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Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in



Geography

28/11/2025

Cyclone Ditwah to bring intense rainfall till weekend in T.N.

GS II: Geography

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Cyclone Ditwah, now positioned over coastal Sri Lanka and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal, is set to bring intense rainfall over the delta and adjoining districts on Friday, before shifting towards north Tamil Nadu by weekend. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has declared a red alert for several districts on Friday and Saturday.

B. Amudha, Head (Additional in-charge), RMC, said Ditwah, meaning lagoon, a name suggested by Yemen as part of the cyclone naming convention, lies about 570 km south-southeast of Puducherry and 670 km south-southeast of Chennai. It is likely to move across Sri Lanka's coast and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal, and reach near the north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and south Andhra Pradesh

coasts by the early morning of November 30.

The RMC has declared a cyclonic storm as of now, based on various weather observations. "We will get more clarity on the landfall as the cyclone moves closer to the region," Ms. Amudha said.

Cyclone Ditwah is set to trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in southern, delta, and adjoining districts on Friday. A red alert has been issued for four districts, including Nagapattinam.

Intense downpour may cover north Tamil Nadu and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region. Six districts along the coast between Chengalpattu and Nagapattinam have been issued a red alert, while 10 other districts, including Chennai, Tiruvallur, and Vellore, have been issued an orange alert.

Cyclone Ditwah to bring intense rainfall till the weekend in T.N.

चक्रवात डिटवाह सप्ताहांत तक तमिलनाडु में तीव्र वर्षा लाएगा

• Cyclone Ditwah, now positioned over coastal **Sri Lanka** and adjoining southwest **Bay of Bengal**, is set to bring intense rainfall over the delta and adjoining districts on Friday, before shifting towards north Tamil Nadu by weekend.

चक्रवात डिटवाह, जो अब **श्रीलंका** के तटीय क्षेत्र और सटे दक्षिण-पश्चिम **बंगाल की खाड़ी** के ऊपर स्थित है, शुक्रवार को डेल्टा और आस-पास के जिलों में तीव्र वर्षा लाने के लिए तैयार है, इससे पहले कि सप्ताहांत तक यह उत्तर तमिलनाडु की ओर बढ़े।

• The **Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC)** has declared a **red alert** for several districts on Friday and Saturday.

क्षेत्रीय मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र (RMC) ने शुक्रवार और शनिवार को कई जिलों के लिए **रेड अलर्ट** घोषित किया है।

• **B. Amudha**, Head (Additional in-charge), RMC, said **Ditwah**, meaning **lagoon**, a name suggested by **Yemen** as part of the **cyclone naming convention**, lies about 570 km south-southeast of **Puducherry** and 670 km south-southeast of **Chennai**.

बी. अमुधा, प्रमुख (अतिरिक्त प्रभार), RMC, ने कहा कि डिटवाह, जिसका अर्थ **लैगून** है और जिसे चक्रवात नामकरण प्रथा के तहत **यमन** ने सुझाया था, **पुडुचेरी** से लगभग 570 किमी दक्षिण-दक्षिण-पूर्व और **चेन्नई** से 670 किमी दक्षिण-दक्षिण-पूर्व में स्थित है।

- It is likely to move across Sri Lanka's coast and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal, and reach near the **north Tamil Nadu**, **Puducherry**, and **south Andhra Pradesh** coasts by the early morning of November 30.

इसके श्रीलंका के तट और सटे दक्षिण-पश्चिम बंगाल की खाड़ी से आगे बढ़ने और 30 नवंबर की सुबह तक **उत्तरी तमिलनाडु**, **पुडुचेरी**, और **दक्षिण आंध्र प्रदेश** के तटों के पास पहुंचने की संभावना है।

- The RMC has declared a **cyclonic storm** as of now, based on various weather observations.

RMC ने विभिन्न मौसम पर्यवेक्षणों के आधार पर अभी के लिए इसे **चक्रवाती तूफान** घोषित किया है।

- "We will get more clarity on the **landfall** as the cyclone moves closer to the region," Ms. Amudha said.

"जैसे-जैसे चक्रवात क्षेत्र के करीब आएगा, हमें **लैंडफॉल** के बारे में और स्पष्टता मिलेगी," सुश्री अमुधा ने कहा।

- Cyclone Ditwah is set to trigger **heavy to very heavy rainfall** in southern, delta, and adjoining districts on Friday.

चक्रवात डिटवाह शुक्रवार को दक्षिणी, डेल्टा और आस-पास के जिलों में **भारी से बहुत भारी वर्षा** लाने वाला है।



- A **red alert** has been issued for four districts, including **Nagapattinam**.
नागपट्टिनम सहित चार जिलों के लिए **रेड अलर्ट** जारी किया गया है।
- Intense downpour may cover **north Tamil Nadu** and adjoining interior districts on Saturday as the cyclone is expected to move closer to the region.
शनिवार को जब चक्रवात क्षेत्र के और करीब आने की उम्मीद है, तो **उत्तरी तमिलनाडु** और आसपास के आंतरिक जिलों में तीव्र वर्षा हो सकती है।
- Six districts along the coast between **Chengalpattu** and **Nagapattinam** have been issued a **red alert**, while 10 other districts, including **Chennai**, **Tiruvallur**, and **Vellore**, have been issued an **orange alert**.
चेंगलपट्टु और नागपट्टिनम के बीच तटीय क्षेत्र के छह जिलों के लिए **रेड अलर्ट** जारी किया गया है, जबकि चेन्नई, तिरुवल्लूर, और वेल्लोर सहित 10 अन्य जिलों के लिए **ऑरेंज अलर्ट** जारी किया गया है।

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations	
TOPICS COVERED	28 November 2025
	Polity
1.	SC asks govt. to regulate content on Internet एससी ने सरकार से इंटरनेट पर सामग्री को विनियमित करने को कहा
2.	Teacher-BLOs have 'no authority' to decide on citizenship of voters, petitioners tell SC टीचर-BLOs के पास मतदाताओं की नागरिकता तय करने का 'कोई अधिकार नहीं', याचिकाकर्ताओं ने SC से कहा
3.	Burden of proof साबित करने का बोझ
4.	The Kamalesan case and its simple lesson कमलेसन मामला और इसका सरल सबक
	Governance
5.	Cyclone Ditwah to bring intense rainfall till the weekend in T.N. चक्रवात डिटवाह सप्ताहांत तक तमिलनाडु में तीव्र वर्षा लाएगा
	International Relations
6.	India and Indonesia make progress on BrahMos deal at Defence Ministers' Dialogue रक्षा मंत्रियों की वार्ता में भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने ब्रह्मोस सौदे पर प्रगति की
7.	Parents say they have been kept in the dark over abducted Nigerian children अभिभावक कहते हैं कि अपहृत नाइजीरियाई बच्चों के बारे में उन्हें अंधेरे में रखा गया है



SC asks govt. to regulate content on Internet

The court suggests 'impartial, and autonomous body' to vet 'prima facie permissible' content

GS II: Polity

MOB

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to work on guidelines for user-generated content to protect innocents from becoming victims of obscene, even perverse, "anti-national" or personally damaging online content.

The top court considered the idea of an "impartial and autonomous authority", neither bound to private broadcasters nor the government, to vet "prima facie permissible" content.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said user-generated con-

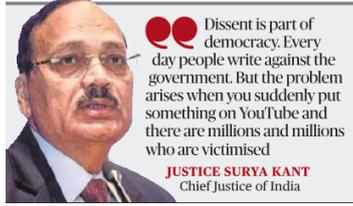
tent, potentially disastrous to reputations or even having "adult content", go viral even before social media intermediaries could take them down.

Aadhaar suggestion

At one point, referring to the easy access to uncurated material online, the court said a few seconds of 'adult content' warning was not enough. It suggested further checks such as sharing Aadhaar details to verify the age of users.

The Chief Justice found it "very strange" the phenomenon that users could create their own online channels and still be not accountable to anyone. "Is there no sense of responsibility?" he asked.

The court clarified that



Dissent is part of democracy. Every day people write against the government. But the problem arises when you suddenly put something on YouTube and there are millions and millions who are victimised

JUSTICE SURYA KANT
Chief Justice of India

it did not intend to have the proposed guidelines for user-generated content "tinker" with free speech. Though the right was subject to reasonable regulation under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, it was nevertheless to be respected and protected. However, misuse of online speech has exposed millions of in-

nocent people to abuse. They too have a right to be protected, it reasoned.

'Millions victimised'

"Dissent is part of democracy. Every day people write against the government. But the problem arises when you suddenly put something on YouTube and there are millions and

Court says victims of online abuse have to be protected, and seeks 'preventive mechanisms'

nothing to protect them before the post went online. "A takedown takes at least 24 hours. By the time it is effectuated, the harm is already done. Social media is mercurial, goes across borders and is transmitted in seconds. This preventive exercise is not to throttle anyone but to have a certain degree of stick. Technology with AI makes you (social media intermediaries) enormously powerful, to curate your material, assess its impact. Platforms are monetising content," Justice Bagchi observed.

The judge termed prosecution of the creator of the offending social media post a "post-occurrence penalty", saying "we must

nothing to protect them before the post went online. "A takedown takes at least 24 hours. By the time it is effectuated, the harm is already done. Social media is mercurial, goes across borders and is transmitted in seconds. This preventive exercise is not to throttle anyone but to have a certain degree of stick. Technology with AI makes you (social media intermediaries) enormously powerful, to curate your material, assess its impact. Platforms are monetising content," Justice Bagchi observed.

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have preventive mechanisms to ensure there is no spread of misinformation, loss of property as well as sometimes lives".

Senior advocate Amit Sibal, for Indian Broadcast and Digital Foundation, expressed reservations about the court using the term 'preventive' to describe the proposed guidelines. 'Preventive' could be read as 'pre-censorship', Mr. Sibal said.

He suggested changing the prefix to 'effective'.

"The difficulty we are facing is the response time. By the time intermediaries respond to such content, it has already gone viral. Millions of viewership, etc. How do you plug that gap? That is the question," Justice Bagchi emphasised.

SC asks govt. to regulate content on Internet

एससी ने सरकार से इंटरनेट पर सामग्री को विनियमित करने को कहा

- The court suggests 'impartial, and autonomous body' to vet 'prima facie permissible' content
अदालत ने 'निष्पक्ष और स्वायत्त निकाय' का सुझाव दिया जो 'प्रथम दृष्टया अनुमेय' सामग्री की जांच करे।
- Court says victims of online abuse have to be protected, and seeks 'preventive mechanisms'
अदालत कहती है कि ऑनलाइन दुर्व्यवहार के पीड़ितों की रक्षा की जानी चाहिए, और 'निवारक तंत्र' की मांग करती है।
- A takedown takes 24 hours; in that time the harm is already done, Justice Bagchi says
एक टेकडाउन में 24 घंटे लगते हैं; उस समय तक नुकसान हो चुका होता है, जस्टिस बागची कहते हैं।
- The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to work on guidelines for user-generated content to protect innocents from becoming victims of obscene, even perverse, "anti-national" or personally damaging online content.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गुरुवार को सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय से यूजर-जनित सामग्री के लिए दिशानिर्देश तैयार करने को कहा ताकि निर्दोष लोग अश्लील, विकृत, "राष्ट्र-विरोधी", या व्यक्तिगत रूप से हानिकारक ऑनलाइन सामग्री के शिकार न बनें।
- The top court considered the idea of an "impartial and autonomous authority", neither bound to private broadcasters nor the government, to vet "prima facie permissible" content.
शीर्ष अदालत ने "निष्पक्ष और स्वायत्त प्राधिकरण" की अवधारणा पर विचार किया, जो न निजी प्रसारकों से बंधा हो न सरकार से, और "प्रथम दृष्टया अनुमेय" सामग्री की जांच करे।
- A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said user-generated content, potentially disastrous to reputations or even having "adult content", go viral even before social media intermediaries could take them down.
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्य कांत और न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची की पीठ ने कहा कि यूजर-



जनित सामग्री, जो प्रतिष्ठा के लिए विनाशकारी हो सकती है या “एडल्ट कंटेंट” भी हो सकती है, सोशल मीडिया मध्यस्थों के हटाने से पहले ही वायरल हो जाती है।

Aadhaar suggestion

आधार सुझाव

- At one point, referring to the easy access to uncurated material online, the court said a few seconds of ‘adult content’ warning was not enough.
एक बिंदु पर, ऑनलाइन बिना छँटी सामग्री की आसान पहुँच का जिक्र करते हुए अदालत ने कहा कि कुछ सेकंड की ‘एडल्ट कंटेंट’ चेतावनी पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- It suggested further checks such as sharing Aadhaar details to verify the age of users.
इसने उपयोगकर्ताओं की उम्र सत्यापित करने के लिए आधार विवरण साझा करने जैसे और जांच उपाय सुझाए।
- The Chief Justice found it “very strange” the phenomenon that users could create their own online channels and still be not accountable to anyone.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने इसे “बहुत अजीब” पाया कि उपयोगकर्ता अपने ऑनलाइन चैनल बना सकते हैं और फिर भी किसी के प्रति जवाबदेह नहीं होते।
- “Is there no sense of responsibility?” he asked.
“क्या कोई जिम्मेदारी का भाव नहीं है?” उन्होंने पूछा।
- The court clarified that it did not intend to have the proposed guidelines for user-generated content “tinker” with free speech.
अदालत ने स्पष्ट किया कि प्रस्तावित दिशानिर्देशों का उद्देश्य अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता से “छेड़छाड़” करना नहीं है।
- Though the right was subject to reasonable regulation under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, it was nevertheless to be respected and protected.
हालांकि यह अधिकार संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19(2) के तहत उचित प्रतिबंधों के अधीन है, इसके बावजूद इसका सम्मान और संरक्षण होना चाहिए।
- However, misuse of online speech has exposed millions of innocent people to abuse.
हालांकि, ऑनलाइन भाषण के दुरुपयोग ने लाखों निर्दोष लोगों को दुर्व्यवहार के प्रति उजागर किया है।
- They too have a right to be protected, it reasoned.
अदालत ने कहा कि उन्हें भी संरक्षण का अधिकार है।

‘Millions victimised’

‘लाखों पीड़ित’

- “Dissent is part of democracy. Every day people write against the government. But the problem arises when you suddenly put something on YouTube and there are millions and millions who are victimised.
“असहमति लोकतंत्र का हिस्सा है। हर दिन लोग सरकार के खिलाफ लिखते हैं। लेकिन समस्या तब आती है जब आप अचानक यूट्यूब पर कुछ डाल देते हैं और लाखों-करोड़ों लोग पीड़ित हो जाते हैं।
- They do not have a voice. They do not have a platform, and by the time they rush to court, the damage is done,” Chief Justice Kant said, highlighting the need for guidelines.
उनके पास आवाज नहीं है। उनके पास कोई मंच नहीं है, और जब तक वे अदालत पहुँचते हैं, नुकसान हो चुका होता है,” मुख्य न्यायाधीश कांत ने दिशानिर्देशों की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा।
- Advocate Prashant Bhushan said any guidelines restraining free speech mandated prior and extensive public consultations, to be initiated by the Union government.
अधिवक्ता प्रशांत भूषण ने कहा कि अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता को सीमित करने वाले किसी भी दिशानिर्देश के लिए पूर्व और व्यापक सार्वजनिक परामर्श आवश्यक है, जिसे केंद्र सरकार द्वारा शुरू किया जाना चाहिए।
- He cautioned that the term ‘anti-national’ was both over-broad and ambiguous.
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि ‘राष्ट्र-विरोधी’ शब्द अत्यधिक व्यापक और अस्पष्ट है।



- The Chief Justice said there were enough laws to turn to after the damage was done. मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि नुकसान होने के बाद सहारा लेने के लिए पर्याप्त कानून मौजूद हैं।
- Victims could approach court for damages or opt for **criminal proceedings**. पीड़ित मुआवज़े के लिए अदालत का रुख कर सकते हैं या **आपराधिक कार्यवाही** चुन सकते हैं।
But there was nothing to protect them before the post went online.
लेकिन पोस्ट के ऑनलाइन होने से पहले उनकी रक्षा के लिए कुछ नहीं है।
- “A takedown takes at least **24 hours**. By the time it is effectuated, the harm is already done. Social media is **mercurial**, goes across borders and is transmitted in seconds. “एक टेकडाउन में कम से कम **24 घंटे** लगते हैं। जब तक यह प्रभावी होता है, नुकसान हो चुका होता है। सोशल मीडिया **तेज-तरार** है, सीमाओं के पार जाता है और सेकंडों में प्रसारित होता है।
- This **preventive exercise** is not to throttle anyone but to have a certain degree of **stick**. यह **निवारक अभ्यास** किसी को रोकने के लिए नहीं बल्कि एक निश्चित स्तर की **सख्ती** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए है।
- Technology with **AI** makes you (social media intermediaries) **enormously powerful**, to **curate your material, assess its impact**. **एआई** वाली तकनीक आपको (सोशल मीडिया मध्यस्थों को) अत्यधिक शक्तिशाली बनाती है, ताकि आप अपनी सामग्री को क्यूरेट कर सकें और उसके प्रभाव का आकलन कर सकें।
- Platforms are **monetising content**,” Justice Bagchi observed. प्लेटफ़ॉर्म **सामग्री का मुद्रीकरण** कर रहे हैं,” जस्टिस बागची ने कहा।
- The judge termed prosecution of the creator of the offending social media post a “**post-occurrence penalty**”, saying “we must have preventive mechanisms to ensure there is no spread of misinformation, loss of property as well as sometimes lives”.
न्यायाधीश ने आपत्तिजनक सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट के निर्माता के खिलाफ अभियोजन को “**घटना-उपरांत दंड**” कहा, यह कहते हुए कि “हमें निवारक तंत्र रखना चाहिए ताकि गलत जानकारी का प्रसार, संपत्ति का नुकसान और कभी-कभी जान का नुकसान न हो।”
- Senior advocate **Amit Sibal**, for Indian Broadcast and Digital Foundation, expressed reservations about the court using the term ‘**preventive**’ to describe the proposed guidelines.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **अमित सिबल**, भारतीय प्रसारण और डिजिटल फाउंडेशन की ओर से, प्रस्तावित दिशानिर्देशों के लिए अदालत द्वारा ‘**निवारक**’ शब्द का उपयोग किए जाने पर आपत्ति व्यक्त की।
- ‘Preventive’ could be read as ‘**pre-censorship**’, Mr. Sibal said.
श्री सिबल ने कहा कि ‘निवारक’ को ‘**पूर्व-सेंसरशिप**’ के रूप में पढ़ा जा सकता है।
- He suggested changing the prefix to ‘**effective**’.
उन्होंने उपसर्ग बदलकर ‘**प्रभावी**’ करने का सुझाव दिया।
“The difficulty we are facing is the **response time**. By the time intermediaries respond to such content, it has already gone viral.
“हम जिस कठिनाई का सामना कर रहे हैं वह है **प्रतिक्रिया समय**। जब तक मध्यस्थ ऐसी सामग्री पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं, यह पहले ही वायरल हो चुकी होती है।
- Millions of viewership, etc. How do you plug that gap? That is the question,” Justice Bagchi emphasised.
लाखों की दर्शक संख्या आदि। आप उस अंतर को कैसे भरेंगे? यही सवाल है,” जस्टिस बागची ने जोर दिया।



Teacher-BLOs have 'no authority' to decide on citizenship of voters, petitioners tell SC

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petitioners in the Supreme Court on Thursday flagged the Election Commission (EC)'s "dangerous and unreasonable" move to have schoolteachers, deployed as booth-level officers (BLOs) in the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, determine the citizenship of voters.

Appearing before a Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and A.M. Singhvi said the court had spent the past months of SIR hearings giving the "healing touch", while in the process relegating to the background the law that intensive revisions ought to be limited to a constituency or a small group, and not done *en masse*, State after State, across the country.



Booth-level officers assist voters to fill out enumeration forms for the special intensive revision in Bikaner, on Thursday. PTI

Mr. Sibal submitted that the Representation of the People Act (ROPA), 1950, required a person to be 18 years of age and be ordinarily resident in a constituency to be eligible for registration in the electoral roll. He said that Aadhaar could very well be used to verify both these details.

The senior lawyer said a BLO had no authority to determine citizenship.

"Whether a person is an Indian citizen or not is decided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Whether a person is of unsound mind is decided by the competent court. Laws like Prevention of Corruption Act and the Representation of the People Act would form the statutory basis for disqualifying a person from the electoral roll. You cannot ask the BLO to ascer-

tain all this," Mr. Sibal said.

He accused the Election Commission (EC) of supplanting the entire procedure for the revision of electoral roll. "Introduction of enumeration forms and shifting of burden of proof of citizenship... It is like the burden of proof placed on a foreigner. The conditions exclusionary which were existing before Independence is now existing after Independence," Mr. Sibal submitted.

'Beyond its domain'

Mr. Singhvi called the SIR an *en masse* exercise devised by the EC imagining there was a "huge, marauding influx" of illegal immigrants into India. He said in the bargain, "crores and crores of people, State after State, are being asked to prove their citizenship. Where is the EC's jurisdiction to do this? Article 324

[power of the EC to conduct elections] cannot be used to plug holes in the EC's jurisdiction... Is the EC saying that an elector's presence in the 2024 and 2025 rolls is as a presumptive guest?" he asked.

The counsel said the power of the EC under Section 21(3) of ROPA to "direct a special revision of the electoral roll of any constituency or a part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit" cannot be interpreted as an *en masse* exercise.

He argued that, even if the poll commission had to assess citizenship for the purpose of voting, it could only be done if someone raised an objection. Otherwise, there were two laws, the Foreigners Act and the Citizenship Act, which governed illegal immigrants.

The court adjourned the hearing to December 2.

Teacher-BLOs have 'no authority' to decide on citizenship of voters, petitioners tell SC

टीचर-BLOs के पास मतदाताओं की नागरिकता तय करने का 'कोई अधिकार नहीं', याचिकाकर्ताओं ने SC से कहा

- Petitioners in the Supreme Court on Thursday flagged the Election Commission (EC)'s "dangerous and unreasonable" move to have school teachers, deployed as booth-level officers (BLOs) in the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, determine the citizenship of voters.

याचिकाकर्ताओं ने गुरुवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनाव आयोग (EC) के "खतरनाक और अनुचित" कदम को रेखांकित किया, जिसमें विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) अभ्यास में बूथ-स्तरीय अधिकारी (BLOs) के रूप में नियुक्त स्कूल शिक्षकों को मतदाताओं की नागरिकता तय करने का काम दिया गया है।

- Appearing before a Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and A.M. Singhvi said the court had spent the past months of SIR hearings giving the "healing touch", while in the process relegating to the background the law that intensive revisions ought to be limited to a constituency or a small group, and not done *en masse*, State after State, across the country.

मुख्य न्यायाधीश सुर्य कांत और जॉयमाल्या बागची की पीठ के समक्ष उपस्थित होते हुए वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता कपिल सिब्बल और ए.एम. सिंघवी ने कहा कि अदालत ने पिछले महीनों में SIR सुनवाई के दौरान "हीलिंग टच" दिया, वहीं इस प्रक्रिया में उस कानून को पृष्ठभूमि में डाल दिया गया जिसके अनुसार गहन पुनरीक्षण किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र या छोटे समूह तक सीमित होना चाहिए, न कि पूरे देश में एन मास (*en masse*) राज्यों के बाद राज्यों में किया जाना चाहिए।



- Mr. Sibal submitted that the **Representation of the People Act (ROPA), 1950**, required a person to be 18 years of age and be ordinarily resident in a constituency to be eligible for registration in the electoral roll.
श्री सिब्बल ने कहा कि **जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम (ROPA), 1950** के अनुसार किसी व्यक्ति का 18 वर्ष का होना और किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में सामान्य रूप से निवास करना मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण के लिए आवश्यक है।
- He said that **Aadhaar** could very well be used to verify both these details.
उन्होंने कहा कि **आधार** का उपयोग इन दोनों विवरणों को सत्यापित करने के लिए आसानी से किया जा सकता है।
- The senior lawyer said a **BLO had no authority to determine citizenship**.
वरिष्ठ वकील ने कहा कि **BLO के पास नागरिकता निर्धारित करने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है।**
- **“Whether a person is an Indian citizen or not is decided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Whether a person is of unsound mind is decided by the competent court. Laws like Prevention of Corruption Act and the Representation of the People Act would form the statutory basis for disqualifying a person from the electoral roll. You cannot ask the BLO to ascertain all this,”** Mr. Sibal said.
“कोई व्यक्ति भारतीय नागरिक है या नहीं यह **गृह मंत्रालय** तय करता है। कोई व्यक्ति **मंदबुद्धि** है या नहीं यह सक्षम अदालत तय करती है। **भ्रष्टाचार निवारण अधिनियम** और **जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम** जैसे कानून मतदाता सूची से किसी को अपात्र ठहराने का वैधानिक आधार बनते हैं। आप BLO से यह सब निर्धारित करने को नहीं कह सकते,” श्री सिब्बल ने कहा।
- He accused the Election Commission (EC) of **supplanting the entire procedure** for the revision of electoral roll.
उन्होंने चुनाव आयोग (EC) पर मतदाता सूची के पुनरीक्षण की **पूरी प्रक्रिया को बदल देने** का आरोप लगाया।
- “Introduction of enumeration forms and shifting of burden of proof of citizenship... It is like the burden of proof placed on a **foreigner**. The conditions **exclusionary** which were existing before Independence are now existing after Independence,” Mr. Sibal submitted.
“गणना फॉर्म की शुरुआत और नागरिकता के सबूत का भार बदल देना... यह **विदेशी** पर सबूत का भार डालने जैसा है। **बहिष्करणकारी (exclusionary)** स्थितियाँ जो स्वतंत्रता से पहले मौजूद थीं, अब स्वतंत्रता के बाद मौजूद हैं,” श्री सिब्बल ने कहा।

‘Beyond its domain’ ‘अपने अधिकार क्षेत्र से परे’

- Mr. Singhvi called the SIR an **en masse** exercise devised by the EC imagining there was a “huge, marauding influx” of **illegal immigrants** into India.
श्री सिंघवी ने कहा कि SIR एक **एन मास (en masse)** अभ्यास है जिसे EC ने यह कल्पना करके तैयार किया कि भारत में **अवैध प्रवासियों** का “विशाल, विनाशकारी प्रवाह” हो रहा है।
- He said in the bargain, “**crores and crores of people**, State after State, are being asked to **prove their citizenship**.
उन्होंने कहा कि इस प्रक्रिया में “**करोड़ों-करोड़ों लोग**, राज्य-दर-राज्य, अपनी **नागरिकता साबित** करने के लिए कहे जा रहे हैं।
- **Where is the EC’s jurisdiction to do this? Article 324** [power of the EC to conduct elections] cannot be used to plug holes in the EC’s jurisdiction... Is the EC saying that an elector’s presence in the **2024 and 2025 rolls** is as a presumptive guest?” he asked.



THE HINDU
GS II: Polity

Burden of proof

SIR's enumeration process of putting the onus on residents for eligibility is flawed

The Election Commission of India (ECI)'s SIR of electoral rolls, being held in 12 States and Union Territories (UT), demands urgent judicial scrutiny due to its implementation and its base methodology. While the Supreme Court continues to hear challenges to the constitutionality of the SIR process pioneered in Bihar, the same flawed approach is being persisted with in other States. Voters are to fill enumeration forms delivered by Block Level Officers (BLO) and match their details against electoral rolls from 2002-2005. Though data from Bihar suggest that the process did not dramatically alter election outcomes, it saw a sharp decline in the gender ratio of the electorate. Other localised distortions also warrant concern. The ECI claims that enumeration forms have been delivered to most electors in the 12 States and UTs, but genuine voters continue to scramble for forms, and confusion persists about the documentation required for enrolment on the draft rolls due next month. The guideline mandating that BLOs visit households appears to be only on paper. The Gauhati High Court, in *Dr. Manmohan Singh* (1999), interpreted requirements in the Representation of the People Act, 1950 expansively: an ordinary resident is a habitual resident with the intention to dwell permanently – whom any reasonable person would accept as a resident of that place. Operating from this principle, the ECI and the judiciary have historically presumed that any resident adult was, by default, a valid voter.

The SIR inverts this presumption. Regardless of having voted earlier, every elector must now prove their legitimacy against old records or documents listed by the ECI. This shifting of the burden, from the state to citizens, risks major disenfranchisement, especially married women and migrants, as in Bihar. As courts have recognised, a strict interpretation of the “ordinarily resident” requirement can vitiate the democratic process. During hearings on Bihar, the Court focused on implementation, placing the onus of protecting genuine voters on party representatives and legal volunteers. It did not examine whether the enumeration form methodology passes constitutional muster, nor did it address persisting inaccuracies in revised rolls – likely a consequence of hurried BLOs leaving errors uncorrected. The ECI could have chosen a more patient door-to-door verification to ensure universal adult franchise, complemented by technology-driven deduplication. Instead, it doubled down on an approach that prioritises “purifying” the rolls over protecting the franchise. As the SIR expands, the Court must move beyond procedural oversight to examine the process's constitutional foundations. What is essential is a clear directive restoring the burden of accurate enrolment to the ECI rather than leaving citizens to prove that they belong on rolls they have been on for years.

EC का अधिकार क्षेत्र कहाँ है यह सब करने का? **अनुच्छेद 324** चुनाव कराने की EC की शक्ति का उपयोग EC के अधिकार क्षेत्र की कमियों को भरने के लिए नहीं किया जा सकता... क्या EC कह रहा है कि **2024 और 2025 की मतदाता सूची** में किसी मतदाता की उपस्थिति एक अनुमानित अतिथि के रूप में है? उन्होंने पूछा।

- The counsel said the **power of the EC under Section 21(3) of ROPA** to “direct a special revision of the electoral roll of any constituency or a part of a constituency in such a manner as it may think fit” cannot be interpreted as an **en masse exercise**.

वकील ने कहा कि ROPA की धारा 21(3) के तहत किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र या उसके किसी हिस्से के मतदाता सूची के विशेष पुनरीक्षण का निर्देश देने की EC की शक्ति को **एन मास (en masse)** अभ्यास के रूप में नहीं समझा जा सकता।

- He argued that, even if the poll commission had to assess **citizenship** for the purpose of voting, it could only be done if someone **raised an objection**.

उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि यदि चुनाव आयोग को मतदान के उद्देश्य से **नागरिकता** का आकलन करना भी हो, तो यह केवल तब किया जा सकता है जब कोई **आपत्ति उठाए**।

- Otherwise, there were two laws, the **Foreigners Act** and the **Citizenship Act**, which governed **illegal immigrants**.

अन्यथा, दो कानून — **विदेशी अधिनियम (Foreigners Act)** और **नागरिकता अधिनियम (Citizenship Act)** — **अवैध प्रवासियों** को नियंत्रित करते हैं।

- The court adjourned the hearing to **December 2**. अदालत ने सुनवाई को **2 दिसंबर** तक स्थगित कर दिया।

Burden of proof साबित करने का बोझ

- SIR's enumeration process of putting the **onus** on residents for **eligibility** is flawed
SIR की गणना प्रक्रिया जिसमें **पात्रता** के लिए निवासियों पर **बोझ (onus)** डाल दिया जाता है, त्रुटिपूर्ण है

SIR of electoral rolls and concerns मतदाता सूची के SIR और चिंताएँ

- The Election Commission of India (ECI)'s **SIR of electoral rolls**, being held in **12 States and Union Territories (UT)**, demands urgent judicial scrutiny due to its implementation and its base methodology.

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) की **मतदाता सूची की SIR**, जो **12 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों** में की जा रही है, उसके कार्यान्वयन और आधारभूत कार्य-पद्धति के कारण तत्काल न्यायिक जांच की मांग करती है।

- While the Supreme Court continues to hear challenges to the constitutionality of the SIR process pioneered in **Bihar**, the same flawed approach is being persisted with in other States.

जबकि **सुप्रीम कोर्ट बिहार** में शुरू की गई SIR प्रक्रिया की



संवैधानिकता को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं की सुनवाई जारी रखे हुए है, वही त्रुटिपूर्ण तरीका अन्य राज्यों में भी अपनाया जा रहा है।

- **Voters are to fill enumeration forms delivered by Block Level Officers (BLO) and match their details against electoral rolls from 2002-2005.**
मतदाताओं को BLO द्वारा दिए गए एन्यूमरेशन फॉर्म भरने हैं और अपने विवरण 2002-2005 की मतदाता सूची से मिलाने हैं।
- Though data from Bihar suggest that the process did not dramatically alter election outcomes, it saw a sharp decline in the **gender ratio** of the electorate.
हालांकि बिहार के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि इस प्रक्रिया ने चुनाव परिणामों को बहुत अधिक नहीं बदला, लेकिन **मतदाता लिंग अनुपात** में तीव्र गिरावट देखी गई।
- Other localised distortions also warrant concern.
अन्य स्थानीय विकृतियाँ भी चिंता का विषय हैं।
- The ECI claims that enumeration forms have been delivered to most electors in the 12 States and UTs, but genuine voters continue to scramble for forms, and **confusion persists about the documentation required for enrolment on the draft rolls due next month.**
ECI का दावा है कि 12 राज्यों और UTs में अधिकांश मतदाताओं को एन्यूमरेशन फॉर्म दे दिए गए हैं, लेकिन वास्तविक मतदाता अब भी फॉर्म के लिए भटक रहे हैं, और अगले महीने आने वाली ड्राफ्ट मतदाता सूची के लिए आवश्यक दस्तावेजों को लेकर भ्रम बना हुआ है।
- The **guideline mandating that BLOs visit households appears to be only on paper.**
BLOs द्वारा घर-घर जाने का निर्देश केवल कागज़ों पर ही दिखाई देता है।
- The **Gauhati High Court, in Dr. Manmohan Singh (1999), interpreted requirements in the Representation of the People Act, 1950** expansively: an ordinary resident is a habitual resident with the intention to dwell permanently.
गुवाहाटी उच्च न्यायालय ने डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह (1999) में **जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950** की आवश्यकताओं की विस्तृत व्याख्या की: एक सामान्य निवासी वह है जो स्थायी रूप से रहने के इरादे से नियमित रूप से वहाँ रहता है।
- Operating from this principle, the ECI and the judiciary have historically presumed that any resident adult was, by default, a valid voter.
इस सिद्धांत के आधार पर ECI और न्यायपालिका परंपरागत रूप से मानते रहे हैं कि कोई भी वयस्क निवासी डिफ़ॉल्ट रूप से वैध मतदाता होता है।
- The SIR inverts this presumption.
SIR इस मान्यता को उलट देती है।
- **Regardless of having voted earlier, every elector must now prove their legitimacy against old records or documents listed by the ECI.**
पहले मतदान किया हो या नहीं, अब प्रत्येक मतदाता को अपनी वैधता पुराने रिकॉर्ड या ECI द्वारा सूचीबद्ध दस्तावेजों के आधार पर साबित करनी होगी।
- **This shifting of the burden, from the state to citizens, risks major disenfranchisement, especially married women and migrants, as in Bihar.**
बोझ को राज्य से नागरिकों पर डालना बड़े पैमाने पर **मतधिकार वंचन** का जोखिम पैदा करता है, विशेषकर बिहार की तरह विवाहित महिलाओं और प्रवासियों के लिए।
- As courts have recognised, a strict interpretation of the “**ordinarily resident**” requirement can vitiate the democratic process.
अदालतों ने माना है कि “**सामान्य निवासी**” की कठोर व्याख्या लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया को प्रभावित कर सकती है।
- During hearings on Bihar, the Court focused on implementation, placing the onus of protecting genuine voters on party representatives and legal volunteers.
बिहार पर सुनवाई के दौरान, कोर्ट ने कार्यान्वयन पर ध्यान दिया और वास्तविक मतदाताओं की सुरक्षा का भार राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधियों और कानूनी स्वयंसेवकों पर डाल दिया।
- It did not examine whether the enumeration form methodology passes constitutional muster, nor did it address persisting inaccuracies in revised rolls — likely a consequence of hurried BLOs leaving errors uncorrected.
इसने यह नहीं परखा कि एन्यूमरेशन फॉर्म की पद्धति संवैधानिक कसौटी पर खरी उतरती है या नहीं, न ही संशोधित मतदाता सूचियों में जारी त्रुटियों को संबोधित किया — जो संभवतः जल्दबाज़ी में काम कर रहे BLOs द्वारा अनसुधारे रह गए।
- The ECI could have chosen a more patient **door-to-door verification** to ensure universal adult franchise, complemented by technology-driven **deduplication**.

ECI एक अधिक धैर्यपूर्ण घर-घर सत्यापन चुन सकता था, जिसे तकनीक आधारित **डुप्लीकेशन हटाने** से पूरक बनाया जा सकता था।

- Instead, it doubled down on an approach that prioritises “purifying” the rolls over protecting the franchise.

इसके बजाय, उसने एक ऐसे तरीके पर जोर दिया जो मताधिकार की सुरक्षा से अधिक मतदाता सूचियों को “शुद्ध” करने को प्राथमिकता देता है।

- As the SIR expands, the Court must move beyond procedural oversight to examine the process’s **constitutional foundations**.

जैसे-जैसे SIR का विस्तार होता है, कोर्ट को प्रक्रियात्मक निगरानी से आगे बढ़कर प्रक्रिया की **संवैधानिक नींव** की जांच करनी चाहिए।

- What is essential is a clear directive restoring the burden of accurate enrolment to the **ECI**, rather than leaving citizens to prove that they belong on rolls they have been on for years. सबसे आवश्यक है कि **ECI** पर सही नामांकन का दायित्व बहाल किया जाए, न कि नागरिकों को यह साबित करने के लिए छोड़ दिया जाए कि वे वर्षों से मतदाता सूची में हैं।

The Kamalesan case and its simple lesson

GS II: Polity

MQB

Every democracy faces moments when two values, both legitimate and which are deeply held, collide. The case of Lieutenant Samuel Kamalesan, dismissed from the Indian Army for refusing to enter the sanctum of his regiment’s temple or gurdwara during mandatory parades, is one such clash. The Delhi High Court upheld the dismissal (*Samuel Kamalesan vs Union of India*), and the Supreme Court of India declined to interfere. The legal result is clear. The moral unease remains.

The Court relied on military necessity, discipline and the power given by the Constitution under Article 33. The judgment places his refusal within the frame of disobedience of a lawful command rather than the practice of personal faith. Seen through that narrow lens, the courts acted exactly as they believe they should in military matters: defer to the generals. But that deference should not end the national conversation. When two legitimate values collide – conscience and cohesion – the tragedy is not simply that one side must lose. The tragedy is when institutions forget that accommodation is often possible, and often wise.

The Army’s perspective

No one can dismiss what the Indian Army told the Court. A commanding officer in a fixed-class regiment must be accepted by the men he leads into war. Ritual and ceremony, though rooted in faith, serve as instruments of morale. Officers are expected to participate fully to strengthen their bond with the troops. The Indian Army saw the officer’s stance as distancing, even if he meant it respectfully. The Court accepted this view. Military ethos demands unity. And no institution in India has preserved unity more honourably than the Indian Army. Whether in Kashmir or in Ladakh, whether rescuing civilians in floods or leading missions of the United Nations, the Indian Army has had a proud record of respecting diversity while building common purpose.

A recent example bears repeating. Colonel Sofiya Qureshi was projected by the Indian Army as the face of Operation Sindoor during press briefings. Her leadership, confidence and professionalism were celebrated nationally. It was a reminder that the Indian Army has often been ahead of civilian society in giving space, honour and responsibility to women and to officers from every faith and region. That inclusive spirit is one of the Indian Army’s strengths, and the country takes pride in it. Which is why the Kamalesan case stings.

One cannot read the facts without seeing



Sanjay Hegde

is a Senior Advocate designated by the Supreme Court of India

When duty meets conscience, the real test lies in finding a way for both to coexist

sincerity in his stance. He attended the parades. He respected the customs. He removed his shoes, tied the turban and stood with his troops. His only request was not to enter the sanctum during ritual worship, a core doctrinal issue for many Protestant Christians. The situation brings to mind Chariots of Fire, the story of Eric Liddell, who would not race on a Sunday. Instead of punishing him, the British Olympic team reorganised its entire plan. He competed on a different day. He won gold. The world did not fall apart. A small accommodation upheld both conscience and team spirit. If an Olympic team could bend, even slightly, to preserve a sincere belief, could the Army top brass not have done so here?

A lost officer and a lost signal

The loss in this case is larger than one career. The Indian armed forces may have lost a potentially fine officer. But, more importantly, the message the decision sends to minority soldiers is unsettling: that even when you attend the parade, stand with the unit, and show respect, your personal limit of conscience counts for nothing. India’s military unity has never been built on majoritarian comfort. It has been built on trust. Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and Christian soldiers fought as one in 1965 and 1971, stood together in Kargil, and serve together today across insurgency zones. Soldiers from minority faiths should never have reason to wonder whether they will be asked to cross a line that their beliefs prohibit.

The courts may not have intended this message. The Indian Army may not have intended it either. But messages do not depend solely on intention.

The judiciary’s instinct to defer to the military is understandable. Courts lack the tools, experience and institutional knowledge to second-guess tactical or disciplinary decisions. Yet, it is not correct to say that courts have always stayed away. In the cases of women officers, the Supreme Court forced a fundamental rethink of long-standing military practice. It has intervened in recruitment rules, pension rules and promotion policies. Courts have reshaped the Indian Army before, when equality demanded it.

In this case, the issue was modest: a sincere religious objection to entering a sanctum during worship. The officer did not refuse duty, did not leave his post, and did not weaken the chain of command. He stood respectfully outside, visible to the men he led. The Court could have asked whether the Indian Army’s approach satisfied the test of proportionality, or whether a lighter touch

could achieve the same purpose while respecting conscience. The judiciary had room, if it had chosen to use it.

The principle in *Bijoe Emmanuel and Ors. vs State Of Kerala and Ors.*, where children who would not sing the national anthem were still protected because they stood respectfully, comes to mind. Justice Chinnappa Reddy reminded the nation: “our tradition teaches tolerance, our philosophy preaches tolerance, and our Constitution practises tolerance.” It is difficult not to hear those words echo in this case.

A lesson from Dreyfus

The parallel to the Dreyfus affair is not exact, nor should it be. But the warning it carries is real. France’s military, proud and strong, allowed itself to drift into prejudice one small step at a time. Victor Hugo warned that armies lose their edge when they lose their sense of justice. Even the strongest institution can fall into a pattern where ritual becomes rigidity and rigidity becomes exclusion. India must guard against that drift. The Indian Army is respected because it rises above communal and political divides, because its officers lead by example, and because it has never demanded that faith be abandoned at the barracks gate.

The most troubling part of this entire episode is not the Court’s judgment, but that the matter reached a court at all. This was a problem that the senior leadership could have solved with one conversation, one directive, or one thoughtful accommodation. Instead, the issue hardened. Positions froze. And the court became the battleground for something that should have been resolved within the walls of the regiment. The Indian Army’s greatness has always come from its ability to blend tradition with modernity, discipline with empathy, authority with fairness. In this case, that balance slipped.

The Kamalesan case offers a simple lesson. When duty meets conscience, the real test is not choosing one over the other but finding a way for both to coexist. The Court stayed within its lane. But the Indian Army, which has often shown large-heartedness and flexibility, could have shown it again here. A small accommodation would have strengthened trust, preserved discipline, and affirmed the message that every soldier, of every faith, stands equal in the uniform of India.

Justice Reddy said that “our Constitution practises tolerance”. We honour that practice not by forcing uniformity, but by understanding when uniformity need not be forced.



The Kamalesan case and its simple lesson

कमलेसन मामला और इसका सरल सबक

- Every democracy faces moments when two values, both legitimate and which are deeply held, collide.
हर लोकतंत्र ऐसे क्षणों का सामना करता है जब दो मूल्य, दोनों वैध और गहराई से धारित, एक-दूसरे से टकराते हैं।
- The case of **Lieutenant Samuel Kamalesan**, dismissed from the Indian Army for refusing to enter the sanctum of his regiment's temple or gurdwara during mandatory parades, is one such clash.
लेफ्टिनेंट सैमुअल कमलेसन का मामला, जिन्हें बाध्यकारी परेडों के दौरान अपने रेजिमेंट के मंदिर या गुरुद्वारे के गर्भगृह में प्रवेश से इनकार करने पर भारतीय सेना से बर्खास्त किया गया, ऐसा ही एक टकराव है।
- The Delhi High Court upheld the dismissal (**Samuel Kamalesan vs Union of India**), and the Supreme Court of India declined to interfere.
दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने बर्खास्तगी को बरकरार रखा (**सैमुअल कमलेसन बनाम यूनियन ऑफ इंडिया**) और भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हस्तक्षेप करने से इनकार कर दिया।
- The legal result is clear. The moral unease remains.
कानूनी परिणाम स्पष्ट है। नैतिक असहजता बनी रहती है।
- The Court relied on **military necessity, discipline and the power given by the Constitution under Article 33**.
अदालत ने **सैन्य आवश्यकता, अनुशासन और संविधान के अनुच्छेद 33** के तहत प्रदत्त शक्ति पर भरोसा किया।
- The judgment places his refusal within the frame of disobedience of a lawful command rather than the practice of personal faith.
निर्णय ने उनके इनकार को व्यक्तिगत आस्था के अभ्यास के बजाय वैध आदेश की अवहेलना के दायरे में रखा।
- Seen through that narrow lens, the courts acted exactly as they believe they should in military matters: defer to the generals.
इस संकरे दृष्टिकोण से, अदालतों ने वही किया जो वे सैन्य मामलों में आवश्यक मानती हैं: जनरलों को प्राथमिकता देना।
- But that deference should not end the national conversation.
लेकिन यह सम्मान राष्ट्रीय चर्चा को समाप्त नहीं करना चाहिए।
- **When two legitimate values collide — conscience and cohesion — the tragedy is not simply that one side must lose.**
जब दो वैध मूल्य — **अंतरात्मा और एकजुटता** — टकराते हैं, तो त्रासदी केवल यह नहीं होती कि किसी एक पक्ष को हारना होगा।
- The tragedy is when institutions forget that accommodation is often possible, and often wise.
त्रासदी तब होती है जब संस्थाएँ भूल जाती हैं कि समायोजन अक्सर संभव होता है और अक्सर बुद्धिमानी भरा भी।

The Army's perspective

सेना का दृष्टिकोण

- No one can dismiss what the Indian Army told the Court.
कोई भी वह बात नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं कर सकता जो भारतीय सेना ने अदालत से कही।
- **A commanding officer in a fixed-class regiment must be accepted by the men he leads into war.**
फिक्स्ड-क्लास रेजिमेंट में एक कमांडिंग अफसर को उन सैनिकों द्वारा स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिए जिन्हें वह युद्ध में ले जाता है।
- Ritual and ceremony, though rooted in faith, serve as instruments of morale.
अनुष्ठान और परंपराएँ, भले आस्था पर आधारित हों, मनोबल के साधन का काम करती हैं।



- Officers are expected to participate fully to strengthen their bond with the troops.
अधिकारियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे सैनिकों के साथ अपने संबंध मजबूत करने हेतु पूर्ण रूप से भाग लें।
- The Indian Army saw the officer's stance as distancing, even if he meant it respectfully.
भारतीय सेना ने अधिकारी की स्थिति को दूरी बनाने के रूप में देखा, भले ही वह सम्मानपूर्वक किया गया हो।
- The Court accepted this view.
अदालत ने इस दृष्टिकोण को स्वीकार किया।
- Military ethos demands unity.
सैन्य नैतिकता एकता की माँग करती है।
- **And no institution in India has preserved unity more honourably than the Indian Army.**
और भारत में कोई संस्था भारतीय सेना की तरह सम्मानपूर्वक एकता को नहीं संजो सकती है।
- Whether in Kashmir or in Ladakh, whether rescuing civilians in floods or leading United Nations missions, the Indian Army has had a proud record of respecting diversity while building common purpose.
कश्मीर या लद्दाख में हो, बाढ़ में नागरिकों को बचाने में या संयुक्त राष्ट्र मिशनों का नेतृत्व करने में — भारतीय सेना का विविधता का सम्मान करते हुए सामूहिक उद्देश्य बनाने का गौरवपूर्ण इतिहास रहा है।
- A recent example bears repeating.
एक हालिया उदाहरण दोहराने योग्य है।
- **Colonel Sofiya Qureshi** was projected by the Indian Army as the face of Operation Sindoor during press briefings.
प्रेस ब्रीफिंग में भारतीय सेना ने कर्नल **सोफिया कुरेशी** को ऑपरेशन सिंदूर का चेहरा बताया।
- **Her leadership and professionalism were celebrated nationally.**
उनके नेतृत्व और व्यावसायिकता की राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर सराहना हुई।
- It was a reminder that the Indian Army has often been ahead of civilian society in giving space, honour and responsibility to women and to officers from every faith and region.
यह याद दिलाता है कि भारतीय सेना महिलाओं और हर धर्म-क्षेत्र के अधिकारियों को स्थान, सम्मान और जिम्मेदारी देने में अक्सर नागरिक समाज से आगे रही है।
- That inclusive spirit is one of the Indian Army's strengths, and the country takes pride in it.
यह समावेशी भावना भारतीय सेना की ताकतों में से एक है, और देश उस पर गर्व करता है।
- Which is why the Kamalesan case stings.
इसीलिए कमलेशन का मामला चुभता है।
- One cannot read the facts without seeing sincerity in his stance.
तथ्यों को पढ़े बिना उसकी ईमानदारी को नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं किया जा सकता।
- **He attended the parades.**
वह परेड में शामिल हुए।
- **He respected the customs.**
उन्होंने परंपराओं का सम्मान किया।
- **He removed his shoes, tied the turban and stood with his troops.**
उन्होंने जूते उतारे, पगड़ी बाँधी और अपने सैनिकों के साथ खड़े हुए।
- **His only request was not to enter the sanctum during ritual worship, a core doctrinal issue for many Protestant Christians.**
उनकी एकमात्र विनती यह थी कि अनुष्ठानिक पूजा के दौरान गर्भगृह में प्रवेश न करना पड़े, जो कई **प्रोटेस्टेंट ईसाइयों** के लिए doctrinal मुद्दा है।
- The situation brings to mind **Chariots of Fire**, the story of Eric Liddell, who would not race on a Sunday.
यह स्थिति **Chariots of Fire** की याद दिलाती है, जिसमें एरिक लिडेल रविवार को दौड़ने से मना करते हैं।
- Instead of punishing him, the British Olympic team reorganised its plan.
उन्हें दंडित करने के बजाय ब्रिटिश ओलंपिक टीम ने अपनी योजना बदल दी।
- He competed on a different day.
वह दूसरे दिन दौड़े।
- He won gold.
उन्होंने स्वर्ण पदक जीता।
- The world did not fall apart.
दुनिया नहीं टूटी।
- **A small accommodation upheld both conscience and team spirit.**
थोड़े से समायोजन ने अंतरात्मा और टीम भावना दोनों को सुरक्षित रखा।



- If an Olympic team could bend slightly to preserve a sincere belief, could the Army top brass not have done so here?
यदि एक ओलंपिक टीम थोड़े से समायोजन के लिए झुक सकती है, तो क्या सेना के शीर्ष अधिकारी यहाँ ऐसा नहीं कर सकते थे?

A lost officer and a lost signal

एक खोया हुआ अधिकारी और एक खोया हुआ संकेत

- **The loss in this case is larger than one career. The Indian armed forces may have lost a potentially fine officer.**
इस मामले में नुकसान सिर्फ एक करियर से बड़ा है। भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों ने संभवतः एक योग्य अधिकारी को खो दिया हो सकता है।
- But, more importantly, the message the decision sends to minority soldiers is unsettling: that even when you attend the parade, stand with the unit, and show respect, your personal limit of conscience counts for nothing.
लेकिन अधिक महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि इस निर्णय से अल्पसंख्यक सैनिकों को जो संदेश जाता है वह चिंताजनक है: कि परेड में शामिल होने, यूनिट के साथ खड़े होने और सम्मान दिखाने के बावजूद आपकी अंतरात्मा की सीमा का कोई महत्व नहीं।
- **India's military unity has never been built on majoritarian comfort. It has been built on trust.**
भारत की सैन्य एकता कभी भी बहुसंख्यक सुविधा पर आधारित नहीं रही, बल्कि विश्वास पर बनी है।
- **Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and Christian soldiers fought as one in 1965 and 1971, stood together in Kargil, and serve together today across insurgency zones.**
सिख, मुस्लिम, हिंदू और ईसाई सैनिकों ने 1965 और 1971 में एक साथ लड़ाई लड़ी, कारगिल में साथ खड़े रहे, और आज भी विभिन्न उग्रवाद क्षेत्रों में साथ सेवा देते हैं।
- **Soldiers from minority faiths should never have reason to wonder whether they will be asked to cross a line that their beliefs prohibit.**
अल्पसंख्यक आस्था वाले सैनिकों को कभी भी यह सोचने की ज़रूरत नहीं होनी चाहिए कि उनसे उनकी आस्था के विरुद्ध कोई रेखा पार करने को कहा जाएगा।
- The courts may not have intended this message. The Indian Army may not have intended it either. But messages do not depend solely on intention.
अदालतों का यह संदेश देने का इरादा नहीं रहा होगा। भारतीय सेना का भी नहीं। लेकिन संदेश केवल इरादे पर निर्भर नहीं करते।
- The judiciary's instinct to defer to the military is understandable.
सैन्य मामलों में न्यायपालिका का सम्मानजनक झुकाव समझ में आता है।
- Courts lack the tools, experience and institutional knowledge to second-guess tactical or disciplinary decisions.
अदालतों के पास सैन्य रणनीति या अनुशासनिक फैसलों को परखने के उपकरण, अनुभव और संस्थागत जानकारी नहीं होती।
- Yet, it is not correct to say that courts have always stayed away.
फिर भी यह कहना सही नहीं कि अदालतें हमेशा दूर रही हैं।
- **In the cases of women officers, the Supreme Court forced a fundamental rethink of long-standing military practice.**
महिला अधिकारियों के मामलों में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने लंबे समय से चली आ रही सैन्य प्रथाओं पर मूलभूत पुनर्विचार करवाया।
- **It has intervened in recruitment rules, pension rules and promotion policies.**
इसने भर्ती नियमों, पेंशन नियमों और पदोन्नति नीतियों में हस्तक्षेप किया।
- Courts have reshaped the Indian Army before, when equality demanded it.
जब समानता की आवश्यकता हुई, अदालतों ने पहले भी भारतीय सेना को पुनर्गठित किया है।
- In this case, the issue was modest: a sincere religious objection to entering a sanctum during worship.
इस मामले में विषय सरल था: पूजा के दौरान गर्भगृह में प्रवेश न करने का एक ईमानदार धार्मिक आपत्ति।
- **The officer did not refuse duty, did not leave his post, and did not weaken the chain of command.**
अधिकारी ने ज्यूटी से इनकार नहीं किया, न ही पोस्ट छोड़ी, और न ही कमान श्रृंखला को कमजोर किया।



- He stood respectfully outside, visible to the men he led.
वह सम्मानपूर्वक बाहर खड़े रहे, अपने सैनिकों को दिखाई देते हुए।
- The Court could have asked whether the Indian Army's approach satisfied the test of **proportionality**, or whether a lighter touch could achieve the same purpose while respecting conscience.
कोर्ट यह पूछ सकता था कि क्या सेना का तरीका **अनुपातिकता की कसौटी** पर खरा उतरता है, या क्या हल्के हस्तक्षेप से वही उद्देश्य हासिल हो सकता था, अंतरात्मा का सम्मान रखते हुए।
- The judiciary had room, if it had chosen to use it.
न्यायपालिका के पास विकल्प था—यदि वह उसे उपयोग करना चाहती।
- The principle in **Bijoe Emmanuel vs State of Kerala**, where children who would not sing the national anthem were still protected because they stood respectfully, comes to mind.
बिजो एमैनुअल बनाम केरल राज्य मामले का सिद्धांत याद आता है, जहाँ राष्ट्रगान न गाने वाले बच्चों को इसलिए सुरक्षा दी गई क्योंकि वे **सम्मानपूर्वक खड़े** थे।
- Justice **Chinnappa Reddy** reminded the nation: "our tradition teaches tolerance, our philosophy preaches tolerance, and our Constitution practises tolerance."
न्यायमूर्ति **चिन्नप्पा रेड्डी** ने कहा: "हमारी परंपरा सहिष्णुता सिखाती है, हमारा दर्शन सहिष्णुता का उपदेश देता है, और हमारा **संविधान सहिष्णुता का अभ्यास** करता है।"
- It is difficult not to hear those words echo in this case.
इस मामले में उन शब्दों की गूंज सुनना कठिन नहीं।

A lesson from Dreyfus ड्रेफस प्रकरण से सबक

- The parallel to the **Dreyfus affair** is not exact, nor should it be. But the warning it carries is real.
ड्रेफस प्रकरण से पूरी समानता नहीं है, न होनी चाहिए। लेकिन इसका दिया हुआ **चेतावनी संकेत वास्तविक** है।
- France's military, proud and strong, allowed itself to drift into prejudice one small step at a time.
फ्रांस की सेना, गर्विली और शक्तिशाली, धीरे-धीरे **पूर्वाग्रह** की ओर फिसलने लगी।
- **Victor Hugo warned that armies lose their edge when they lose their sense of justice.**
विक्टर ह्यूगो ने चेतावनी दी थी कि सेनाएँ अपना **न्यायबोध** खोने पर अपनी धार खो देती हैं।
- **Even the strongest institution can fall into a pattern where ritual becomes rigidity and rigidity becomes exclusion.**
सबसे मजबूत संस्थाएँ भी उस स्थिति में गिर सकती हैं जहाँ अनुष्ठान **कठोरता**, और कठोरता **बहिष्कार** बन जाती है।
- India must guard against that drift.
भारत को इस दिशा में बहने से बचना चाहिए।
- **The Indian Army is respected because it rises above communal and political divides, because its officers lead by example, and because it has never demanded that faith be abandoned at the barracks gate.**
भारतीय सेना सम्मानित है क्योंकि वह साम्प्रदायिक और राजनीतिक विभाजनों से ऊपर उठी है, उसके अधिकारी उदाहरण पेश करते हैं, और उसने कभी सैनिकों से अपनी आस्था को बैरक के दरवाज़े पर छोड़ने की मांग नहीं की।
- The most troubling part of this entire episode is not the Court's judgment, but that the matter reached a court at all.
इस पूरे प्रकरण का सबसे चिंताजनक पहलू अदालत का निर्णय नहीं बल्कि यह है कि मामला **अदालत तक पहुंचना पड़ा**।
- This was a problem that the senior leadership could have solved with one conversation, one directive, or one thoughtful accommodation.
यह समस्या एक संवाद, एक निर्देश या एक **सोच-समझकर किए गए समायोजन** से हल की जा सकती थी।
- Instead, the issue hardened. Positions froze. And the court became the battleground for something that should have been resolved within the walls of the regiment.
इसके बजाय मामला कठोर हो गया। स्थितियाँ जम गईं। और अदालत वह रणभूमि बन गई जो मुद्दे रेजिमेंट के भीतर ही हल हो सकते थे।



- The Indian Army's greatness has always come from its ability to blend tradition with modernity, discipline with empathy, authority with fairness.
भारतीय सेना की महानता हमेशा इस बात में रही है कि वह परंपरा और आधुनिकता, अनुशासन और सहानुभूति, अधिकार और न्याय का संतुलन बनाए रखती है।
- In this case, that balance slipped.
इस मामले में वह संतुलन फिसल गया।
- The Kamalesan case offers a simple lesson.
कमलेसन प्रकरण एक सरल सबक देता है।
- When duty meets conscience, the real test is not choosing one over the other but finding a way for both to coexist.
जब कर्तव्य और अंतरात्मा टकराते हैं, तो वास्तविक परीक्षा एक को चुनने में नहीं बल्कि दोनों को सह-अस्तित्व में लाने में होती है।
- The Court stayed within its lane.
कोर्ट अपनी सीमा में रहा।
- But the Indian Army, which has often shown large-heartedness and flexibility, could have shown it again here.
लेकिन भारतीय सेना, जिसने पहले भी उदारता और लचीलेपन का परिचय दिया है, यहाँ भी ऐसा कर सकती थी।
- A small accommodation would have strengthened trust, preserved discipline, and affirmed the message that every soldier, of every faith, stands equal in the uniform of India.
थोड़े से समायोजन ने विश्वास, अनुशासन, और यह संदेश मजबूत किया होता कि हर धर्म का हर सैनिक भारतीय वर्दी में समान है।
- Justice Reddy said that "our Constitution practises tolerance".
न्यायमूर्ति रेड्डी ने कहा था कि "हमारा संविधान सहिष्णुता का अभ्यास करता है।"
- We honour that practice not by forcing uniformity, but by understanding when uniformity need not be forced.
हम उस सिद्धांत का सम्मान एकरूपता थोपकर नहीं बल्कि यह समझकर करते हैं कि कब एकरूपता आवश्यक नहीं होती।



India and Indonesia make progress on BrahMos deal at Defence Ministers' Dialogue

GS II: IR: India & South East Asia

MQB

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Indonesia strengthened their defence partnership as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Indonesian Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin co-chaired the third India-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi on Thursday. Both sides also made notable progress on the proposed BrahMos supersonic missile deal.

A senior defence official said the discussions reflected a "progressive approach" from both nations, adding that the agreement "might get locked at the earliest".

The Ministers recalled Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India as the Chief Guest for Republic Day this year and noted that his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi had bolstered the Comprehensive Strategic



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a meeting with Indonesia's Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Partnership. The participation of 352 personnel from the Indonesian Armed Forces in the parade was highlighted as a symbol of defence cooperation.

According to the Defence Ministry, while reiterating their commitment to a free, open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific, the two sides emphasised adherence to international law and respect for sovereignty. They noted strong alignment between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative,

agreeing to intensify collaboration through multi-lateral platforms such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association, where India currently holds the chair.

Both countries were committed to enhancing cooperation in maritime domain awareness, cyber-resilience, and joint operational readiness. Indonesia welcomed India's proposal to form a Joint Defence Industry Cooperation Committee aimed at advancing technology transfer, and joint research and development.

India and Indonesia make progress on BrahMos deal at Defence Ministers' Dialogue

रक्षा मंत्रियों की वार्ता में भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने ब्रह्मोस सौदे पर प्रगति की

- India and Indonesia strengthened their **defence partnership** as Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Indonesian Defence Minister **Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin** co-chaired the third **India-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue** in **New Delhi** on Thursday.
गुरुवार को नई दिल्ली में रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह और इंडोनेशिया के रक्षा मंत्री सजफरी स्यामसूद्दीन ने तीसरी भारत-इंडोनेशिया रक्षा मंत्रियों की वार्ता की सह-अध्यक्षता करते हुए भारत और इंडोनेशिया ने अपने रक्षा साझेदारी को मजबूत किया।
- Both sides also made notable progress on the proposed **BrahMos supersonic missile deal**.
दोनों पक्षों ने प्रस्तावित ब्रह्मोस सुपरसोनिक मिसाइल सौदे पर भी उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की।
- A senior defence official said the discussions reflected a "progressive approach" from both nations, adding that the agreement "might get locked at the earliest".



एक वरिष्ठ रक्षा अधिकारी ने कहा कि चर्चाओं ने दोनों देशों के “प्रगतिशील दृष्टिकोण” को दर्शाया और यह भी जोड़ा कि समझौता “जल्द से जल्द अंतिम रूप ले सकता है”।

- The Ministers recalled Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto's** visit to India as the **Chief Guest** for Republic Day this year and noted that his talks with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had bolstered the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
मंत्रियों ने इंडोनेशिया के राष्ट्रपति **प्रबोवो सुबियांतो** की इस वर्ष गणतंत्र दिवस के **मुख्य अतिथि** के रूप में की गई भारत यात्रा को याद किया और कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** के साथ उनकी बातचीत ने **व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी** को मजबूत किया।
- The participation of **352 personnel** from the Indonesian Armed Forces in the parade was highlighted as a symbol of **defence cooperation**.
परियट में इंडोनेशियाई सशस्त्र बलों के **352 कर्मियों** की भागीदारी को **रक्षा सहयोग** के प्रतीक के रूप में उजागर किया गया।
- According to the **Defence Ministry**, while reiterating their commitment to a **free, open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific**, the two sides emphasised adherence to **international law** and respect for **sovereignty**.
रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, **स्वतंत्र, खुला, स्थिर और समृद्ध इंडो-पैसिफिक** के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराते हुए, दोनों पक्षों ने **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून** के पालन और **संप्रभुता** के सम्मान पर जोर दिया।
- They noted strong alignment between the **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific** and India's **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**, agreeing to intensify collaboration through multilateral platforms such as the **Indian Ocean Rim Association**, where India currently holds the chair.
उन्होंने **इंडो-पैसिफिक पर आसियान दृष्टिकोण** और भारत की **इंडो-पैसिफिक ओशन इनिशिएटिव** के बीच मजबूत सामंजस्य का उल्लेख किया, और **इंडियन ओशन रिम एसोसिएशन** जैसे बहुपक्षीय मंचों के माध्यम से सहयोग बढ़ाने पर सहमति व्यक्त की, जहां वर्तमान में भारत अध्यक्ष है।
- Both countries were committed to enhancing cooperation in **maritime domain awareness, cyber-resilience, and joint operational readiness**.
दोनों देश **समुद्री डोमेन अवेयरनेस, साइबर-लचीलापन, और संयुक्त परिचालन तैयारी** में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध थे।
- Indonesia welcomed India's proposal to form a **Joint Defence Industry Cooperation Committee** aimed at advancing **technology transfer**, and joint **research and development**.
इंडोनेशिया ने **प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण, और संयुक्त अनुसंधान एवं विकास** को आगे बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से **संयुक्त रक्षा उद्योग सहयोग समिति** बनाने के भारत के प्रस्ताव का स्वागत किया।



Parents say they have been kept in the dark over abducted Nigerian children

No armed group has claimed responsibility for the latest mass abduction of 303 schoolchildren from Papiri last week; since then, 50 of the students have escaped; authorities say the military has been mounting pressure on the gunmen, and that helicopters and ground troops have been deployed

GS II: IR

Associated Press
PAPIRI

Several parents of the over 300 schoolchildren seized by armed men in the latest mass abduction in Nigeria say the government has told them nothing about rescue efforts and that the stress has been so high that one of them has died of a heart attack.

"Nobody from the government has briefed us about the abduction," said Emmanuel Ejeh, whose 12-year-old son was taken from the Catholic school in Niger state.

Meanwhile, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu said on Wednesday in a statement that he has declared a nationwide security emergency and ordered additional recruitment into the army and police.

No armed group has claimed responsibility for Friday's abduction of 303 children from the remote community of Papiri, the latest in a series of high-profile seizures in search of ransom. Fifty of the students have since escaped.

'Muslims also suffer'

The rise in mass abductions from schools comes as the Trump administration pressures Nigeria to act against what it calls the persecution of Christians there – a claim Nigeria's government denies. Such abductions had decreased in the past two years.

Experts say Muslims suffer just as much or more from the attacks by bandits and militants linked to al-Qaida or the Islamic State group.

Parents have gathered at the dusty school compound in Papiri, attempting to comfort each other. Mr. Ejeh said his wife fainted after hearing that their son had been taken.

"It is painful," he said. "Mathew is a very kind boy who dreams of becoming a football player. He is after football day and night."

Two parents of abducted children have died, one of a heart attack, said the bishop of Kontagora diocese, Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, who also runs the school.

A spokesperson for Nigeria's presidency, Bayo Onanuga, did not directly address parents' allegations of being left in the dark. Mr. Onanuga said on Wednesday that the military has been mounting pressure on the gunmen to release the children.

Nigerian authorities have said helicopters and ground troops have been deployed. Military personnel mingled with anxious parents this week.

The attack came days after gunmen seized 25 students in nearby Kebbi state. All have been rescued, Nigerian authorities said on Tuesday. On Wednesday, police said the students had been reunited with their families.



People read newspapers at a roadside stall in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Thursday. The front page of the paper reports that Nigerian President Bola Tinubu has declared a nationwide security emergency. REUTERS

An AP tally shows that at least 1,799 students have been abducted in a dozen of the largest attacks in Nigeria starting with the seizure of 276 schoolgirls in the village of Chibok by Boko Haram militants, an attack that sparked global outrage.

'National emergency'

Some students escape. Others are rescued. Some are never seen again.

"The police will recruit an additional 20,000 officers, bringing the total to 50,000," the statement read. "My fellow Nigerians, this is a national emergency, and we are responding by deploying more boots

on the ground, especially in security-challenged areas," it added.

When Yohanna Yakubu, a church pastor, heard his daughter Mercy was among the 12 teachers also taken in the Papiri attack, he ran to the school. Other agonised parents were already there.

"I went straight to her room [at the dormitory] and saw that the window was broken," Mr. Yakubu said. He called the lack of information from authorities frustrating. These days he sits in silence, worry creating his face.

Danteni Mathew's three children were abducted, but one escaped. He wor-

ries about the health of his youngest, who remains missing.

"Yahaya was not healthy before his abduction from the school as he is still battling with hepatitis C," Mr. Mathew said.

'Little has been done'

Under international scrutiny after the Chibok mass abduction, Nigeria's government initiated a Safe School Initiative with plans to involve military assets and train staff to improve safety at schools. Soldiers in some cases are stationed at schools considered vulnerable.

It was not immediately clear whether the Papiri

school had received that training. Activists and others assert that little has been done.

UNICEF last year said just 37% of schools across 10 states in Nigeria's volatile north have early-warning systems to detect threats.

"The fact is that Nigerian lives do not matter to the Nigerian government, and what matters to the Nigerian government is how good they look, so they are more focused on propaganda," said Aisha Yesufu, who helped found the Bring Back Our Girls movement after the Chibok abduction.

Analysts say armed gangs often target schools for abductions because of the pressure they put on the government to negotiate ransoms.

The West African nation is battling dozens of armed groups operating in remote communities with limited government and security presence.

The crisis has become more complex as groups from other parts of the vast Sahel region have joined Boko Haram factions in trying to establish their presence in northern Nigeria, said James Barnett, a research fellow with the U.S.-based Hudson Institute.

"Both bandits and jihadists can have similar interests in conducting these sorts of mass abductions," he said.

Parents say they have been kept in the dark over abducted Nigerian children

अभिभावक कहते हैं कि अपहृत नाइजीरियाई बच्चों के बारे में उन्हें अंधेरे में रखा गया है

- Parents say they have been kept in the dark over abducted Nigerian children अभिभावक कहते हैं कि अपहृत नाइजीरियाई बच्चों के बारे में उन्हें अंधेरे में रखा गया है
- **No armed group has claimed responsibility for the latest mass abduction of 303 schoolchildren from Papiri last week; since then, 50 of the students have escaped; authorities say the military has been mounting pressure on the gunmen, and that helicopters and ground troops have been deployed**
किसी भी सशस्त्र समूह ने पिछले सप्ताह Papiri से 303 स्कूली बच्चों के नवीनतम सामूहिक अपहरण की जिम्मेदारी नहीं ली है; तब से 50 छात्र भाग निकले हैं; अधिकारियों का कहना है कि सेना बंदूकधारियों पर दबाव बना रही है, और हेलीकॉप्टर और जमीनी सैनिकों को तैनात किया गया है
- Several parents of the over 300 schoolchildren seized by armed men in the latest mass abduction in Nigeria say the government has told them nothing about rescue efforts and that the stress has been so high that one of them has died of a heart attack

Nigeria में हालिया सामूहिक अपहरण में सशस्त्र पुरुषों द्वारा पकड़े गए 300 से अधिक स्कूली बच्चों के कई



अभिभावकों का कहना है कि सरकार ने उन्हें बचाव प्रयासों के बारे में कुछ नहीं बताया है और तनाव इतना अधिक रहा है कि उनमें से एक की दिल का दौरा पड़ने से मृत्यु हो गई है

- “Nobody from the government has briefed us about the abduction,” said Emmanuel Ejeh, whose 12-year-old son was **taken from the Catholic school in Niger state**
“सरकार की ओर से किसी ने हमें अपहरण के बारे में जानकारी नहीं दी है,” Emmanuel Ejeh ने कहा, जिनके 12 वर्षीय बेटे को Niger राज्य के कैथोलिक स्कूल से ले जाया गया था
- Meanwhile, **Nigerian President Bola Tinubu** said on Wednesday in a statement that he has declared a **nationwide security emergency** and ordered additional recruitment into the army and police
इसी बीच, नाइजीरिया के राष्ट्रपति **Bola Tinubu** ने बुधवार को एक बयान में कहा कि उन्होंने **राष्ट्रव्यापी सुरक्षा आपातकाल** घोषित किया है और सेना तथा पुलिस में अतिरिक्त भर्ती का आदेश दिया है
- No armed group has claimed responsibility for Friday’s abduction of **303 children** from the remote community of **Papiri**, the latest in a series of high-profile seizures **in search of ransom**. **Fifty** of the students have since escaped
किसी भी सशस्त्र समूह ने शुक्रवार को **Papiri** के दूरस्थ समुदाय से **303 बच्चों** के अपहरण की जिम्मेदारी नहीं ली है, जो फिरौती की मांग के लिए हाई-प्रोफाइल अपहरणों की श्रृंखला में नवीनतम है। तब से **50** छात्र भाग निकले हैं
- ‘Muslims also suffer’
‘मुस्लिम भी पीड़ित होते हैं’
- **The rise in mass abductions from schools comes as the Trump administration pressures Nigeria to act against what it calls the persecution of Christians there — a claim Nigeria’s government denies**. Such abductions had decreased in the past two years
स्कूलों से सामूहिक अपहरण में वृद्धि उस समय हो रही है जब **Trump प्रशासन** नाइजीरिया पर वहां ईसाइयों के उत्पीड़न के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने का दबाव डाल रहा है — जिसे नाइजीरियाई सरकार नकारती है। ऐसे अपहरण पिछले दो वर्षों में कम हुए थे
- **Experts say Muslims suffer just as much or more from the attacks by bandits and militants linked to al-Qaida or the Islamic State group**
विशेषज्ञ कहते हैं कि **al-Qaida** या **Islamic State** समूह से जुड़े डकैतों और उग्रवादियों के हमलों से मुस्लिम भी उतना ही या उससे अधिक पीड़ित होते हैं
- Parents have gathered at the dusty school compound in Papiri, attempting to comfort each other
अभिभावक Papiri के धूल भरे स्कूल परिसर में इकट्ठा हुए हैं, एक-दूसरे को सांत्वना देने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं
- Mr. Ejeh said his wife fainted after hearing that their son had been taken
श्री Ejeh ने कहा कि उनके बेटे को ले जाने की खबर सुनकर उनकी पत्नी बेहोश हो गई
- “It is painful,” he said. “Mathew is a very kind boy who dreams of becoming a football player. He is after football day and night.”
“यह दर्दनाक है,” उन्होंने कहा। “Mathew एक बहुत दयालु लड़का है जो फुटबॉल खिलाड़ी बनने का सपना देखता है। वह दिन-रात फुटबॉल के पीछे रहता है।”
- Two parents of abducted children have died, one of a heart attack, said the bishop of Kontagora diocese, Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, who also runs the school
Kontagora सूबा के बिशप Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, जो स्कूल भी चलाते हैं, ने कहा कि अपहृत बच्चों के दो अभिभावकों की मृत्यु हो चुकी है, जिनमें से एक की दिल का दौरा पड़ने से हुई है
- A spokesperson for Nigeria’s presidency, Bayo Onanuga, did not directly address parents’ allegations of being left in the dark
नाइजीरिया की राष्ट्रपति कार्यालय के प्रवक्ता Bayo Onanuga ने अभिभावकों के अंधरे में छोड़ दिए जाने के आरोपों पर सीधे तौर पर प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दी
- Mr. Onanuga said on Wednesday that the military has been mounting pressure on the gunmen to release the children
श्री Onanuga ने बुधवार को कहा कि सेना बच्चों को रिहा कराने के लिए बंदूकधारियों पर दबाव बना रही है
- Nigerian authorities have said helicopters and ground troops have been deployed
नाइजीरियाई अधिकारियों ने कहा है कि हेलीकॉप्टर और जमीनी सैनिकों को तैनात किया गया है
- Military personnel mingled with anxious parents this week
इस सप्ताह सैन्य कर्मी चिंतित अभिभावकों के साथ घुले-मिले
- The attack came days after gunmen seized **25 students** in nearby **Kebbi state**. All have been rescued, Nigerian authorities said on Tuesday



यह हमला **Kebbi राज्य** में बंदूकधारियों द्वारा **25 छात्रों** को अगवा किए जाने के कुछ दिनों बाद हुआ। नाइजीरियाई अधिकारियों ने मंगलवार को कहा कि सभी को बचा लिया गया है

- On Wednesday, police said the students had been reunited with their families बुधवार को पुलिस ने कहा कि छात्रों को उनके परिवारों से मिला दिया गया है
- An AP tally shows that at least **1,799 students** have been abducted in a dozen of the largest attacks in Nigeria starting with the seizure of **276 schoolgirls** in **Chibok** by **Boko Haram** militants

AP के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि नाइजीरिया में सबसे बड़े दर्जन भर हमलों में कम से कम **1,799 छात्र** अगवा किए गए हैं, जिसकी शुरुआत **Boko Haram** उग्रवादियों द्वारा **Chibok** से **276 स्कूली लड़कियों** के अपहरण से हुई थी

‘National emergency’ ‘राष्ट्रीय आपातकाल’

- Some students escape. Others are rescued. Some are never seen again कुछ छात्र भाग जाते हैं। कुछ को बचा लिया जाता है। कुछ फिर कभी नहीं देखे जाते
- “The police will recruit an additional **20,000 officers**, bringing the total to **50,000**,” the statement read
बयान में कहा गया, “पुलिस अतिरिक्त **20,000 अधिकारियों** की भर्ती करेगी, जिससे कुल संख्या **50,000** हो जाएगी”
- “My fellow Nigerians, this is a **national emergency**, and we are responding by deploying more boots on the ground, especially in security-challenged areas,” it added
“मेरे प्रिय नाइजीरियाई नागरिकों, यह एक **राष्ट्रीय आपातकाल** है, और हम विशेष रूप से सुरक्षा-चुनौती वाले क्षेत्रों में और अधिक जवानों को तैनात करके प्रतिक्रिया दे रहे हैं,” इसमें कहा गया
- When Yohanna Yakubu, a church pastor, heard his daughter Mercy was among the **12 teachers** also taken in the Papiri attack, he ran to the school
जब Yohanna Yakubu, जो एक चर्च पादरी हैं, को पता चला कि उनकी बेटी Mercy भी Papiri हमले में ले जाए गए **12 शिक्षकों** में शामिल है, तो वह स्कूल की ओर दौड़े
- Other agonised parents were already there
अन्य पीड़ित अभिभावक पहले से ही वहां मौजूद थे
- “I went straight to her room [at the dormitory] and saw that the window was broken,” Mr. Yakubu said
श्री Yakubu ने कहा, “मैं सीधे उसके कमरे [छात्रावास में] गया और देखा कि खिड़की टूटी हुई थी”
- He called the lack of information from authorities frustrating
उन्होंने अधिकारियों की ओर से जानकारी की कमी को निराशाजनक बताया
- These days he sits in silence, worry creasing his face
इन दिनों वह चुपचाप बैठते हैं, चिंता उनके चेहरे पर झलकती है
- Danteni Mathew’s **three children** were abducted, but one escaped
Danteni Mathew के **तीन बच्चे** अगवा कर लिए गए, लेकिन एक भाग निकला
- He worries about the health of his youngest, who remains missing
वह अपने सबसे छोटे बच्चे के स्वास्थ्य को लेकर चिंतित हैं, जो अभी भी लापता है
- “Yahaya was not healthy before his abduction from the school as he is still battling with **hepatitis C**,” Mr. Mathew said
श्री Mathew ने कहा, “स्कूल से अपहरण से पहले Yahaya स्वस्थ नहीं था क्योंकि वह अभी भी **हेपेटाइटिस C** से लड़ रहा है”

‘Little has been done’ ‘बहुत कम किया गया है’

- Under international scrutiny after the Chibok mass abduction, Nigeria’s government initiated a **Safe School Initiative** with plans to involve military assets and train staff to improve safety at schools
Chibok सामूहिक अपहरण के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय जांच के तहत, नाइजीरियाई सरकार ने स्कूलों में सुरक्षा में सुधार के लिए सैन्य संसाधनों को शामिल करने और कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षित करने की योजना के साथ **Safe School Initiative** शुरू किया



- Soldiers in some cases are stationed at schools considered vulnerable
कुछ मामलों में सैनिकों को कमजोर माने जाने वाले स्कूलों में तैनात किया जाता है
- It was not immediately clear whether the Papiri school had received that training
यह तुरंत स्पष्ट नहीं था कि Papiri स्कूल को वह प्रशिक्षण मिला था या नहीं
- Activists and others assert that little has been done
कार्यकर्ताओं और अन्य लोगों का कहना है कि बहुत कम किया गया है
- UNICEF last year said just **37% of schools across 10 states in Nigeria's volatile north have early-warning systems to detect threats**
UNICEF ने पिछले वर्ष कहा कि नाइजीरिया के अस्थिर उत्तरी क्षेत्र के **10 राज्यों** में केवल **37% स्कूलों** में खतरे का पता लगाने के लिए प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणाली है
- "The fact is that Nigerian lives do not matter to the Nigerian government, and what matters to the Nigerian government is how good they look, so they are more focused on propaganda," said Aisha Yesufu
Aisha Yesufu ने कहा, "सच्चाई यह है कि नाइजीरियाई लोगों की जान नाइजीरियाई सरकार के लिए मायने नहीं रखती, और सरकार के लिए मायने रखता है कि वे कैसे दिखते हैं, इसलिए वे अधिक प्रचार पर ध्यान देते हैं"
- who helped found the **Bring Back Our Girls** movement after the Chibok abduction
जिन्होंने Chibok अपहरण के बाद **Bring Back Our Girls** आंदोलन की स्थापना में मदद की
- **Analysts say armed gangs often target schools for abductions because of the pressure they put on the government to negotiate ransoms**
विश्लेषक कहते हैं कि सशस्त्र गिरोह अक्सर स्कूलों को अपहरण के लिए निशाना बनाते हैं क्योंकि वे सरकार पर फिरोती पर बातचीत करने के लिए दबाव डालते हैं
- The West African nation is battling dozens of armed groups operating in remote communities with limited government and security presence
पश्चिम अफ्रीकी राष्ट्र दूरस्थ समुदायों में सीमित सरकारी और सुरक्षा उपस्थिति के साथ संचालित दशकों सशस्त्र समूहों से जूझ रहा है
- The crisis has become more complex as groups from other parts of the vast **Sahel region have joined Boko Haram factions** in trying to establish their presence in northern Nigeria, said James Barnett
James Barnett ने कहा कि संकट अधिक जटिल हो गया है क्योंकि विशाल Sahel क्षेत्र के अन्य हिस्सों के समूह उत्तरी नाइजीरिया में अपनी उपस्थिति स्थापित करने के प्रयास में **Boko Haram** गुटों में शामिल हो गए हैं
- a research fellow with the U.S.-based **Hudson Institute**
अमेरिका स्थित **Hudson Institute** के एक शोध सहयोगी
- "Both bandits and jihadists can have similar interests in conducting these sorts of mass abductions," he said
उन्होंने कहा, "डकैतों और जिहादियों दोनों के ऐसे सामूहिक अपहरण करने में समान हित हो सकते हैं"

GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, &IS	
TOPICS COVERED	28_11_2025
	Economy
1.	IMF gives 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics आईएमएफ ने भारत के राष्ट्रीय खातों के आँकड़ों को 'C' ग्रेड दिया
2.	Enabling a modern and future-ready labour ecosystem एक आधुनिक और भविष्य-तैयार श्रम पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को सक्षम बनाना
3.	Are the labour codes labour-friendly? क्या श्रम संहिताएँ श्रमिक-हितैषी हैं?



4.	Centre rejects IMF's notion that 50% tariffs will be 'indefinite' केंद्र ने IMF की इस धारणा को खारिज किया कि 50% शुल्क 'अनिश्चितकाल' तक रहेंगे
	S&T
5.	Learning from centenarians: new study unveils secrets of longevity दीर्घायु से सीख: नए अध्ययन ने दीर्घायु के रहस्यों का खुलासा किया
6.	India's food colouring woes and steps being taken to combat recurring issue भारत की फूड कलरिंग समस्याएँ और आवर्ती मुद्दे से निपटने के लिए उठाए जा रहे कदम
7.	QUIZ
	Environment
8.	Why India struggles to clear its air भारत अपनी हवा साफ करने में क्यों संघर्ष करता है
9.	Why are Srinagar's traditional livelihoods struggling to survive? श्रीनगर की पारंपरिक आजीविकाएँ जीवित रहने के लिए क्यों संघर्ष कर रही हैं?
	IS
10	Communal tag on 1983 poll violence in Assam unwarranted, says Tewary panel 1983 के असम चुनावी हिंसा पर साम्प्रदायिक टैग अनुचित, टिवारी पैनल ने कहा
11.	CISF alters tenure, posting policy at Parliament संसद में CISF ने कार्यकाल, पोस्टिंग नीति में बदलाव किया



IMF gives 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The International Monetary Fund's annual review has given India's national accounts statistics – including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Value Added (GVA) – a grade of 'C', the second-lowest rating.

According to the IMF, this grade means the data available “have some shortcomings that somewhat hamper surveillance”.

This is of particular significance as the government will release the national accounts data for Q2 of this financial year on Friday.

Weaknesses cited

“National accounts data are available at adequate frequency and timeliness and provide broadly adequate granularity,” the IMF noted in its annual Article IV assessment of India's economic framework.

“However, some methodological weaknesses somewhat hamper surveillance and warrant an overall sectoral rating for the national accounts of C.” Overall, across all data categories, India has received grade 'B'. There are four grades in total: A, B, C and D.

For example, it highlighted an outdated base year of 2011-12 on which the data is based, and the use of wholesale price indices as data sources for deflators due to the lack of producer prices indices. It further pointed out periodic “sizeable discrepancies” between the production and expenditure approaches of measuring GDP, “that may indicate the need to enhance the coverage of the expenditure approach data and the informal sector”.

The Indian government



Grade 'C' means the available data have shortcomings that hamper surveillance. REUTERS

has, from the beginning, used the income approach to measure GDP by measuring the incomes of the government, people, and companies. However, it also provides an estimate based on the expenditure approach, which attempts to quantify GDP through the spending done by these entities.

Often, due to the differing data sources and their coverage, the two estimates of GDP differ, which has attracted criticism from some economists. Finally, the IMF also highlighted the lack of seasonally adjusted data and “room for improvement of other statistical techniques” used in the quarterly national accounts data.

'B' for the CPI

Regarding India's main inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index, the IMF graded India a 'B', which means the data provided “have some shortcomings but are broadly adequate for surveillance”.

It said that while the CPI data scores well on its frequency and timeliness, coming as it does once a month and with only a month's lag, the rating of 'B' reflects the outdated CPI base year, items basket, and weights (set in 2011-12), “implying that the CPI basket likely fails to accurately represent current spending habits”.

IMF gives 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics

आईएमएफ ने भारत के राष्ट्रीय खातों के आँकड़ों को 'C' ग्रेड दिया

• The International Monetary Fund's annual review has given India's national accounts statistics — including **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and **Gross Value Added (GVA)** — a grade of 'C', the second-lowest rating.

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष की वार्षिक समीक्षा ने भारत के राष्ट्रीय खातों के आँकड़ों — जिनमें **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP)** और **सकल मूल्य वर्धन (GVA)** शामिल हैं — को 'C' ग्रेड दिया है, जो दूसरी सबसे कम रेटिंग है।

• According to the IMF, this grade means the data available “have some shortcomings that somewhat hamper surveillance”.

आईएमएफ के अनुसार, इस ग्रेड का अर्थ है कि उपलब्ध आँकड़ों में “कुछ कमियाँ हैं जो कुछ हद तक निगरानी (surveillance) में बाधा डालती हैं”।

• This is of particular significance as the government will release the national accounts data for Q2 of this financial year on Friday.

यह विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि सरकार इस वित्तीय वर्ष की दूसरी तिमाही के राष्ट्रीय खातों के आँकड़े शुक्रवार को जारी करेगी।

Weaknesses cited

उल्लेखित कमजोरियाँ

• “National accounts data are available at adequate frequency and timeliness and provide broadly adequate granularity,” the IMF noted in its annual Article IV assessment of India's economic framework.

“राष्ट्रीय खातों के आँकड़े पर्याप्त आवृत्ति और समयबद्धता के साथ उपलब्ध हैं और व्यापक रूप से पर्याप्त विस्तार प्रदान करते हैं,” आईएमएफ ने भारत के आर्थिक ढाँचे के अपने वार्षिक अनुच्छेद IV मूल्यांकन में कहा।

• “However, some **methodological weaknesses** somewhat hamper surveillance and warrant an overall sectoral rating for the national accounts of C.”

“हालांकि, कुछ **कार्यप्रणालीगत कमजोरियाँ (methodological weaknesses)** निगरानी में कुछ हद तक बाधा डालती हैं और राष्ट्रीय खातों के लिए समग्र क्षेत्रीय रेटिंग C को उचित ठहराती हैं।”

• Overall, across all data categories, India has received grade 'B'. There are four grades in total: A, B, C and D.

समग्र रूप से, सभी डेटा श्रेणियों में भारत को 'B' ग्रेड मिला है। कुल चार ग्रेड होते हैं: A, B, C और D।

• For example, it highlighted an **outdated base year of 2011-12** on which the data is based, and the use of **wholesale price indices** as data sources for deflators due to the lack of **producer prices indices**.

उदाहरण के लिए, इसमें **2011-12 के पुराने आधार वर्ष** को रेखांकित किया गया, जिस पर डेटा आधारित है, और **उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांकों** की कमी के कारण अपस्फीतिकारकों के लिए डेटा स्रोत के रूप में **थोक मूल्य सूचकांकों** के उपयोग को दर्शाया गया।

• It further pointed out periodic “sizeable discrepancies” between the **production and expenditure approaches** of measuring GDP, “that may indicate the need to enhance



the coverage of the expenditure approach data and the informal sector”.

इसने आगे GDP मापने के **उत्पादन और व्यय दृष्टिकोणों** के बीच समय-समय पर होने वाली “काफी बड़ी विसंगतियों” की ओर भी इशारा किया, “जो व्यय दृष्टिकोण के आँकड़ों और अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र के कवरेज को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता का संकेत दे सकती हैं।”

- The Indian government has, from the beginning, used the **income approach** to measure GDP by measuring the incomes of the government, people, and companies. भारतीय सरकार ने प्रारंभ से ही सरकार, जनता और कंपनियों की आय मापकर GDP मापने के लिए **आय दृष्टिकोण (income approach)** का उपयोग किया है।
- However, it also provides an estimate based on the **expenditure approach**, which attempts to quantify GDP through the spending done by these entities. हालांकि, यह **व्यय दृष्टिकोण (expenditure approach)** पर आधारित एक अनुमान भी प्रदान करती है, जो इन संस्थाओं द्वारा किए गए खर्च के माध्यम से GDP को मापने का प्रयास करता है।
- Often, due to the differing data sources and their coverage, the two estimates of GDP differ, which has attracted criticism from some economists. अक्सर, विभिन्न डेटा स्रोतों और उनके कवरेज के कारण GDP के दोनों अनुमान भिन्न होते हैं, जिससे कुछ अर्थशास्त्रियों की आलोचना हुई है।
- Finally, the IMF also highlighted the lack of **seasonally adjusted data** and “room for improvement of other **statistical techniques**” used in the quarterly national accounts data. अंत में, आईएमएफ ने तिमाही राष्ट्रीय खातों के डेटा में **मौसमी रूप से समायोजित डेटा (seasonally adjusted data)** की कमी और उपयोग की जाने वाली अन्य **सांख्यिकीय तकनीकों (statistical techniques)** में “सुधार की गुंजाइश” को भी उजागर किया।

‘B’ for the CPI

सीपीआई के लिए ‘B’

- Regarding India’s main inflation measure, the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, the IMF graded India a ‘**B**’, which means the data provided “have some shortcomings but are broadly adequate for surveillance”. भारत के मुख्य मुद्रास्फीति मापदंड **उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI)** के संबंध में, आईएमएफ ने भारत को ‘**B**’ ग्रेड दिया, जिसका अर्थ है कि प्रदान किए गए आँकड़ों में “कुछ कमियाँ हैं, लेकिन वे निगरानी के लिए व्यापक रूप से पर्याप्त हैं”।
- It said that while the CPI data scores well on its frequency and timeliness, coming as it does once a month and with only a month’s lag, the rating of ‘**B**’ reflects the **outdated CPI base year**, items basket, and weights (set in **2011-12**), “implying that the CPI basket likely fails to accurately represent current spending habits”. इसमें कहा गया कि CPI डेटा अपनी आवृत्ति और समयबद्धता पर अच्छा स्कोर करता है, क्योंकि यह हर महीने आता है और सिर्फ एक महीने की देरी होती है, लेकिन ‘**B**’ ग्रेड **पुराने सीपीआई आधार वर्ष**, वस्तुओं की टोकरी और भार (जो **2011-12** में तय किए गए थे) को दर्शाता है, “जो इंगित करता है कि CPI टोकरी वर्तमान खर्च करने की आदतों का सटीक प्रतिनिधित्व करने में विफल हो सकती है”।



Enabling a modern and future-ready labour ecosystem

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November 21, 2025 will go down as a milestone in India's journey of **Viksit Bharat** – a day when the much awaited **Four Labour Codes** were made effective by the Government of India. India has taken a giant leap in labour rights with the implementation of four modernised Labour Codes (the **Code on Wages, 2019**, the **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**, the **Code on Social Security, 2020** and the **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020**). These reforms create a fair, modern and future-ready labour ecosystem – one that empowers workers, enhances enterprise competitiveness and strengthens India's path towards a **Viksit Bharat** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

India's labour framework has evolved gradually over several decades, leading to the creation of multiple pieces of legislation operating across different time periods and economic contexts. While these laws have played an important role in shaping employment relations, the growing size and diversity of India's workforce brought to the fore the need for simplification and consolidation. The Second National Commission on Labour recommended grouping existing laws into broader functional codes. Extensive consultations with industry, employers, trade unions and State governments between 2015 and 2019 led to these four comprehensive Labour Codes being enacted.

A workforce that is both large and young
India today has one of the world's largest and youngest workforces, with more than 643 million workers, and is expected to contribute nearly two-thirds of new global workforce entrants in the coming years, as in the World Economic Forum. Recent labour market trends point to a positive momentum: between 2017-18 and 2023-24, India created 16.83 crore jobs, the unemployment rate declined from 6% to 3.2%, and formal employment expanded significantly.

Given that a large share of India's workforce still remains in the informal sector, the need for a simplified and coherent labour framework has been particularly important to help extend protections and improve productivity of the unorganised sector. The coverage under the Code



Harsha Vardhan Agarwal
is President,
Federation of Indian
Chambers of
Commerce and
Industry (FICCI)

The Four
Labour Codes
will result in a
modern labour
regulatory
system that
supports the
growing
dynamism of
the Indian
economy

for Social Security has been extended to the unorganised sector also. These developments reflect the growing dynamism of the economy and emphasise the need for a modern labour regulatory system that supports this trajectory.

For workers, the Labour Codes provide a stronger and more consistent set of protections. Universal minimum wages, a national floor wage, mandatory appointment letters, timely payment of wages, and clear rules on working hours – including the 48-hour work week – reinforce fairness and security. The OSH Code's emphasis on safety committees, free preventive health check-ups and improved workplace standards strengthens the focus on well-being and productivity.

The Code on Social Security, 2020 provides for universal Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) coverage with no geographic restrictions, streamlined Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) procedures for quicker resolutions, and support for the construction sector through simplified cess payments. It also establishes a National Social Security Fund for various worker categories.

Another major reform under these codes is the simplification of compliance requirements. The shift to single registration, single licence and single return significantly reduces administrative burdens, particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). A uniform definition of wages introduces clarity across multiple laws, helping reduce disputes and improving predictability in wage-related calculations. Decriminalisation of minor offences and the introduction of digital processes such as algorithm-based inspections encourage transparency and trust-based compliance.

Preparing for the future of work

India's workforce is diversifying, with the rapid growth of **gig** and platform-based employment, flexible working models and digital-enabled livelihoods. In this context, the Social Security Code's inclusion of **gig** and platform workers is timely. With the size of this workforce expected to grow from one crore in 2024-25 to 2.35 crore by 2029-30, establishing a framework for social protection is a forward-looking measure that

aligns with the changing nature of work.

The Codes also emphasise formalisation, which remains vital for long-term economic progress. Clearer rules, standardised definitions and transparent processes encourage more enterprises to enter the formal economy and help extend protections to a larger share of the workforce.

A boost for women in the workforce

Women's participation in the workforce has improved yet remains below its potential. According to the International Labour Organization's India Employment Report 2024, India's female labour force participation rate stands at 32.8%. The Labour Codes help strengthen the enabling environment by reinforcing equal remuneration, enhancing maternity benefits and expanding social protection to unorganised, **gig** and platform workers. The OSH Code also allows women to work at night with their consent and has adequate safety arrangements, thereby widening opportunities across several sectors. Together, these provisions support greater access and continuity of employment for women as the economy evolves. A modern labour framework must balance the need for worker protection with the requirements of a competitive business environment. The Labour Codes aim to provide this balance by offering clearer industrial relations norms and faster dispute resolution, while ensuring that workers have access to essential rights, safety and social security. This balanced approach supports investment, promotes stability and helps strengthen India's position in global value chains.

The next few days will be crucial as the implementation process for these Codes moves forward. It will be important for States to align with the minimum thresholds and guiding principles laid out in the Codes to ensure uniformity and clarity across the country. After the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, this represents one of the most significant structural reforms. This reform momentum should continue, supporting greater investments, and thereby contributing to higher employment generation in the country.

Enabling a modern and future-ready labour ecosystem

एक आधुनिक और भविष्य-तैयार श्रम पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को सक्षम बनाना

Four Labour Codes and Viksit Bharat

चार श्रम संहिताएँ और विकसित भारत

- November 21, 2025 will go down as a milestone in India's journey of **Viksit Bharat** — a day when the much awaited **Four Labour Codes** were made effective by the Government of India.
21 November 2025 भारत की विकसित भारत (**Viksit Bharat**) की यात्रा में एक मील का पत्थर बनकर दर्ज होगा — वह दिन जब भारत सरकार द्वारा बहुप्रतीक्षित **चार श्रम संहिताएँ (Four Labour Codes)** प्रभावी की गईं।
- India has taken a giant leap in labour rights with the implementation of four modernised Labour Codes (the **Code on Wages, 2019**, the **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**, the **Code on Social Security, 2020** and the **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020**).
भारत ने चार आधुनिकीकरण की गई श्रम संहिताओं — **Code on Wages, 2019**, **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**, **Code on Social Security, 2020** और **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020** — के कार्यान्वयन के साथ श्रम अधिकारों के क्षेत्र में एक बड़ी छलांग लगाई है।
- These reforms create a fair, modern and future-ready labour ecosystem — one that empowers workers, enhances enterprise competitiveness and strengthens India's path towards a **Viksit Bharat** and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
ये सुधार एक न्यायसंगत, आधुनिक और भविष्य-उन्मुख श्रम तंत्र (labour ecosystem) बनाते हैं — जो श्रमिकों को सशक्त करता है, उद्यमों की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बढ़ाता है और भारत के **Viksit Bharat** तथा **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** की राह को मज़बूत करता है।



- India's labour framework has evolved gradually over several decades, leading to the creation of multiple pieces of legislation operating across different time periods and economic contexts.
भारत का श्रम ढांचा कई दशकों में धीरे-धीरे विकसित हुआ है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप विभिन्न समय अवधियों और आर्थिक संदर्भों में लागू अनेक क़ानून बने हैं।
- While these laws have played an important role in **shaping employment relations, the growing size and diversity of India's workforce brought to the fore the need for simplification and consolidation.**
इन क़ानूनों ने **रोज़गार संबंधों (employment relations)** को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है, लेकिन भारत की कार्यबल के बढ़ते आकार और विविधता ने **सरलीकरण (simplification)** और **समेकन (consolidation)** की आवश्यकता को सामने रखा।
- The **Second National Commission on Labour** recommended grouping existing laws into broader functional codes.
द्वितीय राष्ट्रीय श्रम आयोग (Second National Commission on Labour) ने मौजूदा क़ानूनों को व्यापक **कार्यात्मक संहिताओं (functional codes)** में समूहित करने की सिफ़ारिश की।
- Extensive consultations with industry, employers, trade unions and State governments between **2015 and 2019** led to these four comprehensive Labour Codes being enacted.
2015 से 2019 के बीच उद्योग, नियोक्ताओं, ट्रेड यूनियनों और राज्य सरकारों के साथ व्यापक विचार-विमर्श के बाद ये चार व्यापक श्रम संहिताएँ (Labour Codes) अधिनियमित की गईं।

A workforce that is both large and young एक ऐसा कार्यबल जो बड़ा भी है और युवा भी

- India today has one of the world's largest and youngest workforces, with more than **643 million workers**, and is expected to contribute nearly **two-thirds** of new global workforce entrants in the coming years, as in the **World Economic Forum**.
भारत के पास आज विश्व के सबसे बड़े और सबसे युवा कार्यबलों में से एक है, जिसमें **643 मिलियन (64.3 करोड़) से अधिक** श्रमिक हैं, और **World Economic Forum** के अनुसार, आने वाले वर्षों में यह वैश्विक नए कार्यबल प्रवेशकों का लगभग **दो-तिहाई (two-thirds)** योगदान करने की अपेक्षा है।
- Recent labour market trends point to a positive momentum: between **2017-18 and 2023-24**, India created **16.83 crore jobs**, the unemployment rate declined from **6% to 3.2%**, and formal employment expanded significantly.
हाल के श्रम बाज़ार रुझान सकारात्मक गति दर्शाते हैं: **2017-18 से 2023-24** के बीच भारत ने **16.83 करोड़ नौकरियाँ** सृजित कीं, बेरोज़गारी दर **6% से घटकर 3.2%** हो गई, और **औपचारिक रोजगार (formal employment)** में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई।
- Given that a large share of India's workforce still remains in the **informal sector**, the need for a simplified and coherent labour framework has been particularly important to help extend protections and improve productivity of the unorganised sector.
चूँकि भारत के कार्यबल का बड़ा हिस्सा अभी भी **अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र (informal sector)** में है, इसलिए श्रम ढांचे के **सरल और सुसंगत (simplified and coherent)** होने की आवश्यकता विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण रही है, ताकि असंगठित क्षेत्र (unorganised sector) की **सुरक्षा** बढ़ाई जा सके और उसकी **उत्पादकता** में सुधार हो सके।
- The coverage under the **Code for Social Security** has been extended to the unorganised sector also.
Code for Social Security के अंतर्गत कवरेज को **असंगठित क्षेत्र (unorganised sector)** तक भी बढ़ा दिया गया है।
- These developments reflect the growing dynamism of the economy and emphasise the need for a modern labour regulatory system that supports this trajectory.
ये विकास अर्थव्यवस्था की बढ़ती **गतिशीलता (dynamism)** को प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं और इस प्रगति पथ (trajectory) का समर्थन करने वाली आधुनिक श्रम विनियामक प्रणाली (modern labour regulatory system) की आवश्यकता पर बल देते हैं।

Protections and benefits for workers श्रमिकों के लिए सुरक्षा और लाभ



- For workers, the Labour Codes provide a stronger and more consistent set of protections. श्रमिकों के लिए श्रम संहिताएँ अधिक मज़बूत और **सुसंगत सुरक्षा (consistent protections)** का सेट प्रदान करती हैं।
- **Universal minimum wages, a national floor wage, mandatory appointment letters, timely payment of wages, and clear rules on working hours — including the 48-hour work week — reinforce fairness and security.**
Universal minimum wages, राष्ट्रीय फ़्लोर वेतन (national floor wage), अनिवार्य नियुक्ति पत्र, समय पर वेतन भुगतान, और काम के घंटों पर स्पष्ट नियम — जिनमें **48-hour work week** भी शामिल है — **न्यायसंगतता और सुरक्षा** को मज़बूत करते हैं।
- The **OSH Code's emphasis on safety committees, free preventive health check-ups and improved workplace standards strengthens the focus on well-being and productivity.**
OSH Code द्वारा **सेफ्टी कमेटियों, निःशुल्क प्रिवेंटिव हेल्थ चेक-अप, और बेहतर कार्यस्थल मानकों (workplace standards)** पर दिया गया ज़ोर, श्रमिकों के **well-being** और **उत्पादकता (productivity)** पर ध्यान को मज़बूत करता है।

Social security and simplification of compliance सामाजिक सुरक्षा और अनुपालन का सरलीकरण

- The **Code on Social Security, 2020** provides for universal **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** coverage with no geographic restrictions, streamlined **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)** procedures for quicker resolutions, and support for the construction sector through simplified cess payments.
Code on Social Security, 2020 सार्वभौमिक **ESIC (Employees' State Insurance Corporation)** कवरेज प्रदान करता है, जिसमें कोई **भौगोलिक प्रतिबंध (geographic restrictions)** नहीं है, तेज़ समाधान के लिए **EPF (Employees' Provident Fund)** प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाता है, और **निर्माण क्षेत्र (construction sector)** को सरलित **सेस भुगतान (cess payments)** के माध्यम से समर्थन देता है।
- It also establishes a **National Social Security Fund for various worker categories.** यह विभिन्न श्रमिक वर्गों के लिए एक **National Social Security Fund** भी स्थापित करता है।
- Another major reform under these codes is the simplification of **compliance requirements.** इन संहिताओं के तहत एक और बड़ा सुधार **अनुपालन आवश्यकताओं (compliance requirements)** का सरलीकरण है।
- The **shift to single registration, single licence and single return** significantly reduces administrative burdens, particularly for **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).**
Single registration, single licence और single return की व्यवस्था की ओर बदलाव विशेष रूप से **MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises)** के लिए प्रशासनिक बोझ (administrative burdens) को काफ़ी हद तक कम करता है।
- A **uniform definition of wages** introduces clarity across multiple laws, helping reduce disputes and improving predictability in wage-related calculations.
Wages की uniform definition कई क़ानूनों में स्पष्टता लाती है, जिससे विवाद कम होते हैं और वेतन संबंधित गणनाओं (wage-related calculations) में **predictability** बढ़ती है।
- **Decriminalisation of minor offences and the introduction of digital processes such as algorithm-based inspections** encourage transparency and **trust-based compliance.**
Minor offences के decriminalisation और algorithm-based inspections जैसी डिजिटल प्रक्रियाओं की शुरुआत, **पारदर्शिता (transparency)** और **trust-based compliance** को प्रोत्साहित करती है।

Preparing for the future of work काम के भविष्य की तैयारी

- India's workforce is diversifying, with the rapid growth of **gig and platform-based employment, flexible working models and digital-enabled livelihoods.** भारत का कार्यबल विविध हो रहा है, क्योंकि **गिग और प्लेटफ़ॉर्म-आधारित रोज़गार, लचीले कामकाज मॉडल और डिजिटल-सक्षम जीवनयापन** तेज़ी से बढ़ रहे हैं।



- In this context, the Social Security Code's inclusion of **gig and platform workers** is timely. इस संदर्भ में, सोशल सिक्योरिटी कोड में **गिग और प्लेटफॉर्म कर्मचारियों** का समावेशन समयोचित है।
- With the size of this workforce expected to grow from **one crore in 2024-25 to 2.35 crore by 2029-30**, establishing a framework for social protection is a forward-looking measure that aligns with the changing nature of work. इस कार्यबल का आकार **2024-25 में एक करोड़ से बढ़कर 2029-30 तक 2.35 करोड़** होने की उम्मीद है, इसलिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा ढांचा तैयार करना कार्य के बदलते स्वरूप के अनुरूप एक दूरदर्शी कदम है।
- The **Codes also emphasise formalisation, which remains vital for long-term economic progress.** संहिताएँ **औपचारिकता (formalisation)** पर भी ज़ोर देती हैं, जो दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक प्रगति के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Clearer rules, standardised definitions and transparent processes encourage more enterprises to enter the formal economy and help extend protections to a larger share of the workforce. स्पष्ट नियम, मानकीकृत परिभाषाएँ और पारदर्शी प्रक्रियाएँ अधिक उद्यमों को औपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्था में शामिल होने हेतु प्रोत्साहित करती हैं और कार्यबल के बड़े हिस्से तक सुरक्षा का विस्तार करने में मदद करती हैं।

A boost for women in the workforce

कार्यबल में महिलाओं के लिए प्रोत्साहन

- Women's participation in the workforce has improved yet remains below its potential. कार्यबल में महिलाओं की भागीदारी में सुधार हुआ है, लेकिन यह अपनी पूरी क्षमता से कम है।
- According to the **International Labour Organization's India Employment Report 2024**, **India's female labour force participation rate stands at 32.8%.** **ILO India Employment Report 2024** के अनुसार, भारत की महिला श्रम शक्ति भागीदारी दर **32.8%** है।
- The **Labour Codes help strengthen the enabling environment by reinforcing equal remuneration, enhancing maternity benefits and expanding social protection to unorganised, gig and platform workers.** श्रम संहिताएँ **समान वेतन (equal remuneration)** को सुदृढ़ करके, **मातृत्व लाभ (maternity benefits)** बढ़ाकर तथा असंगठित, गिग और प्लेटफॉर्म कर्मचारियों तक **सामाजिक सुरक्षा** का विस्तार करके सक्षम वातावरण को मजबूत करती हैं।
- The **OSH Code also allows women to work at night with their consent and has adequate safety arrangements, thereby widening opportunities across several sectors.** **OSH Code** महिलाओं को उनकी सहमति से रात में काम करने की अनुमति देता है और पर्याप्त सुरक्षा प्रावधान सुनिश्चित करता है, जिससे कई क्षेत्रों में अवसर बढ़ते हैं।
- **Together, these provisions support greater access and continuity of employment for women as the economy evolves.** ये प्रावधान विकसित होती अर्थव्यवस्था में महिलाओं के लिए अधिक रोजगार अवसर और निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करते हैं।
- **A modern labour framework must balance the need for worker protection with the requirements of a competitive business environment.** आधुनिक श्रम ढांचा श्रमिक सुरक्षा की आवश्यकता और प्रतिस्पर्धी व्यावसायिक वातावरण की मांगों के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखना चाहिए।
- The **Labour Codes** aim to provide this balance by offering clearer **industrial relations norms and faster dispute resolution**, while ensuring that workers have access to essential rights, safety and social security. श्रम संहिताएँ स्पष्ट **औद्योगिक संबंध मानक (industrial relations norms)** और तेज़ **विवाद समाधान (dispute resolution)** प्रदान करके इस संतुलन को साधने का प्रयास करती हैं, साथ ही श्रमिकों को आवश्यक अधिकार, सुरक्षा और सामाजिक सुरक्षा उपलब्ध कराती हैं।
- This **balanced approach supports investment, promotes stability and helps strengthen India's position in global value chains.** यह संतुलित दृष्टिकोण निवेश को बढ़ावा देता है, स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करता है और भारत की **वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं (global value chains)** में स्थिति को मजबूत करता है।



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CONTACT: 9971932488



Implementation and the road ahead

कार्यान्वयन और आगे का रास्ता

- The next few days will be crucial as the implementation process for these Codes moves forward.
आने वाले कुछ दिन महत्वपूर्ण होंगे क्योंकि इन संहिताओं का कार्यान्वयन आगे बढ़ेगा।
- It will be important for States to align with the minimum thresholds and guiding principles laid out in the Codes to **ensure uniformity and clarity across the country**.
देशभर में **एकरूपता (uniformity)** और स्पष्टता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए राज्यों का इन संहिताओं में निर्धारित न्यूनतम मानकों और मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांतों के अनुरूप होना आवश्यक होगा।
- **After the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, this represents one of the most significant structural reforms.**
GST सुधारों के बाद, यह सबसे महत्वपूर्ण **संरचनात्मक सुधारों** में से एक है।
- This reform momentum should continue, supporting greater investments, and thereby contributing to **higher employment generation** in the country.
यह सुधार गति जारी रहनी चाहिए, जिससे अधिक निवेश को बढ़ावा मिले और देश में **रोज़गार सृजन (employment generation)** में वृद्धि हो सके।

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Are the labour codes labour-friendly?



Amarjeet Kaur
General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress



R. Mukundan
President designate, Confederation of Indian Industries

BS III: Economy **MOJ**

PARLEY
On November 21, the Union Labour Ministry announced the implementation of the four labour codes: The Code on Wages, 2019; The Industrial Relations Code, 2020; The Code on Social Security, 2020; and The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. Several trade unions have expressed concern over the notification of the four labour codes, with many of them demanding that they be revoked. Are the labour codes labour-friendly? Amarjeet Kaur and R. Mukundan discuss the topic in a conversation moderated by A.M. Jigeesh. Edited excerpts:

What necessitated these codes? Trade unions have been maintaining that they never demanded such a codification. But industries were keen for reforms.

R. Mukundan: The labour codes are an integral part of India's economic growth. Many labour laws were framed way back in the 1940s and 1950s and needed a revamp in the current context. Fundamentally, the labour codes will benefit both workers in the traditional industry as well as new-age workers. It is important that workers are protected, empowered, and the workplace becomes conducive to productivity. The labour market has become diverse due to rapid industrial growth, informalisation of work, more contract workers, platform workers or gig workers, e-commerce, logistics... Labour laws, which were fragmented, with overlapping definitions, multiple compliances, inspections and different interpretation across States, have been simplified, harmonised, and modernised to make it easy to create jobs. They will ensure social protection and maintain industrial harmony in a fast-advancing economy.

Amarjeet Kaur: Workers in India fought for labour laws from the 19th century. The struggle was about working hours, wages, workplace safety, social security... In the 20th century, we got laws such as the Trade Unions Act, 1926; the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, and more, after workers' struggles. Now, the government says that it wants to liberate workers from a colonial mindset and that is why it has brought in labour codes. Labour unions in India fought against British rule and got their legal right of organising. The labour codes snatch these rights from workers and will actually take us back to the colonial era. For instance, codes nullify the powers of State governments by centralising powers on issues such as regular employment. The codes legalise fixed-term employment and promote hire and fire. We have been demanding



A file photo of delivery men of food aggregators in India. PTI

regular employment. The government has failed to handle the economy well and to create jobs. It has not been able to create decent working conditions. Employers were repeatedly saying there is difficulty in complying with the laws, while trade unions demanded the formation of a labour commission. During the neoliberal economic era, the Second Labour Commission submitted its report to the A.B. Vajpayee government. But the positive suggestions of this report were ignored and all the employer-friendly suggestions have been accommodated in the codes, such as fixed term employment. In the last Indian Labour Conference (2015), the Prime Minister promised that no law will be amended without consulting trade unions. But this did not happen at the all-India level. No trade union was involved in the drafting stage. The government pushed these codes in a total undemocratic manner.

The government's argument is that the labour codes will attract investment. Will making changes in industrial and labour laws attract investments?

RM: This is a signal of policy stability and predictability. Today, we are not just competing within India. We are also competing with other countries and these laws make it much more competitive for global investors who compare the regulatory environment in countries such as Vietnam and South Korea with ours. When companies know what rules to follow, how to comply, what costs to expect, they can make long-term decisions. The uniformity across States, digital filings, reduced disputes, and emphasis on flexibility will make India a more attractive destination for the manufacturing and for supply chain. Investment depends on many other elements such as infrastructure, skills, taxation. But labour is an important part of that.



How many people are covered by social security today in India? Only up to 7%. These new laws are not going to cover 93% of the other workers. Gig workers are only a small share of informal economy workers. All informal economy workers need protection

AMARJEET KAUR

AK: I don't think it will attract investors within our own country, the situation is volatile and workers are unsatisfied. How much FDI has come in since the government allowed 100% FDI in insurance and other sectors? We have already begun to lose out since the start of the tariff war. If India signs a bilateral treaty with the U.S., it will be opening a path for neo colonisation.

Will the codes enhance or expand social security? How prepared are our industries to share more for workers or towards a corpus that would help workers?

RM: The social security net is currently being widened to include platform and gig workers and informal workers in small establishments and fixed-term employees. About 40 crore workers who will have access to minimum wages and social security under the new codes. The preparedness would vary from sector to sector as well as the size of the companies. Organised sector companies are very well prepared. We are working very closely with MSMEs in terms of the implementation process.

AK: Our existing social security schemes have a mechanism of dispersal, have their own administrative setup, and there is no employers and employees who contribute to these schemes, and the government should discuss this issue with us and seek our consultation. The existing schemes are being dumped into the Code on Social Security.

How many people are covered by social security today in India? Only up to 7%. These new laws are not going to cover 93% of the other workers. Gig workers are only a small share of informal economy workers. All informal economy workers need protection. Social security to all is a mirage. Fixed term employment will undermine the concept of job security and weaken trade unions.

Will the codes negatively impact worker-employer relations?

RM: Any reform will bring about certain shifts in

the work relationship. And there will be certain sections which will view it with a bit of a trepidation. I think it's important to hear their voices. Fundamentally, we have to progress and embrace the changes. These include deployment of women across all shifts and fixed-term employment and certain hiring and layoff thresholds. The codes strengthen notice period. They improve retrenchment compensation. They create reskilling funds because many of the industries are going through a massive shift today with AI.

AK: The codes are not going to create a conducive environment. Instead of bringing industrial peace, they are likely to create industrial unrest. Rights such as collective bargaining are not protected under the codes. Employers and employees need to sit together, which is why the Indian Labour Conference is essential. This is the right moment for employers' organisations to urge the government to call for it.

Minimum wages have been a long-pending demand. The S.P. Mukherjee Committee is yet to submit its report on this. So, will the codes help with basic minimum wages?

RM: There are nuances which cut across various regions and various industries. And the concern is around implementation, not principle, especially on what we call as living wages. In my view, it should reflect variations in the cost of living across regions, as well as sectoral differences where relevant. These are important nuances, and there should also be some link to productivity. Adjusting wages for inflation is important. We must ensure that the methodology used for this is clear and transparent so that it does not lead to disputes.

AK: The code on wages has diluted the minimum wage guarantees. Instead of ensuring a minimum living wage, the codes empower the Centre to fix a floor level wage. And how much of our workforce is being covered? Almost 90% of the workforce is not getting minimum wages and now more and more people will be out of minimum wage cover because under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, the threshold to obtain license for factory has been increased from 10 workers to 20 workers with power and 20 workers to 40 workers without power. This will exclude a number of workers from the purview of minimum wages law.



To listen to the full interview
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Are the labour codes labour-friendly? क्या श्रम संहिताएँ श्रमिक-हितैषी हैं?

Implementation of Four Labour Codes चार श्रम संहिताओं का कार्यान्वयन

- On November 21, the Union Labour Ministry announced the implementation of the **four labour codes**: The **Code on Wages, 2019**; The **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**; The **Code on Social Security, 2020**; and The **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020**.

21 नवंबर को, केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्रालय ने **चार श्रम संहिताओं** — **Code on Wages, 2019**, **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**, **Code on Social Security, 2020**, और **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** — के कार्यान्वयन की घोषणा की।

- Several trade unions have expressed concern over the notification of the four labour codes, with many of them demanding that they be revoked.
कई ट्रेड यूनियनों ने इन चार श्रम संहिताओं की अधिसूचना पर चिंता व्यक्त की है, और कई ने इन्हें **रद्द करने** की मांग की है।
- Are the labour codes labour-friendly? **Amarjeet Kaur** and **R. Mukundan** discuss the topic in a conversation moderated by **A.M. Jigeesh**.
क्या ये श्रम संहिताएँ श्रमिक-हितैषी हैं? इस विषय पर **अमरजीत कौर** और **आर. मुकुंदन** ने **ए.एम. जिगीश** द्वारा संचालित वार्ता में चर्चा की।

What necessitated these codes? इन संहिताओं की आवश्यकता क्यों हुई?



- What necessitated these codes? Trade unions have been maintaining that they never demanded such a codification. But industries were keen for reforms.
इन संहिताओं की आवश्यकता क्यों हुई? ट्रेड यूनियन कहते रहे हैं कि उन्होंने कभी ऐसी संहिताबद्धता की मांग नहीं की। लेकिन उद्योग जगत सुधारों के लिए उत्सुक था।
- **R. Mukundan:** The labour codes are an integral part of India's economic growth.
आर. मुकुंदन: श्रम संहिताएँ भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि का अभिन्न हिस्सा हैं।
- **Many labour laws were framed way back in the 1940s and 1950s and needed a revamp in the current context.**
कई श्रम कानून 1940 और 1950 के दशक में बनाए गए थे और मौजूदा परिप्रेक्ष्य में उनके पुनर्गठन की आवश्यकता थी।
- Fundamentally, the labour codes will benefit both workers in the traditional industry as well as new-age workers.
मूल रूप से, श्रम संहिताएँ पारंपरिक उद्योगों के श्रमिकों के साथ-साथ नई पीढ़ी के श्रमिकों को भी लाभ पहुंचाएंगी।
- It is important that workers are protected, empowered, and the workplace becomes conducive to productivity.
यह आवश्यक है कि श्रमिक सुरक्षित, सशक्त हों और कार्यस्थल उत्पादकता के अनुकूल हो।
- The labour market has become diverse due to rapid industrial growth, informalisation of work, more contract workers, platform workers or gig workers, e-commerce, logistics...
तेज़ औद्योगिक वृद्धि, कार्यों का अनौपचारिक होना, अधिक कॉन्ट्रैक्ट वर्कर, गिग वर्कर, ई-कॉमर्स, लॉजिस्टिक्स आदि के कारण श्रम बाज़ार विविध हो गया है।
- Labour laws, which were fragmented, with overlapping definitions, multiple compliances, inspections and different interpretation across States, have been simplified, harmonised, and modernised to make it easy to create jobs.
श्रम कानून जो खंडित थे और जिनमें ओवरलैपिंग परिभाषाएँ, अनेक अनुपालन, निरीक्षण और राज्यों में अलग-अलग व्याख्याएँ थीं, अब उन्हें सरल, सुसंगत और आधुनिकीकरण किया गया है ताकि नौकरियाँ बनाना आसान हो सके।
- They will ensure social protection and maintain industrial harmony in a fast-advancing economy.
ये संहिताएँ एक तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था में सामाजिक सुरक्षा और औद्योगिक सामंजस्य सुनिश्चित करेंगी।
- **Amarjeet Kaur:** Workers in India fought for labour laws from the 19th century.
अमरजीत कौर: भारत में श्रमिकों ने 19वीं सदी से श्रम कानूनों के लिए संघर्ष किया है।
- The struggle was about working hours, wages, workplace safety, social security...
यह संघर्ष कार्य के घंटे, वेतन, कार्यस्थल सुरक्षा, सामाजिक सुरक्षा आदि पर केंद्रित था।
- In the 20th century, we got laws such as the Trade Unions Act, 1926; the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, and more, after workers' struggles.
20वीं सदी में श्रमिक संघर्षों के बाद हमें Trade Unions Act, 1926, Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 जैसे कानून मिले।
- Now, the government says that it wants to liberate workers from a colonial mindset and that is why it has brought in labour codes.
अब सरकार कहती है कि वह श्रमिकों को औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता से मुक्त करना चाहती है और इसलिए श्रम संहिताएँ लाई गई हैं।
- Labour unions in India fought against British rule and got their legal right of organising.
भारत में श्रमिक यूनियनों ने ब्रिटिश शासन के खिलाफ लड़कर संगठन का कानूनी अधिकार प्राप्त किया।
- The labour codes snatch these rights from workers and will actually take us back to the colonial era.
ये श्रम संहिताएँ श्रमिकों से इन अधिकारों को छीन लेती हैं और हमें वास्तव में औपनिवेशिक युग में वापस ले जाएंगी।
- For instance, codes nullify the powers of State governments by centralising powers on issues such as regular employment.
उदाहरण के लिए, नियमित रोजगार जैसे विषयों पर अधिकारों को केंद्रित करके, ये संहिताएँ राज्य सरकारों की शक्तियों को निरस्त करती हैं।
- The codes legalise fixed-term employment and promote hire and fire.
ये संहिताएँ फिक्स टर्म रोजगार को वैध बनाती हैं और हायर एंड फायर को बढ़ावा देती हैं।



- We have been demanding **regular employment**.
हम **नियमित रोजगार** की मांग करते रहे हैं।
- The government has failed to handle the economy well and to create jobs.
सरकार अर्थव्यवस्था को सही ढंग से संभालने और नौकरियाँ बनाने में विफल रही है।
- It has not been able to create decent working conditions.
यह **उचित कार्य स्थितियाँ** बनाने में सक्षम नहीं रही है।
- Employers were repeatedly saying there is difficulty in complying with the laws, while trade unions demanded the formation of a labour commission.
नियोक्ता बार-बार कहते रहे कि कानूनों का अनुपालन कठिन है, जबकि ट्रेड यूनियनों ने **श्रम आयोग** बनाने की मांग की।
- **During the neoliberal economic era, the Second Labour Commission submitted its report to the A.B. Vajpayee government.**
उदारीकरण काल में, **द्वितीय श्रम आयोग** ने अपनी रिपोर्ट **अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी सरकार** को सौंपी।
- But the positive suggestions of this report were ignored and all the employer-friendly suggestions have been accommodated in the codes, such as fixed term employment.
लेकिन इस रिपोर्ट के **सकारात्मक सुझावों** को नजरअंदाज किया गया और सभी **नियोक्ता-हितैषी सुझाव** संहिताओं में शामिल कर दिए गए, जैसे **फिक्सड टर्म रोजगार**।
- In the last **Indian Labour Conference (2015)**, the Prime Minister promised that no law will be amended without consulting trade unions.
भारतीय श्रम सम्मेलन (2015) में प्रधानमंत्री ने वादा किया था कि ट्रेड यूनियनों से परामर्श किए बिना कोई कानून संशोधित नहीं होगा।
- But this did not happen at the all-India level.
लेकिन यह **सर्व-भारत स्तर** पर नहीं हुआ।
- No trade union was involved in the drafting stage.
किसी भी ट्रेड यूनियन को प्रारूपण चरण में शामिल नहीं किया गया।
- The government pushed these codes in a total undemocratic manner.
सरकार ने इन संहिताओं को **पूर्णतः अलोकतांत्रिक तरीके** से आगे बढ़ाया।

Will making changes in industrial and labour laws attract investments?

क्या **औद्योगिक और श्रम कानूनों** में बदलाव निवेश आकर्षित करेंगे?

- The government's argument is that the **labour codes** will attract investment.
सरकार का तर्क है कि **लेबर कोड्स** निवेश आकर्षित करेंगे।
- Will making changes in industrial and labour laws attract investments?
क्या औद्योगिक और श्रम कानूनों में बदलाव निवेश आकर्षित करेंगे?
- RM: This is a signal of **policy stability** and **predictability**.
RM: यह **नीतिगत स्थिरता** और **पूर्वानुमेयता** का संकेत है।
- Today, we are not just competing within India.
आज हम केवल भारत के भीतर प्रतिस्पर्धा नहीं कर रहे हैं।
- We are also competing with other countries and these laws make it much more **competitive** for **global investors** who compare the regulatory environment in countries such as **Vietnam** and **South Korea** with ours.
हम अन्य देशों के साथ भी प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहे हैं और ये कानून **वैश्विक निवेशकों** के लिए इसे अधिक **प्रतिस्पर्धी** बनाते हैं, जो हमारे नियामकीय वातावरण की तुलना **वियतनाम** और **दक्षिण कोरिया** जैसे देशों से करते हैं।
- **When companies know what rules to follow, how to comply, what costs to expect, they can make long-term decisions.**
जब कंपनियों को पता होता है कि कौन से नियमों का पालन करना है, कैसे अनुपालन करना है, कौन से खर्च अपेक्षित हैं, तो वे **लंबी अवधि के निर्णय** ले सकती हैं।
- The **uniformity across States, digital filings, reduced disputes, and emphasis on flexibility** will make India a more attractive destination for the **manufacturing** and for **supply chain**.
राज्यों में **एकरूपता, डिजिटल फाइलिंग, विवादों में कमी, और लचीलापन** पर जोर भारत को **मैनुफैक्चरिंग** और **सप्लाइ चैन** के लिए अधिक आकर्षक बनाएगा।
- **Investment depends on many other elements such as infrastructure, skills, taxation.**
निवेश अन्य तत्वों जैसे **इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर, स्किल्स, टैक्सेशन** पर निर्भर करता है।



- But labour is an important part of that.
लेकिन श्रम उसका एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।
- AK: I don't think it will attract investors when in our own country, the situation is **volatile** and workers are **unsatisfied**.
AK: मुझे नहीं लगता कि यह निवेशकों को आकर्षित करेगा जब हमारे अपने देश में स्थिति **अस्थिर** है और श्रमिक **असंतुष्ट** हैं।
- How much **FDI** has come in since the government allowed **100% FDI** in insurance and other sectors?
सरकार द्वारा बीमा और अन्य क्षेत्रों में **100% FDI** की अनुमति देने के बाद से कितना **FDI** आया है?
- We have already begun to lose out since the start of the **tariff war**.
टैरिफ युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से हम पहले ही पीछे होने लगे हैं।
- If India signs a **bilateral treaty** with the U.S., it will be opening a path for **neo colonisation**.
यदि भारत अमेरिका के साथ **द्विपक्षीय संधि** करता है, तो यह **नव-औपनिवेशीकरण** का मार्ग खोल देगा।

Will the codes enhance or expand social security? क्या कोड्स सामाजिक सुरक्षा को बढ़ाएंगे या विस्तार करेंगे?

- How prepared are our industries to share more for workers or towards a **corpus** that would help workers?
हमारे उद्योग श्रमिकों के लिए अधिक योगदान देने या श्रमिकों की मदद करने वाले **कोष** के लिए कितने तैयार हैं?
- RM: The **social security net** is currently being widened to include **platform and gig workers and informal workers in small establishments and fixed-term employees**.
RM: **सामाजिक सुरक्षा जाल** वर्तमान में **प्लेटफॉर्म और गिग वर्कर्स, छोटे प्रतिष्ठानों में अनौपचारिक श्रमिकों, और फिक्स्ड-टर्म कर्मचारियों** को शामिल करने के लिए विस्तारित हो रहा है।
- **About 40 crore workers who will have access to minimum wages and social security under the new codes**.
नए कोड्स के तहत लगभग **40 करोड़ श्रमिकों** को **न्यूनतम वेतन और सामाजिक सुरक्षा** का लाभ मिलेगा।
- The preparedness would vary from sector to sector as well as the size of the companies.
तैयारी क्षेत्र के अनुसार और कंपनियों के आकार के अनुसार भिन्न होगी।
- Organised sector companies are very well prepared.
संगठित क्षेत्र की कंपनियाँ बहुत अच्छी तरह तैयार हैं।
- We are working very closely with **MSMEs** in terms of the implementation process.
हम कार्यान्वयन प्रक्रिया के संदर्भ में **MSMEs** के साथ बहुत निकटता से काम कर रहे हैं।
- AK: Our existing **social security schemes** have a mechanism of dispersal, have their own **administrative setup**, and there is no **government funding** involved.
AK: हमारी मौजूदा **सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं** में वितरण का तंत्र है, अपना **प्रशासनिक ढांचा** है, और इनमें **सरकारी फंडिंग** शामिल नहीं है।
- It is the employers and employees who contribute to these schemes, and the government should discuss this issue with us and seek our consultation.
इन योजनाओं में **नियोक्ता और कर्मचारी** योगदान करते हैं, और सरकार को इस मुद्दे पर हमसे चर्चा करनी चाहिए और हमारा परामर्श लेना चाहिए।
- The existing schemes are being **dumped** into the **Code on Social Security**.
मौजूदा योजनाओं को **सोशल सिक्योरिटी कोड** में **डंप** किया जा रहा है।
- How many people are covered by **social security** today in India? Only **up to 7%**.
आज भारत में **सामाजिक सुरक्षा** के तहत कितने लोग आते हैं? केवल **7%** तक।
- These new laws are not going to cover **93%** of the other workers.
ये नए कानून अन्य **93%** श्रमिकों को कवर नहीं करेंगे।
- **Gig workers** are only a small share of informal economy workers.
गिग वर्कर्स अनौपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्था के श्रमिकों का केवल एक छोटा हिस्सा हैं।
- All informal economy workers need **protection**.
सभी अनौपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्था के श्रमिकों को **सुरक्षा** की आवश्यकता है।
- Social security to all is a **mirage**.
सभी को सामाजिक सुरक्षा देना एक **मृगतृष्णा** है।



- **Fixed term employment** will undermine the concept of **job security** and weaken **trade unions**.
फिक्सड-टर्म रोजगार नौकरी सुरक्षा की अवधारणा को कमजोर करेगा और ट्रेड यूनियनों को कमजोर करेगा।

Will the codes negatively impact worker-employer relations? क्या कोड्स का श्रमिक-नियोक्ता संबंधों पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा?

- RM: Any reform will bring about certain shifts in the work relationship.
RM: किसी भी सुधार से कार्य संबंधों में कुछ परिवर्तन आएंगे।
- And there will be certain sections which will view it with a bit of a trepidation.
और कुछ वर्ग ऐसे होंगे जो इसे कुछ **सशंकता** के साथ देखेंगे।
- I think it's important to hear their voices.
मेरा मानना है कि उनकी आवाज़ें सुनना महत्वपूर्ण है।
- Fundamentally, we have to progress and embrace the changes.
मूल रूप से, हमें प्रगति करनी है और बदलावों को अपनाना है।
- These include deployment of **women** across all shifts and **fixed-term employment** and certain hiring and layoff thresholds.
इसमें सभी शिफ्टों में **महिलाओं** की तैनाती, **फिक्सड-टर्म रोजगार**, और कुछ **हायरिंग और लेऑफ थ्रेशहोल्ड्स** शामिल हैं।
- The codes strengthen **notice period**.
कोड्स **नोटिस अवधि** को मजबूत करते हैं।
- They improve **retrenchment compensation**.
ये **रिट्रेंचमेंट मुआवज़े** में सुधार करते हैं।
- They create **reskilling funds** because many of the industries are going through a massive shift today with **AI**.
ये **री-स्किलिंग फंड** बनाते हैं क्योंकि आज कई उद्योग **AI** के साथ बड़े परिवर्तन से गुजर रहे हैं।
- AK: The codes are not going to create a conducive environment.
AK: कोड्स एक अनुकूल वातावरण नहीं बनाएंगे।
- Instead of bringing **industrial peace**, they are likely to create **industrial unrest**.
औद्योगिक शांति लाने के बजाय, वे **औद्योगिक अशांति** पैदा करने की संभावना रखते हैं।
- Rights such as **collective bargaining** are not protected under the codes.
सामूहिक सौदेबाज़ी जैसे अधिकार कोड्स में संरक्षित नहीं हैं।
- Employers and employees need to sit together, which is why the **Indian Labour Conference** is essential.
नियोक्ताओं और कर्मचारियों को साथ बैठने की ज़रूरत है, इसलिए **इंडियन लेबर कॉन्फ्रेंस** आवश्यक है।
- This is the right moment for employers' organisations to urge the government to call for it.
यह नियोक्ता संगठनों के लिए सरकार से इसे बुलाने का आग्रह करने का सही समय है।

Minimum wages have been a long-pending demand न्यूनतम वेतन एक लंबे समय से लंबित मांग रहे हैं

- The **S.P. Mukherjee Committee** is yet to submit its report on this.
इस पर **एस.पी. मुखर्जी समिति** को अभी अपनी रिपोर्ट जमा करनी है।
- So, will the codes help with basic minimum wages?
तो, क्या कोड्स बुनियादी न्यूनतम वेतन में मदद करेंगे?
- RM: There are nuances which cut across various regions and various industries.
RM: इसमें विभिन्न क्षेत्रों और उद्योगों में कई **सूक्ष्म अंतर (nuances)** हैं।
- And the concern is around implementation, not principle, especially on what we call as **living wages**.
और चिंता सिद्धांत की नहीं बल्कि **लिविंग वेजेस** के संबंध में कार्यान्वयन की है।
- In my view, it should reflect variations in the **cost of living** across regions, as well as **sectoral differences** where relevant.
मेरे विचार में, इसे विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में **जीवन-यापन लागत** के अंतर और जहाँ आवश्यक हो वहाँ **क्षेत्रीय अंतर** को प्रतिबिंबित करना चाहिए।



- These are important nuances, and there should also be some link to **productivity**.
ये महत्वपूर्ण सूक्ष्मताएँ हैं और इसका **उत्पादकता** से भी संबंध होना चाहिए।
- Adjusting wages for **inflation** is important.
मुद्रास्फीति के अनुसार वेतन समायोजन महत्वपूर्ण है।
- We must ensure that the methodology used for this is clear and **transparent** so that it does not lead to disputes.
हमें सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि इस हेतु उपयोग की जाने वाली कार्यप्रणाली स्पष्ट और **पारदर्शी** हो ताकि विवाद न उत्पन्न हों।
- AK: The **code on wages** has diluted the **minimum wage guarantees**.
AK: **वेज कोड** ने **न्यूनतम वेतन गारंटी** को कमजोर किया है।
- Instead of ensuring a **minimum living wage**, the codes empower the Centre to fix a **floor level wage**.
न्यूनतम जीवन-यापन वेतन सुनिश्चित करने के बजाय, कोड्स केंद्र को **फ्लोर लेवल वेज** तय करने का अधिकार देते हैं।
- And how much of our workforce is being covered?
और हमारी कार्यबल का कितना हिस्सा कवर हो रहा है?
- Almost **90%** of the workforce is not getting minimum wages.
लगभग **90%** कार्यबल को न्यूनतम वेतन नहीं मिल रहा है।
- And now more and more people will be out of minimum wage cover because under the **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code**, the threshold to obtain a license for a factory has been increased from **10 workers to 20 workers with power and 20 workers to 40 workers without power**.
और अब और अधिक लोग न्यूनतम वेतन के दायरे से बाहर हो जाएंगे क्योंकि **व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और कार्य स्थितियाँ कोड** के तहत फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने की सीमा **10 से बढ़ाकर 20 (पावर के साथ) और 20 से बढ़ाकर 40 (पावर के बिना)** कर दी गई है।
- This will exclude a number of workers from the purview of minimum wages law.
इससे कई श्रमिक न्यूनतम वेतन कानून के दायरे से बाहर हो जाएंगे।



Centre rejects IMF's notion that 50% tariffs will be 'indefinite'

Union government says the international funding body's assessment of the U.S.'s tariff impact on India's GDP growth is 'on the high side'

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has objected to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) baseline assumption that the U.S.'s 50% tariffs would continue, saying they would not remain in place "indefinitely".

The government added that the IMF's assessment of the growth impact of the tariffs was "on the high side". The IMF has estimated that the tariff hit would reduce India's GDP growth rate by 0.4% in 2025-26 and by 0.3% next year.

The IMF's comments and the government's response are encapsulated in the latest Article IV consultation report by the IMF, which comprises its staff's assessment of India's financial and economic system based on its calculations and consultations with officials in the Ministry of Fi-

Bone of contention

IMF estimated that the tariff hit will reduce India's GDP growth rate by 0.4% in 2025-26 and by 0.3% next year

■ Indian authorities generally concurred with IMF staff's assessment of the outlook and risks

■ The govt. and RBI officials, however, did not agree with staff's tariff assumption, IMF's report says



nance and RBI. "The authorities [government and RBI officials] generally concurred with staff's assessment of the outlook and risks, though they did not agree with staff's tariff assumption," the report said.

The government agreed that the overall economic impact of the tariff shock should be "manageable" in the near term, although it did concede that a few industries would be "heavily affected".

"That said, the authorities disagreed with staff's baseline assumption that

the 50% U.S. tariffs would remain in place indefinitely and considered staff's estimated growth impact to be on the high side given frontloading and the potential for developing other export markets," the report added.

According to the IMF report, the Indian government recognised the risks of elevated global uncertainty and potential further external shocks, but emphasised the positive potential from newly concluded and forthcoming free trade agreements.

Centre rejects IMF's notion that 50% tariffs will be 'indefinite'

केंद्र ने IMF की इस धारणा को खारिज किया कि 50% शुल्क 'अनिश्चितकाल' तक रहेंगे

- The Union government says the **international funding body's** assessment of the **U.S.'s tariff impact** on India's GDP growth is 'on the high side'.
केंद्र सरकार का कहना है कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय वित्तीय संस्था द्वारा भारत की GDP वृद्धि पर अमेरिका के शुल्क प्रभाव का आकलन 'काफी अधिक' है।



- The Centre has objected to the **International Monetary Fund's (IMF)** baseline assumption that the U.S.'s **50% tariffs** would continue, saying they would not remain in place **"indefinitely"**.
केंद्र ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF) की इस मूल धारणा पर आपत्ति जताई है कि अमेरिका के 50% शुल्क जारी रहेंगे, यह कहते हुए कि वे "अनिश्चितकाल" तक लागू नहीं रहेंगे।
- The government added that the IMF's assessment of the **growth impact** of the tariffs was "on the high side".
सरकार ने यह भी कहा कि शुल्कों के विकास प्रभाव का IMF का आकलन "काफी अधिक" है।
- The IMF has estimated that the tariff hit would reduce India's **GDP growth rate by 0.4% in 2025-26 and by 0.3% next year.**
IMF ने अनुमान लगाया है कि शुल्क के प्रभाव से भारत की GDP वृद्धि दर 2025-26 में 0.4% और अगले वर्ष 0.3% घट जाएगी।
- The IMF's comments and the government's response are encapsulated in the latest **Article IV consultation report** by the IMF, which comprises its staff's assessment of India's **financial and economic system** based on its calculations and consultations with officials in the **Ministry of Finance and RBI.**
IMF की टिप्पणियां और सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया IMF की नवीनतम अनुच्छेद IV परामर्श रिपोर्ट में दर्ज हैं, जिसमें उसके कर्मचारियों द्वारा वित्त मंत्रालय और RBI के अधिकारियों से परामर्श और गणनाओं के आधार पर भारत की वित्तीय और आर्थिक प्रणाली का आकलन शामिल है।
- "The authorities [government and RBI officials] generally concurred with staff's assessment of the **outlook and risks**, though they did not agree with staff's **tariff assumption**," the report said.
"प्राधिकारियों [सरकार और RBI अधिकारियों] ने आम तौर पर दृष्टिकोण और जोखिमों पर स्टाफ के आकलन से सहमति जताई, हालांकि वे स्टाफ की शुल्क संबंधी धारणा से सहमत नहीं थे," रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।
- The government agreed that the overall **economic impact** of the tariff shock should be "manageable" in the near term, although it did concede that a few industries would be "heavily affected".
सरकार ने माना कि शुल्क आघात का कुल आर्थिक प्रभाव निकट अवधि में "नियंत्रणीय" होना चाहिए, हालांकि उसने यह स्वीकार किया कि कुछ उद्योग "काफी प्रभावित" होंगे।
- "That said, the authorities disagreed with staff's baseline assumption that the **50% U.S. tariffs** would remain in place **indefinitely** and considered staff's estimated **growth impact** to be on the high side given **frontloading** and the potential for developing other **export markets**," the report added.
"इसके साथ ही, प्राधिकारियों ने स्टाफ की इस मूल धारणा से असहमति जताई कि 50% अमेरिकी शुल्क अनिश्चितकाल तक रहेंगे और फ्रंटलोडिंग तथा अन्य निर्यात बाजारों के विकास की संभावनाओं को देखते हुए स्टाफ द्वारा अनुमानित विकास प्रभाव को काफी अधिक माना," रिपोर्ट ने जोड़ा।
- According to the IMF report, the Indian government recognised the risks of **elevated global uncertainty** and potential further **external shocks**, but emphasised the positive potential from newly concluded and forthcoming **free trade agreements**.
IMF रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारतीय सरकार ने वैश्विक अनिश्चितता में वृद्धि और संभावित बाहरी झटकों के जोखिमों को स्वीकार किया, लेकिन हाल ही में संपन्न और आने वाले मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों से मिलने वाली सकारात्मक संभावनाओं पर जोर दिया।



Learning from centenarians: new study unveils secrets of longevity

Healthy diets, active lifestyle, avoiding tobacco and alcohol, and social connectedness foster longevity, according to the findings from the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India; more scientific and policy-based ageing research however, is needed, as India's senior population continues to grow

ESS III S&T

Sunil Rajpal
Shreya Ronanki

The oldest-olds group (especially centenarians, aged 100+ years) can offer valuable insights and learnings towards understanding longevity via health and healthcare behaviour, social security, dietary patterns, and lifestyle habits. While research investments aimed at understanding the secrets to longevity have grown substantially in high-income countries, developing and populous nations such as India are yet to witness such research advancements.

Although India's traditional knowledge systems hold abundant insights into longevity characteristics, persistent gaps in research and reliable statistics continue to hinder efforts to decode existing wisdom. A recently-published paper on profiling the health and well-being of centenarians, utilising data from the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) offer some learnings.

Health markers

India's sample centenarians reveal striking patterns of superior health markers and resilience. Interestingly, most were found to be in good health, reflecting optimal biomarker profiles. More than half (55.5%) of centenarians had a normal Body Mass Index (BMI), while about 41% were underweight. Further, more than 91% of centenarians (100% of female centenarians) had a normal waist circumference. The absence of overweight and high-waist-circumference centenarians in the sample clearly indicates the importance of weight management and lean lifestyles (dietary restrictions and physical activity) for a healthier and longer life.

Chronic ailments that dominate discussions of ageing were virtually absent, with zero cases of high cholesterol, stroke, or heart disease, and only a few with diabetes (1.7%). More than 90% of centenarians had never consumed alcohol, and about 68% had never smoked tobacco. Collectively, these findings highlight the absence of major risk factors as a defining marker of longevity. Global studies have also observed that centenarians either completely avoid or markedly delay the onset of chronic diseases.

These findings add heft to the growing calls from experts to shift the public health discourse in India in order to promote healthy dietary habits and an active lifestyle at the population level, especially among older adults in urban areas. Nutrition policies and programmes need to pivot toward behavioural interventions to promote awareness of the benefits of weight management via healthy diets – reducing consumption of foods containing high fat, sugar, and salt; restricting alcohol and tobacco intake; and developing a consistent health



Shades of grey: India will be home to the highest number of centenarians (superagers) by 2050; therefore, the subject domain warrants timely research and policy attention. MIRAN NESSAR

routine. Active policy engagement in this regard has to start now, to mitigate the health burden in the coming decades.

Activities of daily living

Only about a third of the centenarians reported difficulties with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), including walking (33.3%), eating (33.3%), bathing (36.1%), and dressing (36.1%). However, more complex instrumental activities of daily living posed substantial barriers. A large proportion of centenarians struggled with housework (88.9%), managing money (83.3%), making calls (77.8%), shopping (75%), and finding addresses (69.4%). From a gender perspective, the findings are alarming, as most of the sample centenarians were female widows from rural areas.

The duality of resilience in health but dependence in daily function carries direct implications for ageing-related policies. The findings warrant sustained efforts towards promoting formal caregiving, community-based day-care services, accessible transport, nursing, and ambulatory care. These ADL limitations also indicate the requirement of an age-based tailored approach to providing elderly care and functioning assistance from a policy standpoint.

Behavioural interventions are also required to promote and destigmatise extra-familial services, such as outside help for formal nursing care of the elderly, to ease the workload on family members. This becomes especially important for tasks that require mental and cognitive abilities, including managing finances and calling for help in case of emergencies.

Advancements in modern technology can also be leveraged to provide remote monitoring support, as well as specialised geriatric aids and equipment to manage urgent healthcare needs.

Finally, a focus on improving social security nets for the oldest-old is critical to promote paid caregiving, along with enhancing the self-respect and subjective well-being derived from financial autonomy.

Well-being profile

Subjective self-assessments are known to be important markers of longevity. Several studies have shown that people with positive ratings toward self-health assessment and life satisfaction levels have a higher likelihood of better health markers and a longer life. The majority of the sample centenarians in India expressed moderate (36.8%) and high (51.2%) levels of satisfaction with their lives. More than 75% of the sample centenarians believed that they were healthy and happy.

Such findings point towards the need to promote discussions around socialisation activities and engagement, family care and bonding, living arrangements, and mental health issues. Potential pathways could be in the form of devoted elderly day-care platforms to encourage voluntary helping activities, augmenting a sense of purpose, and hence enhancing the self-assessment of well-being.

Additionally, spiritual gatherings are an essential platform for elderly Indians to socialise and connect at later stages of life. Fostering such congregations can be beneficial for both psychological and

emotional well-being. Finally, a high well-being rating by the oldest-olds also indicates the importance of mental wellness. Possible learning points from this could be adopting better sleep routines, more outdoor recreational activities, and limiting screen time.

The way forward

India will be home to the highest number of centenarians (superagers) by 2050; therefore, the subject domain warrants timely research and policy attention. To emerge as a global economic powerhouse requires a long-term perspective on research in longevity and well-being. The first step forward is to build a strengthened database on the oldest-olds, their distribution across geographies, demographics, and socioeconomic groups, and their basic lifestyle habits.

India has demonstrated remarkable success in generating reliable demographic and health statistics on infant births, vaccinations, and maternal health. This capacity now needs to be extended to longevity and scientific, policy-based ageing research. Global evidence indicated that longevity secrets cut across clinical, biological, physiological, genetic, and socioeconomic factors. India, with its sheer scale and diversity, is uniquely placed to contribute to this understanding.

(Sunil Rajpal is an assistant professor of economics & director, Centre for Research in Wellbeing and Happiness (CRWBH), FLAME University, Pune. sunil.rajpal@flame.edu.in Shreya Ronanki is research analyst, CRWBH, FLAME University, Pune. shreya.ronanki@flame.edu.in)

THE GIST

Research investments aimed at understanding the secrets to longevity have grown substantially in high-income countries, developing and populous nations such as India are yet to witness such research advancements. Persistent gaps in research and reliable statistics continue to hinder efforts to decode existing wisdom in India

India's sample centenarians reveal striking patterns of superior health markers and resilience. Interestingly, most were found to be in good health, reflecting optimal biomarker profiles. These findings add heft to the growing calls from experts to shift the discourse in order to promote healthy dietary habits and an active lifestyle at the population level

To emerge as a global economic powerhouse requires a long-term perspective on research in longevity and well-being. The first step forward is to build a strengthened database on the centenarians

Learning from centenarians: new study unveils secrets of longevity दीर्घायु से सीख: नए अध्ययन ने दीर्घायु के रहस्यों का खुलासा किया

- **Healthy diets, active lifestyle, avoiding tobacco and alcohol, and social connectedness foster longevity, according to the findings from the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India;** more scientific and policy-based ageing research however, is needed, as India's senior population continues to grow

स्वस्थ आहार, सक्रिय जीवनशैली, तंबाकू और अल्कोहल से बचना, और सामाजिक जुड़ाव दीर्घायु को बढ़ावा देते हैं, यह लॉन्गिट्यूडिनल एजिंग स्टडी ऑफ इंडिया के निष्कर्षों के अनुसार है; हालांकि, भारत की वरिष्ठ आबादी लगातार बढ़ रही है, इसलिए अधिक वैज्ञानिक और नीतिगत आधार पर उम्र संबंधी शोध की आवश्यकता है



The oldest-olds group (especially centenarians, aged 100+ years)

सबसे अधिक उम्र वाले समूह (विशेषकर सेंटीनेरियन्स, 100+ वर्ष)

- The oldest-olds group (especially **centenarians, aged 100+ years**) can offer valuable insights and learnings towards **understanding longevity via health and healthcare behaviour, social security, dietary patterns, and lifestyle habits**.
सबसे अधिक उम्र वाला समूह (विशेषकर **सेंटीनेरियन्स, 100+ वर्ष**) स्वास्थ्य, हेल्थकेयर व्यवहार, सामाजिक सुरक्षा, **डाइटरी पैटर्न**, और जीवनशैली आदतों के माध्यम से दीर्घायु को समझने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण अंतर्दृष्टि और सीख प्रदान कर सकता है।
- While research investments aimed at understanding the secrets to longevity have grown substantially in **high-income countries**, developing and populous nations such as **India** are yet to witness such research advancements.
जबकि दीर्घायु को समझने के लिए अनुसंधान निवेश **उच्च-आय वाले देशों** में काफी बढ़े हैं, **भारत** जैसे विकासशील और जनसंख्या-बहुल देशों में ऐसे अनुसंधान उन्नयन अभी देखने को नहीं मिले हैं।
- Although India's traditional knowledge systems hold abundant insights into longevity characteristics, persistent gaps in research and reliable statistics continue to hinder efforts to decode existing wisdom.
हालांकि भारत की पारंपरिक ज्ञान प्रणालियों में दीर्घायु विशेषताओं पर पर्याप्त अंतर्दृष्टियाँ मौजूद हैं, लेकिन अनुसंधान और विश्वसनीय आँकड़ों की लगातार कमी मौजूदा ज्ञान को समझने के प्रयासों में बाधा डालती रहती है।
- A recently-published paper on profiling the health and well-being of centenarians, utilising data from the **Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI)** offer some learnings.
लॉन्गिट्यूडिनल एजिंग स्टडी ऑफ इंडिया (LASI) के डेटा का उपयोग करते हुए सेंटीनेरियन्स के स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण की प्रोफाइल पर हाल ही में प्रकाशित एक पेपर कुछ सीख प्रदान करता है।

Health markers

स्वास्थ्य संकेतक

- India's sample centenarians reveal striking patterns of superior health markers and resilience. भारत के सैंपल सेंटीनेरियन्स बेहतर **हेल्थ मार्कर्स** और **रेज़िलिएंस** के उल्लेखनीय पैटर्न दिखाते हैं।
- Interestingly, most were found to be in good health, reflecting optimal biomarker profiles. दिलचस्प रूप से, अधिकांश को अच्छे स्वास्थ्य में पाया गया, जो **ऑप्टिमल बायोमार्कर प्रोफाइल** को दर्शाता है।
- **More than half (55.5%) of centenarians had a normal Body Mass Index (BMI), while about 41% were underweight.**
सेंटीनेरियन्स में से आधे से अधिक (**55.5%**) का **BMI सामान्य** था, जबकि लगभग **41%** कम वजन वाले थे।
- Further, more than **91%** of centenarians (**100% of female centenarians**) had a **normal waist circumference**.
इसके अतिरिक्त, **91%** से अधिक सेंटीनेरियन्स (**100% महिला सेंटीनेरियन्स**) की **कमर की माप सामान्य** थी।
- The absence of **overweight** and **high-waist-circumference** centenarians in the sample clearly indicates the importance of weight management and lean lifestyles (dietary restrictions and physical activity) for a healthier and longer life.
सैंपल में **ओवरवेट** और **हाई-वेस्ट सर्कमफेरेंस** सेंटीनेरियन्स की अनुपस्थिति स्वस्थ और लंबी आयु के लिए **वजन प्रबंधन** और **लीन लाइफस्टाइल** (डाइटरी प्रतिबंध और शारीरिक गतिविधि) के महत्व को स्पष्ट रूप से दर्शाती है।
- **Chronic ailments that dominate discussions of ageing were virtually absent, with zero cases of high cholesterol, stroke, or heart disease, and only a few with diabetes (1.7%).**
बुजुर्गों में पाए जाने वाली पुरानी बीमारियाँ लगभग अनुपस्थित थीं, जैसे **हाई कोलेस्ट्रॉल, स्ट्रोक, या हार्ट डिजीज** के **एक भी मामले नहीं**, और **डायबिटीज केवल 1.7%** में पाई गई।
- More than **90%** of centenarians had **never consumed alcohol**, and about **68%** had **never smoked tobacco**.
90% से अधिक सेंटीनेरियन्स ने **कभी शराब नहीं पी**, और लगभग **68%** ने **कभी तंबाकू नहीं पिया**।
- Collectively, these findings highlight the absence of major risk factors as a defining marker of longevity.



सामूहिक रूप से, ये निष्कर्ष दीर्घायु का एक प्रमुख संकेतक प्रमुख **रिस्क फैक्टर्स की अनुपस्थिति** को बताते हैं।

- Global studies have also observed that centenarians either completely avoid or markedly delay the onset of chronic diseases.
वैश्विक अध्ययनों में भी पाया गया है कि सेंटीनेरियन्स पुरानी बीमारियों को या तो पूरी तरह से टाल देते हैं या उनका शुरुआत काफी देर से होती है।
- These findings add heft to the growing calls from experts to shift the public health discourse in India in order to promote healthy dietary habits and an active lifestyle at the population level, especially among older adults in urban areas.
ये निष्कर्ष विशेषज्ञों की बढ़ती मांगों को मजबूती देते हैं कि भारत में **पब्लिक हेल्थ डिस्कोर्स** को बदलकर स्वस्थ खान-पान की आदतों और सक्रिय जीवनशैली को बढ़ावा दिया जाए, विशेषकर शहरी क्षेत्रों के बुजुर्गों में।
- Nutrition policies and programmes need to pivot toward behavioural interventions to promote awareness of the benefits of weight management via healthy diets — reducing consumption of foods containing **high fat, sugar, and salt**; restricting **alcohol and tobacco** intake; and developing a consistent health routine.
पोषण नीतियों और कार्यक्रमों को **व्यवहारिक हस्तक्षेपों** की ओर बढ़ना चाहिए, ताकि **वजन प्रबंधन, स्वस्थ भोजन, कम फैट, शुगर, और साल्ट वाले भोजन, शराब और तंबाकू का नियंत्रण**, और नियमित स्वास्थ्य दिनचर्या के लाभों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाई जा सके।
- Active policy engagement in this regard has to start now, to mitigate the health burden in the coming decades.
आने वाले दशकों में स्वास्थ्य बोझ को कम करने के लिए इस दिशा में सक्रिय नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप **अभी से शुरू** होने चाहिए।

Activities of daily living दैनिक जीवन की गतिविधियाँ

- Only about a third of the centenarians reported difficulties with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), including walking (33.3%), eating (33.3%), bathing (36.1%), and dressing (36.1%).
सिर्फ लगभग एक-तिहाई सेंटीनेरियन्स ने दैनिक जीवन की बुनियादी गतिविधियों (ADLs) में कठिनाइयों की रिपोर्ट की, जिसमें चलना (33.3%), खाना (33.3%), नहाना (36.1%) और कपड़े पहनना (36.1%) शामिल हैं।
- However, more complex instrumental activities of daily living posed substantial barriers.
हालांकि, दैनिक जीवन की अधिक जटिल गतिविधियों ने महत्वपूर्ण बाधाएँ प्रस्तुत कीं।
- A large proportion of centenarians struggled with housework (88.9%), managing money (83.3%), making calls (77.8%), shopping (75%), and finding addresses (69.4%).
सेंटीनेरियन्स का एक बड़ा हिस्सा घरेलू कार्य (88.9%), पैसे का प्रबंधन (83.3%), कॉल करना (77.8%), खरीदारी (75%) और पते ढूँढने (69.4%) में संघर्ष करता पाया गया।
- From a gender perspective, the findings are alarming, as most of the sample centenarians were **female widows** from **rural areas**.
लैंगिक दृष्टिकोण से निष्कर्ष चिंताजनक हैं, क्योंकि सैंपल में अधिकांश सेंटीनेरियन्स **महिला विधवाएँ** थीं, जो **ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों** से थीं।
- The duality of resilience in health but dependence in daily function carries direct implications for ageing-related policies.
स्वास्थ्य में लचीलापन लेकिन दैनिक कार्यों में निर्भरता की यह द्वैतता वृद्धावस्था से संबंधित नीतियों के लिए सीधे प्रभाव रखती है।
- The findings warrant sustained efforts towards promoting **formal caregiving, community-based day-care services**, accessible transport, nursing, and ambulatory care.
ये निष्कर्ष **औपचारिक देखभाल, सामुदायिक-आधारित डे-केयर सेवाएँ**, सुलभ परिवहन, नर्सिंग और एम्बुलेटरी केयर को बढ़ावा देने के लिए निरंतर प्रयासों की आवश्यकता दर्शाते हैं।
- These ADL limitations also indicate the requirement of an **age-based tailored approach** to providing elderly care and functioning assistance from a policy standpoint.
ये ADL सीमाएँ वृद्ध देखभाल और कार्यात्मक सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए **आयु-आधारित अनुकूलित दृष्टिकोण** की आवश्यकता भी दर्शाती हैं।
- Behavioural interventions are also required to promote and destigmatise extra-familial services, such as outside help for **formal nursing care** of the elderly, to ease the workload on family members.



परिवार के सदस्यों के बोझ को कम करने के लिए बुजुर्गों की औपचारिक नर्सिंग देखभाल जैसी बाहरी सेवाओं को बढ़ावा देने और उनका कलंक दूर करने हेतु व्यवहारिक हस्तक्षेपों की भी आवश्यकता है।

- This becomes especially important for tasks that require **mental and cognitive abilities**, including managing finances and calling for help in case of emergencies.
यह विशेष रूप से उन कार्यों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है जिनमें **मानसिक और संज्ञानात्मक क्षमताएँ** आवश्यक होती हैं, जैसे वित्तीय प्रबंधन और आपात स्थिति में सहायता के लिए कॉल करना।
- Advancements in modern technology can also be leveraged to provide **remote monitoring support**, as well as specialised geriatric aids and equipment to manage urgent healthcare needs.
आधुनिक तकनीक में प्रगति का उपयोग **रिमोट मॉनिटरिंग सपोर्ट** प्रदान करने के साथ-साथ आवश्यक स्वास्थ्य जरूरतों को संभालने के लिए विशेष जेरियाट्रिक उपकरण उपलब्ध कराने में भी किया जा सकता है।
- Finally, a focus on improving social security nets for the oldest-old is critical to promote **paid caregiving**, along with enhancing the **self-respect** and **subjective well-being** derived from financial autonomy.
अंततः, सबसे बुजुर्गों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा जाल को मजबूत करना **पेड केयरगिविंग** को बढ़ावा देने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, साथ ही वित्तीय स्वायत्तता से मिलने वाले **आत्म-सम्मान** और **व्यक्तिपरक कल्याण** में वृद्धि भी जरूरी है।

Well-being profile कल्याण प्रोफ़ाइल

- Subjective self-assessments are known to be important markers of longevity.
व्यक्तिपरक स्व-मूल्यांकन दीर्घायु के महत्वपूर्ण संकेतकों के रूप में जाने जाते हैं।
- Several studies have shown that people with **positive ratings** toward self-health assessment and life satisfaction levels have a higher likelihood of better health markers and a longer life.
कई अध्ययनों में दिखाया गया है कि **सकारात्मक स्व-स्वास्थ्य मूल्यांकन** और जीवन संतुष्टि स्तर वाले लोगों में बेहतर स्वास्थ्य संकेतक और लंबी आयु की अधिक संभावना होती है।
- The majority of the sample centenarians in India expressed moderate (**36.8%**) and high (**51.2%**) levels of satisfaction with their lives.
भारत के सैंपल सेंटीनेरियन्स में से अधिकांश ने जीवन से मध्यम (**36.8%**) और उच्च (**51.2%**) स्तर की संतुष्टि व्यक्त की।
- More than **75%** of the sample centenarians believed that they were healthy and happy.
सैंपल सेंटीनेरियन्स में से **75%** से अधिक का मानना था कि वे स्वस्थ और खुश हैं।
- Such findings point towards the need to promote discussions around socialisation activities and engagement, family care and bonding, living arrangements, and mental health issues.
ऐसे निष्कर्ष सामाजिक गतिविधियों और सहभागिता, पारिवारिक देखभाल और बंधन, रहने की व्यवस्था, और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य मुद्दों पर चर्चा को बढ़ावा देने की आवश्यकता की ओर संकेत करते हैं।
- Potential pathways could be in the form of devoted elderly day-care platforms to encourage voluntary helping activities, augmenting a sense of purpose, and hence enhancing the self-assessment of well-being.
संभावित उपायों में बुजुर्गों के लिए समर्पित डे-केयर प्लेटफ़ॉर्म शामिल हो सकते हैं, जो स्वैच्छिक सहायता गतिविधियों को प्रोत्साहित करें, उद्देश्य की भावना बढ़ाएँ, और इस प्रकार कल्याण के स्व-मूल्यांकन को बेहतर बनाएँ।
- Additionally, spiritual gatherings are an essential platform for elderly Indians to socialise and connect at later stages of life.
इसके अतिरिक्त, आध्यात्मिक सभाएँ बुजुर्ग भारतीयों के लिए जीवन के उत्तरार्ध में सामाजिक होने और जुड़ने का एक महत्वपूर्ण मंच हैं।
- Fostering such congregations can be beneficial for both psychological and emotional well-being.
ऐसे आयोजनों को बढ़ावा देना मानसिक और भावनात्मक कल्याण दोनों के लिए लाभकारी हो सकता है।
- Finally, a high well-being rating by the oldest-olds also indicates the importance of mental wellness.
अंततः, सबसे बुजुर्गों द्वारा उच्च कल्याण रेटिंग मानसिक स्वास्थ्य के महत्व को भी दर्शाती है।
- Possible learning points from this could be adopting better sleep routines, more outdoor recreational activities, and limiting screen time.



इससे प्राप्त संभावित सीखों में बेहतर नींद की दिनचर्या अपनाना, अधिक बाहरी मनोरंजक गतिविधियाँ करना, और स्क्रीन समय को सीमित करना शामिल हो सकता है।

The way forward आगे का रास्ता

- India will be home to the highest number of centenarians (**superagers**) by **2050**; therefore, the subject domain warrants timely research and policy attention.
2050 तक भारत में सबसे अधिक **सेंटीनेरियन्स (सुपरएजर्स)** होंगे; इसलिए, इस विषय क्षेत्र में समय पर शोध और नीतिगत ध्यान आवश्यक है।
- To emerge as a global economic powerhouse requires a long-term perspective on research in longevity and well-being.
वैश्विक आर्थिक शक्ति के रूप में उभरने के लिए दीर्घायु और कल्याण पर शोध के लिए दीर्घकालिक दृष्टिकोण आवश्यक है।
- The first step forward is to build a strengthened database on the oldest-olds, their distribution across geographies, demographics, and socioeconomic groups, and their basic lifestyle habits.
पहला कदम सबसे बुजुर्गों पर एक मजबूत डाटाबेस बनाना है, जिसमें उनकी भौगोलिक, जनसांख्यिकीय, सामाजिक-आर्थिक वितरण और बुनियादी जीवनशैली आदतें शामिल हों।
- India has demonstrated remarkable success in generating reliable demographic and health statistics on infant births, vaccinations, and maternal health.
भारत ने शिशु जन्म, टीकाकरण और मातृ स्वास्थ्य पर विश्वसनीय जनसांख्यिकीय और स्वास्थ्य आँकड़े उत्पन्न करने में उल्लेखनीय सफलता दिखाई है।
- This capacity now needs to be extended to longevity and scientific, policy-based ageing research.
अब इस क्षमता को दीर्घायु और वैज्ञानिक, नीतिगत वृद्धावस्था अनुसंधान तक विस्तारित करने की आवश्यकता है।
- Global evidence indicated that longevity secrets cut across **clinical, biological, physiological, genetic, and socioeconomic** factors.
वैश्विक प्रमाण इंगित करता है कि दीर्घायु के रहस्य **क्लिनिकल, बायोलॉजिकल, फिज़ियोलॉजिकल, जेनेटिक, और सामाजिक-आर्थिक** कारकों से जुड़े होते हैं।
- India, with its sheer scale and diversity, is uniquely placed to contribute to this understanding.
भारत अपनी विशालता और विविधता के साथ इस समझ में योगदान देने के लिए विशिष्ट रूप से सक्षम है।



India's food colouring woes and steps being taken to combat recurring issue

GS III: S&T

Athira Elssa Johnson

India continues to face recurring episodes of chemical adulteration in food, particularly through the use of non-permitted synthetic dyes. One of the most persistent among them is auramine O, a bright yellow industrial dye banned under Indian food safety regulations.

Recent inspections by State food safety departments, academic studies and even everyday observations have again uncovered its presence in food items.

What is auramine?

Auramine O is a synthetic yellow dye extensively used in industry, including textile and leather processing, printing inks, paper manufacturing, and certain microbiological staining procedures. It has a vivid colour and is inexpensive, but is not approved for use as a food colour in India. Toxicological research has linked its ingestion to a range of health risks, including liver and kidney damage, enlargement of the spleen, mutagenic effects that can alter genetic material, and potential carcinogenic outcomes. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies auramine as a substance that is possibly carcinogenic to humans.



Despite longstanding prohibitions, auramine O continues to enter the food chain largely due to its easy availability and low cost. GETTY IMAGES

Despite longstanding prohibitions, auramine continues to enter the food chain largely due to its easy availability and low cost. Industrial-grade colours are sold informally in local markets, and small-scale sweet makers or vendors often rely on these unlabelled powders because they provide a bright, appealing yellow that mimics saffron, turmeric, or permitted synthetic colours. In many cases, producers remain unaware of regulatory restrictions or view enforcement as avoidable.

While the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, provides stringent provisions against adulteration, enforcement

remains uneven due to variations in laboratory capacity, staffing, and surveillance systems across States.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) periodically intensifies sampling, surveillance, and enforcement efforts, particularly during festive seasons when colour adulteration peaks. Several States have launched targeted drives against illegal colourants, leading to seizures of unlabelled dye packets and prosecution of violating units. Alongside enforcement, awareness programmes for small food manufacturers and street vendors are being expanded to encourage safer manufacturing practices. There is also a push to strengthen laboratory infrastructure and develop rapid testing kits that can detect industrial dyes at the point of sale.

Eliminating auramine O from the food chain will require a multilayered approach. This includes tighter regulation of chemical markets selling industrial dyes, sustained community-level education for small manufacturers, broader deployment of easy-to-use testing tools, and stronger penalties for chronic violators. Consumer education will also be crucial.

(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

India's food colouring woes and steps being taken to combat recurring issue भारत की फूड कलरिंग समस्याएँ और आवर्ती मुद्दे से निपटने के लिए उठाए जा रहे कदम

Chemical adulteration in food खाद्य पदार्थों में रासायनिक मिलावट

- India continues to face recurring episodes of chemical adulteration in food, particularly through the use of non-permitted **synthetic dyes**.
भारत खाद्य पदार्थों में रासायनिक मिलावट की बार-बार होने वाली घटनाओं का सामना करता रहता है, विशेषकर **गैर-अनुमोदित सिंथेटिक डाई** के उपयोग के माध्यम से।
- One of the most persistent among them is **auramine O**, a bright yellow industrial dye banned under Indian food safety regulations.
इनमें सबसे लगातार पाए जाने वाले मिलावटकारकों में से एक **ऑरमाइन O** है, जो चमकीला पीला औद्योगिक रंग है और भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा नियमों के तहत प्रतिबंधित है।
- Recent inspections by State food safety departments, academic studies and even everyday observations have again uncovered its presence in food items.
राज्य खाद्य सुरक्षा विभागों की हालिया जांच, शैक्षणिक अध्ययनों और रोज़मर्रा के अवलोकनों ने एक बार फिर खाद्य पदार्थों में इसकी उपस्थिति का पता लगाया है।

What is auramine? ऑरमाइन क्या है?

- Auramine O is a synthetic yellow dye extensively used in industry, including textile and leather processing, printing inks, paper manufacturing, and certain microbiological staining procedures.



ऑरमाइन O एक सिंथेटिक पीला रंग है जिसका व्यापक उपयोग उद्योगों में होता है, जैसे वस्त्र और चमड़ा प्रसंस्करण, **प्रिंटिंग इंक**, **पेपर निर्माण**, और कुछ **माइक्रोबायोलॉजिकल स्टेनिंग प्रक्रियाएँ**।

- It has a vivid colour and is inexpensive, but is not approved for use as a food colour in India. इसका रंग चमकीला होता है और यह सस्ता है, लेकिन भारत में इसे खाद्य रंग के रूप में अनुमोदित नहीं किया गया है।
- Toxicological research has linked its ingestion to a range of **health risks, including liver and kidney damage, enlargement of the spleen, mutagenic effects, and potential carcinogenic outcomes.**
टॉक्सिकोलॉजिकल शोध ने इसके सेवन को कई स्वास्थ्य जोखिमों से जोड़ा है, जैसे **लिवर और किडनी डैमेज**, प्लीहा का बढ़ना, **म्यूटाजेनिक प्रभाव**, और संभावित **कैंसरजनक** परिणाम।
- The **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** classifies auramine as a substance that is possibly carcinogenic to humans.
IARC (इंटरनेशनल एजेंसी फॉर रिसर्च ऑन कैंसर) ने ऑरमाइन को मनुष्यों के लिए संभावित कैंसरजनक पदार्थ के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया है।
- Despite longstanding prohibitions, auramine continues to enter the food chain largely due to its easy availability and low cost.
लंबे समय से प्रतिबंधित होने के बावजूद, इसकी आसान उपलब्धता और कम लागत के कारण ऑरमाइन खाद्य श्रृंखला में प्रवेश करता रहता है।
- **Industrial-grade colours are sold informally in local markets, and small-scale sweet makers or vendors often rely on these unlabelled powders because they provide a bright yellow that mimics saffron, turmeric, or permitted synthetic colours.**
स्थानीय बाजारों में औद्योगिक-ग्रेड रंग अनौपचारिक रूप से बेचे जाते हैं, और छोटे स्तर के मिठाई निर्माता या विक्रेता इन बिना लेबल वाले पाउडरों पर निर्भर रहते हैं क्योंकि ये **उज्वल पीला रंग** देते हैं जो **केसर**, **हल्दी**, या अनुमोदित सिंथेटिक रंगों जैसा दिखता है।
- In many cases, producers remain unaware of regulatory restrictions or view enforcement as avoidable.
कई मामलों में, उत्पादक नियामक प्रतिबंधों से अनजान रहते हैं या प्रवर्तन को टाला जा सकने वाला मानते हैं।
- While the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, provides stringent provisions against adulteration, enforcement remains uneven due to variations in laboratory capacity, staffing, and surveillance systems across States.
हालाँकि **फूड सेफ्टी एंड स्टैंडर्ड्स एक्ट, 2006** मिलावट के खिलाफ सख्त प्रावधान प्रदान करता है, लेकिन राज्यों में **प्रयोगशाला क्षमता**, **स्टाफिंग**, और **सर्विलांस सिस्टम** में भिन्नताओं के कारण प्रवर्तन असमान रहता है।
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** periodically intensifies sampling, surveillance, and enforcement efforts, particularly during festive seasons when colour adulteration peaks.
FSSAI समय-समय पर सैंपलिंग, निगरानी और प्रवर्तन प्रयासों को तेज करता है, विशेषकर त्योहारों के समय जब रंग मिलावट चरम पर होती है।
- Several States have launched targeted drives against illegal colourants, leading to seizures of unlabelled dye packets and prosecution of violating units.
कई राज्यों ने अवैध रंगों के खिलाफ विशेष अभियान चलाए हैं, जिनसे बिना लेबल वाले ड्राई पैकेट जब्त हुए हैं और उल्लंघन करने वाली इकाइयों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की गई है।
- Alongside enforcement, awareness programmes for small food manufacturers and street vendors are being expanded to encourage safer manufacturing practices.
प्रवर्तन के साथ-साथ छोटे खाद्य निर्माताओं और स्ट्रीट वेंडर्स के लिए जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों का विस्तार किया जा रहा है ताकि सुरक्षित उत्पादन पद्धतियों को प्रोत्साहित किया जा सके।
- There is also a push to **strengthen laboratory infrastructure and develop rapid testing kits that can detect industrial dyes at the point of sale.**
प्रयोगशाला अवसंरचना को मजबूत करने और **रैपिड टेस्टिंग किट्स** बनाने पर भी जोर दिया जा रहा है जो बिक्री स्थल पर औद्योगिक ड्राई का पता लगा सकें।
- **Eliminating auramine O from the food chain will require a multilayered approach.**
खाद्य श्रृंखला से ऑरमाइन O को समाप्त करने के लिए बहुस्तरीय दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता होगी।
- This includes tighter regulation of chemical markets selling industrial dyes, sustained community-level education for small manufacturers, broader deployment of easy-to-use testing tools, and **stronger penalties** for chronic violators.



इसमें औद्योगिक ड्राई बेचने वाले केमिकल बाजारों का कड़ा नियमन, छोटे निर्माताओं के लिए सामुदायिक स्तर पर शिक्षा, आसान टेस्टिंग उपकरणों का व्यापक उपयोग, और बार-बार उल्लंघन करने वालों पर **सख्त दंड** शामिल हैं।

- Consumer education will also be crucial.
उपभोक्ता शिक्षा भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होगी।

BIG SHOT



GS III: S&T

Protective shot: A girl being vaccinated against diphtheria at the Al-Afad camp for displaced people in the town of Al-Dabba, northern Sudan. AFP

Protective shot: A girl being vaccinated against diphtheria at the Al-Afad camp for displaced people in the town of Al-Dabba, northern Sudan.

Diphtheria

- Diphtheria is a highly **contagious bacterial infection** that mainly affects the **throat, nose, and sometimes the skin.**



- It is caused by a bacterium called **Corynebacterium diphtheriae**.

What the disease does

The bacteria release a **dangerous toxin** that can:

- **form a thick, grey-white membrane in the throat**
- **block the airway**
- **damage the heart**
- affect nerves
- cause breathing failure

This membrane is the **classic sign** of diphtheria and can choke a person if not treated quickly.



How it spreads

Diphtheria spreads easily through:

- **coughing or sneezing**
- **close contact with an infected person**
- touching contaminated objects
- contact with infected wounds (skin diphtheria)

It spreads similar to the **common cold**, but is far more dangerous.

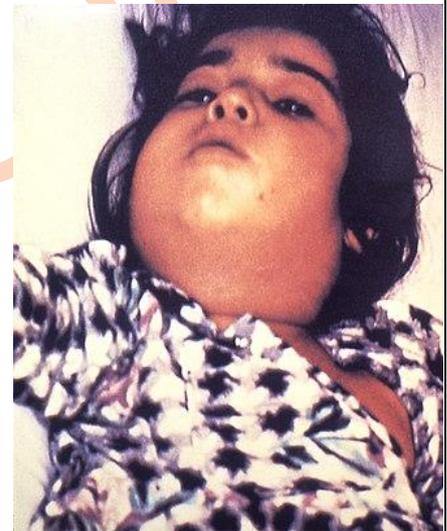
Symptoms

Throat Diphtheria

- Severe sore throat
- Fever
- Swollen glands
- Thick grey “sheet-like” membrane in throat
- Difficulty breathing or swallowing
- Weakness

Skin Diphtheria

- Painful ulcers
- Red rashes
- Slow-healing wounds





Why diphtheria is dangerous

The diphtheria toxin can:

- stop the heart (myocarditis)
- cause paralysis by damaging nerves
- block the airway completely
- cause kidney failure

Before vaccines, **many children died** from it.

Treatment

Diphtheria requires **urgent medical care**:

- 1. Antitoxin:** Neutralises the toxin circulating in the body.
- 2. Antibiotics:** Usually erythromycin or penicillin — kills the bacteria.
- 3. Isolation:** To stop the infection from spreading.

Delays in treatment can be fatal.

Prevention: The Vaccine

- Diphtheria can be **easily prevented** with the **DPT/DTaP** vaccine given to children.
- In India, it is part of the **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)**.

Vaccine schedule (simplified):

- At 6, 10, 14 weeks
- Boosters at 16–24 months
- Another booster at 5–6 years
- Adult boosters every 10 years (Td vaccine)

Vaccination is the **most effective protection**.



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Questions and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This week, the **International Astronomical Union** decided that a **3.5-billion-year-old crater on Mars** will be named for the first Indian who served as the director of the **Geological Survey of India**. **Ans: M.S. Krishnan**

2. This Indian physicist from Hooghly district was known for his studies of light under CV Raman's guidance and on radiophysics with Camille Gutton. **Ans: Sisir Kumar Mitra**

3. Homi Jehangir Bhabha has a 64-km-wide crater named for him on the moon's far side. The crater is of scientific interest because the impact that formed it penetrated deep into the floor of the basin it is located in, excavated materials, and distributed them on the surrounding plains. Name this famous basin. **Ans: South Pole-Aitken Basin**

4. This astronomer is noted for estimating the value of pi with an accuracy high for his time, for his study of Diophantine equations, and for his studies of the epicycles of motion governing the planets, among others. **Ans: Aryabhata**

5. This physicist, born in Varanasi in 1929, was best known for founding and developing the field that uses isotopes produced by cosmic rays, e.g., in rocks and ice, to trace rates of erosion, sediment transport, and other planetary processes over long periods. **Ans: Devendra Lal**

Visual: Name this physicist. **Ans: Meghnad Saha**

Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan | Sudhir Thapa | Arun Kumar Singh | Sunil Madhavan | Ajay Majumder

QUIZ

A 3.5-billion-year-old Martian Crater Named After M. S. Krishnan

- **Maharajapuram Seetharaman Krishnan (1898–1970)** was one of India's most influential geologists.
- He became the **first Indian Director of the Geological Survey of India (GSI)** in **February 1951**.
- His contributions covered **petrology, stratigraphy, geomorphology, and mineral exploration**.
- His book "Geology of India and Burma" remains a foundational text for Earth-science students.
- Naming a Martian crater after him symbolically expands his work from **Earth geology to planetary geology**.

Understanding the IAU Naming Rules (Simplified)

- Large craters are named after **deceased scientists**

or **scholars** who significantly contributed to their fields.

- Smaller craters may be named after **towns/villages** around the world.
- All names must be:
 - Culturally neutral
 - Non-commercial
 - Internationally relevant

This ensures that planetary features carry **scientific value** and **global inclusivity**

Sisir Kumar Mitra: Indian Physicist from Hooghly Known for Pioneering Work on Light and Radiophysics

Work under C. V. Raman

• Sisir Mitra conducted advanced studies on **scattering of light** under the guidance of **C. V. Raman**, India's first Nobel Laureate in Science (1930).

- Mitchell's early work deepened the understanding of:
 - **Light propagation**
 - **Optical scattering**
 - **Spectral analysis**

• Training under Raman instilled a rigorous experimental approach that shaped Mitra's entire scientific career.

Work with Camille Gutton (Paris)

• Mitra later trained in France under **Camille Gutton**, a pioneer in **radiophysics and electromagnetism**.

- Under Gutton's mentorship, Mitra studied:
 - **Radio wave propagation**
 - **Atmospheric electricity**
 - **Electromagnetic behaviour of the upper atmosphere**



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- This period laid the foundation for Mitra's eventual breakthrough: the discovery and study of the **ionosphere** in India.

Mitra's Landmark Scientific Contribution: Ionospheric Physics in India

Establishing the Study of the Ionosphere

- Sisir Kumar Mitra is most celebrated for founding **ionospheric science** in India.
- The **ionosphere**, a layer of the Earth's upper atmosphere, plays a critical role in:
 - **Radio communication**
 - **Short-wave signal reflection**
 - **Solar-terrestrial interactions**
- His pioneering 1930s–1950s experiments measured:
 - **Radio wave reflection heights**
 - **Effects of solar flares on signal strength**
 - **Night-day variations of ion density**
- Mitra's textbook "**The Upper Atmosphere**" became a global reference used by research institutes, including early **ISRO** scientific groups.

Institution Building: The Radio Physics and Electronics Department (Calcutta University)

- Mitra founded and strengthened India's first center for **Radiophysics and Electronics** at **Calcutta University**.
- He built:
 - **India's first ionospheric field station**
 - **Short-wave radio laboratories**
 - **Electromagnetic research centers**
- His department later became a training ground for:
 - Communication engineers
 - Atmospheric scientists
 - Radio physicists
 - Early space scientists who later contributed to **ISRO**

Homi Jehangir Bhabha and the Lunar Crater Named After Him

- **Homi Jehangir Bhabha (1909–1966)**, known as the Father of India's Nuclear Programme, has a **64-km-wide crater** named after him on the **far side of the Moon**.
- This crater is of high scientific value because the impact that formed it **penetrated deep into the lunar crust**.
- The ejected material got spread across **surrounding plains**, giving scientists clues about the Moon's deep interior.

The Basin Where the Bhabha Crater Is Located: South Pole–Aitken Basin

- It is one of the **oldest, largest, and deepest impact structures** in the entire Solar System.
- Approximate dimensions:
 - **Diameter:** ~2,500 km
 - **Depth:** ~6–8 km
- Located on the **far side of the Moon**, not visible from Earth.



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- Formed ~4.2 to 4.3 billion years ago, during the early period of heavy bombardment.
- Considered a unique geological window into the Moon's **lower crust and upper mantle**.

Why the Bhabha Crater is Scientifically Important

- The impact that formed the Bhabha crater **dug deep** into the South Pole–Aitken Basin floor.
- This allows scientists to study:
 - Ancient **mantle materials**
 - Variations in **crustal thickness**
 - Composition shaped by **early lunar evolution**

Importance for Lunar Science and Exploration

- Material thrown out from the crater helps reconstruct:
 - Early thermal history of the Moon
 - Differentiation of lunar layers
 - Ancient bombardment record of the inner Solar System
- **NASA's Artemis program** and several ISRO studies highlight this basin as a **priority region** for long-term lunar exploration.

Aryabhata: Pioneer of Indian Astronomy and Mathematics

- **Aryabhata (born 476 CE)** is one of the earliest recorded mathematicians–astronomers of India.
- Most historians place him in the **Gupta Era**, known as the “Golden Age of Indian Science.”
- His major work, the **Aryabhatiya**, is a compact text covering mathematics, algebra, trigonometry, arithmetic, and astronomy.
- Aryabhata worked in ancient centers of knowledge such as **Kusumapura (Pataliputra)**, associated with later institutions like **Nalanda University**.

Contribution 1: Estimation of Pi (π)

- Aryabhata estimated $\pi \approx 3.1416$, remarkably accurate for his time.
- In the Aryabhatiya, he wrote a Sanskrit verse giving a method to compute the **circumference of a circle**, yielding an approximation correct to **four decimal places**.
- He also recognized π as an **irrational number**, centuries before similar recognition in Europe.
- This achievement influenced centuries of Indian mathematical and astronomical computation, including planetary calculations and temple architecture.

Contribution 2: Diophantine Equations

- Aryabhata worked on what is now called **Diophantine equations** (integer solutions of equations).
- He developed the **Kuttaka method** (meaning “pulveriser”), a systematic procedure to solve **linear indeterminate equations of the form $ax + by = c$** .
- This method became foundational for:
 - Advanced algebra
 - Number theory
 - Calculations in astronomy and calendar-making
- The Kuttaka technique is used even today in number theory and cryptography (conceptually similar to the **Euclidean algorithm**).

Contribution 3: Epicycles and Planetary Motion

- Aryabhata explained planetary motion using **epicycles**, similar to classical Greek models but with uniquely Indian refinements.



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- He used epicycles to describe:
 - Apparent retrograde motion of planets
 - Planetary longitude corrections
 - Orbital anomalies
- His model allowed astronomers to make **accurate predictions of planetary positions** without telescopes.
- Aryabhata's work laid foundations for **later astronomers like Brahmagupta, Bhaskara I, and Bhaskara II.**

Contribution 4: Understanding Earth's Rotation

- Aryabhata proposed that the **Earth rotates on its axis**, explaining the daily rising and setting of celestial bodies.
 - This was a revolutionary departure from the prevailing geocentric worldview.
 - His theory anticipated concepts in later Islamic and European astronomy by centuries.
 - Aryabhata's explanation demonstrated deep observational insight and mathematical reasoning.

Contribution 5: Eclipse Calculations

- Aryabhata gave **scientific explanations** of eclipses.
 - **He denied mythological explanations (like Rahu-Ketu swallowing the Sun/Moon)** and explained:
 - **Solar eclipse** as the Moon blocking sunlight
 - **Lunar eclipse** as Earth's shadow falling on the Moon
 - His predictions of eclipse timings and shadow geometry were remarkably accurate.

Contribution 6: Foundations of Trigonometry

- Introduced sine functions (called **ardha-jya**) and tables for trigonometric values.
- Distinguished between **chord** and **sine**, which earlier Indian mathematicians often mixed.
- His trigonometric formulations supported:
 - Astronomical calculations
 - Cartography
 - Navigation
 - Architecture

Influence on Global Science

- Aryabhata's works traveled through scholars to the **Islamic Golden Age**, influencing mathematics and astronomy in Baghdad observatories.
- Later his ideas reached Europe through translations preserved in Arab scientific literature.
- His methods shaped the lunar and solar calendars used across South and Southeast Asia.

Relevance to Modern India: **India's first satellite (1975) was named Aryabhata** in his honour.

Devendra Lal: Indian Physicist Who Pioneered Cosmogenic Isotope Geoscience

- **Devendra Lal (1929–2012)** was born in **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Cosmogenic isotopes** are **rare isotopes** formed when **cosmic rays** (high-energy particles from space) strike atoms in:
 - Rocks



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- Ice
- Soil
- Meteorites

• Examples studied by Devendra Lal include:

- ^{10}Be (Beryllium-10)
- ^{26}Al (Aluminium-26)
- ^{36}Cl (Chlorine-36)

• These isotopes accumulate slowly and act like “**natural clocks**” to study Earth’s processes.

• Devendra Lal pioneered the use of cosmogenic isotopes to measure:

- **Rates of erosion**
- **Sediment transport**
- **Landscape evolution**
- **Glacial processes**
- **Exposure ages of rocks**

• His work enabled scientists to determine how long a rock surface has been exposed to cosmic rays

— a method vital in:

- Understanding Himalayan erosion
- Predicting river sediment loads
- Studying ancient climate cycles
- Analysing glacial retreat in polar regions

The Lal–Wilkening Model

• Devendra Lal developed a major model with Lynn Wilkening to understand:

- The production rates
- Distribution
- Accumulation patterns

of cosmogenic isotopes in Earth’s environment.

• This model is foundational in modern **Earth system science** and is cited worldwide.

• Lal extended his isotope work to study **meteorites** and **planetary surfaces**, helping understand:

- Solar radiation history
- Cosmic-ray exposure ages of meteorites
- Lunar surface processes

Why Devendra Lal’s Work Matters Today

• His methods are essential for studying:

- Melting of polar ice sheets
- Climate-driven landscape changes
- River basin dynamics
- Erosion hazards
- Himalayan tectonic evolution

• Cosmogenic isotope dating is now used by:

- NASA planetary missions
- ISRO’s lunar and planetary divisions
- Global climate research institutes



Why India struggles to clear its air

India confronts a recurring pollution crisis shaped by quick fixes such as cloud seeding, smog towers and odd-even rules; fragmented air-quality governance, scattered accountability and short-term political incentives keep long-term progress out of reach

GS III: Environment

MOB

FULL CONTEXT

Ajay Singh Nagpure

Each winter, as Delhi slips back into its familiar grey haze, India reaches for the same set of quick fixes, treating the pollution crisis as if it were temporary. Cloud seeding, smog towers, water sprinkling, odd-even rules, and festival crackdowns reappear in a predictable cycle. These are all high-visibility steps that promise urgency, but they change little on the ground (or in the air).

Public debate breaks down just as quickly: scientists are blamed for weak solutions, politicians for weak will, and administrators for blindly importing Western ideas. There is some truth in each charge, but none explains the full picture by itself. Over the last couple of weeks in Delhi, the public response has also included small public protests. In the November 24 edition, 50-60 protesters gathered near India Gate under heavy security presence; the police eventually detained five people, even though the protests were peaceful.

Slices of control

The repeat pattern of short-term interventions points to a structural flaw: the country's air-quality institutions – scientists, governments, regulators, cities, and communities – operate largely on their own. With no clear ownership or shared authority, lasting progress remains elusive.

This disconnect is no accident; instead, it is the product of how India's air-quality governance has taken shape. Unlike countries such as the U.S., the U.K., Japan, or China, where strong national laws and empowered regulators drove decades of steady progress, India's system has been fragmented from the start. The responsibility for clean air is scattered across a long list of bodies: the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change; the Central Pollution Control Board; the State Pollution Control Boards; the Commission for Air Quality Management; the Delhi Pollution Control Committee; municipal bodies such as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Council; and various State departments overseeing agriculture, transport, industry and energy. Sectoral agencies such as the National Highway Authority of India, the Public Works Department, the power distribution companies, and planning authorities add yet more layers.

Each agency oversees a slice of the problem, and no single institution holds full authority or full accountability for air-quality outcomes. The result is uneven enforcement across States, weak inter-state coordination in the National Capital Region, and frequent contradictions between court orders, Union government directives, and local decisions.

Policymakers also face real constraints. The environmental powers are constitutionally shared, budgets and staffing are uneven, and judicial pressure often pushes immediate action over long-term planning. In a system where many actors are involved but none is empowered to lead, progress becomes slow, inconsistent, and easily overtaken by short-term, high-visibility measures that step in to fill the governance vacuum.

The dominance of short-term measures is not simply the result of weak institutions: it reflects the incentives that drive Indian governance. Quick fixes allow governments to show visible action within a single news cycle, avoid confronting powerful sectors such as construction, transport, and agriculture,



Fight for rights: People protesting against air pollution near the India Gate in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

and postpone politically risky reforms. They also fit comfortably within annual budgets, unlike long-term investments in clean fuel, waste systems, or industrial upgrades.

This is why cloud seeding, smog towers, water sprinkling, and odd-even schemes return each winter: they are inexpensive to announce, easy to deploy, and rarely provoke resistance (notwithstanding the recent protests). Tools such as anti-smog guns and festival crackdowns help officials demonstrate responsiveness, even if they do little for public health. In effect, these interventions serve the politics of pollution more than the science of it, masking structural failures with momentary action, while public exposure to harmful air remains largely unchanged.

Two traps

Another reason India's pollution response struggles is what can be called the intellectual trap: the belief that solutions conceived within elite institutions, think-tanks, multilateral agencies, or top scientific organisations will automatically translate into effective action on the ground. Much of India's clean-air discourse is shaped by people who are analytically rigorous but often removed from the day-to-day realities of municipal administration, enforcement bottlenecks, informal economies, and political constraints. Their proposals may be technically sound, but they frequently underestimate the complexity of implementation in cities that lack staff, budgets, regulatory continuity, or even basic record-keeping. As a result, many "expert-designed" strategies rarely move beyond pilot stages or are adopted without the institutional scaffolding they need to succeed.

This disconnect becomes clearer when these ideas encounter the lived systems that actually produce pollution: scattered governance, informal construction practices, diesel-dependent freight, fragmented land markets, and the economic pressures faced by farmers, transporters, and small industries. Elite policy frameworks tend to assume a level of administrative capacity and social compliance that simply does not exist uniformly across Indian cities. They focus on what should work in theory rather than what can work in practice. In doing so, they risk producing policies that are ambitious on paper but unmanageable for the institutions expected to implement them.

The second distortion is the Western trap: the tendency to import global "best

practices" without redesigning them for Indian realities. Many of these models come from cities with abundant resources, stable public finance, strong regulatory credibility, and high institutional trust. When adopted wholesale, these approaches often carry assumptions that do not hold in India: consistent enforcement, reliable public transport, low informal activity, or predictable administrative coordination.

Technologies and regulations that function smoothly in European or East Asian settings encounter vastly different constraints in India's dense neighbourhoods, politically negotiated spaces and overstretched agencies. The issue is not the foreign origin of ideas but the lack of adaptation. Together, the intellectual trap and Western trap shape a policy environment where strategies acquire their legitimacy by sounding sophisticated or globally aligned rather than by being grounded in how Indian institutions actually work. They produce initiatives that attract attention, secure funding, and generate impressive documents, yet struggle to scale or endure. Many fade quietly after a few months when confronted with routine bureaucratic churn, unclear mandates or resistance from stakeholders whose behaviour the policy sought to change. In the process, India's clean-air agenda becomes heavy on conceptual ambition but light on operational traction – a landscape of ideas that travel well but land poorly.

Escaping the intellectual and Western traps means learning from global and expert ideas as well as accepting that even strong solutions must be redesigned for India's administrative and social realities. That requires institutions capable of planning beyond election cycles, coordinating across sectors, and staying focused even when political priorities shift. For this, India needs clearer rules about who leads on air quality, who is accountable, and how decisions move between national, State, and municipal levels. A modern clean-air law with explicit mandates could create this basic clarity. The goal is not another powerful regulator but a coordinating body that can be trusted enough to align policies, resolve routine jurisdictional overlaps, and make sure implementation remains steady. Public access to compliance data and visible enforcement would make environmental rules credible while stable multi-year funding would allow agencies

to build staff, maintain monitoring systems, and sustain long-term programmes instead of reacting to crises. Effective institutions also need the right expertise. India needs a professional layer of science managers, i.e. people who understand science, governance, and political constraints, and can convert knowledge into workable, context-specific decisions. Their role is not to generate more studies but to adapt existing insights to local capacity, guide ministries through complex transitions, and keep reforms coherent despite bureaucratic turnover. Without this bridging function, India's scientific strengths, including its models, sensors, and analytical tools, remain disconnected from day-to-day decision-making.

What India lacks, ultimately, is not ideas but alignment: between ambition and capacity, between what experts recommend and what institutions can actually enforce. Imported frameworks and elite prescriptions often fail because they assume levels of staffing, coordination, and public compliance that vary widely across States and cities. Indian solutions must therefore begin with Indian constraints: uneven municipal capacity, informal labour markets, competing development pressures, and diverse regional priorities. Policies must be designed to be implementable, not just elegant, which means they must be built around what agencies can realistically enforce, what communities will accept, and what local budgets can support. Without this grounding, well-intentioned initiatives will continue to stall once they leave conference rooms and meet real-world conditions.

What India needs

Clean air is not a seasonal aspiration: it is essential to public health, economic productivity and basic functioning of cities. India can learn from global experience and from its own scientific advances, but lasting progress depends on institutions and policies shaped for Indian conditions. Technology may offer moments of relief but only governance built for India's complexity can deliver durable change. The tools exist and the demand for cleaner air is unmistakable. Thus, what India needs now is the confidence to design solutions that reflect its own realities and the commitment to sustain them long enough to make the air genuinely breathable.

Ajay S. Nagpure is an urban systems scientist at the Urban Nexus Lab at Princeton University

THE GIST

India's repeat cycle of cloud seeding, smog towers, odd-even rules and festival crackdowns reflects a structural flaw in air-quality governance, where responsibilities are scattered across many bodies and no institution has full authority or accountability.

India's response is weakened by the 'intellectual trap' and the 'Western trap' – expert and global ideas that look good on paper but fail in practice because they don't account for India's limited municipal capacity, informal economies, and complex political and administrative realities.

What India needs is institutions designed for Indian constraints: clearer rules on who leads, a modern clean-air law with explicit mandates, steady multi-year funding, credible enforcement, public access to compliance data, and science managers who can bridge science with governance and politics.



Why India struggles to clear its air भारत अपनी हवा साफ करने में क्यों संघर्ष करता है

- India confronts a recurring **pollution crisis** shaped by quick **fixes** such as **cloud seeding, smog towers** and **odd-even rules**; fragmented **air-quality governance**, scattered **accountability** and **short-term political incentives** keep long-term progress out of reach. भारत बार-बार आने वाले **प्रदूषण संकट** का सामना करता है, जो **क्लाउड सीडिंग, स्मॉग टावर**, और **ऑड-ईवन नियमों** जैसे त्वरित **उपायों** से प्रभावित होता है; खंडित **वायु-गुणवत्ता शासन**, बिखरी हुई **जवाबदेही**, और अल्पकालिक **राजनीतिक प्रोत्साहन** दीर्घकालिक प्रगति को दूर रखते हैं।

Air pollution responses in Delhi दिल्ली में वायु प्रदूषण के प्रति प्रतिक्रियाएँ

- Each winter, as Delhi slips back into its familiar grey haze, India reaches for the same set of quick fixes, treating the pollution crisis as if it were temporary. हर सर्दी, जब दिल्ली अपने परिचित **धूसर धुंध** में लौट आती है, भारत वही पुराने **क्विक फिक्सेस** अपनाता है, मानो प्रदूषण संकट **अस्थायी** हो।
- Cloud seeding, smog towers, water sprinkling, odd-even rules, and festival crackdowns reappear in a predictable cycle. **क्लाउड सीडिंग, स्मॉग टावर्स, वाटर स्पिंकलिंग, ऑड-ईवन नियम**, और **त्योहारों पर प्रतिबंध** एक पूर्वानुमेय चक्र में फिर से दिखाई देते हैं।
- These are all high-visibility steps that promise urgency, but they change little on the ground (or in the air). ये सभी **उच्च-दृश्यता** वाले कदम हैं जो तात्कालिकता का वादा करते हैं, लेकिन ज़मीन पर (या हवा में) बहुत कम बदलाव लाते हैं।
- Public debate breaks down just as quickly: scientists are blamed for weak solutions, politicians for weak will, and administrators for blindly importing Western ideas. जन-बहस भी उतनी ही जल्दी टूट जाती है: वैज्ञानिकों को **कमज़ोर समाधानों** के लिए, राजनेताओं को **कमज़ोर इच्छाशक्ति** के लिए, और प्रशासकों को **पश्चिमी विचारों की नकल** के लिए दोषी ठहराया जाता है।
- There is some truth in each charge, but none explains the full picture by itself. हर आरोप में कुछ सच्चाई है, लेकिन कोई भी पूरी तस्वीर नहीं दिखाता।
- Over the last couple of weeks in Delhi, the public response has also included small public protests. पिछले दो हफ्तों में दिल्ली में सार्वजनिक प्रतिक्रिया में छोटे-छोटे **प्रदर्शन** भी शामिल थे।
- In the November 24 edition, 50-60 protesters gathered near India Gate under heavy security presence; the police eventually detained five people, even though the protests were peaceful. **24 नवंबर** को **50-60 प्रदर्शनकारी** इंडिया गेट के पास भारी सुरक्षा में जुटे; पुलिस ने अंततः **पाँच लोगों** को हिरासत में लिया, जबकि प्रदर्शन शांतिपूर्ण थे।

Slices of control नियंत्रण के हिस्से

- The repeat pattern of short-term interventions points to a structural flaw: the country's air-quality institutions — scientists, governments, regulators, cities, and communities — operate largely on their own. कम अवधि के हस्तक्षेपों के दोहराए जाने वाले पैटर्न से एक **स्ट्रक्चरल खामी** का पता चलता है: देश की **एयर-क्वालिटी संस्थाएँ** — वैज्ञानिक, सरकारें, रेगुलेटर, शहर और समुदाय — मुख्यतः खुद ही काम करते हैं।
- With no clear ownership or shared authority, lasting progress remains elusive. स्पष्ट जिम्मेदारी या साझा अधिकार के बिना, **स्थायी प्रगति** मायावी बनी रहती है।
- This disconnect is no accident; instead, it is the product of how India's air-quality governance has taken shape. यह disconnect कोई दुर्घटना नहीं है; बल्कि यह इस बात का परिणाम है कि भारत की **एयर-क्वालिटी गवर्नेंस** कैसे बनी है।
- Unlike countries such as the **U.S., the U.K., Japan, or China**, where strong national laws and empowered regulators drove decades of steady progress, India's system has been



fragmented from the start.

अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, जापान और चीन जैसे देशों के विपरीत, जहाँ मजबूत राष्ट्रीय कानून और शक्तिशाली रेगुलेटर दशकों तक प्रगति लाए, भारत की प्रणाली शुरुआत से ही **खंडित (fragmented)** रही है।

- The responsibility for clean air is scattered across a long list of bodies: the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**; the **Central Pollution Control Board**; the **State Pollution Control Boards**; the **Commission for Air Quality Management**; the **Delhi Pollution Control Committee**; municipal bodies such as the **Municipal Corporation of Delhi** and the **New Delhi Municipal Council**; and various State departments overseeing agriculture, transport, industry and energy.
स्वच्छ हवा की जिम्मेदारी कई संस्थाओं में बंटी है: **पर्यावरण मंत्रालय, CPCB, SPCBs, CAQM, DPCC, नगर निगम, NDMC**, और कृषि, परिवहन, उद्योग तथा ऊर्जा की देखरेख करने वाले विभिन्न विभाग।
- Sectoral agencies such as the **National Highway Authority of India**, the **Public Works Department**, the power distribution companies, and planning authorities add yet more layers.
NHAI, PWD, बिजली वितरण कंपनियाँ, और प्लानिंग अथॉरिटीज़ इस संरचना में और भी परतें जोड़ते हैं।

Institutional fragmentation in air-quality management वायु-गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन में संस्थागत विखंडन

- Each agency oversees a slice of the problem, and no single institution holds full authority or full accountability for air-quality outcomes.
हर एजेंसी समस्या के एक हिस्से को देखती है, और कोई भी संस्था **पूर्ण अधिकार** या **पूर्ण जवाबदेही** वायु-गुणवत्ता परिणामों के लिए नहीं रखती।
- The result is uneven enforcement across States, weak inter-state coordination in the **National Capital Region**, and frequent contradictions between court orders, Union government directives, and local decisions.
परिणामस्वरूप राज्यों में **असमान प्रवर्तन**, **एनसीआर** में कमजोर अंतरराज्यीय समन्वय, और अदालत के आदेशों, केंद्र सरकार के निर्देशों और स्थानीय निर्णयों के बीच बार-बार **विरोधाभास** देखने को मिलता है।
- Policymakers also face real constraints.
नीति निर्माताओं को भी वास्तविक **बाधाओं** का सामना करना पड़ता है।
- The environmental powers are constitutionally shared, budgets and staffing are uneven, and judicial pressure often pushes immediate action over long-term planning.
पर्यावरण संबंधी शक्तियाँ संविधान के अनुसार **साझा** हैं, बजट और स्टाफिंग **असमान** हैं, और न्यायिक दबाव अक्सर **दीर्घकालिक योजना** की बजाय तात्कालिक कार्रवाई की ओर धकेल देता है।
- In a system where many actors are involved but none is empowered to lead, progress becomes slow, inconsistent, and easily overtaken by short-term, high-visibility measures that step in to fill the governance vacuum.
जिस प्रणाली में कई अभिनेता शामिल हों लेकिन किसी को नेतृत्व का अधिकार न हो, वहाँ प्रगति **धीमी, असंगत** हो जाती है और शासन के रिक्त स्थान को भरने वाले **कम अवधि, उच्च-दृश्यता** वाले उपाय उसे आसानी से पीछे छोड़ देते हैं।
- The dominance of short-term measures is not simply the result of weak institutions: it reflects the incentives that drive Indian governance.
कम अवधि के उपायों का प्रभुत्व केवल कमजोर संस्थाओं का परिणाम नहीं है; यह भारतीय शासन को चलाने वाले **प्रोत्साहनों** को दर्शाता है।
- Quick fixes allow governments to show visible action within a single news cycle, avoid confronting powerful sectors such as **construction, transport, and agriculture**, and postpone politically risky reforms.
क्विक फिक्सेस सरकारों को एक ही समाचार चक्र में **दृश्यमान कार्रवाई** दिखाने, **निर्माण, परिवहन, कृषि** जैसे शक्तिशाली क्षेत्रों से टकराव से बचने, और **राजनीतिक रूप से जोखिमपूर्ण सुधारों** को टालने की अनुमति देते हैं।
- They also fit comfortably within annual budgets, unlike long-term investments in clean fuel, waste systems, or industrial upgrades.
ये कदम **वार्षिक बजट** में आसानी से फिट हो जाते हैं, जबकि स्वच्छ ईंधन, कचरा प्रबंधन, या औद्योगिक उन्नयन में **दीर्घकालिक निवेश** नहीं।
- This is why cloud seeding, smog towers, water sprinkling, and odd-even schemes return each winter: they are inexpensive to announce, easy to deploy, and rarely provoke resistance (notwithstanding the recent protests).



इसी कारण क्लाउड सीडिंग, स्मॉग टावर्स, वाटर स्पिंकलिंग, और ऑड-ईवन योजना हर सर्दी लौट आती हैं: इन्हें घोषित करना सस्ता, लागू करना आसान होता है, और ये शायद ही कभी विरोध उत्पन्न करती हैं (हाल के प्रदर्शनों के बावजूद)।

- Tools such as anti-smog guns and festival crackdowns help officials demonstrate responsiveness, even if they do little for public health.
एंटी-स्मॉग गन और त्योहारी crackdowns जैसे उपकरण, भले ही सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य के लिए कम करते हों, अधिकारियों को **संवेदनशीलता** दिखाने में मदद करते हैं।
- In effect, these interventions serve the politics of pollution more than the science of it, masking structural failures with momentary action, while public exposure to harmful air remains largely unchanged.
वास्तव में, ये उपाय प्रदूषण की **राजनीति** को अधिक सेवा देते हैं, न कि उसके विज्ञान को; ये **संरचनात्मक विफलताओं** को क्षणिक कार्रवाई से ढँक देते हैं, जबकि जनता का **हानिकारक हवा** के संपर्क में रहना लगभग अपरिवर्तित रहता है।

Two traps दो जाल

- Another reason India's pollution response struggles is what can be called the intellectual trap: the belief that solutions conceived within elite institutions, think-tanks, multilateral agencies, or top scientific organisations will automatically translate into effective action on the ground.
भारत की प्रदूषण प्रतिक्रिया के संघर्ष का एक और कारण है जिसे **इंटेलेक्चुअल ट्रैप** कहा जा सकता है: यह विश्वास कि **एलीट संस्थानों, थिंक-टैंकों, मल्टीलेटरल एजेंसियों**, और शीर्ष **वैज्ञानिक संगठनों** में बनाए गए समाधान स्वचालित रूप से प्रभावी जमीनी कार्रवाई में बदल जाएंगे।
- Much of India's clean-air discourse is shaped by people who are analytically rigorous but often removed from the day-to-day realities of municipal administration, enforcement bottlenecks, informal economies, and political constraints.
भारत की क्लीन-एयर बहस का बड़ा हिस्सा ऐसे लोगों द्वारा आकार दिया जाता है जो **विश्लेषणात्मक रूप से कठोर** होते हैं लेकिन अक्सर नगरपालिका प्रशासन, **प्रवर्तन बाधाओं, अनौपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्था**, और **राजनीतिक सीमाओं** की वास्तविकताओं से दूर होते हैं।
- Their proposals may be technically sound, but they frequently underestimate the complexity of implementation in cities that lack staff, budgets, regulatory continuity, or even basic record-keeping.
उनके प्रस्ताव तकनीकी रूप से सही हो सकते हैं, लेकिन वे अक्सर उन शहरों में **कार्यान्वयन की जटिलता** को कम आंकते हैं जहाँ **स्टाफ, बजट, रेगुलेटरी निरंतरता**, या बुनियादी रिकॉर्ड-कीपिंग भी नहीं है।
- As a result, many "expert-designed" strategies rarely move beyond pilot stages or are adopted without the institutional scaffolding they need to succeed.
नतीजतन, कई **एक्सपर्ट-डिज़ाइन** रणनीतियाँ पायलट चरण से आगे नहीं बढ़ पातीं या आवश्यक **संस्थागत समर्थन** के बिना अपनाई जाती हैं।
- This disconnect becomes clearer when these ideas encounter the lived systems that actually produce pollution: scattered governance, informal construction practices, diesel-dependent freight, fragmented land markets, and the economic pressures faced by farmers, transporters, and small industries.
यह disconnect तब और स्पष्ट हो जाता है जब ये विचार उन वास्तविक प्रणालियों से टकराते हैं जो वास्तव में प्रदूषण पैदा करती हैं: **खंडित शासन, अनौपचारिक निर्माण, डीज़ल-निर्भर माल ढुलाई, विखंडित भूमि बाज़ार**, और **किसानों, परिवहनकर्ताओं**, तथा छोटी उद्योगों द्वारा झेली जाने वाली आर्थिक दबाव।
- Elite policy frameworks tend to assume a level of administrative capacity and social compliance that simply does not exist uniformly across Indian cities.
एलीट नीति ढाँचे प्रशासनिक क्षमता और सामाजिक अनुपालन के ऐसे स्तर की कल्पना कर लेते हैं जो भारतीय शहरों में समान रूप से मौजूद ही नहीं है।
- They focus on what should work in theory rather than what can work in practice.
वे इस पर ध्यान देते हैं कि सिद्धांत में क्या काम करना चाहिए, न कि वास्तविकता में क्या काम कर सकता है।
- In doing so, they risk producing policies that are ambitious on paper but unmanageable for the institutions expected to implement them.
ऐसा करके वे ऐसी नीतियाँ बना देते हैं जो कागज़ पर **महत्वाकांक्षी** हैं लेकिन उन्हें लागू करने वाली संस्थाओं के लिए **असंभव** हैं।



- The second distortion is the Western trap: the tendency to import global “best practices” without redesigning them for Indian realities.
दूसरी विकृति है **वेस्टर्न ट्रेप**: वैश्विक **बेस्ट प्रैक्टिसेज़** को भारतीय वास्तविकताओं के अनुसार ढाले बिना आयात करने की प्रवृत्ति।
- Many of these models come from cities with abundant resources, stable public finance, strong regulatory credibility, and high institutional trust.
इनमें से कई मॉडल ऐसे शहरों से आते हैं जहाँ **संसाधन प्रचुर मात्रा में, स्थिर सार्वजनिक वित्त, मजबूत रेगुलेटर, और उच्च संस्थागत विश्वास** होता है।
- When adopted wholesale, these approaches often carry assumptions that do not hold in India: consistent enforcement, reliable public transport, low informal activity, or predictable administrative coordination.
जब इन्हें ज्यों का त्यों अपनाया जाता है तो इनमें ऐसे अनुमान होते हैं जो भारत में लागू नहीं होते: **निरंतर प्रवर्तन, विश्वसनीय सार्वजनिक परिवहन, कम अनौपचारिक गतिविधि, या पूर्वानुमेय प्रशासनिक समन्वय**।
- Technologies and regulations that function smoothly in European or East Asian settings encounter vastly different constraints in India’s dense neighbourhoods, politically negotiated spaces and overstretched agencies.
यूरोपीय या पूर्वी एशियाई क्षेत्रों में आसानी से चलने वाली **तकनीकें और नियम** भारत के **घने मोहल्लों, राजनीतिक रूप से तय किए स्थानों, और अतिभारित एजेंसियों** में बिल्कुल अलग बाधाओं का सामना करते हैं।
- The issue is not the foreign origin of ideas but the lack of adaptation.
समस्या विचारों का विदेशी होना नहीं है, बल्कि **अनुकूलन की कमी** है।
- Together, the intellectual trap and Western trap shape a policy environment where strategies acquire their legitimacy by sounding sophisticated or globally aligned rather than by being grounded in how Indian institutions actually work.
इंटेलेक्चुअल ट्रेप और वेस्टर्न ट्रेप मिलकर ऐसा वातावरण बनाते हैं जहाँ नीतियाँ तभी **वैध** मानी जाती हैं जब वे **सुसंस्कृत या वैश्विक** दिखें, न कि भारतीय संस्थाएँ वास्तव में कैसे काम करती हैं उस पर आधारित हों।
- They produce initiatives that attract attention, secure funding, and generate impressive documents, yet struggle to scale or endure.
वे ऐसे कार्यक्रम बनाते हैं जो **ध्यान आकर्षित करते हैं, फंडिंग पाते हैं, और प्रभावशाली दस्तावेज़** तैयार करते हैं, फिर भी विस्तार या टिकाऊपन में संघर्ष करते हैं।
- Many fade quietly after a few months when confronted with routine bureaucratic churn, unclear mandates or resistance from stakeholders whose behaviour the policy sought to change.
कई पहलें कुछ ही महीनों में **गायब** हो जाती हैं जब उन्हें **नियमित नौकरशाही, अस्पष्ट अधिकार, या उन हितधारकों के विरोध** का सामना करना पड़ता है जिनके व्यवहार को नीति बदलना चाहती थी।
- In the process, India’s clean-air agenda becomes heavy on conceptual ambition but light on operational traction — a landscape of ideas that travel well but land poorly.
इस प्रक्रिया में भारत का **क्लीन-एयर एजेंडा सैद्धांतिक महत्वाकांक्षा** से भारी और **व्यावहारिक क्रियान्वयन** से हल्का हो जाता है — ऐसा विचार-परिदृश्य जो **यात्रा तो अच्छी करता है लेकिन जमीन पर उतरता नहीं है**।

Indian constraints

भारतीय बाधाएँ

- Escaping the intellectual and Western traps means learning from global and expert ideas as well as accepting that even strong solutions must be redesigned for India’s administrative and social realities.
इंटेलेक्चुअल और वेस्टर्न ट्रेप से बाहर निकलने का मतलब है वैश्विक और विशेषज्ञ विचारों से सीखना और यह स्वीकार करना कि मजबूत समाधान भी भारत की **प्रशासनिक और सामाजिक वास्तविकताओं** के अनुरूप पुनः डिजाइन करने पड़ेंगे।
- That requires institutions capable of planning beyond election cycles, coordinating across sectors, and staying focused even when political priorities shift.
इसके लिए ऐसी संस्थाओं की आवश्यकता है जो **चुनावी चक्र** से आगे की योजना बना सकें, क्षेत्रों के बीच **समन्वय** कर सकें और राजनीतिक प्राथमिकताओं के बदलने पर भी केंद्रित रह सकें।
- For this, India needs clearer rules about who leads on air quality, who is accountable, and how decisions move between national, State, and municipal levels.



इसके लिए भारत को स्पष्ट नियमों की आवश्यकता है कि वायु गुणवत्ता पर कौन नेतृत्व करेगा, कौन जवाबदेह होगा, और निर्णय राष्ट्रीय, राज्य, और नगर स्तरों के बीच कैसे आगे बढ़ेंगे।

- A modern clean-air law with explicit mandates could create this basic clarity.
एक आधुनिक क्लीन-एयर कानून जिसमें स्पष्ट मैडेट हों, इस बुनियादी स्पष्टता को पैदा कर सकता है।
- The goal is not another powerful regulator but a coordinating body that can be trusted enough to align policies, resolve routine jurisdictional overlaps, and make sure implementation remains steady.
लक्ष्य एक और शक्तिशाली नियामक बनाना नहीं बल्कि एक समन्वयकारी संस्था बनाना है जिस पर इतना विश्वास किया जा सके कि वह नीतियों को संरेखित, अधिकार क्षेत्र के ओवरलैप को हल कर सके और यह सुनिश्चित करे कि कार्यान्वयन स्थिर रहे।
- Public access to compliance data and visible enforcement would make environmental rules credible while stable multi-year funding would allow agencies to build staff, maintain monitoring systems, and sustain long-term programmes instead of reacting to crises.
कम्प्लायंस डेटा तक सार्वजनिक पहुंच और दृश्यमान प्रवर्तन पर्यावरण नियमों को विश्वसनीय बनाएंगे, जबकि मल्टी-ईयर फंडिंग एजेंसियों को स्टाफ बनाने, मॉनिटरिंग सिस्टम बनाए रखने और दीर्घकालिक कार्यक्रम जारी रखने में सक्षम बनाएगी।
- Effective institutions also need the right expertise.
प्रभावी संस्थाओं को सही विशेषज्ञता की भी आवश्यकता होती है।
- India needs a professional layer of science managers, i.e. people who understand science, governance, and political constraints, and can convert knowledge into workable, context-specific decisions.
भारत को साइंस मैनेजर्स की एक पेशेवर परत चाहिए—ऐसे लोग जो विज्ञान, शासन, और राजनीतिक सीमाओं को समझते हों और ज्ञान को व्यावहारिक, संदर्भ-विशिष्ट निर्णयों में बदल सकें।
- Their role is not to generate more studies but to adapt existing insights to local capacity, guide ministries through complex transitions, and keep reforms coherent despite bureaucratic turnover.
उनकी भूमिका अधिक अध्ययन पैदा करना नहीं बल्कि मौजूदा समझ को स्थानीय क्षमता के अनुरूप ढालना, मंत्रालयों को जटिल बदलावों से मार्गदर्शन देना और नौकरशाही बदलाव के बावजूद सुधारों को संगत बनाए रखना है।
- Without this bridging function, India's scientific strengths, including its models, sensors, and analytical tools, remain disconnected from day-to-day decision-making.
इस ब्रिजिंग फंक्शन के बिना भारत की वैज्ञानिक क्षमता—इसके मॉडल, सेंसर, और विश्लेषणात्मक उपकरण—दैनिक निर्णय-निर्माण से अलग-थलग रह जाती है।
- What India lacks, ultimately, is not ideas but alignment: between ambition and capacity, between what experts recommend and what institutions can actually enforce.
आखिरकार भारत को विचारों की नहीं बल्कि एलाइनमेंट की कमी है: महत्वाकांक्षा और क्षमता के बीच, विशेषज्ञों की सिफारिशों और संस्थाओं की वास्तविक प्रवर्तन क्षमता के बीच।
- Imported frameworks and elite prescriptions often fail because they assume levels of staffing, coordination, and public compliance that vary widely across States and cities.
आयातित फ्रेमवर्क और एलीट निर्देश इसलिए विफल होते हैं क्योंकि वे स्टाफिंग, समन्वय, और जन-अनुपालन के ऐसे स्तरों को मान लेते हैं जो राज्यों और शहरों में बेहद भिन्न होते हैं।
- Indian solutions must therefore begin with Indian constraints: uneven municipal capacity, informal labour markets, competing development pressures, and diverse regional priorities.
भारतीय समाधानों को भारतीय बाधाओं से शुरू करना चाहिए: असमान नगरपालिका क्षमता, अनौपचारिक श्रम बाजार, विकास दबाव, और क्षेत्रीय प्राथमिकताओं की विविधता।
- Policies must be designed to be implementable, not just elegant, which means they must be built around what agencies can realistically enforce, what communities will accept, and what local budgets can support.
नीतियाँ कार्यान्वयन योग्य होनी चाहिए, सिर्फ सुंदर नहीं—मतलब उन्हें इस आधार पर बनना चाहिए कि एजेंसियाँ वास्तव में क्या प्रवर्तन कर सकती हैं, समुदाय क्या स्वीकार करेंगे, और स्थानीय बजट क्या सहारा दे सकते हैं।
- Without this grounding, well-intentioned initiatives will continue to stall once they leave conference rooms and meet real-world conditions.
इस ग्राउंडिंग के बिना, अच्छे इरादों वाली पहलें कॉन्फ्रेंस रूम से बाहर निकलते ही वास्तविक परिस्थितियों में अटक जाएँगी



What India needs भारत को क्या चाहिए

- Clean air is not a seasonal aspiration: it is essential to public health, economic productivity and basic functioning of cities.
स्वच्छ हवा कोई **मौसमी आकांक्षा** नहीं है; यह **जन-स्वास्थ्य, आर्थिक उत्पादकता, और शहरों के मूलभूत संचालन** के लिए आवश्यक है।
- India can learn from global experience and from its own scientific advances, but lasting progress depends on institutions and policies shaped for Indian conditions.
भारत वैश्विक अनुभव और अपनी वैज्ञानिक प्रगति से सीख सकता है, पर स्थायी प्रगति उन संस्थाओं और नीतियों पर निर्भर करती है जो भारतीय परिस्थितियों के अनुरूप बनाई जाएँ।
- Technology may offer moments of relief but only governance built for India's complexity can deliver durable change.
टेक्नोलॉजी कुछ राहत दे सकती है, लेकिन भारत की **जटिलता** के अनुसार बनी शासन व्यवस्था ही **स्थायी बदलाव** ला सकती है।
- The tools exist and the demand for cleaner air is unmistakable.
उपकरण मौजूद हैं और **स्वच्छ हवा की मांग** स्पष्ट है।
- Thus, what India needs now is the confidence to design solutions that reflect its own realities and the commitment to sustain them long enough to make the air genuinely breathable.
इसलिए भारत को अब ऐसे समाधानों को डिजाइन करने का **विश्वास** चाहिए जो उसकी वास्तविकताओं को दर्शाएँ और उन्हें पर्याप्त समय तक लागू रखने की **प्रतिबद्धता** चाहिए ताकि हवा सचमुच **सांस लेने योग्य** बन सके।

PATRIOTICIAS



Why are Srinagar's traditional livelihoods struggling to survive?

How are wetlands, lakes, and mountains shaping Srinagar's economy? What role did Article 370's dilution play in local livelihoods? Why are tourism, horticulture, and artisan trades struggling? What strategies can build a resilient, locally rooted economy?

GS III: Environment

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

"If paradise is to be found on earth, Kashmir is it." Yet today, Kashmir's paradise is fraying – and in Srinagar, we find the fault-lines of a regional economy at a crossroads: between beauty and breakdown; between traditional livelihoods and externally imposed growth models. Srinagar is facing mounting ecological stress, weakening traditional sectors, and the after-effects of governance disruptions since the dilution of Article 370. Wetland loss, supply-chain breakdowns, urban sprawl, and joblessness have intensified economic fragility.

Why is Srinagar ecologically fragile?

Srinagar, nestled in a Himalayan valley, carries deep ecological vulnerabilities. Wetlands, lakes, and mountains have kept the city alive – as a horticultural belt, tourist beacon, and artisan hub. But unchecked urban expansion, sprawl, flood risk, and infrastructure stress are now compromising that fragile base. A local report notes that formerly natural sponges have been overtaken by construction; "encroached wetlands and choked drains... amplify flood damage, while unchecked sprawl hikes living costs."

Meanwhile, the horticulture sector – once a pillar of Kashmir's rural-urban interface – has been hammered. One study points out that despite the abrogation of special status, the annual growth rate slumped, supply chains broke down, and the backbone of thousands of livelihoods cracked.

What changed after the dilution of Article 370?

Since the dilution of Article 370 in August 2019, the region has experienced a dramatic governance shift. The dissolution of the Statehood status, communication blackouts and prolonged curfews have disrupted not only everyday life but also economic institutions. For instance, a qualitative study of women entrepreneurs in Srinagar and Ganderbal shows how the communication blackout, network restrictions and lockdowns crushed their ability to market crafts, connect with customers, and sustain a business.

In Srinagar, the private sector has remained stunted, while over 32,000 government posts remain unfilled as of March 2025. Urban unemployment stands at 11.8%, youth unemployment at 32%, and women's unemployment at 53.6%.

Then came the collapse of the three pillars: tourism, horticulture, and artisan trades.

Tourism is projected as the engine of revival, yet it remains highly seasonal and vulnerable.

A recent article reports that in 2025 alone, landslides and highway closures stranded 800+ fruit trucks, resulting in over ₹200 crore losses in a few days – demonstrating the fragility of the entire local supply chain.

Supply disruptions, climate risk, poor market access, and policy neglect have reduced horticulture's share in GDP and hampered its role as a stable driver.



Horticulture requires reliable cold-chain infrastructure, climate-adapted crops, and farmer cooperatives. IMRAN NISSAR

Artisan trades are similarly suffering. A qualitative study found that women artisans in the handicraft industry face exploitation, lack of access to markets, scarcity of raw materials, and breakdown in supply chains. Many street vendors and women workers in informal markets earn as little as ₹250-300 a day.

Economic disruptions have pushed certain marginalised and transgender communities into sex work, as other income sources disappear.

Why does the metropolitan capital infusion model fall short?

Many growth plans for Srinagar treat it as a recipient of large capital flows – real estate, tourism mega-projects, urban infrastructure – on the assumption that spending automatically leads to upliftment. But when local governance is weak, traditional livelihoods are ignored, and the ecological base is compromised, this model fails.

In Srinagar's "smart city" push, for example, artisan spaces and vendors are often squeezed out while the facade beautifies; green spaces vanish, older trees are removed; livelihoods are disrupted.

Hence, unless growth anchors itself in the local economy, the "integration into a metropolitan capital" approach risks increasing fragility rather than alleviating it.

What are the plausible directions for sustainable growth?

Horticulture requires reliable cold-chain infrastructure, climate-adapted crops, and farmer cooperatives. Wetlands, floodplains, and lake systems must be protected and integrated into urban

planning. Instead of sprawl, we should invest in green infrastructure.

Tourism can grow through community-led, heritage-based, and ecologically sensitive models that place artisans and local hosts at the centre.

Srinagar's artisan and craft-based economy needs institutional support that values its cultural depth. Traditional clusters of weavers, shawl-makers, wood-craft workers, papier-mâché artists and brassware makers require design assistance, accessible digital marketing channels and systems that reduce dependence on exploitative intermediaries. The State must also facilitate micro-finance, raw-material common-pools, craft-export linkages, and protection of workshop spaces rather than treating artisan neighbourhoods as "peripheral" to modern development.

Urban planning should integrate artisan quarters, preserve workshops, not criminalise street vendors or force them into oblivion. What Srinagar needs is a managed transition rather than displacing them.

Restoring meaningful local governance is essential for any sustainable economic revival. Without a local voice, top-down capital flows will only deepen alienation.

State policy should ensure reliable connectivity, functional marketing platforms, skill upgrades, and helplines for women entrepreneurs.

The growth slump and joblessness have pushed vulnerable groups into the margins. A coordinated social protection, vocational training and livelihood diversification strategy is needed.

Most importantly, Srinagar's future depends on building a balanced economic base rather than relying on

tourism or real estate alone.

Horticulture, artisanship, small-scale manufacturing, niche tourism and services must grow together to reduce vulnerability. For example, horticulture alone engages more than three million people in the region, and ignoring it weakens the entire economic foundation.

Tourism, meanwhile, should be made resilient to frequent disruptions through stronger links with local crafts, digital outreach, homestays, and off-season offerings.

Urban job creation should focus not just on high-capital projects but on upgrading the informal economy and creating linkages with village-town interactions.

What does all this mean for Srinagar's future?

Srinagar is at an inflection point. It strains under the weight of ecological, economic and governance vulnerabilities. To restore its promise, growth cannot simply mean "capital inflow and smart city facade". It calls for reviving the soils, the workshops, the crafts homes of Srinagar, listening to its women entrepreneurs, artisans, and small farmers; empowering them through connectivity, governance, market access, and ecological protection.

In doing so, we shift from fragility to resilience – from a "metropolitan cash-influx" model to a locally rooted, sustainably scaled economy.

The question for policymakers, for civil society, for the local economy is: Will we walk that path – or will Srinagar's paradise slip through our fingers?

Tikender Singh Panwar is a former Deputy Mayor of Shimla and currently a member of the Kerala Urban Commission



Why are Srinagar's traditional livelihoods struggling to survive? श्रीनगर की पारंपरिक आजीविकाएँ जीवित रहने के लिए क्यों संघर्ष कर रही हैं?

- How are **wetlands, lakes, and mountains** shaping Srinagar's economy? What role did **Article 370's dilution** play in local livelihoods? Why are **tourism, horticulture, and artisan trades** struggling? What strategies can build a **resilient, locally rooted economy**?
कैसे **वेटलैंड्स, झीलें और पर्वत** श्रीनगर की अर्थव्यवस्था को आकार दे रहे हैं? स्थानीय आजीविकाओं में **अनुच्छेद 370 के कमजोर होने** ने क्या भूमिका निभाई? **पर्यटन, बागवानी और कारीगर व्यवसाय** क्यों संघर्ष कर रहे हैं? कौन-सी रणनीतियाँ एक **लचीली, स्थानीय रूप से आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था** बना सकती हैं?

Kashmir's economic and ecological fragility कश्मीर की आर्थिक और पारिस्थितिक नाजुकता

- If paradise is to be found on earth, Kashmir is it.** Yet today, Kashmir's paradise is fraying — and in Srinagar, we find the fault-lines of a regional economy at a crossroads: **between beauty and breakdown; between traditional livelihoods and externally imposed growth models.**
“अगर धरती पर कहीं **जन्नत** है तो वो **कश्मीर** है।” लेकिन आज कश्मीर की यह **जन्नत टूटती** हुई दिखती है — और श्रीनगर में एक ऐसी क्षेत्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था की **दरारें** दिखती हैं जो **सौंदर्य और टूटन, पारंपरिक आजीविका और बाहरी विकास मॉडल** के बीच चौराहे पर खड़ी है।
- Srinagar is facing mounting ecological stress, weakening traditional sectors, and the after-effects of governance disruptions since the dilution of **Article 370.**
श्रीनगर बढ़ते **पारिस्थितिक दबाव**, पारंपरिक क्षेत्रों की कमजोरी, और **अनुच्छेद 370** के कमजोर होने के बाद के **प्रशासनिक प्रभावों** का सामना कर रहा है।
- Wetland loss, supply-chain breakdowns, urban sprawl, and joblessness** have intensified economic fragility.
वेटलैंड्स का नुकसान, सप्लाई-चेन टूटना, अनियोजित शहरी विस्तार, और बेरोज़गारी ने आर्थिक नाजुकता को बढ़ा दिया है।

Why is Srinagar ecologically fragile? श्रीनगर पारिस्थितिक रूप से नाजुक क्यों है?

- Srinagar, nestled in a Himalayan valley, carries deep ecological vulnerabilities.
हिमालयी घाटी में स्थित श्रीनगर में गहरी **पारिस्थितिक संवेदनशीलताएँ** हैं।
- Wetlands, lakes, and mountains have kept the city alive — as a horticultural belt, tourist beacon, and artisan hub.**
वेटलैंड, झीलें, और पहाड़ शहर को एक **हॉर्टिकल्चर क्षेत्र, पर्यटन केंद्र, और कारीगर हब** के रूप में बनाए रखते थे।
- But unchecked urban expansion, sprawl, flood risk, and infrastructure stress** are now compromising that fragile base.
लेकिन **अनियंत्रित शहरी विस्तार, फ्लड रिस्क, और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर तनाव** उस नाजुक आधार को नुकसान पहुँचा रहे हैं।
- A local report notes that formerly natural sponges have been overtaken by construction; “encroached wetlands and choked drains... amplify flood damage, while unchecked sprawl hikes living costs.”**
एक स्थानीय रिपोर्ट कहती है कि प्राकृतिक **स्पंज क्षेत्रों** पर अब निर्माण हावी हो गया है; “**अवैध निर्माण, बंध नालियाँ** बाढ़ को बढ़ाती हैं और अनियंत्रित शहरी विस्तार **जीवन लागत** बढ़ाता है।”

Breakdown of traditional sectors पारंपरिक क्षेत्रों का टूटना

- Meanwhile, the **horticulture sector** — once a pillar of Kashmir's rural-urban interface — has been hammered.
इस बीच, **हॉर्टिकल्चर क्षेत्र** — जो कभी ग्रामीण-शहरी संबंध का स्तंभ था — **गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित** हुआ है।



- One study points out that despite the abrogation of special status, the annual growth rate slumped, supply chains broke down, and the backbone of thousands of livelihoods cracked. एक अध्ययन बताता है कि विशेष दर्जा हटाने के बावजूद, **वार्षिक वृद्धि दर गिर गई, सप्लाई-चेन टूट गई**, और हजारों आजीविकाओं की **रीढ़ टूट गई**।

What changed after the dilution of Article 370?

अनुच्छेद 370 के कमजोर होने के बाद क्या बदला?

- Since the dilution of **Article 370** in **August 2019**, the region has experienced a dramatic governance shift.
अगस्त 2019 में अनुच्छेद 370 के कमजोर होने के बाद क्षेत्र में प्रशासनिक बदलाव आया है।
- The dissolution of the Statehood status, communication blackouts and prolonged curfews have disrupted not only everyday life but also economic institutions.
राज्य का दर्जा समाप्त, संचार बंदी, और लंबे कर्फ्यू ने रोज़मर्रा की जिंदगी ही नहीं बल्कि **आर्थिक संस्थाओं** को भी बाधित किया।
- For instance, a qualitative study of women entrepreneurs in Srinagar and Ganderbal shows how the communication blackout, network restrictions and lockdowns crushed their ability to market crafts, connect with customers, and sustain a business.
उदाहरण के लिए, श्रीनगर और गांदरबल की **महिला उद्यमियों** के अध्ययन में दिखा कि संचार बंदी और **नेटवर्क प्रतिबंधों** ने उनके **क्राफ्ट बेचने, ग्राहकों से जुड़ने, और व्यवसाय चलाने** की क्षमता को तोड़ दिया।
- In Srinagar, the private sector has remained stunted, while over **32,000 government posts** remain unfilled as of **March 2025**.
श्रीनगर में निजी क्षेत्र **स्थिर** रहा है, जबकि **मार्च 2025 तक 32,000+ सरकारी पद** खाली पड़े हैं।
- Urban unemployment stands at **11.8%**, youth unemployment at **32%**, and women's unemployment at **53.6%**.
शहरी बेरोज़गारी **11.8%**, युवा बेरोज़गारी **32%**, और महिलाओं की बेरोज़गारी **53.6%** है।

Collapse of three pillars

तीन स्तंभों का गिरना

- Then came the collapse of the three pillars: **tourism, horticulture, and artisan trades**.
फिर तीन स्तंभ — **पर्यटन, बागवानी, और हस्तशिल्प** — ढह गए।
- Tourism is projected as the engine of revival, yet it remains highly seasonal and vulnerable.
पर्यटन को पुनर्जीवन का इंजन बताया जाता है, लेकिन यह अत्यधिक **मौसमी** और **कमज़ोर** है।
- A recent article reports that in **2025**, landslides and highway closures stranded **800+ fruit trucks**, resulting in over **₹200 crore** losses in a few days — demonstrating the fragility of the entire local supply chain.
एक हालिया रिपोर्ट बताती है कि **2025** में भूस्खलन और हाईवे बंद होने से **800+ फल ट्रक** फँस गए, और कुछ ही दिनों में **₹200 करोड़** का नुकसान हुआ — जो पूरी **स्थानीय सप्लाई-चेन** की नाजुकता दिखाता है।
- Supply disruptions, climate risk, poor market access, and policy neglect have reduced horticulture's share in GDP and hampered its role as a stable driver.
सप्लाई बाधाएँ, क्लाइमेट रिस्क, मार्केट एक्सेस की कमी, और नीतिगत उपेक्षा ने बागवानी का **GDP में योगदान** घटाया और इसे एक स्थिर चालक के रूप में कमजोर किया।
- Artisan trades are similarly suffering.
हस्तशिल्प उद्योग भी इसी तरह **पीड़ित** है।
- A qualitative study found that women artisans in the handicraft industry face exploitation, lack of access to markets, scarcity of raw materials, and breakdown in supply chains.
एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि **महिला कारीगरों** को **शोषण, बाज़ार की कमी, कच्चे माल का अभाव, और सप्लाई-चेन टूटने** जैसी समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है।
- Many street vendors and women workers in informal markets earn as little as **₹250–300 a day**.
कई स्ट्रीट वेंडर और महिला श्रमिक प्रतिदिन केवल **₹250–300** कमाती हैं।
- Economic disruptions have pushed certain marginalised and transgender communities into sex work, as other income sources disappear.



आर्थिक व्यवधानों ने कुछ हाशिए पर पड़ी और ट्रांसजेंडर समुदायों को सेक्स वर्क की ओर धकेल दिया है क्योंकि अन्य आय स्रोत खत्म हो गए हैं।

Why does the metropolitan capital infusion model fall short? मेट्रोपॉलिटन कैपिटल इन्फ्यूजन मॉडल क्यों विफल होता है?

- Many growth plans for Srinagar treat it as a recipient of large capital flows — real estate, tourism mega-projects, urban infrastructure — on the assumption that spending automatically leads to upliftment.
श्रीनगर के कई विकास योजनाएँ इसे बड़े कैपिटल फ्लो — रियल एस्टेट, पर्यटन मेगा-प्रोजेक्ट, अर्बन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर — के प्राप्तकर्ता के रूप में देखती हैं, यह मानते हुए कि खर्च अपने आप उत्थान की ओर ले जाएगा।
- But when local governance is weak, traditional livelihoods are ignored, and the ecological base is compromised, this model fails.
लेकिन जब स्थानीय शासन कमजोर हो, पारंपरिक आजीविका को अनदेखा किया जाए, और पारिस्थितिक आधार कमजोर हो, तो यह मॉडल विफल हो जाता है।
- In Srinagar's "smart city" push, for example, artisan spaces and vendors are often squeezed out while the facade beautifies; green spaces vanish, older trees are removed; livelihoods are disrupted.
श्रीनगर की स्मार्ट सिटी पहल में, कारीगरों की जगह और वेंडर अक्सर हटाए जाते हैं जबकि बाहरी सौंदर्यकरण होता है; ग्रीन स्पेस गायब होते हैं, पुराने पेड़ हटाए जाते हैं; आजीविकाएँ बाधित होती हैं।
- Hence, unless growth anchors itself in the local economy, the "integration into a metropolitan capital" approach risks increasing fragility rather than alleviating it.
इसलिए, जब तक विकास स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था में खुद को नहीं जोड़ता, तब तक "मेट्रोपॉलिटन कैपिटल इंटीग्रेशन" दृष्टिकोण, नाजुकता कम करने के बजाय बढ़ाने का जोखिम रखता है।

What are the plausible directions for sustainable growth? सतत विकास के संभावित मार्ग क्या हैं?

- Horticulture requires reliable cold-chain infrastructure, climate-adapted crops, and farmer cooperatives.
हॉर्टिकल्चर को कोल्ड-चेन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर, क्लाइमेट-अनुकूल फसलें, और किसान सहकारी समितियाँ चाहिए।
- Wetlands, floodplains, and lake systems must be protected and integrated into urban planning.
वेटलैंड, फ्लडप्लेन, और झील प्रणालियों को सुरक्षित रखा जाना चाहिए और अर्बन प्लानिंग में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।
- Instead of sprawl, we should invest in green infrastructure.
शहरी विस्तार की बजाय हमें ग्रीन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर में निवेश करना चाहिए।
- Tourism can grow through community-led, heritage-based, and ecologically sensitive models that place artisans and local hosts at the centre.
पर्यटन कम्युनिटी-नेतृत्व, हेरिटेज-आधारित, और इको-सेंसिटिव मॉडलों से बढ़ सकता है जो कारीगरों और स्थानीय मेज़बानों को केंद्र में रखते हैं।
- Srinagar's artisan and craft-based economy needs institutional support that values its cultural depth.
श्रीनगर की कारीगर और हस्तशिल्प आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था को ऐसा संस्थागत समर्थन चाहिए जो इसकी सांस्कृतिक गहराई को महत्व दे।
- Traditional clusters of weavers, shawl-makers, wood-craft workers, papier-mâché artists and brassware makers require design assistance, accessible digital marketing channels and systems that reduce dependence on exploitative intermediaries.
बुनकर, शॉल निर्माता, वुड-क्राफ्ट, पेपर माछे, और पीतल कारीगर को डिज़ाइन सहायता, डिजिटल मार्केटिंग, और ऐसे सिस्टम चाहिए जो शोषणकारी बिचौलियों पर निर्भरता कम करें।
- The State must also facilitate micro-finance, raw-material common-pools, craft-export linkages, and protection of workshop spaces rather than treating artisan neighbourhoods as "peripheral" to modern development.



राज्य को माइक्रो-फाइनेंस, रॉ-मैटेरियल पूल, क्राफ्ट-एक्सपोर्ट लिंक, और वर्कशॉप स्पेस की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए, न कि कारीगर इलाकों को आधुनिक विकास का “हाशिया” मानना चाहिए।

- Urban planning should integrate artisan quarters, preserve workshops, not criminalise street vendors or force them into oblivion.
अर्बन प्लानिंग में कारीगर मोहल्लों को शामिल करना चाहिए, वर्कशॉप बचानी चाहिए, और स्ट्रीट वेंडरों को अपराधी की तरह नहीं देखना चाहिए।
- What Srinagar needs is a managed transition rather than displacing them.
श्रीनगर को स्थानांतरण (ट्रांज़िशन) चाहिए, विस्थापन नहीं।
- Restoring meaningful local governance is essential for any sustainable economic revival.
किसी भी सतत आर्थिक पुनर्जीवन के लिए स्थानीय शासन की बहाली आवश्यक है।
- Without a local voice, top-down capital flows will only deepen alienation.
स्थानीय आवाज़ के बिना, टॉप-डाउन कैपिटल फ्लो केवल अलगाव बढ़ाएगा।
- State policy should ensure reliable connectivity, functional marketing platforms, skill upgrades, and helplines for women entrepreneurs.
राज्य नीति को कनेक्टिविटी, मार्केटिंग प्लेटफॉर्म, स्किल अपग्रेड, और महिला उद्यमियों के लिए हेल्पलाइन सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए।
- The growth slump and joblessness have pushed vulnerable groups into the margins.
विकास मंदी और बेरोज़गारी ने कमजोर समूहों को हाशिये पर धकेल दिया है।
- A coordinated social protection, vocational training and livelihood diversification strategy is needed.
एक समन्वित सोशल प्रोटेक्शन, वोकेशनल ट्रेनिंग, और लाइवलीहुड डाइवर्सिफिकेशन रणनीति की जरूरत है।
- Most importantly, Srinagar's future depends on building a balanced economic base rather than relying on tourism or real estate alone.
सबसे महत्वपूर्ण यह कि श्रीनगर का भविष्य एक संतुलित आर्थिक आधार पर निर्भर है, केवल पर्यटन या रियल एस्टेट पर नहीं।
- Horticulture, artisanship, small-scale manufacturing, niche tourism and services must grow together to reduce vulnerability.
हॉर्टिकल्चर, कारीगरी, लघु उद्योग, निच पर्यटन, और सेवाएँ एक साथ बढ़नी चाहिए ताकि नाजुकता कम हो।
- For example, horticulture alone engages more than three million people in the region, and ignoring it weakens the entire economic foundation.
उदाहरण के लिए, केवल हॉर्टिकल्चर में ही तीन मिलियन से अधिक लोग काम करते हैं, और इसे अनदेखा करना पूरी आर्थिक नींव को कमजोर करता है।
- Tourism, meanwhile, should be made resilient to frequent disruptions through stronger links with local crafts, digital outreach, homestays, and off-season offerings.
पर्यटन को बार-बार होने वाली व्यवधानों के प्रति सुदृढ़ बनाना चाहिए — स्थानीय क्राफ्ट, डिजिटल आउटरीच, होमस्टे, और ऑफ-सीज़न ऑफ़रिंग्स के ज़रिये।
- Urban job creation should focus not just on high-capital projects but on upgrading the informal economy and creating linkages with village-town interactions.
शहरी नौकरी सृजन में केवल हाई-कैपिटल प्रोजेक्ट नहीं बल्कि अनौपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्था को मज़बूत करना और गाँव-शहर कनेक्शन बनाना शामिल होना चाहिए।

What does all this mean for Srinagar's future?

इन सबका श्रीनगर के भविष्य के लिए क्या अर्थ है?

- Srinagar is at an inflection point.
श्रीनगर एक इन्फ्लेक्शन पॉइंट पर है।
- It strains under the weight of ecological, economic and governance vulnerabilities.
यह पारिस्थितिक, आर्थिक, और शासन-संबंधी कमजोरियों के भार तले दबा हुआ है।
- To restore its promise, growth cannot simply mean “capital inflow and smart city facade”.
इसकी संभावनाओं को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए, विकास का मतलब केवल “कैपिटल इन्फ्लो और स्मार्ट सिटी का बाहरी रूप” नहीं हो सकता।
- It calls for reviving the soils, the workshops, the crafts homes of Srinagar, listening to its women entrepreneurs, artisans, and small farmers; empowering them through connectivity,



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

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

CONTACT: 9971932488



governance, market access, and ecological protection.

यह श्रीनगर की मिट्टी, वर्कशॉप, हस्तशिल्प घरों को पुनर्जीवित करने की मांग करता है; इसकी महिला उद्यमियों, कारीगरों, छोटे किसानों की आवाज़ सुनने की; और उन्हें कनेक्टिविटी, शासन, मार्केट एक्सेस, और पारिस्थितिक संरक्षण के माध्यम से सशक्त बनाने की।

- In doing so, we shift from fragility to resilience — from a “metropolitan cash-influx” model to a locally rooted, sustainably scaled economy.

ऐसा करने से हम नाज़ुकता से लचीलापन की ओर बढ़ते हैं — “मेट्रोपॉलिटन कैश-इन्फ्लक्स” मॉडल से एक स्थानीय रूप से आधारित, सतत रूप से विस्तारित अर्थव्यवस्था की ओर।

- The question for policymakers, for civil society, for the local economy is: Will we walk that path — or will Srinagar’s paradise slip through our fingers?

नीति-निर्माताओं, नागरिक समाज, और स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए प्रश्न यह है: क्या हम उस रास्ते पर चलेंगे — या श्रीनगर की जन्नत हमारे हाथों से फिसलती जाएगी?

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PATRIOTIC IAS



Communal tag on 1983 poll violence in Assam unwarranted, says Tewary panel

GS III: Internal Security

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Giving the 1983 election-related violence in Assam, headlined by the Nellie massacre, a communal tag would be unwarranted, a panel formed more than four decades ago to probe one of the goriest chapters in the State's history said.

The Commission, chaired by Tribhuvan Prasad Tewary, a retired IAS officer, held the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and the Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chhatra Parishad (AJYCP) primarily responsible for launching the agitation and its consequences. It, however, said the Assamese people's fear of being outnumbered by outsiders was real and envisaged by the British administrators much before the organisations spearheading the agitation were formed.

Non-citizens' entry

The anti-foreigners' agitation was triggered in 1979 by the alleged entry of non-citizens, or the "Bangladeshis", during the revision of electoral rolls for a bye-election to the Mangaldoi Lok Sabha seat. The agitation ended when the Assam Accord was signed on August 15, 1985.

The agitation claimed several lives between 1979 and 1985. According to the Tewary panel's report, 3,023 people were killed across 11 districts between January 1 and April 30, 1983.

Making the report public on November 25, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was tabled in the Assembly in 1987 when the Asom Gana Parishad - now a minor ally of the BJP - was in power, but only then the Speaker was privy to it.

The report said the decision to hold the elections could not be blamed for the violence. "The evidence clearly brings out that the issues of foreigners, language, etc., have been agitating the minds of the people for several decades, exploding into violence," it said.

Citing several instances



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made the report public on November 25. ANI

of violent incidents across Assam between 1950 and 1982 that were not driven by polls, the report junked the theory that elections should not be held when there is a threat of violence. Boycott calls by agitating groups marked the 1983 polls, which recorded a turnout of 32.74%.

"There is overwhelming evidence that, with a view to preventing the holding of elections, arson, riots, destruction of public properties like buildings, roads and bridges, sabotage of railway tracks, intimidation, picketing, bandhs, etc., were organised by the AASU and AAGSP. The whole situation got out of their control, and the violence resulted in enormous loss of human life and property," the report said.

Nellie bore the brunt

The highest casualty during the 1983 election was in Nellie and adjoining villages. Unofficial estimates say more than 2,000 people, mostly Bengali-speaking Muslim women and children, died in the area, while the Tewary panel pegged the toll at 1,811.

The report said it was "entirely unwarranted to give the incidents a communal colour". "All sections of society suffered," it said. It indicated that taking "only a superficial view to give a communal colour to these disturbances" would amount to ignoring the historical forces in operation for several decades. "Many witnesses have interpreted the disturbances as clashes of economic interests," it said.

Communal tag on 1983 poll violence in Assam unwarranted, says Tewary panel

1983 के असम चुनावी हिंसा पर साम्प्रदायिक टैग अनुचित, टिवारी पैनल ने कहा

• Giving the **1983 election-related violence in Assam**, headlined by the **Nellie massacre**, a communal tag would be unwarranted, a panel formed more than four decades ago to probe one of the goriest chapters in the State's history said.

असम में **1983 के चुनाव—संबंधी हिंसा**, जिसमें **नेल्ली नरसंहार** प्रमुख था, को साम्प्रदायिक टैग देना अनुचित होगा, राज्य के इतिहास के सबसे भयानक अध्यायों में से एक की जांच के लिए चार दशकों से अधिक पहले गठित एक पैनल ने कहा।

• The **Commission**, chaired by **Tribhuvan Prasad Tewary**, a retired **IAS officer**, held the **All Assam Students' Union (AASU)** and the **Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chhatra Parishad (AJYCP)** primarily responsible for launching the agitation and its consequences.

कमीशन, जिसकी अध्यक्षता **त्रिभुवन प्रसाद टिवारी**, एक सेवानिवृत्त **IAS अधिकारी**, ने की, ने **ऑल असम स्टूडेंट्स यूनियन (AASU)** और **असम जातीयतावादी युवा छात्र परिषद (AJYCP)** को आंदोलन शुरू करने और उसके परिणामों के लिए मुख्य रूप से जिम्मेदार ठहराया।

• It, however, said the **Assamese people's fear** of being outnumbered by outsiders was real and envisaged by the **British administrators** much before the organisations spearheading the agitation were formed.

हालांकि, इसमें कहा गया कि बाहरी लोगों द्वारा संख्या में पीछे हट जाने का **असमिया लोगों का भय** वास्तविक था और इसे **ब्रिटिश प्रशासकों** ने उन संगठनों के बनने से बहुत पहले ही देखा था, जो आंदोलन का नेतृत्व कर रहे थे।

• **Non-citizens' entry गैर—नागरिकों का प्रवेश**

• The **anti-foreigners' agitation** was triggered in **1979** by the alleged entry of **non-citizens**, or the "**Bangladeshis**", during the revision of electoral rolls for a bye-election to the **Mangaldoi Lok Sabha seat**.

विदेशी—विरोधी आंदोलन 1979 में गैर—नागरिकों या "बांग्लादेशियों" के कथित प्रवेश से शुरू हुआ, जो **मंगलदोई लोकसभा सीट** के उपचुनाव के लिए मतदाता सूची के पुनरीक्षण के दौरान हुआ था।

• The agitation ended when the **Assam Accord** was signed on **August 15, 1985**.

यह आंदोलन तब समाप्त हुआ जब **असम समझौते पर 15 अगस्त 1985** को हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

• The agitation claimed several lives between **1979 and 1985**. इस आंदोलन ने **1979 से 1985** के बीच कई जानें लीं।

• According to the **Tewary panel's report**, **3,023 people** were killed across **11 districts** between **January 1 and April 30, 1983**.

टिवारी पैनल की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **1 जनवरी से 30 अप्रैल 1983** के बीच **11**

जिलों में 3,023 लोग मारे गए।

• Making the report public on **November 25**, **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** said it was tabled in the Assembly in **1987** when the **Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)** - now a minor ally of the **BJP** - was in power, but only then the Speaker was privy to it.

25 नवंबर को रिपोर्ट सार्वजनिक करते हुए, **मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा** ने कहा कि **इसे 1987** में विधानसभा में पेश किया गया था जब **असम गण परिषद (AGP)** - जो अब **BJP** की एक छोटी सहयोगी है - सत्ता में थी, लेकिन तब केवल स्पीकर ही इससे अवगत थे।

• The report said the decision to hold the elections could not be blamed for the **violence**. रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि चुनाव कराने के फैसले को **हिंसा** के लिए दोषी नहीं ठहराया जा सकता।

• "The evidence clearly brings out that the issues of **foreigners, language**, etc., have been agitating the minds of the people for several decades, exploding into violence," it said.



“सबूत स्पष्ट रूप से बताते हैं कि **विदेशियों, भाषा** आदि के मुद्दे कई दशकों से लोगों के मन को विचलित कर रहे थे, जो हिंसा में बदल गए,” यह कहा गया।

- Citing several instances of violent incidents across Assam between **1950 and 1982** that were not driven by polls, the report junked the theory that elections should not be held when there is a threat of violence.

रिपोर्ट ने **1950 और 1982** के बीच असम में हुई कई हिंसक घटनाओं का हवाला दिया, जो चुनाव—संबंधी नहीं थीं, और इस सिद्धांत को खारिज किया कि हिंसा के खतरे के समय चुनाव नहीं होने चाहिए।

- Boycott calls by agitating groups marked the **1983 polls**, which recorded a turnout of **32.74%**. आंदोलनकारी समूहों की बहिष्कार की अपील से चिह्नित **1983 के चुनावों** में **32.74%** मतदान दर्ज हुआ।
- “There is overwhelming evidence that, with a view to preventing the holding of elections, **arson, riots, destruction of public properties**, like buildings, roads and bridges, **sabotage of railway tracks, intimidation, picketing, bandhs**, etc., were organised by the **AASU and AAGSP**.”

“अत्यधिक सबूत हैं कि चुनावों को रोकने के उद्देश्य से **आगजनी, दंगे, सार्वजनिक संपत्तियों का विनाश**, जैसे इमारतें, सड़कें और पुल, **रेलवे पटरियों की तोड़फोड़, डराना, पिकेटिंग, बंद** आदि का आयोजन **AASU और AAGSP** द्वारा किया गया था।

- The whole situation got out of their control, and the violence resulted in enormous loss of human life and property,” the report said.
पूरी स्थिति उनके नियंत्रण से बाहर हो गई, और इस हिंसा के कारण भारी मानवीय और संपत्ति की हानि हुई,” रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।

Nellie bore the brunt

नेल्ली ने सबसे अधिक नुकसान झेला

- The highest casualty during the **1983 election** was in **Nellie and adjoining villages**.
1983 के चुनाव के दौरान सबसे अधिक हताहत **नेल्ली और आसपास के गांवों** में हुए।
- Unofficial estimates say more than **2,000 people**, mostly **Bengali-speaking Muslim women and children**, died in the area, while the **Tewary panel** pegged the toll at **1,811**.
गैर—आधिकारिक अनुमान के अनुसार, इस क्षेत्र में **2,000 से अधिक लोग**, जिनमें ज्यादातर **बंगाली—भाषी मुस्लिम महिलाएं और बच्चे** शामिल थे, मारे गए, जबकि **टिवारी पैनल** ने संख्या **1,811** बताई।
- The report said it was “entirely unwarranted to give the incidents a **communal colour**”.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि इन घटनाओं को **साम्प्रदायिक रंग** देना “पूरी तरह अनुचित” था।
- “All sections of society suffered,” it said.
“समाज के सभी वर्गों ने कष्ट झेला,” यह कहा गया।
- It indicated that taking “only a superficial view to give a **communal colour** to these disturbances” would amount to ignoring the **historical forces** in operation for several decades.
इसमें संकेत दिया गया कि इन अशांति को **साम्प्रदायिक रंग** देने के लिए “सतही दृष्टिकोण अपनाना” कई दशकों से सक्रिय **ऐतिहासिक शक्तियों** की उपेक्षा करने जैसा होगा।
- “Many witnesses have interpreted the disturbances as clashes of **economic interests**,” it said.
“कई गवाहों ने इन अशांति को **आर्थिक हितों** के टकराव के रूप में देखा है,” यह कहा गया।



CISF alters tenure, posting policy at Parliament

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has revised the tenure of its personnel deployed at Parliament to a minimum of four years. At present, they are posted for three years. Personnel with a clean service record and only those who clear psychological assessment tests will be deployed, a CISF official said.

The revised policy comes in the wake of complaints by several MPs who were stopped or questioned by the CISF personnel while entering the premises.

The extended tenure will make the CISF personnel more familiar with the MPs and their movement patterns in Parliament, which is critical for ensuring accurate identification, secure access protocols,



The tenure will make the CISF personnel more familiar with MPs and their movement patterns in Parliament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

layered threat detection and response, the official said.

Post security breach

After a security breach in the new Parliament building on December 13, 2023, the Union Home Ministry approved the CISF deployment at the complex.

In June 2024, DMK MP M.M. Abdulla wrote a letter to then Vice-President Jag-

deep Dhankhar, the former Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and complained about the CISF personnel questioning him on the purpose of his visit to Parliament complex.

"Under the new framework, the tenure of personnel has been extended from the existing three years to four years, with a possible extension of one additional year based on

suitability. To ensure operational continuity while ensuring optimum rotation for steady infusion of new blood, a fixed proportion of the sanctioned strength will be changed every year," the CISF official said.

Tighter norms

The new policy includes tighter eligibility norms and multi-stage screening.

"Personnel selected for Parliament duty must possess a clean service record, be in SHAPE-I medical category, have no disciplinary or vigilance concerns, should have completed at least two specialised courses and meet rank-specific age requirements," the official said.

The CISF has instituted a mandatory multi-stage screening process such as psychological assessment, battle physical efficiency test, Parliament-specific in-

duction training and comprehensive security clearance.

"Only those qualifying all stages will be deployed. Personnel deployed are regularly undergoing training sessions," the official said.

The training includes National Security Guard customised training and counter-terror training with the Army.

"To maintain high readiness levels, the CISF is conducting regular scenario-based mock drills simulating bio-terror incidents, terrorist attacks, drone threats, cyber-attacks, bomb threats, evacuation operations and air-contamination situations. Fire contingency elements are integrated into all exercises. Night-firing exercises are also conducted to sharpen accuracy and precision in low-light conditions," the official said.

CISF alters tenure, posting policy at Parliament

संसद में CISF ने कार्यकाल, पोस्टिंग नीति में बदलाव किया

- The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has revised the tenure of its personnel deployed at Parliament to a minimum of **four years**.
केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (CISF) ने संसद में तैनात अपने कार्मिकों का कार्यकाल न्यूनतम **चार वर्ष** कर दिया है।
- At present, they are posted for **three years**.
वर्तमान में, उन्हें **तीन वर्ष** के लिए तैनात किया जाता है।
- Personnel with a **clean service record** and only those who clear **psychological assessment tests** will be deployed, a CISF official said.
स्वच्छ सेवा रिकॉर्ड वाले और **मनोवैज्ञानिक मूल्यांकन परीक्षण** पास करने वाले कार्मिकों को ही तैनात किया जाएगा, एक CISF अधिकारी ने कहा।
- The revised policy comes in the wake of complaints by several **MPs** who were stopped or questioned by the CISF personnel while entering the premises.
संशोधित नीति कई **सांसदों (MPs)** की शिकायतों के बाद आई है जिन्हें परिसर में प्रवेश करते समय CISF कर्मियों द्वारा रोका या पूछताछ की गई थी।
- The extended tenure will make the CISF personnel more familiar with the **MPs** and their **movement patterns** in Parliament, which is critical for ensuring **accurate identification, secure access protocols, layered threat detection** and response, the official said.
बढ़ाया गया कार्यकाल CISF कर्मियों को **सांसदों** और संसद में उनके **आवागमन पैटर्न** से अधिक परिचित कराएगा, जो **सटीक पहचान, सुरक्षित प्रवेश प्रोटोकॉल, स्तरीय खतरा पहचान** और प्रतिक्रिया सुनिश्चित करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, अधिकारी ने कहा।

Post security breach

सुरक्षा उल्लंघन के बाद

- After a **security breach** in the new Parliament building on **December 13, 2023**, the **Union Home Ministry** approved the CISF deployment at the complex.



नई संसद भवन में 13 दिसंबर 2023 को हुए सुरक्षा उल्लंघन के बाद गृह मंत्रालय ने परिसर में CISF की तैनाती को मंजूरी दी।

- In June 2024, DMK MP M.M. Abdulla wrote a letter to then Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, the former Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and complained about the CISF personnel questioning him on the purpose of his visit to Parliament complex.
जून 2024 में, DMK सांसद एम.एम. अब्दुल्ला ने तत्कालीन उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़, जो राज्यसभा के पूर्व अध्यक्ष थे, को पत्र लिखकर शिकायत की कि CISF कर्मियों ने संसद परिसर में उनकी यात्रा के उद्देश्य पर उनसे पूछताछ की।
- “Under the new framework, the tenure of personnel has been extended from the existing **three years to four years**, with a possible extension of **one additional year** based on suitability.
“नई रूपरेखा के तहत, कर्मिकों का कार्यकाल मौजूदा **तीन वर्षों** से बढ़ाकर **चार वर्ष** कर दिया गया है, जिसमें उपयुक्तता के आधार पर **एक अतिरिक्त वर्ष** का विस्तार संभव है।
- To ensure **operational continuity** while ensuring optimum rotation for steady infusion of **new blood**, a fixed proportion of the sanctioned strength will be changed every year,” the CISF official said.
संचालन निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करने और **नई ऊर्जा** के स्थिर संचार हेतु उपयुक्त रोटेशन बनाए रखने के लिए, स्वीकृत बल के एक निश्चित अनुपात को हर वर्ष बदला जाएगा,” CISF अधिकारी ने कहा।

Tighter norms कड़े मानदंड

- The new policy includes **tighter eligibility norms** and **multi-stage screening**.
नई नीति में **कड़े पात्रता मानदंड** और **बहु-चरणीय स्क्रीनिंग** शामिल है।
- “Personnel selected for Parliament duty must possess a **clean service record**, be in **SHAPE-I medical category**, have no **disciplinary or vigilance concerns**, should have completed at least **two specialised courses** and meet **rank-specific age requirements**,” the official said.
“संसद ड्यूटी के लिए चयनित कर्मिकों के पास **स्वच्छ सेवा रिकॉर्ड** होना चाहिए, वे **SHAPE-I मेडिकल श्रेणी** में हों, कोई **अनुशासनात्मक या सतर्कता संबंधी मुद्दे** न हों, कम से कम **दो विशेष पाठ्यक्रम** पूरे किए हों और **पद—विशिष्ट आयु आवश्यकताओं** को पूरा करते हों,” अधिकारी ने कहा।
- The CISF has instituted a mandatory **multi-stage screening process** such as **psychological assessment, battle physical efficiency test, Parliament-specific induction training** and **comprehensive security clearance**.
CISF ने अनिवार्य **बहु-चरणीय स्क्रीनिंग प्रक्रिया** लागू की है, जैसे **मनोवैज्ञानिक मूल्यांकन, युद्ध शारीरिक दक्षता परीक्षण, संसद—विशिष्ट इंडक्शन प्रशिक्षण** और **व्यापक सुरक्षा मंजूरी**।
- “Only those qualifying all stages will be deployed. Personnel deployed are regularly undergoing training sessions,” the official said.
“सिर्फ वे ही कार्मिक तैनात किए जाएंगे जो सभी चरणों को पास करेंगे। तैनात कार्मिक नियमित रूप से प्रशिक्षण सत्रों से गुजर रहे हैं,” अधिकारी ने कहा।
- The training includes **National Security Guard-customised training** and **counter-terror training** with the **Army**.
इस प्रशिक्षण में **नेशनल सिव्योरिटी गार्ड—कस्टमाइज्ड प्रशिक्षण** और **सेना के साथ काउंटर—टेरर प्रशिक्षण** शामिल है।
- “To maintain **high readiness levels**, the CISF is conducting regular **scenario-based mock drills** simulating **bio-terror incidents, terrorist attacks, drone threats, cyber-attacks, bomb threats, evacuation operations** and **air-contamination situations**.
“उच्च तत्परता स्तर बनाए रखने के लिए, CISF नियमित रूप से **परिदृश्य—आधारित मॉक ड्रिल** कर रही है, जिनमें **बायो—टेरर घटनाएं, आतंकी हमले, ड्रोन खतरों, साइबर—हमलों, बम धमकी, निकासी अभियान** और **वायु प्रदूषण स्थितियों** का अनुकरण किया जाता है।
- Fire contingency elements are integrated into all exercises.
सभी अभ्यासों में आग से निपटने के तत्व शामिल किए जाते हैं।
- Night-firing exercises are also conducted to sharpen **accuracy** and **precision** in low-light conditions,” the official said.
कम रोशनी की परिस्थितियों में **सटीकता** और **प्रेसिजन** बढ़ाने के लिए नाइट—फायरिंग अभ्यास भी किए जाते हैं,” अधिकारी ने कहा।