर 'समर्पण' और 'सहमति' के बीच स्पष्ट अंतर बताया गया था।
- Consent involves submission; but the converse is not necessarily true. सहमति में समर्पण शामिल होता है; लेकिन इसका उलटा जरूरी नहीं है।
- Nor is absence of resistance necessarily indicative of consent, they argued. उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि प्रतिरोध की अनुपस्थिति भी सहमति का संकेत नहीं है।
- The letter pointed out that there was not a single word in the judgment condemning the very act of calling a teenage girl and detaining her at the police station in gross violation of the law. पत्र में बताया गया कि फैसले में एक भी शब्द नहीं था जो किशोरी लड़की को पुलिस स्टेशन बुलाने और कानून का घोर उल्लंघन करते हुए हिरासत में रखने की निंदा करता हो।
- Nor was there a single word in the judgment condemning the use of the police station as a theatre of rape or submission to sexual intercourse. न ही फैसले में एक भी शब्द था जो पुलिस स्टेशन को बलात्कार या यौन संबंध के लिए समर्पण का रंगमंच बनाने की निंदा करता हो।
- "The Court gave no consideration whatsoever to the socio-economic status, the lack of knowledge of legal rights, the age of the victim, lack of access to legal services, and the fear complex which haunts the poor and the exploited in Indian police stations. "अदालत ने पीड़िता के सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थिति, कानूनी अधिकारों की जानकारी की कमी, उम्र, कानूनी सेवाओं तक पहुंच की कमी और भारतीय पुलिस स्टेशनों में गरीबों व शोषितों को सताने वाले भय के परिसर पर कोई विचार नहीं किया।
- May we respectfully suggest that you and your distinguished colleagues visit incognito, wearing the visage of poverty, some police stations in villages adjoining Delhi?" the letter had challenged the **Supreme Court** judges. क्या हम विनम्रता से सुझाव दे सकते हैं कि आप और आपके सम्मानित सहयोगी गरीबी का चेहरा ओढ़कर गुप्त रूप से दिल्ली से सटे गाँवों के कुछ पुलिस स्टेशनों का दौरा करें?" — पत्र ने **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** के न्यायाधीशों को चुनौती दी थी।

Myriad amendments

अनेक संशोधन



- The public furore following the **1979** judgment led **Parliament** to introduce the **Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1983** in which custodial rape was included as a separate offence under **Section 376** of the erstwhile **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**. **1979** के फैसले के बाद जनाक्रोश ने **संसद** को **आपराधिक कानून संशोधन अधिनियम 1983** लाने के लिए मजबूर किया जिसमें हिरासत में बलात्कार को तत्कालीन **भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC)** की **धारा 376** के तहत अलग अपराध बनाया गया।
- The amendment shifted the burden of proof in custodial rape cases from the rape survivor to the accused if the fact of sexual intercourse was established. इस संशोधन ने हिरासत में बलात्कार के मामलों में प्रमाण का बोझ पीड़िता से आरोपी पर स्थानांतरित कर दिया यदि यौन संबंध का तथ्य स्थापित हो जाता था।
- The top court framed the **Vishaka guidelines** against sexual harassment at the workplace when a public interest petition was filed after the gangrape of **Bhanwari Devi**, a Kumhar woman and an auxiliary nurse midwife, who raised her voice as part of her job against child marriage, especially in upper caste families. शीर्ष अदालत ने कार्यस्थल पर यौन उत्पीड़न के खिलाफ **विशाखा दिशानिर्देश** बनाए जब **भंवरी देवी** (एक कुम्हार महिला और सहायक नर्स मिडवाइफ) के सामूहिक बलात्कार के बाद जनहित याचिका दायर की गई, जिन्होंने अपने काम के हिस्से के रूप में विशेष रूप से ऊँची जातियों में बाल विवाह के खिलाफ आवाज उठाई थी।
- The brutal gangrape and fatal assault of a **22-year-old** physiotherapy intern in a moving bus by six men on a **December 2012** night had the nation rise in protest again, demanding stricter laws to protect women and punish their attackers. **दिसंबर 2012** की एक रात चलती बस में छह लोगों द्वारा **22 वर्षीय** फिजियोथेरेपी इंटरन के क्रूर सामूहिक बलात्कार और घातक हमले ने फिर से पूरे देश को विरोध में खड़ा कर दिया, महिलाओं की सुरक्षा और उनके हमलावरों को सजा देने के लिए कठोर कानूनों की माँग की।
- The **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013**, loosely crafted on the recommendations of the **Justice J.S. Verma Committee**, introduced, among others, provisions to punish police officers who do not record an **FIR** in sexual violence cases against women, or hospitals which do not provide free care to sexual assault victims. **आपराधिक कानून संशोधन अधिनियम, 2013**, जो **न्यायमूर्ति जे.एस. वर्मा समिति** की सिफारिशों पर आधारित था, ने अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ उन पुलिस अधिकारियों को सजा देने के प्रावधान पेश किए जो महिलाओं के खिलाफ यौन हिंसा के मामलों में **FIR** दर्ज नहीं करते, या अस्पताल जो यौन हमले की पीड़िताओं को मुफ्त इलाज नहीं देते।
- The **2013** amendments broadened the definition of rape as in **Section 375** to include acts other than forcible sexual intercourse. **2013** संशोधनों ने **धारा 375** में बलात्कार की परिभाषा को विस्तृत किया जिसमें जबरन यौन संबंध के अलावा अन्य कृत्यों को भी शामिल किया गया।
- Most importantly, it clarified that silence or a feeble no by a woman cannot be translated as a 'yes'. सबसे महत्वपूर्ण, इसने स्पष्ट किया कि महिला का मौन या कमजोर 'नहीं' को 'हाँ' नहीं माना जा सकता।
- Besides, the amendments raised the age of consent from **16 to 18 years**. इसके अलावा, संशोधनों ने सहमति की उम्र **16** से बढ़ाकर **18 वर्ष** कर दी।
- The amendments awarded death penalty to repeat offenders or if rape led to the death or 'persistent vegetative state' of the victim. संशोधनों ने दोहराने वाले अपराधियों या यदि बलात्कार से पीड़िता की मृत्यु या 'स्थायी वनस्पति अवस्था' हो जाती है, तो मृत्युदंड का प्रावधान किया।
- The **Unnao** and **Kathua** rape cases of **2017** and **2018** compelled **Parliament** to usher in further amendments to make criminal laws for sexual offences against women more stringent. **2017** और **2018** के **उन्नाव** और **कठुआ** बलात्कार मामलों ने **संसद** को महिलाओं के खिलाफ यौन अपराधों के लिए आपराधिक कानूनों को और कठोर बनाने के लिए आगे संशोधन लाने के लिए मजबूर किया।
- In the **Unnao** case, former **BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar** was convicted for the kidnap and rape of a minor girl. **उन्नाव** मामले में पूर्व **बीजेपी विधायक कुलदीप सिंह सेंगर** को नाबालिग लड़की के अपहरण और बलात्कार के लिए दोषी ठहराया गया था।
- The **Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2018** provided death penalty as a punishment in rape cases in which the victims are below **12 years** of age. **आपराधिक कानून संशोधन अधिनियम 2018** ने **12 वर्ष** से कम उम्र की पीड़िताओं वाले बलात्कार मामलों में मृत्युदंड का प्रावधान किया।
- The **2018** amendments also included a minimum of **20 years** imprisonment if the victim is under **16 years** of age. **2018** संशोधनों में यदि पीड़िता **16 वर्ष** से कम उम्र की है तो कम से कम **20 वर्ष** कारावास भी शामिल किया गया।
- The amendments fast-tracked investigation as well as the trial and appeal proceedings in rape cases — **two months** to complete a probe and trial, and **six months** to wrap up



appeals. संशोधनों ने बलात्कार मामलों में जांच, विचारण और अपील की प्रक्रिया को तेज किया — जांच और विचारण पूरा करने के लिए **दो माह**, अपील निपटाने के लिए **छह माह**।

- Finally, the **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2023** through the **BNS**, made sexual offences against women and children gender-neutral for both the victims and the perpetrators. अंत में, **आपराधिक कानून संशोधन अधिनियम, 2023** ने **BNS** के माध्यम से महिलाओं और बच्चों के खिलाफ यौन अपराधों को पीड़ितों और अपराधियों दोनों के लिए लिंग-तटस्थ बना दिया।
- It uniformly made gang rape of a woman aged below **18 years** punishable with death or life imprisonment. इसने **18 वर्ष** से कम उम्र की महिला के सामूहिक बलात्कार को एकसमान रूप से मृत्युदंड या आजीवन कारावास से दंडनीय बनाया।
- The **BNS** also brought in new offences like sexual intercourse under false pretences and broadened the definition of sexual harassment. **BNS** ने झूठे बहाने से यौन संबंध जैसे नए अपराध भी जोड़े और यौन उत्पीड़न की परिभाषा को विस्तृत किया।

Geography

18/11/2025

Into the wild



GS I: Geography

A juvenile Masai giraffe stands inside a crate with its eyes covered as it awaits relocation, from the Kedong Ranch, its natural habitat in the Rift Valley, situated in Kenya's Nakuru County, due to land subdivisions and corraling that have disrupted wildlife migratory routes. AFP



A juvenile Masai giraffe stands inside a crate with its eyes covered as it awaits relocation, from the Kedong Ranch, its natural habitat in the Rift Valley, situated in Kenya's Nakuru County, due to land subdivisions and corralling that have disrupted wildlife migratory routes.

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations

TOPICS COVERED

18 November 2025

Polity	
1.	Delhi blast culprits will get strictest punishment, Shah says at Zonal Council meet दिल्ली ब्लास्ट के दोषियों को कड़ी से कड़ी सज़ा मिलेगी, शाह ने जोनल काउंसिल बैठक में कहा
2.	Speaker delaying disqualification pleas is 'gross contempt': SC डिस्कालिफिकेशन याचिकाओं में देरी करना 'घोर अवमानना' है: सुप्रीम कोर्ट
Governance	
3.	Centre reviewing SC ruling on forest laws and tribal housing, says Minister केंद्र वन कानूनों और आदिवासी आवास पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले की समीक्षा कर रहा है, मंत्री ने कहा
International Relations	
4.	The lower judiciary — litigation, pendency, stagnation निम्न न्यायपालिका — वाद-विवाद, लंबित मामले, ठहराव
5.	Power grab पावर ग्रैब
6.	India needs to 'connect, build and revive' with Africa भारत को अफ्रीका के साथ 'connect, build and revive' करने की आवश्यकता है
7.	The need for a social audit for SIR 2.0 SIR 2.0 के लिए एक सामाजिक ऑडिट की आवश्यकता
8.	India oil firms bag first-ever U.S. LPG import deal भारतीय तेल कंपनियों ने पहली बार अमेरिकी LPG आयात सौदा हासिल किया
9.	ECB board revamp exposes diversity failings that could impact policy ECB बोर्ड पुनर्गठन से विविधता की कमजोरियाँ उजागर, जो नीति को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं
10.	'We'll engage with all stakeholders' in Bangladesh, says India after verdict



	बांग्लादेश में 'हम सभी हितधारकों से बातचीत करेंगे', फैसला आने के बाद भारत ने कहा
11.	Mali manuscripts escaped al-Qaeda but threat remains माली की पांडुलिपियाँ अल-कायदा से बच गईं लेकिन खतरा अब भी बना हुआ है
12.	Trump's military action sparks regional alarm as Venezuela braces for U.S. moves ट्रम्प की सैन्य कार्रवाई से क्षेत्र में चिंता, वेनेजुएला अमेरिकी कदमों के लिए तैयार

Polity

18/11/2025

Delhi blast culprits will get strictest punishment, Shah says at Zonal Council meet

Eliminating terror a collective commitment: Union Home Minister; meeting marked by disputes over water sharing as Haryana, Punjab, H.P. debate SYL canal, pending dues, and territorial claims

GS II: Polity: Zonal Councils

CHANDIGARH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the culprits of the November 10 Delhi bomb blast will be traced "even from the netherworld", brought before the judicial system, and given the strictest possible punishment.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, eliminating terrorism from the roots is our collective commitment," Mr. Shah said while chairing the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Faridabad, Haryana. The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers Nayab Singh Saini (Haryana), Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan), Omar Abdullah (Jammu and Kashmir) and Rekha Gupta (Delhi), along with several Governors and Lieutenant-Governors, and senior Central and State government officials.



Silent tribute: The Northern Zonal Council meeting started with a minute's silence for those killed in the Nov. 10 Red Fort blast. ANI

The session started with the participants observing a minute's silence for those killed in the terrorist incident near the Red Fort.

'Vital platforms'

Mr. Shah, the Chairperson of the five Zonal Councils, said the platforms are crucial for dialogue, cooperation, coordination, and policy synergy.

Water sharing emerged as a major topic of discussion, with the participating States making strong claims over their dues.

Haryana raised the issue of the non-construction of

the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal – the focal point of its decades-old conflict with Punjab over Ravi and Beas river waters.

Mr. Saini said proper arrangements must be made to ensure each State receives its rightful share of water. "Haryana has consistently been giving Delhi more water than its own share. However, due to the non-construction of the SYL canal, Haryana is not receiving its full share of water from Punjab. Once Haryana receives its rightful share of water through SYL, Rajasthan will also get

its due share," said the Haryana CM.

However, Mr. Mann said, "Punjab has no surplus water to spare through the SYL." He added that no scientific calculation had been conducted regarding the availability of water "even in 1976 and 1981, when the ratio of water to be shared among the States was decided by the Government of India unilaterally".

The Himachal CM sought the release of pending dues from the Bhakra Beas Management Board, which manages the Bhakra-Nangal and Beas projects and regulates water release, and pressed for the appointment of a permanent member from his State in the board.

Mr. Sukhu also reiterated his State's "legitimate right" to a 7.19% share in the lands and public assets of Chandigarh – the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, even as Mr. Mann reasserted its long-standing claims over Chandigarh and Panjab University.



Delhi blast culprits will get strictest punishment, Shah says at Zonal Council meet

दिल्ली ब्लास्ट के दोषियों को कड़ी से कड़ी सज़ा मिलेगी, शाह ने जोनल काउंसिल बैठक में कहा

- Eliminating terror a collective commitment: **Union Home Minister**; meeting marked by disputes over **water sharing** as Haryana, Punjab, H.P. debate **SYL canal**, pending dues, and territorial claims
आतंक समाप्त करना सामूहिक प्रतिबद्धता है: **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री**; बैठक **पानी के बंटवारे** पर विवादों से चिह्नित रही, क्योंकि हरियाणा, पंजाब, हिमाचल प्रदेश ने **एसवाईएल नहर**, लंबित बकाया और क्षेत्रीय दावों पर बहस की।
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** on Monday said the culprits of the **November 10 Delhi bomb blast** will be traced “even from the netherworld”, brought before the judicial system, and given the strictest possible punishment.
केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** ने सोमवार को कहा कि **10 नवंबर दिल्ली बम विस्फोट** के दोषियों को “पाताल से भी निकालकर” न्याय व्यवस्था के सामने लाया जाएगा और उन्हें संभवतः सबसे कठोर दंड दिया जाएगा।
- “Under the leadership of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, eliminating terrorism from the roots is our collective commitment,” Mr. Shah said while chairing the **32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council** in Faridabad, Haryana.
“प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** के नेतृत्व में आतंकवाद को जड़ से खत्म करना हमारी सामूहिक प्रतिबद्धता है,” श्री शाह ने हरियाणा के फरीदाबाद में **उत्तरी जोनल काउंसिल की 32वीं बैठक** की अध्यक्षता करते हुए कहा।
- The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers **Nayab Singh Saini** (Haryana), **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** (Himachal Pradesh), **Bhagwant Mann** (Punjab), **Bhajan Lal Sharma** (Rajasthan), **Omar Abdullah** (Jammu and Kashmir) and **Rekha Gupta** (Delhi), along with several **Governors, Lieutenant-Governors**, and senior Central and State government officials.
बैठक में कई **राज्यपालों, उप-राज्यपालों** और केंद्र व राज्य सरकार के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के साथ मुख्यमंत्री **नायब सिंह सैनी** (हरियाणा), **सुखविंदर सिंह सुक्खू** (हिमाचल), **भगवंत मान** (पंजाब), **भजन लाल शर्मा** (राजस्थान), **ओमर अब्दुल्ला** (जम्मू-कश्मीर) और **रेखा गुप्ता** (दिल्ली) उपस्थित रहे।
- The session started with the participants observing a **minute’s silence** for those killed in the terrorist incident near the **Red Fort**.
सत्र की शुरुआत प्रतिभागियों द्वारा **लाल किले** के पास हुए आतंकी हमले में मारे गए लोगों के लिए **एक मिनट का मौन** रखकर की गई।

‘Vital platforms’ ‘महत्वपूर्ण मंच’

- Mr. Shah, the Chairperson of the **five Zonal Councils**, said the platforms are crucial for **dialogue, cooperation, coordination, and policy synergy**.
श्री शाह, जो **पांच जोनल काउंसिलों** के अध्यक्ष हैं, ने कहा कि ये मंच **संवाद, सहयोग, समन्वय और नीतिगत समन्वय** के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- Water sharing** emerged as a major topic of discussion, with the participating States making strong claims over their dues.
पानी के बंटवारे का मुद्दा चर्चा का मुख्य विषय बनकर उभरा, जिसमें राज्यों ने अपने बकाये को लेकर मजबूत दावे किए।
- Haryana raised the issue of the non-construction of the **Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal** — the focal point of its decades-old conflict with Punjab over **Ravi and Beas river waters**.
हरियाणा ने **सतलुज-यमुना लिंक (एसवाईएल) नहर** के निर्माण न होने का मुद्दा उठाया—जो **रावी और ब्यास नदी के पानी** को लेकर पंजाब के साथ दशकों पुराने विवाद का केंद्र है।
- Mr. Saini said proper arrangements must be made to ensure each State receives its **rightful share of water**.



श्री सैनी ने कहा कि प्रत्येक राज्य को उसका **वाजिब जल हिस्सा** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उचित प्रबंध किए जाने चाहिए।

- “Haryana has consistently been giving Delhi more water than its own share. However, due to the non-construction of the SYL canal, Haryana is not receiving its full share of water from Punjab. Once Haryana receives its rightful share of water through SYL, **Rajasthan** will also get its due share,” said the Haryana CM.
हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, “हरियाणा लगातार दिल्ली को उसके अपने हिस्से से अधिक पानी दे रहा है। लेकिन **एसवाईएल नहर** के न बनने के कारण हरियाणा को पंजाब से उसका पूरा पानी नहीं मिल रहा है। एक बार हरियाणा को एसवाईएल के माध्यम से उसका हिस्सा मिल गया, तो **राजस्थान** को भी उसका हक मिलेगा।”
- However, Mr. **Mann** said, “Punjab has **no surplus water** to spare through the SYL.” हालांकि श्री **मान** ने कहा, “पंजाब के पास एसवाईएल के माध्यम से देने के लिए **कोई अतिरिक्त पानी** नहीं है।”
- He added that no **scientific calculation** had been conducted regarding the availability of water “even in 1976 and 1981, when the ratio of water to be shared among the States was decided by the Government of India unilaterally”. उन्होंने कहा कि जल उपलब्धता पर कोई **वैज्ञानिक गणना** नहीं की गई थी “यहां तक कि 1976 और 1981 में भी, जब राज्यों के बीच साझा किए जाने वाले पानी का अनुपात भारत सरकार द्वारा एकतरफा तय किया गया था।”
- The Himachal CM sought the release of **pending dues** from the **Bhakra Beas Management Board**, which manages the **Bhakra-Nangal** and **Beas projects** and regulates water release, and pressed for the appointment of a **permanent member** from his State in the board.
हिमाचल के मुख्यमंत्री ने **भाखड़ा ब्यास प्रबंधन बोर्ड** से **लंबित बकाया** जारी करने की मांग की, जो **भाखड़ा-नांगल** और **ब्यास परियोजनाओं** का प्रबंधन करता है और जल प्रवाह को नियंत्रित करता है, और उन्होंने बोर्ड में अपने राज्य से **स्थायी सदस्य** की नियुक्ति पर जोर दिया।
- Mr. **Sukhu** also reiterated his State’s “**legitimate right**” to a **7.19% share** in the lands and public assets of **Chandigarh** — the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana. श्री **सुकू** ने अपने राज्य का “**वैध अधिकार**” दोहराया कि उसे **चंडीगढ़**—जो पंजाब और हरियाणा की संयुक्त राजधानी है—की भूमि और सार्वजनिक संपत्तियों में **7.19% हिस्सेदारी** मिलनी चाहिए।
- even as Mr. **Mann** reasserted its long-standing claims over **Chandigarh** and **Panjab University**.
वहीं, श्री **मान** ने **चंडीगढ़** और **पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय** पर अपने लंबे समय से चले आ रहे दावों को पुनः दोहराया।

Speaker delaying disqualification pleas is ‘gross contempt’: SC

GS II: Polity: Anti Defection

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday warned that the Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar was in “gross contempt” for delaying a decision on petitions filed by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders seeking the disqualification of 10 of their MLAs who shifted allegiance to the ruling Con-

gress party in the State.

In July, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai had allowed the Speaker three months to complete the disqualification proceedings under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

“Either this [disqualification petitions] have to be decided by next week or face contempt. This is gross contempt. We have already said he does not



Gaddam Prasad Kumar

enjoy constitutional immunity while acting as a tribunal under the Tenth

Schedule. It is up to him to decide where he wants to spend on the New Year’s day,” Chief Justice Gavai observed.

Speaker’s duty

In a previous hearing, the court clarified its power, and duty, to ensure that Speakers, acting as a quasi-judicial tribunal under the anti-defection law of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, did not sit over

disqualification petitions till they “die a natural death” towards the end of the tenure of the House.

The court had expressed its resolve to not remain a silent spectator and watch from the gallery as a Speaker waited six months before the end of the tenure of a Legislative Assembly only to say “now there is no time left”.

Justice Gavai had firmly said the court would not al-

low the Tenth Schedule to be reduced to a mockery. It had observed that political defections, unless addressed and curbed, had the power to disrupt democracy. The apex court is hearing petitions filed by BRS leaders, including K.T. Rama Rao and Padi Kaushik Reddy, seeking timely action by the Telangana Assembly Speaker on disqualification proceedings pending against 10 MLAs.

Speaker delaying disqualification pleas is ‘gross contempt’: SC
डिस्कालिफिकेशन याचिकाओं में देरी करना ‘घोर अवमानना’ है: सुप्रीम कोर्ट



- The **Supreme Court** on Monday warned that the **Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar** was in “gross contempt” for delaying a decision on petitions filed by the **Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)** leaders seeking the disqualification of **10 of their MLAs** who shifted allegiance to the ruling Congress party in the State.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को चेतावनी दी कि तेलंगाना विधानसभा अध्यक्ष गड्डम प्रसाद कुमार डिस्कालिफिकेशन याचिकाओं पर निर्णय में देरी करने के लिए “घोर अवमानना” में हैं, जो भारतीय राष्ट्र समिति (BRS) नेताओं द्वारा दाखिल की गई थीं, जिनमें 10 विधायकों की अयोग्यता मांगी गई थी, जिन्होंने राज्य में सत्तारूढ़ कांग्रेस पार्टी का साथ दे दिया था।
- In July, a Bench headed by **Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai** had allowed the Speaker **three months** to complete the disqualification proceedings under the **Tenth Schedule** of the Constitution.
जुलाई में, भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने स्पीकर को संविधान के दसवीं अनुसूची के तहत अयोग्यता कार्यवाही पूरी करने के लिए तीन महीने का समय दिया था।
- “Either this [disqualification petitions] have to be decided by next week or face contempt. This is gross contempt. We have already said he does not enjoy **constitutional immunity** while acting as a tribunal under the Tenth Schedule. It is up to him to decide where he wants to spend New Year’s day,” Chief Justice Gavai observed.
“या तो इन [अयोग्यता याचिकाओं] पर अगले सप्ताह तक निर्णय होना चाहिए, नहीं तो अवमानना का सामना करना होगा। यह घोर अवमानना है। हम पहले ही कह चुके हैं कि दसवीं अनुसूची के तहत एक ट्रिब्यूनल के रूप में कार्य करते समय उन्हें संवैधानिक प्रतिरक्षा प्राप्त नहीं है। यह उन पर निर्भर है कि वह नया साल कहां बिताना चाहेंगे,” मुख्य न्यायाधीश गवई ने कहा।

Speaker's duty स्पीकर का कर्तव्य

- In a previous hearing, the court clarified its power, and duty, to ensure that **Speakers**, acting as a **quasi-judicial tribunal** under the **anti-defection law** of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, did not sit over disqualification petitions till they “die a natural death” towards the end of the tenure of the House.
पिछली सुनवाई में, अदालत ने अपनी शक्ति और कर्तव्य स्पष्ट किया कि स्पीकर, जो संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची के दलबदल विरोधी कानून के तहत अर्ध-न्यायिक ट्रिब्यूनल के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, अयोग्यता याचिकाओं को ऐसे लंबित न रखें कि वे सदन के कार्यकाल के अंत में “स्वाभाविक मौत” मर जाएं।
- The court had expressed its resolve to not remain a **silent spectator** and watch from the gallery as a Speaker waited six months before the end of the tenure of a Legislative Assembly only to say “now there is no time left”.
अदालत ने यह संकल्प व्यक्त किया था कि वह मूक दर्शक बनकर नहीं बैठेगी और यह नहीं देखेगी कि कोई स्पीकर विधानसभा के कार्यकाल समाप्त होने से छह महीने पहले तक इंतज़ार करे और फिर कहे “अब समय नहीं बचा है”।
- Justice Gavai had firmly said the court would not allow the **Tenth Schedule** to be reduced to a mockery.
न्यायमूर्ति गवई ने दृढ़ता से कहा था कि अदालत दसवीं अनुसूची को उपहास में बदलने की अनुमति नहीं देगी।
- It had observed that **political defections**, unless addressed and curbed, had the power to disrupt **democracy**.
अदालत ने कहा था कि यदि राजनीतिक दलबदल को रोका और नियंत्रित नहीं किया गया, तो उसमें लोकतंत्र को अस्थिर करने की क्षमता है।
- The apex court is hearing petitions filed by **BRS leaders**, including **K.T. Rama Rao** and **Padi Kaushik Reddy**, seeking timely action by the Telangana Assembly Speaker on disqualification proceedings pending against **10 MLAs**.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय बीआरएस नेताओं, जिनमें के.टी. रामा राव और पादी कौशिक रेड्डी शामिल हैं, द्वारा दायर याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई कर रहा है, जिसमें 10 विधायकों के खिलाफ लंबित अयोग्यता कार्यवाही पर तेलंगाना विधानसभा अध्यक्ष द्वारा समयबद्ध कार्रवाई की मांग की गई है।



Governance

18/11/2025

Centre reviewing SC ruling on forest laws and tribal housing, says Minister

GS II: Government Scheme

Abhinay Lakshman

NEW DELHI

The Union government has to ensure that flagship scheme saturation programmes such as the **PM-JANMAN** (for particularly vulnerable tribal groups, or **PVTG**) and **DAJGUA** (for Scheduled Tribe villages) “continue to serve our tribal communities effectively”, Minister for Tribal Affairs **Jual Oram** has said.

The Minister said the government was studying a recent Supreme Court order that noted a conflict between the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), which came in a case where **PVTG** villagers in Madhya Pradesh’s **Binega** are trying to build **PM-AWAS**-sanctioned homes on forest land over which they already hold forest rights titles.



Jual Oram

On September 23, the court passed an order in the case explaining that even though the **FRA** (2006) provided for the government to undertake certain “non-forestry” activities for providing services and facilities, notwithstanding the **FCA** (1980) it noted that these prescribed activities did not explicitly include the construction of pucca housing. It asked the government to find a way forward

where pucca dwellings on forest land do not come in conflict with the **FCA**.

“We have read the Supreme Court order and are in discussion with legal experts and Ministries involved. We need to ensure that flagship programmes like **PM-JANMAN** and **DAJGUA** continue to serve our tribal communities effectively,” Mr. Oram told *The Hindu*, just as the government was celebrating the 150th birth anniversary year of tribal icon **Birsa Munda** by ramping up registrations under **PM-JANMAN** and **DAJGUA** programmes.

FRA benefits

Since the court order, there have been discussions in the Ministry about the potential impact of the court’s observations on these programmes. One key feature of both these

programmes is that they use the **FRA** coverage across the country as a means to identify habitations, villages, and communities of **STs** and saturate them with all basic government facilities like power, piped water, mobile network, and government-sanctioned housing under the **PM-AWAS**. Further, **DAJGUA** interventions include identifying **FRA** holders and planning entrepreneurial interventions for them as well.

“This is why the order might pose a challenge in the future for these programmes. The idea is to find **FRA** title holders and then bring benefits to them,” one government official, who has previously worked on **PM-JANMAN**, told *The Hindu*.

The court is scheduled to take up the **Binega** villagers’ case next in December.

Centre reviewing SC ruling on forest laws and tribal housing, says Minister
केंद्र वन कानूनों और आदिवासी आवास पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले की समीक्षा कर रहा है, मंत्री ने कहा

- The **Union government** has to ensure that flagship scheme saturation programmes such as the **PM-JANMAN** (for particularly vulnerable tribal groups, or **PVTG**) and **DAJGUA** (for Scheduled Tribe villages) “continue to serve our tribal communities effectively”, Minister for Tribal Affairs **Jual Oram** has said.
केंद्र सरकार को यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि **PM-JANMAN** (विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूहों — **PVTG** — के लिए) और **DAJGUA** (अनुसूचित जनजाति गांवों के लिए) जैसी प्रमुख योजनाओं के saturation कार्यक्रम “हमारे आदिवासी समुदायों की प्रभावी सेवा करते रहें”, आदिवासी मामलों के मंत्री **जुआल ओराम** ने कहा।
- The Minister said the government was studying a recent **Supreme Court order** that noted a conflict between the **Forest Rights Act (FRA)** and the **Forest Conservation Act (FCA)**, which came in a case where **PVTG** villagers in **Binega, Madhya Pradesh**, are trying to build **PM-AWAS**-sanctioned homes on forest land over



which they already hold forest rights titles.

मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार हाल के **सुप्रीम कोर्ट आदेश** का अध्ययन कर रही है, जिसने **वन अधिकार अधिनियम (FRA)** और **वन संरक्षण अधिनियम (FCA)** के बीच टकराव को इंगित किया, जो उस मामले में आया जहां **मध्य प्रदेश के बिनैगा के PVTG ग्रामीण** उस वनभूमि पर **PM-AWAS** से स्वीकृत घर बनाना चाहते हैं, जिस पर उनके पास पहले से ही वनाधिकार पट्टे हैं।

- On **September 23**, the court passed an order in the case explaining that even though the **FRA (2006)** provided for the government to undertake certain “non-forestry” activities for providing services and facilities, notwithstanding the **FCA (1980)**, it noted that these prescribed activities did not explicitly include the **construction of pucca housing**.

23 सितंबर को अदालत ने इस मामले में आदेश पारित किया और स्पष्ट किया कि यद्यपि **FRA (2006)**, **FCA (1980)** के बावजूद, कुछ “गैर-वनीकरण” गतिविधियों के माध्यम से सेवाएँ और सुविधाएँ प्रदान करने की अनुमति देता है, लेकिन इन गतिविधियों में **पक्का आवास निर्माण** को स्पष्ट रूप से शामिल नहीं किया गया था।

- It asked the government to find a way forward where **pucca dwellings on forest land** do not come in conflict with the **FCA**.
अदालत ने सरकार से कहा कि **वनभूमि पर पक्के घर FCA** के साथ टकराव में न आएँ, इसके लिए रास्ता खोजा जाए।
- “We have read the Supreme Court order and are in discussion with **legal experts and Ministries** involved. We need to ensure that flagship programmes like PM-JANMAN and DAJGUA continue to serve our tribal communities effectively,” Mr. Oram told *The Hindu*, just as the government was celebrating the **150th birth anniversary year** of tribal icon **Birsa Munda** by ramping up registrations under PM-JANMAN and DAJGUA programmes.

“हमने सुप्रीम कोर्ट का आदेश पढ़ लिया है और **कानूनी विशेषज्ञों व संबंधित मंत्रालयों** के साथ चर्चा कर रहे हैं। हमें सुनिश्चित करना है कि PM-JANMAN और DAJGUA जैसी प्रमुख योजनाएँ हमारे आदिवासी समुदायों की प्रभावी सेवा करती रहें,” श्री ओराम ने *द हिंदू* को बताया, जब सरकार **आदिवासी प्रतीक बिरसा मुंडा की 150वीं जयंती वर्ष** मना रही थी और PM-JANMAN व DAJGUA कार्यक्रमों के तहत पंजीकरण बढ़ा रही थी।

FRA benefits

FRA लाभ

- Since the court order, there have been discussions in the Ministry about the potential impact of the court's observations on these programmes.
अदालत के आदेश के बाद, मंत्रालय में इन कार्यक्रमों पर अदालत की टिप्पणियों के संभावित प्रभाव को लेकर चर्चाएँ हो रही हैं।
- One key feature of both these programmes is that they use the **FRA coverage** across the country as a means to identify habitations, villages, and communities of **STs**, and saturate them with all basic government facilities like power, piped water, mobile network, and government-sanctioned housing under the **PM-AWAS**.
इन दोनों कार्यक्रमों की एक प्रमुख विशेषता यह है कि ये पूरे देश में **FRA कवरेज** का उपयोग **अनुसूचित जनजातियों (STs)** की बस्तियों, गांवों और समुदायों की पहचान करने के लिए करते हैं और फिर उन्हें बिजली, पाइप जल, मोबाइल नेटवर्क और **PM-AWAS** के तहत सरकारी आवास जैसी सभी बुनियादी सुविधाओं से संतृप्त करते हैं।
- Further, **DAJGUA interventions** include identifying FRA holders and planning **entrepreneurial interventions** for them as well.
इसके अतिरिक्त, **DAJGUA हस्तक्षेपों** में FRA धारकों की पहचान करना और उनके लिए **उद्यमिता हस्तक्षेपों** की योजना बनाना शामिल है।
- “This is why the order might pose a challenge in the future for these programmes. The idea is to find **FRA title holders** and then bring benefits to them,” one government official, who has previously worked on PM-JANMAN, told *The Hindu*.
“इसी कारण यह आदेश भविष्य में इन कार्यक्रमों के लिए चुनौती बन सकता है। विचार यह है कि **FRA टाइटल धारकों** को खोजा जाए और फिर उन्हें लाभ दिए जाएँ,” PM-JANMAN पर पहले काम कर चुके एक सरकारी अधिकारी ने *द हिंदू* को बताया।



- The court is scheduled to take up the **Binega villagers' case** next December.
अदालत बिनैगा ग्रामीणों के मामले की अगली सुनवाई दिसंबर में करेगी।

International Relations

18/11/2025

The lower judiciary — litigation, pendency, stagnation

CS II: Judiciary

MOB

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India, headed by the Chief Justice of India, recently linked the sense of stagnation in the subordinate judicial service to prolonged litigation and the huge pendency in India's courts. According to the National Judicial Data Grid, there are 4.69 crore cases pending in district courts. Another Bench of the Court has asked judges in Delhi to undergo training due to a lack of basic knowledge.

There are a few options to make changes in the administration of justice.

The Code of Civil Procedure and the Civil Rules of Practice contemplate procedures to be followed by courts in entertaining proceedings, issuing summons to the defendants, and for the appearance of parties. Subordinate judges handle this. They are forced to call every suit for the appearance of parties or order the issue of fresh summons and receive *vakalathnamas*. This takes up much time in the morning, leaving judges with very little time for the disposal of cases on merits. In most subordinate courts, the calling of cases goes on from 10.30 a.m. till well past noon. Quality time is lost by attending to such clerical and ministerial work.

A judicial officer in the lowest rank in hierarchy can be appointed in every district court to call all the cases of that particular cadre of courts (senior civil judges or civil judges or district *munsifs*, as the case may be). This court can do ministerial work the whole day and can also be assigned with the power to record *ex parte* evidence, issue of summons, receiving *vakalath* and written statements. At the end of the day, this court can list matters for trial and arguments the following day in each court. This list can be posted on the website in the evening.

The cases can be taken up, as in this list, from 10.30 a.m. every day by each court, and these courts can dispose of matters listed till evening. Even if some matters are adjourned, the orders can be still dictated, thus helping in judgements and case disposal.

The subordinate judiciary, its quality

There was a time when lawyers who practised law under the tutelage of a reputed lawyer in any branch of law, with at least 10 years of experience in the bar, used to be appointed district *munsif*/magistrates. Lawyers with more experience may also qualify after appearing for examinations for direct recruitment as district judges.

But now, judges are appointed without any experience and find it difficult to cope with the workload. In many cases, there are a number of judges who do not even pass orders as they are not equipped. Therefore, every civil judge or senior civil judge who is appointed must undergo training with different High Court Benches for a few months and observe how a High Court functions, how High Court judges hear matters, interact with lawyers, go through the judgments cited and study how orders are passed. This work culture by observation is a step that will definitely



P.R. Ramakrishnan

is a practising lawyer in Coimbatore

improve the working of the subordinate judge judiciary.

Whenever a statute is passed, new provisions are introduced, purportedly for the quick disposal of cases. But, in many cases, results are not achieved for expeditious disposal. On the contrary, there is a negative impact.

A typical example is Section 12(a) of the Commercial Courts Act and its provisions making pre suit mediation mandatory. The Supreme Court, while interpreting Section 12(a), has held, in *Patil Automation vs Rakheja Engineers* (2022 (7) MLJ 139), that this provision is mandatory and that the plaintiff is liable to be rejected without pre suit mediation. In commercial cases, parties who are in business would have already exchanged notices. Only where exchange of notices do not result in settlement, do they resort to a legal proceeding in court. Therefore, at the time of filing the suit, it would be known where the matter is headed. So, where is the need to make mediation mandatory and direct the plaintiff to exhaust the remedy of mediation before filing the claim?

Another example is the six-month cooling-off period in marriage laws in filing for consent divorce. The parties concerned often want the disposal of the case within this period. Once a couple decides to separate on mutual terms, a pertinent issue is on whether they should be forced to wait for six months. Some courts do not allow this cooling-off period to be dispensed with, leading to further proceedings and pendency. It is not known if it is wise to have a one-year separation in filing a mutual consent petition, while the same is not applicable in a contested petition. An untrue declaration is made by the parties – making it out as if they have been separated for more than one year – to move a petition. Some of these provisions result in pendency and also the litigant facing frustration.

A third example is the new Rent Act. There is enough confusion already as to whether the absence of a written registered lease can vest the rent court with jurisdiction in conflicting judicial opinion. Armed with the same set of facts, one can approach a civil or a commercial court (in the case of commercial lease), but not a rent court. These anomalies could have been avoided had the legislation accepted oral lease as well as delivery of possession recognised by the Transfer of Property Act, as before. In the case of the lease of residential properties and small apartments, parties do not want to spend on stamp duty and registration fee for lease. The nebulous state of affairs created through statute is another reason for pendency in courts.

Archaic procedural law

A number of provisions in the Code of Civil Procedure have also become a tool for some litigants to delay proceedings. These provisions are misused for which there are many examples.

For instance, why should there be a preliminary decree and final decree in a partition action? Why cannot one decree be passed

dividing the properties or order sale under the Partition Act soon after the passing of the decree?

Even if two decrees are contemplated, why should not the final decree proceeding be an automatic continuation of the preliminary decree, without a fresh application causing delay? Similarly, execution proceedings are not easily terminated because of many provisions under Order XXI of the Code which can be used by the judgment debtors to delay the process of execution. For example, why should there be 106 rules under Order XXI, many of which are hyper technical?

Unless drastic steps are taken to modify the procedure and compel parties to provide ways and means to satisfy the decree if passed in due course (even at the stage of framing and the list of assets by disclosure are made), a citizen will be forced to visit courts for years to realise his decree. This will be his plight in respect of all money claims including arbitration awards passed in his favour. There is a need to simplify the process of the execution of decrees and awards, and it is here that fast track procedure is needed.

What is important is the quick termination of the proceeding and not merely the conduct of trial or further proceedings by way of appeal. The code might have served the purpose when it was passed in 1908, but it is unfortunate that even after amendments in 1976 and 2002, there is still no solution to have the proceedings concluded expeditiously.

An example is the Amendment to Order VIII Rule 1 CPC making it mandatory for a defendant to file a written statement within 90 days (the Plaintiff can gather details for years to file the suit). What happens if the written statement is filed within 90 days? The suit is still not disposed of immediately and the trial takes its own course, especially when the right to appeal is exercised by the aggrieved party. So, why have a time frame only for filing the written statement?

This provision has not helped the cause other than its resulting in slipshod pleadings. While the time frame is fine when it is about money claims, it does not work in title suits.

Pendency and the higher judiciary

The issue of there being huge pendency needs to be addressed by the higher judiciary also. The termination of a judicial proceeding within a reasonable time – not a hasty approach to a proceeding when it commences or is work in progress – is the urgent need.

Solutions to reduce pendency ought to be considered. Unless we give up archaic laws and recruit competent lawyers as judges, we cannot expect the qualitative disposal of cases. Nor will pendency reduce.

The subordinate judiciary should be allowed to function as judges and not be a ministerial court officer ordering the issue of fresh summons, receiving *vakalathnamas* and pleadings, and calling cases and writing notes on the docket for nearly two hours every day.

There are solutions to improve the working of the subordinate judicial service

The lower judiciary — litigation, pendency, stagnation निम्न न्यायपालिका — वाद-विवाद, लंबित मामले, ठहराव

Reforming Subordinate Judiciary and Reducing Pendency in India

भारत में अधीनस्थ न्यायपालिका में सुधार और लंबित मामलों को कम करना



- A **Constitution Bench** of the **Supreme Court of India**, headed by the **Chief Justice of India**, recently linked the sense of stagnation in the subordinate judicial service to prolonged litigation and the huge pendency in India's courts. **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की एक संविधान पीठ**, जिसकी अध्यक्षता **भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश** कर रहे थे, ने हाल ही में अधीनस्थ न्यायिक सेवा में ठहराव की भावना को लंबी मुकदमेबाजी और भारत की अदालतों में भारी लंबित मामलों से जोड़ा।
- According to the **National Judicial Data Grid**, there are **4.69 crore cases** pending in district courts. **राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक डेटा ग्रिड** के अनुसार, जिला अदालतों में **4.69 करोड़ मामले** लंबित हैं।
- Another Bench of the Court has asked judges in **Delhi** to undergo training due to a lack of basic knowledge. अदालत की एक अन्य पीठ ने **दिल्ली** के न्यायाधीशों को बुनियादी ज्ञान की कमी के कारण प्रशिक्षण लेने को कहा है।
- There are a few options to make changes in the administration of justice. न्याय के प्रशासन में बदलाव के लिए कुछ विकल्प हैं।
- The **Code of Civil Procedure** and the **Civil Rules of Practice** contemplate procedures to be followed by courts in entertaining proceedings, issuing summons to the defendants, and for the appearance of parties. **सिविल प्रक्रिया संहिता** और **सिविल नियम अभ्यास** उन प्रक्रियाओं की कल्पना करते हैं जिनका अदालतों द्वारा कार्यवाही स्वीकार करने, प्रतिवादियों को समन जारी करने और पक्षकारों की उपस्थिति के लिए पालन करना होता है।
- Subordinate judges handle this. इसे अधीनस्थ न्यायाधीश संभालते हैं।
- They are forced to call every suit for the appearance of parties or order the issue of fresh summons and receive vakalathnamas. वे हर वाद को पक्षकारों की उपस्थिति के लिए बुलाने या नए समन जारी करने और वकालतनामा प्राप्त करने को बाध्य होते हैं।
- This takes up much time in the morning, leaving judges with very little time for the disposal of cases on merits. इससे सुबह का काफी समय लग जाता है, जिससे न्यायाधीशों के पास गुण-दोष के आधार पर मामलों के निपटारे के लिए बहुत कम समय बचता है।
- In most subordinate courts, the calling of cases goes on from **10.30 a.m.** till well past noon. अधिकांश अधीनस्थ अदालतों में मामलों की बुलावा **सुबह 10.30 बजे** से दोपहर बाद तक चलता रहता है।
- Quality time is lost by attending to such clerical and ministerial work. इस तरह के लिपिकीय और मंत्रालयिक कार्य में गुणवत्तापूर्ण समय खराब हो जाता है।
- A judicial officer in the lowest rank in hierarchy can be appointed in every district court to call all the cases of that particular cadre of courts (senior civil judges or civil judges or district munsifs, as the case may be). हर जिला अदालत में पदानुक्रम में सबसे निचले रैंक का एक न्यायिक अधिकारी नियुक्त किया जा सकता है जो उस विशेष कैडर की अदालतों (वरिष्ठ सिविल जज या सिविल जज या जिला मुंसिफ, जैसा भी मामला हो) के सभी मामलों को बुलाए।
- This court can do ministerial work the whole day and can also be assigned with the power to record ex parte evidence, issue of summons, receiving vakalath and written statements. यह अदालत पूरे दिन मंत्रालयिक कार्य कर सकती है और इसे एकतरफा साक्ष्य दर्ज करने, समन जारी करने, वकालतनामा और लिखित बयान प्राप्त करने की शक्ति भी दी जा सकती है।
- At the end of the day, this court can list matters for trial and arguments the following day in each court. दिन के अंत में यह अदालत प्रत्येक अदालत में अगले दिन विचारण और तर्क के लिए मामलों की सूची बना सकती है।
- This list can be posted on the website in the evening. यह सूची शाम को वेबसाइट पर डाली जा सकती है।
- The cases can be taken up, as in this list, from **10.30 a.m.** every day by each court, and these courts can dispose of matters listed till evening. इस सूची के अनुसार हर अदालत रोज **सुबह 10.30 बजे** से मामले उठा सकती है और ये अदालतें शाम तक सूचीबद्ध मामलों का निपटारा कर सकती हैं।
- Even if some matters are adjourned, the orders can be still dictated, thus helping in judgements and case disposal. भले ही कुछ मामले स्थगित हो जाएं, आदेश अभी भी डिक्टेट किए जा सकते हैं, जिससे निर्णय और मामले के निपटारे में मदद मिलेगी।

The subordinate judiciary, its quality

अधीनस्थ न्यायपालिका, इसकी गुणवत्ता



- There was a time when lawyers who practised law under the tutelage of a reputed lawyer in any branch of law, with at least **10 years** of experience in the bar, used to be appointed district munsif/magistrates. ऐसा समय था जब किसी प्रतिष्ठित वकील के अधीन कम से कम **10 वर्ष** बार में अनुभव वाले वकील को जिला मुंसिफ/मजिस्ट्रेट नियुक्त किया जाता था।
- Lawyers with more experience may also qualify after appearing for examinations for direct recruitment as district judges. अधिक अनुभव वाले वकील जिला न्यायाधीश के रूप में सीधी भर्ती के लिए परीक्षा देकर भी योग्य हो सकते हैं।
- But now, judges are appointed without any experience and find it difficult to cope with the workload. लेकिन अब बिना किसी अनुभव के न्यायाधीश नियुक्त किए जाते हैं और वे कार्यभार का सामना करने में कठिनाई महसूस करते हैं।
- In many cases, there are a number of judges who do not even pass orders as they are not equipped. कई मामलों में ऐसे न्यायाधीशों की संख्या है जो सुसज्जित न होने के कारण आदेश तक पारित नहीं करते।
- Therefore, every civil judge or senior civil judge who is appointed must undergo training with different **High Court Benches** for a few months and observe how a **High Court** functions, how **High Court** judges hear matters, interact with lawyers, go through the judgments cited and study how orders are passed. इसलिए, नियुक्त होने वाले हर सिविल जज या वरिष्ठ सिविल जज को कुछ महीनों के लिए विभिन्न **उच्च न्यायालय पीठों** के साथ प्रशिक्षण लेना चाहिए और देखना चाहिए कि **उच्च न्यायालय** कैसे कार्य करता है, **उच्च न्यायालय** के न्यायाधीश मामले कैसे सुनते हैं, वकीलों से कैसे बातचीत करते हैं, उद्धृत निर्णयों का अध्ययन करते हैं और आदेश कैसे पारित होते हैं।
- This work culture by observation is a step that will definitely improve the working of the subordinate judge judiciary. निरीक्षण द्वारा यह कार्य संस्कृति एक ऐसा कदम है जो निश्चित रूप से अधीनस्थ न्यायाधीश न्यायपालिका के कामकाज में सुधार करेगा।
- Whenever a statute is passed, new provisions are introduced, purportedly for the quick disposal of cases. जब भी कोई कानून पारित होता है, नए प्रावधान पेश किए जाते हैं, कथित तौर पर मामलों के शीघ्र निपटारे के लिए।
- But, in many cases, results are not achieved for expeditious disposal. लेकिन कई मामलों में शीघ्र निपटारे के परिणाम हासिल नहीं होते।
- On the contrary, there is a negative impact. इसके विपरीत, नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ता है।
- A typical example is **Section 12(a)** of the **Commercial Courts Act** and its provisions making pre suit mediation mandatory. एक विशिष्ट उदाहरण **वाणिज्यिक अदालत अधिनियम की धारा 12(क)** और इसके प्रावधान हैं जो मुकदमा से पहले मध्यस्थता को अनिवार्य बनाते हैं।
- The **Supreme Court**, while interpreting **Section 12(a)**, has held, in **Patil Automation vs Rakheja Engineers (2022 (7) MLJ 139)**, that this provision is mandatory and that the plaint is liable to be rejected without pre suit mediation. **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने **धारा 12(क)** की व्याख्या करते हुए **पाटिल ऑटोमेशन बनाम रखेजा इंजीनियर्स (2022 (7) MLJ 139)** में माना है कि यह प्रावधान अनिवार्य है और मुकदमा से पहले मध्यस्थता के बिना वादपत्र अस्वीकार करने योग्य है।
- In commercial cases, parties who are in business would have already exchanged notices. वाणिज्यिक मामलों में व्यापार करने वाले पक्ष पहले ही नोटिस का आदान-प्रदान कर चुके होते हैं।
- Only where exchange of notices do not result in settlement, do they resort to a legal proceeding in court. केवल तभी जब नोटिसों के आदान-प्रदान से निपटारा नहीं होता, वे अदालत में कानूनी कार्यवाही का सहारा लेते हैं।
- Therefore, at the time of filing the suit, it would be known where the matter is headed. इसलिए, वाद दायर करने के समय यह पता चल जाता है कि मामला कहाँ जा रहा है।
- So, where is the need to make mediation mandatory and direct the plaintiff to exhaust the remedy of mediation before filing the claim? तो, मध्यस्थता को अनिवार्य बनाने और वादी को दावा दायर करने से पहले मध्यस्थता के उपाय को समाप्त करने का निर्देश देने की आवश्यकता कहाँ है?
- Another example is the **six-month cooling-off period** in marriage laws in filing for consent divorce. एक और उदाहरण विवाह कानूनों में सहमति तलाक के लिए **छह महीने की शीतलन अवधि** है।
- The parties concerned often want the disposal of the case within this period. संबंधित पक्ष अक्सर इस अवधि के भीतर मामले का निपटारा चाहते हैं।
- Once a couple decides to separate on mutual terms, a pertinent issue is on whether they should be forced to wait for six months. जब कोई दंपति आपसी सहमति से अलग होने का फैसला करता है, तो एक प्रासंगिक मुद्दा यह है कि क्या उन्हें छह महीने इंतजार करने के लिए मजबूर किया जाना चाहिए।



- Some courts do not allow this cooling-off period to be dispensed with, leading to further proceedings and pendency. कुछ अदालतें इस शीतलन अवधि को माफ करने की अनुमति नहीं देती, जिससे आगे की कार्यवाही और लंबित मामले बढ़ते हैं।
- It is not known if it is wise to have a **one-year separation** in filing a mutual consent petition, while the same is not applicable in a contested petition. यह ज्ञात नहीं है कि सहमति याचिका दायर करने में **एक वर्ष का अलगाव** रखना बुद्धिमानी है, जबकि विवादित याचिका में यह लागू नहीं होता।
- An untrue declaration is made by the parties — making it out as if they have been separated for more than one year — to move a petition. पक्षकारों द्वारा असत्य घोषणा की जाती है — यह दिखाने के लिए कि वे एक वर्ष से अधिक समय से अलग हैं — याचिका आगे बढ़ाने के लिए।
- Some of these provisions result in pendency and also the litigant facing frustration. इनमें से कुछ प्रावधान लंबित मामलों और मुकदमेबाज़ को निराशा का कारण बनते हैं।
- A third example is the new **Rent Act**. तीसरा उदाहरण नया **किराया अधिनियम** है।
- There is enough confusion already as to whether the absence of a written registered lease can vest the rent court with jurisdiction in conflicting judicial opinion. यह पहले से ही पर्याप्त भ्रम है कि लिखित पंजीकृत पट्टे की अनुपस्थिति में किराया अदालत को अधिकार क्षेत्र प्राप्त हो सकता है या नहीं, परस्पर विरोधी न्यायिक मत के कारण।
- Armed with the same set of facts, one can approach a civil or a commercial court (in the case of commercial lease), but not a rent court. एक ही तथ्यों के साथ कोई सिविल या वाणिज्यिक अदालत (वाणिज्यिक पट्टे के मामले में) जा सकता है, लेकिन किराया अदालत नहीं।
- These anomalies could have been avoided had the legislation accepted oral lease as well as delivery of possession recognised by the **Transfer of Property Act**, as before. ये विसंगतियाँ टाली जा सकती थीं यदि विधान ने मौखिक पट्टे और **संपत्ति हस्तांतरण अधिनियम** द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त कब्जे की डिलीवरी को पहले की तरह स्वीकार किया होता।
- In the case of the lease of residential properties and small apartments, parties do not want to spend on stamp duty and registration fee for lease. आवासीय संपत्तियों और छोटे अपार्टमेंट के पट्टे के मामले में पक्ष स्टंप शुल्क और पंजीकरण शुल्क पर खर्च नहीं करना चाहते।
- The nebulous state of affairs created through statute is another reason for pendency in courts. कानून द्वारा निर्मित अस्पष्ट स्थिति अदालतों में लंबित मामलों का एक और कारण है।

Archaic Procedural Law

प्राचीन प्रक्रियात्मक कानून

- A number of provisions in the **Code of Civil Procedure** have also become a tool for some litigants to delay proceedings. **सिविल प्रक्रिया संहिता** के कई प्रावधान कुछ मुकदमेबाज़ों के लिए कार्यवाही में देरी करने का उपकरण बन गए हैं।
- These provisions are misused for which there are many examples. इन प्रावधानों का दुरुपयोग होता है जिसके कई उदाहरण हैं।
- For instance, why should there be a preliminary decree and final decree in a partition action? उदाहरण के लिए, बंटवारे की कार्रवाई में प्रारंभिक डिक्री और अंतिम डिक्री क्यों होनी चाहिए?
- Why cannot one decree be passed dividing the properties or order sale under the **Partition Act** soon after the passing of the decree? एक ही डिक्री क्यों नहीं पारित की जा सकती जिसमें संपत्तियों का विभाजन या **बंटवारा अधिनियम** के तहत डिक्री पारित होने के तुरंत बाद बिक्री का आदेश हो?
- Even if two decrees are contemplated, why should not the final decree proceeding be an automatic continuation of the preliminary decree, without a fresh application causing delay? भले ही दो डिक्री की कल्पना की गई हो, अंतिम डिक्री की कार्यवाही प्रारंभिक डिक्री का स्वतः निरंतरता क्यों नहीं होनी चाहिए, बिना नई अर्जी के जो देरी का कारण बनती है?
- Similarly, execution proceedings are not easily terminated because of many provisions under **Order XXI** of the Code which can be used by the judgment debtors to delay the process of execution. इसी तरह, निष्पादन कार्यवाही आसानी से समाप्त नहीं होती क्योंकि संहिता के **आदेश XXI** के कई प्रावधान हैं जिनका उपयोग निर्णय-ऋणी निष्पादन प्रक्रिया में देरी करने के लिए कर सकते हैं।
- For example, why should there be **106 rules** under **Order XXI**, many of which are hyper technical? उदाहरण के लिए, **आदेश XXI** के तहत **106 नियम** क्यों होने चाहिए, जिनमें से कई अति तकनीकी हैं?



- Unless drastic steps are taken to modify the procedure and compel parties to provide ways and means to satisfy the decree if passed in due course (even at the stage of framing and the list of assets by disclosure are made), a citizen will be forced to visit courts for years to realise his decree. जब तक प्रक्रिया में आमूल बदलाव और पक्षकारों को डिक्री संतुष्ट करने के तरीके उपलब्ध कराने के लिए बाध्य नहीं किया जाता (भले ही मुद्दे निर्धारण के चरण में ही संपत्तियों की सूची प्रकटीकरण द्वारा बनाई जाए), नागरिक को अपनी डिक्री प्राप्त करने के लिए वर्षों तक अदालत के चक्कर लगाने पड़ेंगे।
- This will be his plight in respect of all money claims including arbitration awards passed in his favour. यह स्थिति सभी धन दावों जिसमें उसके पक्ष में पारित मध्यस्थता पुरस्कार भी शामिल हैं, के संबंध में होगी।
- There is a need to simplify the process of the execution of decrees and awards. डिक्री और पुरस्कारों के निष्पादन की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाने की आवश्यकता है।
- and it is here that fast track procedure is needed. और यहीं **फास्ट ट्रैक प्रक्रिया** की आवश्यकता है।
- What is important is the quick termination of the proceeding and not merely the conduct of trial or further proceedings by way of appeal. महत्वपूर्ण कार्यवाही का शीघ्र समापन है न कि केवल विचारण या अपील द्वारा आगे की कार्यवाही।
- The code might have served the purpose when it was passed in **1908**, but it is unfortunate that even after amendments in **1976** and **2002**, there is still no solution to have the proceedings concluded expeditiously. संहिता ने **1908** में पारित होने पर अपना उद्देश्य पूरा किया होगा, लेकिन **1976** और **2002** के संशोधनों के बाद भी कार्यवाही को शीघ्र समाप्त करने का कोई समाधान न होना दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है।
- An example is the Amendment to **Order VIII Rule 1 CPC** making it mandatory for a defendant to file a written statement within **90 days** (the Plaintiff can gather details for years to file the suit). एक उदाहरण **आदेश VIII नियम 1 सिविल प्रक्रिया संहिता** में संशोधन है जिसने प्रतिवादी के लिए **90 दिनों** के भीतर लिखित बयान दाखिल करना अनिवार्य किया (वादी वाद दायर करने के लिए वर्षों तक विवरण एकत्र कर सकता है)।
- What happens if the written statement is filed within **90 days**? यदि **90 दिनों** के भीतर लिखित बयान दाखिल कर दिया जाए तो क्या होता है?
- The suit is still not disposed of immediately and the trial takes its own course, especially when the right to appeal is exercised by the aggrieved party. वाद अभी भी तुरंत निपटाया नहीं जाता और विचारण अपना रास्ता लेता है, विशेष रूप से जब पीड़ित पक्ष अपील का अधिकार प्रयोग करता है।
- So, why have a time frame only for filing the written statement? तो, लिखित बयान दाखिल करने के लिए ही समय-सीमा क्यों हो?
- This provision has not helped the cause other than its resulting in slipshod pleadings. इस प्रावधान ने लापरवाह लिखित बयानों के अलावा किसी उद्देश्य की पूर्ति नहीं की।
- While the time frame is fine when it is about money claims, it does not work in title suits. धन दावों के मामले में समय-सीमा ठीक है, लेकिन स्वामित्व वादों में यह काम नहीं करती।

Pendency and the higher judiciary

लंबित मामले और उच्च न्यायपालिका

- The issue of there being huge pendency needs to be addressed by the higher judiciary also. भारी लंबित मामलों का मुद्दा उच्च न्यायपालिका को भी संबोधित करना होगा।
- The termination of a judicial proceeding within a reasonable time — not a hasty approach to a proceeding when it commences or is work in progress — is the urgent need. न्यायिक कार्यवाही का उचित समय में समापन — कार्यवाही शुरू होने या चलते रहने पर जल्दबाजी नहीं — तत्काल आवश्यकता है।
- Solutions to reduce pendency ought to be considered. लंबित मामलों को कम करने के समाधान पर विचार होना चाहिए।
- Unless we give up archaic laws and recruit competent lawyers as judges, we cannot expect the qualitative disposal of cases. जब तक हम प्राचीन कानूनों को छोड़कर सक्षम वकीलों को न्यायाधीश नहीं बनाते, गुणवत्तापूर्ण मामले निपटारे की उम्मीद नहीं की जा सकती।
- Nor will pendency reduce. न ही लंबित मामले कम होंगे।



- The subordinate judiciary should be allowed to function as judges and not be a ministerial court officer ordering the issue of fresh summons, receiving vakalathnama and pleadings, and calling cases and writing notes on the docket for nearly two hours every day. अधीनस्थ न्यायपालिका को न्यायाधीश की तरह कार्य करने की अनुमति होनी चाहिए न कि मंत्रालयिक अदालती अधिकारी की तरह जो हर रोज लगभग दो घंटे तक नए समन जारी करने, वकालतनामा और लिखित बयान प्राप्त करने, मामले बुलाने और डाकेट पर नोट लिखने का काम करे।

GS II: IR: Pakistan

Power grab

General Munir's indirect coup in Pakistan could backfire on him

The 27th amendment to Pakistan's Constitution, passed on November 13, formalises what has long been an open secret — that the military establishment pulls the strings behind a facade of democracy. Gen. Asim Munir, the army chief, has been steadily consolidating power, and the Shehbaz Sharif coalition government operates with his blessings. In May, after a brief conflict with India, the government elevated Gen. Munir to the rank of Field Marshal — the second five-star General after Ayub Khan. The amendment goes further, restructuring the military command and the judiciary. It rewrites Article 243 of Pakistan's Constitution, introducing a post — Chief of Defence Forces, who will exercise authority over the Army, Navy and Air Force; the army chief will also serve as the Chief of Defence Forces. It also creates the post of Commander of the National Strategic Command, to oversee nuclear and strategic assets. The commander will be appointed by the Prime Minister on the Army chief's recommendation. Most strikingly, the amendment offers life-long immunity from criminal proceedings to any officer elevated to a five-star rank — currently, Gen. Munir — as well as the President. Five-star officers will remain in uniform for life and can be removed only through an impeachment-like process under Article 47.

In effect, Gen. Munir will be the new centralised power centre in the establishment. The amendment also strips the Supreme Court of its authority to interpret the Constitution, establishing a new constitutional court whose judges will be appointed by the government. Several senior judges have resigned in protest. Democracy has hardly been Pakistan's strong point. Yet, civil society and segments of the political class have, at critical moments, resisted powerful generals, reclaiming limited democratic space. Today, however, the ruling elite seem more willing than ever to play second fiddle to the generals. The only mainstream politician challenging Gen. Munir is Imran Khan, in prison for more than two years. With a weakened government and an opposition leadership behind bars, Gen. Munir is expanding his authority with the full comfort of constitutional protection. But the story of the rise of Pakistan's military strongmen typically ends with their eventual downfall. His power grab comes at a time when the country is fighting an insurgency in the tribal areas. Relations with India and Afghanistan are at a low. Imran Khan's PTI continues to challenge the 'hybrid' civil-military rule from the streets. And the economy is in chronic distress. Gen. Munir's response to these challenges was to stage an indirect coup using supine politicians. It could backfire sooner rather than later.

- Most strikingly, the amendment offers life-long immunity from criminal proceedings to any officer elevated to a five-star rank — currently, **Gen. Munir** — as well as the **President**. सबसे

Powergrab पावर ग्रैब

- General Munir's indirect **coup** in Pakistan could **backfire** on him
जनरल मुनीर का पाकिस्तान में अप्रत्यक्ष **तख्तापलट (coup)** उन्हीं पर **उल्टा पड़** सकता है।

- The **27th amendment to Pakistan's Constitution, passed on November 13, formalises what has long been an open secret — that the military establishment pulls the strings behind a facade of democracy.** पाकिस्तान के संविधान का **27वां संशोधन, 13 नवंबर** को पारित किया गया, जो लंबे समय से एक खुला राज रहा है — कि सैन्य प्रतिष्ठान लोकतंत्र की आड़ के पीछे डोरें खींचता है।

- Gen. Asim Munir**, the army chief, has been steadily consolidating power, and the **Shehbaz Sharif** coalition government operates with his blessings. **सेनाध्यक्ष, जेनरल असिम मुनीर**, लगातार शक्ति का समेकन कर रहे हैं, और **शहबाज शरीफ** गठबंधन सरकार उनके आशीर्वाद से संचालित हो रही है।

- In **May**, after a brief conflict with **India**, the government elevated **Gen. Munir** to the **rank of Field Marshal — the second five-star General after Ayub Khan.** मई में, **भारत** के साथ संक्षिप्त संघर्ष के बाद, सरकार ने **जेनरल मुनीर** को **फील्ड मार्शल** के पदवी तक ऊंचा उठाया — **अयूब खान** के बाद दूसरा पांच-तारा जनरल।

- The amendment goes further, restructuring the military command and the judiciary. संशोधन और आगे जाता है, सैन्य कमान और न्यायपालिका का पुनर्गठन करता है।

- It rewrites **Article 243 of Pakistan's Constitution, introducing a post — Chief of Defence Forces, who will exercise authority over the Army, Navy and Air Force; the army chief will also serve as the Chief of Defence Forces.** यह **पाकिस्तान** के संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 243** को फिर से लिखता है, एक पद पेश करता है — **रक्षा बलों के प्रमुख**, जो **सेना, नौसेना और वायुसेना** पर अधिकार का प्रयोग करेगा; **सेनाध्यक्ष रक्षा बलों के प्रमुख** के रूप में भी सेवा देंगे।

- It also creates the post of **Commander of the National Strategic Command, to oversee nuclear and strategic assets.** यह **राष्ट्रीय रणनीतिक कमान के कमांडर** के पद को भी बनाता है, परमाणु और रणनीतिक संपत्तियों की निगरानी के लिए।

- The **commander will be appointed by the Prime Minister on the Army chief's recommendation.** कमांडर को **प्रधानमंत्री** द्वारा **सेना प्रमुख** की सिफारिश पर नियुक्त किया जाएगा।



आश्चर्यजनक रूप से, संशोधन किसी भी अधिकारी को पांच-तारा पदवी तक उंचा उठाने पर आपराधिक कार्यवाहियों से आजीवन छूट प्रदान करता है — वर्तमान में, **जेनरल मुनीर** — साथ ही **राष्ट्रपति** को।

- **Five-star officers will remain in uniform for life and can be removed only through an impeachment-like process under Article 47.** पांच-तारा अधिकारी जीवन भर वर्दी में रहेंगे और केवल **अनुच्छेद 47** के तहत महाभियोग जैसी प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से हटाए जा सकेंगे।
- In effect, **Gen. Munir** will be the new centralised power centre in the establishment. वास्तव में, **जेनरल मुनीर** प्रतिष्ठान में नया केंद्रीकृत शक्ति केंद्र होंगे।
- **The amendment also strips the Supreme Court of its authority to interpret the Constitution, establishing a new constitutional court whose judges will be appointed by the government.** संशोधन **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** से संविधान की व्याख्या करने के अधिकार को भी छीन लेता है, एक नया संवैधानिक न्यायालय स्थापित करता है जिसके न्यायाधीश सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त किए जाएंगे।
- Several senior judges have resigned in protest. कई वरिष्ठ न्यायाधीश विरोध में इस्तीफा दे चुके हैं।
- Democracy has hardly been **Pakistan's** strong point. लोकतंत्र मुश्किल से ही **पाकिस्तान** का मजबूत बिंदु रहा है।
- Yet, civil society and segments of the political class have, at critical moments, resisted powerful generals, reclaiming limited democratic space. फिर भी, सिविल सोसाइटी और राजनीतिक वर्ग के खंडों ने महत्वपूर्ण क्षणों में शक्तिशाली जनरलों का प्रतिरोध किया है, सीमित लोकतांत्रिक स्थान को पुनः प्राप्त किया है।
- Today, however, the ruling elite seem more willing than ever to play second fiddle to the generals. आज, हालांकि, शासक अभिजात वर्ग जनरलों के लिए दूसरे वायलिन की भूमिका निभाने के लिए पहले से कहीं अधिक इच्छुक लगते हैं।
- The only mainstream politician challenging **Gen. Munir** is **Imran Khan**, in prison for more than two years. **जेनरल मुनीर** को चुनौती देने वाला एकमात्र मुख्यधारा का राजनेता **इमरान खान** है, जो दो वर्ष से अधिक समय से जेल में हैं।
- With a weakened government and an opposition leadership behind bars, **Gen. Munir** is expanding his authority with the full comfort of constitutional protection. कमजोर सरकार और विपक्षी नेतृत्व जेल के पीछे होने के साथ, **जेनरल मुनीर** संवैधानिक सुरक्षा की पूर्ण सुविधा के साथ अपनी सत्ता का विस्तार कर रहे हैं।
- But the story of the rise of **Pakistan's** military strongmen typically ends with their eventual downfall. लेकिन **पाकिस्तान** के सैन्य स्ट्रॉन्गमैन के उदय की कहानी आमतौर पर उनके अंतिम पतन के साथ समाप्त होती है।
- His power grab comes at a time when the country is fighting an insurgency in the tribal areas. उनकी सत्ता हथियाने की घटना तब आती है जब देश जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में विद्रोह से लड़ रहा है।
- Relations with **India** and **Afghanistan** are at a low. **भारत** और **अफगानिस्तान** के साथ संबंध निम्न स्तर पर हैं।
- **Imran Khan's PTI** continues to challenge the 'hybrid' civil-military rule from the streets. **इमरान खान** की **PTI** सड़कों से 'संकर' सिविल-सैन्य शासन को चुनौती देना जारी रखे हुए है।
- And the economy is in chronic distress. और अर्थव्यवस्था पुरानी संकट में है।
- **Gen. Munir's** response to these challenges was to stage an indirect coup using supine politicians. इन चुनौतियों के लिए **जेनरल मुनीर** का प्रतिक्रिया लेटे हुए राजनेताओं का उपयोग करके अप्रत्यक्ष तख्तापलट करना था।
- It could backfire sooner rather than later. यह बाद में न होकर जल्द ही उल्टा पड़ सकता है।



India needs to 'connect, build and revive' with Africa

GS II, IR, Africa

MQB

Ten years ago, New Delhi hosted the last India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III). The 2015 summit was a moment of significance. Marking a leap in India's diplomatic imagination under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India had welcomed representatives from all 54 African states.

Since then India has added 17 new missions across Africa. Trade has surpassed \$100 billion. Investment flows are gathering pace. India's support for Africa's global voice has grown. It was key in ensuring full membership for the African Union in the G-20. It is now time to take stock, not only of promises made but also of the foundations laid.

The opportunities and challenges

By 2050, one in four people on earth will be in Africa. India will be the world's third largest economy. Between these two lies a potential growth corridor of commerce, demography, technology and aspiration.

India is among Africa's top five investors, with cumulative investments of \$75 billion. However, the underlying model has shifted. From ports to power lines, vaccine production to digital tools, the message for engagement is clear. Build together.

The evolution of ties is visible. In April 2025, India and nine African navies (Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania) exercised together in the first Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME), initiating a security partnership rooted in shared oceanic geography. India's Exim Bank recently extended a \$40 million commercial credit line to the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) – modest in scale, but a signal of interest in



Syed Akbaruddin

is a former Indian Permanent Representative to the United Nations and, currently, Dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad

Ten years after India hosted the last India-Africa Forum Summit, the next chapter needs to be written

African-led development. Education remains a trusted pillar.

The new campus of IIT Madras, in Zanzibar, is the most visible example. Behind it stands decades of knowledge partnerships, including the Pan-African e-Network and India's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, which continue to train thousands across the continent.

These are not isolated efforts but part of a growing web. Beyond that, India continues to push for African representation in global institutions and contributes to United Nations peacekeeping missions on the continent.

India's trade with Africa is growing, but it still lags behind China. Indian firms arrive full of promise but are often slowed by small balance sheets and bureaucratic drag. The temptation to scale back is real, but erroneous.

Instead, India must move up the value chain. That means co-investing in future-facing sectors – green hydrogen, electric mobility and digital infrastructure. Africa today is asserting its terms. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is laying the groundwork for a single continental market. India's UPI and digital stack can complement this transformation. Alas, tools alone are not strategy. Delivery is. In cities such as Kigali (Rwanda), Nairobi (Kenya) and Lagos (Nigeria), African innovation ecosystems are growing. But the competition is global.

The human link

India's most enduring export to Africa is not technology. It is talent. Nearly 40,000 Africans have studied in India in the last decade, through the ITEC, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the e-Network platforms. Many have returned to shape policy, run

ministries or lead innovation back home. They are living bridges that carry trust across borders.

The movement is not one way. African students, athletes and entrepreneurs are carving their space in India. Nigerian footballers such as Ranti Martins have become household names. The Indian cricket team's fast bowling coach is South Africa's Morne Morkel. African voices are present in India's universities and laboratories. The partnership is not just strategic. It is lived.

Looking to the future

If India wants to sustain this momentum, three moves matter.

First, connect finance to real outcomes. Every line of credit must lead to something visible and valuable. Public finance must de-risk, not displace, private capital.

Second, build an India-Africa digital corridor. This should rest not only on UPI and India Stack but also on Africa's digital strengths. Together, we can co-develop platforms for health, education and payments that serve the Global South.

Third, revive the institutional backbone. The IAFS has not met since 2015. That Summit, at Mr. Modi's insistence, brought all of Africa together. As its chief coordinator, this writer saw first-hand the diplomatic energy it released. It is time to bring that spirit back as a date on India's diplomatic calendar.

There was a time when merchants crossed the Indian Ocean in search of spice and gold. Today, India and Africa are not just exchanging goods. They are beginning to exchange confidence, capacity, ideas, and connecting futures.

A decade after India welcomed all of Africa to Delhi, the next chapter needs to be written. India once extended a hand to the whole of Africa. Now it is time to join hands and build together.

India needs to 'connect, build and revive' with Africa

भारत को अफ्रीका के साथ 'connect, build and revive' करने की आवश्यकता है

India-Africa Relations: Ten Years After IAFS-III

भारत-आफ्रीका संबंध: IAFS-III के दस वर्ष बाद

- Ten years ago, New Delhi hosted the last India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III). दस वर्ष पहले, नई दिल्ली ने आखिरी **India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III)** की मेजबानी की।
- The **2015** summit was a moment of significance. **2015** शिखर सम्मेलन महत्व का क्षण था।
- Marking a leap in India's diplomatic imagination under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, India had welcomed representatives from all **54 African states**. **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** के नेतृत्व में भारत की कूटनीतिक कल्पना में एक छलांग को चिह्नित करते हुए, भारत ने सभी **54 अफ्रीकी राज्यों** के प्रतिनिधियों का स्वागत किया।
- Since then India has added **17 new missions** across Africa. तब से भारत ने अफ्रीका में **17 नए मिशन** जोड़े हैं।
- Trade has surpassed **\$100 billion**. व्यापार **100 बिलियन डॉलर** से अधिक हो चुका है।
- Investment flows are gathering pace. निवेश प्रवाह गति पकड़ रहे हैं।
- India's support for Africa's global voice has grown. अफ्रीका की वैश्विक आवाज के लिए भारत का समर्थन बढ़ा है।
- It was key in ensuring full membership for the **African Union** in the **G-20**. यह **G-20** में **अफ्रीकी संघ** के पूर्ण सदस्यता सुनिश्चित करने में महत्वपूर्ण था।
- It is now time to take stock, not only of promises made but also of the foundations laid. अब समय है हिसाब लगाने का, न केवल किए गए वादों का बल्कि रखी गई नींव का भी।



The opportunities and challenges

अवसर और चुनौतियाँ

- By **2050**, one in four people on earth will be in Africa. **2050** तक, पृथ्वी पर चार में से एक व्यक्ति अफ्रीका में होगा।
- India will be the world's third largest economy. भारत दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था होगा।
- Between these two lies a potential growth corridor of commerce, demography, technology and aspiration. इन दोनों के बीच वाणिज्य, जनसांख्यिकी, प्रौद्योगिकी और आकांक्षा का एक संभावित विकास गलियारा है।
- India is among Africa's top five investors, with cumulative investments of **\$75 billion**. भारत अफ्रीका के शीर्ष पांच निवेशकों में से एक है, जिसमें संचयी निवेश **75 बिलियन डॉलर** है।
- However, the underlying model has shifted. हालांकि, अंतर्निहित मॉडल बदल गया है।
- From ports to power lines, vaccine production to digital tools, the message for engagement is clear. बंदरगाहों से बिजली लाइनों तक, वैक्सीन उत्पादन से डिजिटल उपकरणों तक, जुड़ाव के लिए संदेश स्पष्ट है।
- Build together. साथ मिलकर बनाएं।
- The evolution of ties is visible. संबंधों का विकास दिखाई देता है।
- In **April 2025**, India and nine African navies (**Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania**) exercised together in the first **Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME)**, initiating a security partnership rooted in shared oceanic geography. **अप्रैल 2025** में, भारत और नौ अफ्रीकी नौसेनाओं (**कोमोरोस, जिबूती, केन्या, मैडागास्कर, मॉरीशस, मोजाम्बिक, सेशेल्स, दक्षिण अफ्रीका और तंजानिया**) ने पहली **Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME)** में एक साथ अभ्यास किया, जो साझा महासागरीय भूगोल में निहित सुरक्षा साझेदारी की शुरुआत करता है।
- India's **Exim Bank** recently extended a **\$40 million** commercial credit line to the **ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)** — modest in scale, but a signal of interest in African-led development. भारत के **Exim Bank** ने हाल ही में **ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)** को **40 मिलियन डॉलर** की व्यावसायिक क्रेडिट लाइन बढ़ाई — पैमाने में सौम्य, लेकिन अफ्रीकी नेतृत्व वाले विकास में रुचि का संकेत।
- Education remains a trusted pillar. शिक्षा एक विश्वसनीय स्तंभ बनी हुई है।
- The new campus of **IIT Madras**, in **Zanzibar**, is the most visible example. **IIT मद्रास** का नया कैम्पस **जंजीबार** में सबसे दिखाई देने वाला उदाहरण है।
- Behind it stands decades of knowledge partnerships, including the **Pan-African e-Network** and India's **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** programme, which continue to train thousands across the continent. इसके पीछे दशकों के ज्ञान साझेदारियों का आधार है, जिसमें **Pan-African e-Network** और भारत का **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** कार्यक्रम शामिल है, जो महाद्वीप भर में हजारों को प्रशिक्षित करना जारी रखता है।
- These are not isolated efforts but part of a growing web. ये अलग-थलग प्रयास नहीं बल्कि बढ़ते जाल का हिस्सा हैं।
- Beyond that, India continues to push for African representation in global institutions and contributes to **United Nations** peacekeeping missions on the continent. इसके अलावा, भारत वैश्विक संस्थानों में अफ्रीकी प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए दबाव डालता रहता है और महाद्वीप पर **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** शांति मिशन में योगदान देता है।
- India's trade with Africa is growing, but it still lags behind **China**. भारत का अफ्रीका के साथ व्यापार बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन यह अभी भी **चीन** से पीछे है।
- Indian firms arrive full of promise but are often slowed by small balance sheets and bureaucratic drag. भारतीय कंपनियाँ वादों से भरी आती हैं लेकिन अक्सर छोटे बैलेंस शीट और नौकरशाही घसीट द्वारा धीमी हो जाती हैं।
- The temptation to scale back is real, but erroneous. पीछे हटने की प्रलोभन वास्तविक है, लेकिन भ्रामक।
- Instead, India must move up the value chain. इसके बजाय, भारत को मूल्य श्रृंखला में ऊपर जाना चाहिए।



- That means co-investing in future-facing sectors — **green hydrogen, electric mobility and digital infrastructure**. इसका मतलब भविष्योन्मुखी क्षेत्रों में सह-निवेश करना — **हरित हाइड्रोजन, इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी और डिजिटल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर**।
- Africa today is asserting its terms. अफ्रीका आज अपनी शर्तें लगा रहा है।
- The **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** is laying the groundwork for a single continental market. **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** एक एकल महाद्वीपीय बाजार के लिए आधार तैयार कर रहा है।
- India's **UPI** and digital stack can complement this transformation. भारत का **UPI** और डिजिटल स्टैक इस परिवर्तन को पूरक बना सकता है।
- Alas, tools alone are not strategy. हाय, उपकरण अकेले रणनीति नहीं हैं।
- Delivery is. डिलीवरी है।
- In cities such as **Kigali (Rwanda), Nairobi (Kenya) and Lagos (Nigeria)**, African innovation ecosystems are growing. शहरों जैसे **किगाली (रवांडा), नैरोबी (केन्या) और लागोस (नाइजीरिया)** में, अफ्रीकी नवाचार पारिस्थितिक तंत्र बढ़ रहे हैं।
- But the competition is global. लेकिन प्रतिस्पर्धा वैश्विक है।

The human link

मानवीय संबंध

- India's most enduring export to Africa is not technology. भारत का अफ्रीका के लिए सबसे स्थायी निर्यात प्रौद्योगिकी नहीं है।
- It is talent. यह प्रतिभा है।
- Nearly **40,000 Africans** have studied in India in the last decade, through the **ITEC**, the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** and the **e-Network** platforms. पिछले दशक में लगभग **40,000 अफ्रीकी** **ITEC**, **भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद (ICCR)** और **ई-नेटवर्क** प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से भारत में पढ़ चुके हैं।
- Many have returned to shape policy, run ministries or lead innovation back home. कई लोग लौटकर नीति निर्माण कर रहे हैं, मंत्रालय चला रहे हैं या अपने देश में नवाचार का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं।
- They are living bridges that carry trust across borders. वे जीवित पुल हैं जो सीमाओं के पार विश्वास ले जाते हैं।
- The movement is not one way. यह गति एकतरफा नहीं है।
- African students, athletes and entrepreneurs are carving their space in India. अफ्रीकी छात्र, एथलीट और उद्यमी भारत में अपनी जगह बना रहे हैं।
- Nigerian footballers such as **Ranti Martins** have become household names. नाइजीरियाई फुटबॉलर जैसे **रंती मार्टिंस** घर-घर के नाम बन चुके हैं।
- The Indian cricket team's fast bowling coach is South Africa's **Morne Morkel**. भारतीय क्रिकेट टीम के तेज गेंदबाजी कोच दक्षिण अफ्रीका के **मोर्ने मोर्केल** हैं।
- African voices are present in India's universities and laboratories. भारत के विश्वविद्यालयों और प्रयोगशालाओं में अफ्रीकी आवाजें मौजूद हैं।
- The partnership is not just strategic. यह साझेदारी केवल रणनीतिक नहीं है।
- It is lived. यह जीवंत है।

Looking to the future

भविष्य की ओर देखते हुए

- If India wants to sustain this momentum, three moves matter. यदि भारत इस गति को बनाए रखना चाहता है, तो तीन कदम महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- First, connect finance to real outcomes. पहला, वित्त को वास्तविक परिणामों से जोड़ें।
- Every line of credit must lead to something visible and valuable. हर क्रेडिट लाइन कुछ दिखाई देने वाला और मूल्यवान होना चाहिए।



- Public finance must de-risk, not displace, private capital. सार्वजनिक वित्त निजी पूंजी को जोखिम-मुक्त करे, विस्थापित नहीं।
- Second, build an **India-Africa digital corridor**. दूसरा, एक **भारत-अफ्रीका डिजिटल कॉरिडोर** बनाएं।
- This should rest not only on **UPI** and **India Stack** but also on Africa's digital strengths. यह केवल **UPI** और **इंडिया स्टैक** पर नहीं बल्कि अफ्रीका की डिजिटल ताकतों पर भी टिका होना चाहिए।
- Together, we can co-develop platforms for health, education and payments that serve the **Global South**. हम साथ मिलकर स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और भुगतान के लिए ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म सह-विकसित कर सकते हैं जो **ग्लोबल साउथ** की सेवा करें।
- Third, revive the institutional backbone. तीसरा, संस्थागत रीढ़ को पुनर्जीवित करें।
- The **IAFS** has not met since **2015**. **IAFS2015** से अब तक नहीं मिला है।
- That Summit, at **Mr. Modi's** insistence, brought all of Africa together. उस शिखर सम्मेलन ने **श्री मोदी** के आग्रह पर पूरे अफ्रीका को एक साथ लाया था।
- As its chief coordinator, this writer saw first-hand the diplomatic energy it released. इसके मुख्य समन्वयक के रूप में, लेखक ने स्वयं उस कूटनीतिक ऊर्जा को देखा जो इससे निकली।
- It is time to bring that spirit back as a date on India's diplomatic calendar. अब समय है उस भावना को भारत के कूटनीतिक कैलेंडर में एक तारीख के रूप में वापस लाने का।
- There was a time when merchants crossed the **Indian Ocean** in search of spice and gold. ऐसा समय था जब व्यापारी मसाले और सोने की तलाश में **हिंद महासागर** पार करते थे।
- Today, India and Africa are not just exchanging goods. आज भारत और अफ्रीका केवल माल का आदान-प्रदान नहीं कर रहे।
- They are beginning to exchange confidence, capacity, ideas, and connecting futures. वे आत्मविश्वास, क्षमता, विचारों का आदान-प्रदान शुरू कर रहे हैं और भविष्य को जोड़ रहे हैं।
- A decade after India welcomed all of Africa to Delhi, the next chapter needs to be written. दिल्ली में पूरे अफ्रीका का स्वागत करने के एक दशक बाद, अगला अध्याय लिखा जाना बाकी है।
- India once extended a hand to the whole of Africa. भारत ने एक बार पूरे अफ्रीका की ओर हाथ बढ़ाया था।
- Now it is time to join hands and build together. अब समय है हाथ मिलाने और साथ मिलकर बनाने का।

PATRIOTIC



India oil firms bag first-ever U.S. LPG import deal

GS II: IR: India-US

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's public-sector oil companies have successfully concluded a one-year deal to import liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the U.S. Gulf Coast, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

In a post on X, he said India would source about 2.2 million tonne per annum (MTPA) of LPG from the U.S. Gulf Coast for the contract year 2026 – making it the “first structured contract of U.S. LPG for the Indian market”.

He added the deal would represent 10% of India's annual imports in the sector during 2026.

“A team of officials from Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum engaged in discussions with major U.S. producers over the last few months, which concluded now,” he stated.

The move comes against the backdrop of India facing 50% tariffs on exports to the U.S. and many Indian Ministers' stating India would like to import more energy from the U.S.

(With inputs from T.C.A.
Sharad Raghavan)

India oil firms bag first-ever U.S. LPG import deal भारतीय तेल कंपनियों ने पहली बार अमेरिकी LPG आयात सौदा हासिल किया

• India's **public-sector oil companies** have successfully concluded a **one-year deal** to import liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the **U.S. Gulf Coast**, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri** said on Monday.

भारत की सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों ने एक वर्ष का सौदा सफलतापूर्वक पूरा किया है जिसके तहत अमेरिकी गल्फ कोस्ट से द्रवीभूत पेट्रोलियम गैस (LPG) आयात की जाएगी, यह बात केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने सोमवार को कही।

• In a post on X, he said India would source about **2.2 million tonne per annum (MTPA)** of LPG from the U.S. Gulf Coast for the contract year **2026** — making it the “first structured contract of U.S. LPG for the Indian market”.

X पर एक पोस्ट में उन्होंने कहा कि भारत अनुबंध वर्ष 2026 में अमेरिकी गल्फ कोस्ट से लगभग **2.2 मिलियन टन प्रति वर्ष (MTPA)** LPG प्राप्त करेगा — जिससे यह “भारतीय बाजार के लिए अमेरिकी LPG का पहला संरचित अनुबंध” बन जाएगा।

• He added the deal would represent **10% of India's annual imports** in the sector during 2026.

उन्होंने कहा कि यह सौदा 2026 के दौरान इस क्षेत्र में भारत के **वार्षिक आयात का 10%** होगा।

• “A team of officials from **Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum** engaged in discussions with major U.S. producers over the last few months, which concluded now,” he stated.

उन्होंने कहा, “**इंडियन ऑयल, भारत पेट्रोलियम और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम** के अधिकारियों की एक टीम ने पिछले कुछ महीनों में प्रमुख अमेरिकी उत्पादकों से वार्ता की, जो अब समाप्त हुई।”

• The move comes against the backdrop of India facing **50% tariffs** on exports to the U.S. and many Indian Ministers' stating India would like to **import more energy** from the U.S.

यह कदम ऐसे समय आया है जब भारत को अमेरिका को निर्यात पर **50% टैरिफ** का सामना करना पड़ रहा है और कई भारतीय मंत्रियों ने यह कहा है कि भारत अमेरिका से **और अधिक ऊर्जा आयात** करना चाहता है।



ECB board revamp exposes diversity failings that could impact policy

Four of six ECB board members replaced in the next two years; small countries fight it out for the vice president's job; ECB's policy-making bodies have a poor diversity record; central banking still largely dominated by men; 2020 study suggests women are more hawkish in fighting inflation

CSIR: EU

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
FRANKFURT

Euro zone officials have embarked on a two-year process to replace most of the European Central Bank's executive board, including President Christine Lagarde, raising questions along the way about how well the institution represents the people it serves.

In contrast to the U.S. Federal Reserve, which gets a new leader next year and faces criticism from the Trump administration over interest rates, the ECB can be sure its independence will not be challenged in the reshuffle and policy will not be questioned.

Yet, the same EU institutional complexities that shield the ECB from politics in deciding policy, have also left it trailing the already-weak diversity record of global central banking – a field dominated by white men from big Western economies.

The first chance to address some of the disparities comes early next year when the term of ECB Vice President Luis de Guindos of Spain expires.

Blind spots

The lack of geographic, gender and ethnic diversity, critics argue, leaves the



Green light: ECB can be sure its independence will not be challenged in the reshuffle. REUTERS

bank with blind spots on the economy of a 20-nation bloc of 350 million people. Policymakers may lack the full picture on how households really experience hardships, inflation and interest rates.

The bank's lack of diversity is glaring. On its 26 member rate-setting Governing Council, there are 24 men. All the 20 national central bank governors that sit on this council, selected in national capitals, are men. Meanwhile the six-person board, picked through the EU, has been dominated by men from the big four euro zone members – France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Former communist countries in the east, making up a third of the bloc, have never held a seat.



On its 26 member rate-setting Governing Council, there are 24 men; all 20 national central bank governors sitting on the council, selected in national capitals, are men

The six board members, who sit on the council, run the ECB's day-to-day operations. Ms. Lagarde, a former French Economy Minister, is the first woman to have led the board. Since its inception in 1998, women have held 19% of ECB board seats.

"When it comes to female representation, the ECB's track record is appalling," Maria Demertzis,

economy, strategy and finance center leader for Europe at The Conference Board think-tank said.

"Diversity matters," Demertzis added. "You cannot have good decisions if people making them represent just a very specific, narrow segment of society, when your objective is to serve society."

"Tactful giveaway" Croatia, Finland, Greece, Latvia and Portugal have all thrown their hat into the race to replace de Guindos, suggesting that a smaller nation, possibly from the east, will get a chance.

But the role may be seen as the least important among the four upcoming seats. The chief economist, the head of market opera-

tions and the president will be replaced in 2027 as their non-renewable terms also expire.

"If they pick an Eastern European, it will be a symbolic giveaway because the VP role itself is not that influential," ING economist Carsten Brzeski said. "If I was sitting in Berlin or Paris, I'd say, it's fine, let them have it, so we can concentrate on the more important positions."

In contrast to the ECB, the Bank of England's nine-member Monetary Policy Committee now has a female majority after years of political and public pressure to correct a gender imbalance. At the Swedish central bank, the board is split 50-50 while in Norway, the board has a slight male majority but a female governor.

The Fed's rate-setting FOMC has also become more diverse, although President Donald Trump is reversing some of this as he is trying to fire Lisa Cook, the first Black woman on the body, and already picked a man to replace a vacancy left by a woman. The greater problem may be that finance is dominated by men and there are not enough women rising up through the ranks. A working paper published by the Dallas Fed last year argued that there was barely any improvement on the staff level as the share of women among

economists in the Fed system rose to just 22% from 20% in 20 years.

Bigger picture approach The ECB, which has no official role in board selection, declined to comment on the process. Ms. Lagarde, who has warned inflation hurts the poor, the vulnerable and women the most, has repeatedly made the case for greater inclusion and set ambitious targets for hiring more women staff. But she has little influence over who becomes a policymaker.

Finance Ministers of the 20 euro zone nations nominate board members while EU leaders make the formal selection after they are heard by the European Parliament, which oversees the ECB.

The European Parliament can filibuster appointments, as it has already done several times over gender objections, but it cannot stop them.

A 2020 study by Bocconi University and Trinity College researchers argued that women at central banks are more hawkish in fighting inflation and a higher presence of women on central bank boards may thus be desirable for the credibility of central banks.

"With Ms. Lagarde at the top, the ECB has the right conditions to make a change, but they are stuck," Demertzis said.

ECB board revamp exposes diversity failings that could impact policy

ECB बोर्ड पुनर्गठन से विविधता की कमजोरियाँ उजागर, जो नीति को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं

- Four of six **ECB board members** were replaced in the next two years; small countries fight it out for the **vice president's job**; ECB's policy-making bodies have a poor **diversity record**; central banking is still largely dominated by men; 2020 study suggests **women are more hawkish** in fighting inflation.

अगले दो वर्षों में **ECB बोर्ड सदस्यों** में से चार बदले जाएंगे; छोटे देश **उपाध्यक्ष के पद** के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहे हैं; ECB की नीति-निर्माण संस्थाओं का **विविधता रिकॉर्ड** कमजोर है; केंद्रीय बैंकिंग अब भी मुख्य रूप से पुरुष-प्रधान है; 2020 के एक अध्ययन से पता चलता है कि **महिलाएँ महंगाई से लड़ने में अधिक कठोर** रुख अपनाती हैं।

- Euro zone officials have embarked on a **two-year process** to replace most of the European Central Bank's executive board, including President **Christine Lagarde**, raising questions along the way about how well the institution represents the people it serves.

यूरो ज़ोन अधिकारियों ने **दो वर्षीय प्रक्रिया** शुरू की है, जिसमें अध्यक्ष **क्रिस्टीन लेगार्ड** सहित ECB के अधिकतर कार्यकारी बोर्ड को बदलना शामिल है, जिससे इस बात पर सवाल उठ रहा है कि संस्था जनता का कितना प्रतिनिधित्व करती है।

In contrast to the **U.S. Federal Reserve**, which gets a new leader next year and faces criticism from the Trump administration over interest rates, the **ECB** can be sure its **independence** will not be challenged in the reshuffle and policy will not be



questioned.

अमेरिकी फेडरल रिजर्व के विपरीत, जिसे अगले वर्ष नया प्रमुख मिलेगा और जिसे ट्रंप प्रशासन द्वारा ब्याज दरों पर आलोचना का सामना करना पड़ता है, **ECB** को भरोसा है कि उसके पुनर्गठन में उसकी **स्वतंत्रता** को चुनौती नहीं दी जाएगी और उसकी नीतियों पर प्रश्न नहीं उठेंगे।

- Yet, the same **EU institutional complexities** that shield the ECB from politics in deciding policy have also left it trailing the already-weak **diversity record** of global central banking — a field dominated by white men from big Western economies.

फिर भी, वही **EU संस्थागत जटिलताएँ** जो नीति-निर्धारण में ECB को राजनीति से बचाती हैं, उसे वैश्विक केंद्रीय बैंकिंग के पहले से ही कमजोर **विविधता रिकॉर्ड** से पीछे छोड़ रही हैं — यह क्षेत्र बड़े पश्चिमी अर्थतंत्रों के श्वेत पुरुषों द्वारा संचालित है।

- The first chance to address some of the disparities comes early next year when the term of **ECB Vice President Luis de Guindos** of Spain expires. कुछ असमानताओं को दूर करने का पहला अवसर अगले वर्ष की शुरुआत में आएगा जब स्पेन के **ECB उपाध्यक्ष लुईस दे गुइंडोस** का कार्यकाल समाप्त होगा।



Blind spots ब्लाइंड स्पॉट्स

- The lack of **geographic, gender and ethnic diversity**, critics argue, leaves the bank with blind spots on the economy of a **20-nation bloc** of 350 million people. आलोचकों का कहना है कि **भौगोलिक, लैंगिक और जातीय विविधता** की कमी 350 मिलियन लोगों वाले **20-देशीय समूह** की अर्थव्यवस्था में बैंक को ब्लाइंड स्पॉट्स में छोड़ देती है।
- Policymakers may lack the full picture on how households really experience hardships, inflation and interest rates. नीति-निर्माताओं के पास यह पूरी तस्वीर नहीं होती कि घर-परिवार वास्तव में कठिनाइयों, महंगाई और ब्याज दरों को कैसे झेलते हैं।
- The bank's lack of diversity is glaring. On its **26-member Governing Council**, there are **24 men**. All **20 national central bank governors** that sit on this council are men. बैंक की विविधता की कमी स्पष्ट रूप से दिखती है। उसकी **26-सदस्यीय गवर्निंग काउंसिल** में **24 पुरुष** हैं। इस परिषद में बैठने वाले सभी **20 राष्ट्रीय केंद्रीय बैंक गवर्नर पुरुष** हैं।
- Meanwhile, the six-person board, picked through the EU, has been dominated by men from the big four euro zone members — **France, Germany, Italy and Spain**. इसी बीच, EU द्वारा चुना गया छह-सदस्यीय बोर्ड यूरो ज़ोन के बड़े चार सदस्य — **फ्रांस, जर्मनी, इटली और स्पेन** — के पुरुषों द्वारा संचालित रहा है।
- Former communist countries in the east, making up a third of the bloc, have **never held a seat**. पूर्व के पूर्व-कम्युनिस्ट देश, जो इस ब्लॉक का एक-तिहाई हिस्सा बनाते हैं, ने **कभी सीट नहीं** पाई।
- The six board members, who sit on the council, run the ECB's **day-to-day operations**. Ms. Lagarde is the **first woman** to have led the board. Since 1998, women have held **19%** of ECB board seats. परिषद में बैठने वाले ये छह बोर्ड सदस्य ECB के **दैनिक संचालन** को संभालते हैं। सुश्री लेगार्ड बोर्ड का नेतृत्व करने वाली **पहली महिला** हैं। 1998 से अब तक ECB बोर्ड की केवल **19% सीटें** महिलाओं के पास रही हैं।
- “When it comes to female representation, the ECB's track record is **appalling**,” Maria Demertzis said. “महिला प्रतिनिधित्व के मामले में ECB का रिकॉर्ड **निराशाजनक** है,” मारिया डेमर्टज़िस ने कहा।
- “Diversity matters,” she added. “You cannot have good decisions if people making them represent just a narrow segment of society.” **“विविधता महत्वपूर्ण है,”** उन्होंने कहा। “आप अच्छे निर्णय नहीं ले सकते अगर निर्णय लेने वाले समाज के सिर्फ एक संकीर्ण हिस्से का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हों।”



'Tactful giveaway' 'कूटनीतिक रियायत'

- Croatia, Finland, Greece, Latvia and Portugal have all entered the race to replace **de Guindos**, suggesting that a smaller nation, possibly from the east, will get a chance. क्रोएशिया, फिनलैंड, ग्रीस, लातविया और पुर्तगाल सभी **दे गुइंडोस** की जगह लेने की दौड़ में हैं, जिससे संकेत मिलता है कि कोई छोटा देश, शायद पूर्व से, मौका पा सकता है।
- But the role may be seen as the **least important** among the four upcoming seats. लेकिन यह भूमिका आने वाली चार सीटों में **सबसे कम महत्वपूर्ण** मानी जा सकती है।
- The chief economist, the head of market operations and the president will be replaced in **2027** as their **non-renewable terms** also expire. मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री, बाजार संचालन प्रमुख और अध्यक्ष को **2027** में बदल दिया जाएगा क्योंकि उनके **गैर-नवीकरणीय कार्यकाल** भी समाप्त हो रहे हैं।
- "If they pick an Eastern European, it will be a **symbolic giveaway** because the VP role itself is not that influential," ING economist **Carsten Brzeski** said. ING अर्थशास्त्री **कार्स्टन ब्रजेस्की** ने कहा, "यदि वे किसी पूर्वी यूरोपीय को चुनते हैं, तो यह एक **प्रतीकात्मक रियायत** होगी क्योंकि उपाध्यक्ष का पद इतना प्रभावशाली नहीं है।"
- In contrast, the **Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee** now has a **female majority** after years of pressure. इसके विपरीत, **बैंक ऑफ इंग्लैंड की मौद्रिक नीति समिति** अब वर्षों के दबाव के बाद **महिला बहुमत** वाली हो गई है।
- The **Swedish central bank** board is split 50-50 while in **Norway**, the board has a slight male majority but a **female governor**. **स्वीडिश केंद्रीय बैंक** का बोर्ड 50-50 विभाजित है, जबकि **नॉर्वे** में बोर्ड में थोड़ा पुरुष बहुमत है लेकिन **महिला गवर्नर** है।
- The **U.S. Fed's FOMC** has also become more diverse, although President Donald Trump is reversing some of this by trying to fire **Lisa Cook**, the first Black woman on the body. **अमेरिकी फेड की FOMC** भी अधिक विविध हुई है, हालांकि राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप इसे उलट रहे हैं क्योंकि वे **लीसा कुक**, समिति की पहली अश्वेत महिला, को हटाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- A Dallas Fed study found women in the Fed system rose from **20% to 22%** in 20 years — barely any improvement. डलास फेड के एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि 20 वर्षों में फेड प्रणाली में महिलाओं का हिस्सा **20% से 22%** हुआ — बहुत ही मामूली सुधार।

Bigger picture approach बड़ी तस्वीर का दृष्टिकोण

- The **ECB**, which has no official role in board selection, declined to comment. **ECB**, जिसका बोर्ड चयन में कोई आधिकारिक रोल नहीं है, ने टिप्पणी करने से इनकार किया।
- Ms. **Lagarde**, who has warned inflation hurts the poor, vulnerable and women the most, has pushed repeatedly for **greater inclusion** and set ambitious **targets for hiring women staff**. सुश्री **लेगार्ड**, जिन्होंने चेतावनी दी है कि महंगाई गरीबों, कमजोरों और महिलाओं को सबसे अधिक प्रभावित करती है, ने **बेहतर समावेशन** के लिए बार-बार जोर दिया है और **महिला कर्मचारियों की भर्ती के लक्ष्य** तय किए हैं।
- But she has little influence over **who becomes a policymaker**. लेकिन नीति-निर्माता **कौन बनता है**, इस पर उनका बहुत कम प्रभाव है।
- **Euro zone Finance Ministers** nominate board members while **EU leaders** make the formal selection after hearings in the **European Parliament**, which oversees the ECB. **यूरो ज़ोन वित्त मंत्री** बोर्ड सदस्यों को नामित करते हैं, जबकि **EU नेता यूरोपीय संसद** में सुनवाई के बाद औपचारिक चयन करते हैं, जो ECB की निगरानी करती है।
- The **European Parliament** can filibuster appointments over gender objections but **cannot stop them**.



यूरोपीय संसद लिंग-संबंधी आपत्तियों पर नियुक्तियों को बाधित कर सकती है, लेकिन उन्हें रोक नहीं सकती।

- A 2020 study by Bocconi University and Trinity College argued that **women are more hawkish** in fighting inflation, so greater female presence may improve central bank credibility.
बॉकोनी विश्वविद्यालय और ट्रिनिटी कॉलेज के 2020 अध्ययन में कहा गया कि **महिलाएँ महंगाई से लड़ने में अधिक कठोर** होती हैं, इसलिए अधिक महिला उपस्थिति केंद्रीय बैंक की विश्वसनीयता बढ़ा सकती है।
- “With Ms. Lagarde at the top, the ECB has the right conditions to make a change, but they are stuck,” Demertzis said.
डेमर्टज़िस ने कहा, “सुश्री लेगार्ड के शीर्ष पर होने से ECB के पास बदलाव लाने की सही परिस्थितियाँ हैं, लेकिन वे फँसे हुए हैं।”

‘We’ll engage with all stakeholders’ in Bangladesh, says India after verdict

‘India has noted the verdict announced by the Tribunal concerning former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh,’ says the Ministry of External Affairs

GS II: IR

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs here on Monday said it has “noted” the verdict delivered by the **International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)** in Dhaka, and added that India will “constructively engage with all stakeholders” in Bangladesh.

The Tribunal on Monday sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death for crimes against humanity over the state crackdown on the July-August 2024 student uprising. The Indian response came soon after the



Public furore: Students chant slogans near a vandalised mural of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the 2024 protest. AFP

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh urged India to follow the spirit of the ICT’s verdict and hand over both Ms. Hasina and Mr. Khan to Bangladesh to face justice for their actions.

“India has noted the ver-

dict announced by the ‘International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh’ concerning former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people

of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country. We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end,” said the Ministry of External Affairs.

‘Inhumane crimes’

Earlier, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh said Ms. Hasina and Mr. Khan had committed “inhumane” crimes and that sheltering such persons is an “extremely unfriendly behaviour”.

“We call upon the Government of India to hand over these two persons to the authorities in Bangladesh without further delay. This is also a responsibility

for India according to the existing extradition treaty between the two sides,” said the Ministry.

In a statement sent to the media, Ms. Hasina described the ICT as “rigged” and said the tribunal’s decision to give death sentence indicates “murderous intent of extremist figures” within the interim government.

Ms. Hasina defended her government’s decision to deal with the protesters and said, “I mourn all of the deaths that occurred in July and August of last year, on both sides of the political divide. But neither I nor other political leaders ordered the killing of protesters.”

‘We’ll engage with all stakeholders’ in Bangladesh, says India after verdict बांग्लादेश में ‘हम सभी हितधारकों से बातचीत करेंगे’, फैसला आने के बाद भारत ने कहा

- ‘India has noted the verdict announced by the Tribunal concerning former Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**. As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh,’ says the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
‘भारत ने ट्रिब्यूनल द्वारा पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **शेख हसीना** के संबंध में सुनाए गए फैसले को नोट किया है। एक करीबी पड़ोसी के रूप में, भारत बांग्लादेश के लोगों के सर्वोत्तम हितों के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध है,’ **विदेश मंत्रालय** ने कहा।
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** here on Monday said it has “noted” the verdict delivered by the **International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)** in Dhaka, and added that India will “constructively engage with all stakeholders” in Bangladesh.
विदेश मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को कहा कि उसने ढाका स्थित **अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराध ट्रिब्यूनल (ICT)** के



फैसले को "नोट" किया है, और यह भी जोड़ा कि भारत बांग्लादेश में "सभी हितधारकों के साथ रचनात्मक रूप से जुड़ाव" करेगा।

- The Tribunal on Monday sentenced former Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** and former Home Minister **Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal** to death for crimes against humanity over the state crackdown on the **July-August 2024 student uprising**.

ट्रिब्यूनल ने सोमवार को पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **शेख हसीना** और पूर्व गृह मंत्री **असदुज्जमान खान कमाल** को **जुलाई-अगस्त 2024 छात्र आंदोलन** पर सरकारी कार्रवाई के दौरान मानवता के खिलाफ अपराधों के लिए मौत की सजा सुनाई।

- The Indian response came soon after the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh** urged India to follow the spirit of the ICT's verdict and hand over both Ms. Hasina and Mr. Khan to Bangladesh to face justice for their actions.

भारत की प्रतिक्रिया तब आई जब **बांग्लादेश के विदेश मंत्रालय** ने भारत से आग्रह किया कि वह ICT के फैसले की भावना का पालन करे और सुश्री हसीना व श्री खान को उनके अपराधों के लिए बांग्लादेश को सौंप दे।

- "India has noted the verdict announced by the 'International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh' concerning former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in **peace, democracy, inclusion and stability** in that country. We will always engage constructively with all stakeholders to that end," said the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

"भारत ने 'बांग्लादेश के अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराध ट्रिब्यूनल' द्वारा पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री शेख हसीना के संबंध में सुनाए गए फैसले को नोट किया है। एक निकट पड़ोसी के रूप में, भारत बांग्लादेश के लोगों के सर्वोत्तम हितों—जिसमें **शांति, लोकतंत्र, समावेशन और स्थिरता** शामिल हैं—के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध है। हम इस उद्देश्य के लिए हमेशा सभी हितधारकों के साथ रचनात्मक जुड़ाव करेंगे," **विदेश मंत्रालय** ने कहा।

'Inhumane crimes' 'अमानवीय अपराध'

- Earlier, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh** said Ms. Hasina and Mr. Khan had committed "inhumane" crimes and that sheltering such persons is an "extremely unfriendly behaviour".

इससे पहले, **बांग्लादेश के विदेश मंत्रालय** ने कहा कि सुश्री हसीना और श्री खान ने "अमानवीय" अपराध किए हैं और ऐसे लोगों को शरण देना "बेहद अनमैत्रीपूर्ण व्यवहार" है।

- "We call upon the Government of India to hand over these two persons to the authorities in Bangladesh without further delay. This is also a responsibility for India according to the existing **extradition treaty** between the two sides," said the Ministry. मंत्रालय ने कहा, "हम भारत सरकार से आग्रह करते हैं कि वह इन दोनों व्यक्तियों को बिना किसी देरी के बांग्लादेश के अधिकारियों को सौंप दे। मौजूदा **प्रत्यर्पण संधि** के अनुसार यह भारत की जिम्मेदारी भी है।"

- In a statement sent to the media, **Ms. Hasina** described the ICT as "rigged" and said the tribunal's decision to give the death sentence indicates "murderous intent of extremist figures" within the interim government.

मीडिया को भेजे गए एक बयान में **सुश्री हसीना** ने ICT को "धांधलीपूर्ण" बताया और कहा कि मौत की सजा देने का ट्रिब्यूनल का निर्णय अंतरिम सरकार के "कट्टरपंथी तत्वों की हत्यारी मंशा" को दर्शाता है।

- Ms. Hasina defended her government's decision to deal with the protesters and said, "I mourn all of the deaths that occurred in July and August of last year, on both sides of the political divide. But neither I nor other political leaders ordered the killing of protesters."

सुश्री हसीना ने प्रदर्शनकारियों से निपटने के अपने सरकार के फैसले का बचाव करते हुए कहा, "मैं पिछले वर्ष जुलाई और अगस्त में दोनों राजनीतिक पक्षों पर हुई सभी मौतों का शोक मनाती हूँ। लेकिन न तो मैंने और न ही अन्य राजनीतिक नेताओं ने प्रदर्शनकारियों की हत्या का आदेश दिया।"



Mali manuscripts escaped al-Qaeda but threat remains

GS II: IR: Africa

Associated Press

TIMBUKTU

Thirteen years ago, Abdoulaye Cissé risked his life to smuggle tens of thousands of fragile manuscripts out of Timbuktu as al-Qaeda-linked extremists swept into the desert town in Mali.

At night, he loaded crates of manuscripts from the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Islamic Studies and Research, of which he was the general secretary, onto donkey carts, aware that their pages carried evidence of his people's glorious past. They were taken to the river, where wooden boats and then buses took them to Mali's capital, Bamako—a 1,200-km journey.

The 28,000 manuscripts returned safely to Timbuktu in August. It reflected both the city's pride in cultural preservation and concerns about the potentially damaging humidity in Bamako. Mali's government has portrayed it as a victory.

Timbuktu is home to private libraries holding an estimated 377,000 manuscripts in total. All were smuggled to the capital, where they remain.

"What we find in these documents does not exist anywhere else in the world," said Mohamed Diagayeté, director of the institute, who specialises in old manuscripts.

The trove contradicts assumptions that African history has been primarily oral. The manuscripts are an archive of dealings among West African empires and tribes, with histories dating back centuries.

But al-Qaeda remains a threat. Its fighters attacked Timbuktu as recently as June. The brutality of its arrival in 2012 was a shock. They destroyed more than 4,000 manuscripts, according to the findings of a United Nations expert mission.

potentially damaging **humidity** in Bamako.

यह शहर के **सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण** पर गर्व और बामाको की संभावित हानिकारक **आर्द्रता** को लेकर चिंताओं दोनों को दर्शाता है।

- Mali's government has portrayed it as a **victory**. माली सरकार ने इसे एक **जीत** के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया है।
- Timbuktu is home to **private libraries** holding an estimated **377,000 manuscripts** in total. All were smuggled to the capital, where they remain. टिंबुकटू में **निजी पुस्तकालय** हैं, जिनमें कुल अनुमानित **3,77,000 पांडुलिपियाँ** हैं। सभी को राजधानी में तस्करी कर ले जाया गया, जहाँ वे अब भी रखी हैं।
- "What we find in these documents does not exist anywhere else in the world," said **Mohamed Diagayeté**, director of the institute, who specialises in old manuscripts. "हमें इन दस्तावेजों में जो मिलता है, वह दुनिया में कहीं और नहीं मिलता," पुराने पांडुलिपियों के विशेषज्ञ और संस्थान के निदेशक **मोहम्मद दियागायते** ने कहा।
- The trove contradicts assumptions that **African history** has been primarily **oral**. यह संग्रह इस धारणा को खारिज करता है कि **अफ्रीकी इतिहास** मुख्यतः **मौखिक** रहा है।

Mali manuscripts escaped al-Qaeda but threat remains

माली की पांडुलिपियाँ अल-कायदा से बच गईं लेकिन खतरा अब भी बना हुआ है

• Thirteen years ago, **Abdoulaye Cissé** risked his life to smuggle tens of thousands of fragile manuscripts out of **Timbuktu** as **al-Qaeda-linked extremists** swept into the desert town in Mali.

तेरह वर्ष पहले, **अबदुलाये सीसे** ने अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर **टिंबुकटू** से हजारों नाजुक पांडुलिपियाँ बाहर तस्करी से निकालीं, जब **अल-कायदा से जुड़े चरमपंथी** माली के इस रेगिस्तानी शहर में फैल गए थे।



• At night, he loaded crates of manuscripts from the **Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Islamic Studies and Research**, of which he was the general secretary, onto donkey carts, aware that their pages carried evidence of his people's glorious past.

रात में, उन्होंने **अहमद बाबा उच्च इस्लामी अध्ययन और अनुसंधान संस्थान**—जहाँ वे महासचिव थे—से पांडुलिपियों के बक्सों को गधागाड़ियों पर लादा, यह जानते हुए कि इनके पत्रों में उनके लोगों के गौरवशाली अतीत के प्रमाण थे।

• They were taken to the river, where wooden boats and then buses took them to Mali's capital, **Bamako** — a **1,200-km journey**.

उन्हें नदी तक ले जाया गया, जहाँ लकड़ी की नावों और फिर बसों के माध्यम से माली की राजधानी **बामाको** तक पहुँचाया गया — यह **1,200 किलोमीटर की यात्रा** थी।

• The **28,000 manuscripts** returned safely to Timbuktu in August. **28,000 पांडुलिपियाँ** अगस्त में सुरक्षित रूप से टिंबुकटू लौट आईं।

• It reflected both the city's pride in **cultural preservation** and concerns about the



- The manuscripts are an archive of dealings among **West African empires and tribes**, with histories dating back centuries.
पांडुलिपियाँ पश्चिम अफ्रीकी साम्राज्यों और जनजातियों के बीच संबंधों का एक अभिलेखागार हैं, जिनका इतिहास सदियों पुराना है।
- But **al-Qaeda** remains a threat. Its fighters attacked Timbuktu as recently as **June**.
लेकिन **अल-कायदा** का खतरा अब भी मौजूद है। उसके लड़ाकों ने हाल ही में **जून** में टिंबुकटू पर हमला किया।
- The brutality of its arrival in **2012** was a shock.
2012 में उसके आगमन की बर्बरता चौकाने वाली थी।
- They destroyed more than **4,000 manuscripts**, according to the findings of a **United Nations expert mission**.
संयुक्त राष्ट्र विशेषज्ञ मिशन के निष्कर्षों के अनुसार, उन्होंने **4,000 से अधिक पांडुलिपियाँ** नष्ट कर दी थीं।

Trump's military action sparks regional alarm as Venezuela braces for U.S. moves

Washington starts an operation, 'Spear of the South' against 'narco-terrorists' and 'cartel head' Maduro; it is moving heavy firepower into the Caribbean, observers say it could be aimed at regime change in Caracas and reasserting the U.S.'s power over the region amid rising influence of China and Russia

GS II: IR: Americas

Shobhan Saxena
SÃO PAULO

Barely hours after U.S. President Donald Trump had signed the bill ending the longest government shutdown on Friday, his Secretary of War, Peter Hegseth, fired off a tweet, declaring a new military operation, "Spear of the South", against "narco-terrorists in the Western hemisphere". On Sunday, the Trump government went a step further as it announced that a Venezuelan criminal group would be classified as a terrorist organisation and that it views President Nicolas Maduro as "the head of that cartel".

With Mr. Trump back in the White House on Sunday after a weekend at Mar-a-Lago—and Washington still consumed by the uproar over the Epstein files—the decision is seen in the region as a major escalation for a possible strike on Venezuela. Tensions have been rising for weeks, forcing regional powers to state their positions. President Lula of Brazil, at a meeting in Bogota on Sunday, pressed other leaders to confront the continued U.S. attacks on boats in the Caribbean. Colombian President Gustavo Petro was more direct as he described Mr. Trump as a leader "intent on intimidation" and called the U.S. military build-up "an unmistakable act of aggres-

sion against Latin America".

In recent weeks, the U.S. has moved massive firepower into the Caribbean: more than 15,000 personnel, a dozen warships, the biggest aircraft carrier and a submarine; more than 10 F-35s have also been stationed at Puerto Rico. The political messaging has matched the military build-up. On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Mr. Maduro of enabling "terrorist violence" across the hemisphere.

'Regime-change bid'

To local observers, the scale of the U.S. deployment—and their rhetoric—looks like the opening act of a regime-change operation in Venezuela. Diego Sequera, a Caracas-based analyst and co-founder of the research group Misión Verdad (Truth Mission), believes that Washington's pressure aims to trigger an internal collapse in Venezuela. "The goal is to generate enough heat to force some kind of breakdown inside the government," he says. "So far, the pressure has damaged the currency and added to economic strain, but it has not changed the political situation on the ground," says Mr. Sequera.

If the U.S. wanted to scare Mr. Maduro into a negotiation process, it has not happened. Rafael Duarte Villa, a Venezuelan



The U.S. Navy's Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group sails towards the Caribbean Sea with aircraft hovering over the ships. REUTERS

who teaches international relations at the University of São Paulo, says the pressure has only hardened the government's posture. "Maduro has put his military forces on unprecedented alert. The government, feeling cornered and demonised, has mobilised not just the armed forces but also civilians, grassroots organisations and the militias," says Mr. Villa. "The expectation that he would step down or flee—perhaps to Russia—is clearly not happening. His grip on power, for now, remains intact."

Mr. Maduro is also backed by Venezuela's formidable military. Armed with mostly Russian defence platforms like Su-30 jets, T-72 tanks, S-300 and Buk missiles, Igla-S launchers and Kalashnikov rifles, the military comprises more than 123,000 active troops, backed by almost 8,000 reservists and thou-

sands of militias who support the government. Some estimates put the total number of soldiers at 300,000. Patricia Marins, a Rio de Janeiro-based defence analyst, says Venezuela fields the most capable military in South America. "No other country in the region has SAMs or anti-ship missiles comparable to Venezuela but sanctions have left parts of the arsenal without maintenance," says Ms. Marins. "Russia has shipped some spare parts in recent weeks but it will be difficult to effectively resist a military attack given the U.S. build-up in the Caribbean."

Washington's goal

But observers believe Washington's real goal may be less about defeating Venezuela militarily and more about reasserting U.S. power in the region. In recent months, the U.S. has repeatedly used the

term "narco-terrorism" to pressure governments from Mexico to Colombia and even Brazil. Mr. Diego Sequera argues that the U.S. justification simply does not hold. "One thing is absolutely clear: this is not about fighting drug trafficking. That claim goes against every element of reality," he says. For him, the ambiguity is intentional. "What began as a confrontation with Venezuela now touches the broader Caribbean, especially with Colombia drawn in and Trinidadian fishermen among those killed at sea," says Mr. Sequera.

If anything, Washington's posture marks a return of the Monroe Doctrine, now camouflaged in the language of "narco-terrorism" to contain the growing influence of emerging powers such as China and Russia in the hemisphere. Mr. Sequera argues that this is precisely why his country has become a target. "Venezuela is a key player for multipolarity. Its ties with Russia, China, Iran and others make it a symbolic and practical challenge to U.S. dominance," says the Venezuelan analyst. "Washington's goal is to reassert control over the entire hemisphere."

Mr. Duarte Villa agrees that the current escalation could be part of a broader effort by Washington to reclaim a lost sphere of influence. "Under Trump,

Latin America has returned to the centre of American strategic planning. The echoes of older doctrines are unmistakable. Even when officials now speak of the region as their "neighbourhood" rather than "backyard, the underlying intent is the same: to restore U.S. primacy in a hemisphere where America's grip has visibly weakened," says Mr. Duarte Villa says.

Theatre than strategy

Despite all the noise and thunder, this situation may be more theatre than strategy—a projection of force at a time when Trump is grappling with political storms in Washington. A full-scale invasion of Venezuela, says Mr. Duarte Villa, would carry risks the Americans cannot control: urban warfare in Caracas, civilian losses, the prospect of U.S. soldiers returning home dead, refugees going into neighbouring countries and a fierce regional backlash. "There could be significant numbers of casualties in a ground invasion of Venezuela. Such losses would demand answers from the administration at home, especially if the operation faltered. For that reason, a major military attack is unlikely," says the professor.

In a region shaped by old doctrines and new challenges, even the threat of war seems to be a message in itself.



Trump's military action sparks regional alarm as Venezuela braces for U.S. moves

ट्रम्प की सैन्य कार्रवाई से क्षेत्र में चिंता, वेनेजुएला अमेरिकी कदमों के लिए तैयार

- Washington starts an operation, 'Spear of the South' against 'narco-terrorists' and 'cartel head' Maduro; it is moving heavy firepower into the Caribbean, observers say it could be aimed at regime change in Caracas and reasserting the U.S.'s power over the region amid rising influence of China and Russia.
वॉशिंगटन ने 'स्पियर ऑफ द साउथ' नामक अभियान शुरू किया है 'नार्को-टेररिस्ट्स' और 'कार्टेल हेड' माद्रुरो के खिलाफ; अमेरिका कैरेबियन में भारी हथियार तैनात कर रहा है, पर्यवेक्षकों का कहना है कि इसका उद्देश्य काराकास में शासन परिवर्तन और क्षेत्र पर अमेरिका की शक्ति बहाल करना हो सकता है, खासकर चीन और रूस के बढ़ते प्रभाव के बीच।
- Barely hours after the U.S. President Donald Trump had signed the bill ending the longest government shutdown on Friday, his Secretary of War Peter Hegseth fired off a tweet declaring a new military operation, "Spear of the South", against "narco-terrorists in the Western hemisphere".
शुक्रवार को सबसे लंबे सरकारी शटडाउन को समाप्त करने वाला बिल हस्ताक्षरित करने के कुछ ही घंटों बाद, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के युद्ध सचिव पीटर हेगसेथ ने "स्पियर ऑफ द साउथ" नामक नए सैन्य अभियान की घोषणा करते हुए ट्वीट किया, जो "पश्चिमी गोलार्ध के नार्को-आतंकवादियों" के खिलाफ है।
- On Sunday, the Trump government went a step further as it announced that a Venezuelan criminal group would be classified as a terrorist organisation and that it views President Nicolas Maduro as "the head of that cartel".
रविवार को ट्रम्प सरकार ने एक कदम और आगे बढ़ते हुए घोषणा की कि एक वेनेजुएलन आपराधिक समूह को आतंकी संगठन घोषित किया जाएगा और राष्ट्रपति निकोलस माद्रुरो को "उस कार्टेल का प्रमुख" माना जाएगा।
- With Mr. Trump back in the White House on Sunday after a weekend at Mar-a-Lago—and Washington still consumed by the uproar over the Epstein files—the decision is seen in the region as a major escalation for a possible strike on Venezuela.
मार-आ-लागो में सप्ताहांत बिताने के बाद रविवार को ट्रम्प व्हाइट हाउस लौटे—और वाशिंगटन अभी भी एपस्टीन फाइल्स के विवाद में उलझा है—इस निर्णय को क्षेत्र में वेनेजुएला पर संभावित हमले की बड़ी वृद्धि के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।
- Tensions have been rising for weeks, forcing regional powers to state their positions.
कई हफ्तों से तनाव बढ़ रहा है, जिससे क्षेत्रीय शक्तियों को अपनी स्थिति स्पष्ट करनी पड़ी है।
- President Lula of Brazil, at a meeting in Bogota on Sunday, pressed other leaders to confront continued U.S. attacks on boats in the Caribbean.
ब्राज़ील के राष्ट्रपति लूला ने रविवार को बोगोटा में एक बैठक में अन्य नेताओं से कैरेबियन में जारी अमेरिकी हमलों का सामना करने का आग्रह किया।
- Colombian President Gustavo Petro was more direct as he described Mr. Trump as a leader "intent on intimidation" and called the U.S. military build-up "an unmistakable act of aggression against Latin America".
कोलंबिया के राष्ट्रपति गुस्तावो पेत्रो ने अधिक सीधे शब्दों में कहा कि ट्रम्प "धमकाने वाला नेता" है और अमेरिकी सैन्य जमावड़े को "लैटिन अमेरिका के खिलाफ स्पष्ट आक्रमण" बताया।
- In recent weeks, the U.S. has moved massive firepower into the Caribbean: more than 15,000 personnel, a dozen warships, the biggest aircraft carrier, a submarine, and more than 10 F-35s stationed at Puerto Rico.
हाल के हफ्तों में अमेरिका ने कैरेबियन में भारी सैन्य शक्ति भेजी है: 15,000 से अधिक सैनिक, कई युद्धपोत, सबसे बड़ा विमानवाहक पोत, एक पनडुब्बी, और 10 से अधिक F-35 प्यूर्टो रिको में तैनात किए गए हैं।





- The political messaging has matched the military build-up.
राजनीतिक संदेश भी सैन्य जमावड़े के अनुरूप रहे हैं।
- On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** accused Mr. Maduro of enabling “terrorist violence” across the hemisphere.
रविवार को अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री **मार्को रुबियो** ने मादुरो पर पूरे क्षेत्र में “आतंकी हिंसा” सक्षम करने का आरोप लगाया।

‘Regime-change bid’

‘शासन परिवर्तन का प्रयास’

- To local observers, the scale of the U.S. deployment—and their rhetoric—looks like the opening act of a **regime-change operation** in Venezuela.
स्थानीय पर्यवेक्षकों के अनुसार, अमेरिकी तैनाती और बयानबाज़ी वेनेजुएला में **शासन परिवर्तन अभियान** की शुरुआत जैसी दिखती है।
- Diego Sequera, a Caracas-based analyst and co-founder of **Misión Verdad**, believes Washington’s pressure aims to trigger an **internal collapse** in Venezuela.
कराकास स्थित विश्लेषक और **मिशन वेरदाद** के सह-संस्थापक डिएगो सेकेरा मानते हैं कि वाशिंगटन का दबाव वेनेजुएला में **आंतरिक पतन** लाने के लिए है।
- “The goal is to generate enough heat to force some kind of breakdown inside the government,” he says.
वे कहते हैं, “लक्ष्य इतना दबाव बनाना है कि सरकार के भीतर किसी तरह का टूट-फूट हो।”
- “So far, the pressure has damaged the currency and added to economic strain, but it has not changed the political situation on the ground.”
“अब तक दबाव ने मुद्रा को नुकसान पहुँचाया है और आर्थिक तनाव बढ़ाया है, लेकिन जमीनी राजनीतिक स्थिति नहीं बदली है।”
- Rafael Duarte Villa says the pressure has hardened the government’s posture and **Maduro** has put the military on **unprecedented alert**, mobilising civilians and militias.
राफेल दुआर्ते विला कहते हैं कि दबाव ने सरकार का रुख कठोर किया है और **मादुरो** ने सेना को **अभूतपूर्व अलर्ट** पर रखा है, नागरिकों और मिलिशिया को भी संगठित कर रहा है।
- Maduro retains strong backing from Venezuela’s **formidable military**, equipped with **Russian defence platforms** like Su-30 jets, T-72 tanks, S-300 and Buk missiles, Iglá-S launchers and Kalashnikov rifles.
मादुरो को वेनेजुएला की **शक्तिशाली सेना** का मजबूत समर्थन प्राप्त है, जो **रूसी रक्षा प्रणालियों** जैसे Su-30 जेट, T-72 टैंक, S-300 और बुक मिसाइल, इगला-S लांचर और कलाशिकोव राइफलों से लैस है।
- Some estimates put the total number of soldiers at **300,000**.
कुछ अनुमान कुल सैनिक संख्या **3,00,000** बताते हैं।
- Defence analyst **Patricia Marins** says Venezuela fields the most capable military in South America but sanctions have left parts of the arsenal without maintenance.
रक्षा विश्लेषक **पेट्रीसिया मारिन्स** कहती हैं कि दक्षिण अमेरिका की सबसे सक्षम सेना वेनेजुएला की है, लेकिन प्रतिबंधों ने हथियारों की मरम्मत बाधित कर दी है।
- “It will be difficult to effectively resist a military attack given the U.S. build-up in the Caribbean.”
“कैरेबियन में अमेरिकी तैयारी को देखते हुए सैन्य हमले का प्रभावी प्रतिरोध कठिन होगा।”

Washington’s goal

वाशिंगटन का लक्ष्य

- Observers believe the goal may be less about defeating Venezuela militarily and more about **reasserting U.S. power** over the region.
पर्यवेक्षकों का मानना है कि लक्ष्य वेनेजुएला को सैन्य रूप से हराने का कम और क्षेत्र पर **अमेरिकी प्रभुत्व बहाल करने** का अधिक है।
- The U.S. has used the term ‘**narco-terrorism**’ repeatedly to pressure governments from Mexico to Colombia.



अमेरिका ने मेक्सिको से कोलंबिया तक सरकारों पर दबाव डालने के लिए बार-बार 'नार्को-टेरिज़्म' शब्द का उपयोग किया है।

- Diego Sequera argues the justification "does not hold" and is **intentional ambiguity** to expand confrontation into the Caribbean.
डिएगो सेकेरा का कहना है कि यह औचित्य "टिकता नहीं" है और कैरेबियन तक टकराव बढ़ाने के लिए **जानबूझकर बनाई गई अस्पष्टता** है।
- He says the posture marks a return of the **Monroe Doctrine**, disguised as anti-narcotics rhetoric, to contain **China and Russia's influence**.
उनका कहना है कि यह रुख **मोनरो सिद्धांत** की वापसी जैसा है, जो **चीन और रूस के प्रभाव** को रोकने के लिए नार्को-आतंकवाद की भाषा में छिपा हुआ है।
- "Venezuela is a key player for multipolarity... a symbolic and practical challenge to U.S. dominance."
"वेनेज़ुएला बहुध्रुवीयता के लिए एक प्रमुख खिलाड़ी है... अमेरिकी प्रभुत्व के लिए प्रतीकात्मक और व्यावहारिक चुनौती।"

Theatre than strategy

रणनीति से अधिक प्रदर्शन

- Despite the show of force, analysts say this may be more **theatre than real strategy**, as a full invasion risks uncontrollable fallout.
भारी शक्ति-प्रदर्शन के बावजूद, विश्लेषक कहते हैं कि यह **रणनीति से अधिक प्रदर्शन** हो सकता है, क्योंकि पूर्ण आक्रमण में अनियंत्रित परिणामों का जोखिम है।
- A ground invasion of Venezuela could lead to **urban warfare**, civilian deaths, U.S. troop casualties, refugees and regional backlash.
वेनेज़ुएला पर जमीनी आक्रमण से **शहरी युद्ध**, नागरिक मौतें, अमेरिकी सैनिक हताहत, शरणार्थी और क्षेत्रीय प्रतिक्रिया उत्पन्न हो सकती है।
- "For that reason, a major military attack is unlikely," says the professor.
"इसी कारण बड़े सैन्य हमले की संभावना कम है," प्रोफेसर कहते हैं।
- In a region shaped by old doctrines and new challenges, even the **threat of war** seems to be a message in itself.
पुराने सिद्धांतों और नई चुनौतियों से आकार लिए क्षेत्र में, **युद्ध का खतरा** भी अपने आप में एक संदेश जैसा प्रतीत होता है।

GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, &IS	
TOPICS COVERED	18_11_2025
Economy	
1.	Trade deficit surges 141% to \$21.8 bn in Oct. as imports rise आयात बढ़ने से अक्टूबर में व्यापार घाटा 141% बढ़कर \$21.8 बिलियन हो गया
2.	Festive surge in gold imports drives trade deficit to \$21.8 billion त्योहारी मौसम में सोने के आयात में उछाल से व्यापार घाटा \$21.8 बिलियन तक पहुंचा
3.	Finance panel submits report for 2026-31 वित्त आयोग ने 2026-31 के लिए रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की
S&T	
4.	UNESCO's new guidelines for the use of neurotechnology न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी के उपयोग के लिए यूनेस्को के नए दिशानिर्देश
5.	Roundworms do inherit what threats to avoid, but with a catch



	राउंडवर्म्स यह तो विरासत में पाते हैं कि किन खतरों से बचना है, लेकिन इसमें एक शर्त होती है
	Environment
6.	QUIZ
7.	Centre okays '₹7,172-crore' electronic part projects केंद्र ने '₹7,172 करोड़' इलेक्ट्रॉनिक पार्ट परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी
8.	States must actively consider notifying any 'human-wildlife conflict' as natural disaster: SC राज्यों को 'मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष' को प्राकृतिक आपदा घोषित करने पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार करना चाहिए: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

Economy	18/11/2025
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Trade deficit surges 141% to \$21.8 bn in Oct. as imports rise

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit surged 141% in October 2025 to \$21.8 billion due to surging imports, driven in large part by gold imports, and subdued merchandise exports, official data showed.

India's total exports in October 2025 stood at \$72.9 billion, down from \$73.4 billion in October last year. India's total imports jumped to \$94.7 billion in October this year, compared with \$82.4 billion in October 2024.

Trade deficit surges 141% to \$21.8 bn in Oct. as imports rise

आयात बढ़ने से अक्टूबर में व्यापार घाटा 141% बढ़कर \$21.8 बिलियन हो गया

• India's trade deficit surged 141% in October 2025 to \$21.8 billion due to surging imports, driven in large part by gold imports, and subdued merchandise exports, official data showed.

भारत का व्यापार घाटा अक्टूबर 2025 में 141% बढ़कर \$21.8 बिलियन हो गया, जिसका कारण बढ़ते आयात थे, जो बड़े पैमाने पर सोने के आयात से प्रेरित थे, और कमजोर माल निर्यात, आधिकारिक आंकड़ों में दिखाया गया।

• India's total exports in October 2025 stood at \$72.9 billion, down from \$73.4 billion in October last year.

अक्टूबर 2025 में भारत का कुल निर्यात \$72.9 बिलियन रहा, जो पिछले वर्ष अक्टूबर के \$73.4 बिलियन से कम है।

• India's total imports jumped to \$94.7 billion in October this year, compared with \$82.4 billion in October 2024.

इस वर्ष अक्टूबर में भारत का कुल आयात बढ़कर \$94.7 बिलियन हो गया, जबकि अक्टूबर 2024 में यह \$82.4 बिलियन था।



Festive surge in gold imports drives trade deficit to \$21.8 billion

India's total exports in October this year stood at \$72.9 billion, a marginal decline from \$73.4 billion in the same month last year

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit surged 141% in October 2025 to \$21.8 billion due to surging imports, driven in large part by a festival-related jump in gold imports, and subdued merchandise exports, official data showed.

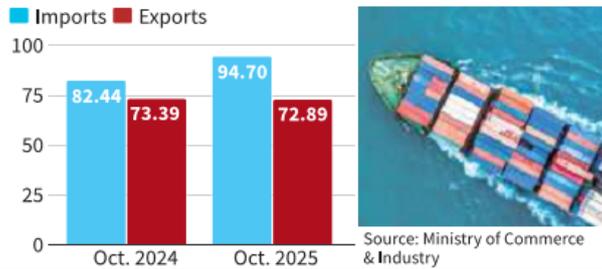
India's total exports in October 2025 stood at \$72.9 billion, down marginally from \$73.4 billion in October last year.

India's total imports jumped to \$94.7 billion in October this year, compared with \$82.4 billion in October 2024. As a result, the trade deficit grew to \$21.8 billion in October this year from \$9.05 billion last year.

"There are two things that have brought this increase in the trade deficit about," Commerce Secretary

Surge in deficit

The chart shows India's imports and exports during October 2024 and 2025 in \$ billion



tary Rajesh Agrawal said at a press briefing. "The first is gold and the other is silver. The increase in gold imports has been phenomenal in October despite very high global prices."

"In silver also, the growth has been phenomenal," he explained. "If you combine these two, these account for the additional trade deficit."

"An uninterrupted rise in gold prices ahead of the

festive season may have led to speculative demand which may not sustain going ahead, possibly leading to some cooling in the import numbers in the ensuing months," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA said. "Nevertheless, the non-oil, non-gold imports rose by a substantial 12.4% year-on-year, led by fertilisers, machinery, electronic goods, non-ferrous metals, and silver."

Festive surge in gold imports drives trade deficit to \$21.8 billion

त्योहारी मौसम में सोने के आयात में उछाल से व्यापार घाटा \$21.8 बिलियन तक पहुंचा

- India's total exports in October this year stood at **\$72.9 billion**, a marginal decline from **\$73.4 billion** in the same month last year.
इस वर्ष अक्टूबर में भारत का कुल निर्यात **\$72.9 बिलियन** रहा, जो पिछले वर्ष इसी महीने के **\$73.4 बिलियन** से थोड़ा कम है।
- India's trade deficit surged **141%** in October 2025 to **\$21.8 billion** due to surging imports, driven in large part by a festival-related jump in **gold imports**, and subdued merchandise exports, official data showed.
आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, अक्टूबर 2025 में भारत का व्यापार घाटा **141%** बढ़कर **\$21.8**



बिलियन हो गया, जिसका कारण बढ़ते आयात थे, जिनमें त्योहारी सीजन से जुड़े सोने के आयात में भारी उछाल और कमजोर माल निर्यात शामिल हैं।

- India's total exports in October 2025 stood at **\$72.9 billion**, down marginally from **\$73.4 billion** in October last year.
अक्टूबर 2025 में भारत का कुल निर्यात **\$72.9 बिलियन** रहा, जो पिछले वर्ष अक्टूबर के **\$73.4 बिलियन** से थोड़ा कम है।
- India's total imports jumped to **\$94.7 billion** in October this year, compared with **\$82.4 billion** in October 2024.
इस वर्ष अक्टूबर में भारत का कुल आयात बढ़कर **\$94.7 बिलियन** हो गया, जबकि अक्टूबर 2024 में यह **\$82.4 बिलियन** था।
- As a result, the trade deficit grew to **\$21.8 billion** in October this year from **\$9.05 billion** last year.
परिणामस्वरूप, इस वर्ष अक्टूबर में व्यापार घाटा बढ़कर **\$21.8 बिलियन** हो गया, जो पिछले वर्ष **\$9.05 बिलियन** था।
- "There are two things that have brought this increase in the trade deficit about," Commerce Secretary **Rajesh Agrawal** said at a press briefing. "The first is **gold** and the other is **silver**. The increase in gold imports has been phenomenal in October despite very high global prices."
वाणिज्य सचिव **राजेश अग्रवाल** ने प्रेस ब्रीफिंग में कहा, "व्यापार घाटा बढ़ने के पीछे दो कारण हैं। पहला **सोना** और दूसरा **चांदी**। अत्यधिक वैश्विक कीमतों के बावजूद अक्टूबर में सोने के आयात में जबरदस्त वृद्धि हुई है।
- "In **silver** also, the growth has been phenomenal," he explained. "If you combine these two, these account for the additional trade deficit."
उन्होंने आगे कहा, "**चांदी** में भी वृद्धि उल्लेखनीय रही है। यदि आप इन दोनों को जोड़ें, तो ये अतिरिक्त व्यापार घाटे के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं।"
- "An uninterrupted rise in **gold prices** ahead of the festive season may have led to speculative demand which may not sustain going ahead, possibly leading to some cooling in the import numbers in the ensuing months," **Aditi Nayar**, chief economist at ICRA said.
ICRA की मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री **अदिति नायर** ने कहा, "त्योहारी सीजन से पहले **सोने की कीमतों** में लगातार बढ़ोतरी से सट्टेबाज़ी वाली मांग बढ़ी होगी, जो आगे चलकर टिकाऊ नहीं रह सकती, जिससे आने वाले महीनों में आयात संख्या में कुछ कमी आ सकती है।"
- "Nevertheless, the **non-oil, non-gold imports** rose by a substantial **12.4% year-on-year**, led by fertilisers, machinery, electronic goods, non-ferrous metals, and silver."
"फिर भी, **गैर-तेल, गैर-सोना आयात** उर्वरकों, मशीनरी, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वस्तुओं, गैर-लौह धातुओं और चांदी द्वारा संचालित होकर **वर्ष-दर-वर्ष 12.4%** बढ़ा है।"

Finance panel submits report for 2026-31

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Sixteenth Finance Commission, chaired by economist Arvind Panagariya, has submitted its report to the President of India.

dia, the office of the President announced on Monday.

The Sixteenth Finance Commission's recommendations would apply for a period of five years beginning on April 1, 2026.

की।

- The **Sixteenth Finance Commission's** recommendations would apply for a period of **five years** beginning on **April 1, 2026**.

Finance panel submits report for 2026-31 वित्त आयोग ने 2026-31 के लिए रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की

• The **Sixteenth Finance Commission**, chaired by economist **Arvind Panagariya**, has submitted its report to the **President of India**, the office of the President announced on Monday.

सोलहवें वित्त आयोग, जिसकी अध्यक्षता अर्थशास्त्री **अरविंद Panagariya** कर रहे हैं, ने अपनी रिपोर्ट **भारत के राष्ट्रपति** को सौंप दी है, राष्ट्रपति कार्यालय ने सोमवार को यह घोषणा



सोलहवें वित्त आयोग की सिफारिशों 1 अप्रैल 2026 से शुरू होने वाले पांच वर्षों की अवधि के लिए लागू होंगी।

S&T

18/11/2025

What are UNESCO's new guidelines for the use of neurotechnology?

Neurotechnology refers to devices and procedures that access, assess, and act on neural systems, including the brain; if the brain were a radio station, neurotechnology is the set of devices to help tune in; it merges advances in neuroscience, engineering, and computing to improve brain function

CSIR-SCIR
Neethu Rajam

UNESCO issued the first global normative framework on the ethics of neurotechnology on November 5; this came into force on November 12. This recommended standard is designed to maintain a balance between innovation and human rights to protect the human brain and brain-related data from misuse. Such misuse includes exploiting brain signals to follow persuasive messages, using brain data for political marketing, for deciding premiums in insurance, or even requiring applicants or employees to submit brain data tests to screen for suitability, stress tolerance, and hidden traits in an employment setting.

The emerging field of neurotechnology has made it possible to profile people in this way – and the UNESCO framework provides guidance for anyone studying, researching, and developing applications of this technology to prevent such harms.

Defining neurotechnology

Neurotechnology refers to devices and procedures that access, assess, and act on neural systems, including the human brain. If the brain were a radio station, neurotechnology is the set of devices to help to tune in.

With advances in research and investments in projects like the U.S. BRAIN Initiative and Elon Musk's Neuralink, there is significant interest today in brain-computer interfaces, particularly those driven by artificial intelligence (AI). For example, AI-assisted neuroimaging can allow doctors to precisely detect tumours and identify the possibility of stroke in people.

Broadly, neurotechnology merges advances in neuroscience, engineering, and advanced computing to evolve solutions that improve brain function and enhance human capabilities – and it has made rapid strides. According to a UNESCO study published in 2023, public investments in neurotechnology already exceeded \$6 billion. Private investment had already grown to \$7.3 billion by the end of 2020.

While this growth has been linked to the prospect of human enhancement and promising benefits in medicine, such as alleviation of mental illnesses, overcoming physical disabilities, and improving palliative care, it also evokes numerous concerns.

Neurotech challenges

Neurotechnology allows neurodata – a.k.a. neural or brain data – to be decoded, giving rise to concerns about user privacy, protection against misuse, and informed consent among users.

To address them, the scientific community and political bodies alike have for some time now been seeking “neurorights” and ethical standards that help innovators prioritise the moral, psychological, and emotional protection of the brain.

Some “neurorights” have been formulated to encompass mental privacy, integrity, and liberty. And while they are yet to be codified, there is a general consensus that such rights are important when it comes to users interacting with neurotechnology.

Many jurisdictions have begun recognising some neurorights as well. Chile is the first country to protect “mental integrity” in its Constitution. The



A neurosurgeon at UCSF Medical School, prepares to connect an experimental brain implant that will help a paralysed person speak by reading his brain signals. PUBLIC DOMAIN

state of California signed a law in 2024 that protected people's brain data from being potentially misused by neurotechnology companies.

However, these initiatives focused on individual rights; until the late 2010s there were still significant gaps in the standards for R&D in neurotechnology research. In 2019, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) developed the first international standards on “Responsible Innovation in Neurotechnology Enterprises”, which focused on the “responsible development” and the “responsible use” of novel technologies via responsible technology transfer.

It also drew attention to the use of intellectual property rights, including in the form of patents to protect neurotechnological invention and the development of patent pools (which allow multiple companies and/or inventors to come together to offer one shared licence so others can use the technology without negotiating many separate deals). This eases technology transfer as well as the sector's development.

The OECD guidelines also called for free licensing to allow economically developing countries to customise technologies to their needs and evolve strategic partnerships.

Three years later, in 2022, the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee published a report on the ethical issues of neurotechnology; among other things, it called for a comprehensive framework in governing neurotechnology innovations.

UNESCO's framework
UNESCO's new recommendations are the result of extensive consultations since 2021. The recommendations' framework focuses on human dignity, human rights, gender equality, social and global justice, and sustainable development – and recognises the vast potential of neurotechnology innovation for medical and assistive applications.

The recommendations are based on a three-pronged strategy: (i) defining the

Neurotechnology allows neurodata – a.k.a. neural or brain data – to be decoded, giving rise to concerns about user privacy, protection against misuse, and informed consent among users

nature and scope of neurotechnology and neurodata; (ii) identifying the values, principles and offering directions to nations to incorporate the recommendations with a focus on particular sectors (health and education, among others); (iii) and considerations for vulnerable populations such as children and older adults.

In this light, the recommendations say the following principles ought to govern neurotechnology innovation: beneficence, proportionality, no harm, autonomy and freedom of thought, protection of all types of neural data from misuse, non-discrimination, inclusivity, accountability, trustworthiness and transparency, epistemic justice, and protection of future generations. In advancing these principles, the recommendations explicitly prohibit any use of neural or non-neural data for manipulative or deceptive purposes, including in political, medical and commercial contexts. They also heighten attention towards the principles of autonomy, free will, and informed consent in any valid uses of neurotechnology.

Implications for innovation

As noted in its preamble, the new framework aims to facilitate responsible research and innovation (RRI) approach in neurotechnology, both in the public and the private sectors. This involves formalising a strategy to achieve ethical and sustainable outcomes by systematically weighing the benefits along with the risks involved.

An RRI approach requires researchers to think ahead about the effects of a

technology they are developing on people and the planet; involving the public and other stakeholders to join the conversation; and to shape their research to match society's values and needs.

While acknowledging the importance of this, the framework also calls attention to the role of intellectual property rights in incentivising neurotechnology innovation even as it invokes the risks associated with the commodification of the human body.

To this end, the recommendations call for an open science model so that research outcomes are freely available to everyone. Open science models work like a public library: the data, software, technology, and methods are to be shared openly so that anyone can verify, reuse, and/or build on it.

However this approach is inimical to intellectual property rights, which prize private control and licensing. Thus, a plan to implement open science in neurotechnology development will also require strong follow-through, more so since innovation incentives have for a long time now spurred neurotechnology research.

Innovation experts like Sebastian Pfotenhauer also have noted that while effective governance for neurotechnology must focus on the private sector, they must be encouraged to self-regulate using companies' ethics policies, ethics boards and ethics-by-design approaches to R&D.

Taken together, the recommendations framework contributes to a long-standing need for an ethical framework to govern neurotechnology innovation. However, fostering RRI within neurotechnology is less about choosing a single model and more about creating an ecosystem of innovation pluralism where different models coexist, informed by commitments to ethical principles and standards, such as the one now presented by UNESCO.

(Dr. Neethu Rajam is associate professor of intellectual property and technology law, National Law University Delhi. rneethukinara@gmail.com)



UNESCO's new guidelines for the use of neurotechnology न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी के उपयोग के लिए यूनेस्को के नए दिशानिर्देश

- UNESCO issued the first global normative framework on the **ethics of neurotechnology** on **November 5**; this came into force on **November 12**. यूनेस्को ने **5 नवंबर** को न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी के नैतिकता पर पहला वैश्विक मानक ढांचा जारी किया; यह **12 नवंबर** से लागू हो गया।

- This recommended standard is designed to maintain **a balance between innovation and human rights to protect the human brain and brain-related data from misuse**.

यह अनुशंसित मानक नवाचार और मानव अधिकारों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखने के लिए बनाया गया है ताकि मानव मस्तिष्क और मस्तिष्क-संबंधी डेटा को दुरुपयोग से बचाया जा सके।

- Such misuse includes **exploiting brain signals to follow persuasive messages, using brain data for political marketing, for deciding premiums in insurance, or even requiring applicants or employees to submit brain data tests to screen for suitability, stress tolerance, and hidden traits in an employment setting**.

इस तरह के दुरुपयोग में मस्तिष्क संकेतों का उपयोग मनाने वाले संदेशों के लिए करना, राजनीतिक मार्केटिंग के लिए मस्तिष्क डेटा का उपयोग, बीमा प्रीमियम तय करने के लिए, या नौकरी आवेदकों/कर्मचारियों से मस्तिष्क डेटा टेस्ट जमा करने की आवश्यकता रखना शामिल है ताकि उपयुक्तता, तनाव सहनशक्ति और छिपी विशेषताओं की जांच की जा सके।

- The emerging field of neurotechnology has made it possible to profile people in this way — and the **UNESCO framework provides guidance for anyone studying, researching, and developing applications of this technology to prevent such harms**.

न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी का उभरता क्षेत्र लोगों को इस तरह प्रोफाइल करना संभव बना चुका है — और यूनेस्को ढांचा इस तकनीक का अध्ययन, शोध और विकास करने वाले किसी भी व्यक्ति को ऐसे नुकसान रोकने के लिए मार्गदर्शन देता है।



Defining Neurotechnology

न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी की परिभाषा

- **Neurotechnology refers to devices and procedures that access, assess, and act on neural systems, including the human brain.**

न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी उन उपकरणों और प्रक्रियाओं को संदर्भित करती है जो तंत्रिका तंत्र तक पहुंचते हैं, मूल्यांकन करते हैं और उस पर कार्य करते हैं, जिसमें मानव मस्तिष्क भी शामिल है।

- If the brain were a radio station, neurotechnology is the set of devices to help to tune in. यदि मस्तिष्क को एक रेडियो स्टेशन मानें तो न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी उन उपकरणों का समूह है जो ट्यून करने में मदद करते हैं।

- With advances in research and investments in projects like the U.S. BRAIN Initiative and Elon Musk's Neuralink, there is significant interest today in brain-computer interfaces, particularly those driven by artificial intelligence (AI).

अमेरिका के **BRAIN Initiative** और **Elon Musk** के **Neuralink** जैसे प्रोजेक्ट्स में शोध और निवेश की प्रगति के साथ आज कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) द्वारा संचालित ब्रेन-कंप्यूटर इंटरफेस में भारी रुचि है।

- For example, **AI-assisted neuroimaging can allow doctors to precisely detect tumours and identify the possibility of stroke in people.**

उदाहरण के लिए, AI-सहायता प्राप्त न्यूरोइमेजिंग डॉक्टरों को ट्यूमर का सटीक पता लगाने और स्ट्रोक की संभावना पहचानने में सक्षम बनाती है।

- Broadly, **neurotechnology merges advances in neuroscience, engineering, and advanced computing to evolve solutions that improve brain function and enhance human capabilities** — and it has made rapid strides.

व्यापक रूप से, न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी तंत्रिका विज्ञान, इंजीनियरिंग और उन्नत कम्प्यूटिंग की प्रगति को मिलाकर



मस्तिष्क कार्य सुधारने और मानव क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने वाले समाधान विकसित करती है — और इसने तेज़ प्रगति की है।

- According to a UNESCO study published in **2023**, **public investments in neurotechnology already exceeded \$6 billion**. **2023** में प्रकाशित यूनेस्को अध्ययन के अनुसार, न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी में सार्वजनिक निवेश पहले ही **6 बिलियन डॉलर** से अधिक हो चुका था।
- **Private investment had already grown to \$7.3 billion by the end of 2020**. निजी निवेश **2020** के अंत तक **7.3 बिलियन डॉलर** तक बढ़ चुका था।
- While this growth has been linked to the prospect of human enhancement and promising benefits in medicine, such as alleviation of mental illnesses, overcoming physical disabilities, and improving palliative care, it also evokes numerous concerns. यह वृद्धि मानव उन्नयन की संभावना और चिकित्सा में आशाजनक लाभों (मानसिक बीमारियों में राहत, शारीरिक अक्षमता दूर करना, पेलिएटिव केयर में सुधार) से जुड़ी है, लेकिन यह कई चिंताएँ भी पैदा करती है।

Neurotech Challenges

न्यूरोटेक की चुनौतियाँ

- **Neurotechnology allows neurodata — a.k.a. neural or brain data — to be decoded, giving rise to concerns about user privacy, protection against misuse, and informed consent among users.** न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी न्यूरोडेटा (मस्तिष्क डेटा) को डीकोड करने की अनुमति देती है, जिससे उपयोगकर्ता गोपनीयता, दुरुपयोग से सुरक्षा और सूचित सहमति को लेकर चिंताएँ उत्पन्न होती हैं।
- To address them, the scientific community and political bodies alike have for some time now been seeking **“neurorights” and ethical standards** that help innovators prioritise the moral, psychological, and emotional protection of the brain. इनका समाधान करने के लिए वैज्ञानिक समुदाय और राजनीतिक निकाय लंबे समय से **“न्यूरोराइट्स”** और नैतिक मानक तलाश रहे हैं जो नवप्रवर्तकों को मस्तिष्क की नैतिक, मनोवैज्ञानिक और भावनात्मक सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता देने में मदद करें।
- Some “neurorights” have been formulated to encompass mental privacy, integrity, and liberty. कुछ **“न्यूरोराइट्स”** को मानसिक गोपनीयता, अखंडता और स्वतंत्रता को शामिल करने के लिए तैयार किया गया है।
- And while they are yet to be codified, there is a general consensus that such rights are important when it comes to users interacting with neurotechnology. हालांकि इन्हें अभी कानूनी रूप नहीं दिया गया है, लेकिन न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी से जुड़े उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए ऐसे अधिकार महत्वपूर्ण हैं — इस पर सामान्य सहमति है।
- Many jurisdictions have begun recognising some neurorights as well. कई क्षेत्राधिकार कुछ न्यूरोराइट्स को मान्यता देना शुरू कर चुके हैं।
- Chile is the first country to protect “mental integrity” in its Constitution. **चिली** “मानसिक अखंडता” को अपने संविधान में संरक्षित करने वाला पहला देश है।
- The state of California signed a law in **2024** that protected people’s brain data from being potentially misused by neurotechnology companies. **कैलिफोर्निया** राज्य ने **2024** में एक कानून पर हस्ताक्षर किए जो लोगों के मस्तिष्क डेटा को न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी कंपनियों द्वारा संभावित दुरुपयोग से बचाता है।
- However, these initiatives focused on individual rights; until the late 2010s there were still significant gaps in the standards for R&D in neurotechnology research. हालांकि ये पहल व्यक्तिगत अधिकारों पर केंद्रित थीं; **2010 के दशक के अंत** तक न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी अनुसंधान के R&D में मानकों में अभी भी बड़ी खामियाँ थीं।
- In **2019**, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) developed the first international standards on ‘Responsible Innovation in Neurotechnology Enterprises,’ which focused on the “responsible development” and the “responsible use” of novel technologies via responsible technology transfer. **2019** में, **OECD** ने ‘Responsible Innovation in Neurotechnology Enterprises’ पर पहला अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानक विकसित किया, जिसमें नई तकनीकों के “जिम्मेदार विकास” और “जिम्मेदार उपयोग” पर ध्यान दिया गया।
- It also drew attention to the use of intellectual property rights, including in the form of patents to protect neurotechnological invention and the development of patent pools. इसने बौद्धिक



संपदा अधिकारों (पेटेंट सहित) के उपयोग पर भी ध्यान दिया ताकि न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजिकल आविष्कारों की रक्षा हो और **पेटेंट पूल** विकसित हो सकें।

- This eases technology transfer as well as the sector's development. इससे तकनीक हस्तांतरण और क्षेत्र का विकास आसान होता है।
- The OECD guidelines also called for free licensing to allow economically developing countries to customise technologies to their needs and evolve strategic partnerships. OECD दिशानिर्देशों ने आर्थिक रूप से विकासशील देशों को अपनी आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार तकनीक अनुकूलित करने और रणनीतिक साझेदारी विकसित करने के लिए मुफ्त लाइसेंसिंग की मांग की।
- Three years later, in **2022**, the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee published a report on the ethical issues of neurotechnology; among other things, it called for a comprehensive framework in governing neurotechnology innovations. तीन साल बाद, **2022** में, यूनेस्को अंतरराष्ट्रीय जैवनीति समिति ने न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी के नैतिक मुद्दों पर रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित की; इसमें न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी नवाचारों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए व्यापक ढांचे की मांग की गई।

UNESCO's Framework

यूनेस्को का ढांचा

- UNESCO's new recommendations are the result of extensive consultations since **2021**. यूनेस्को की नई सिफारिशें **2021** से व्यापक परामर्श का परिणाम हैं।
- The **recommendations' framework focuses on human dignity, human rights, gender equality, social and global justice, and sustainable development** — and recognises the vast potential of neurotechnology innovation for medical and assistive applications. सिफारिशों का ढांचा **मानव गरिमा, मानव अधिकार, लिंग समानता, सामाजिक और वैश्विक न्याय, और सतत विकास** पर केंद्रित है — और न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी नवाचार की चिकित्सा और सहायक अनुप्रयोगों के लिए विशाल क्षमता को मान्यता देता है।
- The recommendations are based on a three-pronged strategy: (i) defining the nature and scope of neurotechnology and neurodata; (ii) identifying the values, principles and offering directions to nations to incorporate the recommendations with a focus on particular sectors (health and education, among others); (iii) and considerations for vulnerable populations such as children and older adults. सिफारिशें एक तीन-आयामी रणनीति पर आधारित हैं: (i) न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी और न्यूरोडेटा की प्रकृति और दायरे को परिभाषित करना; (ii) मूल्यों, सिद्धांतों की पहचान करना और राष्ट्रों को सिफारिशों को शामिल करने के लिए निर्देश देना विशेष क्षेत्रों (स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा आदि) पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए; (iii) और कमजोर आबादी जैसे बच्चों और वृद्धों के लिए विचार।
- In this light, the recommendations say the following principles ought to govern neurotechnology innovation: **beneficence, proportionality, no harm, autonomy and freedom of thought, protection of all types of neural data from misuse, non-discrimination, inclusivity, accountability, trustworthiness and transparency, epistemic justice, and protection of future generations**. इस दृष्टि से, सिफारिशें कहती हैं कि न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी नवाचार को निम्नलिखित सिद्धांतों द्वारा शासित होना चाहिए: **कल्याण, समानुपातिकता, कोई हानि नहीं, स्वायत्तता और विचार की स्वतंत्रता, सभी प्रकार के न्यूरल डेटा की दुरुपयोग से सुरक्षा, गैर-भेदभाव, समावेशिता, जवाबदेही, विश्वसनीयता और पारदर्शिता, ज्ञानात्मक न्याय, और भविष्य की पीढ़ियों की सुरक्षा**।
- In advancing these principles, the recommendations explicitly prohibit any use of neural or non-neural data for manipulative or deceptive purposes, including in political, medical and commercial contexts. इन सिद्धांतों को आगे बढ़ाने में, सिफारिशें स्पष्ट रूप से न्यूरल या गैर-न्यूरल डेटा के किसी भी उपयोग को हेरफेर या धोखाधड़ी के उद्देश्यों के लिए निषिद्ध करती हैं, जिसमें राजनीतिक, चिकित्सा और व्यावसायिक संदर्भ शामिल हैं।
- They also heighten attention towards the principles of **autonomy, free will, and informed consent** in any valid uses of neurotechnology. वे न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी के किसी भी वैध उपयोग में **स्वायत्तता, स्वतंत्र इच्छा, और सूचित सहमति** के सिद्धांतों की ओर ध्यान भी बढ़ाती हैं।



Implications for Innovation

नवाचार के लिए निहितार्थ

- As noted in its preamble, the new framework aims to **facilitate responsible research and innovation (RRI) approach in neurotechnology, both in the public and the private sectors.** इसकी प्रस्तावना में उल्लेखित अनुसार, नया ढांचा न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी में जिम्मेदार अनुसंधान और नवाचार (RRI) दृष्टिकोण को सुविधाजनक बनाने का उद्देश्य रखता है, दोनों सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों में।
- This involves formalising a strategy to achieve ethical and sustainable outcomes by systematically weighing the benefits along with the risks involved. इसमें नैतिक और सतत परिणाम प्राप्त करने के लिए एक रणनीति को औपचारिक रूप देना शामिल है जिसमें लाभों को शामिल जोखिमों के साथ व्यवस्थित रूप से तौलना।
- An RRI approach requires researchers to think ahead about the effects of a technology they are developing on people and the planet; involving the public and other stakeholders to join the conversation; and to shape their research to match society's values and needs. RRI दृष्टिकोण शोधकर्ताओं से अपेक्षा करता है कि वे विकसित कर रहे तकनीक के लोगों और ग्रह पर प्रभावों के बारे में आगे सोचें; जनता और अन्य हितधारकों को बातचीत में शामिल करें; और अपने शोध को समाज के मूल्यों और आवश्यकताओं से मेल खाने के लिए आकार दें।
- While acknowledging the importance of this, the framework also calls attention to the role of intellectual property rights in incentivising neurotechnology innovation even as it invokes the risks associated with the commodification of the human body. इसके महत्व को मानते हुए, ढांचा बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकारों की भूमिका पर भी ध्यान आकर्षित करता है जो न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित करते हैं भले ही यह मानव शरीर के वस्तुकरण से जुड़े जोखिमों को उजागर करता है।
- To this end, the recommendations call for an open science model so that research outcomes are freely available to everyone. इस उद्देश्य के लिए, सिफारिशें एक ओपन साइंस मॉडल की मांग करती हैं ताकि अनुसंधान परिणाम सभी के लिए स्वतंत्र रूप से उपलब्ध हों।
- Open science models work like a public library: the data, software, technology, and methods are to be shared openly so that anyone can verify, reuse, and/or build on it. ओपन साइंस मॉडल सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालय की तरह काम करते हैं: डेटा, सॉफ्टवेयर, तकनीक, और विधियाँ खुले तौर पर साझा की जाती हैं ताकि कोई भी सत्यापित कर सके, पुनः उपयोग कर सके, और/या उस पर निर्माण कर सके।
- However this approach is inimical to intellectual property rights, which prize private control and licensing. हालांकि यह दृष्टिकोण बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकारों के शत्रुतापूर्ण है, जो निजी नियंत्रण और लाइसेंसिंग को महत्व देते हैं।
- Thus, a plan to implement open science in neurotechnology development will also require strong follow-through, more so since innovation incentives have for a long time now spurred neurotechnology research. इस प्रकार, न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी विकास में ओपन साइंस को लागू करने की योजना को मजबूत अनुवर्तन की भी आवश्यकता होगी, खासकर जब से नवाचार प्रोत्साहन लंबे समय से न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी अनुसंधान को प्रेरित कर रहे हैं।
- Innovation experts like **Sebastian Pfotenhauer** also have noted that while effective governance for neurotechnology must focus on the private sector, they must be encouraged to self-regulate using companies' ethics policies, ethics boards and ethics-by-design approaches to R&D. नवाचार विशेषज्ञ जैसे **Sebastian Pfotenhauer** ने भी नोट किया है कि न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी के लिए प्रभावी शासन निजी क्षेत्र पर केंद्रित होना चाहिए, उन्हें कंपनियों की नैतिकता नीतियों, नैतिकता बोर्डों और R&D के लिए नैतिकता-द्वारा-डिजाइन दृष्टिकोणों का उपयोग करके स्व-नियमन करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए।
- Taken together, the recommendations framework contributes to a long-standing need for an ethical framework to govern neurotechnology innovation. सामूहिक रूप से, सिफारिशों का ढांचा न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी नवाचार को शासित करने के लिए नैतिक ढांचे की लंबे समय से चली आ रही आवश्यकता में योगदान देता है।



- However, fostering RRI within neurotechnology is less about choosing a single model and more about creating an ecosystem of innovation pluralism where different models coexist, informed by commitments to ethical principles and standards, such as the one now presented by UNESCO. हालांकि, न्यूरोटेक्नोलॉजी में RRI को बढ़ावा देना एकल मॉडल चुनने के बारे में कम और नवाचार बहुलवाद के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बनाने के बारे में अधिक है जहां विभिन्न मॉडल सह-अस्तित्व में रहें, नैतिक सिद्धांतों और मानकों के प्रति प्रतिबद्धताओं से सूचित होकर, जैसे कि अब यूनेस्को द्वारा प्रस्तुत।

Roundworms do inherit what threats to avoid, but with a catch

GS III: S&T

Animals often meet the same threats across generations. A central question in biology is whether experience with a threat can be passed from parents to offspring in a way that changes the latter's behaviour.

In the roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans*, one such experience is learning to avoid a dangerous bacterium called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strain PA14. Previous work has suggested that worms exposed to PA14 can produce descendants that also avoid this bacterium, even though those descendants have never encountered it. Other researchers, however, reported that this inherited avoidance didn't reliably persist beyond the first generation, casting doubt on the phenomenon.

A new study by Illinois State University in the U.S. was designed to address this disagreement with an independent replication study. Working in a different laboratory, they closely followed the previous study's protocol and focused on whether learned avoidance could still be detected in the second generation, where previous results began to diverge.

The authors used a standard choice assay. The worms were placed on a plate where one spot contained their usual lab food, a harmless *Escherichia coli* strain called OP50, and another spot contained the pathogenic PA14. A compound called sodium azide was added to each spot to paralyse worms as soon as they arrived, so their first choice could be recorded. Worms were first 'trained' by spending 24 hours on PA14 or OP50, and then their preference, and that of their offspring and the offspring's offspring raised only on OP50, was tested in the assay.

strain PA14

- Previous work has suggested that worms exposed to PA14 can produce descendants that also avoid this bacterium, even though those descendants have never encountered it. पहले के कार्यों से पता चला है कि PA14 के संपर्क में आए कीड़ों की संतान भी इस बैक्टीरिया से बचती है, भले ही उन संतानों ने कभी इसका सामना न किया हो।
- Other researchers, however, reported that this inherited avoidance didn't reliably persist beyond the first generation, casting doubt on the phenomenon. हालांकि अन्य शोधकर्ताओं ने बताया

After training on PA14, parental worms avoided PA14. Crucially, their descendants, which had never encountered PA14, also shifted to avoiding the pathogen

Naïve worms that had never seen PA14 showed the expected initial attraction to the pathogen over OP50. After training on PA14, however, parental worms strongly avoided PA14 in the choice assay. Crucially, their descendants, which had never themselves encountered PA14, also shifted to avoiding the pathogen compared to control worms whose ancestors had only seen OP50. The inherited effect weakened with each generation but remained statistically significant in the second generation descendants when the assay was run in tightly controlled conditions.

The findings were published in *eLife* on November 11. A companion article by Canada's Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research associate professor Lesley MacNeil, who wasn't involved in the studies, placed the findings in a broader debate about "transgenerational epigenetic inheritance". Dr. MacNeil contrasted the old and new study with a third set of studies that often didn't detect either the initial attraction to PA14 or its inherited avoidance when using a different method that immobilised worms by cooling the plate instead of using azide. This alternative method could have allowed the worms to contact PA14 during the assay and learn on the spot, blurring the difference between naïve and previously trained lineages.

Roundworms do inherit what threats to avoid, but with a catch

राउंडवर्म यह तो विरासत में पाते हैं कि किन खतरों से बचना है, लेकिन इसमें एक शर्त होती है

Transgenerational Inheritance of Learned Behaviour in Worms

कीड़ों में सीखे हुए व्यवहार का पीढ़ी-दर-पीढ़ी हस्तांतरण

- Animals often meet the same threats across generations. जानवर अक्सर पीढ़ी-दर-पीढ़ी एक ही खतरों का सामना करते हैं।

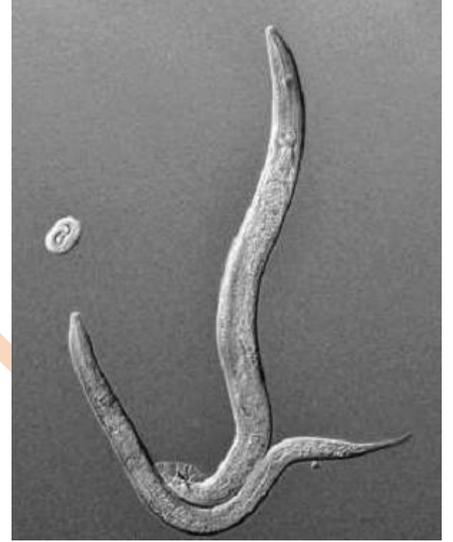
- A central question in biology is whether experience with a threat can be passed from parents to offspring in a way that changes the latter's behaviour. जीवविज्ञान में एक केंद्रीय प्रश्न है कि क्या खतरे का अनुभव माता-पिता से संतान तक इस तरह हस्तांतरित हो सकता है कि संतान का व्यवहार बदल जाए।

- In the roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans*, one such experience is learning to avoid a dangerous bacterium called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strain PA14. राउंडवर्म *Caenorhabditis elegans* में ऐसा एक अनुभव खतरनाक बैक्टीरिया *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* से बचना सीखना है।



कि यह वंशानुगत बचाव पहली पीढ़ी के बाद विश्वसनीय रूप से बना नहीं रहता, जिससे इस घटना पर संदेह पैदा हुआ।

- A new study by Illinois State University in the U.S. was designed to address this disagreement with an independent replication study. अमेरिका की **Illinois State University** का एक नया अध्ययन इस असहमति को दूर करने के लिए स्वतंत्र प्रतिकृति अध्ययन के साथ तैयार किया गया था।
- Working in a different laboratory, they closely followed the previous study's protocol and focused on whether learned avoidance could still be detected in the second generation, where previous results began to diverge. एक अलग प्रयोगशाला में काम करते हुए उन्होंने पिछले अध्ययन के प्रोटोकॉल का बारीकी से पालन किया और ध्यान इस बात पर केंद्रित किया कि क्या सीखा हुआ बचाव दूसरी पीढ़ी में अभी भी पता लगाया जा सकता है, जहां पहले के परिणाम अलग होने लगे थे।
- The authors used a standard choice assay. लेखकों ने एक मानक च्वाइस एस्से का उपयोग किया।
- The worms were placed on a plate where one spot contained their usual lab food, a harmless *Escherichia coli* strain called OP50, and another spot contained the pathogenic PA14. कीड़ों को एक प्लेट पर रखा गया जहां एक स्थान पर उनका सामान्य लैब भोजन, एक हानिरहित ***Escherichia coli* strain OP50** था, और दूसरे स्थान पर रोगजनक **PA14** था।
- A compound called sodium azide was added to each spot to paralyse worms as soon as they arrived, so their first choice could be recorded. प्रत्येक स्थान पर **sodium azide** नामक यौगिक डाला गया ताकि कीड़े जैसे ही पहुंचें लकवाग्रस्त हो जाएं, जिससे उनकी पहली पसंद रिकॉर्ड की जा सके।
- Worms were first 'trained' by spending 24 hours on PA14 or OP50, and then their preference, and that of their offspring and the offspring's offspring raised only on OP50, was tested in the assay. कीड़ों को पहले **24 घंटे** तक PA14 या OP50 पर रखकर 'प्रशिक्षित' किया गया, फिर उनकी पसंद और केवल OP50 पर पली उनकी संतान तथा संतान की संतान की पसंद का एस्से में परीक्षण किया गया।
- Naïve worms that had never seen PA14 showed the expected initial attraction to the pathogen over OP50. जिन ना-देखे (naïve) कीड़ों ने कभी PA14 नहीं देखा था, उन्होंने OP50 की तुलना में रोगजनक की ओर अपेक्षित प्रारंभिक आकर्षण दिखाया।
- After training on PA14, however, parental worms strongly avoided PA14 in the choice assay. हालांकि PA14 पर प्रशिक्षण के बाद माता-पिता कीड़े ने च्वाइस एस्से में PA14 से दृढ़तापूर्वक बचाव किया।
- Crucially, their descendants, which had never themselves encountered PA14, also shifted to avoiding the pathogen compared to control worms whose ancestors had only seen OP50. महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, जिन संतानों ने स्वयं कभी PA14 का सामना नहीं किया था, उन्होंने भी नियंत्रण कीड़ों की तुलना में रोगजनक से बचाव करना शुरू कर दिया जिनके पूर्वजों ने केवल OP50 देखा था।
- The inherited effect weakened with each generation but remained statistically significant in the second generation descendants when the assay was run in tightly controlled conditions. वंशानुगत प्रभाव हर पीढ़ी के साथ कमजोर हुआ लेकिन सख्त नियंत्रित परिस्थितियों में दूसरी पीढ़ी की संतानों में सांख्यिकीय रूप से महत्वपूर्ण बना रहा।
- The findings were published in eLife on **November 11**. निष्कर्ष **11 नवंबर** को **eLife** में प्रकाशित किए गए।
- A companion article by Canada's Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research associate professor Lesley MacNeil, who wasn't involved in the studies, placed the findings in a broader debate about "transgenerational epigenetic inheritance". कनाडा के **Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research** की एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर **Lesley MacNeil** का एक साथी लेख, जो अध्ययनों में शामिल नहीं थीं, ने निष्कर्षों को "ट्रांसजेनेरेशनल एपिजेनेटिक इनहेरिटेंस" पर व्यापक बहस में रखा।
- Dr. MacNeil contrasted the old and new study with a third set of studies that often didn't detect either the initial attraction to PA14 or its inherited avoidance when using a different method that immobilised worms by cooling the plate instead of using azide. डॉ. मैकनील ने पुराने और नए अध्ययन की तुलना तीसरे सेट के अध्ययनों से की जिनमें अक्सर न तो PA14 की ओर प्रारंभिक





आकर्षण पता चला और न ही उसका वंशानुगत बचाव, जब प्लेट को ठंडा करके कीड़ों को स्थिर करने की अलग विधि का उपयोग किया गया बजाय azide के।

- This alternative method could have allowed the worms to contact PA14 during the assay and learn on the spot, blurring the difference between naïve and previously trained lineages. यह वैकल्पिक विधि कीड़ों को एस्स के दौरान PA14 से संपर्क करने और मौके पर ही सीखने की अनुमति दे सकती थी, जिससे ना-देखे और पहले प्रशिक्षित वंशों के बीच का अंतर धुंधला हो गया।

Environment

18/11/2025

States must actively consider notifying any 'human-wildlife conflict' as natural disaster: SC

GS III: Environment

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday, in a judgment, said States must actively consider notifying 'human-wildlife conflict' as a natural disaster.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai directed States to pay out an ex-gratia amount of ₹10 lakh to victims of human-wildlife conflicts under the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH).

"All States should have smooth and inclusive compensation policies for crop damage, loss of life of both human and cattle. In order to reduce the timelines to mitigate the issues resulting out of human-wildlife conflict, close coordination between different agencies



The Supreme Court directed States to notify buffer and core areas of their tiger reserves within the next six months. FILE PHOTO

and departments with mandated responsibilities should be ensured," the Supreme Court ordered.

Tree felling in Corbett

The court was hearing a petition alleging illegal tree-felling and construction in the Corbett tiger reserve, one of the oldest in the country.

The judgment made the State of Uttarakhand fully liable to restore and repair the Corbett ecology. The

State, in consultation with the Central Empowered Committee, was directed to submit a restoration plan for the reserve in two months, begin demolishing illegal constructions there in three months and file a compliance affidavit in the apex court in a year.

The judgment, authored by Chief Justice Gavai, directed States to notify buffer and core areas of their tiger reserves within the next six months.



States must actively consider notifying any 'human-wildlife conflict' as natural disaster: SC

राज्यों को 'मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष' को प्राकृतिक आपदा घोषित करने पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार करना चाहिए: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

- The **Supreme Court** on Monday, in a judgment, said States must actively consider notifying 'human-wildlife conflict' as a natural disaster.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को एक निर्णय में कहा कि राज्यों को 'मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष' को प्राकृतिक आपदा घोषित करने पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार करना चाहिए।



- A Bench headed by **Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai** directed States to pay out an **ex-gratia amount of ₹10 lakh** to victims of human-wildlife conflicts under the **Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH)**.
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने राज्यों को निर्देश दिया कि वे **एक्स-ग्रेसिया ₹10 लाख** मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष पीड़ितों को **केंद्रीय प्रायोजित एकीकृत वन्यजीव आवास विकास योजना (CSS-IDWH)** के तहत प्रदान करें।

- "All States should have smooth and inclusive **compensation policies** for crop damage, loss of life of both human and cattle. In order to reduce the timelines to mitigate the issues resulting out of human-wildlife conflict, **close coordination** between different agencies and departments with mandated responsibilities should be ensured," the Supreme Court ordered.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आदेश दिया, "सभी राज्यों के पास फसल क्षति, मानव और पशुधन की मृत्यु के लिए सुचारू और समावेशी **मुआवजा नीतियां** होनी चाहिए। मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष से उत्पन्न समस्याओं के समाधान की समयसीमा को कम करने के लिए विभिन्न एजेंसियों और विभागों के बीच **सघन समन्वय** सुनिश्चित किया जाना चाहिए।"

Tree felling in Corbett

कॉर्बेट में पेड़ कटाई

- The court was hearing a petition alleging **illegal tree-felling and construction** in the **Corbett tiger reserve**, one of the oldest in the country.

अदालत **कॉर्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व**—जो देश के सबसे पुराने रिजर्वों में से एक है—में **अवैध पेड़ कटाई और निर्माण** के आरोप वाली एक याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही थी।

- The judgment made the **State of Uttarakhand** fully liable to restore and repair the **Corbett ecology**.

निर्णय ने **उत्तराखंड राज्य** को **कॉर्बेट पारिस्थितिकी** की बहाली और मरम्मत के लिए पूर्ण रूप से उत्तरदायी ठहराया।

- The State, in consultation with the **Central Empowered Committee**, was directed to submit a **restoration plan** for the reserve in two months, begin demolishing illegal constructions there in three months and file a **compliance affidavit** in the apex court in a year.

राज्य को **केंद्रीय सशक्त समिति** से परामर्श करके दो महीनों में रिजर्व के लिए **बहाली योजना** प्रस्तुत करने, तीन महीनों में अवैध निर्माणों को ध्वस्त करना शुरू करने और एक वर्ष में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में **अनुपालन हलफनामा** दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया गया।

- The judgment, authored by **Chief Justice Gavai**, directed States to notify **buffer and core areas** of their tiger reserves within the next **six months**.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश गवई द्वारा लिखित निर्णय में राज्यों को अपने टाइगर रिजर्व के **बफ़र और कोर क्षेत्रों** को अगले **छह महीनों** के भीतर अधिसूचित करने का आदेश दिया गया।



Trade impacts of climate action flagged at COP30

Developing countries, including India, demand that the impact of climate action on trade be given more prominence and discussed in future meetings; summit Presidency circulates summary

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy
BELEM

As world leaders begin ministerial consultations in the second and concluding week of COP30, developing countries, including India, have demanded that the impact of climate on trade be given more prominence and discussed in future climate meets.

The COP30 Presidency, late Sunday, made public a summary of 'positions' by various countries (without individually identifying them) to help evolve consensus.

The summary includes suggestions to have an annual dialogue on "climate change-related trade restrictive unilateral trade measures; discuss the cross-border impacts of climate policies; and hold round tables on the nexus between trade and climate change in 2026 and 2027, with outputs serving as inputs to the Global Stocktake (in 2028), according to a document that was circulated by the United Nations Presidency.

Divisions over climate policy and trade also threaten collective action on keeping carbon emissions



Global South: Indigenous activists participate in a climate protest during the COP30 summit in Belem on Monday. AP

from causing a temperature rise exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius, which scientists say is likely to be breached latest by 2030 given current emission trends and inadequate action by countries to rein in future emissions.

Finance gaps

Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav is expected to make a 'national statement' at the COP, which will articulate India's latest position on these issues as well as gaps in finance that make adaptation as well as emission cuts challenging.

On Monday, COP30 Pre-

sident Andrei Lago presided over the launch of a 'Forum for Climate and Trade Cooperation.' "It is a space for dialogue and solution-building at the intersection of trade and climate change," he remarked at the opening ceremony.

Trade and climate cut particularly close to India, with the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) set to come into full effect in January 2026.

CBAM is a levy that European importers must pay if they buy products from countries whose production emits more carbon dioxide per tonne

than equivalent goods manufactured within the EU.

The Hindu had reported in October that Indian exporters of iron and steel to the European Union may have to pay about €301 million (approximately ₹3,000 crore) in Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) fees – the highest among all countries exporting similar products to the EU, citing an analysis by European non-profit think-tank Sandberg.

Through this forum, Brazil hopes to set in place a process whereby the simmering tensions between developed and developing countries concerning climate and trade can be bridged via a three-year process.

"Closing the distance between climate ambition and trade policy is indispensable to the emergence of a truly inclusive global economy. The Forum offers developing countries a unique platform to shape that convergence and to champion a more sustainable, just, and resilient model of global prosperity," Daouda Sembene, president and CEO, Africatlyst and Distinguished Nonresident Fellow, Center for Global Development, said.

Trade impacts of climate action flagged at COP30 COP30 में जलवायु कार्रवाई के व्यापार प्रभावों को रेखांकित किया गया

- Developing countries, including **India**, demand that the impact of climate action on **trade** be given more prominence and discussed in future meetings; summit **Presidency** circulates summary.

विकासशील देशों, जिनमें **भारत** शामिल है, ने मांग की है कि जलवायु कार्रवाई के **व्यापार** पर प्रभाव को अधिक महत्व दिया जाए और भविष्य की बैठकों में इस पर चर्चा हो; शिखर सम्मेलन की **अध्यक्षता** ने सारांश प्रसारित किया।

- As world leaders begin ministerial consultations in the second and concluding week of **COP30**, developing countries, including India, have demanded that the impact of climate on trade be given more prominence and discussed in future climate meets.



जैसे ही विश्व नेता COP30 के दूसरे और अंतिम सप्ताह में मंत्री-स्तरीय परामर्श शुरू करते हैं, भारत सहित विकासशील देशों ने मांग की है कि व्यापार पर जलवायु के प्रभाव को अधिक महत्व दिया जाए और भविष्य की जलवायु बैठकों में इस पर चर्चा हो।

- The COP30 Presidency, late Sunday, made public a summary of 'positions' by various countries (without individually identifying them) to help evolve consensus. COP30 अध्यक्षता ने रविवार देर रात कई देशों के 'रुखों' का सारांश सार्वजनिक किया (बिना उन्हें व्यक्तिगत रूप से पहचाने) ताकि आम सहमति विकसित हो सके।
- The summary includes suggestions to have an **annual dialogue** on "climate change-related trade restrictive unilateral trade measures; discuss the cross-border impacts of climate policies; and hold round tables on the nexus between trade and climate change in **2026 and 2027**, with outputs serving as inputs to the **Global Stocktake (2028)**," according to a document that was circulated by the **United Nations Presidency**.

इस सारांश में सुझाव शामिल हैं कि "जलवायु परिवर्तन-संबंधित व्यापार प्रतिबंधात्मक एकतरफा व्यापार उपायों पर **वार्षिक संवाद** हो; जलवायु नीतियों के सीमा-पार प्रभावों पर चर्चा हो; और **2026 व 2027** में व्यापार और जलवायु परिवर्तन के संबंध पर गोलमेज बैठकें हों, जिनके परिणाम **ग्लोबल स्टॉकटेक (2028)** में इनपुट के रूप में काम आएंगे," जैसा कि **संयुक्त राष्ट्र अध्यक्षता** द्वारा प्रसारित दस्तावेज़ में कहा गया।

- Divisions over climate policy and trade also threaten collective action on keeping **carbon emissions** from causing a temperature rise exceeding **1.5 degrees Celsius**, which scientists say is likely to be breached latest by **2030** given current emission trends and inadequate action by countries. जलवायु नीति और व्यापार पर मतभेद **कार्बन उत्सर्जन** को **1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस** से अधिक तापमान वृद्धि का कारण बनने से रोकने की सामूहिक कार्रवाई को भी खतरे में डालते हैं, जिसे वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि वर्तमान उत्सर्जन रुझानों और अपर्याप्त कार्रवाइयों को देखते हुए **2030** तक पार होने की संभावना है।

Finance gaps वित्तीय अंतराल

- Environment Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** is expected to make a '**national statement**' at the COP, which will articulate India's latest position on these issues as well as gaps in finance that make adaptation as well as emission cuts challenging. पर्यावरण मंत्री **भूपेंद्र यादव** के COP में एक '**राष्ट्रीय वक्तव्य**' देने की उम्मीद है, जिसमें भारत की नवीनतम स्थिति और वित्तीय अंतराल शामिल होंगे, जो अनुकूलन और उत्सर्जन कटौती को चुनौतीपूर्ण बनाते हैं।
- On Monday, **COP30 President Andrei Lago** presided over the launch of a '**Forum for Climate and Trade Cooperation**'. सोमवार को, **COP30 अध्यक्ष आंद्रेई लागो** ने '**जलवायु और व्यापार सहयोग मंच**' के शुभारंभ की अध्यक्षता की।
- "It is a space for **dialogue** and **solution-building** at the intersection of trade and climate change," he remarked at the opening ceremony. उन्होंने उद्घाटन समारोह में कहा, "यह व्यापार और जलवायु परिवर्तन के संगम पर **संवाद** और **समाधान-निर्माण** के लिए एक स्थान है।"
- Trade and climate cut particularly close to India, with the **European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** set to come into full effect in **January 2026**. व्यापार और जलवायु का संबंध भारत के लिए विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है, क्योंकि **यूरोपीय संघ का कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म (CBAM)** जनवरी 2026 में पूर्ण रूप से लागू होने जा रहा है।
- CBAM** is a levy that European importers must pay if they buy products from countries whose production emits more **carbon dioxide per tonne** than equivalent goods manufactured within the EU. **CBAM** वह शुल्क है जो यूरोपीय आयातकों को देना होता है यदि वे उन देशों से उत्पाद खरीदते हैं,



जिनके उत्पादन में प्रति टन कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन EU के भीतर निर्मित समान वस्तुओं से अधिक है।

- The Hindu had reported in October that Indian exporters of **iron and steel** to the European Union may have to pay about **€301 million (approximately ₹3,000 crore)** in CBAM fees — the highest among all countries exporting similar products to the EU, citing an analysis by European non-profit think-tank **Sandberg**.
द हिंदू ने अक्टूबर में बताया था कि यूरोपीय संघ को **लोहा और इस्पात** निर्यात करने वाले भारतीय निर्यातकों को CBAM शुल्क में लगभग **€301 मिलियन (लगभग ₹3,000 करोड़)** का भुगतान करना पड़ सकता है — जो EU को समान उत्पाद निर्यात करने वाले सभी देशों में सबसे अधिक है, यह दावा यूरोपीय गैर-लाभकारी थिंक-टैंक **सैंडबर्ग** के विश्लेषण पर आधारित है।
- Through this forum, **Brazil** hopes to set in place a process whereby the simmering tensions between developed and developing countries concerning climate and trade can be bridged via a **three-year process**.
इस मंच के माध्यम से, **ब्राज़ील** यह उम्मीद करता है कि विकसित और विकासशील देशों के बीच जलवायु और व्यापार को लेकर जारी तनाव को **तीन-वर्षीय प्रक्रिया** द्वारा कम किया जा सके।
- “Closing the distance between **climate ambition** and **trade policy** is indispensable to the emergence of a truly inclusive global economy.”
“**जलवायु महत्वाकांक्षा** और **व्यापार नीति** के बीच की दूरी को कम करना वास्तव में एक समावेशी वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के उद्भव के लिए अनिवार्य है।
- The Forum offers developing countries a unique platform to shape that convergence and to champion a more sustainable, just, and resilient model of global prosperity,” Daouda Sembene, president and CEO, Africatlyst and Distinguished Nonresident Fellow, Center for Global Development, said.
यह मंच विकासशील देशों को उस सामंजस्य को आकार देने और अधिक टिकाऊ, न्यायसंगत और लचीले वैश्विक समृद्धि मॉडल का समर्थन करने के लिए एक अद्वितीय मंच प्रदान करता है,” दाऊदा सेम्बेने, अध्यक्ष और CEO, अफ्रिकैटलिस्ट, और विशिष्ट नॉन-रेज़िडेंट फेलो, सेंटर फॉर ग्लोबल डेवलपमेंट, ने कहा।

to 160 characters, often typed on a numeric keypad, and originally transmitted on mobile networks' signalling channels. What three-letter abbreviation is this texting system known by?

Answers to November 13 quiz:

- Flying mammals that shares a blood meal by mouth – **Ans: Vampire bats**
- Desert-dwelling carnivores that takes turns to stand guard – **Ans: Meerkat**
- Marine mammals known to support injured companions – **Ans: Bottlenose dolphins**
- Antarctic birds that warm chicks in creches – **Ans: Emperor penguins**
- Ocean migrants known to break up attacks on calves – **Ans: Humpback whales**

Visual: **Matabele ants**

First contact: Tamal Biswas | K.N.

Viswanathan | Anmol Agrawal | Prem Raj

P. | Mohammad Sohail

QUIZ

Vampire Bats: The Only Flying Mammals That Share Blood Meals by Mouth

- Vampire bats** (family Phyllostomidae, subfamily Desmodontinae) are the world's only mammals that feed exclusively on blood (hematophagy) and are famous for a rare altruistic behaviour called **regurgitative food sharing** – they transfer freshly ingested blood directly from mouth to mouth to starving roost-mates.

- Three species exist: the **common vampire bat (Desmodus rotundus)**, the **hairy-legged vampire bat (Diphylla ecaudata)**, and the **white-winged vampire bat (Diaemus youngi)**.

- All are native to the Americas and demonstrate one of the strongest examples of reciprocal altruism in non-human animals.

- Geographic Range:** From northern Mexico through Central America to southern South America (as far as Uruguay, northern Argentina, and central Chile). They do not occur in Belize, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, or the Caribbean islands.

- Habitat:** Roost in caves, hollow trees, abandoned mines, and culverts; prefer humid tropical and subtropical forests but also occur in arid regions.

Meerkats: Desert-Dwelling Carnivores That Take Turns to Stand Guard



- **Meerkats** (*Suricata suricatta*), also known as suricates, are small carnivorous mongooses famous for their highly organized **sentinel (guard) system** in which group members voluntarily take turns standing on their hind legs to scan for predators while the rest of the group forages, rests, or cares for pups.
- This cooperative vigilance is one of the best-studied examples of **altruistic behaviour** in mammals.

Bottlenose Dolphins: Marine Mammals Known to Support Injured Companions

- **Bottlenose dolphins** (*Tursiops truncatus*) are globally recognized for their remarkable **epimeletic (care-giving) behaviour**, especially the habit of supporting sick, injured, or newborn companions at the surface so they can breathe.
 - This altruistic act – often called **rescue or support swimming** – is one of the strongest documented examples of helping behaviour in non-human animals.
- **Global Distribution:** Warm and temperate seas worldwide – Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, Mediterranean, Atlantic, Pacific, and coastal waters of India (Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh).
- **Size:** Adults 2.5–4 metres long; weight 200–650 kg
- **Lifespan:** 40–60 years (females usually live longer)

Emperor Penguins: Antarctic Birds That Warm Chicks in Creches

- Emperor penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) are the largest penguin species and the only birds that breed entirely on Antarctic sea ice during the brutal winter, forming creches (nursery groups) where adults actively warm and protect downy chicks against temperatures as low as -60°C (-76°F) and winds up to 200 km/h (124 mph).
- This cooperative brooding ensures chick survival until they develop waterproof feathers around 5–6 months old.

Humpback Whales: Ocean Migrants Known to Break Up Attacks on Calves

Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) are renowned for their long-distance migrations spanning up to **8,000 km (5,000 miles)** annually between polar feeding grounds and tropical breeding calving areas, during which they exhibit **altruistic intervention behavior** – charging into killer whale (orca) attacks to disrupt predation on vulnerable calves of their own or other species, using tail slaps, vocalizations, and body positioning to scatter pods.

- **Global Distribution:** All major oceans except Arctic pack ice; northern hemisphere populations migrate from high-latitude feeding areas (e.g., Bering Sea) to subtropical calving grounds (e.g., Hawaiian Islands, Mexico); southern populations from Antarctic waters to equatorial breeding sites (e.g., off Colombia, Ecuador).
 - **Size:** Adults 12–16 m (39–52 ft) long; weight 25–40 tonnes; distinctive long white pectoral fins up to 5 m (16 ft).
 - **Diet:** Primarily krill and small fish via lunge-feeding and bubble-net techniques; consume ~1–2 tonnes daily in summer.
 - **Lifespan:** 45–100 years; maturity at 5–10 years.
- **Population:** ~135,000 individuals worldwide (2024 estimate), with distinct breeding stocks (e.g., Arabian Sea stock critically endangered at ~200 mature individuals).

Key Concept: Altruistic Intervention in Predator Attacks on Calves

- Humpbacks actively disrupt orca attacks by approaching pods, using **tail slaps (lobtailing)**, **breaches**, and **bubble clouds** to create barriers, often positioning between predators and prey to shield calves.



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YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>
CONTACT: 9971932488



- This behavior targets orca predation on humpback calves (most vulnerable during migration) but extends to other species (89% of cases), suggesting **cross-species altruism** driven by anti-predator instincts or "mobbing" to deter threats.
- Interventions last 10–60 minutes; humpbacks risk injury from orca ramming but rarely suffer fatal wounds, as orcas avoid adult humpbacks.

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